

The Hertig Letter

To NRHA Affiliate Officers (please distribute this to your membership by email broadcast or newsletters)

NRHA has now posted all the bylaw amendment proposals and the proposed Rule Changes to the members only section of the NRHA website.

It is imperative that every NRHA member read and responds with their comments to the proposed Rule changes. Rule changes are ONLY voted on by the full board of directors at their August meeting. These rule changes impact your NRHA membership and enjoyment of participating in NRHA approved events.

Of major importance is the Medications Policy being proposed. This policy, as written, will require you fill out a medications form at every show you attend BEFORE you are allowed to enter a class; pay a \$1 per entry Drug Testing Fee;(eg if you enter Open, Int & Ltd events that's \$3.00) be subject to sanctions for failure to list drugs that may appear in your horses system; and be personally responsible for any drug that may have been administered to your horse by others. As written, there are no prohibited drugs. This is a three-year research project that will cause additional paperwork at every show, additional expense to you and questions as to the validity of the data collected. Please respond online with your "favor" or "oppose" position. Total expenses are projected to be close to \$200k for a 3 year period. We're losing money on the Derby and the Futurity is barely making a profit, yet they have chosen to take on this project. The very nature of our sport does in fact limit what can be given to these horses that they can still perform appropriately.

The Finance Committee has proposed raising the membership dues of the association with the heaviest hit to the Open/Int.Open riders and to the Limited Open/Rookie Professionals. The new annual membership fee for them would be \$250 and \$135 respectively. Non Pro/Owners membership would increase to \$90, Youth to \$40 and Associate memberships to \$70. The Reiner magazine would be reinstated as a benefit of your annual membership fee. They have not specified if The Reiner will be electronic only or in print or IF we will have an option. Although an inflationary increase in membership fees is reasonable every few years, the huge increase being proposed for Open riders on a two tier system is considered unreasonable at this time.

The committee, in error, proposed to eliminate Life Memberships, and in their effort to stifle a run on life memberships during the last six months of this year, proposed a surcharge to those who desired to purchase a life membership. The bylaws of the association established life memberships as a benefit to the members with the board establishing the cost of that membership. Elimination of life memberships created by this bylaw can only be accomplished through a bylaw amendment that requires approval by the vote of the entire NRHA membership, not by committee or board action!! **A retroactive surcharge to an already established membership fee being used as a deterrent to buy that membership is deemed to be illegal and an**

insult to the membership!!

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A number of other rule change proposals are listed on the website, each of which should receive your feedback as to whether you support it or not.

Nine of the ten proposed bylaw amendments were drafted by Gary Pipkin, who chaired a membership based bylaws working group consisting of NRHA members from throughout North America. These amendments received full support from the NRHA Board of Directors at their June meeting and, if passed in October by the vote of the general membership, would create a fully elected board of directors with each Region within the U.S. and NAA's throughout the world electing their representatives to serve on the Board. It would also create more accountability of the Executive Board to the full board and of the full Board of Directors to the general membership. Please support these bylaw amendments with your YES vote this fall.

Lastly, please read the soon to be posted and published biographies of the candidates being nominated for the position of Vice President and elected Executive Board Member positions. The board of directors has submitted their list of candidates, but a full slate of candidates from the general membership is running against the board nominated candidates. This is your opportunity to determine if "it's business as usual" or if it's truly time for the membership to TAKE NRHA BACK!!! Please visit www.takeNRHABack.com for the latest – as well as the www.nrha.com website!

Perhaps its time for a “change” of who is on the Board? The Board could STILL appoint these worthy NRHA candidates as “appointed” board members if they did not win a seat by election. PLEASE GET INVOLVED. They have said that it is only a FEW that are in opposition to their rule changes – prove them wrong. Only 600 voted out of a 10k+ membership --- lets change that figure. NOTE* your opposition or favor on the website is not the “official vote”. It merely gives them a “feel” for the memberships thoughts prior to the rule change vote in August. It is said our membership is apathetic and does not care – prove this wrong.

Thanks for your time and be sure to go the NRHA website and express your **views** – opposed or favor (requires your login to access the bylaws and rule change proposals) **and also to VOTE by absentee ballot in September!!!**

This message is from a concerned group of NRHA members active in the process of educating our membership on what's going on within the association.

Sincerely, and remaining NRHA proud
Jack & Dee Hertig

6617 & #964