

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7-8, 2024  
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Wednesday and Thursday, February 7-8, 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, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Skip Jones, Kathleen Moore, Cara Brewer, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Seiz, 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 were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

**WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:01AM and roll call was taken.

President Toddy Pitard welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and opened with prayer emphasizing strength to support challenges.

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**

President Toddy Pitard reported that he has been contacted by quite a few members expressing their comments with regards to the upcoming NCHA Vice Presidential election. Toddy has deferred those individuals to Mark Senn and Barnwell Ramsey who will head up that VP Selection Committee as the move forward with that process for the association.

Toddy reminded the Executive Committee to mark their calendars for the 2024 Annual Convention which takes place June 21-23, 2024, in Nashville, Tennessee at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.

Toddy extended his gratitude to the committee members that served on a recent appeals committee. He supports the decision and understands that it was difficult to serve in that capacity and appreciates their efforts.

Toddy provided a report from attending the Ike Derby and Classis Show in West Monroe, LA. Entries were down from last year by about one hundred entries but overall, it turned out to be a great show. There were some concerns raised about the judging during that show, but all seemed to work out accordingly. Looking forward to the upcoming show in Ardmore, OK.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN**

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

Jay received a call from a European Director about the Executive Committee's consideration to allow the Europeans to be able to rent a horse located in the US and for them to be able to show in the states. Jay would like to devise a plan to support those members and encourage cutting in Europe.

Jay cleared the air and addressed concerns with the State of Texas Trust Fund process, there has been no change from the state, and we are scheduled to receive full funding from that program.

Jay handed out an update on the current renovations at Will Rogers and what has transpired since our last meeting in October of 2023.

Jay asked for the Executive Committee's support and guidance on how they would like the NCHA office to proceed with some questionable show applications out of Region 5 that do not represent the best interests of the members. The office has received multiple complaints with regards to these types of shows being approved and produced.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting into executive session.

### **GENERAL SESSION**

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

Other items Toddy had planned to discuss will be addressed as the EC navigates through the remainder of this meeting.

## **VICE PRESIDENT SELECTION COMMITTEE UPDATES – MARK SENN**

President Elect Mark Senn updated the Executive Committee with a recent call that took place with the selection committee to begin the search for the next VP. There was heavy emphasis on the importance of selecting two qualified individuals to run for this election. Vice President Barnwell Ramsey was elected to Chair this committee moving forward. The next call is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT – DENISE SEIZ**

NCHA Treasurer Denise Seiz addressed the Executive Committee with our current state of the November and October financials for the association.

Denise updated the Executive Committee with the findings of the recent audit completed. The audit process for the association has been complete and the result letter has been received with no infractions. These results are ready to be published on the website.

### **National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary November 2023**

#### **Statement of Position**

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$25 million, which represents an increase of \$1.3 million from the previous month. Below is a summary of what constitutes this increase:

Cash had a decrease of \$461K in Operating and an increase of \$172K in Stallion Foal

The primary reason for the decrease in operating cash is the net effect of paying show related expenses for Futurity/WF 2023 and the receipt of Futurity 2023/2024 and WF entry fee payments. The reason for the increase in Stallion Foal cash is the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month. Accounts receivable decreased by \$267K.

The decrease in accounts receivable is primarily due to the receipt of some of the larger outstanding AR items that were billed in the previous month. Balance is more consistent with normal monthly activity in November.

Prepaid expenses increased by \$1.5 million.

The increase in prepaid expenses is primarily due to the payment of show-related expenses for Futurity/WF. The biggest piece of the increase was almost \$950K in payout checks that were paid in November.

Total liabilities increased \$1.4 million from the previous month. Most of the increase is in Event

Deferred Revenue (\$1 million) due to the receipt of Futurity 2023/2024 & WF entry payments. An increase was also noted in Accounts Payable of \$17K which was due to having slightly larger batches of AP subsequent to month end that included some show-related expenses for the upcoming Futurity/WF shows. An increase of \$14K was noted in Accrued Expenses which was primarily due to accruing for some Circuit Year End awards. An increase of \$98K was noted in membership deferred revenue due to membership renewals for 2024 that occurred during the month. An increase of \$29K was noted in sponsorship deferred revenue which was primarily due to the billing and/or receipt of show-related sponsorships. The largest piece of this was Futurity VIP table sales. Lastly, Stallion & Foal deferred revenue is up \$187K due to the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month.

Net assets decreased by approximately \$41K, which represents the net loss for the month of November.

### **Statement of Activities**

Before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association has posted a YTD net loss of \$505,659 which is \$101,267 or 16.69% better than the budgeted YTD net loss.

For the month of November, before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association reported a net loss of \$338,078 while the budget anticipated a net loss of \$434,213. As such, the Association had a favorable variance to budget of \$96,135.

There are a few variations to note for November that caused this favorable variance. From a revenue perspective, the main favorable variance was in interest income for \$85K. This variance was due primarily to the maturing of a treasury bill in November in the short-term investment account. An unfavorable variance was noted in sponsorship cash of \$69K which was due to the booking of the LNC sponsorship of \$48K a month early in October and a change in the Rapp Ranch sponsorship contract that changed the timing of the payments. There was a favorable variance in approved shows revenue of \$26K due to timing of receipt of approval fees (PCCHA show that was booked in October in the previous year). Lastly, there was a \$14K favorable variance in Chatter advertising revenue which was due to bringing in more advertisers than we budgeted for the November Chatter issue and show programs.

