

General Membership Meeting
11/17/18 – Castleton University, Castleton, VT

Meeting called to order at 10:05AM. There were 10 members in attendance.

Secretary's report was read and approved, Jan/Jennifer D.

George gave the Treasurer's report: \$12,075.53 in checking, everything paid to date. Accepted as presented. Insurance for the year was discussed – it covers up to 7 events for \$615 for the year.

The year-end final point standings for were available in hard copy and circulated. They are also on the web site. Please submit your award requests/suggestions to Debbie by 12/31/18.

Discussion of 2018 events:

Regional/Open Show – The show this year made \$2388.90, the Gymkhana held at the show made \$173.70. Everything went well and we have booked the same weekend for 2019.

Gymkhanas – Attendance and participation was minimal this year. 6 riders, 5 riders, 18 riders at the show. Need some changes for next year and new locations. Katie has a contact at Cross Creek in Brandon. They have been doing some Friday night events and are willing to work with us.

Trail Ride – None held due to lack of interest.

Nominations/Election of Officers and Directors: Jan Lingner/George DuPrey, moved to elect the following slate of officers and directors - passed unanimously.

Nominated and elected to the officer positions were –

President – Jennifer Baker

Vice President – Vickie Smith

Secretary – Deb Danforth

Treasurer – George DuPrey

3 year director – Jan Lingner

2 year director – Jennifer DuPrey

1 year directors – Bernie Wiesen, Bill Rounds

Banquet Plans:

Locations were discussed. Katie will try Mt Abe school, George will try Clarendon Grange and Deb can see about Hoff Hall here at Castleton. Looking for a location with reasonable fees. Will try for March 16, 2019, noonish. Once again, we will combine it with the Spring meeting. We will eat first, hold the meeting, and then do the awards. We will have a 50/50 Raffle and Silent Auction along with the Pot Luck lunch and BYOB. A flyer will be sent out and posted on the web site. We will need an RSVP from everyone planning to attend so we can plan the seating and food. Guests are welcomed. Awards were discussed, we will spend \$30/\$15 per award and do certificates again instead of ribbons. Please get your award requests to Debbie by December 31st.

2019 Events:

Show will be 8/24 & 25/19 at Addison. Jenn B. brought up some frustrations with the show grounds and the lack of upkeep. She had photos of the stalls in need of repair in the 4-H barn (which is maintained by 4-H and not the grounds), arena needs more fill, boards and wire needs repair in the stalls, wash racks need some attention, manure pit needs to be emptied in between events, some rot is being noticed in beams.

Adjustments to the classes and fees were discussed. Combine all sexes in the FPD class, Add Western Reining and Riding (late request last year). Youth Ranch classes discussed, won't add this time around.

Lori Redmond and Christine Earl will be back as Secretary and Announcer. Keep fees the same, with the exception of the stall cleaning fee which will go up to \$30.

Much discussion around the need for MORE help with all aspects of the show. We will specifically be asking members to do certain jobs.

- Shavings – we need someone to make the arrangements for delivery to the grounds and manage the stall where they are stored. Exhibitors will need to come to the stall for their shavings and be checked off with how many ordered and taken. We can have a dolly available to help exhibitors with this. This is a Friday job.
- Stall cleaning – will need a group who wants to make money. Last year there were 20 stalls that paid \$20 to be cleaned. It can be a good fund raiser for a group with several workers. It's just too much for one or two individuals. Katie will reach out to an FFA group to see if they are interested in the job. We will increase the fee to \$30 per stall cleaned this year.
- Garbage – need someone to be in charge of emptying cans on Saturday and Sunday, before they get so full you can't pull the bag out. We use contractor bags and duct tape. Brigham volunteered to be in charge of garbage duty.
- Food booth – will ask Salisbury 4-H club again.
- Farrier – Heather Huchro will be on call again.
- Prize Stall – for the last several years, Jan and Jenn have been providing most of the prizes in the stall, which are available in place of a ribbon. It has become too overwhelming for just a few people to donate all the prizes. We need more members to step up and help either with monetary contributions or prize contributions. We need folks to help out with collecting sponsors, etc. and spread out the burden of the prize booth. We will again discuss at the March meeting.

We have the option of a New Haven location to hold a one day open show if we'd like. The fee would be \$300 to use the facility, which has about 20 stalls.

Gymkhanas: Discussion was held around only doing the one at our show (mandatory), then pointing other events like the Cross Creek events, VT Horseman's gymkhanas. Pick dates and send in your results for your best 2-3 events like is done with the shows. The VT Horse Council has an electronic timer that they may be interested to sell. Vickie and Katie will check into that. The club will no longer run the Gymkhana at the state 4-H horse show.

Ways to boost membership was discussed. We will reach out to old members to try to get them back involved with the club. Also look into other areas of the state to generate interest in the club.

There were no Scholarship applications submitted yet. The funds will be held over and added to next year's amount, if there is an applicant next year. Applications will be accepted by mail. We will entertain any equine educational purpose for any member.

No Sportsmanship Award nominations have been received.

2019 Event dates:

Banquet – March 16

Gymkhanas – 8/24 at Addison

Trail Ride – On hold, need someone to organize.

Show – Dates reserved at Addison: August 24, 25.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully,
Deb Danforth
Secretary