

**NVRHA**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**December 9, 2014**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

Dave Currin called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Members Present- Dave Currin, Bill Hauschildt, Paulette Marshall, Donna Stewart, Alecia Heinz, Cori Atteberry, Jay Henson, Stephany Siitari, Curtis Jones, Shane Bangerter.

Members Absent- Debbie Raymond, Channing Hawks, Dave McCollum.

Robin Mercer was present representing the Office.

**1. Minutes- Dave Currin for Debbie Raymond**

Dave Currin moved that the approval of the minutes be waived this meeting. He states that some of the information/decisions made at the last meeting are no longer valid now that Arizona and California are no longer affiliates and the rule changes will all be re-reviewed. Paulette Marshall was 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the motion carried.

**2. Treasurer's Report- Cori Atteberry – see attached.**

We have not yet paid for 2014 saddles, but Dave estimated a balance of between 22,000 – 24, 000 after all outstanding debts are paid.

Dave Currin asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Donna Stewart so moved and Paulette Marshall was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**3. Election of New Board Members**

Donna began by welcoming Stephany Siitari to the board. She is replacing Susan Heyvaert as the Northern Lights Affiliate leader representative and as such does not have to be voted in.

There are three nominees for the open board positions. These individuals are Sue Eisenman (MN), Deb Martin (MN), and Richard Cook (NM). Donna had emailed Bio's for all 3 to the BOD this past week.

Stephany spoke about the two ladies from Northern Lights stating their strengths as:  
Deb – works at an equine university, organizes events for large groups of people, strong parliamentary skills.

Sue – quiet, thoughtful student of horsemanship. Developed a very helpful spreadsheet of expenses/income that the Northern Lights group uses. Both of these candidates are members of the Northern Lights board.

Curtis spoke for Richard Cook stating that Richard was located in the central part of New Mexico and had access to a larger group of people there. He feels that Richard is enthusiastic and a lot to offer the organization.

Paulette made a motion to accept all three nominees as new board members and Cori was 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed. Donna will contact these people and congratulate them.

#### **4. Election of Officers**

The board was asked for nominations at the last meeting to fill open officer positions as follows:

President – outgoing: Dave Currin

Nominated: Jay Henson

Dave asked for a vote and Jay was accepted unanimously by all present.

Jay's Comments on accepting the presidency – It will take a year to get up to speed and he will rely heavily on Dave to help him. Jay expects full board participation and everyone is welcome to call him at any time to discuss issues or concerns. He expects board members to make decisions with the good of the national organization in mind. He also believes BOD members must stay positive, friendly and helpful whenever at a public event – any negative issues or problems can be discussed later in an appropriate setting.

Vice President – open position

Nominated: Donna Stewart

Dave asked for a vote and Donna was accepted unanimously by all present.

Secretary – Debbie Raymond, has agreed to continue in office for additional year.

Treasurer – outgoing: Carol Ackerman

Nominated: Cori Atteberry

Dave asked for a vote and Cori was accepted unanimously by all present.

The board thanked all those willing to accept the officer positions.

Executive Advisory Committee:

Bob Grant will be removed from this committee.

Per their wishes, both Bill Hauschildt and Shane Bangerter will be leaving the board of directors but will remain on Executive Advisory Committee.

Bill will continue to function as business manager for the NVRHA.

Shane will continue as legal counsel.

Both Bill and Shane expressed their willingness to serve in any needed capacity.

The board thanked them for their continued dedication and service.

