**Southwestern Donkey and Mule Society**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 10, 2018**

**Call to Order:**

The Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by President Greg Schlosser at Heitmiller’s Steak House, 4509 I-35, Waco, Texas at 11:20 a.m.

**Attendees:**

Emily Lambeth, Mary Stewart, Greg Schlosser, Sally Armstrong, Vicki Taylor, Donna Baethge, Lynda Cornell, Kristin Stolee, Sarah Matz, Dianne Smith, and Jessica Meuth. Unable to attend was Robert Polley and Shirley Knott.

**Secretary’s Report:**

The December 2, 2017 Minutes shall be amended to reflect Donna Heath and Hannah Heath in attendance. A correction to the Treasurer’s Report will be made to reflect, “Dianne Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented.” Donna Baethge will make these changes and send out for final approval via email.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Greg Schlosser distributed the Treasurer’s Report in Shirley’s absence. There was a question regarding a discrepancy on an earlier report showing a $54.02 profit for the Classic show which does not match this report. Greg will address this at the next audit. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s Report by Mary Stewart. A second was made by Emily Lambeth. Motion carried.

**Rules Committee:**

Greg talked to Paula Brown (Gulf Coast Donkey and Mule Society President) regarding a meeting of the Rules Committee. Sandi Costa is on the GCDMS Rules Committee, and emailed Greg about the index not matching the pages in the Rulebook. Sally Armstrong stated there should be an electronic file with the current Rulebook. Donna Baethge said there is a link for the Rulebook on our website, but Greg stated it is the 2012 Rulebook. We currently do not have an electronic copy to post. Sandi suggested we convert to the NMDA rulebook, but Lynda Cornell has talked to Diane Calderone (NMDA) and they are currently updating their Rulebook. Their last change was in 2011. There was a discussion on whether to require a helmet for all Youth Driving classes.

Donna Baethge sent out two emails requesting input for changes to our current Rulebook but had no responses. Dianne Smith had a couple with her and she submitted them to Greg Schlosser at the meeting. All rule change suggestions must be received by February 15, 2018. Shirley Knott has volunteered to match up the index and pages, and it was suggested she make any new changes too so only one person is responsible for all updates.

Kristin said in the Rulebook on page 22 (4d) “Exceptions to the time limit rule involving extreme circumstances would be heard by the Texas Rule Book Committee-Hearing Committee” should be changed to say “ Exceptions to the time limit rule involving extreme circumstances would be heard by the individual club’s Hearing Committee”

Sally Armstrong made a motion that we proceed with a Rule Committee meeting with GCDMS and that SDMS will be responsible for getting inserts printed of any changes for SDMS members. Emily Lambeth seconded the motion. Motion carried. Greg will set up a meeting.

Greg also wanted to thank everyone for the success of the Belton Show.

**Show Committee Report:**

Lynda Cornell spoke to Tim, a representative from the Bell County Expo regarding our upcoming Spooktacular in October. Tim sent Lynda some information on the new facilities being built at the Expo and was interested in talking with us about booking a future show with them. Greg and Lynda met with Tim and were given a tour of the new construction site. Everything is under cover, including the warm up arena. The main arena is air conditioned with a new concession stand, enclosed bar area and an air conditioned office we can use. There are 50 new RV sites on concrete with an on-site dump station. The new facilities open on August 1, 2018. Tim called Greg later to discuss having the Classic in Belton. Lynda compared the prices between the facilities in Hamilton and Belton, factoring in our non-refundable deposit for Hamilton. Greg ran comps separately and their figures were very close. There are less shows in August. We would be the second show for this new facility. The venue is slated to be completed by June 1, 2018. Brochures were made available of the new venue.

Lynda contacted NMDA (Diane Calderone) about making this a NMDA Sanctioned show, hosted by SDMS. More Miniatures would be drawn to the show if it is NMDA sanctioned. She has requested an application package to apply. Lynda states the Show Bill will be the same as last year.

We ran out of SDMS T-shirts at the last Classic and we could have sold more. Jessica Meuth said if it happens again, we can order more T-shirts. Dianne Smith offered to do another Silent Auction.

Sally Armstrong made a motion that we have the Southwestern Classic Donkey and Mule Show at the new facility in Belton the weekend of August 10-12, and that the Miniature Donkey portion be an NMDA show. Lynda Cornell seconded the motion. Voted 9 for, 1 against, and motion carried.

Dianne Smith made a motion to eliminate the cone course. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn without a second.

There was a discussion regarding the width of cones for Miniature Driving. Sally Armstrong volunteered to run the cones course with a set width. NMDA states a fixed width of a 10-20” clearance. If we have a set width determined by the widest cart, it will reduce the time of the class by not having to move the cones for different sized carts. We can state the set cone width on the Show Bill. Greg said the distance on poles are 12’ under Texas rule. There was discussion regarding increasing the distance to 16’. It was suggested we stay consistent with NMDA Rules, which states 16’. No action was taken.

