

AMERICAN MULE RACING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2016

A quorum being present, the meeting of the American Mule Racing Association was called to order at 9:05 a.m., March 5, 2016, by President Don Jacklin at Harrah's Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

The following board members were in attendance: Don Jacklin, David E. Wood, Bert Johnson, M.D., Roger Downey, Mary McPherson and Becky Reimers.

There was an introduction of the Board of Directors and the general membership.

The agenda was reviewed.

The evening banquet was discussed.

The minutes of the 2015 meeting held in Reno, Nevada, had been published on the AMRA website. Upon motion and second by Ruth Burdick and Dr. Bert Johnson the minutes as presented were unanimously approved.

Don Jacklin reported as President. Mr. Jacklin stated that there are several challenges to be faced in 2016 for the Association, but that we have done a good job surviving. Mr. Jacklin reported that a presentation for support was made by Ben Kenney, CFO of Watch and Wager harness racing. Mr. Kenney had presented good positive potentials.

Kate Phariss as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association spoke as to the financial reports for 2015. Ms. Phariss stated that the Association was operating in the black and was still strong and viable. Upon motion and second by Dr. Bert Johnson and Mary McPherson, the financial reports as presented were unanimously approved.

In an effort to provide incentives for new member/owners, and relieve some of the burden of excessive California Workers' Comp expenses for current owners, the following motion was approved by the BOD at the March 4, 2016 meeting, and presented to the membership:

"AMRA will pay to member/owners at the end of the racing year, an amount per start that will be determined by the Board. Funding will be from the general fund and will be in the amount of approximately \$20,000."

Under New Business, Roger Downey spoke as to the Operational Plan. Mr. Downey stated he would be speaking with Tom Doutrich, Racing Secretary for the Fairs. Mr. Downey would give Mr. Doutrich a list of proposed races for the Pleasanton meet. For the 2016 race season, he would endeavor to have mule racing only on Fridays, Saturdays and non-match race Sundays. Mr. Downey reported that at this time, there are approximately 35 race animals for the 2016 racing season. Mr. Downey also reported that mule trainers filled every race offered in 2015. He requested that by 3:00 p.m. the day before entries are due, all trainers contact the breed rep and give a list of animals to be entered.

In an effort to increase Futurity entries, President Jacklin made a motion to drop all entry penalties. Upon motion and second by Dr. Bert Johnson and Ruth Burdick, this motion was unanimously approved.

The 2016 race schedule was presented. Kate Phariss reported that at the April 2016 California Horse Racing Board meeting there would be discussion on moving the Stockton race meet to Pleasanton. The Stockton dates would remain the same whether the meet is run at Stockton or Pleasanton.

Ruth Burdick spoke as to the manner in which points accrue for year end awards.

Roger Downey spoke as to the endurance racing program. It was felt that, in the future, the program should be run by the American Mule Association. They are a national organization and Mr. Downey feels run an excellent endurance program.

Mary McPherson as Chair of the Nomination committee spoke as to the nomination procedures and the proxies. No one other than the incumbent Board members had been nominated.

Kate Phariss spoke as to the website. Ms. Phariss asked for more input from the membership in the form of photos or articles. The use of social media, primarily Facebook, will be researched.

President Jacklin made a recommendation and motion that since there are no longer mules with a speed index over 100, there should be an award category for 86-95. A second category would be Open. Upon motion and second by Dr. Bert Johnson and Ruth Burdick the motion was unanimously approved.

Mary McPherson spoke as to the Board of Directors election. The Board members whose term was up were Roger Downey, Dr. Bert Johnson and Mary McPherson. Ms. McPherson called for nominations from the floor. There being none and upon motion and second by Ruth Burdick and Sonny McPherson, the motion to approve the incumbent Board of Directors was unanimously approved.

It was decided by the membership, pending room rate approval, to hold the 2017 annual convention at Harrah's Resort/Casino in Reno. It was the desire of the membership to hold the 2016 convention the first weekend in March.

There being no further business, there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion and second by Jimmie Pettis and Ruth Burdick, it was unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Phariss
Secretary-Treasurer