

Board Meeting Minutes



Date and Time

1/11/2026, 10:12am

Venue

Ellis County Fairgrounds, Hays, KS

MEETING ATTENDEES

ABSENT

1. Brian Kuntz

2. Mark Riley

3. Cameryn Kinderknecht

4. Norleen Knoll

5. Glenda Ratliff

6. Spud Richardson

7. Adrienne Lobmeyer

8. TallyAnn Klitzke

9. Jason Amlong

10. Camisha Stevenson

11. Riley Cameron

12. Jordan Hoesli

13. Howard Sauer

14. Kevin Solofra

15. Jordan Cameron

16. Aiden Lobmeyer

1. Aaron Dohm

2. Deana Leverett

3. Shannon Garten

VISITORS

- Renee Nichols, Jared Scheck, Angel Amlong, Yvette Stevenson, Darcy Settrini, Tamara Anglin, Skylar Amlong

CONSENT AGENDA

- Mark Riley moved to approve the consent agenda; Camisha Stevenson seconded. Unanimous vote carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Brian announced his appointment of the Parliamentarian, Historian, and Points Auditor positions. He appointed Mark Riley as the Parliamentarian, Deana Leverett as the Historian, and Shannon Garten as the Points Auditor. Norleen Knoll moved to accept these appointments; Camisha Stevenson seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion of the Spring Kickoff scheduled for February 7th, 2026, was had. Norleen said she had a bid for Triple 8 Equine Facility in Hays, KS for \$220 (where it was held last year). No other bids were presented. Brian Kuntz said he asked Guy and Kelly Forell about hosting another rodeo clinic and talked to Deana Leverett about a judge's clinic for judging speed events, but he is still working out the details. The board discussed having a soup luncheon where the board brings soup, and members bring sides and desserts. At this point in time, no one knew of anyone planning to take the judge's test. Times for the activities at Spring Kickoff were discussed, with last year's schedule considered. Similarly to last year, the Board of Director's meeting was scheduled for 10:00am, with lunch at 12:00pm, the Judge's Test at 1:00pm, the Secretary's Meeting at 1:30pm, the Judge's Meeting at 2:00pm, and the General Meeting at 3:00pm. Mark Riley moved to have the Spring Kickoff at Triple 8 with the above schedule, Camisha Stevenson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- The Board moved on to talk about the Fall Banquet, scheduled for November 7th, 2026. Brian Kuntz presented a bid for Hilton Garden Inn in Hutchinson, KS. Brian reported that the hotel will have a bartender (will not be “bring your own beverage”), the food plus beverages, plus the event space, would have to be a minimum of \$4,000 to reserve. The room rates would be \$129/night, but Brian said he may be able to negotiate and get them down to \$99/night. No other bids were presented. There were comments about how expensive this bid would be to the association. Camisha Stevenson said she could possibly get a bid from the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina, KS. Camisha reached out to Rolling Hills Zoo and reported that the zoo is available for that day. She said it would be \$650 for the day. Possibilities of entertainment included a scavenger hunt for the museum and discounted zoo admission tickets. The zoo can cater but we could also hire an outside caterer or have a potluck. Board members brought up the issue of the lack of sleeping accommodations and hotels nearby. Camisha added that there will be an added fee for alcohol, and it would have to be provided by Rolling Hills Zoo. Tamara Anglin said she didn’t prefer that setup for an event like Fall Banquet. Camisha said the facility is used frequently for weddings and the zoo could also bring in animals for petting. Norleen reported that last year’s check for the 2025 Fall Banquet has yet to go through and advised not to go back to Fossil Creek in Russell, KS as there were many additional issues. Kevin Solofra asked how many people usually stay the night with multiple people stating it depends on the location. Mark Riley moved to table this discussion until Spring Kickoff to give people other chances to get more bids and encouraged people to look at other options. Camisha Stevenson seconded; the motion carried unanimously.
- Norleen Knoll reported that she has 24 extra rulebooks, and she does not think we will need to order any additional copies for this year. Mark Riley

