

NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

October 19, 2026

8:00AM Central

A conference call of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held on Monday, October 19, 2026, beginning at 8:00AM central time.

Executive Committee members present were President Kathleen Moore, President-Elect David Costello, Vice President Chase Lackey, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Ernie Beutenmiller Jr., Byron Green, Ora Diehl, Bradey Davis, Steve Smith, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, Cathy Marie Aleff, and Dakota Pruitt also attended this call. NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris, NCHA Director of Judges Andy Adams, NCHA Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft, and NCHA International Circuit and Stallion/Foal Program Manager Allison Walker attended portions of this call.

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:03AM and roll call was taken.

President Kathleen Moore welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and led the attendees in prayer referencing the need for wisdom and insights as we navigate through this meeting.

In a teaming effort, President Kathleen Moore asked all members of the Executive Committee to join in reciting the NCHA mission statement.

Mission Statement

The National Cutting Horse Association promotes and celebrates the cutting horse, whose origin on Western ranches allows us to support ranching and its Western heritage. By establishing rules for the conduct of cutting horse shows, NCHA strives to give cutters a level playing field and a progressive class structure which accommodates everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor. NCHA draws on the diverse talents and background of its members and encourages their participation in helping it achieve these goals.

PRESIDENT REPORT – KATHLEEN MOORE

President Kathleen Moore stated the purpose of this meeting was to review and adopt the FY 2027 Budget along with being provided updates and reports on recent directives issued from the last Executive Committee meeting in August.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn reiterated the objectives for this meeting and updates from the office that will be presented throughout the course of this meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – DENISE WILLIAMS

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, along with Finance and Audit Committee Chair Garry Merritt provided a summary of the August financials and the FY 2027 proposed budget to the Executive Committee for review and approval as they were recently approved by the Finance and Audit Committee.

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary August 2026

Statement of Position

The Association ended August with total assets of approximately \$36.71 million, a decrease of approximately \$2.40 million from the prior month, but approximately \$5.78 million, or 15.7%, higher than August 2025.

Cash and investments totaled approximately \$24.32 million, increasing approximately \$221,000 during August and remaining approximately \$1.58 million, or 6.5%, higher than August 2025. Investment balances remained strong, with long-term investments increasing approximately \$156,000 during the month due to the unrealized gain on the portfolio.

Stallion and Foal Program cash and investments totaled approximately \$5.51 million, increasing approximately \$88,000 during August and approximately \$861,000, or 15.6%, higher than August 2025. The monthly increase reflects favorable investment performance, while the year-over-year increase reflects both favorable market performance and continued growth in the Stallion and Foal Program. Stallion and Foal Program deferred revenue totaled approximately \$3.93 million, approximately \$327,000 higher than the prior year.

Accounts receivable increased approximately \$984,000 during August to \$4.99 million, primarily due to the approximately \$922,000 Summer Spec MERP accrual.

Prepays decreased approximately \$3.8 million during August, primarily as premium checks recorded as prepaid expenses in July were recognized as expense upon completion of the Summer Spec on August 2, 2026.

Total liabilities declined approximately \$3.51 million during August, primarily due to an approximately \$3.93 million decrease in event deferred revenue and an approximately \$265,000 decrease in sponsorship deferred revenue. The decrease in deferred revenue primarily reflects recognition of revenue associated with the Summer Spec, while the increases in accounts payable and accrued expenses were also largely related to the event.

The Association continues to maintain a strong balance sheet and liquidity position.

Statement of Activities – Year-to-Date

Year-to-date operations continue to significantly outperform budget. Total revenue through August was approximately \$33.87 million, exceeding budget by approximately \$3.17 million, or 10.3%.

Major favorable revenue variances include:

- NCHA-produced show revenue: approximately \$1.98 million ahead of budget
- Sponsorship revenue: approximately \$237,000 ahead of budget
- Horse sale commission revenue: approximately \$311,000 ahead of budget
- Approved Shows revenue: approximately \$224,000 ahead of budget
- Investment portfolio income: approximately \$528,000 ahead of budget

These favorable results were partially offset by membership revenue, which was approximately \$76,000 below budget, and advertising revenue, which was approximately \$40,000 below budget.

