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## ALBERTA HORSE TRIALS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

*Annual General Meeting  
1:30PM - November 11, 2023  
Holiday Inn Gasoline Alley*

### **1.0 Call to Order at 1:38 pm**

1.1 Welcome, Introduction of the 2023 Board of Directors

1.2 In attendance: Kathleen Ziegler, Kelsey Soldan, Ulrika Wikner, Carly Moore, Jessica Kerschbaumer, Tanja Minder, Shelby Friesen, Renate Price, Rebecca Taylor, Sherri Flundra, Becky Staden, Christine Baurenschmidt, Michelle Naismith, Jasmine Jarvis, Kelsey Gore, Leah Breakey, Annette Case, Sarah Swart, Michaela Case, Lisa Janssen, Charlene Thomas, Sarah Simpson, Lyrah Thomson, Sandra Donnelly, Caroline Smith, Kelsey Peterson, Kaitlyn Annon, Keira Annon, Dagmar Fortmuller, Brenda Thompson

### **2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

2.1 Additions/Revision

*Sherri Flundra motions to adopt the agenda as revised. Christine Baurenschmidt seconds.*

### **3.0 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 5, 2022**

*Renate Price motions to adopt the agenda as revised. Tanja Minder seconds.*

### **4.0 President's Report**

### **5.0 Treasurer's Report**

Income Statement:

Finalized December 31, 2022.

2022 compared with 2021 (COVID restrictions)

Fundraising for the Bemer blanket in 2022

No casino in 2022.

Balance Sheet:

Prepays would be for flights for clinicians etc.

Interim Income Statement (Oct 18, 2023):

Donations are from Horsereg-option to donate when purchasing a membership

Sponsorships are from the handbooks

Volunteer Recognition-new for 2023 on expense statement

Equipment (Income) from mims being purchased from AHTA by the event sites

Interim Balance Sheet (Oct 18, 2023):

Moved financial institutions

Closed US account

High Performance now has their own bank account

Prepays for flights that can be used in 2024.

### **6.0 Other Reports**

6.1 Membership Report

A total of 355 members, 208 Seniors and 147 Juniors

Membership total is down potentially due to separating AHTA from AEF's membership database.

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- We also offered clinics to non-members for a small additional fee.
- 6.2 Clinic Report  
Two clinics with Sabrina Glasser (Minds Eye Ranch June 10&11) and Leah Breakey (Prentice Creek May 20&21).  
12 non-AHTA members attended  
~40% of attendees were new to eventing or EV60
- 6.3 Athlete Development/High-Performance Report  
16<sup>th</sup> year of the HP program  
Now have 3 groups: U18, Development Team, and High Performance  
Leahona Rowland acts as the program coach and is in her 5<sup>th</sup> year.  
U18 Group includes riders with at least one pre-training  
Development Team Requirements:  
High Performance Team Requirements:
- 2022 Young Rider Championships – Tryon, NC Nov 10-13, 2022  
CCI3\* Individual: Mikayla Hoffman  
CCI2\* Individual: Caitlyn Sutherland  
CCI1\* Team – Mackenzie Hoffman (16<sup>th</sup>), Madeleine Shank (10<sup>th</sup>),  
Mckenzie Saker, Anna Nelson (12<sup>th</sup>), team finished 4<sup>th</sup>
- 2023:  
2 Unmounted Sessions  
4 monthly HP/U18 Spring Clinics March-June  
Joint HP/AHTA clinic June 29-July 2  
Funding to help offset clinic fees was provided by AHTA  
Young Rider Clinic Aug 4-6 with Kyle Carter  
Funding provided by CEDF, Silent Auction, and AEF
- 2023 Young Rider Championships -Galways Down International  
CCII\*L – Michaela Aulicinio Mckanna Austad, Mackenzie Hoffman  
Won team bronze
- Clarification requested about using an out-of-province coach vs local coaches.  
Reasons included reducing bias and favoritism both with the riders and families. Also concerns over the Team coach potentially “stealing” students from other local coaches.  
Leahona Rowland offers a reduced rate in comparison to Alberta coaches to stay involved in the program.
- Concerns brought up that Alberta coaches are not being included in the programs designed by Leahona and the team.
- As this program grows, there may be opportunities to relook at the Young Riders and HP program to ensure both programs are equally supported.
- 6.4 Statistics Report
- 6.5 Competitions Report  
EV105 was offered at four venues in 2023 and is planned to be run in 2024  
New EV level names and new dressage tests
- 6.6 Safety Report

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Continued support of MIMs and other safety initiatives. Example-\$6,000 to Alhambra for 12 new frangible fences in 2023. Lots of money still in the fund so please encourage event sites to apply.

Fall rate doubled in 2023 in comparison to 2022. (1/40 in 2022 to 1/20 in 2023)

Question-is data about vests and other safety equipment was used/deployed included in the fall report? At this point it's unclear. It was included in older TD reports.

Severe weather: Air Quality and heat were concerns at events in 2023 and are being considered for 2024 events to see how AHTA can support the event sites and working within EC guidelines.

