

25 March 2010, NTEA Meeting Minutes, Las Colinas Equestrian Center

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Mica Pryor

Call to Order: 12:15 p.m.

Attending: Lori Calame (Young Riders), Amanda Harp (Activities), Meg Johnson (President), Mica Pryor (Secretary), Nikki Scherer (Treasurer), Leslye Shellam (Vice President)

Visitors: Tanya Ewalt, Gabrielle Gordon

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

President:

Meg noted that, at the annual meeting, the entire board slate was approved and the bylaw revision adding board seats was also approved.

Secretary:

Review of minutes from 20 November 2009 and 12 January 2010 board meetings and 6 February 2010 annual meeting was tabled to next meeting, after which they will be sent to Webmaster.

Mica circulated a notepad for all members in attendance to supply all their contact information. She will prepare a Board Member Directory for distribution so that we will be able to contact one another more easily.

Treasurer:

Nikki announced that she has decided to remain on the board as Treasurer for the remainder of 2010 and withdrew her request for the board to find a replacement Treasurer. The board enthusiastically welcomed this news.

Nikki circulated three Thank You notes that she received from the PO Box. These were from participants in the Fredericks Clinic.

Tanya turned over the binder on the Fredericks Clinic to Mica for safekeeping with the Association's records.

Bank balance is \$17,167.41. There is an outstanding invoice for hats of about \$1,300. Nikki will pay this ASAP. Net income to date for 2010 is [-6,472.55].

Membership:

Meg gave the Membership Report, in Sandy's absence. To date, we have 18 new members and 65 renewals from last year. Lori will send Mica the tri-fold brochure that we used some years ago. To encourage new members, Mica will update it and work with board to distribute flyers at the various spring events. We will try to get out the word about the Scholarship program of NTEA as this is a very big draw for new members.

Activities:

Since the last meeting, it was decided that Southfork is not the optimal location for the year-end Awards Banquet. Various dates and locations were discussed for the next banquet. Amanda moved and Leslye seconded the motion to hold the 2010 Awards Banquet on January 8, 2011. We are targeting the Grapevine area for the banquet as it is centrally located for most members.

Amanda will check with the Grapevine Chamber, with a specific emphasis on finding a winery or other interesting and festive location to hold the Banquet. Meg will discuss with Karen LeKashman possibility of co-hosting banquet with Area V.

Public Relations/Website:

Meg gave the PR Report, in Mandy's absence. The March newsletter will go out next week. Need to start gathering articles for June – newsletter format – President's Letter, Member Rider/Barn Profile Article, Health/Safety Article, Horsemanship Article, Product/Clinic Review; Business Ads, Calendar. Mandy is still working on the Master Members List, given the transition between boards and membership. It was proposed that Emily Oakes, former Board member, do the Weekly Blasts.

Lori noted that she is adding a CT to her April 10/11 schooling weekend. She will contact Howard to get this on the website and be sure this information gets to Mandy for the newsletter and to Emily for the Weekly Blast.

Howard has updated the NTEA Online Calendar to include the schooling and USEA events currently posted on area websites.

Jr/Young Riders:

Lori is going to host a helmet fitting briefing at the Dressage Ride A Test at her farm on April 11, specifically targeting young riders.

Old Business Tabled to Next Meeting:

Presentation of 2009 actuals and 2010 budget

Raffles – legal limitations – Mica to discuss with Meg

New/Unfinished Business:

Clarification of Category 2 Points. There still appears to be confusion among some members as to how Category 2 points accrue and are calculated. Does a show count as one of their two "completed shows" for points if the member rode HC? Does a show count for points if the member was disqualified, eliminated or withdrew during the competition? Neither of these is allowed under current guidelines. Meg will draft some language addressing this issue to clarify it in the 2010 Awards Program paperwork and this will be tabled until the next meeting.

Bylaws Overhaul. Meg proposed to have a dinner meeting in the near future for those interested board members to hammer out language overhauling and updating the bylaws. A date was not set and was tabled to the next meeting.

2010 Board Meeting Dates; Conference Call Meetings. Future Board meeting dates were established. Meetings need to be in person to extent possible, but in order to improve participation we will have a "conference call-in" option when possible given the long driving distances among board members (as far as Burlison in the west to Tyler in the east). 2010 Meeting Dates are: April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 13, October 12, November 9, December 7. All meetings to be at noon, unless otherwise announced. The April 13 meeting will be via FreeConferenceCall.net. Those wishing to participate live are invited to attend at Meg's office in downtown Dallas. Prior to the meeting, Meg will email details and the code to access the call for those wishing to participate by phone.

2010 Scholarship Program and Awards (e.g., Al Smith). Gabrielle Gordon spoke about need to improve accountability in the scholarship program (both for the recipients and for the association)

and raise awareness of the program. She proposed that we publish profiles of previous winners in the newsletters and do periodic updates (both internally and in the newsletter) about their status. Also, given the significant account balance the association is carrying at this time, it was proposed that the scholarship award amounts can be raised for 2010. Also, some members have questioned whether board members should be allowed to get special awards and/or scholarships. It was pointed out that, in the past, part of the requirement for receiving a scholarship has been that the recipient must have performed (or commit to perform) significant service to the association (and this has included serving on the board). The Scholarship Committee is made up of an impartial board member, area trainer and NTEA member. Some thought is to be given over the next month to how the Scholarship Program can be improved to better serve the association's mission.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:00 p.m.