

11 August 2010, NTEA Board Meeting Minutes, Cowboys Golf Club, Grapevine & By Tele-Conference

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Mica Pryor

Call to Order: 12:30 p.m., with a Quorum present

Attending in Person: Kim Brunson (At Large), Meg Johnson (President), Mica Pryor (Secretary), Leslye Shellam (Vice President)

Attending by Tele-Conference: Lori Calame (Young Riders), Amanda Harp (Activities)

President:

Meg distributed the Agenda and called for reports of the members present.

Secretary:

Mica previously distributed the June 11 meeting minutes by email. Leslye moved to approve the minutes. Kim seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved. Mica will send them to Howard for posting on the website.

Activities:

After an exhaustive search and Request for Proposals through the Grapevine Tourist & Visitors Bureau, Cowboys Golf Club (CGC) was selected as the site for the 2010 Year-End Banquet to be held January 8, 2011. This was approved unanimously by email vote of the board following the last meeting. CGC hosted today's board meeting at their site, in order to review in more detail the proposed menu options and finalize plans for the evening. The members toured the facility and reviewed possible menu options. After discussion, everyone concurred that the Annual Meeting of Members will be held first in the CGC board room, followed by the year-end awards in the main room along with cocktails and appetizers, followed by a buffet-style meal and Casino/Silent Auction fundraiser. The Silent Auction would be open during the entire event and closed at the end of the evening, as usual. A Casino night has been proposed in order to increase attendance at the year-end banquet (encourage more members and their families to attend, not just those receiving year-end awards), improve networking among members, encourage member retention and new membership, and raise money for 2011 operations. Kim reported that NTHJC does a very successful Casino along with their annual Awards Banquet and that it is the best, most fun banquet of the year, is enthusiastically anticipated each year by members and their families, and attracts a large crowd each year beyond just those members receiving awards. Others concurred that they have attended a few such events in the past and they were successful. There was discussion about the expense of the Casino tables and trying to offset the costs by obtaining business sponsorships for the individual tables or for the event as a whole. The Casino would serve as entertainment for the evening and NTEA would not incur costs associated with a speaker. Amanda moved to approve the plan including the Casino entertainment/fundraiser (with Mica directed to finalize the Contract and get deposit paid) in conjunction with a smaller Silent Auction (including member barn baskets and trainer lessons) and no (or very limited) Live Auction. Kim seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. A committee will be assembled to solicit donations, sell tickets, etc. for the evening.

Membership:

Mica reported that she has been working with Sandy (the Membership Director) to get the roster finalized; there are approximately 155 members to date. A few members did not include legible contact information, so we are working to track this information down. It does not appear that a hardcopy directory will be do-able this year nor is it believed to be necessary since the information is now or soon will be available on the website. As directed at the June 22 board meeting, Mica emailed the membership asking if anyone wanted to be deleted from the proposed online directory to be published on the new password-protected Members Only page. Only one member replied asking to be deleted. When Mica and Sandy finish editing the roster, Mica will send the membership directory to Howard for publishing on the website on the password-protected Members Only page.

Website:

Meg reported that Howard has posted Members Only “password protected” page on the website. As soon as the roster is placed there (see Membership report above), members can begin receiving their user IDs and passwords to access the online directory. Mica will email the membership with instructions on how to obtain their ID and password. It was noted that, when the membership information is online, all the other information contained in previous years’ hardcopy directory will now be available online, except for the popular “trainer profile” section. Mica will work with Howard to get a “trainer profile” on the website in order for that important information to continue to be available to the membership.

Treasurer:

As approved by the Board following the last meeting, a \$500 deposit was sent to Cowboys Golf Club to hold the date of January 8, 2011 for the 2010 Year-End Banquet.

Public Relations:

In Mandy’s absence, Meg reported that the Summer Newsletter will be available shortly. Mica will email it to the membership and send it to Howard for posting on the website. Meg called for submissions for the Fall newsletter. The Fall newsletter should include the following: member rider and/or barn profile, health/safety article, horsemanship article, product/clinic review, business ads, classified ads and a fall show calendar. The board would like to see an article focusing on “Behind the Scenes at a Horse Trials”, written by a show organizer or show secretary. Mica will work with Mandy on this.

Junior/Young Riders:

Nothing to report at this time.

Scholarship Committee:

Meg reported that the Scholarship Committee’s paperwork was approved by the Board and has been posted online. An email about the program was sent to the membership. Deadline for scholarship/award submissions is November 5. Beginning this year, scholarship recipients will be required to accept the grant and sign paperwork memorializing their plans (A and B) and community service requirements.

New/Unfinished Business:

2011 Board & Points Keeper Positions. Meg polled the members present about their interest in continuing to serve with NTEA for 2011. All members present stated they would be willing to serve in some capacity for 2011. Meg is interested in moving out of the Presidency to an “At Large” position due to the upcoming birth of her first child. Meg will poll the other board members to determine what positions need to be filled. The members concurred that we need to consider a smaller, more active board for 2011, as it has often been difficult getting a quorum for meetings with so large a board this year. Donna Struke has notified the board that she is resigning as Category 1 Point Keeper at the end of this year. She has served for several years and will be missed. It is unknown whether the Category 2 Points Keeper will continue for 2011. Membership will be contacted to determine who might be interested in serving next year and committee will propose 2011 board/officer slate for vote at annual meeting.

Educational Activities for 2011. Leslye had several ideas for NTEA-sponsored educational activities for 2011. Some ideas for NTEA sponsoring or subsidizing: a cross country schooling day; clinics or speakers in equine massage, farrier techniques, chiropractic demonstrations, theft prevention and equine micro-chipping, etc. Leslye will assemble a list of ideas for consideration at the next meeting.

Proposed Donation by Texas Rose Horse Park. Tabled.

Bylaws Overhaul. Tabled.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:00 p.m.