

Open Membership Meeting

July 9, 2021

5:00pm

Walnut Grove Stables

Dene Masengill-Jones, Gretchen Tolbert, Andrea Barr, Courtney Weagle

\*Answering questions sent in prior to July 6th

Gretchen - Treasure

What type of entity is ETHJA?

- Non-profit organization, not a 501(c)(3)

Are the board members paid?

- No, board members/ officers/ points secretary all strictly volunteer positions w/ meals provided at meetings

What happens to the funds collected each year?

- Income consists of memberships/show sanction fees/ banquet tickets.
- Sanction fee is \$60.00 per show, membership is \$40.00(rider) and \$20.00(horse), \$45.00 and \$25.00 when paid via PayPal
- Majority of funds allocated to banquet/ prizes. Banquet tickets offset expense of food/ venue/prizes.
- Last banquet example(2019):

expense - \$26,004.00(venue, food and prizes included)

income - \$25,760.00(membership and banquet tickets)

Will the banquet be discounted this year using last years fees since Covid impacted the season and spending?

- No, financials took significant hit last year - membership and sanction fees down significantly.
- No banquet held, but still prizes/year end awards/ ribbons provided.
- 2020 year end budget:

Income - \$7,700.00 - membership and sanction fees

Expense - \$6,945.00 - year end prizes

\*\*remainder to cover organization operation costs/expenses\*\*

Is there a budget published for members?

- No, not required to publish to budget.

## Krystle Bridges - President

What plans are there to grow and expand?

- Biggest concerns w/ growth is having difficulty getting through the show day as is.
- Continuously discuss schedule order/offering full schedule both days versus splitting schedule over two days - often hear from parents and exhibitors they would rather attend a show over a full weekend where they can earn two "sets" of points, rather than only earning one set. Show managers also find it more profitable and worth the effort of hosting a show to run a full schedule both days.
- Culture of ETHJA is generally about points/profitability.
- Board feels strong responsibility to ensure exhibitors/trainers/show managers have voice, as well as horses.
- Welfare of the horses/growing the association to move forward while maintaining that high standard of equine welfare is discussed at length.

Will the ETHJA board address these issues with its sanctioned shows?

a) There is a very low number of classes contested at fence heights greater than 2'. A few divisions offer a 2'6" option. Almost never is a division run at 2'9" or 3'. Anything at classic heights of 3'6" is unheard of, other than at the rare USEF and ETHJA sanctioned show. Is this the board's goal: to make ETHJA horse shows as basic as possible? Will there be any effort to include more USEF shows on the roster? Or any effort to encourage higher height competition.

b) The related issue of time. Almost universally, member shows hold the lower level classes early in the day. This generally observed schedule allows almost endless time for low level riders such that the day ends before upper level riders have an opportunity to show. The result may be the dampening of enthusiasm by upper level riders to bother attending shows at which their classes are rarely completed before dark.

- Board cannot manage horse shows. These concerns fall in the hands of show managers.
- Board of director's job is to manage show managers, not the horse show: must ensure that horse shows are run safely and within the rules of the ETHJA.
- Board cannot tell show managers how to run schedule/set courses/organize day - decided by each show manager.
- Suggestions are provided to our show managers based on feedback given by exhibitors

\*\*\*see suggestions tab on ETHJA website to submit\*\*\*

Will ETHJA plan to provide an educational experience for its riders?

- ETHJA would be happy to provide an educational experience for our riders!
- Clinic would be wonderful.
- Open to accepting volunteers of anyone who wants to spearhead clinic committee to begin organizing an event.

Can each barn get a donation of trees so we don't melt in the summer?

- Falls back on show management.

- Do not have room in the budget to supply these trees; however, if someone wanted to donate them to each venue, surely they would be greatly appreciated and enjoyed.