



USHJA Zone 8 Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 25, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. PT/11:00 p.m. MT/1:00 p.m. ET

Zone 8 Committee Members Participating: Laurie Grayson (Chair), Betsy Checchia (Vice Chair), Jenny Paisley (Treasurer), Chris Collman, Michael Dennehy, Marion Maybank and Allison Wicks (7)

Zone 8 Committee Members Not Present: Betty Beran-EXC, Brittany Jorgenson, Beth Nielsen, Jill Pelzel and Danine Summers. (5)

Also Present: Morgan Thibodeaux (Sports Program Coordinator), Kristin Rover (Regional Communications Coordinator) and Lynn Johnson (Sports Program Assistant) (3)

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Thibodeaux called roll, with seven committee members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approve the minutes

Ms. Paisley motioned to approve the Zone 8 April 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Checchia seconded and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

III. 2021 Zone 8 Specifications

Ms. Thibodeaux stated there were no member comments received for the Zone 8 2021 Specifications. The HWG has voted to add Low Children's and Low Adult Hunters to the 2021 HOTY due to the discontinuation of the Stirrup Cup Program. Each Zone is asked to add the Low Children's and Low Adult Hunters to their Zone Specifications for 2021. The Committee was sent a copy of the current specifications for those sections. The Committee can adopt the current Stirrup Cup specifications or change them for their Zone specifications. The Committee decided to use the current Stirrup Cup specifications. *Mr. Dennehy made a motion to use the current Stirrup Cup specifications for the Low Children's and Low Adult Hunter Sections as the Zone 8 2021 specifications for those sections. Ms. Checchia seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.*

IV. Zone Reconfiguration

Ms. Thibodeaux advised the Committee the Zone Council has discussed the idea of reconfiguring the current Zones. Some options are increasing the number of Zones,

decreasing the area of some Zones and realigning some to better reflect where people are going to attend competitions. No decisions have been made. Ms. Thibodeaux asked the Committee how they felt about their Zone configuration. Ms. Grayson stated she did not think they needed to do anything with Colorado. Ms. Checchia stated it would make sense for Arizona to go with California but most in Arizona are happy in Zone 8. Mr. Dennehy stated Zone 8 works. Mr. Collman stated Colorado goes to Arizona for the winter and Arizona goes to Colorado for the summer. New Mexico can go to Arizona and has its own shows. Utah is severely limited by a lack of facilities. Ms. Maybank stated she felt this was premature; look at 2019, 2020 and 2021 statistics as a lot will change and have a lasting effect. Overall, the Committee felt Zone 8 is fine the way it is.

V. Letter from Sissy Wickes

Ms. Thibodeaux stated the Zone Council asked this letter be distributed to the Zone Committees for discussion. No action is required. The Committee opened this for discussion. Mr. Collman mentioned many of the ideas would be great for affiliates to get out to their membership and trainers, especially those with lesson barns. Committee members agreed with this. Ms. Checchia asked what USHJA is doing with Outreach. Ms. Thibodeaux advised there is a free Outreach membership available. If they get an Associate membership (\$30), they are eligible for grants, scholarships and other non-competing benefits such as webinars and virtual horse shows. They also get emails. Mr. Collman mentioned that the Outreach fees for shows make them somewhat cost prohibitive to have. Ms. Thibodeaux will reach out to the Education Department to get data on the number of participants for webinars and virtual horse shows.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Collman asked what happened to the Stirrup Cup program and its ending. Ms. Thibodeaux stated the number of participants and number of B and C rated shows was rapidly declining across the country. Several Zones gave no Stirrup Cup awards last year as there were no participants.

VII. New Business

Ms. Rover stated she is working on member spotlights to be included in each Zone ENews. She asked the Committee to forward any suggestions for this to her. Mr. Collman suggested possibly including letters from state affiliates within the Zone also. Ms. Thibodeaux stated the USHJA Affiliates contact reaches out to all the affiliates for contributions before she sends out the Affiliates Newsletter.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:55p.m. ET.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Johnson
Sports Program Assistant