From an expense standpoint, awards expenses were less favorable than budget by \$25K. This unfavorable variance is mainly due to circuit awards cost being higher than we anticipated. The budget only reflected prizes for 1st-3rd place for circuit year end awards while we paid for prizes through 5th place. This was caused by an error in the formula in the spreadsheet we received as support for awards costs causing our budgeted number to be low. The only other expense variance to note was in other expenses where there is a \$46K favorable variance. 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  
October 2023**

**Statement of Position**

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$23.5 million, which represents an increase of \$1.8 million from the previous month. Below is a summary of what constitutes this increase:

Cash had a decrease of \$167K in Operating and an increase of \$73K in Stallion Foal

The primary reason for the decrease in operating cash is the net effect of transferring \$1,500,000 to the short-term investment account and the receipt of Futurity 2023 entry fee payments. The reason for the increase in Stallion Foal cash is the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month.

Accounts receivable increased by \$251K.

The increase in accounts receivable is primarily due to the booking of several sponsorship receivables, including various World Finals Silk Sponsors (\$75K), Beechfork Ranch (\$37,500), Great American Insurance (\$100K), and T/K Cutting Horses (\$50K).

Property, Plant & Equipment increased by \$39K.

The increase is due to the addition of fixed assets during the month. These additions were primarily show-related.

Prepaid expenses increased by \$262K.

The increase in prepaid expenses is primarily due to the prepayment of show-related expenses for Futurity/WF.

Total liabilities increased \$2.1 million from the previous month. Most of the increase is in Event Deferred Revenue (\$1.4 million) due to the receipt of Futurity 2023/2024 entry payments as well as billing box seat tickets for \$147K. An increase was also noted in Accounts Payable of \$154K which was due to having slightly larger batches of AP subsequent to month end that included some show-related expenses for the upcoming Futurity/WF shows. An increase of \$22K was noted in membership deferred revenue due to membership renewals for 2024 that occurred during the month. An increase of \$490K was noted in sponsorship deferred revenue which was primarily due to the billing and/or receipt of the following sponsorships: \$200K Broke Spur Ranch WF sponsorship, WF Silk Sponsorships (\$75K) and various table sponsorships, \$100K Great American Insurance Summer Spectacular sponsorship, and T/K Cutting Horses (\$50K) sponsorship for Futurity. Stallion & Foal deferred revenue is up \$73K due to the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month. Lastly, the PAC payable is up \$44K due to the receipt of Futurity 2023/2024 entry payments.

Net assets decreased by approximately \$322K, which represents the net loss for the month of October.

### **Statement of Activities**

For the month of October, before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association reported a net loss of \$167,581 while the budget anticipated a net loss of \$172,713. As such, the Association had a favorable variance to budget of \$5,132.

There are a few variations to note for October that caused this slightly favorable variance. From a revenue perspective, the main favorable variance was in sponsorship cash for \$31K. This variance was due to billing the \$47,500 LNC sponsorship a month earlier than budgeted. There was also a slight favorable variance in approved shows revenue of \$9K due to timing of receipt of approval fees.

From an expense standpoint, awards expenses were less favorable than budget by \$7K. This unfavorable variance is mainly due to the timing of purchasing achievement buckles. Marketing expenses were less favorable than budget by \$10K due to the timing of the marketing department's spending on promotional items. Professional fees were less favorable than budget by \$12K which was due to medication review hearings related to Summer Spectacular. Of the legal invoice, \$12,500 was attributed to medication review issues. Lastly, there was an unfavorable variance in other expenses of \$17K. \$9K of this variance was in committees' expense. A portion of this was related to expenses for the medication review committee (\$5K) and the remaining variance was due to timing of executive committee expenses due to a meeting that occurred during the month. The other \$8K variance in other expenses was in projects expense. This was due to a higher production retainer than budgeted for and the timing of expenses relating to a pilot episode for a special project. The remaining expense categories remained consistent with our budgeted expectations.

### **NCHA PRODUCED SHOW ENTRIES**

The Amateur Division suffered a decrease in entries at the Futurity. Entries were down 21% during from last year. Why? Analyze impact for the 2024/2025 Futurity. NCHA is also down 83 entries for the Eastern Nationals coming up in March from 692 to 609 which was expected since this is the first year of the National Circuit Program Championship show within 30 days of the event.

**The Executive Committee made the decision to issue a directive to the Amateur and the Limited Age Events committees to analyze this impact further and report back in time for the May EC Meeting.**

### **NCHA DIRECTOR ELECTION SUMMARY – MARK SENN**

President Elect Mark Senn updated the Executive Committee with suggested appointments for open seats for Area Directors. There are three contested district areas running for election, Oklahoma, North Texas, and Utah. The election period opened on February 5<sup>th</sup> and closes at

11:59PM on February 29<sup>th</sup> for all members in those districts to cast their votes. Results should be posted early in March.

### **NCHA STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – MARK SENN**

President Elect Mark Senn provided an update on the standing committee appointment process. NCHA had a great turnout of interested members willing to serve on committees. While maintaining association compliance, Mark has presented the Executive Committee with his preliminary suggestions for appointments at this meeting. This task is a work in progress and should be finalized soon for EC approval.

