



USHJA Zone 2 Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. ET

Zone 2 Members Participating: Mark Leone (Chair), Troy Hendricks (Vice Chair), Wendy Chapot Nunn (Treasurer), James Benedetto, Katie Benson, Mary Drueding, Karen Immerman, Linda Mancini, Andrew Philbrick and Tobey McWilliams, (10)

Zone 2 Members Not Present: Naomi Blumenthal, Michael Dowling, Karen Immerman (excused), Kerry Kocher, Claudine Liberatore and Cynthia Williams (5)

Also Present: Morgan Thibodeaux (Sports Program Coordinator) and Lynn Johnson (Sports Program Office Aide (2).

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Mr. Leone called the meeting to order and Ms. Thibodeaux called roll. A quorum was met with ten committee members present.

II. Approve the minutes

Mr. Hendricks motioned to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2019 meeting. Mr. Benedetto seconded and the minutes were approved by the rest of the committee.

III. Annual Meeting Review

Ms. Thibodeaux updated the members on announcements from the Annual Meeting as follows:

- The Zone Council is being brought back. The Chair and Vice Chair for each Zone will be on the Council. It was brought back by the Planning Committee and the BOD to help improve the Zones. Feedback, both general and zone specific, is requested by the Planning Committee
- Zone Committee elections in 2021 have been postponed for one year. The Planning Committee would like every committee member to extend their term one extra year (November 2021). This is entirely voluntary. If you do not

want to extend, please send Ms. Thibodeaux an email letting her know prior to November 2020.

- Attendance for Zone Committee meetings is now 75% for 2020. Excused absences will not be counted against you. If the member has not met the percentage, they can be replaced, including this year. Also pertains to Affiliate Council. There will be a set day and time each month to help members plan to attend meetings. Ms. Thibodeaux has sent (and will resend) a survey to help determine what day and time works best. Monthly meeting can be cancelled if there is nothing to discuss
 - The Affiliate Council is being brought back. Each Zone will have one. Each affiliate in the Zone can nominate one representative. There are approximately 12-15 affiliates in Zone 2. There will be one Affiliate Council member appointed to a BOD seat. There are a few committee spots per Zone filled by affiliate members. There are two types of affiliates – Member Associations (such as state H/J associations) and Non-member groups (such as horse show management and/or groups).
 - The Zone Council should be meeting near the end of January or the beginning of February.
 - CH/AA Hunter Championships are on hiatus for 2020. The program is being revamped and reformatted. May be back in 2021.
- Ms. Benson stated there were more Zone 2 members at the Zone 2 meeting at the Annual Meeting than there were Committee Members. No quorum present so it was a very good discussion on past Zone events. DiAnne Langer was present and she encouraged more Zone 2 participation at Championships. Ms. Langer wants to know what she can do to help participation; feedback/suggestions are greatly appreciated. Many horse shows within a drivable distance in the Zone could be a factor. Other suggestions and feedback were:
- Needing a Zone Coordinator (like Sandy Ruiz Zone 3).
 - Spreading out the points to more than six places at Championships.
 - Maybe less Championships and then more Zones combining for Championships.
 - Securing spots at Gold Star Clinics (for Jumper Championships Medalists) is not an enticement to most Adult Amateurs. Especially paying to ship down and back to Wellington.
 - Possibly being assigned to a team/team concept doesn't appeal to everyone.
 - Trainer incentives and/or prize money.
 - Having a great Chef d'Equipe is important to success and builds interest.

IV. 2020 Zone Elections

Elections postponed for one year.

V. 2020 Planning

The Zone and Platinum Jumper Championships will be held July 22-26, 2020 at Hits on the Hudson in Saugerties, NY. Ms. Thibodeaux mentioned importance of getting Chef d'Equipe lined up for each early. Get the applications in early. Ms. Langer and Ms. Thibodeaux are planning educational sessions for the Chefs to make sure they know what to do and have the necessary knowledge. Mr. Leone mentioned the Chefs for Pony Jumper, Young Riders and Prix des States have money allocated in the budget to pay them. The Chefs for Zone Jumper and Hunter Championships do not have this. Maybe consider payments to all Chefs. Need to determine costs of Championships for better planning. Current Zone Jumper Championships are one class, need to have a better format like perhaps two or three day and only include Zone 2. If so, committee needs to put desired requirements in new applications by February 2020 as they will open in April 2020. It was decided to form a Jumper Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. Philbrick, Ms. Benson, Mr. Benedetto and Ms. Chapot Nunn. They will compile an agreeable format to be placed in the Host Application. The new format will also be used to strongly request that Hits on the Hudson (host for July 22-26, 2020 Zone Jumper Championships) and Devon Fall Classic (host for Sept. 10-13, 2020 HOTY Jumper Championships).

Questions were also raised as to how to promote the Stirrup Cup Championships. Many people stated they did not know about it, those that went were not impressed and overall attendance is low. Ms. Benson suggested accountability from the host as to following through on their requirements. Ms. Benson will speak to Mary Babick regarding what is the future of the Stirrup Cup and what Zone 2 can do.

VI. Old Business

Zone 2 Awards Luncheon was held with members receiving HOTY and Stirrup Cup Awards. Light attendance but could be due to unusually warm weather. Would like to add Outreach Awards to this luncheon; Ms. Benson will speak to USHJA. Press releases and advertising needs to get the word out sooner; may place note cards in Championship exhibitors back packs.

VII. New Business

No new business to discuss.

VIII. Adjourn

Ms. Thibodeaux stated she would be taking roll at the end of each meeting. As soon as a member's name is called, they may leave the call after their response and consider the meeting adjourned.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 22-26, 2020 – Zone and Platinum Jumper Championships Saugerties
August 27-30, 2020 – Equitation Championships Swan Lake
September 10-13, 2020 – HOTY Jumper Championships Devon
September 26-27, 2020 – Stirrup Cup Championships Swan Lake

October 18, 2020 - Hunter Championships Harrisburg

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Johnson
Sports Program Office Aide