

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 29-30, 2024
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Monday and Tuesday, April 29-30, 2024, beginning 8:00AM central time daily.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Toddy Pitard, President-Elect Mark Senn, Vice President Barnwell Ramsey, Kristen York (via phone), Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Skip Jones, Kathleen Moore, Cara Brewer (via phone), and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance for this meeting. NCHA Director of Judges Andy Adams, NCHA Director of Membership Julie Davis and National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker. NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris, Manager of Approved Events Linda Smith, and Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

MONDAY – APRIL 29, 2024

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:03AM and roll call was taken.

President Toddy Pitard welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and opened with prayer with focusing on guidance and strength for the association and its members.

Regional Director Kirby Smith of Region 3 addressed the members of the Executive Committee by reciting the NCHA mission statement.

Mission Statement

The National Cutting Horse Association promotes and celebrates the cutting horse, whose origin on Western ranches allows us to support ranching and its Western heritage. By establishing rules for the conduct of cutting horse shows, NCHA strives to give cutters a level playing field and a progressive class structure which accommodates everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor. NCHA draws on the diverse talents and background of its members and encourages their participation in helping it achieve these goals.

PRESIDENT REPORT – TODDY PITARD

VP Candidate Calls

President Toddy Pitard reported that the recent Regional Directors calls to meet the candidates running for NCHA Vice President have been well attended and there have been some great questions addressed. The two candidates running have done a remarkable job stating their positions and it is a great learning experience for all parties involved.

Super Stakes

Toddy touched base on the Super Stakes held in Fort Worth over the past couple of weeks and heard great feedback from the members. There were a couple of discussions about the judging

that were addressed during the show. Jay and Shianne will provide more of a recap later in the meeting. Once again, the NCHA staff did an excellent job producing this Triple Crown event.

Toddy closed by expressing his appreciation for the members on the committee and welcomed Jay to follow up with his Executive Director report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed the Executive Committee with updates from the office.

MERP Reimbursement from 2022 Super Stakes

Jay updated the Executive Committee members that we received the 2022 Super Stakes MERP Reimbursement in the amount of approximately \$550,000 dollars.

NCHA/NCHA Foundation Cutting Clinics

The NCHA Foundation and the association had partnered this year to host a series of cutting clinics worldwide for the affiliate members which are tentatively scheduled for Italy, California, to be determined location for the High School Rodeo, Pennsylvania and previously visited Ohio. The feedback has been incredibly positive, and those that have participated really enjoyed the entire learning experience. These clinics involve lessons from Director of Judges Andy Adams on the judges score card and live cutting demonstrations from Hall of Fame inductees Jody Galyean, Paul Hansma, and Bill Riddle.

Judging at the Super Stakes

Jay addressed a few concerns with the judging during the Super Stakes. The NCHA has identified some issues and stepped-up communications with a recent Judges Rules Committee call this past week that went well. There are going to be a few alterations to the judges' card to eliminate some confusion among our members. By the end of the year, there will be a 5A judging designation and with that will be a pay raise for those judges that are designated 5A. NCHA has eliminated the policy that if you judge the Futurity, you are unable to judge any other Triple Crown shows the remainder of the year. We have a limited number of top-tier judges that are available, and we need to utilize them as much as we can by putting them in the boxes. This will also work as an incentive for those up-and-coming judges to advance in the system. NCHA takes pride in making sure that we hire the best dirt contractors, seek out the best cattle that are available and now the focus is on the judging. The judging has fallen behind and we are not pulling the cream of the crop like we should be for the Triple Crown events. With the development of this 5A designation and instituting that pay raise there will be more availability with these guys and the quality of judging will continue to increase.

NCHA Personnel Update

Jay provided an update to the members in attendance that our NCHA Comptroller Ashley Early resigned to return to the field of auditing. The consensus from the Finance Committee and the NCHA Management team is to not backfill that position at this time. NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams will delegate those efforts throughout the accounting department for now to see how that works out.

Eastern Nationals Proposal

Jay has a group presenting to the EC tomorrow with a proposal to consider for the Eastern Nationals production in 2026 out of Ohio at the Eaton facility. A formal RFP has not been issued yet; this Ohio group has shown interest. The Eastern Nationals is contracted to be in West Monroe for one more year (2025). On that note, there is also a group out of Colorado that is gathering data to formulate a proposal to produce the Western Nationals in the years to come and once available, Jay will bring that to the EC for consideration.

Recent Show Applications being Monitored

Jay reported that the approval process for Weekend Shows is being heavily scrutinized to ensure adequate promotion of the event, the facility is compatible to withstand outside entries and provide best experience for our weekend cutters.

Weather Clause Needed for Show Emergencies

Jay updated the Executive Committee with a recent show in Rancho Murieta among the latest that would have benefited from a weather protection clause. The show was interrupted for inclement rain weather. Jay is asking the Executive Committee to review NCHA Standing Rule 13.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting into executive session to discuss association issues.

GENERAL SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

DIRECTOR ELECTION UPDATES – MARK SENN

President Elect Mark Senn provided an update on the recent runoff election in the Utah District Area, Danielle Pace will serve as Director alongside of Steve Williams to represent with others as part of Region 1. There are 192 Board of Directors serving the association for the 2024-2025 year with all newly elected and appointed terms to begin on the first day of the annual convention.

Since one of the candidates running in this election currently serves on the Executive Committee representing Region 8, we must be prepared to fill that seat in the event that candidate is elected to that new position since the applications were due for consideration 90 days prior to the annual meeting which was March 23, 2024, and no applications were received.

The Executive Committee made the decision in the form of a **MOTION** by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum that in the event are current Region 8 seat on the EC is elected to become the new Vice President, we allow Region 8 Directors to nominate their next EC representative from the floor during the Region 8 Directors Meeting at the convention which is scheduled for June 23, 2024. The election for this EC representative will also be held at that

time to fulfill the remainder of Kathleen's term to 2025. **MOTION PASSED by all members of the Executive Committee.**

VICE PRESIDENT ELECTION UPDATES – MARK SENN

President Elect Mark Senn updated the Executive Committee with the details of the upcoming election process that will begin on May 3rd and run through May 31st. The election results will be announced in early June. Mark provided a recap of the calls with the regional directors which were highly informative. The NCHA has two great candidates running for this vice president position and will persevere under the direction with either candidate.