EC Liaison for the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee Phil Benadum emphasized the recommendation brought forth from this committee to consider realigning the structure of the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee moving forward. Premier shows need to be represented to serve with no term limits.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to respond to the Approved LAE Show Producers request to bring a formal proposed structure moving forward for consideration, should include whether they propose to remain as a standing committee or not. **MOTION PASSED and recommendation should be brought back to the May EC Meeting.**

### **JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS**

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

#### **Weekend Monitor Agreement Revision**

Judges Rules Committee Proposal - Amending the Weekend Field Monitor Agreement. Director of Judges Andy Adams went forward with expressing the need for adding an amendment for a new policy and procedure. Stating the reason for amending this agreement is that the weekend monitor and his/her clients may choose certain shows weeks to months in advance, however the Show may not list their judges until 7 days in advance. This can cause undue hardship on the weekend monitor and or his/her clients along with show management, especially if the show is in a limited area. The amendment would allow for any conflict whereas the officiating judge is currently assigned to that weekend monitor. For that show only, the judge will forward his judges packet to the Director of judges for review. It will be the monitor's responsibility to convey that information to said judge.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to accept the proposed changes that the Judges Rules Committee presented that the monitor is responsible for telling the judges that the Director of Judges will review the judges packet for that particular show in the event of any unforeseen conflicts after judges are posted. **MOTION PASSED.**

Director of Judges Andy Adams emphasized to the members of the Executive Committee that the Judges department is focusing on streamlining concerns with facts and not acting on emotions driven from the arena floor.

It was suggested to incorporate a Judges' 101 for all attendees at the annual convention meetings in Nashville, TN. NCHA staff to get this scheduled.

## **SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL**

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Show Department.

### **Eastern Nationals**

#### 2025 Eastern Locations Scouted

- World Equestrian Center - Ocala, FL
- Clemson University Equine Center - Pendelton, SC
- Kentucky Horse Park - Lexington, KY
- Virginia Horse Center - Lexington, VA
- Current Host: IKE - West Monroe, LA

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Tommy Williams for the NCHA to create an addendum to extend the contract for the 2025 Eastern Nationals with the current host in West Monroe, LA. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **President Elect Mark Senn committed to appointing a task force to review locations and dates for the 2026 Eastern Nationals Show.**

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn for this task force be formed to explore the possibilities of an independent show producer to assume the production responsibilities for the 2026 Eastern Nationals. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Point Year Rule Change**

Historic Rulebook:

The NCHA Point Year will end two Sundays before Thanksgiving each year for weekend shows and the Sunday before Thanksgiving for LAE Shows. The new point year will begin on December 28.

2024 Rulebook:

The NCHA point year will end on November 10, 2024, for weekend shows and November 17, 2024, for LAE shows. The new point year will begin on December 28.

- 2024 Futurity starts November 11<sup>th</sup>



	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Futurity	2 Sundays Prior to Thanksgiving	1 Sunday Prior to Thanksgiving	Sunday Prior to Futurity
2025 Futurity	November 7th	November 16	November 23	November 2
2026 Futurity	November 9th	November 15	November 22	November 8
2027 Futurity	November 8th	November 14	November 21	November 7

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve this show department recommendation as presented where the point year would end the Sunday prior to the start of the Futurity that year. **MOTION PASSED.**

### Standing Rule 5

Applicants for NCHA approved weekend shows may be NCHA Affiliates, or may be individuals, managers, or organizations able to meet the pertinent requirements of these rules including the financial responsibility requirements as listed below to be NCHA approved. NCHA Affiliates cannot approve having a joint show with a competing association with the exception of AQHA, APHA, High School Rodeo and organizations that host an NCHA Championship Show or NCHA Challenger Show. These shows will be subject to all applicable NCHA rules and guidelines. In the case of rule conflicts between organizations, NCHA rules will take precedent.

October 2024 Meeting Decision:

**The Executive Committee would like to issue a directive to NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris to clarify the organizational references in Standing Rule 5 and return it to the EC for consideration and approval.**

**With the coordination of legal and show management, the Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this agenda item at the February Meeting and the rule will remain as published.**

### Challenger Points Reduction Implementation

The staff has been diligently working on identifying and proposing a revision to the Circuit Point values for Challenger Shows. The initial implementation involved changing the top point value available from 10 to 5 during the point year rollover. However, upon further discussion, it was realized that this was not the process originally when agreed upon.

The intended process was to assign points based on the Championship scale and then divide the assigned points by 2, resulting in ½ points for Challenger Shows. The current HUB infrastructure is not designed to handle point values less than 1, as it was programmed as an integer field, limiting data values to whole numbers.

While it is acknowledged that computers can be programmed to handle fractional values, the extensive effort required for such a change is not feasible for 2024 point year implementation. This would involve identifying, updating, and testing every unique part of HUB that interfaces with the data field, impacting data values from 2017 onwards, as well as Legacy Points from before HUB's launch.

In light of these challenges, the staff has carefully reviewed and discussed potential solutions.

The recommended compromise is to round up the resulting 0.5 points to the next nearest whole point in all classes except YOUTH. This adjustment would establish a Point Scale for Challenger Shows, ranging from a minimum of 1 point to a maximum of 5 points.

