

Winter Meetings

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 1, 2014

President Walker: call the meeting to order 2014 General Membership meeting at winter meetings its 1:05.

Mr. Bobby Simmons: Gave the invocation

President Walker: Alright it's certainly good to have everyone here today, and seems like we just can't get together enough every time we get together it's due to meetings or horse shows and we don't seem to have enough time to just sit down and chew the cud and talk to each other, just not enough time for that.

I appreciate each one of you for taking a part in these winter meetings. I don't think I have given a "speech" in the last couple of years, I think I did the first time after I became president, a couple reason that I shy away from that is probably no different than any of y'all's reasons for not giving a speech, I just don't like it, I prefer to let someone else be the one in the lime light, and so I guess I have shied away from that. But today is a little different, I need to talk just a little bit and kind of lay some ground work for you. So I will give you just a little over view of my thoughts.

Welcome to the General Membership meeting at the 2014 Winter Meetings. Glad to have each of you here today. The thing that draws us together and unites us is in fact the racking horse. Whether you enjoy the racking horse for trail riding or you enjoy the show horse, if the common denominator is taken out of the picture then you've taken out the ingredient that originally brought together about 99% of the relationships that we in the RHBAA have with one another. As much a debt of gratitude that is owed to this great animal, the horse itself could not have created what we now enjoy, it took people. There is a whole history of people that worked hard, that spent time and money, expending blood sweat and tears, all in an effort to see this breed and organization continue. I'm not necessarily speaking of past presidents or board of directors, but I think of the many committees, the many associations, all made up by people. Think about the many trainers, the owned and trained folks, the owners, the exhibitors, and all the spectators that supported our organization over the many years by participating in some fashion. All these groups mentioned were made up by people and those people are greatly important to our today. In honor of them let's give them applause. Hindsight is always 20/20 and it's easy to see the need of these people. With that in mind, we know that to have great tomorrows, we will still need people that love, that work hard, that are willing to fight for good. Those people are you. We know there are many out there that contribute but couldn't make it here today but you represent those people. Instead of waiting 10 years to do so, let's stop now and say "thank you", give yourself applause. Let's talk about the "tomorrows". As with any industry and with any organization within any industry, there are cultures created by the people involved. Due to the changing of leadership from time to time and thus making it difficult to keep consistency, with a membership owned organization, to effect or to change that culture is years in the making if ever. A membership owned organization creates a ship too large to turn very quickly. By the

time you get it turning, someone else gets involved and tries to turn it a different direction. There is always a tug and pull whereby the net result is that things continue as they are. However we are a membership owned organization and with that we do the best we can. Let me tell you the role of the president. A president should provide clarity for the moment and vision for the future. Leadership is nothing more than providing clarity. You will always be more reluctant to follow one that is on the fence that gets tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine that appears confused. A president should provide clarity and should provide vision and hope for the future. In doing these things, he or she should set a certain tone. The board of directors also has a responsibility. They elect the president and with that they should decide if in fact that president is providing clarity and is providing a direction or vision that sets a clear tone. If they decide that he or she is not doing either, then they should remove that individual from their position and select another one. If they decide that the individual is providing clarity and is providing vision, then they have to decide if they agree with the direction that the vision portrays. Once they decide that it is the right direction, and then it is their responsibility to take those positions of clarity, those directions provided by the president, and use them as a plum line or guideline to make every decision going forward. In other words that plum line, or that vision, becomes a measuring device that they use to measure everything else by. Once accomplished, the decisions of the board become to a small degree non emotional but instead they use the measuring device to gauge most every decision brought before them and the measuring device spits out the answers. It is this simple, the measuring device, the guiding principles, the vision provided, simply helps the board to know what to say "yes" to and what to say "no" to. As we walk this life, we all come to cross roads, to forks in the road. A vision, whether provided by God Himself, or by another, are for the purpose of being able to use that vision as a picture of a determined destination and then measure all things by it by asking the question, "does taking this road help me get to that end destination, to that place depicted by the vision?". The answer is usually very simply "yes" or "no". That's pretty clear.

Once the board has this type of information, it is also their job to infiltrate the membership with the vision, with the guidelines, with the principles that we plan to use to carry us forward. They do that verbally but they also do that by the decisions they make. This has been a weekend of decisions. The board had before it several situations that needed exploring and then determining if any action needed to be taken thereafter. I will share with you that it was decided in fact that disciplinary action was needed and justified. I know that folks want to know the details of the decisions but understand that I and the board have two responsibilities as it relates to representing the membership in these type matters. We have a responsibility to the membership as a whole wherein you are deserving of most bits of information. However, the second responsibilities are to you as individual members. These folks in reference are members and we have a responsibility to them. They have not yet received an official notice of disciplinary actions and some have not gone through the full process. With that in mind, it is easy to understand why it would not be right to publicly divulge information about what was or was not done in those respects. These things stated, I nor this board will be giving any more information at this time on these matters other than to say that action was taken on several things brought before the board and those actions will be made known at some time in the very near future.

