

**GREAT LAKES HAFLINGER ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Jim Wiggins and members introduced themselves to the membership. The show committee has spent a lot of time and has committed to having a balanced budget so the show is self-supporting this year, with no funds coming out of the general fund. Jim thanked everyone who has helped us get to this point. Looking at the future, this association needs to be frugal. The money we have left over after the show, if there is money, will be put back into the general fund so we can do other things. One of the things we as an association need to do is to come up with ideas. We were formed solely to promote the haflinger, that's why we're here according to our by-laws; the show is a great tool that helps us do that, but we have got to come up with ways to help us get back on track. It'll help all of us to promote so we can grow as an association. Its tough economic times now but we have a great horse that we can market to a lot of people. Please bring ideas to Jim so we can work on it. We had a summer picnic last year and hope to have one again this year. Since we moved the show up, we now have the fall open to us so we can do something as a group like a fall ride and drive or something to help promote the horse to others.

**MINUTES:** The annual meeting minutes of February 11, 2008, were distributed to members for reading. It was pointed out that the by-law change was inadvertently added under the Director position as opposed to the President, which will be corrected in the by-laws. A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Matt Ladd, seconded by Fred Ashcroft. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was distributed to members. Treasurer Teri Ashcroft stated that the books have been reviewed by the accountant as to proper accounting methods and found to be appropriate for the association. The Michigan Sales Tax return has been completed and file with the State of Michigan. The 990 Income Tax form has been prepared by the accountant and is ready to be filed with the IRS. The treasurer reported that the only income is the membership dues. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Bob Crawford. Motion seconded and passed.

**SALE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Teri Ashcroft reported that last year's sale had profit of \$1661.15, thanks to the donations covering postage, catalog cover, straw, and vet services. It was decided to suspend the sale for 2009 as there has been a decline in profit. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last 22 years. Jim Wiggins motioned to accept the Sale Committee Report, seconded by Kevin Heintz. Motion passed.

**SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Show Report was distributed to members. Matt Ladd reported on the draft portion of the show. Board approved to fund the futurity in lieu of spring stallion breeding auction which was \$3403.17. Also note the advertising was more due to this being a big event and we wanted to promote the whole weekend. These expenses were due to the uniqueness of the sale and show in a one weekend event. Jim Wiggins stated that in the last 7 years approximately \$33,000 came out of the general fund to help pay the show deficits. The 2009 committee is moving on and the show will have a balanced budget this year and will not be taking money out of the general funds. Dave Brugger motioned to accept the Show Committee Report, seconded by Bob McCrory. Motion passed.

**FUTURITY COMMITTEE REPORT:** The futurity report was distributed to members. Billie Jean Newsted reported for the Futurity. Jim Wiggins noted there was no money from the stallion breeding auction since there was no spring sale, therefore, the association gave the futurity up to \$5000 up front to work with and actually was only \$3403.17. Income from the stallion auction is in the final balance. Phil Six disputed the 2008 payouts and Billie Jean Newsted stated she would review them with him after the meeting. (See Futurity under New Business for discussion on the future of the futurity.) Mary Procopio motioned to accept the Futurity Committee Report, seconded by Joel Greenisen. Motion passed.

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** It was noted Gail Kelsey has resigned from the newsletter position and future information for the newsletter should be submitted to the secretary. It was noted that we need news to make a good newsletter so

send in your information. In an effort to help cut costs the newsletter will be posted on the website and only mailed out to those members who do not have internet access. To make this work, members need to keep their email addresses updated. Fred Ashcroft motioned accept the newsletter report, seconded by Kevin Heintz. Motion passed.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: No report. It should be noted Kim Hart oversaw the advertising last year. The only current advertising is for the show, so the show committee will handle advertising for this year.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: No report. It should be noted Jessica Hanney is our webmaster. We are trying to get everything posted on this site; newsletter, show information, etc. Everyone agreed they liked the new website and noted Jessica had an apology on site regarding it being down frequently. It was suggested that the host site be changed if necessary.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

BANNER PROGRAM: Although the Banner Program has run its course, there was discussion about what to do with the banners. Hulett's requested that their banner be returned, which Jim Wiggins will locate and return it to them. Bob McCrory motioned to hang the banners free of charge this year at the new facility, seconded by Bob Crawford and Ancel Render. Motion passed.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

STALLION EXPO: Jim Wiggins notified the membership that we will not be participating in the 2009 Stallion Expo at MSU due to the lack of volunteers and the economy. It cost \$600 to take a horse and rent a booth. Chris McBride volunteered to pass out brochures, but it still costs to rent a booth so that offer was declined.

MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL: Gert stated the membership is \$35 per year and they give \$3,000 yearly for the trail riders. Teri thought we might be able to get liability insurance cheaper. Jim asked for a volunteer to attend the meetings. Jim stated the board will look into this at the next meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Ballots were passed out for voting. Nominations from the floor were opened. Dave Brugger nominated Brent Leininger to a Director position, seconded by Phil Six. Motion passed. There were no other nominations from the floor and nominations were closed. Ballots were counted by the Nominating Committee. Results were: Bob McCrory – Director and Matt Ladd – Director.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

DOOR PRIZE: John Frederickson was the winner of the goodie basket. Congratulations.

SPONSORS: Need information to take to people when asking for donations so they know what they're getting in return. Jim will update letter and sponsorship information on the website so members have up-to-date information when soliciting donations.