#### Summary 2015 BOD:

Jay Henson	President
Donna Stewart	Vice President
Debbie Raymond	Secretary
Cori Atteberry	Treasurer
Stephany Siitari	Northern Lights Affiliate
Paulette Marshall	Colorado Affiliate
Curtis Jones	New Mexico Affiliate

Channing Hawks      South Central Affiliate  
Dave Currin            Executive Committee Chair  
Alecia Heinz  
Dave McCollum        College Liaison  
Sue Eisenman  
Deb Martin  
Richard Cook

Special Category: IT – Carrie Kliewer and Charlie Stewart

Retiring Board Members:

Carol Ackerman  
Susan Heyvaert – Continues on Executive Committee  
Bill Hauschildt – Continues on Executive Committee  
Shane Bangerter – Continues on Executive Committee

Resigning Board Members:

Becky Grant  
Bob Schubbe  
Jeff Heyer  
Maribeth Darras

Resigning Executive Committee:

Bob Grant

## **5. 2014 National Championship Summation – Jay Henson**

Jay, Channing, Paulette, Cori, Stephany, and Shane were the board members representing the national NVRHA group at the recent Finals Event in Queen Creek, AZ.

There were 48 total entries. The Limited Division was the largest. The Novice Division was low this year with only 9 participants. The World's Greatest VRH was also smaller than last year.

Jay stated that overall he felt the event "...went very well. Everyone was professional and congenial. There were winners from multiple affiliates. The banquet was nice, similar to last year. There was no live Auction, but they did the best they could without many donations. "

Both Jay and Paulette felt that many AZ/CA members, including the judges, did not know that the AZ/CA affiliates were leaving the NVRHA. There was surprise and disappointment from members who were hearing this. Jay states that because of these feelings, there is a high possibility that we can retap into AZ/CA areas in the future.

Financials were a wash - \$0.

It is the general consensus that we just move forward at this point.

## **6. 2015 National Championship Event Planning – Jay Henson**

It was the belief of all present that the National Association puts on the Finals event, not an individual Affiliate. The finals event will be a joint effort with each affiliate fulfilling a role or need to make the event a success.

There was discussion as to where the 2015 Finals should be held. Consensus was the Colorado would be the most central and logical location for the next year. Several possible venues were discussed:

Pueblo Fairgrounds – Jay spoke to Lindsay Wadhams and the Fairgrounds are available at the cost of \$900/day for all the arenas, intercoms in 2 arenas, office, drag, tractor driver, stalls \$15/nite, hookups \$30/nite. Cattle supplier will work a package deal with NVRHA. The weekend after the fair is available.

The Ranch in Loveland – Paulette spoke with them and this facility is available for \$810/day for the indoor arena and \$260/day for the outdoor arena. Additionally, all stalls must be paid for at (\$15/150 stalls).

Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock – Paulette is waiting for a return call from them, but feels as if securing a September date may be difficult.

Dave has asked Bill Hauschildt if he would consider being the event manager for the 2015 Finals. Bill agreed with the stipulation that the event be held at the Norris-Penrose event center where it has been in the past. Bill is not able to manage an event that is held outside of Colorado Springs. He has been in contact with

Norris-Penrose and they have agreed to lease their entire facility (arenas, stalls, banquet room), for the same price as 2013 of \$4000/weekend.

The dates of September 25 – 27 are available and upon agreement of the board, Bill will secure the dates.

Donna made the motion to accept Bill as Event Manager for the 2015 Finals and that it be held Sept 25-27, 2015, at Norris Penrose facility. Paulette was 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Planning will pursue in upcoming months.

## **7. Rundown - Donna Stewart**

It was agreed that there are funds available for a Winter Rundown and Donna will begin work on that. It will be a 2014-year in review as we have done in the past.

Donna stated that we had no agreement with the photographer at the Finals event this year to provide us the complete photo disc as has been done in the past. Shane agreed to speak with the photographer, Ann Mulchay, about that. Meanwhile, Donna will get a complete list of winners from the office and contact individuals for photos.

The group discussed each level 2 affiliate providing \$500 in advertisements for this issue. Ads can be sold by or purchased by the affiliate.

### Ad Pricing:

The Rundown is an all color publication. No B&W pricing is available.

