

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 19, 2019**  
**Fort Worth, Texas - SPRINGHILL SUITES**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held on March 19-20, 2019 followed up with a conference call the evening of March 21, 2019 as a continuation to complete unaddressed agenda items. Those present were: President Phil Rapp, President-Elect Ron Pietrafeso, Vice President Steve Norris, Ernie Beutenmiller, Rock Hedlund, Skip Jones, Matt Miller, Tommy Neal, Sharon Overstreet, Lachlan Perks, David Pilcher, Tatum Rice, Ronnie Smith and Kristen York. Also present were NCHA Interim Executive Director Lewis Wray, Legal Counsel Jim Morris and NCHA Executive Assistant Cathy Marie Aleff.

President Phil Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:04am and David Pilcher offered a prayer before the meeting commenced.

President Phil Rapp opened a call to include to Finance committee members Jimmy Eakin and Steve Smith on morning discussions.

**MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to move the meeting into executive session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to move the meeting back into general session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Finance Committee Update – Garry Merritt**

Garry Merritt, Finance Committee Chair, addressed the Executive Committee members regarding the findings of the current audit for NCHA. Report was discussed in detail and committee had recommendations for the management letter provided by the auditors.

**MOTION** was made by Lach Perks and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to accept the results of the audit report presented from the Finance Committee. **MOTION PASSED.**

NOTE: Depth of the audit and the management letter was appreciated with directives to address and implement deficiencies identified to further improve the financial operations of the association.

The Executive Committee thanked Mr. Merritt for his efforts on behalf of NCHA.

**Director of Judges Update – Pete Fanning**

Pete Fanning, incoming Director of Judges, addressed the Executive Committee members providing a layout of the transition from Russell McCord to himself. Pete Fanning discussed his

overall goal to grow the NCHA by the development of honest, unbiased, knowledgeable and credentialed judges.

- First 180 days: Become fully oriented to the duties and responsibilities of the role of the Director of Judges.
  - Have a Monitor's workshop to establish a strong unified team.
  - Recertify qualified existing judges.
  - Build relationship with Limited Age show producers and assist with the selection of judges.
  - Reassign weekend judges to Weekend Monitors
  - Reach out to judges – introduce myself to some that I don't already know.
  - Review and revise the Limited Age Events and Weekend Monitor Evaluation report
  
- Keep a positive approach to educate our Weekend and Limited Age Event Judges.
  - Update our Evaluation Form
    - Give oversight into how a judge's opinion in run content is affecting his/her outcome in the final score.
    - Educate judges with said penalties in the same and correct manner based on the Rule Book.
    - Keep a positive and professional approach with judges in dealing with show producers, contestants, monitors and members.
  - Extract Judging criteria from the results of our Weekend and Limited Age Event evaluation.
    - Use the numerical value from each entity on that form to reflect how said judges are performing in each category. Which gives the Judges Department a baseline to educate individuals on areas that need improving.
    - Collect data on new judges which will help determine if a judge is to advance from Weekend events into Limited Age Events.
  
- What a monitor is and does?
  - LAE Monitor
    - Reviews all discrepancies in penalty evaluation by the Rule Book.
    - Does not influence judge in decision, only explains the ruling of the penalty.
    - Assists judges if he/she has any question in run content, yet never to take a judge's opinion away.
  - Weekend Monitor
    - Reviews judges work on placings and penalties and advises judge from his knowledge and experience.
    - A judge will mail their work from each show. Their assigned Monitor will examine their work on two classes that was requested by the judge. The Monitor will review the content and call the judge with any remarks on the run.

The Executive Committee thanked Mr. Fanning for his efforts on behalf of NCHA.

## **IT Update**

Shianne Megel, Director of Shows, addressed the Executive Committee members introducing herself and giving a little background with her experience as the lead of NRHA's IT program rebuild from front to back, a complete overhaul. Based on her prior experience, she recommends re-evaluating and prioritize the IT issues we need to assist with our daily operations in HUB to provide the best data possible for our staff and serving the members of our association. Need to approach this in a collaborative manner amongst departments within NCHA to be more purposeful.

