

5 February 2011, NTEA Board Meeting Minutes, Gold Chip Stables, Bartonville

Minutes Taken by Debbie Poloson; Prepared by Mica Pryor; submitted by Allison Sumrow

Call to Order: 2:15 p.m., with a Quorum present

Attending in Person: Lori Calame (At Large), Meg Johnson (Exec VP), Mica Pryor (President), Nicole Scherer (Treasurer), Leslye Shellam (VP Public Relations), Kim Willnow (VP Activities)

Guests: Tonya Ewalt (NTEA member Category 2 Points Keeper), Debbie Poloson (NTEA member; Area V Affiliate Rep), Stacey Quarles (NTEA member)

President:

Mica distributed the Agenda and called for reports of the officers.

Secretary:

In Allison Sumrow's absence (due to icy roads), Mica delivered the Secretary's report. The December 2010 board minutes and January 2011 Annual Members' Meeting minutes were previously distributed by email to all board members, along with the Agenda for today's meeting. Leslye moved to approve the minutes as written and Kim seconded. None opposed. Mica will send the minutes to Howard for posting on the website. Mica reported that Allison has agreed to conduct an online survey of the membership via www.surveymonkey.com. The cost for Survey Monkey is minimal, approximately \$25 per month. Allison has significant experience with this and believes that she can conclude an initial survey within 1-2 months. Meg moved that the board go forward promptly with the online members' survey at a cost of up to \$50, with goal of completing an initial survey by March. Kim seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Leslye volunteered to work with Allison to define the parameters of the initial survey.

Treasurer:

Bank balance: \$18,820.00. Nikki submitted a balance sheet as of February 5 and an income statement for the period 10/1/10 through 2/5/11 and reviewed the banquet/auction/casino income and expenses with the board. The budget committee will meet soon and recommend a 2011 budget at the next board meeting. Budget Committee will be Nikki, Mica and Kelli Augenthaler (CPA and former NTEA president), with Meg assisting as needed. Any other member who wishes to participate in the budget meetings should contact Nikki.

Educational Activities:

"Intro to Eventing" Clinic. Kim recommends that NTEA conduct a USEA-sponsored, "Intro to Eventing", 1-day clinic, this summer targeting riders from other disciplines. USEA will provide educational materials and insurance. Oklahoma Eventers did a similar clinic in January. They advertised the clinic through local equine publications, county horsemen's clubs, 4-H groups, feed stores, vet clinics, etc. OKE provided lunch and instruction in all three phases of eventing, as well as loaner helmets and vests for the riders. Riders were allowed to use in any type of tack. They had 28 riders in the clinic, at \$35 each. OKE was very pleased with the turnout and is planning another Intro day this year. Kim will identify an organizer that will donate its facility and some trainers who will donate their time at the clinic. Horse Gazette and Lone Star Horse Report were mentioned as good places to advertise. Mica will research ad costs and a board vote will be taken to approve a budget for the event.

"Lunch & Learn". Kim has enlisted Dr. Gayla Maas, a vet/acupuncture practitioner, to give an acupuncture demonstration during lunch time at the Quail Run schooling day in March. Dr. Maas is donating services and the Wallings are donating a space in their barn. NTEA will have membership information available and may provide lunch. Kim will work with show organizers to do additional L&L at other schooling days. Jan Walling has some ideas and will work on this.

Membership:

To date, we have 108 members for 2011, including approximately 23 new members, 5 life members, and 80 renewals. These are good numbers for so early in the year. Terrie is inputting membership information into the spreadsheet and emailing membership cards to new and renewing members.

Public Relations:

Mandy Kelly will continue to edit and publish the newsletter. She is working on a draft, which we hope to go to print by mid-February. Articles so far: President's Letter (theme: "give back – get involved"), FEH/YEH (by Ann O'Donnell, new member), Vet's Corner (new de-worming practices by David Celella, DVM), Meet the Board (NTEA leadership profiles), In Memoriam (Jan Michie's horse Cheers), plus the usual business and classified ads.

Website:

A new "About Us" page is on the website. Discussion about website enhancements was tabled.

New/Unfinished Business:

Scholarships for "Amateurs Only"? Some members have questioned whether professionals should be permitted to have scholarships. Mica polled a number of founding members and past NTEA presidents and reviewed archived documents and found nothing to indicate that professionals were intended to be excluded from membership benefits. She also reviewed scholarship criteria for the past several years and found no such exclusion. All present concurred that enhancing the education of our local trainers improves education for our local adult amateurs and young people and is therefore a legitimate use of scholarship funds. It was the consensus of opinion that limiting scholarships to certain classes of members might require a vote of the membership.

Scholarships & Special Awards Committee. Mica proposed that the 2010 Scholarship Committee (Gabrielle Gordon, Cheryl Olivier as chair, Leslye Shellam) continue for 2011, that the Scholarship Committee take responsibility for reviewing and making recommendations for the Al Smith Award and C L. McDaniel's "Earn Your Spurs" Award and obtaining the prizes/plaques, and that award/scholarship criteria remain the same for 2011 with some minor changes for clarification (see December 2010 minutes). In the future, the McDaniel award would have a plaque or some other engraved memento to commemorate the award, such as an engraved box containing the spurs. Meg moved to approve the proposal. Leslye seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The Committee would like for the rules to be published by March and to publicize the scholarships and awards frequently in order to attract a larger number of applicants.

FEH/YEH Points. Mica reported that two-three USEA-recognized FEH/YEH events are on the Omnibus for 2011 in Area V. Area V has rules in place for YEH points, but no immediate plans to add FEH points. NTEA already has rules for YEH events under Category 3, which are to be implemented when there are at least three such events in Area V. Meg moved that the Category 3 rules be merged into Category 1 rules. Kim seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mica will re-draft the Category 1 rules for 2011 and circulate to the board for approval at the next meeting.

Out of Area Points. Stacey proposed that NTEA re-instate the rule permitting members competing at all levels to receive Category 1 points for up to two "out of Area V" events each year. For the past two-three years, out of area points are allowed only for Advanced divisions. There was discussion about whether to allow out of area points for all divisions or only for upper levels (e.g., FEI level events and Classic 3-days), in either case with a limit of two per year per competitor. Members would be required to report out of area points to the Points Keeper. The strong consensus of the group was that decisions about how to award points is solely in the discretion of the board. Mica will draft something and circulate it to the board for approval at the next meeting.

Bylaws Overhaul. Mica will work on this project as time permits and enlist help from Meg and other interested board members.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:55 p.m.