



## ILLINOIS QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 2009

Mark Niebrugge counted members and determined a quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m. with 54 members present. LeaAnn Koch made a motion to approve the minutes from the Jan. 2008 general membership meeting. Mindy Riden seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Financial report:** The balance in the general fund at the end of Dec. was \$13,000. In general the organization showed a loss for the year. IQHA needs to make some changes in the funding of the general fund. The new treasurer, Brian Jallas, will look at our financials and make some recommendations. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mark Niebrugge. Ed Lawrence seconded the motion, which was approved.

**IQHRA Report:** Gene Allen made a report providing financial information for the Race Association. Their general fund had \$1129 and the purse equity had \$1452. In 2008 there were 4 races at Fairmount with a total purse of \$25000. At Hawthorne there were several races in the spring & fall with a total of \$50,000 in purses. Races had been scheduled in the winter but they were cancelled due to weather. Seven county fair races were held with a total purse of \$14,000. The purses had increased greatly in 2008. More races are planned for 2009. Information will be placed on the website pertaining to the races and purses.

**Youth:** The number of entries at the Youth World Show increased in 2008. The contest teams brought home World Championships and Reserve Championships. A youth spotlight section was instituted in the Yearling. The new youth advisors for 2009 are Tammy & Paul Rogers. Kelsey Stangebye is the youth president for 2009.

Some committee reports were not presented due to time constraints at the meeting.

**Convention Committee:** Mark Niebrugge gave a report on the convention activities, recognizing others for their assistance. He particularly thanked Pam Sigler for her help. LeaAnn Koch and Cheryl LaMaster organized the awards. Paul & Tammy Rogers were working with the youth and the judging clinic. A Professional Horseman round table will take place Saturday afternoon. A cocktail hour to recognize world champion exhibitors/placers from IQHA members will start at 5 p.m. Hall of Fame inductees will be presented at the banquet. Awards, fun & games will after the meal. Mark also thanked the convention staff for their assistance and asked others to do the same.

**Amateur Committee:** Gene Allen recognized some amateurs for their ideas and the growth he had seen in this committee over the past year. The co-chairs for 2009 will be Mindy Riden, Barb Gibson, and Doug Ronk.

**Division 1 Futurity:** Cheryl LaMaster reported for 2008 that 54 horses entered futurity classes, with a total of 69 entries. The total purse payout was \$38,149. As of January 2009, there are 29 two year olds and 16 three years old that are eligible.

**New Futurity:** Chris Arentsen reported on the upcoming changes in how the stallions would be sold in the future. Mark Niebrugge covered the changes in the purse distribution which will place more purse money in the closed division. Connie McLaughlin reported that there were 86 weanling foal entries with a \$14000 payout in 2008. The SSA in 2008 sold 56 breedings. The stallion auction will change to just one auction

before the banquet for next year. Stallion owners will have an opportunity to advertise their stallions prior to the auction.

**Website:** The website was redesigned using grant money from AQHA. The association is trying to put up more information for the members. Suggestions for new areas should be directed to Cheryl LaMaster.

**Yearling:** Gene Allen commented that the new edition looks quite nice. Kandi Lane and Connie McLaughlin reported that they had changed printers. The Yearling has had \$5700 in printing expenses this year for a total of \$8164 in expenses. There will be an auction for the cover of the directory issue at the banquet. Hall of Fame information will be in the Yearling. Gene added that everyone is a reporter for the Yearling.

**AQHA Update:** The convention will be March 6-9 in San Antonio. The hot topic seems to be cloning.

**Recreational Riding:** Ed Lawrence reported the number of riders increased by 200% over the previous year. Revisions have been made in the horseback riding program. The trail ride was better attended than the previous year and showed a profit. Prizes for riding hours have been implemented. A social network for trail riders has been started.

**Membership:** In 2008 the membership increased 25%, which exceeded the goal indicated on the association AIM plan.

**Old Business:** Johnne Dobbs suggested that the association investigate instituting an executive committee to oversee the organization. She said the idea had been previously suggested but not implemented. NSBA uses this concept and uses conference calls to keep information flowing.

**New Business:** Gene commented that the association is supposed to look at its districts periodically to see that the districts have equal membership numbers. He also proposed a membership drive with the member who recruited the most new members to receive \$50. The drive would end in March. Dawn Yuhask asked about participation in the farm progress shows. AQHA had not participated in the Iowa show due to budget cuts and might not participate in an Illinois one either. Johnne Dobbs asked that the Board look at different funding methods in order to better fund our general fund. She felt the Board should look into the funding issue. Ed Lawrence responded that although some accounts are in better shape than others, the organization is solvent and not in financial trouble. Bill Ford suggested that the Hall of Fame information be posted in a section of the website.

A motion to adjourn was made by Cherylann Easley at 11:50 a.m. Mark Niebrugge seconded the motion.