

NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10-11, 2026
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Tuesday & Wednesday March 10-11, 2026, beginning at 9:00AM. All times are based on the central time zone.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Barnwell Ramsey, President-Elect Kathleen Moore, Vice President David Costello, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith (via Phone), Byron Green, Ora Diehl, Tommy Williams, Steve Smith, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff and Membership Associate Dakota Pruitt from the NCHA Office were also in attendance at this meeting.

TUESDAY – MARCH 10, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00AM and roll call was taken.

President Barnwell Ramsey welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and led the attendees in prayer welcoming the opportunity to serve and lead with wisdom, patience, and grace as the committee works together to shape a better future for this great association. Emphasis was made on the guidance of unity, collaboration, and respect on discussions as the Executive Committee makes decisions during these meetings.

President Barnwell Ramsey lead the Executive Committee 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - BARNWELL RAMSEY

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Smith and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve and accept the set of minutes for an E-Mail vote taken on February 12th, 2026. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve and accept the set of minutes for an E-Mail vote taken on February 4th, 2026. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve and accept the set of minutes for an E-Mail vote taken on January 28th, 2026. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Ora Diehl to approve and accept the set of minutes for an E-Mail vote taken on January 20th, 2026. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PRESIDENT REPORT – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey addressed the members of the Executive Committee with some quick updates for his report.

Ramsey stated that he had spent the past week at the Eastern Nationals in Louisiana. He expressed that it was received well and successful with the new youth format and weekend classes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn provided the Executive Committee with some updates for his report.

Eastern Nationals

Jay wanted to compliment Director of Shows Shianne Megel and her team for the work they put into the Eastern Nationals and that it was a great show. The Weekend cuttings that were held at the end of the main show each day were well received.

Western Nationals

The Executive Committee wanted to get an update from the Western Nationals Task Force Committee on the latest efforts of reestablishing this show for our members. The group was waiting until after the Eastern was over to discuss how the show changes benefited the show.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

GENERAL SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting back into general session.

VP ELECTION UPDATES – KATHLEEN MOORE

President-Elect Kathleen Moore shared an update from the Vice President Selection Committee who have formally made a suggestion on two strong and qualified candidates to run for the 2026 NCHA Vice Presidential Election. The VP Selection Committee recommends that Rock Hedlund of Wilton, CA and Chase Lackey of Burlington, NC be considered and approved to run. Voting will begin April 20th and end on May 27th through our third-party election firm, Simply Voting.

FINANCIAL REPORT – DENISE WILLIAMS

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams addressed the Executive Committee with our current state of December 2025 and January 2026 financials for the association.

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary December 2025

Statement of Position

The Association finished the month with total assets of \$32 million, down \$3.3 million from the previous month.

The Association's Cash fell by \$4.1 million, mainly due to premium payments for the 2025 Futurity and World Final shows.

The Stallion Foal Cash & Investments category grew by \$448,000, largely thanks to foal nominations and stallion subscriptions.

Accounts receivable rose by about \$1.5 million because of MERP accruals for those same events.

Total prepaids dropped \$1.2 million as show-related prepaid expenses were allocated appropriately for the Futurity and World Finals.

Total liabilities decreased by roughly \$5.3 million from last month, primarily because event and sponsorship deferred revenue went down by \$6.9 million for the 2025 shows. However, this was partly balanced by increases in accounts payable and accrued expenses related to show costs. Membership deferred revenue also went up as renewals came in for the 2026 point year.

Net assets increased by around \$1.9 million, reflecting the year-to-date net profit for the first quarter of FY 2026.

Statement of Activities YTD

Prior to accounting for unrealized gains or losses on investments, the Association reported a net profit of \$479,000 for the first quarter of FY 2026, compared to a budgeted net loss of \$667,000. This favorable variance of \$1.1 million was primarily attributable to the strong performance of the

Futurity and World Finals shows. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the Association effectively managed revenues and expenses within budget during the non-produced show months of October and November.

Statement of Activities – Month of December

The Association reported a net profit of \$2.2 million, exceeding the FY 2026 budget projection of \$1.2 million for the month by \$1 million. This positive difference was mainly attributed to a \$400k favorable variance at the Futurity, a realized gain of \$487k from mutual funds, and improved results from the World Finals show, which outperformed the budget by \$55k.

The exceptional outcome at the Futurity was largely driven by higher than expected horse sale commissions—revenue was anticipated at \$1.47 million but reached \$1.77 million. Additionally, show fees surpassed expectations by \$286k. However, there was a decrease in practice pen and stall revenue due to the EHV-1 outbreak, along with some unplanned expenses related to the outbreak.