Inside front or back cover (available only in full page only) \$350 (Discount \$50 per issue if purchased for 3 issues/year)

Full page	\$300
Half page	\$200
Quarter page	\$100

## **8. Rule Changes**

Dave started the discussion on reviewing rule changes that the board made in August. Several decisions were made based on requests from the AZ/CA affiliate board members. Dave thinks we need to revisit these and decide which to keep and which to rescind. It is understood that this might be a time consuming process requiring multiple meetings, email discussion, etc., in the following months.

## **9. Amateur and Open Division Restructure Proposal**

This proposal was submitted by Dave and sent via email to all BOD members prior to this meeting. **See attached.**

Dave gave a brief overview of the proposal and stated that it was created to insure the growth and progression of the NVRHA while preserving the original mission. Part of the proposal is the idea of teaming with AQHA to offer several joint events in 2015. Stephany asked how that would help NVRHA meet its goals. Dave responded that we would stay true to our goals of education and fun, but joint ventures with AQHA would allow us to offer a different and more challenging program to our more advanced members. There is also a potential financial benefit in drawing AQHA versatility participants to the NVRHA. He explained that it is important for NVRHA to 'stay ahead of the curve' as things are changing quickly within similar organizations.

When asked if this partnership might be detrimental to the current program, Jay replied that it does not detract from NVRHA in any way and has no impact on NVRHA only members. Donna agreed by stating there is nothing taken away from the NVRHA program, only added opportunity to those who may want it. As always, membership and financial stability are driving factors in the survivability of the organization. We are hoping to attract new members and retain our more experienced members who have left the program, by offering new challenges in an updated format.

Other related issues included brief discussion on what to do with the Conformation class – keep the new format, revert to the original format, or make it optional. There will be further discussion on this issue. Paulette remarked that she would like to revisit her original proposal for the Conformation class submitted last year. She will email a copy of that to all board members.

Stephany asked how the professional advisory group might be utilized in these types of discussions. Jay answered that the board has disregarded suggestions of the professional advisory group in the past, but he is willing to continue bringing issues to the group.

There was preliminary discussion on how the restructuring proposal might impact championship points, scores, and awards. It was decided that these are all lengthy and involved issues and to give the affiliate chairs time to meet with their boards and discuss concerns and ideas. Those ideas will be submitted to the office by January 9th. At that point, Dave suggested that the Executive Advisory Committee will digest and organize the ideas into an expedited format that can be brought before the entire board for discussion. That meeting will be held on Saturday, January 24, at 9am and will likely be lengthy. Included will be the readdressing of all August rule changes. Cori will be compiling all changes for the new rulebook and that process is expected to take a minimum of one month. The goal is to have the new rulebook out to membership and on the website by March 2015.

## **10. Tentative Event Schedule**

All the affiliates are working on their event dates for 2015.

Colorado: Paulette mentioned that the Spicer Event we have had in June, will be replaced by a new event in Lamar the weekend of June 6/7.

New Mexico: Curtis stated they have hopes of 3 separate events in NM next year. Lavert Avent is planning an event at the Black Willow Ranch in Watrous in June.

Dolly Wallace is planning her event in Bosque Farms area July 18/19.

Curtis is planning an event August 8/9 at the Hashknife Ranch to be held in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cowboy Reunion (associated with the Rough Riders).

Of note, Curtis told us that Ms. Judith McBean (owner of the Piojo Ranch in Watrous and generous hostess of several past NVRHA events) has recently passed away. He noted that her daughter is taking over the ranch and hopes there is an interest in continuing a relationship with the NVRHA.

## **11. Miscellaneous Business**

Paulette voiced concern over the role of executive advisory committee. She wanted to know the intent of the committee and raised questions about the decision making process amongst the executive advisory board and the BOD. She expressed her feeling that the executive advisory group made the decisions and then told the board how to proceed. Dave countered with the fact that the committee functions in an advisory capacity and makes proposals to the board for discussion. All decision-making capacity is decided by a vote of the board. Donna reiterated the executive committee 'job description' from the rulebook, page 51.

