

**NCHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2024
LOEWS VANDERBILT HOTEL • NASHVILLE, TN**



The 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting was held at 10:30am on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee in the Symphony Ballroom.

President Toddy Pitard asked NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn to introduce the guest speaker, Will Chesney.

It was a distinct honor and privilege for Jay Winborn to introduce such a decorated military hero. Will Chesney served in the United States Naval Special Warfare Development Group as an operator and dog handler. He participated in Operation Neptune Spear, which resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. Chesney received a Silver Star and a Purple Heart and now helps veterans who have suffered traumatic brain injury.

Will was inspired to be the author of a best seller, No Ordinary Dog, based on his remarkable experience with a military working dog named Cairo, a large and striking Belgian Malinois. Cairo is referred to as the Canine Warrior who helped capture Osama bin Laden.

Will shared his incredible journey with the attendees and allowed time to autograph books immediately following the meeting.

Jay Winborn closed with thanking Will for his presentation and reiterated the connection with the military cutting, which is a key portion of our Summer Cutting Spectacular event. This relationship fosters a camaraderie as we have the same beliefs. Jay invited Will to speak today to emphasize teamwork and communication. We all have a strong connection with our animal counterparts, which is what brought us all together.

President Toddy Pitard called the order of our NCHA General Membership Meeting at 11:10am and asked President Elect Mark Senn to come up and introduce Joe Howard Williamson to lead us in prayer.

PROOF OF DUE NOTICE

A **MOTION** was made by Patti Lund and **SECONDED** by Tracy Barton to accept proof of due notice that was emailed to all General Membership on May 24, 2024, from the NCHA Office. **MOTION PASSED.**



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE – JIM MORRIS

President Toddy Pitard welcomed NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris to explain the proposed change to the bylaws presented for consideration. The Board of Directors will be voting on the proposed change to Article VI - Section One brought forward by the Governance Committee.

Data on the Spot (DOTS) offered a quick review to get the attendees ready to cast their votes on the upcoming proposed bylaw change.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE – ARTICLE VI, SECTION ONE

During the second session of the Board of Directors, they passed a motion made by Ron Pietrafeso and seconded by Lewis Wray to amend the proposed bylaw change as presented to retain the 7 years suspension and reduce the probationary period to 5 years. After discussion, a vote on the motion was taken. Motion passed with a majority of 84.6% in favor and 15.4% against.

**APPROVED BY NCHA DIRECTORS AND
MEMBERS AT 2024 ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Change to Article VI, Section One of the NCHA Constitution and Bylaws

<u>EXISTING SECTION</u>	<u>APPROVED CHANGES</u>
Article VI Section One There shall be three elected officers of the Association: The President, President-Elect, and Vice President. Such officers shall be elected as follows: (a) Prior to each annual meeting of the members, a Nominating Committee consisting of eight members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for purposes of electing a Vice President. Four members of the nominating committee shall be from the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the Board of Directors, each of whom shall be from a different director district, and no more than two of whom may be from the same region. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chair from among its members. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least 120 days prior to each annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall nominate two candidates at least 60 days prior to each annual meeting for the office of Vice President. The candidates nominated for the office of Vice President must have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension or probation, for a period of seven 7 years prior to nomination. The candidates must have completed three 3 years of continuous service as a director of the Association on or before the date of assuming the office of Vice President or have served as a member of a Standing Committee for three 3 continuous years within 10 years of nomination. In determining the nominees for the office of Vice President the Nominating Committee shall solicit recommendations from the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be elected to a one-year term.	Section One. There shall be three elected officers of the Association: The President, President-Elect, and Vice President. Such officers shall be elected as follows: (a) Prior to each annual meeting of the members, a Nominating Committee consisting of eight members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for purposes of electing a Vice President. Four members of the nominating committee shall be from the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the Board of Directors, each of whom shall be from a different director district, and no more than two of whom may be from the same region. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chair from among its members. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least 120 days prior to each annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall nominate two candidates at least 60 days prior to each annual meeting for the office of Vice President. The candidates nominated for the office of Vice President must have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension <u>for a period of seven (7) years prior to nomination and/or without probation</u>; for a period of <u>seven (7) years</u> seven (7) years <u>five (5) years</u> prior to nomination. The candidates must have completed three 3 years of continuous service as a director of the Association on or before the date of assuming the office of Vice President or have served as a member of a Standing Committee for three 3 continuous years within 10 years of nomination. In determining the nominees for the office of Vice President the Nominating Committee shall solicit recommendations from the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be elected to a one-year term.

