



Skyline Corral Election of Officers Meeting
Held at Newark Valley Firehall, Newark Valley, NY
November 14, 2015

Board Members present – Amy Light, Dulcie Barnes, Chris Hagquist, Jennifer Hagquist, Debbie Oakes, Debbie Huttleston, Kristen Barker, Becky Jenson, Whitney Hibler, Lori Markoff, Kristen Farr, Kristina Boyce, Kelly Gumaer, Maria Vallone, Mike Munda

Board Members absent – Krystal Boyce

President Amy Light called the meeting to order at 1:28 pm.

Debbie Oakes read the minutes from the work bee meeting on April 19, 2015. Carl Mosher asked if the minutes were the previous meetings were posted on the website yet and Amy Light responded not yet. Amy asked if there were any corrections or additions and none were noted. All members present were in favor to accept the minutes as read.

Amy Light then discussed the Village of Owego's requirement that any event held within their boundary have insurance coverage for \$2 million per occurrence, as well as \$2 million aggregate. Due to these changes, it increased the cost of our insurance premium by \$1000.00. We're now paying around \$1800 per year for insurance.

Amy also discussed that she had reviewed the lease recently. The fair board has changed the lease without telling us. The change made is if the club leaves the fairgrounds, the buildings that Skyline has purchased (announcer's stand and equipment building) have to stay. Becky Jenson reported that Charlie Truman hasn't mentioned anything lately about the tractor.

Amy Light asked the members present if they wanted the board minutes read in full or only the high-lights. The members present opted to have the high-lights read.

Carl Mosher asked why there isn't more info on the website. He said it seems like everything gets posted on Facebook even though not everyone is on FB. Board members responded because it's easier to post updates and news on FB than it is on the website. The Board let the members know that it will get better at keeping the website updated with current information.

Amy next discussed the need for arena repair. She said that nothing major has been done in approximately 40 years. The Club has only performed maintenance. The Tioga County Fair Board (TCFB) and Charlie Truman are going to look into getting grants for arena repair.

Lori Markoff next gave the Treasurer's report –

Beginning Balance – 1/1/15	\$7,230.54
Total Expenses	<7,412.51>

Top 3 Expenses- Insurance, tractor rental, water tanker

Income:

Fundraisers	8,362.18
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Top 3 Fundraisers – program book, patio heater, pancake breakfast

Memberships	772.00
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Shows	6,556.75
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Year-end expenses	<3,283.05>
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Balance as of 11/14/15 -	\$12,225.91
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Debbie Oakes next did the roll call and marked members present. The roll call was delayed due to people still signing in and filling out membership applications as the meeting was starting.

Amy announced that the pancake breakfast is being held on February 7, 2016 at Applebee's on Upper Front Street in Binghamton.

The banquet was discussed next. It is being held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at the Owego Treadway. The buffet choices were discussed and the members present decided to choose the "Bar-B-Q buffet" and their two meat choices were chicken speidies and pulled pork. Ashleigh Knecht is the banquet liason and will do what she can to keep the prices near to what they were last year. There will still a silent auction at the banquet and Debbie Huttleston and Kristen Farr will be in charge of organizing and running the auction. They will be responsible for getting it posted on the website and the FB page.

The topic of the arena repair was brought up again. Carl Mosher, Jr. asked if the Board had ever looked into only working one side at a time. The fence on one side would be removed and the arena could be humped in the middle and only one side worked. Mike Munda reported that his excavator that his doing is arena will do the work for free and Mike is just waiting to see what the Club wanted to do about working the arena. Amy said that the entire fence needs to be replaced. Many of the posts are rotted and cannot be salvaged. Carl Mosher, Sr. asked if the cost of materials had been figured out. Amy said that still needs to be done. Carl also mentioned that the Club should talk to local vendors to see about possible donations. Members could go to different vendors (like Home Central, lumber yards, etc) and see if they would donate a particular item. One of the members asked about the white plastic covered wood and if that was an option. Kevin Darling said that it doesn't last once in the sun. The sun destroys the plastic and it becomes brittle. Amy said that John Fagnoli suggested that the club replace the wooden fence with metal panels and that fence sections could be sold to sponsors. Amy said that before the Club does major renovations to the arena and fence, the lease would have to be reviewed and updated to correctly list who owns what.