The World Finals recorded a pre-MERP loss of \$384k, which was better than the projected \$439k loss by \$55k. This improvement primarily stemmed from increased cash sponsorships, including an extra \$50k in silk sponsorships. Notably, NCHA-produced show revenue fell slightly short as stall revenue missed the budget by \$16k, an impact linked to the EHV-1 outbreak.

On the expense side, the show stayed within budget, and both awards and marketing expenses ended up with minor favorable variances.

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary January 2026

Statement of Position

At the end of the month, the Association reported total assets of \$36 million, representing a \$4 million increase from the previous month.

Cash rose by \$4.1 million, primarily attributable to entry payments for the 2026 Futurity, Super Stakes, ICC, and Eastern National shows.

The Stallion Foal Cash & Investments category expanded by \$238,000, mainly because of foal nominations.

Accounts receivable declined by approximately \$534,000, following the receipt of the 2025 Super Stakes MERP and partially offset by sponsorship billing of \$250,000 to Rocking P Ranch. Total prepaid expenses increased modestly by \$174,000, reflecting prepaid show-related costs for upcoming events.

Total liabilities grew by around \$3.2 million compared to last month, largely due to an increase in

event and sponsorship deferred revenue of \$3.9 million for forthcoming shows. This rise was counterbalanced by reductions in accrued expenses and accounts payable resulting from payments made for Futurity expenses.

Additionally, membership deferred revenue decreased as 2026 memberships were recognized.

Net assets increased by \$824,000, indicating a net profit for January 2026.

Statement of Activities YTD

Before unrealized investment gains or losses, the Association posted a \$942k net profit for the four months ending January 2026, outperforming the budgeted net loss of \$190k by \$1.1 million—about the same as the first quarter FY 2026—showing operations stayed on budget in January.

Statement of Activities – Month of January

The Association achieved a net profit of \$463,000 in comparison to the FY 2026 budgeted net profit of \$478,000. The minor variance of \$15,000 was primarily due to a \$23,000 shortfall in total revenue, partially mitigated by an \$8,000 favorable variance in total expenses.

From a revenue standpoint, the Association reported several positive variances:

- Investment portfolio income exceeded expectations by \$27,000, primarily attributable to higher balances in the short-term investment portfolio.
- Approved show revenue increased by \$18,000, largely due to strong attendance at weekend events.

These gains were offset by the following negative variances:

- Sponsorship cash revenue was \$52,000 below budgeted projections, as the Miller International sponsor payment, expected in January based on prior year timing, was instead received in February.
- Membership revenues fell short of the monthly budget by \$18,000; however, year-to-date membership revenue remains within 1% of budget, making the January shortfall less significant.

With respect to expenses, the Association demonstrated effective fiscal management by adhering to the budget and avoiding any material variances.

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Smith and **SECONDED** by Byron Green to accept the December 2025 and January 2026 Financials as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel provided the Executive Committee with updates on various show department related items.

Eastern Nationals

Shianne stated that the changes made to the Youth classes at the Eastern Nationals were well received by those that participated. She also shared that this youth format could become a convention item to allow Weekend shows to run their Youth classes in the same way. Lastly, Shianne stated that the association is verbally committed to hosting the Eastern Nationals in West Monroe, LA for the next two (2) years.

Super Stakes

Shianne provided an update on the upcoming Super Stakes. The John Justin arena will host three (3) separate practice pens throughout the show. The Watt Arena will have block cattle works until the ICC starts later in the show. An elephant access door has been installed on the east side of the Coliseum for horses to enter rather than the normal west side entrance.

Limited Aged Events Committee

Shianne shared that there are some discussions taking place in the LAE Committee revolving around the potential issues of securing cattle in the future. There have been some concerns that have risen with the need to combo Amateur entries as a result of decreased cattle availability.

Triple Crown Payments

Shianne also brought up a discussion from the office internally regarding the current payment schedule for the Super Stakes and Summer Spectacular. She shared that there are some thoughts of reducing the number of payments to one (1) for each respective show rather than having two (2) payments due to how close each payment is scheduled to the other. There was also some discussion on changes to the Futurity payment schedule to help lessen the financial burden of the last payment.

Major/Premier LAE Calendar

Lastly, Shianne presented the Executive Committee with the Major/Premier Approved LAE show calendar for May – November 2026.

