

**BHAM Board Meeting
October 21, 2007 – 1 p.m.
Rick and Judy Heimbuck's home**

Board Members Present: Rick St. Onge, Rick Heimbuck, Paul Ferris, Andy Hart, Lisa Watts, Don Watts, Deb Dudzinski, Betty Crowell, Ray Warner, Heidi Gautz, Judy Heimbuck, and Joe Kinnick.

Board Members Excused: Bev McCollum

Guests Present: Debbie Kober

President: President Ray Warner called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. Board members reviewed the minutes. Paul moved and Rick H. supported. Minutes were approved.

Ray praised the Board for the job done at Congress. The judges told him that Mike and Rick were the most qualified ring stewards they had ever worked with and that the show was a class act all the way through.

Vice President: Don emphasized the importance of being friendly to everyone. People had commented to him about the welcoming atmosphere and how much it displayed class. Paul commented that this year was so much more relaxed and that board and show staff had grown and become better at running the shows and congress. Don also complimented Jim Postma, the gate guy for a doing a wonderful job. He dealt with difficult people firmly but respectfully.

Secretary: Judy reported that the ballots were sent and must be received by November 9th which is the Friday before the meeting. She thanked the St. Onge family for helping with the process of stuffing, addressing and stamping envelopes.

Treasurer's report: Heidi submitted the report as of the end of September with other expenses expected to come out. Betty had a different number for SSS of 2967.00 instead of 3030.86. Heidi also reported that the audit is estimated to cost about \$1500.

CONGRESS: Lisa Watts commented that she felt that when a protest came up Judy asked her to handle it and she felt ill prepared to do it. She thought that we should have someone designated to handle protests in the future. Also not being able to network the two computers made for lots of extra running and chaos. Debbie Kober suggested using broadband through the internet. Ray and Rick S. thought a long cable might be safer. It was determined that Judy would talk to our Computer consultant and Kathy Trask about the possible solutions.

Heidi suggested that we should hand out numbers from 100 to 500 and not use 4 digit or BHAM numbers at Congress. BHAM numbers give the perception of impropriety and 4 digit numbers are too small for the judges to read. Judy agreed that this should change in the future

Ray reported that we should have someone on the gate Thursday all night and Friday night until midnight.

Paul reported that a conversation with Karen Waite implied that the MSU Judging Team might be interested in scribing for Congress. Ray reported that a person protested the fact that an exhibitor (not a trail exhibitor) scribed for the trail class. Ray contacted ABRA and Georgi said that it was not a violation but that the situation should be avoided if at all possible. Joe suggested that we try to get apprentice judges for scribing.

Deb D. commented that the MSU Equestrian Team did an excellent job of horse washing.

Deb D. also commented that, especially children, would like to have had at least a strip ribbon for each judge's placing. She volunteered to research the cost and possible sponsors for a small ribbon for each judge's placings. Rick St. Onge brought up a buckle supplier that he talked to at the QH Congress. Deb Kober commented that the buckles should say CHAMPION.

Lisa Watts relayed Kaitlynn Watts' concerns for the PEE WEE LEADLINE and safety issues. She would like the rules committee to review ideas requiring side walkers and helmets and age limits. The suggestion is being referred to the rules committee.

Judy reported that Congress made over \$15,000.00. Paul moved and Joe supported to award the 7 regular employees a \$100 bonus for their outstanding work performance through the whole year. 6 voted "yes" and Judy, Rick, Lisa, and Heidi abstained. Andy had to leave before the vote. Judy commented that she could not have made it through this year without the volunteers who pitched in wherever possible, especially Don Watts, Deb Kober, Betty Crowell, Deb Dudzinski, Ray Warner, and Paul Ferris. Lisa suggested that we all write down the various volunteers and thank them in the Bulletin.

Lisa Watts asked that an events coordinator be designated to handle the special presentations such as the Saddles, BHAM Rep., scholarship winners, etc...

WEEKEND SHOWS: Rick St. Onge stressed that he strongly believes that a split combined format needs to be approved by ABRA for our shows. Paul asked him to put a proposal in writing for ABRA to take to the annual meeting.

FUTURITY: Heidi was floored by the high number of exhibitors in the futurity this year! Betty said that the slots helped and Janet told her that this was the first time that there was a horse in every class. Paul said the advertising and the hard work of Betty, Janet and Rick St. Onge contributed greatly to the Futurity's success. Rick S. reviewed how the slot classes will continually add to the Futurity \$\$ because of the \$40 class fee.

SSS: Betty submitted the payout report. Two mares will be re-bred because they did not take. We paid out over \$3000 in prize money. Next year Jan Gates will help with the stallion book because she works for a publisher.

DRUG TESTING: Joe Kinnick protested the manner in which the veterinary service administered the drug test and board members reactions to him. Joe would prefer his horse have a blood draw and not wait for a urine sample. Lisa asked to table the issue until Bev McCollum is at the next meeting since she is in charge of drug testing. It may be that a rule change is in order.

AWARDS: Rick thanked Debbie Kober for all of her work on the weekend Hi Point awards and Congress awards this year. Paul moved and Betty supported to allot \$12,000 for year end awards. 8 voted "yes" and 1 voted "no". Deb commented that in the future we should determine how much money needs to be retained each year to start the next show season.

SPONSORSHIPS: Lisa reported that we need to do a better job of doing the paperwork so that the sponsors are well aware of what they are getting for their money. There has been a lot of confusion concerning what BHAM has agreed to pay. Lisa asked Kelly French for a statement of what was done last year and what we were being billed this year. She gave Kelly her business card and has still not received anything. Lisa recommended that we always give sponsors their paperwork and that the sponsorship and publicity committee be combined so that we are not taken advantage of. Deb Dudzinski offered to help send out thank you letters to each sponsor.