moved to not order any more rulebooks for the 2026 season; Camisha Stevenson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Scholarship budget was discussed and calculated to have \$3,671.20 available to use for this year. Mark Riley moved to allot \$3,600 for the scholarship budget for 2026. Camisha Stevenson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- The Awards budget was also considered. Mark Riley suggested to allocate \$8,000 for State Show Awards and \$8,000 for Fall Banquet/Year-End Awards. Jason Amlong asked if a contingency should be approved in case extra funds are needed. Jared Scheck addressed this and said from his experience, the committee tries to allot some of the State Show budget to the Year-End budget, or vice versa, rather than keeping strictly \$8,000 to each. Jared suggested that rather than keeping the strict \$8,000/\$8,000 split, to be more lenient and look at it as a collective \$16,000 (“as long as they stay under \$16,000 combined”). Norleen Knoll said it was split last year because there was the argument of one being more important than the other. Camisha Stevenson moved to keep the budget as is (\$8,000 for State, \$8,000 for Year-End). Kevin Solofra seconded; motion passed with 1 no vote and 14 yes votes.
- This year’s showbill fees are considered. Norleen moved to leave the showbill fee as is at \$25.00. Glenda Ratliff seconded. Jared Scheck brought up that the members of the association are the ones who need to be responsible for making the association run and be profitable. He said this is where funds for awards and other expenses come from. Norleen Knoll said showbill fees brought in \$2,105 of profit last year and website cost was

\$1,005. Norleen advised to keep the fee the same as a healthy profit was made. Mark Riley said he was on the fence due to sponsorships getting harder and harder to get from businesses. Jared said about four main people brought in several sponsorships last year. Brian Kuntz suggested taking kids out to get sponsorships as they are fairly successful with businesses. It was reported that over \$7,000 in sponsorships was brought in for State Show last year. Discussion was had on the difficulty of getting sponsors in smaller communities as many businesses are asked several times throughout the year by other organizations. Brian said Bomgaars will give a \$30 budget for in-store items as a sponsorship. Jared said if a club is a "true club," then raising the fee by \$5.00 would not be difficult to achieve, however, if it's an individual solely running the club, it may be more difficult for them. Mark said he would rather see the clubs pay the extra rather than the members. Jared said the fees are very outdated and reasonable given today's economy. It was noted that most people complaining about the fees are the same people who go to other organization events with much higher fees. Brian reported that the state show fee has only gone up \$3.00 in 30 years. Jared added that you're either paying a membership fee or you're going out and selling raffle tickets or fundraising. Glenda asked how many clubs were active last year and it was stated that 23 clubs were present at the 2025 Fall Banquet. She said raising the fee by \$5.00 would result in about \$400 more in profit. Norleen Knoll moved to amend her motion from \$25 to \$30 for the 2026 showbill fee. TallyAnn Klitzke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Each committee chair receives a binder and USB drive, and those chairs should sign a page detailing that they will return these items. A signature sheet will be printed off for Spring Kickoff to be signed then.

- Norleen Knoll addressed bills that have been or need to be paid. She reported that the bill for the Kansas Horse Council was already paid as it was due in December. The non-profit bill is not yet due, and the National Saddle Clubs Association (Omoksee) sponsorship will need approval once the renewal period is open. TallyAnn Klitzke moved to approve the sponsorship when the time comes; Glenda Ratliff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- The potential enforcement of late fees to entries submitted after the 15 day deadline as stated in the rulebook was brought to Brian Kuntz's attention from last year. Some clubs did not submit their entries within 15 days of their show per the rulebook. Mark Riley reported this was a big deal last year. The rule book does not specify what can or can't be done when this happens. Questions were asked such as, "Do we reprimand the club?", "Will this affect the riders and their points?" It was emphasized that we do not want to take it out on the people who are riding. A late fee to the club was suggested. Norleen Knoll asked if this needs to be a rule change or not. Kevin Solofra brought up that it's not just the data and getting the showbill submitted in a timely fashion. The whole packet submitted by the clubs needs to be addressed, not just the late entries (showbills, etc.). Kevin suggested the consequence of the club no longer being in good standing if anything is late, resulting in loss of voting rights. However, this would also result in points from that show being lost. Camisha Stevenson said Norleen Knoll does a good job of reminding the secretaries of the deadlines. Jared Scheck asked how many clubs have had this issue. Kevin reported it was mainly one specific club. Jared suggested not to worry about this as an issue since it was seldom a problem and not more than one club. Jason Amlong suggested if the entries are not submitted within the 15 days, then the points are thrown out, however this would punish the riders more than the individual club. Mark Riley read the rule from the rulebook and

confirmed it does not outline what we as a board can or can't do. Jared said to save this for the secretary's meeting and reiterate this deadline.

