

*MHRI Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Teleconference*

Present: Mark Corless, Kyle VanOtterloo, Cathy Dessert, Greg Budach, Justin Anfinson, Bob Lems, Scott Banitt, Bob Schiewe, Nick Roland, Jessica Johnson, Rick Magee, & Rick Bertrand

Absent:

Called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda: **Cathy Dessert moved to approve the agenda which was 2nd by Jessica Johnson & carried.**

January 15th minutes: **Bob Lems moved to approve the minutes which was 2nd by Cathy Dessert & carried.**

Discussion on MRC proposal for Minnesota bred purse distributions for 2019:

We discussed the possibility of challenging the staff recommendations at the risk of affecting our relationship with the commission.

We can let Running Aces make up the difference between Trotters & Pacers as they did last year & then work to prove our arguments with the commission after this year's racing.

We agreed to have Mark write a letter stating our position to the commission after Bob S. & the board reviews the letter we will submit it to the commission.

We discussed the Aged Minnesota bred finals and felt that \$40,000 was too much and we would recommend cutting that back & putting that into the 2 & 3 year old classes instead. Kyle V, Bob L, & Scott B. will make our case to Joe Scurto.

Treasurer's report: **Cathy Dessert moved to approve which was 2nd by Rick Bertrand & carried.**

Cathy D. spoke briefly about the HHI conference that she & Bob Schiewe attended and reported how the different jurisdictions are doing.

Bob S. mentioned the J.L. Hauck scholarship being offered by HHI again this year. It is \$4,000 for the son or daughter of any HHI member organization students. Applications are due May 1st.

Bob S. mentioned the many problems being faced by other jurisdictions throughout the US & Canada that were discussed at the HHI conference. Most problems are being caused by track ownership or racing commissions. He also talked about the USTA stance opposing the ARCI universal medication rules. They continue to support their own medication efforts specific to Standardbreds. They also talked about aftercare programs.

Bob S. asked about how to reach out for trainers to support Summer Fling for 2019. Jessica J. offered to work on this with Bob S. The demand for Summer Fling owners is very high and we could use more horses if possible.

Bob S. spoke about the annual meeting & felt the venue was fine. He felt our speakers were a little disappointing.

He mentioned our somewhat casual method for balloting. He offered that we may want to consider moving the annual meeting to May to possibly get better attendance.

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Rick Bertrand mentioned that he knew several owners who didn't receive membership applications or ballots.

Ben Blum joined the meeting at about 8:50 & talked about finals night. As long as the fields are full they will make up the difference to equalize the purses between Trotters & Pacers. The money is not coming from the overnight account but would come from the Minnesota set aside money.

He would like us to give him our suggestions for the Minnesota bred 2 & 3 year old restricted schedule for 2019 as soon as possible.

With the extra money available for Minnesota Breds in 2019 he would like to see fuller fields and more competitive races.

Jessica mentioned that she would like to see something in writing from Ben regarding his promise to equalize the purses for Trotters.

Jessica, Kyle, Bob L, & Greg will form the committee to plan the Minnesota bred conditions & purses.

We discussed the county fairs for 2019. Scott mentioned the need to bring a better product to the fairs. We need to come up with ideas on how to make better races to support the fairs.

Bob mentioned the purse fund report and how Aces is doing. There is over 4.1 million with January & February generated \$538,000 from the card room. They are averaging \$269,000 per month in purses generated from cards.

Scott asked Bob to e-mail the report to the board & he promised to do that when he has it updated.

Election of officers:

Greg Budach was nominated as Secretary/Treasurer. With no other nominations, Mark moved that Greg remain as Secretary/Treasurer which was 2nd by Bob L. & carried.

President: Bob L. nominated Justin Anfinson, Nick Roland nominated Jessica Johnson. Votes were emailed or texted to Bob S. resulting in Justin's favor 7:4.

Vice President: Bob L. nominated Cathy Dessert, & Jessica Johnson nominated Mark Coreless. Votes were emailed or texted to Bob S. resulting in Marks favor 6:5.

Jessica. J commented on the microchip issue & there has been much discussion on the matter regarding the horse's health monitoring etc.

Rick Bertrand mentioned that Barry Langley had passed away & suggested that we might send a donation. Cathy D. suggested that we send something through the GoFundMe account set up for him.

Rick Bertrand moved that we donate \$200 to his GoFundMe page which was 2nd By Justin Anfinson & carried.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 9th Tele-conference 7:30 p.m.

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Cathy Dessert moved to adjourn which was 2nd by Bob Lems & carried.