Mark asked the EC representatives to encourage members in their region to participate in the upcoming election for Vice President.

FINANCIAL REPORT – DENISE WILLIAMS

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams (formerly known as Densie Seiz) addressed the Executive Committee with our current state of the February and January financials for the association.

Denise shared that financials look incredibly positive for the association. In fact, the association is in the best financial shape it has ever been in since 2018.

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary February 2024

Statement of Position

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$28.4 million, which represents an increase of \$2.7 million from the previous month. Below is a summary of what constitutes this increase:

Cash had an increase of \$2.3 million in Operating and an increase of \$64K in Stallion Foal

The primary reason for the increase in operating cash is the receipt of entry fees for Super Stakes, Eastern Nationals, and the National Circuit Championships. The reason for the increase in Stallion Foal cash is the receipt of foal nominations/stallion subscriptions during the month.

Accounts receivable decreased by \$103K.

The decrease in accounts receivable is primarily due to the receipt of various outstanding receivables, the largest being \$36K from Western Bloodstock related to Futurity and \$37,500 from Beechfork Ranch for their sponsorship.

Prepaid expenses increased by \$159K.

The increase in prepaid expenses is due to the purchasing of items for both Eastern Nationals & Super Stakes in preparation of the shows.

Total liabilities increased by \$2.6 million from the previous month. Most of the increase is in Event Deferred Revenue (\$2.9 million) due to the receipt of entry fees for Eastern Nationals, Super Stakes, and the National Circuit Championships. An increase of \$68K was noted in Accounts Payable primarily due to a \$58K payment to Gist subsequent to month end for various show related awards. Accrued expenses decreased by \$569K, which was primarily due to the payment of the Will Rogers facility bill from Futurity of \$571K. Sponsorship deferred revenue increased by 20K due to the receipt and/or billing of various small show related sponsorships. Stallion & Foal deferred revenue is up \$64K due to the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month. Lastly, the PAC Fund receivable was up \$70K due to the receipt of PAC funds through Super Stakes entry payments.

Net assets increased by approximately \$134K, which represents the net profit for the month of February.

Statement of Activities

Before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association has posted a YTD net profit of \$1,377,293 which is \$1,185,497 better than the budgeted YTD net profit.

For the month of February, before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association reported a net loss of \$166,451 while the budget anticipated a net loss of \$48,616. As such, the Association had an unfavorable variance to budget of \$117,835.

There are a few variations to note for February that caused this unfavorable variance. From a revenue perspective, the main unfavorable variance was in sponsorship revenue of \$78K. This was primarily due to the timing of the \$61K sponsorship from Miller International that was originally budgeted for in February but was recorded back in January. Additionally, there was a stretch goal of \$10K budgeted during the month for new sponsorships which was not realized. An unfavorable variance was also noted in NCHA Produced Show Revenue of \$9K due to the write-off of a few box seat receivables. An unfavorable variance was noted in membership revenue which is due to less renewals during the month than anticipated. A favorable variance of \$6K was noted in advertising revenue due to having more advertising income than expected. Other income showed a favorable variance of \$8K, which can be attributed to income related to a judges seminar that was not included in the budget. Lastly, there was a slightly unfavorable variance in investment portfolio income of \$5K due to a realized loss in the Long-Term investment portfolio. This realized loss was due to the sale of certain equities in the Long-Term investment portfolio. As noted in the January 2024 commentary, these sales were reversed in March and therefore, the financial statements will reflect the recovery in that month.

From an expense standpoint, show marketing expenses were more favorable than budget by \$12K due to the timing of the marketing department's spending on promotional items. An unfavorable variance of \$7K was noted in professional fees primarily due to the legal bill being

higher than budget. This was primarily due to \$8K relating to medication review issues during the month. An unfavorable variance was also noted in home office facilities expenses due to higher repairs & maintenance expenses during the month. This was due to having extra expenses relating to moving some employees to offices downstairs after the tenant moved out, such as painting walls and cabling services. Lastly, there is a \$12K unfavorable variance in other expenses, \$8K of this being in projects expenses. This is due to how the marketing department budgeted for a pilot episode for a special project they are working on. \$50K was budgeted for in November for this project, but they appear to be paying the project out over time. The remaining expense categories remained consistent with our budgeted expectations.

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary January 2024

Statement of Position

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$25.8 million, which represents an increase of \$3.6 million from the previous month. Below is a summary of what constitutes this increase:

Cash had an increase of \$1.1 million in Operating and a decrease of \$387K in Stallion Foal

The primary reason for the increase in operating cash is the net effect of having entry fee income from various shows (Eastern Nationals, Super Stakes, & the 2024 Futurity) as well as the receipt of the 2022 Futurity MERP funds and transferring \$3 million from the operating cash account to the short-term investment account. The reason for the decrease in Stallion Foal cash is the net effect of receiving foal nominations/stallion subscriptions and transferring \$700K from the stallion foal cash/money market accounts to the Super Stakes investment account.

Accounts receivable decreased by \$927K.

The decrease in accounts receivable is primarily due to the net effect of receiving the 2022 Futurity/World Finals MERP funds of \$1,120,743 and the billing of a few large sponsorships, including the \$250K sponsorship for the 2024 Futurity.

Prepaid expenses increased by \$48K.

The increase in prepaid expenses is due to the purchasing of items for both Eastern Nationals & Super Stakes in preparation of the shows.

Total liabilities increased by \$3.3 million from the previous month. Most of the increase is in Event Deferred Revenue (\$3.5 million) due to the receipt of entry fees for Eastern Nationals, Super Stakes, and the 2024 Futurity. A decrease of \$524K was noted in Accounts Payable due to not having large batches of show-related expenses processed subsequent to month end. Accrued expenses decreased by \$33K, which was primarily due to having a lower company

credit card accrual since it was not a show month and did not have as much activity. Also, Carley's quarterly commissions for Oct-Dec (which were accrued for in accrued expenses) were paid in the first payroll in January 2024. Membership deferred revenue decreased by \$304K due to the recognition of the 2024 membership revenue that was collected towards the end of calendar year 2023. Sponsorship deferred revenue increased by 344K due to the receipt and/or billing of sponsorships during the month that were show related, the largest being the \$250K title sponsorship for Futurity. Stallion & Foal deferred revenue is up \$322K due to the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month. Lastly, the PAC Fund receivable was up \$24K due to the receipt of PAC funds through Super Stakes & 2024 Futurity entry payments.