Norleen said she will continue to send out emails to remind club secretaries of deadlines. Glenda Ratliff brought up club dues and how that had not been addressed. Club dues are \$30, she was thinking of show bill fees being higher, but that would need to be a rule change.

- Stricter enforcement of health papers was brought to discussion. The question was whether to leave it up to the clubs to check equine health papers or be more enforcing with the spread of EHV-1. Jared Scheck said the shows are put on by individual clubs and we as a board may be overstepping if we make that a requirement. TallyAnn Klitzke asked about State Show and other KWHA organized shows, however the Benefit and Scholarship shows are also hosted by individual clubs, so the main concern would be State Show. Mark Riley mentioned the Bar K Bar arena in Lyons, KS has their own rules and regulations, and they leave it up to the horse owner to be accountable and responsible for having the necessary health papers. It was noted that if you travel anywhere within the state now, you must have a negative coggins. Jared Scheck mentioned that a coggins doesn't actually prove anything as it is only due annually and your horse could become sick after the test is conducted. Norleen Knoll pointed out that this is an individual club matter rather than for KWHA and the BOD.
- Brian Kuntz requested to discuss Rules Governing Races, Pg. 32, Letter I / Letter L in the rulebook (altering to accommodate smaller arenas). Brian mentioned this rule seemed to be a recurring topic last year, the main issue being with the indoor arena in Oakley, KS. The 2025 BOD told the specific club that they could not run barrels in that arena. Jared Scheck suggested making a rule change to clarify the rule so there are no future issues. Kevin Solofra noted that we would be changing the rule for a "one-club, one-off" and since it was one particular club, we shouldn't need

to address it as addressing several small issues of the like could eventually make the rule book much larger.

- Brian Kuntz also mentioned protests (Pg. 14, section 3 of the rulebook). He wanted to note that office help at shows should write the time down, even if the ride is a disqualification (DQ). This would eliminate corrections and requiring a rider to re-ride if their run was mistakenly deemed a DQ. Brian stressed this to save any future protests and clarifications. It was noted to bring this up in the secretary's meeting at Spring Kickoff.
- The dates of the show season were previously voted on to be February 28th, 2026 – August 16th, 2026, with entries needing to be postmarked by August 18th, 2026.
- Kevin Solofra moved to destroy the entry forms from last year; Glenda Ratliff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- A 5-minute break was taken, reconvened at 11:15am.
- Camisha Stevenson moved to approve the committee list, Jordan Cameron seconded, motion carried unanimously. Board broke out for committee meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Benefit Show:** The Benefit Show Committee chairman, Mark Riley, noted the KWHA Benefit Show is scheduled for June 5th-7th, 2026. Mark said they would be following the state showbill and had only one bid from Bit & Spur Saddle Club. They will have buckles for each age group as they had last year. TallyAnn Klitzke and Darcy Settrini said they will sponsor buckles, with a buckle sponsor being \$110. It was noted that Darcy Settrini, Howard Sauer,

Spud Richardson, and TallyAnn Klitzke have committed to sponsoring buckles, as well as Riley Cameron's family. It was mentioned that it may be worth asking Renee Nichols for a sponsorship as well as she had shown interest in it last year. Tamara Anglin said she would also sponsor if Renee declined. Mark said he would correlate with Glenda Ratliff (Scholarship Committee Chair) about possibly combining points for the Benefit show with the Scholarship show. Jared Scheck asked if a rain date was set and Mark said no, and that it was not listed on the bid. Jared suggested having one since Bit & Spur is a location that is known for rain and not located near readily available arenas for a backup plan like last year. TallyAnn said she would reach out to Bit & Spur and ask about a rain date. Brian Kuntz asked Camisha Stevenson if she would reach out to the Bennington arena for a backup, however, she stated they have a specific cancellation fee and deadline. To schedule the arena, it would be \$300 for the weekend. Mark added there would be a silent auction and potluck meal for this show. Mark Riley moved to host the KWAH Benefit Show on June 5th-7th, 2026 at Bit & Spur arena with the state showbill, while also accepting the rain date (TBD by Bit & Spur). Norleen Knoll seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

