

**USHJA ZONE 5 HUNTER COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
July 30, 2007**

**Committee Members Present:** Mindy Darst Chair, Diane Carney Vice-Chair, Craig Dobbs, Elaine Schott, Debbie Bass, Nichole Jewell, Anne Case and Caroline Weeden. (8)

**Committee Members Not Present:** Scott Alder, Pat Boyle and Robert Weeden (3).

**Also Present:** Christine Kennedy (Competitions and Program Coordinator) and Val Haskell.

A quorum was met with 8 members present.

**I. Welcome and Roll Call**

Mindy Darst opened the meeting and performed the roll call.

**II. Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Ms. Carney made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Ms. Schott seconded. The motion was approved with everyone in favor.

**III. Vote on 2008 Budget**

Ms. Bass went over the allocations for the 2008 Zone 5 Hunter Committee budget. Ms. Bass suggested reallocating the office supplies, the postage and printing and the travel allocations on the budget. Ms. Bass also discussed the Grassroots Outreach allocation and whether the committee had any plans to use it. It was suggested placing it in the Horsemanship class and the Zone Finals allocations. Ms. Haskell recommended putting the postage and printing in a Zone 5 promotional fund so that it can be used for the Zone 5 Scholarship mailings.

Ms. Carney mentioned the Equifest clinic and that they could use some of the Grassroots Outreach money for a party there. Ms. Bass recommended taking the additional \$365 out of the Grassroots Outreach, leaving \$1500 for 2008. Ms. Carney suggested using some of it such as \$500 to pay for food for the 250 people coming to the Equifest clinic in 2007.

The committee agreed for 2008 to take the \$365 from the Grassroots Outreach, the office supplies and postage as well as travel and put it in a promotional fund. This will help with promotion of the Zone 5 Scholarship and the Horsemanship Class. Ms. Carney made a motion to approve this and Ms. Bass seconded. The motion was approved with everyone in favor.

Ms. Bass discussed the distribution of the scholarship fund. \$10,000 will be distributed this year and \$7000 will remain for next year if there is no additional income. Mr. Dobbs suggested contacting the previous year's donors regarding

donations for this year. The committee discussed creating a spreadsheet to track the pledges. Ms. Haskell suggested having the pledge forms sent to Ms. Bass instead of USHJA. Mr. Dobbs suggested sending a thank you to the donor and possibly a gift as well. Ms. Darst will get in contact with USHJA to see if the checks can go to Ms. Bass first so that the committee can track the donations. The committee moved to keep the scholarship fund at \$10,000 for 2008. The motion was approved with everyone in favor.

For 2007, the office supplies, postage and printing and travel allocations will not be used. Ms. Carney discussed using some money from the Grassroots Outreach for a dinner at the Judges clinic coming up. Ms. Carney estimated the cost of the dinner to be around \$500. The committee made a motion to approve the use of \$500 for the dinner out of the Grassroots Outreach allocation. The motion was approved with everyone in favor. Ms. Bass will ask Ms. Pisani to move the office supplies, postage and printing and travel allocations to the promotional fund for 2007 as well as 2008.

#### **IV. Zone 5 Scholarship**

Ms. Haskell suggested changing the August 1 deadline to September 1 to allow for more applicants. Many of the schools closed during July so kids could not get their transcripts during that time, preventing them from applying. An email will be sent out notifying junior members of the change. Ms. Haskell suggested contacting the senior members sooner next year so that they can push the junior members to apply. Ms. Haskell also suggested setting aside enough money next year to do a large mailing for donations.

The committee discussed the benefits of having a foundation set up for the scholarship fund. Ms. Darst informed the committee that USHJA needs more information before they can make a decision on that. Mr. Dobbs suggested setting up a meeting with USHJA to discuss the benefits of having a foundation set up for the scholarship fund. Mr. Dobbs also offered to help with the technical aspects of setting up a foundation. Ms. Darst agreed to contact USHJA and try to set up a meeting to discuss the foundation.

Ms. Darst asked that every committee member take applications and posters to any horse shows they attend up to September 1 to help promote the scholarship and the Horsemanship Class. Ms. Haskell also suggested having some announcements at the Kentucky show.

A member had made a comment stating that by the time the scholarship is distributed, the student is already in college and will have paid their tuition. The committee discussed opening the scholarship up to incoming high school seniors as well as students that are currently in college. Mr. Dobbs suggested splitting the scholarship up into a 4 year scholarship instead of distributing it all at once. Ms. Carney offered to write something up to try to increase interest in the scholarship.

Mr. Dobbs suggested handing the parents a flyer at the horse shows when they pay their show bill.

The committee discussed contacting the show managers to increase interest in donations. Ms. Schott informed the committee that she was often met with hostility when she contacted a few of the show managers. They feel that they can barely scrape by as it is and cannot afford to contribute.

**V. Old Business**

Ms. Bass updated the committee on the Horsemanship Class. She asked that the committee members come up with ideas for sponsors through tack shops, etc. So far there is \$2200 in cash sponsorship. If anyone knows someone who might be interested in sponsoring this class, please send their name and contact information to Ms. Bass so that she can contact them. Ms. Carney is going to remind Mr. Boyle to order the ribbons for the Horsemanship Class. The awards presentation is going to be before the World Cup. Ms. Darst asked Ms. Case if she could work something out for the food for the party for the awards presentation. Ms. Darst is going to email Suzanne's email address to Ms. Case so she can get in touch with her regarding the party.

Ms. Carney gave a brief update on the High Performance Hunter Committee. The High Performance hunters will have 15 classes next year. Hopefully this will re-stimulate the Regular Working Hunter division as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> year division if the 3'9" can be made into a more open division. There has been a lot of discussion regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year hunters. Everyone seems more open with opening up the 2<sup>nd</sup> year a little bit but not with doing away with the 1<sup>st</sup> year. There has been discussion on keeping the restricted 1<sup>st</sup> class but also in creating a second 3'6" class and a more open 2<sup>nd</sup> year class to allow more flexibility in training. The High Performance Hunter Committee is looking for ways to improve the hunter divisions and is looking for helpful input. The Zone 5 Hunter Committee was optimistic regarding this idea.

Ms. Carney asked if the next High Performance Hunter demonstration at the \$75000 Evergreen Invitational could be mentioned in In Stride. Ms. Carney will email the information to Ms. Darst to be added to the In Stride submission.

**VI. New Business**

There was no new business

**VII. Adjourn**

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mel Pylant*

Melissa Pylant  
Zone Coordinator