Net assets increased by approximately \$334K, which represents the net profit for the month of January.

Statement of Activities

Before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association has posted a YTD net profit of \$1,543,744 which is \$1,303,332 better than the budgeted YTD net profit.

For the month of January, before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association reported a net profit of \$266,764 while the budget anticipated a net profit of \$210,130. As such, the Association had a favorable variance to budget of \$56,634.

There are a few variations to note for January that caused this favorable variance. From a revenue perspective, the main favorable variance was in sponsorship revenue for \$50K. This was primarily due to the timing of the \$61K sponsorship from Miller International that was originally budgeted for in February. A favorable variance was also noted in approved shows revenue of \$16K which was due to increased participation in weekend shows. An unfavorable variance was noted in membership revenue which is due to the timing of membership renewals. Other income showed a favorable variance of \$17,509, which can be attributed to income related to a judges seminar that was not budgeted for as well as continuing to receive office rental income longer than what was expected due to the tenant moving out later. Lastly, there was an unfavorable variance in investment portfolio income of \$32K due to a realized loss in the Super Stakes investment portfolio. This realized loss was due to the sale of certain equities in the Super Stakes investment portfolio. At the January Investment Subcommittee meeting, we directed Frost Wealth Advisors to invest excess cash that was in the Super Stakes Invesco MMA account. When they executed this request, the trader sold off some equity accounts which resulted in the loss. During our close process for January, we identified this and contacted Rob Jones at Frost. He explained that there was miscommunication between himself and the trader and said that the transaction would be reversed, and the Association would be made whole. The reversal of these sales occurred in March and therefore, the financial statements will reflect the recovery in that month. It should be noted that this also occurred in the long-term investment account in February and Frost is reversing those equity sale transactions in March as well.

From an expense standpoint, awards expenses were slightly higher than budget due to a youth scholarship cutting saddle for a tie that had not been accounted for during the show. A favorable variance was noted in personnel expenses of \$5K primarily due to having less monitor expenses than were budgeted for. A favorable variance was also noted in office expenses which

is largely in printing. This favorable variance was due to the timing of rulebook printing expenses which ended up being paid for in December. This explains the unfavorable variance in printing in that month. Lastly, there is an \$8K unfavorable variance in projects expenses. This is due to how the marketing department budgeted for a pilot episode for a special project they are working on. \$50K was budgeted for in November for this project, but they appear to be paying the project out over time. The remaining expense categories remained consistent with our budgeted expectations. Please note that in total, expenses for the month were within \$5K of budgeted expenses.

A suggestion was made by President Elect Mark Senn for the finance committee to be ready to present the goals and benchmarks for our investment every year when we start and how we perform against other non for profits each year. In addition to that, highlight our measurements and goals for how our investment accounts are set up.

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams agreed to gather some quantitative data to present at the upcoming convention. Denise reiterated that there are some strong members on the Finance and Audit Committee that work in the investments industry daily to help keep things in order.

The investments sub committee meets on a quarterly basis with Frost Bank and transparent reports are provided for both the Stallion Foal and NCHA long term accounts.

Denise closed with an update on the Super Stakes which is still being closed out at this time and not available to present at this meeting.

President Toddy Pitard and the other members of the Executive Committee thanked Denise for the financial update and presenting the data in such an understandable manner. NCHA appreciates all her hard work, and we would not be where we are today without her efforts.

SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Show Department. Shianne welcomed Linda Smith, Julie Davis, and Allison Walker to address some of the topics in this update.

NCHA Weekend LAE Restrictions (Allison Walker)

National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker is seeking direction from the Executive Committee on show rules for restricting LAE classes over the NCHA Weekend. The current rule restricts the addition of LAE classes and shows have been denied who have previously asked for those LAE classes to be included. Others shows have received a different answer from certain members of the Executive Committee. This concern is being raised to devise a plan moving forward for show approval consistency.

Basically, the show department is asking for the approved rules and what the NCHA staff is to govern, and what provisions are expected to be presented to the Executive Committee for final approval and determination with show applications. Director of Shows Shianne Megel would like to have an operating strategy moving forward to eliminate any confusion.

Triple Crown Event Show Rules (Shianne Megel)

Shianne stated that the entry form for the Triple Crown shows changed when the leveled format was instated. Julie Davis presented updates to be included to provide clarity on medication rules and regulations.

Suggested change to the Triple Crown Entry Forms (Julie Davis)

Both owner and rider of any horse entered in an NCHA produced event, by said entry, consent to the implementation of any action allowed by Standing Rule 35.A., Zero Tolerance by either show management or judge and Standing Rule 35A Medication Policy.

Suggested change to Triple Crown Entry Rules (Julie Davis)

19. Rules applicable to all entries

a. Medication Rules and Testing Provisions

i. All entries are bound by all rules within the NCHA Rulebook, including Standing Rule 35A.

ii. Standing Rule 35A.6 Testing Policy

1. Horses competing in all divisions / classes will be drug tested during the Event as follows:

a. One-Set Finals: The unofficial scores of the three highest scoring horses will be tested immediately following those finals.

b. Multiple-Set Finals: The unofficial scores of the top two highest scoring horses (including ties) in each set will be tested immediately following their respective sets.

c. Random Testing: Show management will predetermine days and sets in which additional random drug testing will be done in go rounds and semi-finals prior to their respective draws. Slots within those pre-determined sets that will be tested will be randomly selected from within those sets prior to their respective draws.

iii. Holding Payout Checks: The payout checks for the first and second place (plus ties) horses will be held until cleared for prohibited medication by testing lab, which could result in delay of payment.

iv. Standing Rule 35A.8.d Disciplinary Guidelines for use of a Prohibited Substance

1. The following disciplinary actions may be considered by the NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee in addressing a violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines relating to the use of a prohibited substance by any responsible person and defined by these rules. The following are general guidelines only. The NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee may assess discipline (including fines, probations, and suspensions) that is equal to, less than or greater than the discipline provided in the following guidelines based upon the nature of the violation and the severity of the circumstances presented in each case. A horse testing positive for a prohibited substance in any class at a show may also be disqualified from all other classes at that show in which that horse participated and such 14 Rev. 4/30/2024 horse will forfeit all monies, awards and titles won in any class at the show. Any disqualified horse shall forfeit and must return

all awards and monies won at the show. Offenses for use of a prohibited substance may, at the discretion of the Committee ultimately determining the violation, permanently remain on the responsible parties' record.

