

**NCHA WELCOME MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2025 * 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM
LONE STAR BALLROOM
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS * GRAND HYATT RIVER WALK**



The 2025 NCHA Annual Convention began with a welcome meeting for all attendees held at 7:00 AM on Friday, June 20, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt River Walk in San Antonio, Texas.

President Mark Senn called the meeting to order at 7:06 AM and welcomed everyone back to the Annual Convention.

OPENING REMARKS – MARK SENN

President Mark Senn opened with remarks of this welcome meeting by kicking off the annual convention on a positive note with an outstanding motivational speaker and a weekend full of activities and meetings. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend the annual meetings. Your attendance shows your compassion for this organization and how you want to make it better. NCHA appreciates your input and involvement as we continue down the road of success.

President Mark Senn asked staff to all stand to be recognized for all the outstanding job they do for the members and encouraged all to find a staff member and introduce yourself as a member. If you have any questions the staff is here to help answer your concerns. Be respectful of each other as we all have our own opinions and remember we are all here for the same purpose and our love for the horse.

OPENING PRAYER – MARK SENN

President Mark Senn led the meeting in prayer with emphasis on guidance with all decision-making processes and strength for our leaders.

NATIONAL ANTHEM – KELLEY HARTRANFT

Following prayer, President Mark Senn welcomed everyone to stand and join NCHA Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft as she led the audience singing the National Anthem.

MISSION STATEMENT – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn led the attendees of the meeting in reciting the NCHA 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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed the members with the opportunity this weekend to connect, collaborate and reflect on cutting. Jay shared a quote from a letter written by Byron Matthews, a former leader of the association in the 1960s. Jay read, "we must not lose sight of the fact that the cutting horse association was organized to promote cutting horse contests primarily for the association, recreation, and pleasures that they provide. Regardless of the action to be taken, it is my duty upon every member of the NCHA to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. With that, all of us will cooperate and the furtherance of our cutting and the spreading of goodwill. That timeless wisdom reminds us of that respect for each other, for the sport and for the process must always come first."

This weekend we will cover everything from rule updates to program development to expand our reach. You will hear enthusiastic voices and bold ideas. You are encouraged to lean in, ask questions, and participate in conversations. We are not just an association, we are a community, a family and families grow stronger when everyone has a voice, and they work together at the table.

In speaking in strength, it is now my honor to introduce someone who embodies those values in every sense of the word. Our keynote speaker this morning is no stranger to overcoming adversity. Born with one leg, Anthony Robles defied all expectations and became an NCAA Wrestling Champion not because it was easy but because he refused to let limitations define his journey. Anthony's story is not just about athletics, it is about mindset, heart, power, and belief. It is about rising above all challenges, something that every one of us in this room, whether in the arena or the boardroom, can relate to. His message is built on courage, grit and personal accountability, qualities that align perfectly with what we are striving to protect and grow at the NCHA.

Please join me in welcoming our guest speaker, Champion and true inspiration, Mr. Anthony Robles.

Introduction link:

<https://vimeo.com/81035012?share=copy>

Trailer of Anthony's film:

<https://f.io/UCqylueP>

Anthony Robles shared his story with the attendees and truly inspired all to stay focused, and emphasized determination is "Unstoppable." "Don't let your personal challenge become your excuse!"

"BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE" VIDEO – DIRECTOR OF JUDGES ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges Andy Adams addressed the members of the meeting after sharing the video

encouraging all interested members to step up and get their judges' card. To keep up with the demands of cuttings both for limited aged and weekend shows, we need more judges to serve and get involved to address this need for the association.

To view the "Best Seat in the House" Video, click the link provided below:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1jpvqnglu8hk817l6cctg/best_seat_in_the_house-1080p.mp4?rlkey=fqu9de5h7eeg2oxjr2c9uzwg4&dl=0

President Mark Senn thanked Andy for the work he has done with the Judges Department as Director of Judges.

CLOSING REMARKS – MARK SENN

President Mark Senn closed with the following one idea and one thought. Years ago, Past President Steve Norris proposed one idea a National Circuit and through that we have the National Circuit Finals. Before that, most of the people in this room never cared to know where they ranked in their regions or if they were in the Top 30, and they do now. It was a great idea that was vetted and implemented to the success it has today and benefits the weekend cuttings. Let us use that strategy to see what we can bring out of this convention as we collaborate in our committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 AM. President Mark Senn thanked everyone for attending and all were dismissed to attend their respective regional breakout meetings at the Grand Hyatt River Walk Hotel.