

Northwest Gaited Horse Association

Annual Membership Meeting

And 2023 Awards Presentations

January 21, 2024

- Meeting started: 2:15 pm, ended at 5:30 pm, at Wilsonville Holiday Inn.
- **Members present:** Nancy O'Dell, Shannon Thomas, Steve Harris, Larry & Anne Eades, Steve Zobrist, Diana Harris, David, Jessica, and Tyson Kiser, Hank & Mary Sjogren, Dan & Lillian McFarling, Dave & Lynn Hilmer, Kiah Sogard, Chantal Delany, Shannon & Dalaney Clark, Mike & Regan Henry, Chris Reznicek, Heather Keller, Carolyn Griffith, Nancy Sears, Nel Shockley, Eliza & Ceanna Rodriguez, and Arisa Durand.
- **Minutes** from the membership meetings, January and July 2023 were approved as written.
- **Treasurer's report** for 2023 was given. Routine annual review by an outside firm is underway. Report approved. See attached report.
- **President's Summary of activities**
 - The club is non-profit and charitable. It has not been used for personal convenience or advancement.
 - The NWGHA is the single largest contributor to the Oregon chapter of the American Lung Association (\$490 in 2023).
 - Membership has experienced a slow, steady growth, now at 80 members (from 5 at beginning of club).
 - The primary function of the club is to offer events and other activities for all gaited breeds. Peruvian and Icelandic horses have participated in greater numbers. Fox trotters, Rocky Mountain, and Paso Finos have been sought with less success.
 - The elected Board of Directors meet, plan, and pursue the club's mission. Any member may sit in on meetings for discussion, but without a vote.

- **Old Business**

- The 2024 shows are scheduled for April 27-28, 2024, and October 26-27, 2024, at the OHC/Prairie in Eugene. The June 15-16 show is planned for the Oregon State Fairgrounds, outside covered area.
- The Oregon State Fair show TWH and OGB classes are scheduled for August 30, 31, September 1st.

- Discussion about the possibility of changing dates. Mary Sjogren will check with Ron Hood, the show manager.

- **New Business**

- Interest in a one-day or evening show in August was discussed. Possible venues included: the Wilsonville facility/arena, Devonwood, or Rolling Rock in Sherwood.
 - Heather Keller will check availability.
- Potential judges were discussed who have experience with multiple gaited horses and are affordable.
- To participate in the TWH Versatility program, the judge must be licensed with any accredited organization. The show must provide an inspector for shoeing practices for any TWH organization affiliated show (i.e. WHOA or TWHBEA). Participants must provide documentation of competing in classes with three or more horses and be placed over 3 horses for points.
- **Nancy O. is checking judges:** Nicole Tolle, Colorado (\$500 per day plus expenses), and Keith Dane who was well liked. Others included: Nicole Shoppe, Gale Zinter, Gina Gardiner (local), and Bruce Chalfant (local).
Heather K. will contact Justin Miller.
- The mid-year general meeting trail ride was discussed. Suggested places included: Willamette Mission, Bob & Crystal Paramount (Sherwood area), Milo McIver Park (Estacada). A later start time was suggested to accommodate long travel for Members and Directors.
- **Election of Board of Directors**
 - Bylaws were reviewed for election process.
 - The candidate “slate” was presented, with nominations from the floor opened. Regan Henry and Penny Thomas were nominated.

- Each Candidate present provided some background, experience, and priorities prior to vote. Penny Thomas was not present and her absence was excused.
- All candidates were approved by members present.
 - New Board: Nancy O'Dell, Chris Reznicek, Anne Eades, Steve Harris, Dan McFarling, Regan Henry, Shannon Thomas, Steve Zobrist, Jessica Kiser, Penny Thomas
- Newly elected Board of Directors met after general election for the purpose of electing 2024 Board officers.
 - President: Nancy O'Dell Plunkett
 - Vice President: Chris Reznicek
 - Secretary: Anne Eades
 - Treasurer: Steve Harris
- 2023 Awards for High Point Riders and Horses presented with trophies and achievement certificates.
- **Issues for Discussion next meeting**
 - Focus on outreach to grow the club.
 - Social media and website management
 - Create committee to address issues surrounding bylaws' changes and process for approval. Possibly create separate "rules" document to clarify club practices (candidacy for Board, points' calculations, definitions)
 - Identify leaders to pursue future activities, and report progress on a regular basis.
 - Scheduling of meetings at different times and places to accommodate Board members.
 - Identify club priorities for the year.

Meeting ended 5:30 pm

Next Board Meeting, February 17, 2024, time TBD

Regan Henry will find a meeting place