RULES: Paul requested that we initiate a rules committee as soon as the new board is elected. Paul asked that any rules that need to be changed or added be e-mailed or mailed to him.

PUBLICITY: Paul received a call from Jay Wicker of the Horse Circuit News. He indicated that the owner of IBHA is very unhappy with the publicity that BHAM has received and that he may not be able to do business with us in the future. However, he would be very interested in dropping IBHA and becoming ABRA's official publication. Also Saddle Up is interested in becoming our official publication and printing our newsletter and doing our Congress issue. Paul also stated that he has attempted to contact Horses of Michigan magazine and has had no success. In the future no ad will be purchased without a signed contract. Paul also stated that the website manager needs to be determined. Judy suggested that bids be taken for website managing at the November meeting. Lisa was asked to draft a letter inviting Jim Hargrove to bid for our website in 2008.

BULLET: Judy reported that the last issue for 2007 should go out after the annual meeting.

BANQUET: Lisa asked that the Banquet chairman remember to send tickets to the sponsors who qualified. Deb moved and Betty supported to designate \$750 for Banquet giveaways, fun awards, and appreciation gifts. Motion carried unanimously.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: There will be a nomination form in the November Bullet.

REPRESENTATIVE CONTEST: Heidi reported that Sara had to write her last letter in the November Bullet and then Brytnee Wells will take over. Joe expressed his disappointment with the BHAM Representative presentation in that the runner up was not acknowledged at all during the presentation. Lisa offered to recognize Melissa at the banquet to make up for the oversight.

JR. BHAM: Debbie Kober presented a proposal for a Youth Development Fund. It is a way to help fund various youth activities. This would be funded through charitable giving, grants, and a Winter Series. A winter series would be a series of clinics in different regions of the state from January to April on various disciplines such as a showmanship clinic. The charge would be about \$100 for a one day clinic. The facility and trainer would be donated. For example Chris Holbin in Ravenna with Trevor Walton in the west; Troy and Jody Prime in Adrian covering the south; Kirk and Matt Langley at Dennis Dalrick's place in the eastern section of the state. The trainers would be able to write off their time and use of facility if we get a 501C3 for the fund. Don would like to know the exact cost of getting established to do this. Don moved to allow Debbie to go ahead and do the research to get this Youth Development Fund started and come back with a written cost or a written commitment from prospective donors and Deb D. supported. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Don reported that the first team penning event with BHAM's initials associated with the event was held. Several BHAM members participated and had a blast. Judy reminded Don that she would like to have the information for any future team penning events for the Bullet. Don asked if our Treasurer is bonded? The answer is no. Don suggested that we have our treasurer

bonded in the future for the protection of BHAM and the treasurer. Deb Dudzinski volunteered to research the cost and process of bonding the treasurer.

OLD BUSINESS: Paul stated that at the last meeting he was given a letter that one of our Board members had committed a major offense. He reported that the situation was investigated and dealt with by the Ethics committee.

On another note, Judy read the following letter received from Lonnie and Mary Green.

October 11, 2007

To: 2007 B.H.A.M. Board of Directors.
P.O. Box 2399
Howell, Mi 48844

RE: Membership Request

To the 2007 Board of Directors,

We feel your decision to remove our membership, based on the accusations stated in your letter, is completely unfair. First of all we followed the B.H.A.M. by-laws to simply call a special meeting of the membership. This was done because of the comment made by Mr Ferris at the June meeting. We did in no way stray from the by-laws as they are written.

Also as we are accused at no time did I approach a board member to sign the petition. One of the board members approached me in front of several other members and the other was asked to look at it by another member. It was not my intention to ask any board members, nor was it my intention to hide it either. I had already stated my intention to the President after the June meeting, when my request to have a private meeting with Paul Ferris, Don Watts, Ray Warner and myself was denied by Paul Ferris and Don Watts, according to Ray Warner.

As for the accusations :

- 1 False statements to the Board, No board member was approached by me as explained earlier
- 2 Misrepresentation and Coercion, The petition was self explanatory, Only when asked did I explain my reasons for collecting the signatures. Which would entail my opinion. As far as coercion goes the dictionary defines coercion as an act of coercing, restraint or compulsion, also to restrain by force. In no way did I ever threaten or restrain anyone until they signed. I also never promised anyone anything in order to get them to sign.
- 3 Behavior contrary to the mission statement. It was because of the mission statement that this petition was started. The statement that was made " This is not a family but a business", goes directly against the Mission Statement.
- 4 Acting without regard to the general well being of the BHAM organization. As a board member my first concern was the organization. Helping out wherever I was needed. Making new members feel welcome, and lending a hand to whomever needed help. Therefore everything I had done was for the organization.

I do not wish to see this go any further. We would like you to resolve this problem by reinstating our membership immediately and by posting this reinstatement in the manner in which you revoked it. If you choose to stand by your decision we will have no choice but to pursue the matter further.

We ask for your response no later than October 20th 2007.

If you decide to send it certified mail address it to Mary Green. We will be eagerly awaiting your decision. Thank you,
Lonnie Green Mary Green

Ray has contacted Lonnie and Mary Green to let them know that our meeting had been postponed one week. Ray also stated that ABRA has requested all documentation concerning this matter. Lisa moved to table a decision on this matter until we receive communication back from ABRA concerning the matter and Rick St. Onge supported. Motion carried unanimously.

Rick St. Onge moved and Rick Heimback supported to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.