- **State Show:** State Show Committee chair Riley Cameron reported on the KWAH State Show. State will take place September 4th-6th, 2026 at the Bar K Bar arena in Lyons, KS. This was the only bid and was voted on by last year's BOD. Riley reported the following events will be on the state showbill: Western Lead Line, Walk Trot, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Reining, Speed Barrels, Flying W, Spur Race, Half 8, Top and Turn, Flag Race, Key Race, Pole Bending, Lane Barrels, Two Barrel Flag, Devil's Cowhide, Turn N' Burn Pairs, and Western Relay. There will be a barrel race jackpot Friday night, with a plan to co-sanction with another barrel racing group. Jordan Hoesli will be providing insurance. The schedule for Saturday is to have a

posting of the colors at 8:00am with an 8:30am start time. For Sunday, a full grand entry will take place at 8:00am with the show to start at 8:30am.

Howard Sauer moved to approve the list of events, insurance, jackpot, and start times. Glenda Ratliff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Norleen Knoll noted that the stalls and electric now need to be reserved through Bar K Bar Arena/their website and contestants will not pay through KWHA. Riley approached Jared Scheck about using Walker Wrangler's properties, however Brian Kuntz said he had everything needed.

- **Finance:** Finance Committee Chair Norleen Knoll reported there will be silent auctions at the State and Benefit shows. Norleen asked the Board's opinion on a money raffle again this year. The Board members would be responsible for selling their tickets, but some members last year didn't sell all of the tickets they were given. Other fundraisers considered were the Kiss My Ass and Calcutta events. Brian Kuntz said he is willing to donate a Crown Royal quilt for a fundraiser. He said the person making the quilt can have it done by state show. Norleen suggested starting to sell raffle tickets for the quilt at State show and drawing for it at Fall Banquet. It was discussed and suggested to have the quilt on display at State Show. The ticket prices were discussed to be \$1/ticket and \$5/6 tickets, OR \$5/ticket and \$25/6 tickets. Norleen said there would also be the Saddle Club Basket Auction at Fall Banquet. Jason Amlong moved to allow the fundraisers; Mark Riley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- **Awards:** Adrienne Lobmeyer, chairman of the awards committee, reported their discussion. They decided on no fast cash awards but will have prizes for first through fourth place for each event (each time a contestant places, they can choose a prize). They clarified and said that would be all for prizes and they were not planning on having buckles or high-point prizes. It was stated that they would save the "big" prizes (high point) for Fall Banquet and Year-End awards. Jared Scheck asked for clarification on

why this was their decision. Tamara Anglin said they were looking at it for the youth who may not win the high point prizes but may still be able to come home with a prize doing it this way. Jared mentioned that it will more than likely be the same kids placing each time, rather than spreading out the prizes as intended; this may result in one kid having multiples of the same item/prize. Jared recommended they revise their idea. Camisha Stevenson said the fast cash awards and individual event cash prizes help her students and their families. She said that many were waiting to know if the cash awards were going to be awarded at state before entering and to see if they had a chance of winning some money back. Camisha said many of her students/saddle club members use that money for the future show season. Glenda Ratliff said she would donate medals for the 1-9 age group events to help incentivize them to keep trying to improve and encourage them to keep riding. Brian Kuntz said the state show committee should have enough prize money to award the individual event awards as well as some sort of high point (whether it be one, three, five placings, etc.). Mark Riley asked Norleen Knoll what the payout was for last year, which was \$10 for first, \$8 for second, \$6 for third, and \$4 for fourth, and asked to get smaller prizes, but still have high point. TallyAnn Klitzke and Kevin Solofra looked back, and this change would affect about 8 kids. Only one kid went home with no prize at all from last year's state show. Adrienne said they would also have a bucket of prizes for kids that don't place. Brian asked Adrienne to clarify if they were doing individual event awards and how many high point placings they'd have. Adrienne suggested they'd have two high point placings (first and second). They said they will get things people can use (buckets, hay bags, bell boots, halters, etc.) and first place prizes will be higher quality than second, and so on. Brian suggested to recap this and discuss again at Spring Kickoff to give the committee

time to get more organized and have more time for discussion. The board agreed and moved on.