There was discussion regarding the definition of Multi hitch for shows. (Single Hitch, Pairs, and Multiple Hitch.) Pairs is defined by two animals and Multiple is defined as 3 or more. If we break it down to Pairs and Multi Hitch, we would have more classes. NMDA allows for up to 38” for Miniature Donkey pairs and multiple hitch.

Donna Baethge said all Miniature Donkeys must be registered to be shown in an NMDA Show. There was discussion that if we have an NMDA show all the Miniature Donkeys would need to be registered. Under Texas rules, they do not need to be registered. It was decided that if it was an NMDA show we would not run separate classes for non-registered miniature donkeys.

There was also discussion about how year-end points might be affected if an animal that wasn’t registered showed in Fort Worth and then would not be able to show at an NMDA show. Sally will check the registration status of miniature donkeys that were at Fort Worth to see if this would be an issue.

There are 7 months before the show and plenty of time to have donkeys registered. We are applying to Host an NMDA Sanctioned Show and the NMDA Rules are applicable. Donna will post the show information on Facebook, our Website, and email members on the date and location.

There was a lengthy discussion on differences between the NMDA Rulebook and Texas Rulebook and how it would apply to the Classic and Year End Awards. There was further discussion about points since NMDA goes by actual age instead of January 1st. In the past the NMDA show points were entered on the animal’s division status under Texas rules. Since the show would be later in the year, it might not be an issue.

This is the 45th anniversary for SDMS. Lynda Cornell has some of the old information she received from Shirley that could be included in a newsletter. Lynda suggested Sarah Matz could condense it and send it to Donna. Dianne says we are the oldest club in the USA. Sarah volunteered to work with Donna to create a newsletter.

Donna asked for guidelines on what is okay to post on our Facebook or Website. It was agreed as long as the posting relates to our members, it is okay.

**New Business:**

**Year End Policies:**

Sally Armstrong and Greg Schlosser distributed handouts to discuss the current policies to help create written policies regarding Year End Points and Year End Awards. No written policy exists. Three years ago, changes were made and attention was not given to the affect on year end awards.

**Eligibility:** It was agreed that you must participate in 75% of the shows and your dues must be paid prior to the show in order for point to count toward Year End Awards.

There was discussion regarding awards that are given for large animal classes. Some classes receive a special award at a show. Since gymkhana is only offered at the Ft. Worth Show, the exhibitor receives a special award at that show. By pulling out the Driving and English classes from the Large Animal High Point, those exhibitors currently get special awards at Ft. Worth and the Classic Show.

Sally Armstrong made a motion that “There will be no special awards for English and Large Animal Driving Classes during the year. There will be High Point Awards for English and Large Animal Classes at year end.” A second was made by Dianne Smith. Motion carried.

Sally made a motion that Gymkhana gets a special award at the Fort Worth Show but no Year End award. Dianne Smith, motion carried.

**Participation Defined**: Sally Armstrong made a motion: For large animal specialty divisions of English and Driving, high point award at year end will be based on total number of points earned, regardless of how many show participated in. Dianne Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Ties:** Ties should be broken according to the tie breaking rules in the Texas Rulebook.

**Year End Awards: Youth and Sub Youth Division:**  It is agreed that “One youth, one animal combination” applies, but they can show more than one animal and those can also count toward year end high point. Animals do not need to be declared. Greg made the motion “The interpretation of “One Youth, One Animal combination” does not limit the youth to showing one animal at a show.” Lynda Cornell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Points follow Animal:** It was clarified that points follow the animal throughout the year. If an animal is sold during the year, the points transfer with the animal to the new owner.

**Halter Points:** Sally made a motion that for Large Animal halter model champion, they will get one more point than the highest point earner. Vicki Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dianne Smith says it’s already in our club minutes from 2016.

Vicki Taylor made a motion that “Miniature Donkey, Best of Breed will get one point more than the highest point earner in the Miniature Halter classes.” Sarah seconded the motion. Motion carried

**SDMS POLICY OUTLINES:**

**Refund Policy** only applies toclass fees for animals and exhibitors. Other fees are retained.

We need to follow the policy that is in place and not make arbitrary decisions.

**Late Entries** Our current policy is that late entries can be made up to one hour prior to show except Fort Worth.

A motion was made by Lynda Cornell that late entries can be made up to 6:00 p.m. the day before the class. Motion was seconded by Dianne Smith. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2018 at Heitmiller’s Steakhouse, 11:00

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Baethge, Secretary SDMS