



## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**January 10th, 2026 12:30 pm CDT**

**Ramkota Hotel Pierre, SD**

### **I. Call to Order** by SDQHA President Bob Carr at 12:31 pm

AQHA Past President Jim Hunt introduced past AQHA CEO Karl Stressman and past Miss Rodeo America Callie Mueller as special guests to our annual general membership meeting and banquet.

### **II. Secretary's Report** by Shelby Holmes

Dean Johnson made a motion to approve the secretary's report. Penny Peterson seconded. Carried.

### **III. Treasurer's Report** by Jodie Svenes

General Account: \$19,196.64

Membership Account: \$16,752.37

Total: \$35,949.01

Profit of \$2,253.00 for the year of 2025.

Sheila Schelske made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Dean Johnson seconded. Carried.

### **IV. Youth Report** by Debbi Holmes-Stockstill

Debbi Holmes-Stockstill, interim Youth Advisor, introduced our new Youth Advisor, Dee Haugen. With the help of Debbi Holmes-Stockstill, Dee Haugen and the youth are going to rebuild this section of our association. Debbi Holmes-Stockstill had the idea of implementing a points and recognition program to incentivise the youth to get points and then to get prizes. You don't have to have a horse to be a part of this program. The main focus right now is membership growth. Stay tuned to see what great things the youth will complete this year!

### **V. National Directors Reports**

#### **A. Dean Johnson - Animal Welfare Commission, World Show Committee, & the Performance side of the Ranching Committee.**

The animal welfare commission is still using the heat therapy to detect horses that have gone through chemical alterations with the use of drugs to alter the neck and/or tail. The world show schedule is going to be out way sooner than last year instead of right before the AQHA Convention. Dean states that the world show went great last year and they look to continue to grow the show and have continued success. The ranch horse classic also went on where 20 horses competed for \$80,000, with the winner taking home around \$34,000. Regarding the PRCA rodeo in Chihuahua, Mexico, they had another great turnout last year and look forward to continued growth in the years to come. They are still looking into expanding to other countries at this time.

#### **Jim Hootman - Nominations and Credentials Committee**

Jim has been on this committee about 3 times over his many years within AQHA. This committee is voted on by the board and the executive committee has no oversight over this committee. Jim asks for questions from the general membership due to this committee being confidential.

#### **Kristen Gonsoir - Youth Committee**

Kristen Gonsoir states that they are in the process of selecting the next AQH Lead program class for 2026 and AQHA Emerging leader award recipients that will be showcased at the AQHA Convention in Las Vegas this coming March.

The youth associations theme this year is "Make it Count". Kristen also states that the youth World Show numbers were up in general this past year especially in the 13 and under division.

#### **Dr. Heather Sutton - Public Policy Committee**

With Dr. Sutton's background as a veterinarian, she feels she does well with this committee. Dr. Sutton discussed issues related to the Horse Protection Act and various things that were discussed around the act during the welfare committees meeting at the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) convention in Denver, CO this past December.

#### **Debbi Holmes-Stockstill - Affiliate Advisory Board for Region 2 & Stud Book and Registration Committee**

Debbi Holmes-Stockstill stated that AQHA offers grants to help grow and support local shows, and that the AIM Rally held at the AQHA Convention provides an opportunity for members from around the world to come together to discuss current issues facing the industry. In her role on the Stud Book and Registration Committee, she reported that several proposed rule changes were presented and voted down, including the registration of 50/50 Appaloosa and Quarter Horse foals. She also noted that foals are still required to be DNA tested in order to be registered, and that the buyer, rather

than the seller, remains responsible for paying the transfer fee. Additionally, the myAQHA.com platform was highlighted as a valuable tool for managing registrations and membership needs. Looking ahead, it is expected that the association will continue operating under the 2015 rule, which was originally implemented to promote new stallions and prevent the narrowing of the gene pool. Under this rule, foals cannot be registered beyond the two-year registration limit.

**Janet Hansen - Show Committee & Show format & Guidelines Subcommittee**

Janet Hansen stated that she was unable to attend the AQHA Convention last year, but states the SDQHA endowment established with the SDSU equestrian team is still viable and doing well, stating that the team is now top 10 in the nation.

**Jim Hunt - Chairman of Past Presidents Committee**

Debbi Holmes-Stockstill is on the slate from becoming another EC member. Past Presidents select the new EC position and present to the general membership and voted on by the board of directors.

**Larry Larson - International Committee**

Not present.

**Georgia Sutton - Ranching Committee**

Not present.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Reaffirm National Directors**

Amanda made a motion to reaffirm our national directors. Sheila Schelske seconded. Carried.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Introduction of State Directors**

East: Sheila Prins, JoLynn Jacobson, Bob Carr

West: Belynn Johner, Amanda Dikoff, Mindy Hubert

Central: Sheila Schelske, LeAnn Bender, JD Lauing

At Large: Sammy Ryan, Randy Guggisberg, Dakota Karber

Retiring/Resigning: Sammy Ryan (At Large), Sheila Schelske (Central)

## **B. State Director Nominations**

Retiring/Resigning: Sammy Ryan (At Large), Sheila Schelske (Central)

Kristen Gonsior moves for nominations eased and nominates Doris Launing for the west position. Penny Peterson seconded. Carried

There are two candidates for the central position, Dee Haugen and Sydney Gray. Votes were tallied by the National Directors and Sydney Gray was voted into a central state director position.

## **C. 2026 Summer Shootout**

Kirsten Gonsior states that this year's Summer Shootout is still a work in progress. The tentative dates this year are June 4-7 in Brookings, SD at the Dakotah Bank Center. Kristen states that the committee is looking into revamping the schedule by putting the trail classes in the mornings as well as charging a trail fee per horse. Kristen also states that class sponsors and volunteers are still greatly needed. Information on how to become a class sponsor is on our website, sdqha.com, and for questions on how to volunteer, please ask anyone on the show committee.

Jim Hootman stated that, with the board's permission, the committee was allowed to look into different avenues due to the cost of the Dakotah Bank Center. The Dex in Huron was looked into but the stalling and camping situation was not ideal for horses staying overnight and the venue is not affordable at this time. Therefore, the Summer Shootout will continue to be held in Brookings.

## **VIII. Budget by Jodie Svennes**

A balanced budget similar to previous years was presented. The association had 115 members this past year, which is the highest number since 2018. Jodie Svennes stresses the need for more sponsorships and ads in the directory. The arena drag Raffle was a success and we made roughly \$3,000 on this fundraiser, which was responsible for our profit this year. The association is going to continue to be a sponsor for the Region 2 Championship show while exploring ways to increase our sponsorships at events around the state such as high school and professional rodeos, local horse clubs, and more.

Amanda Dikoff makes a motion to approve the budget as presented. Dean Johnosn seconded. Carried.

## **IX. 2026 Show Dates**

The website will be updated with the 2026 show dates as they come in.

## **X. Other Business**

Shane Kramme with the South Dakota Horseman's association spoke on the health of horse racing in South Dakota. He stated that all the horses that ran on the track passed drug tests and the number of licenses within the state has remained steady. The health of the racing industry in South Dakota is continuing to grow every year. We would like to thank Shane for coming, sponsoring a table at our banquet, and for showing their support of our organization.

**XI. Adjourn Meeting**

Sheila Schelske made a motion to adjourn the meeting. JD Lauing seconded. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.