Total expenses through August were approximately \$33.68 million, or approximately \$2.54 million above budget. A significant portion of the unfavorable variance continues to be attributable to strategic project expenditures and scholarships, along with the higher costs associated with the higher level of NCHA-produced show activity.

Projects were approximately \$769,000 above budget, including the previously approved Will Rogers Coliseum improvement commitment, while scholarship expense was approximately \$503,000 above budget. Legal fees were approximately \$155,000 above budget.

Produced show expenses were also above budget, consistent with the higher level of show revenue. Premium expense was approximately \$773,000 above budget, cattle expense approximately \$455,000 above budget, show facilities approximately \$235,000 above budget and show operating expenses approximately \$108,000 above budget.

These unfavorable variances were partially offset by favorable results in several operating categories, including personnel expense at approximately \$140,000 below budget, show marketing approximately \$122,000 below budget, office expense approximately \$65,000 below budget, Convention approximately \$76,000 below budget, and Hall of Fame expenses approximately \$57,000 below budget.

Despite the additional strategic expenditures and higher costs associated with increased show activity, operating results remain significantly ahead of plan. Net income before MERP was approximately \$189,000, compared with a budgeted loss of approximately \$441,000, representing a favorable variance of approximately \$630,000.

After recognizing approximately \$4.40 million of MERP revenue, year-to-date net income was approximately \$4.59 million, or approximately \$1.78 million ahead of budget. Including approximately \$757,000 of unrealized investment gains, year-to-date net income was approximately \$5.35 million, approximately \$2.53 million ahead of budget.

Importantly, operating results before MERP remain approximately \$630,000 ahead of budget, demonstrating that the Association's favorable year-to-date performance is not solely attributable to MERP revenue or investment gains.

Statement of Activities – August

August produced strong financial results for the Association, driven primarily by the

favorable performance of the Summer Spectacular. For the month, the Association posted a new operating profit after MERP of \$900k compared to a budget of \$705k.

The Summer Spectacular generated approximately \$6.96 million of revenue and \$280,000 of profit before MERP, exceeding the budgeted profit by approximately \$110,000, or 64.9%. This compares favorably with approximately \$52,000 of profit before MERP in 2025. After recognizing approximately \$917,000 of MERP revenue, the show generated approximately \$1.20 million of net income, approximately \$290,000 ahead of budget and \$529,000 higher than the prior year.

Excluding show related revenue and expenses, the Association had slight unfavorable variances in approved show fee, membership and investment portfolio revenue; however, those unfavorable variances were offset by lower monthly expenses noted in personnel, home office facilities and office expenses. With one month remaining in the fiscal year, the Association's overall financial position remains strong.

A **MOTION** was made by David Costello and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to approve the August financials as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary FY 2027 Proposed Budget

The FY 2027 budget for the National Cutting Horse Association is built on a commitment to financial sustainability, transparency, responsible stewardship and member value. The budget supports the growth of the sport while prioritizing programs and services that directly benefit NCHA members.

Historical results remain an important foundation for forecasting revenue and expenses. However, significant increases in cattle and award costs, changes in event venues and other operating changes have made year-over-year comparisons more complex. Accordingly, the FY 2027 budget incorporates both historical performance and current operating assumptions.

Key Revenue Assumptions

NCHA Produced Shows Revenue – Entry fees reflect a 5% increase for all produced shows except for the Futurity and World Finals. The 5% increase was allocated 2% to the jackpot and 3% to show fees. Entry counts and revenue from practice pens, stalls, ticket sales and booth rent are consistent with the prior year. For the 027 Super Stakes, foal nomination and stallion subscription revenue are based on deferred revenue balances as of August 31, 2026.

Sponsorship Revenue – The budget anticipates approximately \$2.9 million of sponsorship revenue, reflecting continued efforts to retain existing sponsors and develop new sponsorship opportunities.

Horse Sale Commission Revenue – Horse sale commissions assume activity consistent with the prior year.