- **Scholarship:** Glenda Ratliff reported on the Scholarship committee. The KWHA Scholarship Show is scheduled for August 14th-16th, 2026. She reported that there was one bid for the Scholarship Show from Crazy K Saddle Club to be held in Bennington, KS. Glenda read the show bid. Norleen Knoll asked if there was any cost to KWHA Brian Kuntz (secretary of Crazy K) said he would keep the money for the electric and KWHA could keep the stall money. Glenda brought up that the Board can change the cost of stalls if they please. The Board decided to keep it as is. Jared Scheck asked if there was a deadline for bids to be submitted, to which Brian responded that a deadline was posted and made public on Facebook, however nothing was listed in the rulebook. Mark Riley moved to approve the scholarship show bid; Riley Cameron seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Brian suggested the committee discuss if they want to do anything Friday evening before the show.
- **Judges:** TallyAnn Klitzke, chair of the Judge's committee, said they are going to ask Chris Dietz or another judge from the past to change it up from last year. She added if they fall short, they may go with the same judge as last year. Kevin Solofra brought up the need to review the Judge's Test after this year as it is a rule change year.
- **Website/Social Media:** Cameryn Kinderknecht reported on the Website/Social Media committee. She said there was no time to meet but will work with the committee and update the website and social media accounts as needed. Norleen Knoll added that she was contacted by Eagle and requested paper billing.
- **Nominations:** Jordan Hoesli, chair of the Nominations committee, said he would be setting up a chat to discuss with his committee members

- **Rules:** Chair of the Rules committee, Kevin Solofra, reminded the board that it is a rule change year and said he would also remind members at Spring Kickoff.
- **Special Events:** Camisha Stevenson, chair of the Special Events committee, said they did not have time to meet, but there was nothing to report now. This committee helps with Spring Kickoff, and Norleen Knoll said she would reach out to Brian Lang about reserving Triple 8. Brian Kuntz said he contacted the Fort Hays Rodeo Club and said he will get back in touch with them about possibly hosting a rodeo clinic during Kickoff. Norleen said she would let Brian Lang know that we want to have it there and she informed the board that it will have to be paid for in advance to reserve that date.

GOOD TO THE ORDER

- Camisha Stevenson asked how the Board of Directors would communicate through the year, whether it be text, Facebook Messenger, etc. Brian Kuntz said he has had several talks with people saying that meeting through messages does not follow parliamentary procedure. He said committees can meet through messages if they so choose. TallyAnn Klitzke asked about email and Brian said that would work as well as it provides a better paper trail. He requested people choose "Reply All" when responding to emails. Mark Riley said he liked Facebook Messenger as a means for communication. Zoom was also discussed as an option to allow people to meet "face-to-face" while not having to meet in person and accommodate everyone's schedule and time spent traveling. The board discussed keeping Messenger as a means of communication to discuss the simpler things that don't need voted on and for informational purposes only. GroupMe was another option suggested by Norleen Knoll, as that is what the Ellis County Fair Board uses. Norleen stressed that whoever sets up the Messenger chat (if they do) to be sure they get everyone added

appropriately. Mark Riley asked if all Board Members have Facebook Messenger, which all do, except Jordan Cameron. Riley Cameon said she will get it set up for her. Brian said the chat will be Board Members only and will not include all committee members. Norleen said everything in the meeting room needs put away and back where it was found before anybody leaves. Mark Riley also brought up that scammers are at an all-time high and not to send money to anyone unless you are speaking directly to them.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting to be at Spring Kickoff at 10:00am at Triple 8 Equine Center

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- Mark Riley moved to adjourn the meeting. Howard Sauer seconded; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Submitted by Cameryn Kinderknecht, 2026 KWAH Secretary

ADDENDUM