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to accept the Major/Premier Approved LAE Show Calendar for May – November of 2026 as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

2026 Eastern Nationals

Shianne shared that there were 2,220 qualified riders and 2,177 qualified horses for the Eastern Nationals. Each qualified entry, if they choose to enter, was able to also ride in any other classes they qualified in last year. There was also some budget concerns raised as there may be a need to rent additional equipment to prepare the facility for the show.

JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges, Andy Adams provided an update on the Judges department to the Executive Committee.

Andy started by saying the approved changes to Standing Rule 22 have helped with the development of the new Online Continuing Education platform for Judges. Andy provided an update on the progress on the Online Continuing Education platform and how it is being built. Andy stated that he will create a video pertaining to a certain penalty who he then sends to the developers behind HorseIQ. From there they will build out the platform and upload the videos. Andy also shared that he is working on creating videos for each type of cow score to help give education and understanding on how its scored. There will be a multiple-choice test that Judges will take each year. If the correct answer is chosen, then it will move to the next question. If the wrong answer is chosen, then it will play a video of the correct answer with a voiceover explaining the reasoning behind that answer.

Andy also shared that he has reached out to all the places that have held a Judges Seminar or are wanting to hold a Judges Seminar to share the news about this new platform being developed. He explained that it will be beneficial to not only Judges, but to any members as well due to the education aspect.

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS – KATHLEEN MOORE

President-Elect Kathleen Moore provided the Executive Committee an update on the recent Director Elections.

There were three (3) contested elections that took place (Florida, Montana, and Virginia, West Virginia, D.C., Maryland, and Delaware). See results incorporated in the overall summary of all districts appointments approved below.

Alabama (R5)

Julie Beasley (27)
James Hooper (LD)
Andrew Sligh (27)

Arizona (R2)

David Booth (28)
Ashley Bosack (28)
Dawn Chapman (28)

Debra Winard (28)

Mike Wood (29)

Arkansas (R6)

Diana Cunningham (28)
Toddy Pitard (LD)
Tommy Williams (28) (EC)
Lewis Wray (LD)

California & Hawaii (R2)

Dana Azevedo (29)
Phil Benadum (27) (EC)
Kathy Cardon (29)
Tim Castilaw (27)
Bob Cooley (29)
Katie Fonsen-Young (29)
Rock Hedlund (27)
Fiina Ugrin Jolley (29)

Suzy Rodoni-Silverberg (27)
Stan Williams, Jr. (29)
Brent Young (27)

Colorado (R1)

Nate Miller (27)
Craig Morris (28)
Steve Norris (LD)
Ron Pietrafeso (LD)
Kenny Platt (27)
Erin Smith (27)

Florida (R5)

Ora Diehl (LD) (EC)
Sandra Lines (28)
Brittany Overstreet (29)
Sharon Overstreet (29)
Pam Scott (28)

Georgia (R5)

Ryan Howell (27)
John Hulsey (27)
Mark Senn (LD)

Idaho (R1)

Mike Giannini (27)
Barbi Madgwick (28)

Illinois (R3)

Rick Jackson (28)

Indiana (R4)

Byron Green (28) (EC)
Nick Pilcher (28)

Iowa & Wisconsin (R3)

Seth Kirchner (29)

Kansas (R3)

Danny Bryson (28)
Kirby Smith (29) (EC)

Kentucky (R5)

Trent Harrison (29)

Louisiana (R6)

Gwen Coie (27)
Keith Deaville (LD)
Mason Griffin (29)
Elizabeth Quirk (28)
Bruce Richerson (LD)
Trey Rogillio (27)

Michigan (R4)

Dan Agnew (27)
Crystal DeWitt (27)

Minnesota (R3)

J. P. Bell (29)
Brian Cottrell (28)

Mississippi (R6)

William Cole (27)
Taylor Flowers (27)
Ricky Lewis (27)

Missouri (R3)

Ernie Beutenmiller, Jr. (LD)
Greg Beutenmiller (27)
Sonny Martin (27)
Ryan Moore (27)

Montana (R1)

Kelly Fraser (29)
Michelle Van Dyke (28)

Nebraska (R3)

Deb Watts (29)

Nevada (R2)

Cookie Banuelos (29)
Patti Lund (27)

New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT), NY, NJ & PA (R4)

Bill Stein (29)
Jack Werner (29)

New Mexico (R7)

Joel Carson (28)
Richard Hicks (28)

North Carolina (R5)

Garry Merritt (27)
Bob Meyer (27)
Barnwell Ramsey (LD)

North & South Dakota (R3)

Tom Holmes (28)
Jason Reed (28)

Ohio (R4)