2. Disciplinary action for offenses resulting from the use of a prohibited substance:

a. First Offense

i. Forfeiture of any winnings from the show

ii. A fine of \$5,000

iii. Loss of any titles and awards won at the show.

b. Second Offense

i. Forfeiture of any winnings from the show

ii. A fine of \$10,000

iii. Loss of any titles and awards won at the show iv.

Membership suspension of one (1) year

c. Third Offense

i. Forfeiture of any winnings from the show

ii. A fine of \$15,000

iii. Loss of any titles and awards won at the show.

iv. Membership suspension of at least two (2) years

v. By submitting your entry, you acknowledge that you are familiar with and subject to the provisions of the Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines contained in the NCHA Rulebook. You also agree that, if requested, you will provide blood samples from your horse to comply with the random testing provisions contained in those Rules and Guidelines.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to approve all the suggested rule changes to the verbiage on the Triple Crown entry forms referenced above.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee expressed safety concerns during the Youth and Amateur classes regarding bridle checks at the Triple Crown Events. These classes will be dismissed from the bridle check process to ensure the safety of the horse and competitor.

Super Stakes Summary (Shianne Megel)

Shianne shared that the preliminary numbers are on track to be positive and once collaborated and reviewed with the Finance and Audit Committee will be provided as a final result. The feedback and the energy that arose from the Watt Arena during the National Circuit Championship is contagious and Allison Walker will elaborate more on those statistics later in the meeting.

It was mentioned quite a bit on the Vice-Presidential Directors calls in most regions that there were concerns that the National Circuit Championship paid out more than the World Finals. This opened more discussions about the importance of the World Finals and how to make it more of a prestigious event.

Summer Entry Update (Shianne Megel)

Director of Shows Shianne Megel updated the EC with Summer Spectacular entries to date are 1,534 entries which are 4YO Open with 288, 4YO NP with 172 and the 4YO AM at 254 and 5/6YO Open with 251, 5/6YO NP with 190 and the 5/6YO AM with 379 as of the day prior to this meeting.

REGIONAL REPORTS

President Toddy Pitard welcomed each of the members to report on their regional updates.

Region 1 – Kristen York provided an update from Region 1 that the Pioneer Circuit has selected their location for NCHA Days; Oregon will host the Circuit Finals and Bonina will host the NCHA Days. Members from the Region 1 area were excited to participate in the National Circuit Championship show and had great feedback.

Region 2 – Phil Benadum reported that in Region 2 that cuttings have been good until the Rancho Murieta show was recently rained out. Phil mentioned some of the questions that were addressed by the directors on his regional call. What is the process for receiving Certificates of Achievement on horses, they used to be sent out by the NCHA office once achieved and now he heard that the process is they must be requested? Can we advertise that again so that the membership can be more familiar with the process? Some of the CA Directors chose not to participate in the National Circuit Championship since the travel was too far for one go round. Another thing that was brought up in Region 2 was why the membership can't know how the EC votes, the regions want to know that the person they have elected to represent them is voting in their favor.

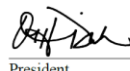
A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to make an adjustment to the structure of the Executive Committee minutes and how the members voted on action items and from this meeting moving forward. Members' names will be recorded on all motions. **MOTION PASSED by all members of the Executive Committee with the exception of two (2) oppositions from Tommy Williams and Mark Senn.**

As a result of this motion the ***PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS OF NCHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STANDING COMMITTEES*** previously adopted and executed on April 20th, 2022, by Past President Ora Diehl will be modified in paragraph K to reflect this decision.

K. Minutes of Meetings

Meeting minutes should be brief and should not reflect every discussion that occurs. The only items that must be noted in the minutes are the date and time; a list of who is present; and a record of motions, seconds, and whether or not the motion carried. The way that the individual members voted on motions shall not be recorded in the minutes. Reports submitted at the meeting may be attached as part of the meeting minutes.

Adopted on the 20th day of April by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.



President

Region 3 – Kirby Smith emphasized that the show season was just kicking off, there are quite a few shows scheduled in the region. The Region 3 VP Candidate call went well with a proud number of participants. Region 3 had a great turn out from the Heartland Circuit at the National Circuit Championships held in Fort Worth, Sonny Martin won the \$25K Novice Horse class.

Region 4 – John Lavelle provided an update that shows in Region 4 are going well. Region 4 was well represented at the National Circuit Championship, members were excited. John recently visited a show at the facility in IL that will be hosting the NCHA Days. It was a good show with the cattle situation improving. There is another show coming up in Eaton, OH at the same facility they had the Congress which is expected to be well attended. The Region 4 VP Candidate call went well and there were some great questions addressed by the candidates. There was a concern brought up that the Canadians and north region are having geographical challenges to attending double point shows which would alter their standing in the Circuit Finals, this may develop a need to look at considering a circuit more north for MI and Eastern Canada. Maybe the Governance Committee can evaluate the need to realign the regions with the circuits?

Region 5 – Sharon Overstreet reported that the Sunshine Circuit has a lot of shows to cut at and they are all well attended. Sunshine Circuit had three Champions at the National Circuit Championships and the feedback was incredibly positive. People were excited and shocked by the payouts. Region 5 had a great directors call with VP candidates the other night. The Florida CHA did a memorial cutting for Nancy Turner recently that was well attended, a lot of people who do not cut anymore came back for the dinner just because it was for Nancy.

