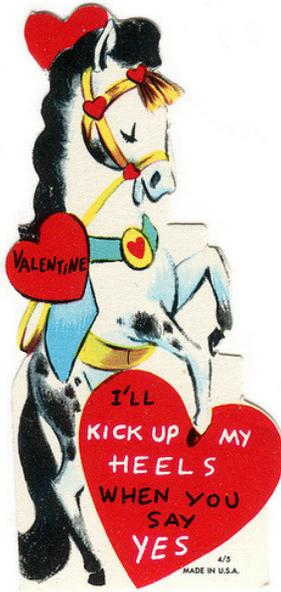


Moraga Horsemen's Association

February 2019

Calendar of Events

February 11 – Installation Dinner
March 19 – MHA at Kristin's
April – MHA at Ute's
May 21 – MHA at Corinne's
June 18 – MHA at the arena
July 16 – MHA at the arena
August 20 – MHA at arena
September 17 – MHA at Jackie's
October 15 – MHA at Laura Stetson's
November 19 – MHA at Gary and Laura's



Congratulations and Good Luck to the 2019 MHA Board of Directors

The following officers have been elected and will be installed on February 11th.

President – Laura Stetson
Vice President – Jackie Frost
Secretary – Kristin Ojala
Treasurer – Ute Frey
Sgt at Arms – Shivani Rajan
Members at Large – Corinne Roberts and Gary Fend

Minutes for MHA Meeting January 15, 2019

Members present: Corinne Dutra-Roberts, Gary Fend, Laura Fend, Ute Frey, Jackie Frost, Kristin Ojala, Shivani Rajan-Hetschel, Jenni Smith, Laura Stetson

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Jenni Smith.

Gary noted that we did not have a quorum to approve at prior meeting, so the minutes and motions will need to be reapproved at next opportunity.

President's Report: Jenni did not have anything new to report.

VP Report: Kristin noted that while the dues form says Feb 1, and the trend has become to do both dues and liability waivers are provided at the Installation Dinner. Gary said the by-laws say dues are due January 1. Kristin requested that for those planning to pay at the Installation Dinner to please pay with separate checks for dues, pasture fees, and dinner amount. The location for the annual dinner is to be determined - there may be other options available. Laura F suggested another local Italian restaurant may be a viable option. In years past, there have been suggestions of changing the style of the dinner to where members pay their own tabs individually, or some combination of such with the current way of doing things.

In order to assist planning, Kristin could send a request to membership to find out who is interested. Membership present decided on the date of February 11 for the dinner.

Treasurer report: Ute put together a presentation regarding the finances. MHA has two bank accounts: general, with a balance of \$11,980.85, and pasture, with a balance of \$28,182.38. The general club annual overhead costs come to \$2,300, and the annual overhead for the pasture comes to \$5,500. Ute makes an annual transfer from pasture into club account to reimburse for shared overhead expenses (PG&E, etc).

The MHA club account is losing money, due to expenses rising and membership dues being erratic.

The dues issue could be partially explained by people paying dues early or late, but in general, we need to be more consistent in collecting dues. Ute suggested some changes that could improve this situation: be better about bringing in dues consistently, organize revenue producing activities, and/or moving pasture-heavy expenses (PG&E, sanitary) to pasture account only.

In review, we have a history of revenue from events and membership. To better focus our efforts, Ute proposed an annual club income target.

Pasture account is making money with income at about \$7,000 per year, and average expenses are \$5,500. However, it's making less than in past years due to slightly less income from dues (about 2 less horses), more money spent on improvements, and higher insurance. Do we break even or make profit for the pasture? More discussion is needed.

Ute proposed the spending from the pasture account be at a target of \$6,250; at that level, we need 14 horses to break even. Do we have major projects we want to complete using the current funds? What catastrophic event(s) do we want to be prepared for? Jackie will look at prior minutes to find prior discussions on what costs the club has previously discussed.

Kristin asked what has reduced the grazing in pastures - Laura F said coyote brush, reduced rainfall, more active horses who eat more, the grass changing. Horses tend to graze in the same spots, and avoid others. Kristin noted that most of the horses are getting supplemental food, and for many this is a necessity. Laura F said that this can be a self-perpetuating cycle - as horses are continually fed, they will not forage; that being said, the pastures are leaner and she would not recommend adding additional horses.

Would making a significant difference in the amount of coyote brush make an appreciable improvement in the grazing? Laura said that this was a significant issue brought up to EBMUD from many sources, due to flammability and encroaching on grazing land. However, to remove it is VERY work intensive and questionable effectiveness. Jackie mentioned to make the most difference in the growth is to cut back in June, rather than the winter.

Laura S asked about 5 hour credit for board members; Jenni noted that the 5 hour credit was started to help incentivize more participation in board positions.

Jenni suggested that Ute and Jackie suggest topics for discussion for future meetings. Kristin asked Ute to pick a meeting to present a follow up to her presentation. For March agenda: what events for 2019? Linda suggested we discuss it in terms of community service and/or fund raising.

Pasture Report: Laura F reported grass is green! Also, from the EBMUD meeting she attended: they are redoing the kiosks at Valle Vista and we can include some signage, which Ute has developed language for. They will also be addressing some fencing. Contact Laura F or Jenni for more details from the meeting with EBMUD.

Old Business: We made \$100 at the Christmas party and it was a lovely time!

New Business: Jenni motioned to accept proposed slate of new officers of 2019 (see list below); Shivani seconded. Jenni called for any nominations from the floor; there were none. Motion was carried without opposition or discussion.

2019 Officers

President: Laura Stetson

Vice President: Jackie Frost

Treasurer: Ute Frey

Secretary: Kristin Ojala

Past President: Jenni Smith

Sergeant at Arms: Corinne Dutra-Roberts

Members-at-Large: Gary Fend, Shivani Rajan-Hetschel (with additional Marketing duties)

Ute motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jackie seconded. Jenni adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm.

MHA Installation Dinner

February 11, 2019

6pm

Please join us for the annual installation dinner at Michael's in Moraga. The menu is attached. Please contact Kristin with your reservation and choice of entrée by February 7th.