

August, 2007

Dear NRHA Board Members,

The Washington Reining Horse Association shares the same position taken by numerous other NRHA affiliates regarding two serious issues facing NRHA; the proposed medication policy and the proposed membership fee structure. We request that the NRHA Board of Directors table both issues at the upcoming board of directors meeting and leave them for further consideration and discussion before taking action that may irrevocably harm the viability of our national organization.

WRHA consists of a wide cross-section of NRHA members, ranging from multiple World Champions to first-year Rookie riders. WRHA has a long history of dedicated members. Based on our success and history within the reining industry we are well informed with respect to the results that the proposed medication policy is likely to produce. The method of data collection is so general that a large percentage of the data will be invalid and even worse will not be recognized as invalid. Many medications that may be administered days or even weeks prior to an event will require members to remember to report them or face the risk of sanctions. The proposed policy amounts to nothing more than an unjustified additional cost to show management for collecting and processing the forms associated with the program, not considering the impact that filling out forms will have on the show entry process. Should this rule pass, please be advised that WRHA has resolved not to collect \$1.00 testing fee from our show entrants, nor will we submit \$1.00 per entrant to NRHA. If and when a practical procedure can be employed that results in a medications policy that will truly benefit the sport of reining, WRHA will be in full support.

With regard to the increase in membership dues, we feel that the current proposal will do more to harm the organization than to remedy any shortfall. There has not been any substantial data presented to support an increase in dues. NRHA management has yet to justify its claims of cost per member in terms that support this increase. If you feel an increase in dues is unavoidable then we request that you adopt a policy of full disclosure and provide complete detailed financial records to the membership to explain the need. When the members have an understanding of the problem you cite, NRHA has a much higher likelihood of gaining support for a dues increase.

Many WRHA members have expressed a substantial degree of mistrust in the current NRHA leadership. It surprises us that the NRHA Executive Board can present the drug and fees proposals in the wake of the Strategic Plan debacle when these clearly illustrate the same lack of communication between the Officers and the NRHA Membership. If NRHA leadership could put focused energy into conducting business with integrity and rebuilding the trust that has been grossly damaged, we might be able to get past all the skepticism and ill-will to the unified and vibrant organization we used to be so proud to be a part of. That should be this organizations highest priority.

Respectfully,

The Officers and Directors of Washington Reining Horse Association