

**MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMEN ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2024  
@ CROWNE PLAZA 5PM**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Barrett, Brett Boyd, Claudia Cary Davidson, Crystal Terrell, Charles Taylor, Greg West, Jerry Earls, Scot Altizer, Kim Pluta, Legislative Representative David Ladd, and Ngage Management Katy Stanke and team.

**ABSENT:** Teresa Marotta

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Tom Barrett called the Annual Meeting to order at 5pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** To honor the membership we have lost in the past year: Walter Beagle, Walter Bellows, Elipidio Bernardi, Zlatko Blazevski, Joyce Boring, Done Daniels, John Driver, Orin Englehardt, Willy Florence, Joseph Harris, David Hartsook, Mike Heslip, Beverly Hicks, Penny Howard, Randy Edmonds, Wayne Johnson, James Irving D.V.M., Ronald Krugielka, James McCann, Hugh McCann, Ron Merritt, Jodi Moored, Joseph Hollenbeck, Cathy Hayden, Anthony Smith, Michael St Charles, Tom Sweeney, Sharon Sylvester, Robert Tomlin, David Wells, Jeff West, Jenny Caldwell.

**EXCUSE ABSENT BOARD MEMBER: Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to excuse Teresa Marotta, supported by Crystal Terrell, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**BOARD ROLL CALL:** President Tom Barrett introduced the board members to the membership.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion:** Claudia Davidson moved to approve the agenda, supported by Brett Boyd, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Tom Barrett gave an update on the status of Northville Downs plans for a new facility in Plymouth Township. The pending PUD and finalization approval with the township to be coming soon. The Carlos will vacate the property by February 15, 2024. This will be the close of live racing until the new track is built. Expected new racetrack to be built in 12-15 months. Negotiations with Carlos, MGCB, MAFIE, MDARD are in process.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reports simulcast is down 13%, (44 Million), Live Handle up 3% (2.2 Million), ADW is flat up ½%, purse account has 1.4 million, and we raced a total of 68 days this year. Colt Stakes are funded and the fair schedule is in process. The Breeders Futurity and Fair Final will not be scheduled for 2024, due to budget concerns.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Legislative Representative David Ladd reports there is a lot of Democratic and Republican uncertainty. Our Bills 411-414 are pending, the legislative process is slow and he hopes to get some action by May or June. We have good legislative support, with Senator Cherry and Hertel and he is confident that we will succeed in the process. Brett Boyd expresses the need for horsemen to contact their Representatives and Senators in Lansing and

contact them when the MHA request. Pass of the bills and lifting of the caps is essential to our future.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS:** Several Horsemen addressed the board with questions. Questions on the legislative process, Questions on the one-time colt stake payments, questions on our racing future, questions on Michigan breeding program, questions on the minutes not being posted on the website in a timely manner.

**SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:** Claudia Davidson introduces Scholarship winners Brett Sugg received \$1,000.00 for his application. Brylee Boyd and Robert Sarro tied for runner up earning \$1,875.00 each. Drew Thacker received the highest honor of \$5,000.00 and will help us tonight at the scholarship auction. All proceeds from the auction will support the scholarship program, the applications are due April 15, 2024. Each applicate must comply with the criteria, more information is on our website.

**ELECTION RESULTS:** Tom Barrett announces member re-elected for a three-year term are: Claudia Davidson, and Teresa Marotta. New board members for a three-year term Aaron Colley and Don Marotta.

**OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS:** Tom Barrett presents an award to recognize Jerry Earls and Greg West for the years of service to the board. Thank You for your support.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to adjourn at 6:30pm, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 15, 2024 4pm @Ngage Management 2501 Jolly Rd, Okemos, Mi

Minutes prepared by Secretary Claudia Cary Davidson January 21, 2024 Pending board approval