

September 20, 2009
VQHA Annual Meeting
Ferrisburgh Central School, Ferrisburgh, Vt.

Meeting called to order at 11:05 AM by President Shannon Warden.

- Motion made by Dawn Carleton Walters – move elections to the beginning of the meeting so members who had to leave could vote.
- Discussion ensued.
- Motion amended by Dawn Carlton Walters - move elections to the beginning of the meeting with new officers to take over their positions after the meeting. Motion seconded by Meredith Langlois. Motion passed
- 2 year board position open as Robin Schunk was not present and is not a paid member.
- Nominations from the floor: Jill Thomas nominated for president by Dawn Carleton Walters. Melanie Paquette nominated for 2 year board position by Mary Pat Roche.
- Jill Thomas spoke regarding ideas/thoughts she would promote as president.
- Shannon Warden spoke about continuing with the programs that are in place, trail ride, versatility ranch and marketing programs to promote the club.
- Ballots were counted, very close contest. Shannon Warden was elected President
- Motion made by Diane Saunders to cast one vote for the slate of officers. Seconded by Dawn Carleton Walters. Motion passed.
- Officers and Board members are:
 - President – Shannon Warden
 - Vice-President – Meredith Langlois
 - Secretary – Mary Pat Roche
 - Treasurer – Lucille Evarts
 - Board Members – Michelle Racine (2010)
 - Melanie Paquette (2011)
 - Dawn Carleton Walters (2010)
 - Jim Warden (2010)
 - Maureen Rich (2010)
 - Diane Saunders (2011)
 - Sherry Longworth (2011)
 - Mary Hutchins (2011)

Since the resignation on September 5th, 2009 of Secretary Cecile Howland, minutes were taken by board member Mary Pat Roche.

- Secretary's report from 1/24/09 was read and accepted.
- Treasurer's report handed out to all members with an itemized report to the board. Balance on hand 9-19-09 \$1300.54. Accepted.

Committee Reports:

- AQHA Yankee Classic show held in Northampton, Massachusetts, entries increased by 15 over last year. Income \$41,102.62, Expenses \$43,866.11, loss of \$2,763.49
- Versatility Ranch show was held in Massachusetts this year. Income 1508.00, Expenses \$2089.30, loss of \$581.30
- Addison Open, Novice show was cancelled due to conflicts with 2 other shows. Questioned why AQHA approved another show if we have priority dates.
- Trail Ride to be held on October 2, 2009 at the Russell Farm in Starksboro, Vt. A barbeque will follow. You can attend just the BBQ.
- Fundraising – Meredith Langlois will again run the Yankee Candle sale with the proceeds to benefit the year end awards. Packets were handed out.
- Awards Banquet – Meredith Langlois and Shannon Warden will research restaurants in the Addison County area.
- VQHYA update – Report was handed out to all members present explaining all the activities from the current year. 14 current members from different areas of the state of which 6 are new members in 2008. The youth had a great year, a team was sent to the Youth World Show to compete in the quizbowl competition and placed 5th in the nation.
- Proposed By-Law Changes – Dawn Carleton made a motion to table the changes as the Board did not receive them prior to the meeting and bring the recommended changes to the membership no earlier than at our banquet in January. Motion seconded by Meredith Langlois and passed.
- Dawn encouraged the members to read the bylaws, to make sure they understand them and suggest changes as necessary.
- Question as to whether sending out proposed Bylaw changes via Email is okay as this is our form of communication/newsletter. It was decided that yes they can be emailed to those with email, and snailmail to those who don't have email.

New Business:

- Board Retreat was held in Randolph, Vermont on May 31st . This retreat was facilitated by Laura Soares.
- Mission Statement: To represent and promote the popularity, enjoyment and welfare of: the American Quarter Horse, American Quarter Horse owners and supporters, and the American Horse Industry in the state of Vermont.
- Make sure thank you letters are sent to sponsors, businesses. Shannon has a letter and will be responsible for sending out. She will just need names and addresses.

Old Business:

- Pictures from the Yankee Classic still have not been received from the show photographer Tony DeCosta. Lucille has called him but has not been able to speak with him.
- Special thank you to Bradley Giroux, Cecile Howland and Laurie Gawet for their dedication and hard work promoting VQHA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.