Jeff Brown (27)
Steve Duff (27)
John P. Lavelle (27)

Chuck Smith (LD)

Oklahoma (R8)

Cara Brewer (28) (EC)
Michelle Cowan (29)
Brandon Dufurrena (27)
Glenda Ericsson (28)
Jody Galyean (28)
Kathleen Moore – President
Ty Moore (28)
Bill Riddle (LD)
Brad Wilson (28)

Oregon (R1)

Marcea DeGregorio (28)
Mary Freeborn (27)
Jack Holt (27)

South Carolina (R5)

Tony Smith (28)
Wendy Warne (28)

Tennessee (R5)

Barbara Brooks (LD)
Zeke Entz (28)
Kevin Herzke (29)
Maben Thompson (29)

Texas East (R6)

Punk Carter (LD)
David Costello – President-Elect
Bradey Davis (27)
Billy Emerson (29)
Sylvia Fuentes (27)
Jan Gandy (27)
Cynthia Patty (27)
Ronnie Smith (27)

Texas North (R8)

Jeremy Barwick (27)
Jaime Beamer (29)
Chris Benedict (LD)
Mary Bradford (27)
Lindy Burch (LD)
R. L. Chartier (27)
Dennie Dunn (LD)
Kelle Earnheart (27)
Jo Ellard (LD)
Jennifer Foland (29)
Matt Gaines (27)
Casey Green (27) (EC)
Leon Harrel (LD)
Cody Hedlund (27)

Joey Jingoli (29)
 Tom Lyons (LD)
 Matt Miller (27)
 Jim Milner (LD)
 Ken Mock (27)
 Bruce Morine (27)
 Sarah Morine (27)
 Mike Mowery (LD)
 Rick Mowery (27)
 Mary Ann Rapp (27)
 Phil Rapp (LD)
 Tarin Rice (27)
 Ben Roberson (27)
 Jonathan Rogers (29)
 Geoffrey Sheehan (28)
 Ted Sokol Jr. (LD)
 Cameron Thompson (27)
 Chubby Turner (LD)
 Bronc Willoughby (LD)
 Michael Wood (27)

Texas South (R7)
 Denise Bendele (29)
 Liz Bray (28)
 Frank Bowen (27)
 Constantine Caloudas (27)
 Caroline Collins (28)
 James Davison (28)

James Eakin (29)
 Mary Garbett (29)
 Janice Little (27)
 Sam Wilson (LD)

Texas West (R7)
 Cheryl Callis (28)
 Sherry Graham (27)
 Skip Jones (29)
 Coleta Rosson (29)
 Steve Smith (27) (EC)

Utah (R1)
 Danielle Pace (27)
 Steve Williams (27)

Virginia, West Virginia, D.C., Maryland & Delaware (R4)
 Roy Bauer (29)
 Ryan Smith (29)

Washington & Alaska (R1)
 Holly Jones (29)
 Dean Rebhuhn (27)

Wyoming (R1)
 Audra Crouse (29)
 Hayden Heaphy Jr. (29)

Eastern Canada (R4)
 Eric Van Boekel (28)

Western/Central Canada (R1)
 Connie Down-Cicoria (28)
 Colton Hall (28)
 Les Jack (28) (EC)
 Sandy Reid (28)
 Doug Wiens (27)

Europe (R4)
 Gaetan Foulatier (27)
 Denis Pini (28)
 Jana Pini (28)
 Sergio Traverso (28)
 Pietro Valeri (29)

 (LD) Life Director
 (EC) Executive Committee
 (RX) Designated Region

Term Expires:
 (27) 2027
 (28) 2028
 (29) 2029

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to accept the proposed Board of Director appointments for 2026-2027 as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – KATHLEEN MOORE

President-Elect Kathleen Moore presented to the Executive Committee with her Standing Committee appointment recommendations for approval.

Affiliate Officers/Secretaries
Michelle Van Dyke (28) R1
Patti Lund (29) R2 - NEW
Kathy Cardon (29) R2 - REAPPOINTED
Susie Reed (29) R3 - NEW
Rebecca Waters (28) R3
Deb Watts (28) R3
Vicki Green (29) R4 - NEW
Brooke Manion (28) R5
David Costello (27) R6

Laney Bell (29) R7 - NEW
Cheryl Callis (27) R7 - NVEO - REAPPOINTED
Jessy Vandiver (28) R8
Dee McLaughlin (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Scott McKinsey (29) R8 – REAPPOINTED
Amateur
Peri Suenram (29) R1 - REAPPOINTED
Michelle Van Dyke (29) R1 - NEW
Bob Cooley (28) R2
Danny Bryson (29) R3 - NEW

