

## Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2024- 7:30 P.M.

Present: Greg Budach, Jessica Johnson, Cathy Dessert, Tony Huffman, Vikki Pfeilsticker, Jesse DeLong, Dan Roland, Brian Detgen, Justin Anfinson, Scott Banitt, & Brandon Jenson

AJ Fetterly, Nancy Robertson

Absent:

Treas. Report from 9/30 & 10/15: **Vikki Pfeilsticker moved to approve which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Detgen and carried**

Minutes from July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting- **Cathy Dessert moved to approve which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Anfinson and carried.**

We discussed benevolence again and decided the board would just take these up on an individual basis as they come up.

County Fair Charters- USTA may be offering training & Scott is willing to work with whoever is interested.

AJ will reach out to Natalie, Louie & Andy Kiel to determine their interest level.

AJ will bring the need for more stalls to the fair committee for discussion and possible solutions. Scott mentioned that Cannon Falls is interested in pursuing more barn space.

Tom Pederson (Minnesota Ag commissioner) mentioned to Cathy that there may be grants available. The fair committee will investigate those opportunities.

Legislative discussion- Cathy talked with the AG commissioner who suggested we could have a more powerful lobbyist than the one we currently use. We will add that discussion to next month's agenda. After further discussion we decided it may not be in our best interest to switch right now.

Jessica mentioned the need to add the rules committee discussion.

Dan mentioned a legislative committee meeting we had with Ian. He stated an association can make donations for the upcoming election as long as it is not directly to a single candidate.

We discussed making a general donation of around \$5,000 to a general campaign fund.

Committee recommendations;

**Dan moved to donate \$5,000 to the Republican Jobs coalition which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Johnson & carried.**

Dan will contact Ian to find out to whom and where the check needs to go. Cathy is willing to drop it off in person.

PAC Discussion: The legislative committee will work on suggestions for future meetings.

Rules discussion: MRC sent a packet with proposed rule changes. Nancy is looking them over to help determine if we need to address any of the proposed changes directly. Some are ambiguous as to whether they affect Standardbreds.

Nancy will make certain the MRC staff clarifies any ambiguity. Some proposals involve preference days, horses falling in the paddock, and number of strokes allowed when whipping. Dan, Nancy, & Cathy will attend the MRC rules committee and Nancy is prepared to speak for us.

MN Bred purse update:

Dan shared our numbers for 2024 as compared to 2023. He did a lot of work showing all of the details. He will start to work with AJ on how to work within Excel and to share the file in TEAMS.

Marketing: Summer Fling payouts will happen this week.

New Business:

Running Aces proposed schedule for 2025 would be similar to the 2024 schedule. Steve C would like our approval by the November MRC meeting.

Greg reviewed the county fair purse funding. Total purse spend was \$355,215 for the 2024 fairs. This level of purses is not sustainable in the next year so the county fairs committee will need to meet to come up with a plan for 2025.

Tony Huffman moved to approve the proposed 2025 dates and schedule from Running Aces which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki Pfeilsticker and carried.

Aces needs our approval for the export signal, Jessica Johnson moved to approve and have Justin sign the agreement which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Huffman & carried.

Vikki Pfeilsticker mentioned a request for a refrigerator in the paddock that we would need to keep stocked and maintained.

The backstretch committee will explore our options.

The HHI conference is scheduled for February 24-28<sup>th</sup>

Jessica Johnson moved that we cover the cost of AJ and the equivalent of one other person to attend split between those that wish to attend. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki Pfeilsticker & carried.

MHRI Banquet date is set for February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The starting car needs some repairs; Justin will work on getting the repairs completed with a local shop.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 P.M.