

Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Assoc. Inc.

Annual Meeting
December 9, 2017
Residence Inn, Vacaville

Attendance

Officers:

Susan Browning Wroe, President
Michele Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Blackwell, Director
Jacob Elliott, Director

Members Present:

Rich Erickson
John Gracey
Dennis Haney
Lynn Blackwell
Julie Mabie
Jill Wright

Guests:

none

Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm

Roll Call

Vice President Linda Anastasio and Director Nancy Turner absent.

President's Welcome (Susan Browning Wroe)

[My apologies, I didn't take notes on this!]

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary's Report (Michele Nelson)

Minutes from previous meeting read and approved.
Michele reminded everyone that the minutes are available on the Area VII website.

Treasurer's Report (Michele Nelson)

Checking account balance as of 11/21/17: 7,628.41
Petty cash balance: \$182.00
Total assets: \$7,810.41

Budget for general expenses (not including California Classic) presented and approved.
This budget will be posted on the Area VII website.

National Director Report (Julie Mabie)

The ASPC/AMHR Annual Convention was held in Las Vegas, which is Area VII. There were only two attendees from Area VII other than Directors, which was disappointing.

ASPC/AMHR has a new logo which combines all divisions.

The ASPC/AMHR online store is open at <https://www.shopshetlandmini.com>, and it's kind of cool! There is some nice apparel with the tagline "Concentrated Awesome!"

The Area show will be in Norco over Memorial Day Weekend, hosted again by the Pacific Coast Miniature Horse Club. Julie doesn't know how much longer that club is going to be willing to do this show, they lost money last year. John Stacy is the current President of

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PCMHC.

Julie noted that for the Area show, ribbons are provided for required classes, and there are usually plenty left over to cover the other classes, so ribbons are not a significant expense for an area show.

Congress had an interesting problem. The facility in Madison backed out, so the club got a good deal on the facility in St. Louis. However, Congress was much larger than anticipated and there were not enough stalls. The club has a five-year contract with this facility.

Julie also noted that the national club gets grants from cities where shows are located. Perhaps we should check into this for local shows?

AMHR Nationals lost a little money. Fees were raised at facility, and this was a surprise.

The new president of ASPC/AMHR is Steve Henderson from Kentucky. Steve is not "cleaning house," but there will be some changes in the composition of some of the committees. The Carriage Driving Chair will definitely change.

The location for next the next convention is TBD, possible in Area VI. Julie explained that the way it used to work was that the local area club would sponsor the convention, and half of the proceeds from the Trainers' Auction would go to the sponsoring club. This got to be too much for the local clubs to handle, so now the national office is responsible for running Convention.

ASPC/AMHR is doing OK financially. It's asset rich, but cash flow is tight. The last three years have been building years, transitioning to running the association as a business.

There are some computers need to be replaced, and it isn't just a question of running down to the local Best Buy and spending \$500 on a new PC. A big financial outlay in the next few years is going to be needed to revamp the computer program that runs our Registry. The hardware needs to be replaced, but the system needs to be replaced as well. The association has been working with a professional developer who will update and improve the software. In the meantime, Julie advises keeping track of your HoF points just in case. She also advised that if anyone has any problems with the office, please let her know.

Julie has two more years to serve as our Area Director, and does not plan to run again.

When asked, Julie reported that Convention had 120 registrants.

Richard Erickson wanted to know if there was much discussion at Convention about ASPC/AMHR International, and Julie replied that yes, there was, and also a lot of discussion about carriage driving. Julie went on to explain that there are AMHR shows in other countries, and they need carded stewards and judges. Rob Crater is the head of the International Committee.

Julie also reported that Farnam is the national association's corporate sponsor.

Julie also explained that the association owns the building that houses the offices. There are a lot of old records in storage, and they are trying to figure out the best way to preserve them.

Jill Wright asked where the money comes from to support the association, and Julie explained that the income is from membership dues.

There was more discussion about Congress and AMHR Nationals, and Julie said that she

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has been advocating for a long time for these to be handled by the office instead of a paid manager.

Show Committee Report

(see show committee report)

Jill asked why classes can't be combined when there aren't enough entries. Julie answered that it has to do with what's in the rulebook. The rules for different classes often vary enough that they can't be combined.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Nominations

The following Board positions need to be filled for 2018 and 2019: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. We also need to elect two Directors, one for a two-year term and one for a one-year term. The following nominations were made and accepted.

President: Michele Nelson nominated Jacob Elliott.

Vice President: Robert Blackwell nominated Susan Browning Wroe.

Secretary: Jacob Elliott nominated Melissa Berchens. Melissa was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior family commitment and accepted the nomination via email with Jacob.

Treasurer: Robert Blackwell nominated Michele Nelson.

Directors:

Jacob Elliott nominated John Gracey, who accepted the nomination.

Susan Browning Wroe nominated Robert Blackwell, who accepted the nomination.

Richard Erickson nominated Richard Redulovich. Richard was unable to attend this meeting and accepted the nomination via email with Jacob.

As current Secretary, Michele said she would do the mailing, and expected to get them out by next Saturday (December 16)

Michele noted that since Jacob is currently a Director and has another year of his term, if he is elected President (as is likely), his position as Director will be filled by the third-place finisher among the candidates for Director.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

Rich asked how many members we have. Michele said we currently have 43 memberships. Some of those are single adult memberships and some are family memberships.

Jacob asked what we can do to increase our membership. Can we offer a prize to the member who brings in the most new members? Dennis suggests when you sell a horse you buy the purchaser a membership. Jill says membership is a great stocking stuffer.

Rich says they used to give their purchasers a copy of Barbara Naviaux's book.

Non-Profit Status

The Board voted previously to explore the possibility of getting our 501(c)7 Non-Profit status so that all donations to us are tax-deductible. We need this to get corporate sponsorship.

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Susan has has some discussions with a company called charitynet.com. They will fill out all of the forms, and they guarantee approval—if we don't get approved, we don't have to pay. They say we can expect approval 10–15 days after the paperwork is filed.

Fees: There is an \$850 IRS filing fee, and charitynet.com's fee is \$467.
Jacob is going to pursue this and let Michele know what is needed.

Club Trailer

The club trailer has been parked at Karen Farlow's ranch in Clayton for the past three years. Karen has been kind enough to let us store it there at no charge, and when we had our schooling show at the arena in Walnut Creek, she brought it to the show grounds and took it home again. Now the time has come to do something with the trailer so we can actually use the stuff it contains. Michele has an inventory of the contents she can share with whoever is interested.

Susan and Robert will take the trailer to their school, and Dennis will pick it up and take it to his place. Some of the jumps need to be repaired. Rich says John (Gracey) "can fix anything."

Final Thoughts

[I didn't know what to call this discussion, but it needs to be in these minutes.]

Jill Wright said that it's so hard for us to get together that it seems we only meet once a year. She said she doesn't show, she's a "groupie," (Jacob says she's a stalker!). Jill wants to help get the word out about how versatile these little horses are. She said, "My minis are what get me out of bed in the morning!"

Next Meeting

Saturday, January 27

Location TBA

Motion to adjourn was made by John and seconded by Michele Nelson.

Meeting adjourned 2:25 PM



Michele Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer
Area VII SP&MHA

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