

The American Hanoverian Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors
Conference Call
December 18, 2019

Present: Edgar Schutte (president), Barb Schmidt, Nancy Connolly, Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck, Anne Sparks, Doug Langer, Meg Williams, Volker Ehlers, Joanne Hodges (executive director), Rachel Erhlich, and Rick Toering.

Absent: Kate Palmquist

The President called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. EST.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of Sept. 30, 2019. Motion approved.

President's Report

- The 2019 North American Stallion Sport Test evaluated 15 stallions and passed 12. The LLC is running in the black and both east and west coast test went well.
- There was some difficulty with stallion xray evaluations. In one particular instance, there was a discrepancy among the three vets at Rood and Riddle with one vet talking to a client directly. The final answer should be one collaborative response.
- The ED will be meeting with Rood & Riddle to sort out some of the process issues.
- VIT is now in place and ready to import or export data over next couple of months.
- This is the first time we were able to vote on the budget in Dec., which is great improvement. Thanks to Joanne, and Anne Sparks, and the Finance Committee.

Executive Director's Report

- The member renewal form was sent in both email and paper form this year.
- AHS has been approached about a breed exhibit at Equitana, which will be in 2020 at the KY Horse Park. The HV also got some information, so the possibility of a joint exhibit may be possible Joanne to follow up with cost/benefit.
Laura Serkes, the new marketing person, is helping Cheryl Johnson with advertising for the Stallion Service Auction (SSA).
- With the passing of judge Verne Batchelder, we are still missing one set of inspection scores and 3 MPT scores from UMASS. The office is taking steps to find the scores in other ways, possibly from owners, and will offer them a do-over if they don't have final scores. The office will also follow up on missing year-end futurity scores to make sure all scores are entered for possible year end awards.
- The Foundation newsletter will be going out soon via email. Joanne will look into posting it on Facebook.
- The treasurer reviewed the process that was used for the development of the 2020 budget and suggested that the AHS and ARS budgets are combined for future years.

Motion: Moving forward in 2020 the ARS and AHS budgets will be combined as one for financial purposes only-Approved

2020 Budget Review

- There was a discussion around the proposed 2020 budget and a review of some of the individual line items.
- The best practice goal for an association is to have six months of operating capital in reserves.
- A discussion ensued around keeping cash in investments versus liquid. The Finance Committee will review the options and the impact of keeping a significant amount of cash liquid versus investing and report options back to the board.
- Next year, consider a possible line item for staff bonus/part time help.

Motion: To approve 2020 budget, as proposed. - Approved.

New Business

The ED explained that although the office staff gets along quite well with one another, it is still difficult to keep ahead of the workload because everything is in flux as we try to make it easier and better. The end result will be worth it, but in the meantime, every form, process, and procedure are being reviewed.

Consider soliciting volunteers at inspections, and the AGM. Also, use Facebook to ask for help.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m. ET.