PLACE	# ENTRIES/HORSES							
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
1	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2
2	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1
3	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1
4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	
5	3	3	2	2	1	1		
6	3	2	2	1	1			
7	2	2	1	1				
8	2	1	1					
9	1	1						
10	1							

After much discussion and an effort to help clarify the calculation methodology, a **MOTION** was made by Barnwell Ramsey and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle to double the points for a championship show to maximize 20 from maximum of 10 and to leave the challenger show point scale maximum at 10 as shown below effective immediately. **MOTION PASSED by majority with eight (8) in favor and four (4) opposed.**

Place	Championship	Challenger	Double (NCHA Weekend and Circuit Championships)
<b>1</b>	20	10	40
<b>2</b>	18	9	36
<b>3</b>	16	8	32
<b>4</b>	14	7	28
<b>5</b>	12	6	24
<b>6</b>	10	5	20
<b>7</b>	8	4	16
<b>8</b>	6	3	12
<b>9</b>	4	2	8
<b>10</b>	2	1	4

### Show Volume Discussion

*Former Standing Rule 6K:* Any affiliate, individual, management or organization will be limited to holding three (3) NCHA approved shows per calendar month, plus one circuit per calendar year, not to exceed seven (7) consecutive shows. A circuit is any show running hour (4) through seven (7) consecutive days in the same arena. Said circuit may not be held during a month which already contains three (3) approved show dates by one individual or affiliate. (Special permission may be granted by the Executive Committee only if more show dates than allowed by this rule are requested by an affiliate, individual or organization.)

This former rule was phased out by 2013 point year. Question to the Executive Committee is they would like to reinstate this rule for the upcoming point year?

**The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this agenda item.**

## LAE Class Names & Structure Clarification

August 2023 Meeting Decision (For Reference):

### 1. Change Leveling Terminology for Open

Recommendation:

NCHA adopt the use of Open I, Open II, and Open III to replace the current Limited, Intermediate, and Open terminology.

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to accept the recommendation and adopt the new classification titles as presented for the Open I, II, and III to replace the current Limited, Intermediate, and Open terminology with the top level being called Open III effective 2024 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

**In addition, the Executive Committee issued a directive for the Amateur, Non-Professional and the Approved LAE Show Producers Committees to consider this terminology change for all divisions and report back to the Executive Committee by the October Meeting.**

A **MOTION** was made by Mark Senn and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve standardization across all approved Premier 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 PASSED.**

October 2023 Meeting Decision (For Reference):

After a roundtable discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to delay the implementation of the proposed terminology name change for the Open levels until the 2025 point year and incorporate the amateur and non-pro divisions with that name format at the same time to be specified at a later date. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

February 2024 Meeting Decision:

**After hearing some challenges presented with awards already ordered and confusion with the title on awards, the Executive Committee addressed this issue with the following action.**

A **MOTION** was made by Kristen York and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to rescind the October 2023 and August 2023 motions for any and all class name changes. This item will need to be sent to the annual convention for more discussion. **MOTION PASSED by majority with nine (9) in favor and three (3) opposed.**

**The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Amateur, Non-Professional, and Professional Trainers Committees to add this class name change item to their agendas for more discussion at the annual convention and bring it back to the Executive Committee at the August meeting for consideration and implementation in the 2026 point year.**

## Futurity Updates

2023

- 890 Unique Horses
- 753 Unique Riders
- 735 Unique Owners
- 3,441 Total Entries
  - 2,562 Cattle Class Entries
  - 1,477 First Go Runs

Classes	Entries	2022	2021	2020	2019	Difference	% Change
Open	620	622	529	542	516	-2	
Intermediate Open	463	446	0	0	0	17	
Limited Open	224	237	280	254	243	-13	
<b>DIVISION TOTAL</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.15%</b>
Non Pro	328	326	269	296	278	2	
Intermediate Non Pro	252	252	0	0	0	0	
Limited Non Pro	80	92	145	151	132	-12	
<b>DIVISION TOTAL</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-1.52%</b>
Amateur - A	267	308	291	256	225	-41	
Intermediate Amateur - I	238	289	245	232	199	-51	
Limited Amateur - L	90	128	new	new	new	-38	
<b>DIVISION TOTAL</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>-130</b>	<b>-21.85%</b>
<b>SHOW TOTAL</b>	<b>2562</b>	<b>2700</b>	<b>1759</b>	<b>1731</b>	<b>1593</b>	<b>-138</b>	<b>-5.11%</b>

- Practice Pen Revenue is up from last year by about \$80K
- Stall Revenue is up from last year by about \$64K
- Trade Show Revenue is up from last year by about \$2K
- Box Seat Revenue is up from last year by about \$40K

Average Settle Time by Division (min.)			
Show	Open	Non Pro	Amateur
2021 Futurity*	34	32	28
2022 Super Stakes	35	29	22
2022 Summer*	28	30	23
2022 Futurity*	27	28	20
2023 Super Stakes*	27	25	24
2023 Summer*	23	22	20
2023 Futurity*	26	27	22

\*Indicates Pre-Settle

After the second payment for the 2024 Futurity, there are 789 entries in the Open as compared to 747 last year and 132 in the Non-Pro as compared to 157 last year.

Eastern Nationals' entries are down from 692 to 609 from last year, which was the reason behind reducing the show by one day at the end.

Super Stakes entries are down as well. The overlap in scheduling for the National Circuit Championships has contributed to this decrease as cutters choose to enter one show or the other.

The NCHA Marketing and Sponsorship departments developed a recent summary as we look back at the success of the 2023 NCHA Metallic Cat World Championship Futurity and the 2023

Broke Spur Ranch World Finals with some exciting statistics. If interested, these reports can be found at the following links.