Region 6 – Tommy Williams stated that shows are going well in Region 6. The Region 6 VP Candidate call was well attended, and the candidates did an excellent job addressing questions. The National Circuit Championship was well received. After the VP Candidate call, the directors in Region 6 visited and there were some concerns from the Amateurs with trainers kids rolling back and being forced to enter top levels of the NP in shows.

Region 7 – Skip Jones expressed that Region 7 has a lot of geographical challenges that Region 4 is experiencing. There have been some great shows in the Amarillo area that were well attended. Region 7 was well represented at the National Circuit Championships and the feedback has been positive. On the Region 7 VP Candidate call with the directors there was about 85% attendance and the candidates represented themselves well. Shows will continue to go strong in this region until the summer months and will kick back off in the fall.

Region 8 – Kathleen Moore reported that of all the VP Candidate calls with the directors, Region 8 was the worst attended. Casey elaborated on the concept that because everyone from Region 8 is familiar with both candidates that is probably why there was a lack in participation on the call.

At Large – Cara Brewer stated that the Super Stakes judging was better and judged accurately. The National Circuit Championship feedback has been good, Cara had a couple of cutters from France that leased horses and participated. Cara has heard that there are a couple of customers choosing not to enter the Derby because of the heat. Cara had the opportunity to

judge at Rancho Murieta until the show was cancelled due to the rain and learned a unique perspective while spending time with Andy Adams, our Director of Judges.

At Large – Casey Green reported that the Super Stakes was a good show, lot of horses worked. Cattle were a little tough for all divisions but overall was a good show. Casey does have concerns with the judging, so we need to keep addressing those issues as they come up. This will continue to be a work in progress. Casey was asked by other members on the EC if he had any suggestions on how to handle the showing conflicts between the two arenas, the National Circuit Championships and the Super Stakes. Casey stated that as trainers these potential conflicts should be discussed with their customers in advance and a plan to handle those potential conflicts be discussed. In this industry we are all professionals and there are good people that step in to help when needed.

Vice President – Barnwell Ramsey conveyed that he attended the Eastern Nationals. The entries were down a bit partly due to the proximity in time of the National Circuit Championship. Barney stated that it is interesting on the VP calls that questions that came up were on older issues lingering and no new concerns. Overall, Barney has had great feedback on how the association is doing and they are excited about the direction we are headed.

President-Elect – Mark Senn addressed the members of the committee with updates from the VP Candidate calls with the regional directors. Mark's observation was the same as Barney's with the fact that there are no new concerns which tells him that everything is going good for the association. Mark has addressed concerns with the makeup of the Horse and Cattle Welfare Committee and is evaluating those members moving forward to not necessarily make any changes but to operate more fairly, transparent, and open. If changes are needed, they will be handled correctly.

2024 NCHA ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATES – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

Cathy Marie shared a tentative schedule for the weekend with the Executive Committee for comments and final approval. Standing committee meetings have been reduced to two hours to assist the seminars running individually for attendee convenience. Once this final schedule is approved and committee agendas have been previewed, all will be uploaded and available on the convention page.

As of Friday, April 26th we already have 177 people registered to attend, which is a great position to be in 60 days prior to the event.

- NCHA Annual Convention will be held June 21-23, 2024, in Nashville, Tennessee at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.
- Registration fees are waived again this year; however, we encourage all to pre-register online for name badges and printed materials.
- Keynote Speaker – Will Chesney
- Welcome Reception Entertainer – Dave Fenley (Voice Finalist)
- Hall of Fame Gala Entertainer – Parish County Line Band
- Tickets for the Gala will be available for sale - \$250 a ticket and \$2000 a table (seats 10)

- Trainers Panel is back for a second annual event on Saturday afternoon, with lead panelist Tim Smith, and Matt Gaines, Cara Brewer, Jesse Lennox, Mike Wood, Grant Setnicka and Kenny Platt
- **NCHA Room block expires May 20th, 2024; NCHA Code is CUT619**
- **Registration deadline for printed materials is May 24th, 2024.**
- Directors are required to attend in person unless they have an excused absence from President Toddy Pitard who can be reached via email at tpitard@nchacutting.com. The only meetings that will be available to attend virtually are the BOD meetings (Kick-Off, Session 1 and Session 2) and the General Membership Meeting held that Sunday, June 23rd, 2024.

For more information, please visit our NCHA website under Convention or follow the path provide by the QR code below:



APPROVED LAE SHOW PRODUCERS COMMITTEE – COLETA ROSSON

The Approved LAE Show Producers Committee addressed the members of the Executive Committee. This committee was placed on the agenda and current members were invited to appear at the April 29-30, 2024, EC meeting to present an amendment to a recent motion recorded at the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee meeting during the 2023 Annual Convention in Las Vegas. Appearing in person were Chairman Coleta Rosson, Della Hillerman, Jason Reed, and Gwen Coie. Those committee members joining by Zoom call were Cheryl Callis, Tracy Barton, Nina Lundgren, Kim Cox, Theresa Nelson, and Kathy Cardon.

The motion in reference that the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee is recommending amending is associated with leveling and is provided below:

(Provided from Approved LAE Show Producer minutes recorded on June 24, 2023)

Standardize class Names/Eligibility

Recommend standardization across all approved LAE shows to follow the NCHA leveling format in regard to class names and dollar amounts with the option to include/omit Hall of Fame roll back at the discretion of show management. Motion Kathy Cardon Second Della Hillerman unanimous all-in favor

The LAE Producers Committee would like to amend the motion regarding leveling as follows:

1. Producer will follow NCHA leveling.

- 2. Option to replace Intermediate with \$200K 2 Yr Rollback in open division.

In both cases have the ability to include or exclude HOF

*Shows not following NCHA leveling already approved, but not held in 2024 will work together to standardize rule * class verbiage among shows to combat confusion among trainers and contestants.

*LAE committee is asking that the original leveling task force be put back in place to evaluate any necessary changes for leveling in all divisions.

This presentation led to much discussion and all parties shared their concerns. The Approve LAE Show Producers wants to be a part of the solution with some flexibility on how they can structure their premier shows to accommodate their customers.