Approved Shows Revenue – The budget assumes participation at NCHA-approved shows to remain consistent with the prior year.

Membership Revenue – The budget assumes no growth in annual membership and projects membership revenue consistent with the current membership base.

Chatter – Bringing publication responsibilities in-house is expected to produce approximately \$70,000 of cost savings.

Investment Portfolio – Projected interest income is based on return estimates provided by Frost Bank advisors. Consistent with prior years, the Association does not budget for realized gains or losses on investment portfolios.

Youth – Donations and Stallion Auction proceeds are forecast to increase modestly from FY 2026.

Other Revenue – Other income is expected to decline, primarily due to lower projected revenue from seminars and clinics, protests and fines.

Key Expense Assumptions

Premiums – Prior-year actual premium expense was used as the starting point, with the additional 2% entry-fee increase allocated to the jackpot incorporated into the FY 2027 projection.

Awards – The budget reflects current vendor pricing, including significant increases in precious-metal costs affecting buckles and other awards.

Cattle – The budget assumes \$125 per head for cattle at produced shows, except Eastern Nationals, which is budgeted at \$100 per head.

Show Facilities – Prior-year actual results, adjusted for extraordinary items and venue changes, were used to forecast show-facility costs.

Show Marketing – A modest increase in show-marketing expense is anticipated.

Show Operating – Show-operating expenses are generally projected to remain consistent with the prior year, subject to specific event assumptions.

Personnel – The budget reflects planned salary adjustments and staffing changes, the employee bonus incentive pool, and a projected 10% increase in health-benefit costs.

A **MOTION** was made by Les Jack and **SECONDED** by Steve Smith to approve an increase in the employee bonus incentive pool. **MOTION PASSED.**

Professional Fees – The budget reflects the expected mix of consulting, legal, accounting and Chatter-related professional services for FY 2027.

Home Office Facilities – Recurring home-office facility costs are in line with FY 2026. Office and Capital Projects – The FY 2027 plan includes anticipated capital projects for a security fence (\$125,000), office build-out (\$55,000) and a new HVAC system (\$425,000).

Other – Other expenses are projected to decline as FY 26 included the \$500k scholarship grant paid to the Foundation. In addition, the FY 2027 Convention is planned as a virtual event, with projected savings of approximately \$140,000.

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Smith and **SECONDED** by David Costello to adopt the proposed FY 2027 budget for the association as presented. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE REPORT – GARRY MERRITT

Finance & Audit Chair Garry Merritt provided an update on the directive that was given to the Finance & Audit Committee to analyze Non-Pro Division Payouts.

After much discussion, the Finance & Audit Committee recommendation was to wait for further data to be provided so that the committee could properly evaluate the impact of these changes. Once completed, findings will be shared with the Executive Committee.

VP SELECTION COMMITTEE – DAVID COSTELLO

President Elect David Costello presented his proposed list for the 2027 VP Selection Committee members for EC approval.

POSITION	MEMBER
EC/BOD	Phil Benadum (R2)
EC/BOD	Les Jack (R1)
EC/BOD	Byron Green (R4)
EC/BOD	Bradey Davis (R6)
BOD/Past President	Phil Rapp (R8)
BOD/Past President	Mark Senn (R5)
BOD/Governance	Craig Morris (R1)
BOD	Kathy Cardon (R2)
BOD	Garry Merritt (R5)

NCHA Officers: President Elect David Costello/Vice President Chase Lackey
NCHA Admin: Cathy Marie Aleff

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Steve Smith to approve the proposed 2027 VP Selection Committee as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

DIRECTOR DISTRICT SUMMARY – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

A brief update was presented with the final membership numbers as of September 30th that

determine the allotment for directors in 2027, highlighting the affected areas. Standard reminders will be issued for those whose terms expire in 2027 to submit their consent forms if they would like to be considered to serve again.

All consent forms are due in the office by January 15th, 2027, and an online form can be submitted by the following link.

<https://www.nchacutting.com/about-us/our-governance/directors/director-consent-form>

The following district areas scheduled to lose/gain a director's seat and the year that change will go into effect are provided in the summary below.

