

MICHIGAN DRAFT HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting

March 6, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Perkins, Clydesdale Director; Bill Crego, Director at Large; Arlen Bell, Belgian Director; and Howard McCalla, Director at Large Percheron Director Char VanderHoning was excused.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President McCalla at 10:15 a.m. March 6, 2010 at the Masonic Temple in Charlotte.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Members received the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting in the mail. Keith Bloomensaat moved to forego the reading of the minutes. Brian Preston seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Copies of the 2009 Financial Report were distributed. Treasurer Renee Dingman reported that the 2010 tax return for the association was prepared by H&R Block and has been filed. Brian Preston moved to accept the 2009 Financial Report. Brenda Chapin seconded. Motion carried. Keith Bloomensaat informed the membership that a copy of the 990 IRS form that is filed must be made available to the membership. Any member interested in a copy should contact Renee.

MSU DRAFT HORSE PROGRAM: Russ Erickson and Cara O'Connor Robison reported on the program. There are 22 students enrolled in the class. The program currently has two Percherons and two Belgians. The horse program has been directed to reduce the herd size (all horses at the horse farm) from 110 horses to 60. The draft horse program will have to reduce their number to two horses. One of the current horses may go to the university's organic farm. Next year there may be only a class in the fall. It is also a possibility that they may try to bring in horses to use for only the fall semester. Russ reported that the Animal Science Department Chairperson is leaving to take a position at Purdue. Until there is a new Department Chairperson appointed, the fate of the University farms is undecided. Gail Rice asked what we could do to show our support of the draft horse program. Russ said he will let the membership know if there is something that we can do. Cara reported that a permanent funding source is being sought. Toni Hartwick reported that they have hired students from the program and they would recommend these students as they are knowledgeable.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Marty Barkow stepped in for Debbie Swihart to thank Kay Moody for the wonderful job she did as our 2009 Youth Representative and to present the 2010 Youth Representative candidates Kay Moody and Kristen Steely. Kay gave a thank you speech to the association.

QUILT RAFFLE: The association will once again raffle a quilt. Any member interested in getting tickets to sell and/or a picture of the quilt should contact Doreen McCalla.

MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL STALLION EXPO: Lori Luther, chairperson of the booth at the Expo, asked members to sign up to work at the booth March 12,13 and 14. She and her husband West donated a digital picture frame to use in the display. Dennis and Linda Dingerson are bringing their Belgian stallion to be on display.

MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL: Russ Erickson, our MDHBA Representative (along with Billy Crego) expressed his concerns about the Council and the Expo. The Expo is a separate committee and their business is not brought up before the MHC membership. One of Russ' concerns is that the Expo committee paid a hitch of Appaloosa horses to perform at the 2009 Expo but the Perkins' and Witt's hitches did not receive any compensation for performing. The MHC is seeking input from youth 13 to 18 years old through Youth Representatives.

WEBSITE: Russ distributed a flyer summarizing the statistics on the MDHBA website. The current website was started in 2008. During that time the number of "hits" has increased from 2,955 (November 2008) to a high of 12,182 (April 2009). In February 2010 7,910 pages were accessed from the home page. If you would like a copy of these statistics, please contact Russ or Renee Dingman. Russ has also started a Facebook page for MDHBA. Russ was thanked for all of his work on the website and Facebook.

STATE BREEDERS SHOW: Aaron Rice, show chairperson, reported that the dates of the 2010 show are July 20 and 21, with horses arriving on July 19. The show will be at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason. There were approximately 128 horses shown at the 2009 show, down somewhat from 2008. The show continues to be financially stable. Aaron thanked the association picnic auction proceeds and the Great Lakes Draft Horse Sale for their financial support of the show. He also

recognized Barb Stein, treasurer of the show, for being frugal. He thanked the committee members Doreen McCalla (trophy and ribbon sponsors, program advertising), Jane Chestnut (announcer), Lori Pillars (program), and Cindy Wieas (clerk). This year Cindy will also take on the responsibility of the program as Lori is stepping down as her son is showing in his county fair the same week as the State Show. Aaron discussed his desire to eventually move the show to the MSU Pavilion, but needs a minimum of 200 horses to be able to move the show. Doyle Dingman asked about the possibility of hosting a Classic Series Six Horse Hitch Class. Doreen McCalla is taking trophy and ribbon sponsor monies as well as program advertising.

MICHIGAN STATE FAIR: Keith Bloomensaat reported that the Metro Park is looking into getting the funding to purchase the Michigan State Fairgrounds and reinstating the State Fair.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS: Butch Ruppert, Northwest Michigan Draft Horse Association, presented a \$500 check to the Michigan Great Lakes International from their association. They are hosting a plow day May 16 in Traverse City. Harvey Bell reported the Thumb Draft Horse Association participated in the Horse Expo at Birch Run. Their annual meeting is in Millington. They will be having a wagon train in May and September. Allen Seedorff announced that the Calhoun County Draft Horse Club will be having a haul in show August 16.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: Howard introduced the candidates for the two Director at Large positions: Russ Erickson, Amy Frey, Lori Luther, Howard McCalla, Wendell Weber. He called for the ballot. Howard read a letter from Brad Robbins, current Director at Large. In the letter Brad resigned from the board as he has moved to Pennsylvania.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP: Carrie Preston, Youth Scholarship Committee, explained the scholarship program. She had scholarship applications available and announced that the applications are also available on the MDHBA website. Carrie will make the scholarship information available through the extension offices.

