

**Area VII Shetland Pony & Miniature Horse Assoc. Inc.**

General Membership Meeting

February 11, 2017

Round Table Pizza, Vacaville

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**Attendance**

**Officers:**

Robert Blackwell

Susan Browning-Wroe

Michele Nelson

Nancy Turner

**Members Present:**

none

**Guests:**

none

*Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm*

**Roll Call**

Vice President Linda Anastasio and Director Dennis Haney absent.

Linda is out of town visiting family, and Dennis is dealing with weather-related problems on his property.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Michele called for proposed changes to the minutes. No changes proposed. Motion to approve by Robert, second by Nancy. Minutes approved.

**President's Report (Susan Browning-Wroe)**

Susan thanked the club for the wonderful flowers and said they lasted until Christmas!

**Secretary's Report (Michele Nelson)**

There was some confusion about who should create the meeting agenda. In the future, Susan will send her agenda items to Michele the week before the scheduled meeting. Michele will add to the meeting announcement email that people should contact her if they want to add items to the agenda. Michele will create the agenda, email a copy to Susan, and bring printed copies to the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report (Michele Nelson)**

Checking account balance as of 2/11/17: \$8570.23

Petty cash balance: \$426.13

Total assets: \$8996.36

Outstanding deposits: \$1030

Anticipated expenses:

Annual Insurance Premium (due in April): \$475.00

Misc. office supplies: \$30

Purchase of DVD/MP3 player: \$100

**National Director Report (Julie Mabie)**

Not present.

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**Website/Newsletter Report (Michele Nelson)**

Michele said she didn't have much to report. Susan asked when the deadline for the next issue is. Michele looked it up and reported that Sunday, February 19 is the next deadline.

**Show Committee Report (Michele Nelson, Susan Browning-Wroe, and Robert Blackwell)****Discussion**

Nancy had suggested at the last meeting that we consider charging a flat rate entry fee. We did not discuss this and the premium has been submitted, but we should discuss this for next year.

Nancy didn't know about the "show dough" since she was unable to attend last year. Michele explain how it works—first- and second-place in all classes (except championships and stakes) will receive "show dough" worth \$2 for first place and \$1 for second place. If they wish, they can exchange this for a ribbon. The show dough can be redeemed for cash at the show office.

**Judges**

Rinda has hired Dennis Dean and Sami Scheuring.

**Premium**

Rinda has sent it to the national office for approval.

**Hotel**

Susan contacted the LaQuinta Inn & Suites in Rancho Cordova. They will give us a 10-room block:

5 double Standard: \$91.80 plus tax

5 single Queen: \$85.50 plus tax

Reservations must be made by March 31, and any unused rooms will be removed from the block. No discount outside our block.

Breakfast and wifi included. Pet friendly.

Michele expressed concern about the size of the rooms. Rinda is bringing her crew and has requested a double Queen for the three of them. Michele explained that last year the host hotel was the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Rancho Cordova. They gave us a 10-room block:

5 King/Double Queen (for staff) \$79 plus tax

5 King/Double Queen (for exhibitors) \$89 plus tax.

Once we filled our block, they extended the \$89 discount to anyone who was with our show.

Susan offered to call them, remind them we were there last year, and see what they can offer us.

**Saturday Night BBQ and Staff Meals**

Heidi Arao is negotiating with Murieta. The food concession/catering there has changed since last year, and the food service operation formerly known as Kathleen's Cook Shack is now under the management of The Murieta Hospitality Group, the management company of The Murieta Inn and Spa. The Cook Shack has been renamed Murieta Café.

We've been told the cafe will be open for breakfast and lunch during our event, and the location near the arena will be open this year (last year, they were down at the cutting pens all weekend). We'll get staff meals from the cafe. Heidi is talking to them about pricing and also about possibly catering our Saturday night BBQ.

Michele said that a lot of people felt that \$15 per person was too much for the BBQ, and said she would like to charge \$10 and the club would pay the difference unless we can find a sponsor. But if the catering is too expensive, we might not be able to have the BBQ this

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year. Nancy asked if we could buy a bunch of pizzas or something. Michele said that no outside food vendors are allowed, but if we went out and bought pizza and didn't charge for it, it would probably be OK.