At the recommendation of the former Approved LAE Show Producers Committee who proposed this leveling format, the Executive Committee went forward with a **MOTION** made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle to accept the proposed amendment regarding the standardization of leveling. **This MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

The decision is summarized below:

- Leveling Earning Limits will be maintained with the NCHA leveling program in the Open, Non-Pro and Amateur

| Division | Rider Lifetime Total Earnings |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Open | \$750,000 or more |
| Intermediate Open | \$200,001 - \$749,999** |
| Limited Open | \$0 - \$200,000 |
| Non-Pro | \$500,000 or more |
| Intermediate non-pro | \$100,001 - \$499,999** |
| Limited Non – Pro | \$0 - \$100,000 |
| Amateur | \$100,000 or more |
| Intermediate Amateur | \$25,001 - \$99,999** |
| Limited Amateur | \$0 - \$25,000 |

- The **Intermediate Open** division can offer one of two rollback options:
 - Top 100 List in the previous two-point years
 - \$200,000 in earnings in the previous two-point years
- The **Intermediate Non-Pro and Amateur** divisions can only offer the Top 100 List in the previous two-point year rollback.
- Show Producers have the discretion to offer a rollback for Hall of Fame members.
- Show Producers have the discretion to set a senior age exemption in all divisions.
- Offering all levels is not required.
- Unapproved classes will be permitted under the condition that the class stipulations do not fit into an existing class within the NCHA Leveling Format

The current NCHA Approved LAE Show Producers also proposed a new structure for their committee which is provided below.

Dear Executive Committee,

The premier show producers ask that the APPROVED LAE SHOW PRODUCERS standing committee be dissolved and replaced with a non-standing committee consisting of a minimum of 1 representative from each premier show that is selected by the producer of each premiere event. This list we ask be appointed is as follows:

R7 - Coleta Rosson, Abilene Spectacular
R5 - Gwen Coie, Augusta Futurity, Southern Cutting Horse Futurity
R6 - Robert Charles Brown, The Ike, Cotton Stakes
R8 - Della Hillerman, Arbuckle Mountain Futurity, The Non-Pro plus Open
R8 - Pat Fasano, ~~Donna Bachand~~, The Cattlemen's **(adjusted by EC)**
R2 - Bob O' Bannon, ~~Tom Holt~~, Breeders Invitational **(adjusted by EC)**
R2 - Kathy Cardon, PCCHA Derby/CI/Ch, PCCHA Holy Cow Perf Horse Futurity
R7 - Skip Jones, ~~Cheryl Callis~~, West Texas Futurity **(adjusted by EC)**
R1 - Theresa Nelson, Idaho Cutting Futurity
R1 - Julie Clarke, Cascade Futurity
R7 - Kim Cox, Brazos Bash
R3 - Jason Reed **(adjusted by EC)**
R4 - Chuck Smith **(adjusted by EC)**
Phil Benadum - EC Liaison **(adjusted by EC)**
Cheryl Callis - NCHA Staff Liaison (contract employee) **(adjusted by EC)**

Each region would have a representative appointed if a premier event were not in that region.
(added per EC)

The new non-standing committee will continue to perform the duties of the previous standing committee.

1. Recommend the guidelines and procedures for submitting the LAE show applications and their approval process.
2. Review LAE show date approvals and make recommendations on problems that may arise with overlapping dates or other situations in the allocations of show dates
3. Make recommendations on innovative ideas or improvements to recognition and awards programs for NCHA approved limited aged events.
4. Protect the interest of NCHA members, the welfare of the horse and ensure that cutters in all parts of the country have access to quality Limited Age Events.
5. Protect the investments of existing Show Producers.
6. Provide opportunities for new shows and producers to be successful.

This is the original format design when committee was and intended structure. Several original members still serve on this committee and recall the original intent of said committee.

This list of appointed members and duties have been reviewed by the people on this list for said non standing committee.

The Executive Committee extended their appreciation to the show producers for taking time out to join the meeting as it was a productive collaboration.

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to accept the proposed structure change of the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee to a non-standing committee. **This MOTION PASSED by the majority of the members of the Executive Committee.**

President Toddy Pitard made the request to reinstate the original leveling committee to re-evaluate the whole program to see if any changes or adjustments need to be implemented.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – SHARON BEACH

Chairman of the Governance Committee Sharon Beach addressed the members of the Executive Committee with the following items.

1. Bylaw Review
2. Proposed version for Article VI, Section One change

The candidates nominated for the office of VP must have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension for a period of five years or without probation, for a period of one Year (1) prior to nomination.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve the proposed bylaw change offered and be presented to the NCHA Board of Directors and the General Membership during the upcoming convention. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

3. VP Mentoring Program Ideas
Mentor potential candidates the year before they run for the office. Mentors could past presidents, past or current EC members. Allow the Mentee's to sit in on EC meetings the year before they are considering running for the office. VP selection committee – have ½ of the committee serve for two years.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to send the proposed bylaw change for Article VI, Section One as presented by the Governance Committee to legal for preparation of notice to the Board of Directors to be voted on at the annual convention. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

LEGAL UPDATES – JIM MORRIS

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris joined the meeting and addressed the Executive Committee

with some legal updates for the association. These issues were discussed with the members of the committee in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting into executive session to discuss legal updates.

GENERAL SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges Andy Adams updated the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Judges Department.

The Judges Rules Committee brought a couple of recommendations for consideration by raising the protest fees at the weekend level from \$200 to \$500 and the aged event level from \$500 to \$1,000. The committee also would like to recommend implementing a probationary period for new judges until they have earned up to fifteen (15) credits.

Regional Director Kathleen Moore of Region 8 and John Lavelle of Region 4 inquired on how many protests there have been recently. Andy mentioned that within the past year there have only been six (6) protests and three (3) spot checks; of the six (6) protests only two (2) were valid, the other four (4) were dismissed.