Steve Duff (27) R4
Sandra Lines (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
Dawn Brehm (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
Andrew Sligh (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
Brooke Manion (27) R5
Jan Gandy (29) R6 - REAPPOINTED
William Cole (28) R6
Sherryl Byars (28) R7
Erin Russell (27) R8
Joey Jingoli (28) R8 - CHANGED TO VOTING MEMBER
Brad Weiss (28) R8 - NVEO
Thad Cox (27) R8
Finance & Audit
Dean Rebhuhn (27) R1 - NVEO - REAPPOINTED
Jim Haworth (27) R3 - NVEO - REAPPOINTED
David Pilcher (27) R4 - NVEO - REAPPOINTED
Frank Diehl (27) R5
Garry Merritt (27) R5
Elizabeth Quirk (27) R6
Madison Smith (27) R8
Mark Senn (28) R5
Jeff Fehrman (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
Denise Bendele (29) R7 - REAPPOINTED
Phil Rapp (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Sharon Beach (28) R8
Buddy Westphal (29) R1 - NEW
James Eakin (27) R7 - NVEO - NEW
Judges Rules
Nate Miller (27) R1
Tim Castilaw (28) R2 - NVEO
Rock Hedlund (27) R2
Monty Buntin (27) R2
Regan Plendl (28) R3
Tyler Delange (28) R4
Walt Erwin (28) R5
Joe Cameron (27) R5 - NVEO
Toddy Pitard (27) R6 - CHANGED TO VOTING MEMBER
Josh King (28) R7
Ken Mock (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Jonathan Rogers (28) R8

Jody Galyean (27) R8 - CHANGED TO VOTING MEMBER
Scott Weis (27) R8 - CHANGED TO NVEO
Bradey Davis (29) R6 - REAPPOINTED
Sarah Morine (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Jaime Beamer (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Rick Mowery (27) R8 - NVEO - REAPPOINTED
Gavin Jordan (29) R8 - NEW
Limited Age Events
Marcea DeGregorio (28) R1
Monty Buntin (27) R2
Seth Kirchner (28) R3
John Lavelle (27) R4
Wendy Warne (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
Chase Lackey (27) R5
Jason Whitaker (28) R5
Ricky Lewis (29) R6 - NEW
Bradey Davis (28) R6
Skip Jones (27) R7
Ben Roberson (27) R8
Jaime Snider (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Phil Rapp (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Michael Wood (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Clay Johnson (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Governance
Audra Crouse (28) R1
Jim Wesson (28) R2
Jim Haworth (27) R3
Anita Janssen (28) R3
Eric Field (27) R4
Tim Dobyys (28) R4
Chad Jackson (29) R5 - NEW
Ronnie Smith (27) R6
Billy Emerson (28) R6
Austria Gerhardy (29) R6 - NEW
James Eakin (29) R7 - REAPPOINTED
Corrie Rousey (27) R8
Skip Jones (27) R7 - NVEO - NEW

Non-Professional
Julie Clarke (29) R1 - NEW
David Booth (29) R2 - REAPPOINTED
Regan Plendl (29) R3 - REAPPOINTED
Crystal DeWitt (28) R4
Jamie Sokol (27) R5
Alison Howell (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
Chase Lackey (29) R5 - NEW
Elizabeth Quirk (29) R6 - REAPPOINTED
Missy Jean Etheridge (27) R6
Stuart Bozeman (29) R7 - NEW
Mary Ann Rapp (28) R8
Michelle Cowan (28) R8
Sarah Morine (29) R8 - NEW
Ryder Carpenter (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Cameron Thompson (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Weekend Show
Sue Henrichs (28) R1
Holly Jones (29) R1 - REAPPOINTED
Nate Miller (29) R1 - REAPPOINTED
Jason Diaz (29) R2 - NEW
John Fay (27) R2
Kirby Smith (29) R3 - NEW
Jason Reed (27) R3
Bill Stein (29) R4 - REAPPOINTED
Sandra Patton (28) R4
Wendy Warne (27) R5
Sharon Overstreet (28) R5
Casey Crouch (29) R6 - NEW
Sherry Graham (29) R7 - NEW
Sherryl Byars (28) R7
Ted Sokol, Jr. (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED

Professional Trainers
Craig Morris (29) R1 - NEW
Phil Benadum (28) R2
Ryan Moore (27) R3
Nick Pilcher (28) R4
Tracy Barton (28) R5
Josh Deason (28) R5
Mason Griffin (28) R6
David Costello (28) R6
Thomas Bray (29) R7 - NEW
Casey Green (27) R8
Rick Mowery (28) R8
Jesse Lennox (28) R8
Ben Roberson (28) R8
Growth and Development
Buddy Westphal (29) R1 - NEW
Mary Freeborn (28) R1
Stan Williams Jr. (29) R2 - NEW
Brian Cottrell (29) R3 - NEW
Shelby Agnew (27) R4
Ora Diehl (29) R5 - REAPPOINTED
John Hulsey (28) R5
Jade Lackey (28) R5
Chad Newton (28) R5
Austria Gerhardy (29) R6 - NEW
Matt Robinson (27) R6
Jane Mancuso (27) R7
Mary Garbett (29) R7 - NEW
Shelly Mowery (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED

Stallion Owners & Breeders
Julie Clarke (29) R1 - NEW
Dana Azevedo (27) R2
Kate Banuelos (29) R2 - NEW
Lauren Kimble (29) R4 - REAPPOINTED
Crystal DeWitt (29) R4 - REAPPOINTED
Benjie Frost (27) R5
Todd Quirk (27) R6
Ty Moore (27) R8
Kelley Tammen (28) R8
Michael Wood (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
Madison Smith (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED
John Kratzer (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED

Youth
Brent Young (28) R1
Glen Nelson (27) R2
Dana Azevedo (29) R2 - NEW
Sonny Martin (29) R3 - NEW
Shawna Parsons (29) R3 - REAPPOINTED
Sabrina Mesalam (27) R4
Ginger Hoffman (28) R5
Leigh Ann White (27) R6
Mary Crow (29) R7 - REAPPOINTED
Jordan Milner-Cook (28) R8
Nikki Roberson (28) R8 - CHANGED TO VOTING MEMBER
Kory Pounds (29) R8 - REAPPOINTED

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to accept the proposed Standing Committee appointments for 2026-2027 as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

APPROVED LAE SHOW PRODUCERS’ DIRECTIVE REPORT – SKIP JONES

Skip Jones of the Approved LAE Show Producers committee provided an update on the EC Directive given to this committee as a result of the last Executive Committee meeting.

The goal of this directive issued was to get as much advanced notice on the placement of the weekend shows held in conjunction with the LAE event and ultimately incorporate those days into the overall Approved LAE calendar to be approved six (6) months in advance. Suggestions for accomplishing this goal are to make changes to the overall show application process to help identify the days when a producer will hold weekend shows in conjunction with their LAE event.

The Executive Committee directed the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee to revisit the directive coordinating with the Weekend Show Committee to research further on obtaining this goal. The EC would like to receive a report back by the June EC meeting at Convention.

WEEKEND COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE REPORT – TED SOKOL JR.

Ted Sokol Jr. Chairman of the Weekend Show Committee provided an update on the EC Directive given to this committee as a result of the last Executive Committee meeting.

As previously discussed with the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee, the EC would like the Weekend Show Committee to revisit the directive from the EC and coordinate with the LAE Show Producers to obtain this goal with the calendar of the weekend shows in conjunction with the LAE

events and report back to the EC by the June EC meeting at Convention.

HALL OF FAME TASK FORCE COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE REPORT– RON PIETRAFESO

Chairman Ron Pietrafeso provided an update to the Executive Committee on the directive given to the Hall of Fame Task Force committee regarding the current criteria on the Open Rider and Horse Hall of Fame eligibility.

The Hall of Fame Task Force Committee had the following proposal regarding the criteria for the Open Riders HOF:

If Open Riders have any Intermediate and/or Limited Open Earnings currently, that money is eligible for Open Riders Hall of Fame criteria and as of a pre-determined date within the 2026 point year; moving forward from that date determined **ONLY** pure Open Class earnings will count, **NO** Intermediate or Limited Monies.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by David Costello to accept the proposed changes to the Open Rider HOF criteria as recommended by the Hall of Fame Task Force Committee effective beginning of the 2027 Point Year. **MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY with four (4) oppositions recorded as Kirby Smith, Ora Diehl, Tommy Williams, and Steve Smith.**

The Hall of Fame Task Force Committee had the following proposal regarding the criteria for the Horse HOF:

All money (every \$ NCHA records) won by horses counts as eligible criteria for the Horse Hall of Fame.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by David Costello to accept the recommendation made by the Hall of Fame Task Force Committee to leave the criteria as it currently is and allow all monies earned by the Horses to count towards the Horse HOF eligibility. **MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY with three (3) oppositions recorded as Kathleen Moore, Phil Benadum, and Tommy Williams.**

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

FOUNDATION/HORSE & CATTLE WELFARE – JULIA BUSWOLD

Executive Director of the Foundation Julia Buswold provided the Executive Committee with some updates on the Foundation and the Horse & Cattle Welfare Committee.