Stephany added that it would be optimal to have a more defined leadership model.

Paulette then expressed concerns about the advisability of Susan Heyvaert continuing to serve on the executive advisory committee. She questioned Susan's ability to remain unbiased and committed to the goals of NVRHA. She stated that Susan's close ties with Arizona, after the decision of that group to leave the NVRHA, are concerning to her. Donna

agreed to call Susan, discuss these concerns, and determine if Susan intends to stay on the executive advisory group.

The board congratulates Dave Currin on his selection as Horseman of the Year for 2014!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be January 24 at 0900.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stewart (in the absence of Debbie Raymond)

President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**To do list: Donna**

1. Send welcome and congratulations letter to new board members. Invite them to the January meeting - this will be done by email.
2. Sent letters of appreciation for service to:  
Dave Currin - outgoing president  
Carol Ackerman - retiring BOD member, outgoing treasurer  
Bill and Shane - leaving BOD to serve on Executive Advisory Committee  
Donna will write these and Robin will send them out on NVRHA letterhead via the postal service.

**Future agenda items:**

Dave/Donna - Design poster for 2015 Finals promotion.

December 6, 2014  
Greetings BOD –

This comes to you prior to the December 9<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting in an effort to allow you time to think about several items that will be up for discussion.

Jay, Donna, and I have been talking about potential opportunities for the NVRHA brought about by recent changes in our structure and the larger ranch horse versatility community. We have a chance to restructure our platform to make it stronger and keep it in step with the evolution of other ranch horse programs.

There are several things to think about.

1. Our Novice Program is a huge success. Because of everyone's hard work in the past several years, this entry-level division is thriving and growing. The same can be said for the Limited Division. That is not the case with our Amateur and Open Divisions. Attendance is dwindling and we would like to make an effort to reverse that trend. Let's start by making these divisions more challenging and more interesting. By ramping up the demands, we also offer a level of education to more accomplished riders that is not available now.

2. We have been approached by several Open riders to devise a means by which they could earn Championship points leading to a category of achievement awards for Open Horse/Rider teams. These riders are either showing horses for clients who want titles put on their horses and for a variety of reasons are not able to do so themselves, or are open riders who intend to sell their horses and feel that an NVRHA title would increase their salability. Both of these changes have been addressed in the attached proposals for discussion.

Lastly, we have been approached by the AQHA to join with them in promoting both of our associations at several combined events. This opportunity may help us solve the problem of keeping amateurs, and drawing Open riders, to our organization by allowing them to cross-over at NVRHA events to gain AQHA points on their horses and qualify for a higher level of AQHA event. We feel there is a way to partner with AQHA while keeping our program pure for the Novice level riders as well as those NVRHA members who do not wish to participate in AQHA.

Please be open minded in considering these ideas, realizing that making changes to grow our program, and associating with other organizations will benefit us and can be done without losing our identity as the premier amateur ranch horse organization.

Thanks, Dave

## AMATEUR AND OPEN DIVISION RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

Much attention has been given by the Executive Advisory Committee on how to breathe new life in the new Amateur Division (recently combined Intermediate and Advanced) and the Open Division. After extensive discussion, a proposed remedy has been suggested. This proposal needs further development, but the preliminary idea is being presented for Board consideration.

The Novice and Limited Divisions have enjoyed considerable success over the last several years, so care must be taken to not impact those Divisions in any significant way. The more advanced divisions have reduced significantly in participation. We are not achieving our NVRHA established goals of “*Education and Fun*” for all of our members – a new direction is urgently needed.

As we have essentially divided our participation into Novice and Limited/Amateur with the 225 score separating the two, we no longer need to require all level classes to be the same pattern, etc., or the same level of difficulty. I.e., we can change the level of difficulty in Limited, Amateur and Open without impacting Novice.