A **MOTION** was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Craig Morris to **RATIFY** the motion that was amended and passed by majority by the Board of Directors on the proposed bylaw change to retain the 7 years suspension and reduce the probation period to 5 years. After discussion, a vote on the Motion was taken. **MOTION PASSED with a majority of 91.6% IN FAVOR and 8.4% AGAINST.**



NCHA STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The residing chairman from each of the NCHA Standing Committees gave a report on their committees meeting and recommendations from the Convention. These recommendations will be reviewed and considered for approval at the next Executive Committee meeting which will take place late in the month of September. See all recommendations included as a separate file in this section with association minutes.

1. Affiliate Officers/Secretaries Committee – Caren Birdwell
2. Amateur Committee – Jennifer Palmer
3. Finance & Audit Committee – Steve Smith
4. Governance Committee – Dan Agnew for Sharon Beach
5. Judges Rules Committee – Tim Smith
6. Limited Age Events Committee – Eric Van Boekel
7. Non-Professional Committee – Sherry Graham
8. Weekend Show Committee – Bradey Davis
9. Youth Committee – Nikki Roberson for Amy Lippincott
10. Stallion Owners & Breeders Committee – Allison Walker for Rock Hedlund
11. Growth and Development Committee – Carley Myers for Dean Rebhuhn
12. Professional Trainers Committee – Carley Myers for Kathy Daughn

Allison Walker also took a minute to thank Executive Director Jay Winborn, the entire Executive Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee for their continued support of the National Circuit Program and its continued success.

NCHA FOUNDATION UPDATE – JULIA BUSWOLD

NCHA Foundation Director Julia Buswold addressed the attendees of the general membership meeting and provided a brief summary but due to time constraints, the Foundation will send out a video of the entire presentation of the Foundation updates in the weeks to come.

The NCHA Foundation directly supports the NCHA and the equine community through their endeavors to educate the youth, protect the horse, preserve the past, and secure the future of the sport of cutting. They focus on youth scholarships and programming, animal welfare & research, historical preservation, and the education of cutting.

Over the past year, the NCHA Foundation was able to contribute the following:

- \$120,000+ paid to colleges/trade schools supporting youth pursuing higher education
- \$100,000+ in support of youth programming and scholarships
- \$40,000+ in equine welfare projects and clinics



On behalf of the NCHA Foundation and its trustees, Director Julia Buswold would like to extend a special thank you to all their donors and sponsors. As of the 3rd Annual “A Night at the Ranch” event, the NCHA Foundation has been able to raise over \$1M to support their mission.

Please save the date for the next event, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, at the River Ranch in the Fort Worth Stockyards.

In the months to come, the NCHA Foundation will launch the “Artwork Archive” on their website. Artwork Archive will give members access to historical photos and videos.

This year for continuing education, the NCHA Foundation was proud to partner with the NCHA and NYCHA on several projects aimed at furthering the reach and spreading the word about the sport that we all love. They have committed \$50,000.00 to the NCHA for a three-part clinic series which kicked off in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. Bill Riddle and Paul Hansma played an instrumental role in facilitating this clinic and will no doubt be involved in the future clinics as well. In addition to the NCHA Clinic Series, the Foundation also committed \$15,000.00 to the NYCHA to produce a clinic at the National High School Finals Rodeo.

The equine welfare and research tenant have a committee that is responsible for supporting projects that fund and promote the welfare of cutting horses. This includes research projects that can improve the length and quality of life of cutting horses and programs that aid disaster relief efforts for the equine community. Current efforts are concentrated on a regenerative orthobiologics field study, a program called iGNiTE, for equine athletes. With many great projects in the pipeline, the Foundation aims to raise an additional \$250,000.00 in support of equine welfare projects for the coming years.