Julia started by talking about the relationship between the Foundation and the Horse & Cattle Welfare committee members. She shared that there have been several meetings to discuss potential projects for the Foundation to potentially investigate. There is a common agreement to focus their resources on projects more focused on benefiting the NCHA.

Julia also shared an update on the upcoming Scholarship Cuttings that take place during the Summer Spectacular. She shared that there is an additional \$50k in scholarships being added to this year's scholarship cutting for a total of \$96k, up from \$40k that was committed last year.

There was also a change to the NCHA Foundation board as Lachlan Perks is no longer a board member. Julia also stated that the Foundation board has some bylaw amendments that are being presented at the upcoming Convention.

Lastly, Julia gave some details on upcoming clinics that the Foundation is hosting in the coming months. She shared that there is a clinic scheduled in Ontario and another one being put on in Oregon.

AMATEUR/NON-PRO – ORA DIEHL

Ora shared that the Amateur and Non-Pro Committees have agreed to meet in a closed session at the upcoming Convention.

CATTLE MANAGEMENT – KIRBY SMITH

Region 3 Director Kirby Smith shared an update on managing the current cattle challenges. Kirby shared some guidelines and thoughts on what it would take to own cattle that would be used for NCHA Events.

CONVENTION UPDATES – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

Cathy Marie Aleff provided updates to the Executive Committee members on the 2026 Annual Convention scheduled for June 19-21, 2026, to be held at the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Cathy shared that the tentative Convention schedule has been published on the website with similar formats from last year.

Cathy also shared that there will be a new event, "Women in Cutting Luncheon" taking place on Friday, June 19th. The International Circuit Program and Secretary Seminars will also remain on the schedule this year.

The Executive Committee members were encouraged to reach out to the members in their regions with a reminder to register in advance for the event.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14PM and the EC Meeting will reconvene Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 8:00AM central time.

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 11, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:04AM and roll call was taken.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Barnwell Ramsey, President-Elect Kathleen Moore (via Phone), Vice President David Costello, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith (via Phone), Byron Green, Ora Diehl, Tommy Williams, Steve Smith, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff and Membership Associate Dakota Pruitt from the NCHA Office were also in attendance at this meeting. NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris attended a portion of the meeting.

REGIONAL REPORTS

President Barnwell Ramsey welcomed each of the members to provide an update on their region. The meeting was also joined by the European Directors to provide insight from their countries as well.

Region 1 – Les Jack provided an update for Region 1. He shared that his region has not had a lot of shows yet as its still Winter. He did state that Utah had a weekend show a couple of weeks ago and that it went well.

Region 2 – Phil Benadum updated the members about Region 2. Phil stated that his region had a new Affiliate, YOLO, which took over Carol Ward's show dates. He also shared that Arizona is struggling with getting cattle.

Region 3 – Kirby Smith reported that the Ozark Circuit has been successful to start the year and has three shows so far. The Heartland Circuit has had one show so far. Kirby also shared that there are three local Affiliates that have combined into one Affiliate to produce better shows. They are looking to have a pretty substantial end-of-year awards.

Region 4 – Byron Green provided an update for Region 4. Byron started by sharing that the show season in his region is just now beginning now that the weather seems to be getting better. He also cited a similar issue to what some in Region 2 are dealing with in getting good quality cattle.

The European Directors called in to provide an update to the Executive Committee on what is going on in Europe.

They shared that their first show of the year just took place. It was an aged event and a weekend show. They had 110 horses. Now that the winter season is ending, more shows are starting to happen across Europe. They stated that their biggest problem going forward has been finding Judges for their shows.

Region 5 – Ora Diehl updated that Region 5 has been getting better at communicating with each other to not schedule shows on top of each other. As a result, everyone has been benefiting from stronger shows being produced. Ora was also at Eastern Nationals last week and she stated that it was very successful. She also talked about some ongoing communication with Augusta regarding the possibility of moving to a different location.

Region 6 – Tommy Williams reported that Region 6 seems to be doing well. He shared that Jackson, MS has a big show starting in a week.

Region 7 – Steve Smith shared a question he had received regarding Convention from his region and whether it should take place more centrally rather than move around each year to help improve attendance.

