

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 2, 2013

Attendees: Mo Wachman, Terry Stecyk, Lori Bridwell, Claudia Jordan, Marjorie Porter, Jenny Powers, Carmela Lizzo

Committees: Marlene Kinsella, Barbara Elliott

Absent: Dan Cohorst, Judy Riley

Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were distributed in advance by email. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the September meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

The report was distributed by email late in the day so not all Board members had an opportunity to review prior to the meeting. There was a question on the postage/delivery item this year compared to last year with regard to a significant cost increase. It was explained the bulk mail is only accepted on a certain day and time and only at the Cave Creek Post Office for RVHA mail. That schedule along with the considerable sorting criteria and banding with rubber bands created more work than the organization has volunteers to fulfill. A decision was made to use first class mail due to a lack of mailing volunteers. Claudia indicated an interest in participating in the mailings to save money by returning to bulk process, but did not want to assume sole responsibility. No other volunteers are immediately available. The issue will be revisited when the next newsletter needs to be mailed and a decision on the process will be made at that time.

There was an additional question regarding the difference in printing expenses compared to last year. The most significant reasons for the increase is that additional copies are being printed due to the increase in the number of members of RVHA and the size of the newsletter.

A motion was made to accept the report, seconded and passed without further comment.

Membership Report

Currently there are 608 total members, an increase of 10 members in September and a total of 107 new members year-to-date.

Social Committee

- **Burger Nite – September 14**

There were 128 attendees and an additional 10 who arrived without reservations and paid for their own meals. There were no complaints received. The feedback on the use of name tags was positive and color-coding for new members was helpful. Allowing one hour for check-in was

helpful in maintaining the flow of the arrivals before dinner was served. Name tags will be prepared in advance whenever possible to facilitate check-in.

- **RVHA Anniversary – October 19**

There will be a quick draw contest for the fastest draw. A singing cowboy has been hired and will also pose for photos with his horse for children. There will be roping practice and numerous games. The slide show will not display properly during the daylight so posters with photos will be on display. Lori has tables and Claudia will utilize tables for the photo display. The menu consists of pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, and coleslaw. Lunch will be served at noon.

- **Dinner Dance – November 9**

Lighting is needed for parking areas. Volunteers or valet parking will be necessary to direct traffic. Famous Dave's will deliver the catered dinner with firemen serving guests. Advertising needs to begin very soon. Prices were set at \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. The cost covers the dinner and band, but not rental for porta-potties. The event begins at 6pm with dinner served after 7pm.

Terry will organize the raffle with prizes of significance and will operate the 50/50 raffle, too. Claudia will provide last year's list to Terry. It was suggested brown paper covers for the tables with crayons provided for guests' entertainment.

- **Holiday Bazaar – December 1**

This event needs to be promoted to secure vendors. The Verde communities will also promote the event to their residents. Marjorie will remind Vickie to promote the event.

- **Spring Dinner Dance**

Tonto Verde club house was suggested as a possible venue. Carmela has done research on pricing and will wait until after the Fall Dinner Dance to assess the next step.

Facebook Report - Terry

205 likes. Number 200 will receive a small gift for being a milestone. There has been a lot of activity with and shares.

Trail Ride

Nancy Wilford will lead a trail ride on October 26 in Sycamore Creek. There has not been a lot of turnout. More promotion may be necessary. Waivers will be printed for signing onsite.

Welcome Committee - Claudia

Claudia mailed 23 packets to houses that closed since June. The packets contain an introduction letter, newsletter, list of emergency numbers, a business card and a hand-written note from Claudia. Claudia will provide names and addresses to Mo and Marjorie to track new members resulting from this effort and assess value.

Old Business

Bylaws Committee

The Committee presented revisions per the discussion at the last Board meeting. Additionally, proposed changes were suggested, among them: no nominations from the floor for elections; no voting at the annual meeting; annual meeting is when election results will be announced; Treasurer will submit an annual budget for Board review. Marlene offered to assist in budget development. The Board suggested beginning work on a budget in June for approval in September or October for the next year.

The Committee changed the spending authority. There will be a limit, but not specified in the Bylaws. The Board will set spending limit. Changes were made to the General Member meeting and the quorum requirement for voting. The Election Committee format is changed and there were minor changes in responsibility.

The Board members asked for time to read through the changes and report any concerns or questions to the Committee.

Insurance Update

RVHA has never had a claim with insurance. The agent is no longer sending documents or providing any service except to invoice annually. RVHA has changed the agent of record to a local representative. The insurance can have a rider to allow specific coverage for an event, if necessary. Judy and Mo will research costs of extra insurance for events.

New Business

Brown's Ranch Trailhead Open House – October 19

Jenny, Claudia and Theresa Thraen will represent RVHA at the RVHA booth. Mo is collecting items for the exhibit. Claudia offered to make a sign for the sandwich boards Mo has. Theresa and Jenny will set up exhibit. Jenny is coordinating with the City of Scottsdale as the primary contact for the event.

Preserve Steward

Jenny met with Carole Burton, the captain for the steward program of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve to discuss recruiting equestrian stewards for the program. The steward program recruits Preserve enthusiasts to monitor trails and report any incidents or maintenance issues to the Preserve management. The stewards act as ambassadors for the Preserve users and are required to take a course, which provides the information necessary to perform this volunteer position. Terry and Claudia will sign up for the classes. Jenny will continue recruitment efforts for equestrian stewards and will submit an article for the upcoming newsletter.

Cave Creek Wild West Days

An email was sent to advise members of the opportunity to participate in the parade at this event. Three responses were received, but were vague in nature and only one indicated an interest in representing

RVHA. RVHA provided information for those interested in riding in the parade, but will not officially participate as an organization.

Trail Ride Committee

Mo requested that a Trail Ride Committee be formed to organize and schedule trail rides. Terry volunteered to help and has potential candidates to assist in leading rides. Jenny will participate as soon as she is able to ride. Terry will research opportunities for rental horses with Lorill Equestrian Center and Cave Creek Outfitters for future rides.

For the Good of the Association

The Amy Barrington Benefit is being organized by Lorill Equestrian Center. Amy worked as a well-known riding instructor and competitor in the Valley for many years. She was severely injured and funds are being raised to assist in her recovery. Lori will provide information on the November fund raising event and Terry will write an ad for the RVHA Classifieds.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 6 at Arizona Cowboy College. 6:30pm refreshments and social; 7:00pm meeting begins.

Submitted by

Jenny Powers, Secretary