

To: NRHA Executive Board and Board of Directors

We are writing on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Indiana Reining Horse Association, regarding the Rule Change vote scheduled for the August Board Meeting. This letter specifically concerns the proposed Drug Medication Policy and the restructuring of membership dues.

We believe the proposed Drug Medication Policy is not in the best interest of our horses, the sport of Reining, or the NRHA membership. Furthermore, the collection process outlined in the proposal will not provide accurate, meaningful data. The rule, if passed, would put undue stress on already overworked event management and Show Secretaries, as well as the NRHA office staff, without compensation for the additional time and effort required to manage the program.

It is our opinion, IF the sport of Reining needs a drug policy, it should be developed openly and approved by a vote of the entire membership. If the NRHA Board is truly interested in listening to the entire NRHA General Membership, as you say you are, then this Drug Medication Policy should NOT be passed. If and when, the NRHA Board of Directors makes the decision to include the entire membership, as well as knowledgeable equine veterinarians and testing facilities, in forming and adopting a Drug Policy that will truly benefit the sport of Reining, then the Indiana Reining Horse Association will be here to assist in achieving that goal.

As for the restructuring of the membership dues, we feel that the current proposal will greatly harm the sport of Reining by increasing the financial commitment to become involved. The majority of the NRHA membership is comprised of middle-class working people, who enjoy the sport for recreation and have already made significant investments in the form of horse(s), training, lessons, truck and trailer, tack and show fees. With such a significant increase in membership dues, where all they see for their money is a wallet card, window sticker and poor organizational leadership, you are only encouraging current members to find other forms of equine recreation. Ultimately, this will reduce the number of people participating in the sport, further reducing the NRHA revenue stream, as well as making it very difficult for many already struggling NRHA Affiliates to survive. If you feel an increase in membership dues is unavoidable, then please, show the membership exactly where and how their membership dollars are being used. May we also suggest, a gradual increase would be accepted more willingly? When the members understand the problem and can see that the NRHA office is operating as efficiently as possible, than you will almost certainly get more support towards this goal.

In closing, we feel that recent actions of the NRHA Board have caused an erosion of trust between the NRHA leadership and the General membership. We have heard and read that the NRHA members just don't understand, we contend that we understand more than you give us credit for, which is why we are opposed to the above Rule Changes. Thank you for your consideration on these matters.

Sincerely,

Indiana Reining Horse Association