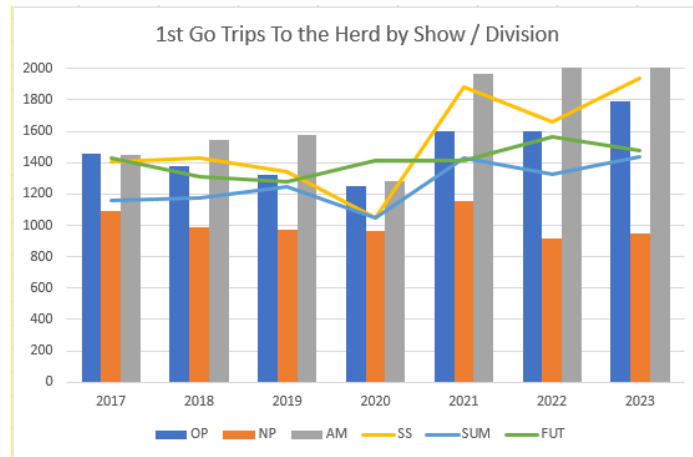
- [2023 NCHA Metallic Cat World Championship Futurity](#)
- [2023 Broke Spur Ranch World Finals](#)

In conclusion, Shianne shared some additional information on year end results for 2023 trips to the herd.



**!! All data is based on trips to the herd 1st go. Levels within Divisions and sub classes are not included.**

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Summary by Show Total</b>								
Super Stakes	SS	1403	1429	1345	1044	1881	1661	1938
Summer Spectacular	SUM	1163	1174	1243	1046	1427	1328	1438
Futurity	FUT	1426	1313	1280	1412	1415	1568	1477
<b>Summary by Division</b>								
Open	OP	1454	1381	1321	1253	1597	1597	1794
Non Pro	NP	1091	987	971	963	1157	915	945
Amateur	AM	1447	1548	1576	1286	1969	2045	2114
<b>Summary by Age</b>								
Futurity	Futurity	1426	1313	1280	1412	1415	1568	1477
Derby	Derby	1297	1331	1267	1030	1573	1502	1663
Classic	Classic	1269	1272	1321	1060	709	1487	1713
Special 5	Special 5	0	0	0	0	497	0	0
6/7	6/7	0	0	0	0	529	0	0
<b>Summary by Show / Age</b>								
Futurity	Futurity	1426	1313	1280	1412	1415	1568	1477
Super Stakes	Derby	707	735	669	510	855	840	951
Summer Spectacular	Derby	590	596	598	520	718	662	712
Super Stakes	Classic	696	694	676	534	0	821	987
Summer Spectacular	Classic	573	578	645	526	709	666	726
Super Stakes	Special 5	0	0	0	0	497	0	0
Super Stakes	6/7	0	0	0	0	529	0	0
<b>Summary by Show / Division</b>								
Super Stakes	OP	466	470	428	355	609	558	678
Summer Spectacular	OP	376	370	377	356	459	417	496
Futurity	OP	612	541	516	542	529	622	620
Super Stakes	NP	392	355	326	282	454	333	377
Summer Spectacular	NP	285	279	283	284	334	256	240
Futurity	NP	414	353	362	397	369	326	328
Super Stakes	AM	545	604	591	407	818	770	883
Summer Spectacular	AM	502	525	583	406	634	655	702
Futurity	AM	400	419	402	473	517	620	529



2023 WEEKEND/CHALLENGER/SWT/NY SHOW RESULTS (YEAR TO DATE) POSTED												
As of:	WEEKEND CHAMPIONSHIPS			CHALLENGER	CHALLENGER	CIRCUIT	SENIOR WORLD TOUR			NOVICE YOUTH		
12/8/2023	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
#SHOWS	956	1044	1033	78	85	58	701	742	677	26	42	37
#CLASSES	9,354	9,981	9,096	678	653	486	2732	2768	2582	26	42	37
#ENTRIES	82,301	86,365	87,154	4265	4041	2855	5132	5671	5271	80	68	56
ENTRY FEES	\$11,481,548.46	\$10,920,829.75	\$9,765,030.70	\$243,760.00	\$203,308.70	\$111,504.00	\$61,740.00	\$68,905.00	\$60,250.00	\$1,385.00	\$970.00	\$910.00
NCHA FEE	\$906,846.91	\$863,961.43	\$773,610.36	\$15,400.00	\$16,800.00	\$11,045.34	\$30,792.00	\$34,026.00	\$31,626.00	\$480.00	\$408.00	\$336.00
ADDED	\$3,959,647.00	\$3,717,155.00	\$2,931,923.40	\$10,610.00	\$12,457.00	\$9,662.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL PURSE	\$14,534,548.55	\$13,774,023.32	\$11,925,343.74	\$254,370.00	\$215,705.70	\$121,166.00	\$61,740.00	\$68,905.00	\$60,230.17	\$1,385.00	\$970.00	\$910.00

2023 LIMITED AGE SHOW RESULTS (YEAR TO DATE) POSTED												
As of:	8%			3.50%			2%			TOTAL PURSE		
12/8/2023	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
#SHOWS	647	623	659	8	8	10	15	15	15	670	646	684
#CLASSES	1972	1846	1973	129	130	181	725	696	617	2,826	2,632	2725
#ENTRIES	22,806	20,452	21,713	1,615	1,802	3,038	15,198	13,345	12,804	39,618	35,599	37,555
NCHA FEE	\$317,462.86	\$288,728.15	\$256,307.67	\$11,193.23	\$26,676.79	\$48,963.19	\$246,667.34	\$208,269.71	\$208,339.27	\$595,323.43	\$504,674.05	\$506,640.13
ADDED	\$1,351,438.00	\$1,112,126.00	\$1,009,134.00	\$517,486.00	\$501,969.50	\$518,400.00	\$3,955,779.99	\$3,432,939.99	\$3,730,670.00	\$5,826,703.99	\$5,047,201.49	\$5,296,344.00
TOTAL PURSE	\$5,044,406.08	\$4,220,464.85	\$3,988,191.33	\$1,481,662.77	\$1,330,452.72	\$1,674,781.81	\$12,400,732.65	\$10,438,455.26	\$10,795,175.72	\$18,926,800.50	\$16,012,372.85	\$16,458,148.87

## Review of AQHA Award Criteria

Each year AQHA affords NCHA the opportunity to determine the AQHA Leading Sire, Leading Dam and Freshman Sire based on earnings of their offspring during the prior point year. Once determined, these horses will be recognized at AQHA and each year at the NCHA Annual Convention which will be held in Nashville, TN on June 22, 2024 during the Hall of Fame Gala. This year staff asked whether incentive money should continue to be included as there are more instances of incentives that are not directly related to the horses. Currently, the only incentive earnings recorded on horses are those from NCHA sponsors.

