

Minutes of NPHA Meeting on Sept. 16, 2019
Luzerne County Fairgrounds, Dallas, PA 18612

Meeting called to Order by Pres., Lauren Swicklik

- Sign In Sheet was circulated for those in attendance (*Note-Members Mike Racavitch and Tyler Linde were in attendance as were Lauren S., Barb R., Carissa K., and Celeste V. These were the only members present).

Secretary's Report: Sec., Barb R. gave the Secretary's Report for the mtg. held on July 22, 2019. Motion was made/second to accept Secretary's Rept. as printed– Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Pres., Lauren S. gave the Treasurer's Rept.; The previous Gen. Fund balance was \$7,825.18. Deposit made of \$295.00, bringing the balance to \$8,120.18. The Scholarship Fund remains at \$1,472.89. Amounts match the July Bank Statement. On Aug. 5, 2019 ck. no. 2024 for \$45.00 (incorrectly previ. reported as \$35.00) was written to our insurance company for Aresa's add'l western horse show. This brings the total in the General Fund to \$8,075.18. Balance in Scholarship Fund remains at \$1,472.89. These numbers match the August 2019 Bank Statement. Although new checks for the Scholarship Account were ordered prev. Barb learned the checks were returned to the bank (no notes in Bank's computer). She ordered cks. again and was assured by the bank mgr. they will be in before the Banquet. Motion was made/second to accept Treasurer's Rept. as presented– Motion Carried.

Communications: Lauren stated Barb was randomly given a plastic file box (by Carissa) when at Lake Ariel for the District 4-H Show. Barb said the documents in the box relate to past NPHA points from previous horse shows. She surmised this was a box from Kelly Smith when she was points secretary of NPHA. Barb was also given a **random letter dated Nov. 20, 1992** on that same day which was from the Dept. of the Treasury of the Internal Revenue Service. Lauren produced the letter for review, which she said Barb will keep in the NPHA file. Basically, the letter states we DO NOT have to file tax returns which was never addressed in previous years. Ltr. states NPHA is exempt unless we have gross receipts over \$25,000 in any given year. Mike R. reviewed the letter and said the IRS can go back 20 yrs. and there was a time when NPHA did have receipts over that amount. He offered his private experience with his ex-wife closing down her mobile tack shop business incorrectly and he is now responsible for paying a large sum in penalties. MUCH discussion ensued over NPHA not filing tax returns in past years, and based on his experience and conversations with his accountant on both his personal matters and 4-H Club matters (which operates financially similarly to NPHA) he stated the best (and only) way to avert the Club's (and Officers') exposure to tax implications/filing returns/payment of penalties, etc. is to spend down ALL of the money in the Treasury by year's end and then to start another organization next year as a 401(c) corporation. Without the benefit of any additional information, everyone seemed to agree this may be the way this organization will have to proceed. Lauren stated if this must happen, she will resign at the end of 2019 as Pres. and Barb said she would resign as well.

Report of Committees: None

Old Business

- Status of T-Shirt Sale as Fundraiser: Lauren stated we still have T-shirts to sell: She said someone should take them to Carrie's Dressage Show to sell them. (Cks payable to NPHA). She apologized for not bringing them to the Dalton Show. Carissa will go to Lauren's before Carrie's show and get them from Lauren to sell.
- Banquet – CoChairs: Barb and Andrea; Date is Sun., Nov. 3rd at Constantino's, Old Lackawanna Trail, Dalton
 - DJ – Dennis Sosa; contract and deposit taken care of
 - Photo Booth- Tracey Kovach-Palchanis booked by Carissa; Carissa stated she does not have a contract and as far as she knows, there is no deposit required; Mike R. voiced concerns if this is same one as last year; he personally (and anonymously) paid her for the past 2 years to stay for an added hour, it is questionable whether we will need her to stay extra this year; Carissa will confirm w/Tracey that she will be there for 2:00 p.m. and stay until banquet is over
 - Invitations: Barb prev. sent draft of invitations w/sponsorship letter to Officers for approval – no comments rec'd except Carissa liked late fee and deadlines: we need NPHA Invitations to go out ASAP; she will email/send invitations to NPHA members
 - Ribbons – Lauren is working with Di Jolley to see what we have from previous yrs. and will

order what we don't have

- Andrea has agreed to prepare seating chart for Banquet so it makes sense to have reservations returned to her
- No posters this year – Carissa had done in the past, none for this year
- Prizes – Andrea bought/donated canvas bags for lead line prizes and Barb bought some saddle pads; would like to have saddle pads embroidered with Champion and Division; Tyler and Mike became VERY vocal upon learning these were meant for Ch/Res. and we had prev. decided to forego prizes for 3rd through 6th places; Tyler also pointed out that the saddle pads and bags aren't even equal to the cost of NPHA Membership; she further said expectations of everyone are that prizes are awarded for 1st through 6th place and NPHA is the only series some kids participate in; MUCH discussion was had on this issue; Barb explained it was a financial issue; Lauren said she was given prizes from past years, particularly from last year, Mike made a Motion/Second by Tyler that all prizes not previously awarded be given as prizes this yr./Motion carried; Consensus was that the left over English prizes should be awarded to Western exhibitors; Barb informed the group that there is NO money available for us to spend on expensive prizes and this was met with EXTREME opposition, particularly given the prior discussion on the tax return implications and that the organization may cease to exist after this year; Tyler made a Motion/Second by Celeste that places 1 through 6 be awarded specific prizes and placements/prizes be awarded accordingly as was done in previous years; Motion Carried.
- Barb would like to be reimbursed for invoice presented for saddle pads, \$162.14- Motion was made/second to reimburse her per her invoice– Motion Carried.
- Barb is donating Centerpieces; anyone have any horse shoes they want to part with; please get them to her so they can be incorporated into the centerpieces

New Business

- Points Concerns – Accuracy: Carissa stated she had no problem calculating points; Celeste enlisted Mike's help with Western Divisions and points; they determined there should be 10 Western Divisions; Between Lauren and Carissa it was determined that there should be 20 English Divisions and 5 Dressage; Question arose as to whether English followed Western Rule that a member must participate in 2 shows in order to be eligible for points to count for year end awards; Barb said she thought this was brought up in a previous meeting and she would have to search for it in prior meeting minutes; Tyler faulted the organization for not having the Rules posted to the Website as well as amendments that may have come up at meetings which would change prev. Rules and Tyler strenuously objected to that guideline since it was not available to members to know that; Carissa recalled she brought up the issue previously, but the consensus was that since the Rules were not made available to everyone we would have to give points to anyone who showed no matter how many shows they participated in

Members

- Discussion/Commentary – Tyler asked why she wasn't awarded points in her Eq. Classes at Dalton; Carissa told her they would not be given because the horse she rode was not registered with NPHA; Tyler pointed out the language at the top of the NPHA Application that states “. . . Riders in equitation divisions MUST be members; their horse and the horse's owner **do not** (emphasis added) need to be members.” Given that our Application states such language, Tyler (and anyone else) will be awarded equitation points even if the horse they rode was not registered with NPHA
- Lauren stated she has no intention of continuing as President after this year and Barb said she does not intend to continue as Recording Secretary either.

Next Meeting

- Date: Oct. 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Location? Barb will find location indoors. Brenda Pugh said she would monitor use of EMS building so hopefully, Barb can get that reserved. Mtg. was adjourned by consensus.