Some strategic questions to consider: Is HUB performing at potential? Functioning properly? Are results accurate? What additional data do we want to get out of HUB?

Goals moving forward are to collaborate and try to get all policies and procedures that are current and in place documented for the future of this association.

## **Long-Range Planning Committee Update**

Sharon Beach, Long Range Planning Committee Chair, addressed the Executive Committee members with recommendations to be considered providing backup and data for the following:

- Reduce EC member count; projection would be for 7
- Presidency fulfillment election vs. appointment from the EC
- Director Roles/Responsibilities/Social Media
- Review Standing Committee member count

Membership count has declined by 20% since 2014. We need to become more proactive to STOP this from being a trend.

Reducing the EC member count would help increase speed and agility in the decision-making process and improve the functionality of the board. Recommendations to consider would be to eliminate the At Large members, realign the regions and/or reducing our officers from 3 to 2.

How many organizations have Presidents elected from general membership? If you are going to make changes, continuity is the key to success. Recommendations would be for President to be appointed by the EC. NCHA should govern with more of a stair step process from general members to our elected President. NCHA At Large and Regional Director elections should have been completed by March 1<sup>st</sup> as the responsibility was to be handled by the office.

Recommendations from the LRPC would be to adhere to the fiscal calendar year for the new EC members, they would be elected in June and take a non-voting role until October 1<sup>st</sup> and end September 30<sup>th</sup>. Our current bylaws and regulations are printed and distributed each January and obsolete by June at our annual convention. Proposal is for rule book to follow this same

fiscal calendar and ready by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We need to orient and train our leaders within this association for stability and level ground.

Directors need to be more active and take on full responsibilities with this role. (Try to discourage our Directors to disengage with social media posts and encourage confrontational topics. ) I am not sure this makes sense? Seems it says the opposite intended? NCHA Rule book could expand more on the roles and responsibilities to help provide a more defined role for Directors and Regional Directors.

Recommendations to restructure our standing committees by reducing the numbers of current members with a realignment of Regions. Committees currently only have about a third of the members are even active. Propose fewer committees and have more people that would engage and commit. "We have to get our governance stronger to move forward." Optimum member count for standing committees would be for 8 seats with the Chairman serving in a non-voting position.

Region alignment proposed to a total of 5 Regions from our current 8 in place with NCHA at this time. Provided in the handout and designed to give equal population except for Texas and Oklahoma. This proposed structure would also compliment the EC reduction of members. International would all stay the same and no changes were proposed.

Recommendations would be to eliminate the At Large positions and changes necessary to the Constitution and Bylaws to meet our May deadline to be complaint with our NCHA Bylaws and the 30-day notification to Directors.

After much discussion, the Executive Committee currently tabled these recommendations brought forth from the Long Range Planning Committee due to the immediate need to complete the Executive Director hire process. The focus on governance review is an important issue and the Executive Committee wanted to devote proper time and attention to this issue upon the completion of the Executive Director hiring process.

**MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to move the meeting into executive session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund to move the meeting back in general session. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee thanked Ms. Beach for her efforts on behalf of NCHA.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, **MOTION** was made by Matt Miller and **SECONDED** by Tatum Rice to adjourn the meeting for the day. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 20, 2019**  
**Fort Worth, Texas - SPRINGHILL SUITES**

President Phil Rapp called the meeting to order at 6:45am and David Pilcher offered a prayer before the meeting commenced. All members of the Executive Committee were present for this session of the meeting which included President Phil Rapp, President-Elect Ron Pietrafeso, Vice President Steve Norris, Ernie Beutenmiller, Rock Hedlund, Skip Jones, Matt Miller, Tommy Neal, Sharon Overstreet, Lachlan Perks, David Pilcher, Tatum Rice, Ronnie Smith and Kristen York. NCHA Interim Executive Director Lewis Wray and Executive Assistant Cathy Marie Aleff were excused during this session.