STANDING RULE 27. f. 1 (Page 54)

f. A judge may be removed from the NCHA Approved Judges List or may be dropped to a lower classification for cause:

1. Any contestant (in a class) or horse owner may protest a judge's decision (from that class) upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges a written statement requesting a review of the judge's performance. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the incident and must be accompanied by a cashier's check, money order, valid credit card number (Visa, MasterCard or American Express) or personal check in the amount of ~~two hundred dollars (\$200)~~ **five hundred dollars (\$500)** for Weekend Shows and ~~five hundred dollars (\$500)~~ **one thousand dollars (\$1000)** for LAE Monitored Events made payable to the NCHA.

STANDING RULE 27. f. 1. h (Page 57)

h. Where protests are affirmed, the ~~two hundred dollar (\$200)~~ **five hundred dollar (\$500)** or ~~five hundred dollar (\$500)~~ **one thousand dollar (\$1000)** fee will be returned to the contestant; where denied, the fee will be retained by NCHA.

STANDING RULE 28 (Page 57)

A judge (or judges) must present in writing any grievance they may have against contestants or shows to the Executive Director of the NCHA, without a filing fee, and the case will be reviewed by the appropriate committee. A complaint by a judge must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the alleged rule violation.

All conduct complaints regarding an NCHA judge will be referred to the NCHA Director of Judges by submitting the complaint in writing together with a money order, cashier's check, or personal check in the amount of ~~\$200~~ **\$500 (five hundred)** made payable to the NCHA and postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered within seven (7) days of the incident. A conduct complaint regarding an NCHA judge may also be originated by any personnel in the NCHA judge's department or show management and no payment will be required to initiate such a complaint.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to approve the suggested changes to the verbiage raising the protest fees for judges as proposed. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

STANDING RULE 27 (Page 153)

Probational Judge

NCHA Approved Judges will be rated based upon their lifetime judging achievements. Their total lifetime judging credits will be divided by the number of valid protests to determine their rating.

All Judges will be on probational status until they have earned more than 15 (fifteen) judging credits. During the probational period, a valid protest will be reduced to a valid spot check.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to approve the suggested changes to the verbiage adding the probational language for the judges as proposed. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

The Judges Seminars have been well attended and highly informative, there are 2-3 more planned for this year in PA, CA, and Italy. Andy also plans a Judges 101 – Hot Topics Seminar during the annual convention that is open to all attendees.

Regional Director Tommy Williams of Region 6 stated that the judges' seminars are at the beginning of the shows of which the Amateur have yet to arrive and Tommy knows that there are some Amateur riders that would like to attend.

Director of Judges Andy Adams closed his presentation with an update on minor adjustments to the current score card that will be shared at the convention, provided a video demonstration of some previous runs being judged and that the Judges Rules Committee is working on an incentive plan to encourage more to become eligible to judge the Triple Crown events. Currently, there are 320 certified judges for the association and only 50 are eligible to judge a Triple Crown event. Andy also explained the tracking system that has been in place since he took over his position which records the performance of all the judges has been a measurable tool.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Barnwell Ramsey and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to adjourn the meeting at 5:39PM for the day and reconvene Tuesday, April 30, 2024. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

TUESDAY – APRIL 30, 2024

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:09AM by President Toddy Pitard. The roll call was taken, and all Executive Committee members were present.

EASTERN NATIONALS' PROPOSAL – CHUCK SMITH

Executive Director Jay Winborn welcomed Past President Chuck Smith who leads a group out of Ohio that would like to entertain submitting a proposal to produce the Eastern Nationals in 2026 towards the end of April early May timeframe. The event facility that they are proposing is in Eaton, OH. Chuck elaborated on the community and local support that would back this event. When Jay visited Ohio during the Congress this past year, he had a chance to witness that relationship with the City of Eaton, OH. The fairgrounds facility in Eaton is on 100 acres and has been very accommodating to customize their grounds to support cattle pens and extra stalls to potentially host an event like what is being proposed. It is located on the western edge of Ohio about ten miles from Indiana. A new stall barn is planned, and a decision is expected soon as to whether it will be built by 2026. Producing the Eastern Nationals in the Ohio area would also benefit a larger group of Canadians who find it challenging to attend the show that has historically been produced in the southern portion of the states.

Jay concluded by announcing that there is a group out of Colorado that has shown interest in producing the Western Nationals in the near future. We should expect a proposal for that event to be considered soon.

This preliminary proposal engaged a round table discussion among the members of the Executive Committee in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting into executive session to discuss produced shows.

GENERAL SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

The Executive Committee made the decision to table this to discussion to revisit later. The Eastern Nationals is secured for West Monroe, LA again for 2025.

FUTURITY SHOW RULES CHANGE – SHIANNE MEGEL

Futurity Show Rules

Horses participating in the NCHA Futurity must not have been shown in any prior events. Furthermore, they are prohibited from being worked on cattle in the Will Rogers Coliseum prior to the Futurity.

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to strike the second sentence referring to substitution of horses on the current show rules to reflect the approved verbiage above. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

NCHA STANDING RULE 13 – JAY WINBORN

Current Standing Rule 13:

A Weekend/Championship class may be offered with multiple go-rounds. When a class has more than the standard go-round, a final must be held. The finals may be working or non-working. In all cases, the number of places paid AND the number taken to any final must be based on the Weekend Mandatory Payout Scale. In the case where a tie results in additional entries advancing to the final, the number of horses advancing will be the number used to determine the payout percentages. Example, a class has 27 entries – which advances 7 entries to the final. After the go-round, the results reflect a 3-way tie for 7th – resulting in 9 horses advancing to the final. The percentages used for the final's payout is based on 9 instead of 7. For classes held with a one go and a final (working or non-working), the payout must be calculated in one of the following two ways: a) Available purse is split in half with 50 percent paid in the go round and 50 percent paid in the final OR b) Available purse is paid 100% in the final For classes that are held with two or more goes and a final (working or non-working), the purse must be split evenly between all goes and the final. For example: if two goes and a final are held, the purse would be split three ways – 33 percent to each go. For three goes and a final, the purse would be split four ways – 25 percent to each go, etc.) Exceptions to the above may be granted to state, regional, or county fairs or where a government agency stipulates how its money should be paid.

