

## **NDA Meeting Minutes September 24, 2020**

An emergency meeting of the NDA Board of Directors was called to order at 8:04 PM on September 24, 2020, by Melissa Ward via Zoom videoconference.

Board Members present: Melissa Ward, Margo Hamilton, Jane Fucinaro, Lana Erickson, Gracia Huenefeld, Heidi Helmer, Angie McClelland, and Michaela Schieffer. Kathy Hanford also joined the call representing the Awards Committee.

The purpose of this emergency meeting was to discuss the negative feedback from a few members regarding the deferment of the 2020 Year-End Awards to 2021.

As an Awards Committee representative, Margo stated the NDA Board is exactly following the bylaws. It is our job as the NDA Board of Directors to give the membership what they want, but it must be made clear that it is not a bylaws violation to go through with deferring awards to 2021.

Melissa stated that while it has been a difficult week for many of our NDA volunteers and board members, it is the Board's job to serve our members, address problems and change our action if needed. A barn owner and the Competitions Committee has asked the Board to reconsider their decision to defer awards to 2021. It is in NDA's best interest to poll the membership at large to determine what the majority of the membership actually think.

There is nothing in the bylaws regarding what makes a valid poll of the membership, but there is a section discussing what constitutes a quorum for all-member meetings: that is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all current members. Currently there are 135 members, which means 34 responses would suffice as a quorum. When amending bylaws, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the participants is required to pass amendments, so this will be the Board's indicator of a majority opinion.

Wording in the poll should include all choices, including "I don't care," which would clearly state that an answer of this type indicates the respondent is comfortable with the Board making the call.

Melissa will draft language for the poll to go out on Friday and end on Monday. That way, if the majority of the membership indicates that 2020 Awards should be reinstated, and the board rolls back their deferment decision, then that will give membership time to submit 2020 scores before the October 5 deadline.

Heidi made a motion to seek input from the majority membership via online poll as to whether or not to defer the 2020 awards to 2021. Angie seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.

Lana made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Heidi seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

*Meeting Minutes submitted by 2020 NDA Secretary, Jane Fucinaro.*

**Addendum:**

Following this emergency meeting, the membership poll closed on Monday, September 28, 2020. The poll results were reviewed by the board via email on Tuesday, September 29, 2020; the poll results showed a clear majority in favor of retaining the deferment of awards to 2021. Lana Erickson made a motion to send communication to the membership relaying the results of the poll, and—following the membership's wishes—maintain the board's decision to defer 2020 Year-End Awards scores to 2021. Jane Fucinaro seconded the motion. There were none opposed, and the motion carried.