HAFLINGERFEST MIDLAND SHOW: Chairman: Jim Wiggins; Draft: Dave & Phyllis Brugger and Colleen Crawford; Pleasure: John & Michele Dunkel; Dressage: Bob McCrory. The committee has put in long hours to come up with a show bill which will make everyone happy. The committee changed facilities as MSU kept moving our date later and cost was high, about \$8,000. The committee is looking to get involved with the Tri-State Challenge, adding an 8-horse hitch and open halter classes, and discontinuing the futurity during the show. This is due to the show being held earlier this year and time constraints. With the changes that are being made to this year's show it's anticipated there will be more exhibitors, especially kids since it's during the summer. We want to get kids involved as they're our future.

Is this a promotional, social, group of breeders who are trying to promote their stock, group of showers or is it all inclusive? The committee proposes to expand the show, make it better, and is committed to make it self-supporting,

thus not burdening the association with expenses. The show can promote the Haflinger, but we need to all work together. It was suggested that everyone read the GLHA article in the AHR magazine. Lisa LaRoe feels the show is a good way to promote the breed as her first Haflinger show is what sold her on the breed.

Everyone should check out the new facility; it's primo. A beautiful facility with 3 covered arenas available to us with 2 larger than MSU's. There are 300 good stalls which are better than Ingham County's and a 100+ other stalls. It's right off the highway with every amenity available right there. It cost \$700/day for all arenas and there's no charge for maintaining them. Midland is a town with some money from Dow Chemical. From the Show Committee's standpoint it is a win-win situation, stating we need to go in a different direction from the past and make this a great show for everyone. On February 24, 2009, there will be a vote whether or not to accept GLHA as part of the Tri-State Challenge.

They also shared some of their ideas for this show. Pleasure classes will be 3-day show and draft a 2-day show with arrivals beginning on Thursday. The schedule isn't completed yet, but plan to hold halter classes Friday morning and dressage in the afternoon. Only ribbons will be handed out for dressage, youth, and Jack Benny classes. If someone wants to make a donation for class premiums or other tokens (brushes, treats); that's fine. They are looking at replacing the trophies with a souvenir photo. They are looking at the following fees: Stalls - \$40, class fee - \$10, youth classes - possibly reduced to \$5. They are planning a casual gathering for Saturday evening. Since there is no food vendors on-site, the committee will talk with Fran Reygaert about coordinating a food booth; will need someone with a camper/trailer to help with this. Frogbyte has been hired as the photographer this year and will look at other alternatives for 2010. There will be a show listing (no show book) this year to help reduce costs.

Dave Brugger motioned that any profits from this show be put into next year's show; nothing goes to the general fund, seconded by Bob Crawford. Discussion about how the show committee is going to pay for things like liability insurance, or who's going to anti-up if the show goes under. The general fund has bailed out the show for years; to around \$30,000. We don't want a bunch of different groups within the association. Dave Brugger amended his motion to state if there is a profit then the Show Committee will re-evaluate the finances so that the show is self-sufficient and not a profit making venue. Motion seconded and passed.

The Show Committee agreed to put a disclaimer on the class listing that this is our plan of what we are going to pay, but that it is subject to income and may be adjusted.

There was a suggestion to hold a tack sale on Thursday evening to raise some money for the association. Bob Crawford suggested charging non-members more for class fees. Teri Ashcroft motioned that the Show Committee considers charging non-members a higher rate and take it to the board for approval, seconded by Phil Six. Motion approved.

This is the direction the Show Committee has chosen to go; we should be proud of the people on the committee who came together and spent a lot of time to work these issues out to keep this association going forward with the focus in mind of this breed and show off its multi-talents.

FUTURITY: Show committee and futurity committee decided last week that the futurity will not be a part of the show as it has been in recent years. Discussion revolved around how to give back the money to people who paid in, not sure if it's up to the show/futurity committees to make that decision; this may be up to the board or membership. Some history on the futurity was provided in that it was to give more incentive to breeders as the original group was mainly breeders unlike today's membership. We need to be concerned with what's best for breed. The July date is too early for some foals. Need to find a way to fund the futurity; can no longer fund it without a sale to promote the stallions. It was suggested the futurity be held during the show with the futurity/open class being double judged to save money. It was pointed out that most breeds only have a futurity at the national level. Where do we go from here? It's important to the breed. It's time to reevaluate what we need to do. It was suggested there be a transition year not to show weanlings but start at yearlings; break from tradition, be creative. The membership agreed that a committee be formed to look into where the futurity goes from here. It was suggested moving it to a fall date by itself with a stallion auction. It's felt the economy is causing the issues we're experiencing. Bob McCrory motioned to have the President appoint a

committee of people who want to support the futurity so the futurity can move forward, seconded by John Dunkel. Motion passed.

Jim Wiggins stated that historically the futurity was started to promote the haflinger which was prior to there being a show.

John Dunkel motioned to continue the futurity, which shall not be held with the show as it's too early, wish to find a different place for the futurity in the fall, and a committee be appointed to figure out the detail as such, not to have it with the show; seconded by Phil Six. Motion passed. Jim Wiggins asked for committee volunteers.

2010 WORLD SHOW: Jim Wiggins stated that Teri Poley is putting together a package for all who are interested in attending the World Show, which is June 6 – 10, 2010. Her email address is [tspoley@aaamichigan.com](mailto:tspoley@aaamichigan.com).

AHR: Bill Jamison, AHR President stated the National Show will be held in Springfield, Ohio, right off Exit 59. This is a very nice facility which is comparable to MSU. Matt Ladd and Kay Tearman of GLHA are on the AHR Show Committee. There have been positive changes. Check the website for details. There will be an 8-horse exhibition. The AHR Futurity will be held in Ashland, Ohio in conjunction with the fall sale. AHR is, also, looking at different ways to cut costs due to economy.

ADJOURNMENT:

Fred Ashcroft motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phil Six. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Wiggins  
Secretary