

NORTH COUNTRY HORSEMEN - ANNUAL MEETING Minutes
February 28, 2015

After a brief welcome, the NCH annual meeting was called to order by President Sue Helm.

Secretary's Report was provided by Ronnette Anderson as an attachment to the evening's agenda. Roger Hille made a motion to approve the secretary's report and seconded by Marc Horien. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Mardy Anderson; General Account: \$548.56, Arena Account: \$576.73 and Trails To Treatments Grant Fund Account: \$25,778.29. Marcie Fisher made a motion to approve as read and seconded by Jack Beito. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Sue Helm gave an update on becoming a tax exempt organization. She stated that the 501c3 application was mailed to the IRS on Dec 10, 2014. We received a letter from the IRS that stated our application is being processed and they will have a response within 180 days.
- Sue Helm gave a quick review of NCH purchases and expenses in 2014 that included; a laptop, printer, arena speaker, tractor, shop vac, 501c3 application fee and attorney fees
- Each year NCH gives out \$100 sponsorships for horse related events as a part of our Youth Sponsorship Program. We had 13 members that went to MN state fair in 2014 equaling \$1300 in sponsorships. Last year's grant recipients were invited to the mic to speak about their experiences at the MN state fair. Stephanie & Trisha Vagle, Terhya & Teahna Anderson, Kendra Westlund, Caprice Christianson, Brooke & Hope Lyberg, Ruthie Finney, Brooke Gatheridge and Kally Wojciechowski all expressed their appreciation. **Good job girls!** (Emily Schmiedeberg and Ava Sturgeon also received sponsorships, but were unable to attend this meeting.)

Committee Reports:

- Cancer Ride Committee: Mardy Anderson announced that TrailsToTreatments (TTT) has given out a total of \$70,100. He reported that the 2014 cancer ride and fundraiser brought in \$25,186.42 after expenses. He went on to say that due to increasing donations, we are now able to increase TTT grants to \$500 effective January 1st, 2015. He thanked everyone for the support TTT has gotten from our members and the community.
- Arena Committee: Mardy Anderson reported that we purchased a tractor to replace the one that was stripped down for \$1000. We replaced a speaker on the west side of the arena. We did dirt work to firm up the arena ground. He also said that we will need a shed at the arena to store our tractor.
- Food/Fundraiser Committee: Sharon Holmstrom and Kelly Gillund submitted a statement that was read by Marcie Fisher. "On behalf of the Food Committee, we would like to thank all who bought food from us at our shows this past year. Also a special thanks to those who donated bars and other items and to those who helped out in the food shack. The funds that we earn are used to help support the arena and other Saddle Club expenses."
- Trail Ride Committee: Marcie Fisher & Sandy Moses presented "Trotting the Trails" Awards. Bronze Awards went to Tessany Blazek, Hope Lyberg, Sharon Holmstrom and Faith Lyberg. Silver Awards went to Brooke Lyberg and Stephanie Vagle. Gold Awards went to Christine Foster, Ruthie Finney, Sue Helm, Kinzie Melvie and Brooke Gaitheridge.
 - Marcie Fisher announced that anyone who signed up for Trotting to Trails received a t-shirt and 5 hours to start the 2015 riding year off.

- Show/Games Committee: Shirley Horien introduced the current committee members and thanked Ronnette Anderson and Brenda Knutson (both stepped down this year) for their years of being on the committee. She also spoke of the number of participants at our events, noting that we had 85 participating at the second show! Amanda Tungseth and Shirley Horien presented yearend awards:
 - High Point Classic-Christine Foster, Reserve High Point Classic-Keith Wojciechowski, Reserve High Point Classic-Kathy Johnson
 - High Point Senior-Amanda Tungseth, Reserve High Point Senior-Shannon Finney
 - High Point Junior-Brooke Gatheridge, Reserve High Point Junior-Brooke Lyberg
 - High Point Intermediate-Kally Wojciechowski, Reserve High Point Intermediate-Ava Sturgeon
 - High Point Pee Wee-Faith Lyberg, Reserve High Point Pee Wee-Cody Larsen
 - High Point Small Fry-Savannah Anderson, Reserve High Point Small Fry-Reina Kraska
 - Dedication Award-Kendra Westlund
 - Buckle Award-Emily Novak

After asking for any further old business or committee updates, Sue Helm moved to new business on the agenda.

New Business:

- **Yearly election of officers:** Sue Helm was elected president by unanimous ballot cast by Roger Hille. Nominations for vice president were opened to the floor; Ronnette Anderson and Shirley Horien were nominated. By paper ballot vote, Ronnette Anderson was elected vice president. Kristi Westlund was nominated for secretary and was elected by unanimous ballot cast by Mardy Anderson. Mardy Anderson was elected treasurer by a unanimous ballot cast by Marc Horien.

After asking for any further new business, Sue Helm asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Beito made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Tyler Maurstad.

Following the meeting, Marlene Peterson announced that the local "Flying V" cancer fundraising team is joining up with NCH's TTT, so all their fundraising now will be donated to TTT!

The rest of the evening's activities included silent and live auctions, pin the tail on the donkey game, pictures at the photo booth and kids breaking the piñata.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Westlund, NCH Secretary