

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

General Membership Meeting

January 16, 2016

Applebee's Restaurant, Livermore, CA

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Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by President Nancy Turner

### **Officers Present**

Nancy Turner, President

Julie Mabie, Vice President

Michele Nelson, Treasurer

Gail Byrnes, Director

Absent: Linda Anastasio, Secretary; Pat Anastasio, Director; Jim Curry, Director

### **Members Present**

Richard Erickson

Jacob Elliott

Vicki Killfoil

Jim Killfoil

Susan Browning-Wroe

Robert Blackwell

Daniel Benner

### **General Notes**

There was an excellent return of the ballots mailed out for our 2016 election of officers. Julie Mabie and Daniel Benner counted the ballots.

Vicki Killfoil brought some of her beautiful "bling" halters for sale, proceeds to go to the club.

Gail Byrnes brought consignment items for sale. Sales totalled \$196, and the club gets half of that.

### **Secretary's Report**

Linda Anastasio was not present, so the minutes of the last meeting were not presented for approval.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Michele Nelson did not have a printed report to distribute, but she reported the club currently has approx. \$7,200 in the checking account, and there is a deposit pending. She will send a financial statement to the Board after the bank statement comes in next week.

### **Web site/Facebook/Newsletter Reports**

**Web site:** Michele reported that there is now a Web page up for the California Classic, and it will be updated regularly as more information become available. The proposed class list will be posted there in the next day or two.

**Facebook:** Michele is using social media to promote the show, including Facebook and iEquine.

**Newsletter:** Michele reported that the next newsletter deadline is February 14, and she encouraged everyone in the room to contribute. People like hearing about what other people are doing. Nancy explained how the "Ask An Expert" feature works and asked people to submit questions to her.

**APPROVED**

**Area VII National Director Report**

Julie Mabie reported that the new people in the national office are working out well. She asked for comments about The Journal, and Gail pointed out that our club email address and Web site URL are still incorrect in the club listing pages even though it's been reported several times. Michele responded that she is sending in the renewal next week—she was waiting until the new officers were voted in—and will ask them once again to correct this. Julie reported that the National association is working on getting the class divisions to be more uniform between AMHR and Classic. Lots of classes are optional, but it would be nice to offer the same classes to both breeds.

There are two new HoF levels, Gold and Silver. This has been put into place so that once you achieve your HoF, there is another goal to reach. The Silver level will require twice as many points, including Grands, as the basic HoF. The Gold level will require triple the number of points.

The 2016 Convention will be in El Paso, TX. There is a good chance the it will be in Area VII in 2017. Las Vegas and Santa Clara are under consideration. Julie is in favor of Santa Clara because it's very easy to fly into San Francisco or San Jose.

Julie also reminded us that the National office has resumed the running of our annual Convention. It was too big a burden for a local club.

Julie said that she is seeing increased interest in ponies recently, and hopes to see more of them in the show ring going forward. She also explained a bit about what a National director is. There are two for each area, one Shetland seat and one Open seat. Julie has the Shetland seat, and Eric Tani in southern California has just assumed the Open seat, which Jim Curry had for a number of years.

To qualify to run for office, members need to attend two Conventions in the last five years. To qualify to run for the Shetland seat, a member needs to have owned more ponies than minis in the past five years. Officers put in a lot of (volunteer) time. They travel to Board meetings and Convention. Their travel and hotel are paid by the Association, but they often don't see much other than the inside of the hotel.

Julie ended by reminding everyone that her job is to answer questions from members and address their concerns, and added that the best way to contact her is via email: [whisperponyjulie@gmail.com](mailto:whisperponyjulie@gmail.com).

**Old Business****Events: Report on California Classic from Gail Byrnes**

We are doing well, but we still need sponsorships. Gail asked if the Norco show was still scheduled the same weekend as our show. Jacob confirmed that it is. We're not thrilled, since our date has been public for a long time, but Julie pointed out that the southern California club faces the same challenges we do—availability of a suitable facility.

Gail reported that the proposed class list will be distributed for comment before it's sent to the National office for approval. The Committee is working on arranging a BBQ on Saturday night. Gail has sent out a lot of letters to sponsors. Area VII members can sponsor classes for \$20—the non-member price is \$30. We still need to work on what to do about prizes for champions. A site visit to the Murieta Equestrian Center is planned for Saturday, February 13 at 11 am. Everyone is welcome. The Show Committee will meet at a local restaurant after the on-site.

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We have our judges and our ASPC Steward for the show. Michele has written contracts for Maryan Baker (Steward) and Laurie Villalpando (Judge) and sent them to Gail. Gail said that Kim will be driving and has asked for \$55 for mileage. Michele was waiting for this info, so she will finish Kim's contract and send it to Gail.

Gail said that the least expensive flight for Laurie is in and out of Oakland, and asked if anyone might be able to provide transportation for her. No one at this meeting can help, so Gail is going to continue to research flights for Laurie.

Gail and Madelyn Blanton will organize a silent auction. Good quality items are needed.

### **New Business**

**Election Results:** Julie Mabie and Daniel Benner counted the ballots. The results were:

- President: Susan Browning-Wroe (2-year term)
- Vice-President: Linda Anastasio (2-year term)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Michele Nelson (2-year term)
- Director 1: Robert Blackwell (2-year term)
- Director 2: Dennis Haney (1-year term)

Note: Nancy Turner was the third candidate for Director. Gail Byrnes is currently a Director, and this is the last year of her two-year term. She is relocating to the east coast in the spring, and will resign her position on our Board when she leaves. Nancy Turner will join the Board to finish Gail's term of office.

At this time, our outgoing President Nancy Turner turned over the meeting to our new President, Susan Browning-Wroe. Michele suggested that we thank Nancy for all of her hard work, reminding everyone that being the President of this club is not an easy job.

Michele Nelson asked for a motion to renew our club membership with the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek. The cost is \$50. We joined last year, partly because member clubs get a discount on arena rental at Heather Farm Park, but also to support them because we want the arenas at Heather Farm Park to remain arenas for equestrian events. Moved, seconded, and passed.

Julie Mabie suggested that the election ballots be shredded and not saved. Since there is documentation listing the number of votes everyone received, signed and dated by Julie and Daniel, there is no real point in retaining all these little bits of paper. Moved, seconded, passed.

Nancy Turner announced that the Western State Horse Expo will take place June 10-12 in Sacramento, and asked about our club having a booth there. Susan responded that she has a lot of experience running a booth at the Expo, and that it has become prohibitively expensive, and in the last couple of years it has been badly managed.

### **Next Meeting**

It was suggested that our next General Membership meeting be held after the show, so we can have a follow-up Show Committee meeting at the same time. Vicki Killfoil offered to host. After some discussion, Saturday, May 21 was the date we agreed on. The Show Committee will meet at 11:00 am, and the General Membership meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. We thank the Killfoils for hosting us again.

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Someone asked if we should send a postcard announcing this meeting. There was discussion about the cost, and Michele estimated \$100 for printing and mailing. Jacob suggested printing the postcard and handing it out at the California Classic. [Sorry, I can't remember if there was a motion for this.]

**Norcal Show Dates**

Since so many of our members are also NorCal members and show AMHA minis, we need to list their show dates on our Web calendar:

- April 2-3: Rolling Hills Equestrian Center
- May 14-15: Brookside Equestrian Park
- June 10: Santa Rosa (AMHR)
- June 11-12: Santa Rosa (AMHA)
- July 22-24: Western Regionals in Reno

Meeting Adjourned 3:06 pm



Michele Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Area VII SP&MHA

**APPROVED**