Proposed Standing Rule 13:

*A Weekend/Championship class may be offered with multiple go-rounds. When a class has more than the standard go-round, a final must be held **unless prevented by force majeure**. The finals may be working or non-working. In all cases, the number of places paid AND the number taken to any final must be based on the Weekend Mandatory Payout Scale. In the case where a tie results in additional entries advancing to the final, the number of horses advancing will be the number used to determine the payout percentages. Example, a class has 27 entries – which advances 7 entries to the final. After the go-round, the results reflect a 3-way tie for 7th – resulting in 9 horses advancing to the final. The percentages used for the final's payout is based on 9 instead of 7. For classes held with a one go and a final (working or non-working), the payout must be calculated in one of the following two ways: a) Available purse is split in half with 50 percent paid in the go round and 50 percent paid in the final OR b) Available purse is paid 100% in the final For classes that are held with two or more goes and a final (working or non-working), the purse must be split evenly between all goes and the final. For example: if two goes and a final are held, the purse would be split three ways – 33 percent to each go. For three goes and a final, the purse would be split four ways – 25 percent to each go, etc.) Exceptions to the above may be granted to state, regional, or county fairs or where a government agency stipulates how its money should be paid.*

After discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to accept the proposed change in language to Standing Rule 13 adding the phrase *unless prevented by force majeure* to the end of the second sentence in NCHA Standing Rule 13 as noted above. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

CONVENTION AGENDAS (STANDING COMMITTEES) REVIEWS – TODDY PITARD

Standing Committee agendas were submitted to the Executive Committee prior to this meeting for the members to review and offer any suggestions prior to publishing these agendas with convention materials. This process of reviewing the committees' agendas is a way for the EC to become more familiar with the topics of discussion leading into the convention.

OLD BUSINESS

JUDGES' MONITOR PAY PROPOSAL – PHIL BENADUM

A proposal came out of the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee to have the NCHA help with payment of the NCHA Monitors at their events. This cost can come out of the show assessment fees paid to the NCHA. Currently, you can pay the monitor out of show entry fees and/or the purse.

Proposal

- NCHA will be responsible for the current fee of \$500/day for the show monitor.
- NCHA will pay monitor's travel and expenses.
- Show Producers will pay any amount over the \$500/day to match judges pay.
- Show Producers will pay for monitor's hotel room.

At the conclusion of the event, Show Producers will cut the monitor their total check (\$500/day included with any excess paid to judges.) The NCHA Monitors amount (\$500/day) will be deducted by Show Producers from the show assessment fees to be paid to the NCHA.

This will allow the Monitor to be paid just like the judges at the conclusion of the event. This will also save NCHA staff time processing and sending monitor their pay.

Currently, for a show producers' assessment fees paid to NCHA at LAEs, they get extraordinarily little except protection on the show calendar. This will allow the Monitor to get paid when their job is completed and allows that cost to be put back in the purse to be paid out to the contestants.

The Executive Committee made the decision to have NCHA management and the Finance and Audit Committee review this proposal and provide comments for discussion during the convention EC meeting.

EUROPEAN DIRECTOR UPDATES – TODDY PITARD

All six (6) European Directors (Sergio Traverso, Josef Bachmeier, Jana and Denis Pini, Pietro Valeri, and Gaetan Foulatier) participated in addressing the Executive Committee to discuss their concerns and suggestions for better communications with the NCHA office.

The European Directors would like to address the following:

- NCHA Communications with the European Directors; sometimes affiliates receive communications direct from the office that bypasses the European Directors
- European Directors would like to meet with the EC at least once a year.

The EC has agreed to place the European Directors on each of the in-person meeting agendas.

- European Directors would like to be more involved with their region (Region 4) calls. The calls are usually scheduled for evening hours, which is the middle of the night for Europe. If we can schedule earlier in the day for full participation.

Regional Director John Lavelle of Region 4 agreed to work out a more convenient schedule for regional calls to allow full participation by all Directors.

- Concerns with hosting the Circuit Finals, NCHA Days, and European Championships and if funding will continue from NCHA.

Jay agreed to continue the current funding as a means of support from the NCHA.

- Would it be possible to help with the expense of sending judges over from the states?
- Jay stated that he would analyze the cost impact on the association to help out with the request.**

- The European Directors asked if there was a way to get some more promotional NCHA materials for the shows?

Jay agreed to send some NCHA banners to the European affiliates for their shows and send some pamphlets. Jay asked for the quantity of banners needed?

- Could there be more focus on articles from the European Circuit in the Chatter and social media platforms? Can we send over some interviews from Europe?

Jay agreed to get with his editorial team to highlight the European Circuit.

- Is it possible to view the live streaming at a different time of the day as it is a challenge with the time difference. It is understood that it would not be live but would like to offer the members in Europe.

Jay agreed to get a copy of the Triple Crown event finals in an edited version to Europe to show at their leisure.

The NCHA European Directors expressed their appreciation for the ability to address the EC via conferencing during this meeting.

Jay thanked the European Directors for joining the meeting on behalf of the Executive Committee and looks forward to the improvements on communications with the NCHA office. NCHA wants to be supportive with promoting the sport of cutting in Europe.

NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM UPDATES – ALLISON WALKER

National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker presented the Executive Committee with a recap of the 2023 National Circuit Championship show which was held in the Watt Arena at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, Texas on April 3–14, 2024. There were 529 total entries which included the qualified plus youth entries and overall, the show paid out over \$527,000 dollars.

[Click HERE for NCC Recap](#)

NCHA FOUNDATION – JULIA BUSWOLD

Director of the Foundation Julia Buswold addressed the Executive Committee requesting the Board of Trustees for the NCHA Foundation for 2024-2025 be ratified.

The 2024-2025 Board of Trustees are as follows:

- Chairman Joey Milner
- Jo Ellard
- Dustin Ewing
- Charlie Israel
- Frank Merrill
- Lachlan Perks

A **MOTION** was made by Barnwell Ramsey and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to support and ratify the 2024-2025 NCHA Foundation Board of Trustees as presented. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**

NEW BUSINESS

At Large Director Casey Green suggested for NCHA to review the quality and contract terms with the NCHA saddle sponsorship.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Barnwell Ramsey and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to adjourn the meeting at 12:19PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**