The Executive Committee determined that there would be **NO CHANGE** to the calculation of earnings are accumulated for the recognized AQHA Horse awards and winning horses should be identified with incentives included.

**2024 APPROVED LAE SHOW CALENDAR (May-Nov) – SHIANNE MEGEL**

Director of Shows Shianne Megel presented the Approved LAE Show Calendar to the Executive Committee for the 2024 May – November approvals.

2024 Requested	days	Added \$	2023 Requested	days	Added \$	Show Name	Show City	State	Secretary
May 23-26	4	25,000	May 25-28	4	25,000	Mid South Memorial Day LAE	Cordova	TN	Gwen Coie
May 11-25	15	500,000	May 13-27	14	505,000	Breeder's Invitational	Tulsa**	OK	Kathryn Webb
May 22-24	3	34,000	May 24-27	4	36,000	Black Elk Spring Series	Ponoka, AB	Canada	Shauna Renhardt
<b>JUNE 1-2</b>			June 3-4	2		<b>NCHA DAYS</b>			NCHA
June 7-16	10	195,000	June 9-18	10	185,000	PCCHA Derby/CI/Ch	Las Vegas	NV	Tami Rodman
June 6-16	11	100,000	June 8-18	11	100,000	The Non-Pro + The Open	Admore	OK	Della Hillerman
<b>JUNE 21-23</b>			June 23-25	3		<b>NCHA CONVENTION</b>			
<b>JULY 13-AUG 3</b>			July 15-Aug 4	22		<b>SUMMER SPECTACULAR</b>	Fort Worth	TX	NCHA
Aug 9-18	10	276,000	Aug 12-20	9	276,000	West Texas Futurity	Amarillo	TX	Cheryl Callis
<b>** Aug 14-17(15)</b>						<b>Run for A Million - unapproved</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>	<b>NV</b>	
Aug 23-Sept 1	11	101,000	Aug 25-Sept 3	9	107,000	Idaho Cutting Horse Fut & Aged Event	Nampa	ID	Theresa Nelson
Sept 1-8	8	155,000	Sept 3-10	8	100,000	Cotton Stakes/Robert C Brown	West Monroe	LA	Gwen Coie Shauna Reinhardt.
Sept 3-8	6	94,500	Sept 5-10	6	97,500	Black Elk Fall Series Aged Event	Ponoka	Canada	
Sept 6-15	10	103,000	Sept 9-17	9	103,000	Cascade Futurity & Aged Events	Redmond	OR	Theresa Nelson
Sept 14-18	5	67,000	Sept 18-20	5		Canadian Spectacular	Red Deer AB	Canada	Lynn Bailey
Sept 19-28	10	314,500	Sept 21-30	10	314,500	PCCHA Holy Cow Perf. Horse Futurity/Cutting & Gelding	Las Vegas	NV	Kathy Cardon
Sept 23-29	7	99,999	Sept 25-Oct 1	6	99,999	Calgary Stampede CH Futurity Presented by Wrangler	Calgary AB	Canada	Brett Warder
Oct 1-15	15	425,990	Oct 3-16	14	410,990	Brazos Bash	Weatherford	TX	Kim Cox
Oct 18-26	9	230,000	Oct 20-28	9	225,000	Southern Cutting Horse Fut.	Jackson	MS	Gwen Coie
Oct 20-26	7	99,990	Oct 22-28	8	99,970	Utah CHA Futurity & Aged Event	Ogden, UT	UT	Kathryn Webb
Oct 29-Nov 3	6	46,000	Oct 31-Nov 5	6	46,000	The WacoTexas Futurity	Waco	TX	Kim Cox
<b>NOV 11-DEC 7</b>			Nov 13-Dec 9	27		<b>NCHA WORLD CHAMP. FUT.</b>	Fort Worth	TX	NCHA

After the presentation of the 2024 Approved LAE Show Calendar for May – November, a **MOTION** was made by Mark Senn and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to approve the 2024 Approved LAE Show Calendar for May – November as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NCHA MEMBERS HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE UPDATES – MARK SENN**

President Elect Mark Senn updated the Executive Committee with the suggested inductees for the NCHA class of 2024 to the Members Hall of Fame.

The 2023-24 Hall of Fame Selection Committee would like to present the following two (2) suggested inductees for final approval to the 2024 NCHA Members Hall of Fame:

- Garry Merritt
- Steve Norris

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Cara Brewer to accept the suggestion brought forth from the Members Hall of Fame Selection Committee and induct both Garry Merritt and Steve Norris to the 2024 Members Hall of Fame. **MOTION PASSED.**

## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

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

**Region 1** – **Kristen York** provided an update from Region 1 that cuttings in Canada are doing really well. Circuit structure has been accepted in Region 1 and all seem to be working well together. Big Sky still has to decide on a location for the Circuit Finals but it is a work in process. Kristen did mention that we need to look at district areas who have all directors terming out on the same cycle to establish more continuity. As it stands, this would only change with the impact of the member count in that area and the number of directors allotted to serve.

