

BOD Meeting January 22, 2025

Call to order by **President Anne Murphy** at 7:00 pm.

Roll call: **An attendance chart is attached to these minutes.**

Guest Speakers: Dan Grunewald & Mark Long:

- Dan and Mark provided a summary of the Educational Day they hosted. There were a lot of youth present during the day. The event was well attended with approximately 100 attendees. The event was a 'free' opportunity for equestrians to learn from and enjoy! This event was sponsored by the WHC.
 - There were 3 clinicians present at the event. All breed associations, clinicians and vendors were required to be WHC members.
- Mark is working to make this event become an annual event and keep it at an affordable cost for attendees.

Minutes from October 23, 2024:

- Motion made by Ron Miller to approve the October minutes, seconded by Linda Ernsberger. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet.
- The balance sheet now has each district's balance reported on it.
- The financial review is still not complete.
- Dana motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Nancy. Passed.
- The WSHCEF financial report was in the meeting packet. February 8, 2025, will be Winterfest at Springbrook in Burnett. There will be a new feature this year with chain saw carving; there will be an opportunity for attendees to win a wooden eagle carving.

Legislative report:

- A new legislative session has started. Jolene is talking to several legislators and making connections at this time.
- The governor's state of the state address is happening tonight. The budget talks will begin in February.
- Ag Day at the Capitol is March 26, 2025. Darla will take care of registering WHC directors who want to attend this event.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- A report was included in the meeting packet.
- The International Liberty Horse Association (ILHA) will be presenting freestyle competitions before the rodeo on Friday and Saturday night from 6:45- 7:30.
- We still have one open position on the MHF board that was not filled in the March 2024 election; this will be a two-year term. If anyone is interested and would like to learn more, contact Jill.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- 2025 Winners Announced
 - Equine of the Year- Herger from District 4
 - Horseperson of the year- Jeff Pintz
 - Lifetime Achievement Award: Andrew Halbach, Floyd Finney, Gail Seasor, Wendy Konichek- all are winners!
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: April 8 is the deadline for budget requests.
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: Next submission deadline is 2/15/24; there is a form in the meeting packet.
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: there is someone interested in reviving district 2; Katie is working on connecting with her.
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dana Neary-Panella: Next seminar is 4/5/25; Dan Gruenwald provided some information.
- Member Services- Mike Kroll: 4th quarter stats are in the meeting packet. Dan Gruenwald is the newest level III member. Welcome back Dan!
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: Nothing new to report.
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: There is a sign-up for WHC booth at MHF. The 2025 WHC PR events are listed in the meeting packet. Anne is working with having some youth work in the WHC booth at the MHF. If anyone can work at the booth at the MHF, they can reach out to Bonnie or Darla to get signed up.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: there are 8 applications; 7 will be considered for a scholarship.
- Sponsorship- Cricket Jewett: February 28 is the deadline; a meeting will be scheduled for early March to review them.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: The new website is up and running and Darla is working on updating the information. Renewals of WHC memberships can be now renewed electronically on the website.
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: Trail Master certification course is scheduled for May 18-21 at Gov.Dodge State Park. Four of seven volunteer spots have been filled. The trail committee is a sponsor of the International Trail Symposium that will be held in Madison beginning on April 14th. Cricket has some gift passes if anyone is interested in attending this event.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy continues to work at making connections to obtain information about the WI equine industry.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: most of the businesses that were in the program signed up again for this year. The program will run for one more year before evaluating the program to see if it should continue.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: Youth membership is over 80 now. Anne was able to get a table at the celebrity breakfast at the MHF to use as an incentive for youth. To qualify to get a chance for breakfast with Amber Marshal, the youth have to do some volunteer work that Anne has outlined.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: nothing new to report. If anyone is interested in working with Katie on the districts, they should contact her or Darla.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler- Dana has not received any new objectives from any directors. He suggested that we discuss objectives at a future meeting.

Old Business

- Proposed Bylaw Change Submission deadline is Feb 15, 2025; the form is in the meeting packet.

New Business

- Election Procedures for 2025: procedures and self-nomination form included in the packet.
- WHC Director Responsibilities- Anne Murphy:
 - Anne stated that there is nothing in writing as to what a director is required to do. The code of conduct is close to outlining responsibilities but there is nothing else in writing.
 - As each director represents a group, the director is the conduit between the group and the WHC and communications need to flow both ways.
 - All directors are part of the PR committee and should be promoting the WHC.

Other:

- Nancy reminded the group about Best of America by Horseback; they will be at the MHF and WHC is sponsoring a trail ride in May.

Reminder of Deadlines:

- Ride Wisconsin Trail Ride/Drive Program Hour Log Deadline- 1/31/25
- Trail Grand Application Deadline- 2/1/25
- WSHCEF Winter Fun Day- 2/8/25
- Proposed Bylaw Change Submission Deadline- 2/15/25
- WHC Annual Election Nomination Deadline- 2/19/25 by 3 pm
- WHC Sponsorship Application Deadline- 2/28/25
- WHC Roundup Program Submission Deadline- 2/28/25
- WHC Roundup Program 2024-2025 Winners Announced- 3/8/25
- WHC Budget Request Form Deadline- 4/8/25

Future Meeting Dates:

- February 26, 2025
- March 26, 2025- Annual Meeting
- April 2025- NO MEETING
- May 28, 2025
- June 25, 2025
- July 23, 2025
- August 27, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- November & December 2025- NO MEETING

Motion made by Scott and seconded by Ron to adjourn at 8:16 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jill Feller
WHC Secretary