There will be coffee, tea, and pastries for the show staff on Saturday and Sunday morning in the office. Susan will bring the supplies, and the club will reimburse her for expenses. Last year, lots of people came barging into the show office and helped themselves. Michele thinks that Rinda knows how to keep folks out of the office.

Robert and Susan will also provide the snacks and drinks for the judges. They have also offered to gussy up the center ring this year.

### **Music**

Mark Nelson will announce again this year, and he has done some research on portable DVD/MP3 players so we can provide music during the show as well as for the Liberty classes. He found a Sony model that has Bluetooth, a USB port (for thumb drives) a port for connecting to mobile devices, and a line out that can be connected to the PA in the announcer's booth. The cost for this is \$99 plus tax. This expense was approved at a previous meeting.

### **Obstacles and Jumps**

Kim Sweatt has offered to loan us her equipment, and Jacob and Rich have offered to pick it up and return it. Michele said we have copies of all of Kim's courses from 2016. Since those classes didn't have many entries (there were no entries in any of the hunter/jumper classes) we can use these courses again.

### **Ribbons**

Michele announced that Cynthia Villarimo has given us a \$1,000 sponsorship for ribbons. Michele has the ribbons at her house and has been going through them to see what is usable. A lot of the ribbons are left over from the Area National shows we did in 2008 and 2009, and the badges are rusting. Michele explained that if we bought a full set of ribbons (times two) for all of the classes on the schedule, the cost would be over \$4,000, plus approximately \$300 for shipping. Michele said she is going to try to come up with a realistic plan for ribbons at a cost of \$1,500. She will report to the Show Committee via email.

### **Sponsorship**

Michele said that Chris Caringello has donated some products for the goody bags. Michele has contacted Eqyss to ask if they will donate some samples again this year. Michele said we have 100 bags to fill and she would like to have more stuff to put into the bags.

Michele handed out sponsorship information sheets, forms, and programs from last year. She said that as soon as the premium is released, she will make sure the sponsorship information is posted on the club's Web site and on Facebook.

### **Program**

There will be a program again this year, which will include ads from our sponsors as well as the full schedule. It will be printed by Robert and Susan on their office printer, and will have plastic spiral binding. Michele brought a sample. Michele will donate the paper, and the club will reimburse Susan and Robert approx. \$100 for printer ink. This saves the club about \$300 in print costs. We agreed to get together on Saturday, April 1, at Robert and Susan's school in Citrus Heights to assemble and bind the booklets.

**Election for Directors**

Two directors were on the ballots that were sent out in December. The ballots were counted today by Robert Blackwell and Michele Nelson.

Jacob Elliott: 29 votes

Nancy Turner: 22 votes

Jacob was elected for a 2-year term of office : 2017-2019

Nancy was elected for a 1-year term of office: 2017-2018

**New Business****Obstacle Clinic with Kim Sterchi**

Susan noted watching the R Nationals and A Worlds and seeing that the courses were really difficult. She thinks it would be a good idea to have a clinic with different and more challenging obstacles. There would be a clinic in the morning (auditors welcome), then practice in the afternoon. She is thinking that the "morning teach" would be one price, and the afternoon practice session would be a separate price. People would have the option to bundle the morning and afternoon sessions.

Nancy suggested that this clinic be combined with something else that would attract more people. Robert, Susan, and Michele like the idea of focusing on one discipline.

Date and location TBD. Susan is looking into a new arena that just opened, and there are some other options to be considered.

**Schooling Show**

We have tentatively scheduled a schooling show for Saturday, October 7, location TBA. Some ideas are Heather Farm (Walnut Creek), Ranchotel, Sacramento Horsemen's Arena, and a place in Los Gatos that Susan has heard something about. This will be discussed among the Show Committee after the California Classic.

**Next Meeting**

Because of the busy show season, our next meeting probably won't be until August. It would be nice to have another summer picnic, but the weather can be a problem. Susan would like to have an Ice Cream Social, and will scout some indoor locations. Sacramento Horsemen's Association is one possibility.

Motion to adjourn was made by Michele and seconded by Robert. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Michele Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Area VII SP&MHA

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