Membership asks-can AHTA set levels that are hard and fast so it's not up to the riders to withdraw from the event.  
It's not up to the AHTA board to set guidelines-the ownership is on the riders and the event organizers.

AHTA is looking at providing air quality monitors at the event site so that readings are accurate for the location and organizers can feel confident in the readings.

Will be discussed at the 2023 organizers forum and further discussed in 2024 as far as equipment rental/purchase options.

What is the policy for cancellation of the event sites? Event organizers still have to pay for everything regardless whether the event runs or not but riders will also be hesitant to lose a full entry.

### 6.7 Communications Report

Thanks for using the event site feedback forms!

### 6.8 Volunteer Report

AHTA made a new chair position to support our amazing volunteers.

2 new volunteer appreciation initiatives:

- 1) Volunteer of the Year-Sponsored by Four Winds Saddle Services
- 2) Thank you card/gifts to top volunteers from each event

Events require 850+ volunteer hours to run!

Remember to thank your volunteers!

Are not looking to require volunteer hours in order to compete at this time but we are open to receiving ideas on how to increase volunteer numbers.

Have tried using a volunteer tracking app to track and reward certain quantities of volunteer hours but AHTA had issues getting engagement with the event sites.

One event site provided free schooling at the XC course for a full day of volunteering.

Other gifts include bottles of wine or a small gift after working a full day.

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Other feedback includes being more transparent about the time commitments and job descriptions i.e. “come sit in a chair for 3 hours in the morning”. Requires reaching out to the barns/coach well prior to the event.

One event-the coaches who brought the most volunteers got their event entry for free.

Provide donation to local youth group in exchange for groups of volunteers but they are non-horsey.

Could request volunteers to log their own hours.

### 6.9 Equipment Report

AHTA purchases equipment for each event site to use throughout the year.

Current inventory includes: 2 way radios, timing system (stadium eyes), atomic clocks (XC start/finish/control)

### 6.10 Swag Report

Purchased to help event sites reward volunteers.

Suggested items:  
Multi-tool

### 6.11 Casino Report

Runs every 18 months to 2 years. The 2023 casino occurred Oct 26 and Oct 27, 2023 at Pure Casino in Calgary.

Three shifts: Day and evening shifts and count room

Casino funds are used for:

- Event site funding

- Clinic facility fees

- Frangible Technology

- In-province travel for board members to meeting

- Ribbons

- Admin expenses and more!

Calgary is the chosen location because that area is the highest revenue generating area

Volunteers received a free AHTA membership, a free hotel room, and their mileage covered

### 6.12 Vice President's Report

#### **AHTA Handbook:**

More pages with 12 advertisers total which covers the cost of the handbooks.

Distributed at the AEF booth at the Horse Expo, tack stores, at the first clinics, or mailed out to barns.

Ran out prior to the first event so more will be printed (500 copies printed in 2022).

Any suggestions on information to include please contact Tanja Minder.

\*Volunteer information

Aiming to have books printed by February 1, 2024.

Open to accepting advertisers now but will post in the coming months.

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7.0 Elections

7.1 Directors whose terms have expired: Carly (standing), Tanja (standing), Rebecca (standing), Renate (standing), Kelsey (not standing), Shelby (not standing)

7.2 Advance Nominations

Jasmine Jarvis, Kelsey Hamer, Kelsey Gore, and Cailin Kopetski

7.3 Nominations from the floor

No nominations from the floor.

7.4 Election

Congratulations to our elected board members:

Tanja Minder

Carly Moore

Renate Price

Rebecca Taylor

Jasmine Jarvis

Kelsey Gore

Thank you to everyone who stood for election!

8.0 New Business

8.1 Young Prospects Program Report (Brenda Thompson)

Changes coming for 2024:

\*Possible date change to accommodate more horses and allow for a 2 day format.

\*YPP Graduate Bursary-available to horses that have been through the program to help offset their current competition programs

\*Looking to reward breeders and bring visibility to them through this program as well

\*Adding 6 and 7 year old championship?

8.2 Organizer's Forum – Sunday, November 12, 2023

Is a closed meeting but AHTA can bring forth member concerns/feedback.

Can we avoid back-to-back weekends? AHTA has worked with event sites to discuss dates.

August long weekend event (Minds Eye). Feedback is that riders want sanctioned events, especially that late in the season.

Minds Eye ran roads and tracks (mandatory) at their derby. Did that limit their numbers? Feedback was that it was a nice option but maybe not mandatory. Roads and Tracks maybe should be limited to higher levels (even starting at entry).

August long does have people on vacation.

Try the app again for volunteer sign ups.

Vets at finish lines-do we need to pay for them if they are not mandatory?

Keep costs down.

9.0 Round Table Discussion

10.0 Adjournment @ 16:11

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**\*\*Quorum required for AGM to proceed: 25 Senior Members or 5% of Total 2023 Senior Membership, whichever is the lesser. (From AHTA By-Laws)**