

Wisconsin Donkey & Mule Society (WDMS)
Westfield Village Hall - Westfield, WI

MINUTES

October 10, 2009

Present: Leslie Schmidt, Dian Pinney, Hal & Sandy Burdsall, Deb & Cliff Nieuwenhuis and Jerry Heinrich. (7)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by President Leslie Schmidt. Secretary Sandy Burdsall was present.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes of the last meeting, January 24, 2009, were distributed and read. Hal Burdsall moved and it was seconded *to approve the minutes as submitted*. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dian Pinney distributed copies of the 2009 General Ledger from February 5 through October 9, 2009 and reported a treasury balance of \$4,560.54 which agrees with bank records.

Wisconsin State Horse Council (WSHC) Report: In the absence of WDMS Rep Corky Smith, Leslie Schmidt reported: 1) that there would be a fundraiser for the Equine Foundation with details on the WSHC web site at www.WisconsinStateHorseCouncil.org and 2) that WSHC has started a program in state high schools to enable students to earn high school letters for equine activities. This program is being done in cooperation with the Interscholastic Horse Association.

State Show Report (June 6-7, 2009): 2009 State Show Co-Chair Hal Burdsall distributed a financial Summary of the 2009 State Show and a sheet of 2009 State Show finances that includes comparisons to the financial results of the 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 State Shows. He reported 2009 show data as follows:

- 12 Silent Auction/Door Prize Donors (15 for 2008)
- 31 Sponsored Classes (22 for 2008)
- 25 Exhibitors (23 for 2008) with xx aged 12 & under (4 for 2008)
- 58 Classes (56 for 2008)
- 178 Total Entries (172 for 2008)
- 7 Classes Cancelled for no entries (10 in 2008)

Corky Smith and Dian Pinney will be the Co-Chairman for the 2010 State Show which will be held June 26-27 at Heartland Stable in Custer. Dian announced that Rob Hoffman has been contacted to be the announcer for the 2-day show. It was moved by Dian Pinney and seconded *that the club not pay members for performing duties at the State Show*. Motion adopted.

Midwest Horse Fair (MHF) Report: Chairman Leslie Schmidt announced that the Midwest Horse Fair will be held April 16-18, 2010 with the theme of "*Let The Games Begin.*" It was recommended to advertise in the newsletter and on the web site for those interested in participating in MHF 2010.

Trail Rides Report: Chairman Leslie Schmidt reported that attendance at the Spring 2009 ride at Palmyra was sparse, the group campsite cost \$130 (with cost split among those who used campsites), and meat for members for the Saturday potluck cost about \$20. The Fall 2009 ride at Park Falls had 19 riders (members and non-members) and expense of about \$51 for member meat. There was a discussion that the "free meat for members" benefit wasn't working out so well as 1) it was difficult to determine how many members would attend, therefore how much meat to buy and cook, 2) folks seemed confused about "reservations" for the "free meat" benefit and instead expected organizers to take care of their personal campsite reservations and deposits/fees, and 3) there was confusion such that participants were expecting the entire Saturday night meal to be provided free by the club (vs pot luck meal + "free meat for members") and pot luck was very sparse. After discussion, a motion was made by Sandy Burdsall and seconded *that we discontinue the club meat for trail rides and instead provide \$100 toward member campsites for each of the 2 annual trail rides.* Motion adopted. The intent is for the \$100 (for each trail ride) to be applied to the cost of a group campsite or be divided among members paying for campsites for the ride.

Fun Show Report: Chairman Leslie Schmidt reported that the Fun Show at Red Ridge Ranch (Mauston) didn't happen due to lack of participants (2 adults + 1 child showed up with animals) and some unfortunate schedule conflicts with members and local ranch staff. It is unlikely that a Fun Show will be planned for 2010. A possible alternative activity was discussed for Halloween (October 23, 2010) of next year that would involve WDMS putting on a mule show with interesting classes (e.g., trail classes) for audience entertainment at Red Ridge Ranch. The activity would be about 6 hours long and the club would be paid \$2,000 by Red Ridge Ranch. More info will be gathered and the topic discussed at the annual meeting in January.

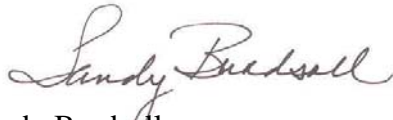
Shirt/Hat Inventory: Inventory is getting low on shirts that folks want to buy and a few mail orders have been lost due to lack of selection. After discussion, Dian Pinney moved and it was seconded *that the club order more shirt inventory at Hal Burdsall's discretion.* Motion adopted. It is intended that new inventory be available for sale at the January 2010 meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting date was determined at the January 24, 2009 meeting and it will be the Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2010 in Westfield with an alternate snow date of the following Saturday, January 30.

New Business - Bylaws: Treasurer Dian Pinney mentioned that her schedule and other responsibilities would necessitate her resignation as Treasurer at the January meeting and the possibility of combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer was discussed. After group discussion of the fact that current bylaws amendment procedure doesn't make sense and other desired bylaws changes that had been agreed upon in 2006, Sandy Burdsall moved and it was seconded *to revise the WDMS Bylaws per discussions in 2006 and displayed on the web site at*

www.widonkeymule.org/bylawsREV.htm *and decrease club officers to President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer (as a combined office)*. Motion adopted by more than 2/3 vote (there were no negative votes). This adopted motion, ballot, and required deadline information will be published in the next newsletter so that a vote (including mail ballots) will be taken at the January 2010 meeting. The ballots will be return mailed to President Leslie Schmidt who will bring them to the Annual Meeting in January where they will be opened and counted.

Adjournment: It was moved by Jerry Heinrich and seconded *to adjourn the meeting*. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.



Sandy Burdsall

WDMS Secretary

Approved: January 23, 2010