Amy next brought up the By-law change proposal that the Board had discussed. The change would be to drop the work requirement from 13 years of age and over to 9 years of age and over. Members brought up that some duties a younger child couldn't do and the Board agreed but said there were many things that younger kids, 9 years and over, could do. Josie Darling said that there was an issue with little kids setting barrels. It was also mentioned that the work requirement cannot be fulfilled at the work bee. It must be at a show or event. A member suggested that a list be made of what different work duties were needed. Karen Mathewson reported that had already been done. Debbie Zieno asked that the Board look into creating a holding area at the entrance end of the arena if do a redesign of the arena. A motion was made by Maria Vallone and seconded by Becky Jenson to change the work requirement age to 9 years of age and older (reduced from 13 years of age and older). All members present were in favor. There were no abstentions.

Amy next brought up the Election of Officers and that the majority of the current Board was not willing to stay on. Jen Hagquist and Debbie Huttleston were willing to stay on the Board. Amy then asked if there were any members in the audience that were interested in Board positions and only two members were interested.

Amy then discussed her proposal, which is the Club wouldn't require people to join as members and a Group of people (Committee) would run the shows and do all the needed work. She felt that Skyline needed to get away from the "membership mentality". Instead of club shows, each side would do a "series". Amy said that the membership portion is very time consuming – having to track who did what work requirements, who participated in the membership incentives and to what levels. With the new proposal there wouldn't be any work requirements or membership incentives and people wouldn't have to do fundraising. Competitors wouldn't have to join as members. There would also be a good chance that the awards banquet would go away and day-end or series-end awards would be given instead. The competitors would just come to the shows, show their horses and not have to worry about doing work.

Carl Mosher stated that the horse industry is expensive and there is now a downturn. He stated that there are too many rules and not enough information put in one spot so that it's easy to gather.

Amy also reported that due to incidents that happened in the past few years, she feels that Skyline's name is "muddied" and we don't have the best reputation.

Amy said that the group that would be running the shows would still be accountable in all aspects to Skyline. Books would be open 24/7/365. She said that certain portions needed to be worked out, such as if the series format doesn't work, how does the club aspect be reinstated. Carl Mosher said that when the Club first started out, it was easy. He felt that there were too many rules and that some of the rules needed to be cut out. Amy said that why all the rules were needed is because of the awards and people try to figure out how to get around the rules to "win" the awards.

One of the members in the audience said that she has experienced that people have said that they don't like to be treated as an "outsider" at a club if they are not a member.

Debbie Zieno asked what entry fees would be if it was a series as opposed to a club show. Amy said that she envisioned the classes to be Barrels and Poles and the divisions would be Pee Wee, Youth and Open. It would be run similar to an NBHA show and that the entry fee would be \$25 for the open barrel run. Debbie voiced her concern that she travels a distance to come to the

shows and that previously it was reasonably priced to show an entire day. She felt that at \$25 for one class, it would be too costly and she wouldn't be able to attend. Board members present asked if she wasn't an NBHA member and if that wasn't the cost for entry fees for those shows.

There was much heated discussion between the members present and the Board. They members felt that they needed to be better informed of proposed changes and more communication needed to be coming from the board. Board members said that if the Club was going to continue that changes needed to be made. The overall consensus was that times have changed and the Club needed to change to continue.

Amy asked for a show of hands of those members who wanted the Club to remain as it was. She asked if the members wanted to keep Skyline going as it is or if they wanted to turn it over to a committee to run. **NOT ONE CLUB MEMBER RAISED THEIR HANDS.** It was asked who was going to be on the committee. So far the Committee is apprised of: Amy Light, Mike Munda, Kristen Barker, Kristen Farr, Dulcie Barnes, Becky Jenson, Debbie Huttleston and Debbie Oakes.

As the club members got up to leave, Maria Vallone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:17pm and Kelli Gumaer seconded the Motion.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbie Oakes

Debbie Oakes, Substitute Recording Secretary