

Judges committee meeting minutes

Date: 6:00pm MST

Call to order: 6:05pm MST

Members Present:

Heather Koenig-Peterson

Mark Smith

Darrell Anderson

Kelly McWhorter

1. Heather brought up having quarterly meetings. Heather proposed April 11, 2017. All in favor.

2. Judges clinic hosted by Mark Smith, was approved by the governing board and preparations are underway. The clinic is scheduled for March 24- 26th, 2017.

3. Heather stated the we need a new person to fill the fifth seat on the judges committee as Kay Berg's term has ended. Kay was also the judges committee secretary. Kelly is filling in as secretary tonight. Heather commented that we really needed someone who does not reside in the northwest or midwest since we have those areas well represented. Mark Smith recommended Mandy Gerkin-Snyder. Heather recommended Rick Kominsky. Linda Hayes recommended L'illette Vasqueuz. We already know Mandy is willing, Heather will ask the other two if they are willing to serve. Once we have answers Heather will pass the names of those willing up to the ILR BOD.

4. Heather stated that she received all of Katie Mazac's evaluations for her clinic and apprenticeships required. Her evaluations were all positive. Katie has also paid her 2017 dues and taken the 2016 open book test which is still current since the new ones have not come out yet. She seems to have met all requirements. There were no questions or discussion. Darrell confirmed he thought she will make a good judge. Heather made a motion to approve her as a judge. Mark Smith seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed.

5. In regards to addressing judges that turn in late dues and open book tests, Mark brought up the guidelines on page 18 and 19, it was discussed that they would be followed and Heather would work with Susan to ensure those items were met.

Darrell asked who was responsible for writing the open book judges tests. Heather responded that she knows the fleece committee is writing the fleece test and thought that the Halter and Performance committee worked together to write the other test. However, Heather said she would check with those committee chairs to be sure.

6. Ron Wilkinson sent a concern to the judges committee about animals being shown in the wrong fleece division and judges not moving the animals to different classes. Mark commented

that this is a problem at all shows in all divisions and there is no extra rule or different show order that will solve the whole problem. Darrell said that there is no good way to police this issue it has to be handled at the shows on a case by case basis. Kelly said that she has also seen this problem repeatedly but also doesn't think there is one good solution. Mark said that as a judge he always tries to tell exhibitors if their animal would fit better in a different division, so they know for next time. Heather said that the exact show order is in the guidelines as well as the fact that judges are instructed to look primarily at confirmation and only use fleece when comparing close pairs. Heather suggested sending an email to the superintendents committee encouraging them at exhibitor meetings to have exhibitors ask about class placement for fleece divisions and have exhibitors err on the lighter wool side if they are unsure, when choosing a class, so that the judges have options of where to move animals. Heather's second suggestion was sending an email to the judges as a reminder to discuss this issue in their exhibitor meetings as well as encouraging them to educate the exhibitors about which division their animal would have fit best in. All agreed on these suggestions.

7. The Fleece committee sent a formal complaint in regards to Fran Soukup to the Governing Board. However, the ILR BOD did not approve what governing board proposed and therefore the ILR BOD sent it to the judges committee to discuss and propose a solution.

After much discussion including the judges code of conduct, committee members code of conduct, consequences of code of conduct violations, and freedom of speech and opinion, the judges committee will propose to the governing board at their next meeting that a letter be written to Fran addressing this situation.

The judges committee also discussed whether it would be beneficial to create new guidelines addressing judge's use of social media. We decided that we did not feel it was necessary or right to add guidelines regarding social media/public forum participation or behavior.

8. It was discussed that we needed to appoint a chairperson and secretary for this new year. Heather suggested we wait until we fill our fifth seat to appoint these positions. Darrell commented that it might not be the best idea to throw someone new into these roles. Heather mentioned that Kelly was only filling in for secretary tonight and wanted more time to think about the position. Mark said he would support Kelly as secretary if she would be willing. Kelly agreed to serve in that role. Mark made the motion to appoint Kelly as secretary. Darrell seconded it. All approved. Motion passed.

Darrell commented that he would support Heather if she was willing to be the chair of the committee again. Mark nominated Heather to remain Chairperson of the judges Committee. All approved. Motion passed.

Mark made a motion to adjourn 7:15 pm MST. Heather seconded it. All in favor, meeting adjourned.