Region 8 – Casey Green reported that Region 8 is strong with cuttings. Casey also shared a concern about being brought up in his region around ways to reinvest and help grow the community and support the up-and-coming youth.

Vice President – David Costello reported of strong cuttings taking place. He shared that the quality of judging is getting better and that there is growing positivity towards hauling. David mentioned a concern regarding needles and used syringes being left on the grounds at various shows. He is concerned that if these are not properly disposed of it could cause serious harm to both people and horses.

President-Elect – Kathleen Moore shared that there was a show going on today in Southern Oklahoma that seems to have a good turnout. Overall cutting has been thriving.

INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM UPDATES – ALLISON WALKER

International Circuit & Stallion/Foal Program Manager Allison Walker joined the Executive Committee meeting via zoom to provide an update on the International Circuit Program.

Allison shared that the ICC would take place in the Watt Arena again during the Super Stakes. Total entries for the ICC look similar to that of last year. She stated that she does not have an exact number as entries are still coming in but noted that it was around 700 total entries. Allison stated that she will have more to share after the Super Stakes and the ICC.

LEGAL UPDATES – JIM MORRIS

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris joined the meeting in person to discuss the upcoming proposed bylaw changes that will be presented at the 2026 Convention.

The proposed bylaw changes are scheduled to be sent out to the Board of Directors and general membership 60 days before the meeting and again 30 days before with the notice of meetings to provide a refresher.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting into executive session to discuss legal updates.

GENERAL SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting back into general session.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time, there is no old business to bring before the Executive Committee for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Assistance Program

Region 7 Director Steve Smith mentioned an idea about researching a program or hotline to help members of the association with personal addictions (alcohol, drugs, abuse). Benefits of a program in place could assist those that struggle with these types of issues.

Standing Rule 5 Proposed Changes

Region 2 Director Phil Benadum brought a discussion forward regarding Standing Rule 5 and show approvals. Currently the rule states that any show approval received less than 30 days from the start of the show will not be approved under any circumstance. Phil stated that there have been many occasions where a producer goes to submit a show for approval and it is just under the 30-day window and as a result is brought forth to the Executive Committee for a possible exception on approval. He shared that there could be an additional timing along the lines of adding a fine for shows submitted under 30 days and before 20 days prior to the shows start to help producers obtain show approval.

After a roundtable discussion, it was determined that Executive Director Jay Winborn and Director of Shows Shianne Megel meet and discuss a verbiage addition to Standing Rule 5 to allow shows under the 30 days to still be approved for an incurred fine.

World Finals Proposed Qualification Changes

A discussion was brought forth regarding the idea of changing World Finals qualification from a Monies earned to a points-based system.

The Executive Committee issued a directive to the Weekend Show Committee to look at changing the World Finals qualifications from being based off monies won to a points based system like the Youth. The EC would like to receive a report back by the June EC

meeting at Convention.

Proposed Youth Investment Funds

The Executive Committee issued a directive to the Finance & Audit Committee to research an opportunity at replicating a program similar to the Trump Accounts or a 401(k) investment account for our Youth members. What if the NCHA was to place a lump sum in an investment account for each newborn that maintains an NCHA Youth membership through its entirety. The EC would like to receive a report back by the June EC meeting at Convention.

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTIVE – SHELBY AGNEW

Growth & Development Chairman Shelby Agnew joined the meeting virtually to provide an update on the directive given to the Growth & Development Committee on putting on Flag Cuttings at local produced shows.

Shelby shared that her committee concluded that these potential flag cutting events would be too much of a burden on local Affiliates and Producers and came up with an alternate solution.

The Growth & Development committee presented the proposal of a "Grassroots Flag Clinic Program." In this program, Trainers would host a flag cutting clinic aimed at new riders in cutting. The trainers would need to apply to NCHA to host a flag clinic with information on the number of participants, the date and location of the flag clinic, and how many horses can be provided. If approved, the trainer could be compensated by NCHA to help cover the costs of hosting the clinic or for arena costs. Any new people that participate in this flag clinic would be given a free, new membership if they have never been a member in the past.

After a roundtable discussion amongst the Executive Committee members, it was determined that Shelby go back to the Growth & Development committee with the original idea in mind of producers putting on these potential flag cuttings with emphasis that this is more of a social gathering rather than a competition to help new potential riders learn about what it's like to ride a cutting horse.

Future EC Meeting

The next in-person EC Meeting will be held at the 2026 NCHA Convention on Thursday, June 18, 2026, in Las Vegas from 8am-Noon.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Steve Smith to adjourn the meeting at 12:55PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**