If we change the level of difficulty, Year-End Awards, which are based on Placement Points, would not be impacted. Champion Points (reward for Level of Achievement) would be, but this can be worked without any negative impact. In fact, this proposal would have a positive impact.

### Proposal

- Make no changes in the Novice Division except possibly returning to the lineup in conformation with participation optional.
- The Board has already approved combining the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions.
- For the new Amateur Division, Limited Division, and Open Division, adopt the following:
  1. It is suggested to give Event Managers the choice of having Cutting either: (1) as it currently exists, **OR** (2) the rider cuts a numbered cow first followed by cutting an unnumbered cow with two herd holders and two turn-back riders to be utilized. The event would be timed. The purpose of suggesting (2) is to teach our members how to read cows and be turn-back riders. It would be similar to the Event Manager choosing patterns – 1 or 2.
  2. In order to continue with “*Education*” for riders who have participated in NVRHA for some time and have become bored, develop new patterns for Riding which would incorporate a lead change or simple lead change, a trail obstacle, and other difficult maneuvers for a fun, interesting and more challenging class for the more advanced riders.
  3. Add additional obstacles to Trail and make current mandatory activities such as bridle drop, dismount, pickup feet, etc., optional.
  4. Keep the Working Ranch as is.
  5. Reinstigate the lineup in Conformation yet do not require participation. Base points on the number of horses participating in performance classes.
  6. Amateur and Limited horses would be required to participate in all performance classes.
  7. Horse/rider teams, regardless of Division, are allowed to “ride up” into the Open Division. Amateur and Limited horse/rider teams would work only once and Novice horses would work twice because of the difference in patterns.
  8. Open Division would be al la carte (can participate in one or all classes).
  9. Open Division fees would be by class with amounts set at levels that would cover all costs (office fees, participant fees, cattle, judges, awards, etc.). Probably in the range of \$50 per class with a cattle charge as appropriate or a flat fee for all five classes based on budget.

## Division Attributes

### A. Novice Division.

1. Novice Division is currently working well thus no change in the basic procedures.
2. Allows a Novice rider to earn Champion Points at a level commensurate with "Level of Achievement" of other Divisions. This will serve as an incentive for participation and advancement.
3. Novice Division riders may choose to stay with current "individual conformation" program or convert to "line up" with voluntary participation.
4. Highly qualified horse/rider teams in a specific class will be motivated to participate in the "a la carte" Open Division. This will extend participation and promote "*Education and Fun.*"

### B. Amateur Division.

1. Will be more challenging when the cutting, riding and trail classes are adjusted up in level difficulty. This will enhance "*Education and Fun*" and encourage participation.
2. With the increased difficulty of the advanced classes, more Champion Points will be available on a 3-to-1 ratio versus the current 5-to-1 ratio. The Placement Point system will not change. This will further encourage participation of Amateur riders and encourage progression of Novice riders to elevate into the Amateur Division. In the future, as the Amateur Division grows, the Board may choose to return to the 5-to-1 ratios.
3. The voluntary Confirmation lineup system will insure the correct placing of the horses entering the class. Consideration could be given to basing the Year End Awards on Performance Classes Only. This does not detract from the importance of conformation, as conformation Champion Points would be required for Ranch Horse Championship Awards.

### C. Open Division.

1. The "a la carte" Open Division will provide an avenue for participation by the following:
  - Exceptional Novice Riders
  - Amateur and Limited Riders
  - Other non-NVRHA riders who do not choose to attend clinics (just want to compete). They would be required to join NVRHA to be eligible for Champion Points.
2. This Division will earn Champion Points but on a more difficult 5-to-1 ratio.
3. Use of pay back on a voluntary basis would further enhance participation.
4. The Open Division would be self supporting – entry fees larger than Novice, Limited or Amateur Divisions to cover expenses.
5. Year End Awards would be awarded in each class but only when participation warrants.
6. This new Open Division would grow over time easing financial strain for Event Managers and NVRHA.