**Region 2** – **Phil Benadum** reported that Region 2 is off to a good start; the Paso Robles show was well attended.

**Region 3** – **Kirby Smith** emphasized that the shows in Carthage were well attended. There are challenging weather conditions in Region 3 and some shows have been interrupted like Lebanon. Rapid City and Lincoln were small shows but went well. County road closures in Nebraska have made cattle transport difficult.

**Region 4** – **John Lavelle** provided an update that cutting interests seem to be strong; cattle continue to be a challenge; between the Great Lakes and the Appalachian Circuits, Region 4 cutters have many options to attend cuttings.

**Region 5** – **Sharon Overstreet** reported that the Sunshine Circuit is thriving; Carolina CHA is running strong and Wateree CHA is scheduled for some upcoming shows. Pam Scott offered some small cuttings that are bringing in new interests.

**Region 6** – **Tommy Williams** stated that the Ike was well attended, and Robert Charles Brown did a great job producing that show.

**Region 7** – **Skip Jones** expressed that cuttings have started strong even though a show in Amarillo in January had to cancel due to the weather.

**Region 8** – **Kathleen Moore** reported that the weekend and limited age events have been good. There is a show to attend every weekend in Region 8 so cutting is strong. Location for



the NCHA days is yet to be determined as both Blue Ridge and Whitesboro have submitted applications.

**At Large – Cara Brewer** stated that Ada show was a good size. She missed Augusta due to the Art of the Cowgirl in Queen Creek, Arizona which was well attended this year. Every year it has grown about 60% in attendance. NCHA sets up a booth and we get about one hundred new memberships each year. Cara does a clinic and demonstration on cutting at this event.

**At Large – Casey Green** reported that Region 8 cuttings have been big and strong; he attended the Augusta Show, and it went well, but heard concerns about the judging. Everything is operating on all cylinders, and he feels like the judging may be holding us back. Judging has been too inconsistent, and scores have been up and down at the shows.

**Vice President – Barnwell Ramsey** conveyed that he has enjoyed taking part in some recent committee calls.

**President-Elect – Mark Senn** addressed the members of the committee with updates from the Augusta Show, entries were up and overall, the show went well. The added money was good. The plan is to keep the quality status of the show and increase the payouts for next year.

### **WORLD FINALS DISCUSSION**

As the meeting ended and before the Executive Committee adjourned for the day, Executive Director Jay Winborn has made a commitment to develop a proposal to increase the payouts for the World Finals at the end of this year. It was suggested to circle back with some sponsors and present a proposal to the Finance and Audit Committee for approval to move forward. Jay emphasized that an announcement should be delivered to the membership soon.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to adjourn the meeting at 5:10PM for the day and reconvene Thursday, February 8, 2024. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 8, 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.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

## **GENERAL SESSION**

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

The NCHA Office and the Executive Committee members have received a lot of feedback and have heard concerns that there are some approved shows not running ethically. To address these comments, the Executive Committee tasked Executive Director Jay Winborn to heavily monitor and scrutinize the show application process and work directly with the NCHA Show Department to better evaluate incoming applications to determine if they are in the best interest of the NCHA and its members.

President Toddy Pitard provided an update regarding a newly developed annual self-evaluation for Executive Director Jay Winborn that will be reviewed following the Executive Committee meetings with the officers. Toddy will provide an update to the Executive Committee with the feedback from that evaluation.

## **NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM UPDATES – ALLISON WALKER**

National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker updated the Executive Committee with additional details for the upcoming 2023 National Circuit Championship show scheduled for April 3–14, 2024 located in the Watt Arena at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, Texas.



### **1. Qualification**

- a. Over 1,600 invitations were mailed by January 26
- b. Champion & reserve champion from each local circuit championships
- c. Top ten in the year end standings (as of November 13, 2023)
- d. If champion and/or reserve show champions were also in the top ten year end standings, we moved down to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> place(s)
- e. There are exemptions when it comes to World Finalists > see program rules for details
- f. All 2024-point year youth are eligible – no qualification required

### **2. Show Format**

- a. Clean slate show (no points from 2023 brought forward)
- b. One go round and a clean slate, working finals
- c. No circuit points awarded at the National Circuit Championships

### **3. Fees & Added Money**

- a. Non-Youth Classes

- i. \$27,000 added
  - ii. \$1,015 entry fee (\$500 jackpot / \$515 office)
- b. Youth Classes
  - i. \$1,500 scholarship in both the Junior and the Senior
    - 1. Class champion to receive \$1,000 scholarship in each class
    - 2. Class reserve champion to receive \$500 scholarship in each class
  - ii. \$500 entry fee (\$250 jackpot / \$250 office)
- c. No advancement fee
- d. Stalls - \$322 (includes 6 bags of shavings)

#### **4. Deadlines**

- a. **March 4, 2024** – entries must be postmarked
- b. **March 15, 2024** – draw for all classes

Allison addressed additional questions from the Executive Committee:

1. Q: What is the percentage that will go back to the finals? A: Top 25% advance with a cap of twenty-five plus ties
2. Q: How will the entry fee drive the payout in the finals? A: \$500 add back to jackpot / \$250 Youth
3. Q: Payouts? A: Horse show payout scale, all finalists after mandatory scale placings will receive a finalist check currently projected at \$500 but subject to change.
4. Q: Any Youth regardless of points are eligible to enter? A: Yes
5. Q: Do Youth points earned at this event count for Youth World standings? A: Yes, but only in the go round.
6. Q: How will show conflicts be handled: A: All concerns or questions with conflict in the show schedule will be directed to Director of Shows Shianne Megel; Will Rogers Coliseum takes precedence over any conflicts and the National Circuit Championship show will be delayed in the Watt until conflict is resolved.