CALIFORNIA & HAWAII (-1) (2027)
CANADA - WESTERN/CENTRAL (+1) (2027)
COLORADO (-1) (2027)
IADHO (+1) (2027)
INDIANA (-1) (2028)
LOUISIANA (-1) (2027)
MICHIGAN (-1) (2027)
MINNESOTA (-1) (2028)
MISSISSIPPI (-1) (2027)
NEW ENGLAND (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT), NY, NJ & PA (-1) (2029)
OHIO (-1) (2027)
SOUTH CAROLINA (-1) (2028)
TENNESSEE (-1) (2028)
VIRGINIA, W. VIRGINIA, DC, MARYLAND & DELAWARE (-1) (2029)
TEXAS NORTH (+3) (2027)

LEGAL UPDATES – JIM MORRIS

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris joined the call to address the members of the Executive Committee with some legal updates.

Direct and Indirect Remuneration

Jim shared a draft defining Direct and Indirect Remuneration to be included in the rule book.

After discussion amongst the Executive Committee, it was determined to send this proposed language to the NP/AM Task Force Committee for further discussion and recommendations.

Standing Rule 35 – Trainers Code of Ethics

D. Conduct by Trainers

The NCHA expects all trainers to conduct themselves with integrity and honesty toward their clients and to abide by the NCHA Trainer's Code of Ethics at all times. Any reported violation under this Section D, Conduct by Trainers, will be treated as a complaint under NCHA Rule 37 and be considered in accordance with the procedures contained in NCHA Rules 37 and 38. Each person found to be involved in a violation of this rule may each be subject to receiving the following discipline:

1st Offense: \$1,000 fine and 3 month probation or some period of suspension and removal from the NCHA Trainer's Directory for a period of at least 3 months.

2nd Offense: \$2,500 fine and 6 month probation or some period of suspension and removal from the NCHA Trainer's Directory for a period of at least 6 months.

3rd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 1 year suspension and removal from the NCHA Trainer's Directory for a period of at least 1 year.

The foregoing are only guidelines for discipline that may be assessed. The disciplinary measures contained in the guidelines can be increased or decreased as appropriate by the Grievance Committee or Appeals Committee depending upon the circumstances and the nature of the violation.

D. E. Failure to pay fines timely

Where a member is assessed a fine for a violation under this rule, such fine must be paid in full within fifteen (15) days after the fine is assessed. If the fine is not paid in full within that fifteen (15) day timeframe, the member will immediately be placed on membership suspension until such fine is paid in full. If the disciplinary action taken against the member included a suspension and/or probation in addition to a fine, that suspension and/or probation will be extended by a period equal to the amount of days over fifteen (15) days that it takes for the member to pay the fine in full (Example: If the member does not pay the fine in full until 45 days after the fine is assessed, then 30 days will be added to the term of the corresponding suspension and/or probation.)

The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Professional Trainers/LAE/Weekend Show/Affiliate Officers & Secretaries and the Approved LAE Show Producers Committees for further discussion and to report back at the next meeting in February.

Wellness Program

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris and Executive Committee member Steve Smith representing Region 7 shared a proposed wellness program to offer the NCHA members guidance for any that might be dealing with potential life hardships.

The health and welfare of NCHA members is of the utmost importance to the Association. The NCHA fully understands that competitive and demanding nature of the equine performance industry can often lead to high stress, anxiety and burnout. Under such circumstances, individuals may face battles with depression and may sometimes turn to alcohol or other substances to assist in dealing with the highs and lows of competing in our sport. The NCHA wants you to know that they care, they understand and you are not alone.

Therefore, as a service to its members, the NCHA is now offering assistance to members experiencing these quality-of-life challenges. This is a confidential program administered by a third party experienced in dealing with these wellness issues. Information concerning that service may be accessed via the link contained under the _____ tab on the NCHA website.

If you are experiencing any of these issues, the NCHA is hopeful that you will seek help, whether through the offered referral program or otherwise so that you can begin on the road to recovery.

