

## **EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA HORSEMAN'S ASSOICATION**

**January 6, 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Tiffany Markstrom, Shelbey Smith , Carie Decker, Teresa Pollard, Jennifer Sherlund, Starr Brown, Ben Sherlund, Amanda Gil

**Members:** Stephanie McConnell, Angela McConnell, Tracey Laitinen, Alanna Wojnaroski

**Absent:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:48pm by Tiffany Markstrom.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Carie Decker **motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for November 2023.** Seconded by Ben Sherlund. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

### **Management Report**

Current checkbook balance as of 12/31/23 is \$896.04. All awards and bills have been deducted. December hasn't been reconciled because December statements weren't out yet. Only change is the interest added from the CD, which occurs every month.

Shelbey Smith **motioned to approve the Management Report for September 2023.** Seconded by Jennifer Sherlund. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

#### **In Kind Lease/Grant**

Tabled until February

#### **Stall/Haul In Deposit**

Tabled until February when we go over the showbill.

### **UPHA**

Tiffany Markstrom doesn't believe that UPHA is willing to sanction with EUPHA. She wants to discuss options for the 2024 show season.

Move the EUPHA July weekend

After discussion, it was decided that it would be a horrible idea for EUPHA to change their show dates. We've had them posted for months, we'd look like a joke, and it would likely make local members upset.

Sanction only one show

After discussion, it was decided that it wasn't feasible to sanction one show. It would be highly unlikely that any UPHA members would travel for that show when they have 5 options in their area.

Let them cool off a year and revisit for 2025.

After discussion it was decided that EUPHA would test the waters about sanctioning in the fall before their "suggestion" meeting.

UPHA has changed their age groups back to 13 and under, 14 to 25, and 26 and over. All present at the meeting couldn't understand why, these age groups make no sense and it wouldn't be fair for a 14 year old to compete with 25 year olds.

Discussion about not sanctioning with UPHA brought the discussion about where we want to go with EUPHA to bring more members/exhibitors so we can continue to offer the awards and prizes we do. Records show that half the 2023 members came from the west end or downstate.

Teresa Pollard brought up sanctioning with AQHA for a “introductory show.” The classes could run concurrently with what is on the showbill and wouldn’t add much to that. One person would have to do the paperwork to be sent to AQHA and Teresa volunteered to do that. Tiffany Markstrom added that we should make the AQHA youth classes free. All present thought that was a great idea.

There is a new APHA circuit and they have been willing to co-host open shows. Tiffany thinks it may be too late in the year to try and do it for 2024 but she is going to reach out to the president. But it could be a great option for 2025.

Teresa Pollard also brought up potentially testing the water with NWMHA, out of Gaylord, to see if something mutually beneficial to each club. For example, have at least one show be required to be

Another option discussed would be extra jackpot money into speed classes to help draw some of the speed people back. Also, added money to pleasure classes for a “in memory” of.

We could hit the sponsors hard again but it was brought up at the same time we don’t want to overextend with them.

Another possible way to save money would be to hold our clinic weekends elsewhere. Possibly Stalwart.

### **Tack Sale**

Shelbey Smith reported that Rudyard would be \$150 with a \$100 cleaning deposit that we would get back, Bruce Township doesn’t allow sales, and a court at LSSU would be free. LSSU would be great but it could be hard for people bringing items to get them to the court we would get. Rudyard is the best option. Shelbey is going to figure out how many tables and what will fit best. Jennifer Sherlund made a **motion to have a Tack Sale on March 2, 2024 from 10am to 3pm at Rudyard Township.** Seconded by Carie Decker. All in Favor. Motion Carried. People that purchase tables will be able to be in the building by 8am for set up.

### **Clinicians**

Tiffany didn’t want to proceed with booking clinicians until we decided what was happening with UPHA.

- Pleasure
  - Tiffany Markstrom will reach out to Morgan Lantz tomorrow and try to get her booked.
- Ranch
  - After discussion a speed clinic would be better suited than a Ranch riding. Tiffany is going to reach out to Lexie Hall out of Powers.

### **Judges**

With the discussion about an Introductory AQHA show, Tiffany is going to see if Elaine Page and Jennifer Sawyer can switch to July. If not, we will get AQHA carded judges for June. The first two that she will reach out to are Tim Abler and Gayle Lampinen.

We will also need a judge for the one day show in August.

### **Trail Equipment**

We do need more poles. It was decided to table until February’s meeting.

## **New Business**

### **Election**

This was the closest election we have seen in over a decade. All positions had write ins except for Treasurer (Sorry Carie!). A few positions were decided on by one vote. The results are as follows:

2024 EUPHA Board

President – Tiffany Markstrom

Vice President – Shelbey Smith

Treasurer – Carie Decker

Secretary – Teresa Pollard

Trustees - Jennifer Sherlund

Amanda Gil

Starr Brown

Ben Sherlund

### **Suggestions from the Membership**

We placed suggestion cards on the tables to be filled out during the banquet. We are happy that we did receive some suggestions.

Scale Down Speed Classes

A suggestion during this discussion was to have a rotating “special” class. That was agreed to be a good option. Teresa Pollard asked if we could bring back “Indian Pickup” and was immediately shot down. (HAHAHA)

Remove Ranch Riding and Reining.

This is a definite option since we don’t have to mirror UPHA’s showbill. The numbers weren’t good also.

Remove Halter classes

We could remove/combine a few but we pretty much have it at the core halter classes. We will be removing Solid Color.

Keep all Walk Trot Classes

Keep the blanket fee it makes it affordable to show as a family.

Bring back Sunday payback.

Unfortunately we would have to severely raise our prices to do this. Plus we don’t have the numbers to make it possible.

Look at other associations to build with. Gaylord/TC are closer than Escanaba

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Allow loading/unloading by the main barn without issues/announcements. The sand is too deep.

This caused issues over the season, for the people who get inside stalls, it was not fair to allow them to park vertically by the barn because of outside stalls. We discussed First Come/First Serve, no parking at all by the barn or coming up with a paid VIP parking along the barn. This will be discussed further during the February meeting.

### **Lifetime Member Inductions**

During the banquet, we also had a ballet out of Lifetime Member, we had three nominees and a write in option. The nominees were as follows:

Jim Brown

Susan Wyatt

Dail Mayer

Our 2024 voted inductees were Susan Wyatt and Dail Mayer. It was decided that Jim Brown and Mary Cobb would be our 2023 posthumous inductees.

While discussing this during the meeting, it was decided that during the banquet would be a good time for Lifetime inductions. Teresa Pollard also mentioned starting a Horse Hall of Fame. Other associations do it, why not recognize some of the special horses.

**Showbill**

Tabled until February

**Next Meeting:** Sunday January 28, 2023 at 11:00am at Sidock in Sault Ste. Marie.

**Adjournment:** 8:52 pm Shelby Smith **motioned to adjourn the meeting.** Seconded by Teresa Pollard. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Teresa L. Pollard, Secretary