PICNIC: West and Lori Luther have volunteered to host this year's picnic. The picnic will be June 12 at their farm in Gaines. Information and directions will be sent to members.

JUNIOR DRIVING: Junior members Kay Moody and Jessica Steely reviewed their 2009 accomplishments.

GREAT LAKES DRAFT HORSE SALE: Sale co-chairperson Doyle Dingman discussed the 2010 sale. Horses sold to 14 states (California to New Hampshire) and Canada. Although total horse numbers were down, the gelding average was the highest ever and there were fewer outs and no sales. The 2011 sale will be February 11. The sale committee is seeking more Belgian consignments. They are working on a "Colt Futurity", similar to the NAERIC. He thanked the association for their sponsorship of the hospitality room, which is very popular with consignors. He presented two checks from the proceeds of the Stallion Service Auction to Aaron Rice, one for the State Breeders Show and one for the Michigan Great Lakes International.

MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP: Larry Julian, Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP), discussed MEP and their activities. He stressed the importance of this year's election as 50 of the 110 representatives and 32 of the 38 senators will be leaving office, in addition to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Attorney General. He suggested inviting candidates to your farms and supporting those who support equine. March 19 is the Governor's Forum, sponsored by 18 agriculture commodity group, including MEP. Candidates from both parties will field questions. He also discussed the Human Society of the United States (HSUS). This organization is different from the human society that adopts out animals. They have a huge ad campaign, but provide minimal support for the care of unwanted animals. When asked by MEP to help support for MEPs proposal of a one day event to adopt out unwanted horses by helping provide money for hay, they refused. They have one veterinarian on staff and 20 attorneys. They have made it known that this is the year that they will go after horses. April 27 is MEPs Annual Meeting at the Radison in Lansing. The legislative forum is from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. Jackson County is negotiating for land for a facility for livestock exhibitions. Larry reviewed the budget of the state of Michigan. The state had a huge drop in revenues. Four areas get most the state budget: human services, health care, education and prisons. He reported that .4% of the budget goes to agriculture even though agriculture is the only part of the state that is increasing. The state is trying to make water a public commodity and charge for its use. The Equine Liability Act added the wording "not liable for willful and wanton act". He encouraged members to get a waiver signed as it is the most powerful tool you have. They are working on a check off program, similar to that of other livestock industries. The check off may be on items such as feed and pharmaceuticals. The gaming commission has cut the number of dates for horse racing by 90 days. The issue of slaughter as an alternative for unwanted horses is still so controversial, MEP is currently not working on

this area. They may toward promoting this in the future, but not this year. Larry discussed the proposed sales tax on services. If this would pass it would affect horse owners in many areas such as breeding, farrier services, etc and they could lose some tax exempt status. He discussed the future of the Michigan State Fair. Currently there is no state funding for the fair. There are two "discussions" about the fair at this time. One is that there will be a State Fair, but where and who it will be run by are in question. The second is the Youth Livestock Show at the MSU Pavilion in July may replace the youth livestock aspect of the fair.

Keith Bloomensaar moved that MDHBA join the MEP for 2010. Bev Short seconded. Motion carried.

MICHIGAN GREAT LAKES INTERNATIONAL: Chairperson Aaron Rice discussed the show and distributed financial statements. The following MGLI board members are up for reelection: Harvey Bell, Bob Pregitzer, Jim Kerwin and Aaron Rice. Don Davis moved to reelect the same board members. Brenda Chapin seconded. Motion carried.

SERVICE TO THE INDUSTRY AWARD: Bob Robinson presented the Service to the Industry award to Howard "Jake" Sheaffer. Bob recounted stories of showing horses with Jake and several of Jake's accomplishments. Several of Jake's family members were there to share in this award presentation. Jake received a plaque and his name will be placed on the perpetual plaque that is on display in the MSU Pavilion.

2010 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Marty Barkow again thanked Kay Moody for the great job she did as the 2009 Youth Representative. She then awarded the 2010 Youth Representative to Kristin Steely.

YOUTH HIGH POINT AWARDS: Youth Chairperson Lori Pillars reviewed the youth high point award program and the 2009 results. In 2009 there were 15 participants. In the senior division Tiffany Rogers was the high point showman. In reserve were Stephanie Luke, Kay Moody and Haily Upson. In the junior division Jacob Wieas was high point showman. In reserve were Ashley Rogers, Jessica Steely, Jared Kimmitt, John Fetch, Rebecca Fetch, Austin Pillars, Kristen Steely, Brooke Dotts, Lauren Dotts, and Lauren Perry. There will be some changes in the age in which participants can participate in 2010. These changes are more in line with other shows and 4-H. The age range is from 8-18 years old. She thanked all participants and expressed how proud she was of how well they have represented the association in and outside of the show ring.

ELECTION RESULTS: The results of the election for Director at Large were announced. Russ Erickson and Howard McCalla were elected.

DIRECTOR RECOGNITION: Howard thanked outgoing Director at Large Billy Crego and presented him with a plaque recognizing him for his years of service.

WEBSITE: Russ Erickson presented the idea of auctioning off website ads to offset the cost of the website. Doyle Dingman moved that members can purchase a business card size ad for \$25 and full page ads for \$100 to run for two years on the website.

DOOR PRIZES AND AUCTION: Several donated items were given as door prizes and auctioned off. The auction netted \$1,025. Thank you to all who donated and purchased items.

ADJOURNMENT: Barb Burton moved that the meeting be adjourned. Billy Crego seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Dingman, Secretary/Treasurer