

MINNESOTA HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2009

Held at Oak City Grill, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Board members in attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
G. Brandt	X	S. Golden		L. Ostberg	X	M. Genereux	
S. Clayton		V. Holst		N. Reid	X	D. Hudlow	
L. Danielson	X	T. Johnson	X	S. Riley	X	L. Jensen	
J. Erickson		J. McCaffrey	X	J. Schulz	X	Membership:	
P. Franz	X	G. Novak	X	K. Watson	X	B. Kieffer	X

There were approximately 20 members in attendance including the Board.

Meeting was called to order by G. Brandt; she provided a report to the members and there was discussion about several items:

1. She thanked all who attended including the Board, Junior Representatives, Clinic committee, newsletter editors and Brenda Johnsen, the Horse Show committee and other volunteers who make the MHJA programs possible.
2. Current MHJA membership is approximately 360; 8% lower than last year.
3. **2009 Programs:**
 - Enhanced Newsletter
 - MHJA Hunter Challenge series
 - MHJA Horse Show: changed to a B show this year
 - MHJA Medal and Mini-Medal finals at Carriage House Horse Show
 - Year End Awards: Despite budget cuts we have great prizes through Patti Nelson's company
 - Banquet: November 21 with auctions to benefit MHJA
 - Junior Board participation on committees and newsletter
 - Spring Shindig demo clinic and social event
 - Anne Kursinski clinic November 7 and 8 cooperatively with Sue Kyllonen and Alpine
 - EAP program May 30 and 31 at Raven Ridge Farm
4. **Financial Status - Year to date:**
 - Cash balance as of September 30, 2009 is \$47,969. For previous years we were at \$58,536 as of October 15, 2008 and \$72,187 as of January 1, 2008. We should end this year at approximately \$41,000 to 42,000.
 - The MHJA Horse Show, principal fund raiser, has lost money the last 2 years. Despite changing to a B rated show and making a number of cuts the show had expenses in excess of revenue of \$9,224.
 - Fund raising this year brought in \$2,955; a little more than ½ of what was raised in 2006 and 2007.
 - 2009 Budget has cut expenses and risks in several areas including clinics, year-end awards and meetings.
5. **Planning for 2010:**
 - Dues: Two categories of membership will be offered. Sustaining member dues will remain at \$40.00 per year. This includes the newsletter, website, directory and other

information. Sustaining members will not be eligible for year-end awards. Competing member dues will be \$60.00 per year. Competing members and all horses they own will be eligible for year-end awards.

■ **MHJA Horse Show:** The Board has been reviewing costs, dates, venue improvements, schedule and class changes, sponsorships, etc. We have applied for 2010 for the same dates and location as last year. Probably will go to a 2 ring format. Possibly will add Quarter Horse hunter classes as it is the week before a very large Quarter Horse show at the State Fair Grounds. We probably can't hold a rated show and make money in this economy. Members want the horse show to continue. We need more trainers to participate which will bring more entries.

■ **MHJA Affiliated Horse Shows:** Alpine, River Bend, Carriage House, Otter Creek, Mason City, Harvest, Maffitt Lakes. What should be done for 2010? How do we encourage participation? It was noted that the Maffitt Lakes classes don't meet the MHJA class specifications. Suggestions made include the following: bring back "team" based prizes, do a team challenge at our Horse Show, offer local circuit awards, offer double points at the local shows.

It was also noted that the MHJA provides the timers used at most of the local shows at no cost. Last year some timer components were not returned. We need to enforce the repair/replacement clause in our contract.

It was suggested that a letter be included in the next Newsletter discussing the possibility of losing some horse shows due to the economy and to discuss our financial status.

■ **MHJA Newsletter and Website updates and format changes:** Patty Franz would like to hire Sarah Donnell to work with us to upgrade the Newsletter and possibly the website.

■ **MHJA Clinics:** Frequency, format, fees, clinicians, etc.

■ **Junior Board activities**