It was suggested to advance the invites and entry deadline for next year to accommodate the search for cattle.

President Toddy Pitard expressed thanks to Allison Walker for her efforts in the success of this program.

#### **2024 NCHA ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATES – CATHY MARIE ALEFF**

Cathy Marie Aleff shared a presentation with the Executive Committee that highlighted the location, venue, keynote speaker and potential entertainment that will be finalized soon.

- 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 badges and printed materials.
- Postcards were sent out to active members with more information directing them to our convention webpage.
- Keynote Speaker – Will Chesney

- Welcome Reception Entertainer – Dave Fenley (Acoustic Solo Guitarist)
- Hall of Fame Gala Entertainer – TBD
- Tickets for the Gala will be available for sale - \$250 a ticket and \$2000 a table (seats 10)
- Trainers Panel is back for this year’s convention on that Saturday afternoon, with lead panelist Tim Smith, and Matt Gaines, Cara Brewer, Jesse Lennox, Mike Wood, Grant Setnicka and Kenny Platt
- Hotel block expires May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Registration deadline for printed materials is May 24<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

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



The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in person around the beginning of May. Dates are to be circulated by email to the members of this committee to determine dates.

**TWO-YEAR-OLD TRAINER AWARD PROPOSAL – MARK SENN**

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee proposed the inception of a new two-year-old trainer award under the title of Gerald Alexander Excellence Award. This award would be honored every three years with a Kerry Kelly Bit and plaque. The criteria being proposed is as follows:

***Gerald Alexander Excellence Award***

New for 2024, this award is to be presented every three (3) years to a 2yr old cutting horse trainer, this individual should be a member in good standing who exemplifies integrity, values and contributes to the industry as he prepares our horses for top cutting trainers to move them forward to excellence in the arena.

The recipient will be honored with a Kerry Kelley bit and plaque at the annual convention and/or the NCHA Futurity. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee made up of 5-7 members. The incoming President will appoint a new member to serve every three (3) years as an old member’s term expires. The Two-Year-Old Trainers may be nominated by committee members or by NCHA members who submit a written letter or online nomination form every

year by January 1st. Nominees will be eligible and considered for the next five (5) meetings the committee meets to consider a deserving recipient. The nomination form will appear online.

In addition to the proposed criteria, a list of selection committee members was suggested and presented to review the nominations and determine the recipients.

After much discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to accept the proposal from the Hall of Fame Selection Committee presented for the 2024 inception of the Gerald Alexander Excellence Award and proposed list of committee members as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **MEDICATION POLICY CHANGE – JULIE DAVIS**

Director of Membership and Horse and Medication Review Committee Liaison Julie Davis presented the Executive Committee members with a recommendation from Medication Review Committee led by Chairman Jerry Black, DVM, to make a change of our official testing center from UC Davis to be reinstated with Dr. Stanley at the University of Kentucky as that facility is now equipped for testing.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the recommendation as proposed by the Medication Review Committee to change our official medication testing facility to the University of Kentucky. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Standardize Class Names/Eligibility**

As per the recommendation from the Approved LAE Show Producers in the minutes from their June 24, 2023, Approved LAE Show Producers meeting at the convention in Las Vegas with an unanimous vote in favor that was brought to the August EC Meeting in 2023, the Executive Committee suggested to get this language published in the official NCHA Rulebook. Insert recorded in August 7-8, 2023, EC Minutes on page 26 is as follows:

#### **2. Standardize Class Names/Eligibility**

Recommend standardization across all approved Premier 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.

A **MOTION** was made by Mark Senn and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve standardization across all approved Premier 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 PASSED.**

After much discussion with regards to this recommendation submitted by the Approved LAE Show Producers at the August 2023 EC Meeting, a **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and

**SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to duplicate this show rule language and publish that the standardization across all approved Premier LAE shows 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 to be effective for the 2025 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

Regional Director and EC Member representing Region 4 John Lavelle inquired about the legal review and rewrite of the NCHA Rulebook? Jay alluded to the fact that efforts for that review were redirected and that NCHA would initiate that process again soon.

Regional Director and EC Member representing Region 3 Kirby Smith mentioned the fact that since the points have been designated and approved, what about the fees (\$3) at the Challenger Shows. The consensus of the Executive Committee members is to issue a directive and add it to agendas for the upcoming convention.

**The Executive Committee issued a directive to the Weekend Show, Amateur and Affiliate Officers/Secretaries Committees to evaluate fees assessed at Challenger Shows now that the points have been determined by placing it on their convention agendas and report back to the EC at the August Meeting.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Elect Mark Senn encouraged members on the Executive Committee to offer some suggestions for future convention locations so that we can secure a venue moving forward. Suggestions should be submitted by Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Executive Director Jay Winborn mentioned a recent call with a European Director inquiring about how to get an international rider equipped to show in the US without having to ship a horse overseas. The Executive Committee discussed this opportunity and offered some suggestions for Jay to relay for consideration that would be compliant with our show rules.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Barnwell Ramsey and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to adjourn the meeting at 11:16AM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**