

MTHJA Meeting
March 31, 2021
4:30 held at Brownland Farms pavilion and via zoom

Board In Attendance:

Matt Piccolo
Amy Rippel
Holly Hirschman
Michelle Zimmer
Janelle Harcus
Cristi Caruso
Emily Plotkin

Via Zoom

Stephanie Hall
Macy Wesson
Jennifer Pigue

Members in attendance

Martha Walters
Amanda Lorinc
Chloe Desjarlais
Isadora Duhaime-Trowbridge

Matt Piccolo called the meeting to order 4:30pm
Holly Hirschman seconded it.

First order of business: Holly Hirschman MTHJA treasure went over the financials and membership. General membership 2019- Members: 274. Horses: 386
2020- Members: 262. Horses: 389

A rated Horse shows: 20
Local Horse shows: 5

Financials: Membership and horse shows: \$13,000
Expenses, Point Sec. Point program: \$13,500
Year end awards:

Stephanie Hall requested a verification of cost of the year end awards.

Ribbons:\$3300
Baby pads: \$2400
Dover: \$4600

-\$500 for the year.

Holly H. reminded the MTHJA is not a 501-c3 and is an award based organization. The MTHJA does not host horse shows. Our membership consists of Middle Tennessee only, much smaller than Georgia, Kentucky and Alabama.

Second order of business:

Matt Piccolo apologized to the membership about how difficult the previous year was and Proposed to streamline the Board with a greater diversity. He asked for thoughts about the board of directors going forward.

He thanked the volunteers for stepping up: Anna Sierra for all her help with the social media.

- A. Suggestions for a smaller more efficient Board with additional input from the membership
- B. Adding a Junior member and more adult members. Stephanie Hall seconded junior participation.
- C. Streamlining the committees
- D. Setting an agenda, with dates for future meetings both general membership and BOD.
- E. Finalizing the date and location of the 2021 banquet.
- F. Asking for suggestions on awards from membership and BOD for 2021 and start organizing and budgeting now.
- G. Talked about a different process for the perpetual trophies.

The floor was opened to Amanda Lorinc to hear some of her ideas. Amanda had great suggestions including but not limited to: MTHJA hosting clinics, scholarships, meet and greets, volunteers, raffles, and a few more divisions. All good suggestions that the Board is taking into consideration.

Martha Walters brought up the need for better communications in a timely matter would be beneficial going forward. The Board members agreed.

Third order of business: HORSE SHOWS

The need for more local shows was discussed at great length. We discussed contiguous states and shows we have reached out to: Tryon, Chatthills, along with others.

- a. The mileage rule was brought up and allowing local shows to run with in 50 miles of a recognized USEF/USHJA. The pros and cons were discussed. The board decided to table the mileage change and will continue to monitor the need this year.
- b. Adding additional division to the long stirrup: Rusty Stirrup . The MTHJA had 8 in the long stirrup with the age as 13 and up. We are going to monitor ages going forward to see if the numbers warrant.s
- c. The question of a walk trot rail year end award was brought up. The Board discussed and voted to leave the rule as it stands.
- d. We discussed including the word USHJA to both the Low and High hunter sections for points to counts. Voted to add.

- e. We thanked Amy Rippel, Thorosport, and Camwood for stepping up during a global pandemic and hosting the 5 local shows

Matt Piccolo mentioned a general membership meeting conducted via Zoom date to be determined on **June 30,2021**. Mthja will send out an email with a link to all membership.

Amy Rippel Harlisdale horse has been moved a week to **April 17-18** due to the City is painting during her first weekend.

5:45pm Matt Piccolo called the meeting to end. Michelle Zimmer seconded the motion.