President Walker: Ok let's move on if we can, does everyone have a copy of the minutes. Let's take just a moment to look those over.

Do I hear a motion to accept the minutes as presented?

Mr. Tim Roberts: Motion to accept minutes

Mr. Charlie Brown: Second Motion

All agree say AYE:

Aye

So moved

President Walker: We have old Business:

We have the election of judges for spring and fall celebration.

The motion we have before us was made Feb 2012, actually made by me. Back at the winter meetings we have a motion to change the way we elected our judges, general membership voted on that motion and it failed. That was in 2012. The rule book says you can't vote on something unless 2 years have passed. Because winter meetings were held early this year we cannot vote on it here, we will have to do a mail out to obtain that vote. I just wanted to make you aware there is a motion and we will be voting on it.

Mr. Larris Miseldine: Did you say that there had been a new ruling on how to select the judges. Is there a new proposal on how to pick the judges?

The way things are now are not working.

I have one more question, At Celebration we went from a 5 judges system to a 3 judge system why did that happen. We had two alternates why didn't they step in.

President Walker: The biggest reason was a practicality, everything that you saw happen in center ring happened 15 minutes before show time. Basically we had to do about 2 hours' worth of work in 15 mins, get everyone together, have everything explained speak to everyone involved and come to a conclusion in those 15 minutes. There was no way to run around and inform the general membership of what was transpiring as it was happening.

The second as to what you are speaking of is we had alternate judges, and this will need to be addressed before we go forward also. You have alternate judges that have been on the grounds showing horses all week and then you are going to ask them to step out and judge the championship. Now our judges that are selected are not allowed to be on the grounds show horses or have any communication and so on and so on.

As we move forward we may need to isolate one or two of our alternate judges and keep them in center ring if the need arose to use them.

Mrs. Melisa Taylor: to clarify that, the Show Committee board just decided that we would hire our alternates as stewards and announcers for World celebration.

Mr. Charlie Brown: who made the decision and why the decision was made to test so late in the day.

President Walker: The rule book states they have to be tested 24 hours prior or post the last class of the event. The polygrapher wants 2 to 2.5 hours with each person; you have 5 judges so 10 to 12 hours of work. So it was started very early in the day, 8 am. But we are locked into that 24 hour period. The rule book says it's mandatory to give the polygraph test, for spring and the fall. Let us move to the Treasurers report if there are no more questions.

Treasurers Report: Mrs. Melisa Taylor

Net income: \$28,960.93

Today we are maintaining a balance all bills paid including everything involving winter meeting etc. - \$16,366.11

Balance in money market account is \$ 133,620.24

Does anyone have any questions?

Mr. Jerome Zhand made a motion to approve

Mr. J. Fred Johnston Seconded

All in favor – Aye

President Walker: Motion to approve passed

Thank you all for your efforts on the financial side of things. We have all played a large part in keeping the financial side of things going well and I just want to thank everyone involved. Let's have the committee reports now

Horse Show committee: I know a lot of your questions have to deal with the situation involving the judges, and Mr. Walker has provided the answers we have come up with for that situation. The other thing is, some of you have been entering online for Fall celebration, there were a few of you, this year at Spring Celebration you will have the ability to enter online, the website will be up and you will be able to pull your entry form from that location fill them out as you always have and bring them to the office, or you can enter online by doing your entries and emailing them to us to entries@rackinghorse.com. Make sure you have requested a read receipt, so you can tell if we have received and opened your entry. You must have a tab account with a blank check if you are entering online.

The show committee has been working hard for you they do have your show bill ready for you as you leave today we will be handing those out.

Question: can you make sure there is Wi-Fi on the show grounds so people can do that. The signal is very spotty unless you are right across from the office.

Answer: We will look into that but the Arena is in charge of the final say in that.

Judges Committee: Mr. Mike Etheridge – Mike says we had 4 apprentices this morning taking the judges test and everything has turned out fine there so we have 4 new judges.

Personnel and Property Committee: Mr. Jim Morris - I have been elected to be over this committee and Melisa, Janet and Phyllis do a wonderful job. If you have any questions, you should well direct them to Melisa. (No questions)

Promotions and Membership Committee: Mr. Judy Jones - We didn't get to have our meeting yesterday because it ran over, but we will be having a conference call soon, we need to replace and add a couple of people to that committee if anyone is interested in volunteering for that let me know or if you have any ideas or suggestions that we could use they would be appreciated.

Rules Enforcement: Mr. Eddie Barrow - We have had a lot of issues this year and a lot of hard decisions, we have some letters that will be going out shortly and we hope that everyone supports them; I know I have had the support of the board and I appreciate that very much. I will answer any questions I can at this time. Thank you

Trail Field Pleasure Committee: Mrs. Darlene Harris - We had our meeting this morning, and we want to promote our versatility program, and we need to get the girls in the office up to speed they are new, keeping the point system and what type of awards were are going to have. If anyone has any suggestions for the pleasure or trail side, please let us know we are planning to have a few more pleasure classes in the upcoming show.