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by David Costello to move forward with the inception of this program and published on the NCHA website. **MOTION PASSED.** Implementation for this wellness program (under the membership benefits section) is forthcoming over the next couple of months.

Standing Rule 37

Jim shared to the Executive Committee some additional verbiage to Standing Rule 37 regarding confidentiality in grievance hearings.

Contestant Conduct and Related Complaints

Standing Rule 37.d

d. Initial Hearing Procedures

For matters timely contested as provided in Section (c) above, the Initial Hearing Committee shall schedule a hearing and provide the alleged violator(s) not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of the hearing date. In circumstances deemed to constitute an emergency by the Executive Director after consulting with the NCHA President, the notice of hearing may be shortened by the President in their sole discretion, but in no event shall be less than five (5) business days actual notice of the hearing date. The notice shall be accompanied by the procedures to be followed at the hearing. The alleged violator and the NCHA shall exchange all proposed documentary evidence to be considered at the hearing no less than three (3) days prior to the hearing. The Initial Hearing Committee shall have the discretion to decide whether good cause exists for the committee to consider untimely filed evidentiary submissions. Legal counsel for the NCHA and alleged violator may appear and participate in the evidentiary portion of the hearing.

All grievance complaints, hearings, deliberations, evidence, testimony, and disciplinary decisions shall be treated as confidential by all participants. Association members involved in a grievance matter, including complainants, respondents, witnesses, and hearing panel members, shall not disclose or discuss the details of the matter with any person outside of the Association, except as required by law or as authorized in writing by the Association. The respondent may discuss the matter with legal counsel, immediate family members, or other professional advisors, provided those individuals are informed that the information is confidential. Any unauthorized disclosure of confidential grievance information may constitute a separate violation of Association rules and may result in disciplinary action.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve the additional verbiage to Standing Rule 37 regarding confidential information as it pertains to hearings. **MOTION PASSED.**

Medication Policy

Further efforts are being made to make potential changes to the medication policy.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – ERIC FIELD/SKIP JONES

Governance Committee Chair Eric Field and Governance Committee Member Skip Jones provided an update on the proposed Director Emeritus concept.

Proposed Director Emeritus Designation for Bylaws

The Association has adopted the designation of Director Emeritus status to recognize those who have faithfully served the Association for long periods of time. Directors meeting the following qualifications may be eligible for Director Emeritus status: (i) 15 years cumulative service or 12 years consecutive service as an elected district director; (ii) past service as a Standing Committee chair or vice-chair, or a member of a Standing Committee for a minimum of 6 years, or having served on the Executive Committee; (iii) be 60 Years of age or older; and (iv) never been under NCHA membership suspension. The Executive Committee shall consider potential Director Emeritus candidates on an annual basis. All Director Emeritus candidates must be approved by the Executive Committee, at its sole discretion, in order to be awarded Director Emeritus status. Directors Emeritus will not be counted against a district's allotted number of directors under these Bylaws but will be entitled to vote so long as they have met all current participation requirements for NCHA directors. **Additionally, Directors Emeritus will not be included in the count for the percentage of directors required to call a special meeting under Section Seven of this Article or in the count for the percentage of directors needed purposes of establishing a quorum under Section Eight of this Article.** A roster of the directors who have received Director Emeritus status will be displayed at the NCHA headquarters as directed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee tabled this discussion to allow its current members to be advised of the details of this concept and will revisit at a later date.

IT DEPARTMENT UPDATES – KELLEY HARTRANFT

Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the IT Department including but not limited to the new online foal nomination process.

SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from her department.

Current Futurity Entries

Shianne stated that this Futurity is shaping up to be one of the largest in recent years and that entries are up compared to last year.

2027 Futurity Payment Structure

Shianne recommended that the Executive Committee revisit the five (5) payment structure that was approved at the August meeting and notated that there has been a technical problem in increasing the total payments from four (4) to five (5). She wanted to bring this problem forward with the potential to remain with a four (4) payment schedule due to technical limitations.