The 2024-2025 NCHA Foundation Board of Trustees are as follows:

- Joey Milner – Chairman
- Jo Ellard
- Dustin Ewing
- Charlie Israel
- Frank Merrill
- Lachlan Perks

How can you help the NCHA Foundation? Members can donate, join a committee, or register to be a part of the 1946 Club. In addition to helping sustain the NCHA Foundation for future generations, 1946 Club Members will receive annual benefits.

For more information or to contribute, visit www.nchafoundation.org.



NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

- Region I – Les Jack
- Region VII – Steve Smith
- Region VIII – TBD (at a later date)
- Vice President – Kathleen Moore
- President-Elect – Barnwell Ramsey
- President – Mark Senn

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President Mark Senn recognized the outgoing members of the Executive Committee whose terms expired. He recognized these members for their extended efforts and dedication to serving their regions on the Executive Committee and the entire NCHA. Kristen York, Skip Jones, and Casey Green were presented with a personalized GIST buckle set as a token of appreciation.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – TODDY PITARD

President Toddy Pitard thanked the members for entrusting and electing him to run this great association. Toddy contributes his success to his constituents on the Executive Committee, his fellow officers serving by his side and Jay Winborn, our Executive Director.

If a member has any interest in running for VP office, do not let the history of how consuming it was to operate in the past deter you as processes are now running smoothly. We have had the least number of EC meetings/calls over the past year than we have had in a long time. Toddy has a weekly one-hour call with Jay Winborn to provide updates and that has worked well. This is all contributed to great leadership that we have instilled in our Executive Director to run the day-to-day operations of the association.

Toddy highlighted some of the accomplishments that the Executive Committee had while serving as President. They kept the Eastern Nationals as a standalone event rather than being incorporated into the circuit program. They moved the yearly convention around the country to boost member participation. They added metrics for judges by raising up the rules committee and department to maintain accountability. Lastly, offering the added possibility of virtual participation for meetings and elections.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – MARK SENN

Incoming President Mark Senn thanked Toddy for his work on the Executive Committee and as president along with the departing members of the Executive Committee. Mark also thanked everyone for coming out to the meetings as it shows the association that it matters and helps move the NCHA forward.



As a board of director, we have responsibilities to assimilate information back home to the members in our area, gather feedback and provide those comments and concerns to each regional representative on the Executive Committee who coordinates with the respective committees for feedback and once it has been vetted, the Executive Committee will take action to address those issues. Another responsibility is to get involved in the committees and finally perception is reality, help diffuse rumors and state facts to share the positivity of our association with the membership.

If someone wants to join a standing committee or become a director, let them know that there is a process that will allow them to get involved with the association. Mark served on the Finance and Audit Committee and helped set standards for the association to become financially stable. Mark praised Jay Winborn for hiring great department heads and staff that are there to help you as members but also those who care about the association. Jay also holds them accountable over their respective areas. Processes and behind the scenes operations have improved and got better based on these management standards.

Mark inspires to end his term as President of the association in a better place than when he started with no harm done. Mark thanked everyone again for coming out and is looking forward to seeing everyone next year for the annual convention in San Antonio, TX and then headed to the West the year after that.

NCHA DOCUSERIES IN PRODUCTION

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed the members by sharing a special project in production with Videographer Andy Chason of Plugged-In Creative, LLC with two short teaser clips. Jay emphasized the scope and importance of digital marketing in present times and the importance of this project. Jay had been eager to do something like this since the moment he joined the association but did not have the resources or the people to construct a project of this scope at the time.

Jay welcomed Andy to the stage to elaborate on the description of scope in these upcoming docuseries within the world of cutting. Andy stated that the series is geared towards explaining what cutting is to an audience that is not familiar with the sport and to also tell enlighten them on this western lifestyle. This docuseries is scheduled to be released in the months to come.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time, there is no old business to be addressed during the General Membership meeting.



NEW BUSINESS

Currently, there is no new business to bring before the General Membership for discussion.

GIVEAWAYS DONATED BY CUTTINUP SHOW BLANKETS

NCHA would like to extend a huge thanks to Jennifer Palmer of Cuttinup Show Blankets for donating the giveaways.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **MOTION** was made by Ben Roberson and **SECONDED** by Sherry Graham to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**