**MOTION** was made by Lach Perks and **SECONDED** by Steve Norris to move the meeting into executive session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Steve Norris and **SECONDED** by Lach Perks to move the meeting back into general session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**Youth Committee Updates – Mike Simmons**

Mike Simmons, Youth Committee Chair, addressed the Executive Committee members with updates from the Youth Committee.

Mike Simmons, our new NCHA Youth Coordinator provided an introduction of himself with a little background on how he created orphan funds. He is extremely frustrated with the lack of information and support from the office. Here are some youth activities that he has initiated thus far:

- Starting a leadership program with help of Tommy Neal
- Would like to have the youth governance structure mirror Director/EC format
- Scholarship program needs to be streamlined
  - Information is not readily available regarding balances
  - Putting Foundation in control of all scholarships
- Wanting to work with Foundation regarding different scholarships
  - Ranching Heritage
  - Trade Schools

Goal is to make the youth program exciting and have substance.

After much discussion, Lach stated his appreciation for Mike's passion and excitement. EC liked that Mike uses many organizational forums. Sharon wanted to know what the committee needed to move forward and be impactful. Mike responded that the committee would be voting soon on a new chair to replace Mike.

The Executive Committee thanked Mr. Simmons for his efforts with the Youth and stepping up as the new Youth Coordinator on behalf of NCHA.

### **PAC Update – Jim Short**

NCHA Lobbyist Jim Short addressed the members on the status of the PAC actions. Mr. Short provided an update on the status of the MERP funds. Mr. Short advised the Executive Committee members of the upcoming actions that required the Associations' involvement.

Action Item: Texas Veterinary Association (mostly small animals) introduced a bill to not have attorney fees recovered if a DVM is found negligent or exhibits malpractice. They have had 110 years of the ability to recover fees and needing our guidance.

Historical racing - betting on races that have occurred. Tax coming from horse feed for an annual pull of \$25M for this separate fund.

70% is dedicated to racing purses

30% left to other purses (breed registered) \$7.5M/year

Jim was able to rewrite/reword from breed registered to performance Association based in Texas for part of the available 30%.

**MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Dave Pilcher to accept Jim Shorts' proposal regarding Texas Vet Association bill opposition. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee thanked Mr. Short for his efforts on behalf of NCHA.

### **Competition Committee – Frank Merrill**

Competition Committee Chair Frank Merrill addressed the Executive Committee regarding the activities of the Competition Committee since last report submitted in January.

- Class leveling and results from “The Ike”
  - Results are not available due to the fact that show chose to not use the proposed leveling system.
- Entry late fees and penalties
  - Competition Committee will have a proposal as a result of their April Meeting.
- “Race for the Cup”
  - Chairman has not called a meeting.
- Non-Pro/Amateur definition
  - Holding pattern until LAE leveling initiative was finalized
- Ideal limit on works allowed in one show day
  - Looking for consensus at next Competition Committee Meeting

Discussion on the resignation of Bob Tregemba from Vice Chairman of the Competition Committee and his replacement.

**MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to move the meeting into executive session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Ronnie Smith and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to move the meeting back into general session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Steve Norris and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to appoint Al Dunning as Competition Committee Vice Chairman. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee thanked Mr. Merrill for his efforts on behalf of NCHA.

### **New Business**

**MOTION** was made by Matt Miller and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to move the meeting into executive session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by David Pilcher to move the meeting back into general session. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Lach Perks to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
March 21, 2019  
Via CONFERENCE CALL – 6:00pm Central**

A teleconference meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held on March 21, 2019 as a continuation to complete unaddressed agenda items. Those present were: President Phil Rapp, President-Elect Ron Pietrafeso, Vice President Steve Norris, Rock Hedlund, Skip Jones, Matt Miller, Tommy Neal, Sharon Overstreet, Lachlan Perks, David Pilcher, Tatum Rice, Ronnie Smith and Kristen York. Absent was Ernie Beutenmiller. Also present were NCHA Interim Executive Director Lewis Wray, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel and NCHA Director of Marketing Todd Barden.