Casey Green **RESCINDED** his **MOTION** that was made during the August Executive Committee meeting and was again **SECONDED** by Bradey Davis to keep the 2027 payment

structure at four (4) payments while looking at implementing a change to five (5) payment structure for the 2028 Futurity. **MOTION PASSED.**

Affiliate Submission Definition

Shianne addressed the Executive Committee members asking for clarification regarding the requirements for affiliates to submit their year-end standings to NCHA.

A consensus was reached that hosting a show can be defined by either producing and/or co-sanctioning a show.

Limited Age Events held in conjunction with a Championship Show

President-Elect David Costello previously reached out to Director of Shows Shianne Megel on reviewing the added money requirement for small LAE shows held in conjunction with a Championship show. Currently there cannot be more than \$9,999 in total added money. David stated that with current eligibility updates and increased class thresholds, that maybe this rule needs to be more aligned with these increase changes.

The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Weekend Show and Affiliate Officers & Secretaries Committees for further discussion and to report back by the next meeting in February.

JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges Andy Adams provided an update on the directive that was given to the Director of Judges regarding World Finals Judge Management.

Andy shared that efforts are made each year to select the best judges available for the World Finals and that if they were to choose unique judges from different regions, they may not end up with the best available.

NCHA TASK FORCE COMMITTEE UPDATES

NP/AM Task Force Committee – Casey Green and Ora Diehl

Appointed Co-Chairs Casey Green and Ora Diehl shared that the first meeting held for this task force went really well. They shared that an inquiry has been issued directly to each member of the Executive Committee to help identify their regional concerns. A look back at the history of cutting and how we got to where we are today was presented during this initial meeting.

Horse Leasing Task Force – Byron Green

Byron Green provided an update on the Horse Leasing Task Force. Byron stated that efforts sharing the idea of horse leasing program have been presented to several committees and feedback is positive. He also stated that there have been numerous questions that have been brought up about what the rules would be for the different divisions and classes. Byron shared

that he would like to present a more organized rubric with these committees and summarize all opinions and questions to share with the Executive Committee.

STALLION OWNERS & BREEDERS COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE REPORT – MADISON SMITH

Stallion Owners & Breeders Committee Chair Madison Smith provided an update on the directive that was given to the Stallion Owners & Breeders Committee to rewrite the Policies and Procedures on the allocation of Incentive Monies.

D. FOAL NOMINATIONS (Page 7)

1. *In the event a foal nomination application and fee are received for a 5-year-old or 6-year-old, the nomination fee will be applied to the purse for the 5-year-old and 6-year-old (Classic) show year.*

E. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS (Page 8)

2. FOAL AWARDS

- a. *4-year-old division only: 15% of the foal nomination funds will be used for the foal nominator awards. Awards will be split equally between the current nine levels (open, intermediate open, limited open, non-pro, intermediate non-pro, limited non-pro, amateur, intermediate amateur, limited amateur) and pay the nominator of the foals for the top three placing horses plus ties in each level based on the following payout scale:*

1st place: 50%

2nd place: 33.33%

3rd place: 16.67%

A **MOTION** was made by David Costello and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the rewrite as presented to the Stallion Foal Incentive Policies and Procedures on how the added money is allocated. **MOTION PASSED.**

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE REPORT – PHIL BENADUM

Professional Trainers Committee Chair Phil Benadum provided an update on the directive that was given to the Professional Trainers Committee regarding current loper membership requirements.

After Phil presented the committee's findings to the Executive Committee, it was determined that the association will continue to enforce and emphasize this rule at all NCHA produced shows in 2027.

AWARDS/RECIPIENTS – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

Honorary Awards

- Arthur Jackson Memorial Award – Pete Fanning
- Julie Hansma Non-Pro Sportsmanship Award – TBD
- Mary Kingsbury Award – TBD
- Modine Smith Humanitarian Award – Bob & Jolene Nelson
- Todd Drummond Award (Action from EC) – Kate Roberson
- Zane Schulte Award – Craig Thompson

The Todd Drummond Award is presented each year during the NCHA Futurity Finals to an outstanding NYCHA member. Nominations were submitted from an NCHA Affiliate by October 1st. This youth member will be recognized for scholastic, extracurricular activities and cutting horse involvement. The selected recipient will receive a GIST buckle at the presentation.

