



NEW MEXICO REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION
www.nmrha.org

August 17, 2007

Dear NRHA Board of Directors,

We write speaking on behalf of the New Mexico Reining Horse Association. It is our intent to inform you of our contribution to the Reining Industry and our stance on certain issues, both existing and proposed. We respectfully request your consideration when making decisions at the upcoming Board Meeting in August.

NMRHA Affiliate Shows:

We realize you are used to crunching large numbers on the NRHA Futurity and Derby, but we'd like to briefly itemize our NMRHA affiliate budget and contribution to the industry. NMRHA's 4 annual one day affiliate shows attract around 100 total runs per show. Each show offers 3 pewters, plaques for all other classes, plus paid-warm-ups, and several exhibitor friendly team competitions and entry level classes. Our basic expenses per show are as follows:

Added Money: \$2,400
Judge: \$1,000
Facility \$1,250
Insurance: \$200
Show Secretary: \$300
Trophies: \$605 + \$35 shipping
NRHA's 5%: around \$200
TOTAL: \$5,990

In 2007, NMRHA lost roughly \$1,500 per show. Our post-2007 show season budget is currently less than \$1,200 for year end awards and a banquet. Last year's awards of buckles to ancillary class Champions and Reserve Champions cost \$3,200. We are hopeful late season sponsors will make up the needed difference.

We realize the presentation of ancillary class trophies and plaques is now optional, but exhibitors at this level of competition WANT trophies and plaques. They mean a great deal to people. Thus we choose to present them despite it costing us 25% of our added money.

NMRHA affiliate shows serve roughly a 400 square mile region, and our club consists of about 65 members. The majority of NMRHA exhibitors show *ONLY* NMRHA. But more importantly, we are the "jumping in" point for many first time reiners that later graduate to better horses, bigger shows, and future involvement at higher levels.

We feel NMRHA shows and our members would be missed if our club folded. And we know there are many small affiliates just like ours that are operating in an equally precarious manner. We feel they'd be missed as well.

NMRHA's Stance On Current Issues:

Amid the heated discussion of many controversial proposed rule changes, NMRHA would like to offer its stance on several of the highest profile issues.

Membership Dues Increase:

The NMRHA is opposed to this proposal. We feel it cannibalizes the current membership, discourages future membership, and will ultimately cause decline in involvement in the sport.

Medications Policy:

The NMRHA is opposed to this proposal at every level. We feel this policy is ill-conceived and set up to be poorly implemented. We feel that a potential medications policy is way down the list of NRHA priorities at this time.

Show Secretary Certification:

The NMRHA is opposed to this requirement. We realize this rule has been implemented and will begin being enforced in 2008, but hear our plea to make an allowance for one day NRHA approved shows. We do not believe it will result in a more efficient or well run horse show, and the expense is difficult, if not impossible, to justify. This is a totally unnecessary rule for our application, and it will be impossible for us to comply with the requirement in 2008.

Higher Judges Fees and Multiple Judges Fees:

The NMRHA is opposed to this proposal. NMRHA depends on multiple judges fees as income for our shows. Our largest classes offer \$500 added, and we run several \$250 and \$200 added classes concurrently. Based on our current numbers, even with the judges' fee increase to \$30, we would lose about \$500 per show if this rule passes. We simply could not afford to stay in business.

NRHA Communication With The General Membership:

We feel that NMRHA members deserve to be informed at the level at which they participate – the local affiliate level. Many NMRHA members no longer receive the Reiner Magazine since the previous dues adjustment, and their only means of communication with each other and NRHA is through our club secretary and our newsletter. We believe the NRHA should do a better job of conveying its intent for development and implementation of association policies *before* the fact, rather than after.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of the needs of the NMRHA.

Sincerely,

The NMRHA Board of Directors