Advisory Committee: Mrs. Tonya Beavers- She is not here due to weather but there is no new information in front of the committee.

Breeders Committee: Mr. Ronnie Hooker- All of the paperwork is running a lot smoother in the office thanks to Phyllis; she stays on top of it. Once a week we are sending everything in to the lab and we are getting things back in a lot faster. Thank you for sending in all the paper work together it is helping a lot as well. We did have 6 applications for commissioner applications we looked at them and 4 have been approved and 2 due to technical reasons were un-eligible.

DQP Committee: Mr. Jamie Lawrence- no new information at this time.

Exhibitor statues committee: On the exhibitor status last year it was basically flat. We did have 2 changes, J.Fred Johnston and Joe Dan Carter have both followed procedure to go back to the Amateur ranking.

President Walker: The rule book amendment for the polygraph test, to be eligible to judge the spring and fall celebration the judge must hold a double A or triple A license and must agree to submit to a polygraph test if requested. It goes on to say that all judges for the Fall celebration it will be mandatory and administered at a time between 24 hours prior to or 24 hours after the final performance, as designated by the president or show chairman. So it's only the fall celebration that is Mandatory, spring celebration it is not mandatory it goes on to say that the determination for any request other than the mandatory request shall be made from a majority vote by the RHBAA Chair of the Rules Enforcement, Judges and show Committee. So we are required by the rule book that it is mandatory for the fall celebration and we are limited to the 24 hours before or 24 hours after the final show. This particular rule

gives the ability to have a polygraph test besides that but you have to follow extra producers to see that happen.

Question: Are the same questions asked of all the judges or are there different questions asked?

Answer: Same questions asked to all judges, 3 questions were scored.

Question: From email – East Tennessee wants to know if they have a Kentucky show sanctioned with Kentucky and have breeder's classes, can they use the Kentucky HIO or can they use your HIO.

Answer: You can use any HIO, but they have to affiliate.

From what I understood from our meeting last night, breeders HIO can check anything; they just have to be affiliated with both.

Question: Back to the DQP program, are we ready to check a show?

Answer: Yes we are. Let me see if I can explain this, the RHBAA is one association the RHBAA-HIO is another association entirely, I know it's difficult but you need to separate the two entirely in your head.

As you know our HIO checked our fall celebration we had 3 DQP's as of that time, 1 of those DQP's has been released as coordinator. We still have 2 DQP's and we will have a clinic in March, to bring on 1 or 2 more. So far I feel like we have a decent relationship with the USDA. We do speak on a professional basis, regularly. As I see it we have a good healthy relationship. We have had to make a few difficult decisions but I can tell you we have not made any of those decisions without the backing of the USDA. If you consider them coming a negative thing we have been fortunate thus far, but if you play the numbers, they will eventually be here.

Question: Is there anyone in charge of the HIO now that the coordinator has been let go

Answer: Yes the oversight committee and it is made up of Chris Walker, Melisa Taylor, Don Stisher and Ron Sparks.

I think we had a good great celebration this last year and I think next year will be that much better and I think this has been a very good and beneficial winter meetings, I appreciate each and every one of you for participating and being a part and I appreciate your patience for the Board. On the Judges we have some gifts to give away after this as well.

On the judges we have in the hat the general membership were to pick 8 names to be placed into this bucket. The first name from the

General Membership Selected

Ricky Parker
Charlie Brown
Billy Strickland
Greg Johnston
Keith Ailshie
Mary Alice Bohannon

Gerald Campbell
And
John Cordell

Those names are in this bucket from General membership, now in addition to that the different committees were able to select 3 different names, and those 3 different names were also placed in this bucket.

Futurity Selected

Billy Strickland
Greg Johnston
Gerald Campbell

Board of Directors Selected

Billy Strickland
Greg Johnston
Ricky Parker

Trainers Association Selected

Billy Strickland
Charlie Brown
Ricky Parker

Pleasure Division Selected

Mary Alice Bohannon
Greg Johnston
Charlie Brown

Ladies Auxiliary Selected

Mary Alice Bohannon
Ricky Shackelford
Billy Strickland

Amateurs Association Selected

Jessie Davison
Ricky Parker
Charlie Brown

So those are the names that are in the bucket

Drawing for Judges

1st Judge – Billy Strickland
2nd Judge – Ricky Shackelford

3rd Judge – Greg Johnston

4th Judge – Jessie Davidson (Alternate)

5th Judge - Ricky Parker (Alternate)

6th Judge – Mary Alice Bohannon (Alternate)

Mr. Jim Roberts: Motion Made to Adjourn
Secretary could not hear who seconded
Meeting Adjourned