After a round table discussion, a group of qualified nominees were considered with a final selection being made by the Executive Committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Les Jack and **SECONDED** by David Costello to select Kate Roberson of Mineral Wells, TX as the 2026 recipient of the Todd Drummond Award. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Co-Circuit Approvals

NCHA International Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker presented an amendment to the co-circuit show application for the 2027 point year from the August meeting along with clarification changes to qualifications.

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Smith and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. to approve the Co-Circuit Show Application with the inclusion of a two-third approval requirement from the regional directors and allowing each circuit to be allotted at total of two (2) weekends of co-circuit approvals for each point year effective 2027. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

World Finals and ICC Qualifications

Option 1: Make the following changes to the 2026 ICC held during the 2027 Super Stakes.

1. In the event an ICC qualified horse or rider is drawn into the World Finals, additional invitations will be extended to the next eligible horses / riders within the top fifteen (15) circuit year-end standings. In no instance will invitations go past 15th place.
2. Any rider and/or horse that competed were drawn into the 2026 NCHA World Finals are not eligible to compete at the 2026 Circuit Championships in the same class(es) in which they competed in the 2025 NCHA World Finals.

*Include this verbiage on the WF noticed that will be mailed out soon. *

Option 2: Do not make any changes to the 2026 ICC held during the 2027 Super Stakes. Make all changes effective in the 2027 point year for the 2027 ICC held during the 2028 Super Stakes.

1. In the event an ICC qualified horse or rider is drawn into the World Finals or finishes in the top fifteen in the World Finals, without competing at the World Finals, additional invitations will be extended to the next eligible horses / riders within the top fifteen (15) circuit year-end standings. In no instance will invitations go past 15th place.
2. Horse classes – If a horse is drawn into and/or shown at the World Finals, that horse will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.
3. Horse classes – If a horse finishes in the top fifteen in the World Finals standings, even if they do not show at the World Finals, they will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.
4. Rider Classes - If a rider is drawn into and/or shown at the World Finals, that rider will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.
5. Rider classes – If a rider finishes in the top fifteen in the World Finals standings, even if they do not show at the World Finals, they will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to adopt option 1 for the ICC qualification process as presented. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) opposition from Casey Green.**

2027 ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATES – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

The 2027 NCHA Annual Convention will be held June 21-25, 2027, with a virtual format and hosted out of Fort Worth, Texas. A tentative schedule with more information to follow.

NEW BUSINESS

Standing Rule 34

Executive Committee member Bradey Davis representing Region 6 shared a concern that members in his region have regarding the use of training devices during a cutting. Due to a rule change from the last Executive Committee meeting in August, the use of training devices is not allowed one (1) hour before or after a cutting has concluded.

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed this concern and advised those with this concern to contact the NCHA Office for further clarification.

Rule Book Modifications

Executive Committee member Byron Green representing Region 4 brought up the idea of updating and modernizing the rule book to today's standard.

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed this suggestion stating that the NCHA office has been updating the format, eliminating redundancies, and providing updates on a year-to-year basis.

Regional Membership Boundaries

Executive Committee member Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. representing Region 3 brought up an issue regarding the increasing size of some regions. He cited Article 5, Section (c) of the Constitution and Bylaws in the rule book: "if the above listed regions shall cease to contain approximately equal numbers of association membership, appropriate adjustments may be made upon the recommendation of the President."

President Kathleen Moore has notated this concern and will reconfirm data with the Membership Department for any suggested changes.

Outstanding Balances at Limited Age Events

Executive Committee member Les Jack representing Region 1 brought up an issue regarding members' unpaid show dues at aged events and what actions can be taken to recoup those funds.

Director of Shows Shianne Megel advised Les Jack to advise the office of those individual concerns.

Future EC Meeting

The next in-person EC Meeting will be held on February 16, 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to adjourn the call at 2:06PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**