President Phil Rapp called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and offered a prayer before the meeting commenced.

## **Director of Shows Update – Shianne Megel**

### **Proposed Revolving Door**

Shianne Megel NCHA Director of Shows addressed the Executive Committee by introducing – Cari Claxton and Bailey Hampton to further explain the proposed revolving door for limited non-pro class. Matt Miller asked if NP Committee should review proposal. Tatum Rice explained reasoning for original question that prompted this proposal. Mr. Rice since learned that this was passed in 2014 out of concern for protecting limited non-pro riders. May need further data before review. The group decided to have the NP committee review before April 10th entry deadline and present recommendation to Executive Committee. (April 1)

### **Show Update**

Eastern - sent less staff, should find budget savings, entry timeline change worked well, governor hosted event - Mississippi CHA incorporation documents were donated to Association, looking to improve exhibitor experience and celebrate the weekend cutter, facility contract needs to be renewed - RFP may need to be sent out to secure alternative location.

**Super Stakes** - Changing some vendors to find budget savings, using show to cross-train in multiple areas of the show - very important, updating timelines and documentation. Tommy offered to help with payouts while at show.

**Western** - Schedule will be posted soon, working to be budget conscious, Euro Championship will be added to schedule, multiple year agreement has been signed with facility.

### **Box Seats** provided by Lewis Wray

100% payment, no challenges

17 have not made full payment — still need to pay for Summer Spectacular

All cash revenue - no sponsored boxes

2 boxes held for sponsors

### **Survey Updates** provided by Todd Barden

Competition Survey - great interaction and open/click rate 10% response

### **Limited Age Survey** - owners & exhibitors in triple crown events 18.7% response

316 surveys of 1900 completed -

Feedback on new schedule - largely concerned about attendance and length of show

Marketing department invited the EC to look at the details of the survey logistics. Lach and Skip were thanked for their input. Written summary will be presented for review.

**Director Updates** provided by Lewis Wray — Directors will send contacts and suggestions to Ron Pietrafeso as the incoming President.

## **2019 NCHA Convention**

Welcome & Keynote will be the mayor and Red Steagall - followed by awards presentation, Dr. Green, Dr. Black and Lindy Birch will present on Animal Welfare

EC elections and regional meetings will need to take place - Phil will go over schedule when he is in the office

EC Meeting will most likely be Thursday at 8am

Russell McCord recognition at Convention? or alternative dates reserved at TX Whiskey Ranch — need to send information to EC when finalized - judges rules committee will want to be invited as well

**MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Steve Norris to move the meeting into executive session at 6:56pm. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Ronnie Smith and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller to move the meeting back into general session. **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION** was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Tatum Rice to hire Kirk Slaughter as the new NCHA Executive Director. After several months of deliberations and an extensive search committee process that was chaired by Dave Pilcher, a candidate was selected that was best qualified to meet the established skills and experience set forth by the Executive Committee to lead NCHA in the right direction. The EC unanimously agrees that Kirk Slaughter is the Executive Director to lead the NCHA into the future. **MOTION PASSED WITH UNANIMOUS VOTE FROM ALL IN ATTENDANCE.**

### Roll Call Vote

Ron Pietrafeso - yes

Steven Norris - yes

Ernie Beutenmiller – Absent

Rock Hedlund - yes

Skip Jones - yes

Matt Miller - yes

Tommy Neal - yes

Sharon Overstreet - yes

Lachlan Perks - yes

David Pilcher - yes

Tatum Rice - yes

Ronnie Smith - yes

Kristen York - yes

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, **MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. **MOTION PASSED.**