

AMERICAN HIPPO THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

Conference Call February 22, 2009

Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Meredith Bazaar, Rose Crivolio, Mary Beth Marzulli, Lori Garone, Janet Weisberg, Deb Silwood-Sherer, Gina Taylor, Sarah Pictor
Executive Director: Bonnie Cunningham

Quorum established

Call to order: 7:00 pm EST

1. Conference update: Rose

- Sponsors: At this time there are only 3 sponsors: NARHA, Barb Engel for publications, and Horses and Humans Foundation. Janet will ask Victoria at Freedom Rider. They may sponsor or donate items for the bags. Deb reported that there will be more vendors coming, she just hasn't received commitments. Bonnie has tried HPSO (insurance) with no success.
- Sponsorship forms: please send them out! Janet will try to make inroads with Purina and other animal food companies. Mary Beth may have a contact with Kentucky research. She will follow up.
- Raffle: Ted Rogers with Casualty Assurance has donated a camera to be raffled. FA Davis may be sending a PT text to be raffled as well. (Deb to follow up) We could use an OT and Speech text as well.
- Compendium: theme for the conference is "Making Connections". The compendiums will be in binders so that additional information can be inserted at the last minute if needed. Every handout needs to be in power point format. Speakers are encouraged to bring their own laptops to decrease hotel rental costs for AV.
- Luncheon video: Janet and Mary Beth will create video presentation to be shown during Saturday lunch. Horse of the Year, HPCS recognition, other awards and the motivational speaker (Andy) will be the luncheon "entertainment". Others to contact for pictures would be Renee and Robyn since they were involved with HPOT Magazine and may have photos.
- Funding source: discussion ensued regarding the collection of past Hippotherapy Magazine articles and research to be bound and SOLD at conference. Janet suggested that there may be an interest for someone (or a company) to sponsor the research archives. Deb will pull together research articles from the past.
- Board name tags: please email Rose as to what you want on your name tag. Linda Thiede will be doing name tags for the presenters.
- Board responsibilities: AHA Board members are "on duty" the entire conference weekend. Responsibilities will include speaker introductions, break coverage, positive public appearance, fielding questions, assisting with AV is needed, answering questions, and other general gopher jobs. Rose will be developing the "to do" list for the weekend.

- Speakers: information and bios are still needed. Sponsors for the speakers would be very helpful. To sponsor a speaker, it will be approximately \$1,000.00.
- Registration: Linda is handling registration through the AHA Office.

**SO KEEP GETTING SPONSORS, VENDORS, AND GOODY BAG STUFFERS!!!!
AND GET PSYCHED ABOUT “MAKING CONNECTIONS”!**

2. AHA development:

- Mer: A power point template is needed for AHA development. The membership survey respondents were clearly in favor of on-line courses. The requirements for CEU’s will be investigated.
- Please send to Mer any sources that recognize or site AHA so she can add them to a development packet.
- Bonnie: spoke with Barb Heine regarding the selling of AHA manuals for profit internationally. Motion made to sell the manuals for the AHA courses *if the course is taught by AHA Faculty internationally.* Sarah/Lori **carried**
- Membership: currently 519 members. Previous year was 651. The current number reflects fully payed members, and there were no comps offered this year.
- Future of ED: Discussion ensued regarding candidates for a new Executive Director. Bonnie’s commitment will be done in Sept., however, she will remain in position to orient a new person if needed.
- Name change for AHA: the full “American Hippotherapy Association” name has been difficult for marketing and education. Meredith would like to present 3 possible choices at the conference in May for the membership to vote on. A space will be added for “other” so that ideas can be written in. Full Board is asked to generate thoughts with the focus on the words: therapy, equine, association, global (or international). Get creative!!!
- Membership survey: Gina
 - Received 104 replies (20% of the membership)
 - 83% - online courses are needed
 - 61% - will not take new courses
 - 62% - not attending conference

Follow up: need time lines for making the recommendations a reality.
Bonnie will follow up on D’Youville College/Learning Partners on line CEU
Deb will follow up on designing CEU’s and Gina will assist in course development. Perhaps there is a grant available to develop on line courses.
- New Board members: two new Board members were discussed.
 - Raquel Ravinet from Theraplay will take the position of Treasurer, as Rose’s term expires. She runs her own business and knows the field of hippotherapy. Her program is a site for AHA courses. Motion made to accept Raquel for a Board position/Treasurer Janet/Mary Beth **carried**
 - Deb Hauser is interested in all aspects of AHA responsibilities. She has been the Region 4 Liaison and is very dedicated. She will take the position of Chair for Standards and Practice Committee as Sarah’s term expires. Motion made to accept Deb for a Board position. Deb S./Sarah **carried**

- New Board members will be introduced and exiting Board members will be acknowledged at conference.

2. Treasurer's Report: Rose

- See Profit and Loss YTD report submitted 3-11-09 (after conference call)

Miscellaneous: At the APTA conference in Las Vegas (CSM), Deb saw that a presentation was done on horse rehabilitation. Perhaps the speaker could be approached for some type of partnership? Vendor/donor? A resource to pull together a future course? Perhaps a PT/Horse presentation? There could be many options. Deb to follow up.

Motion made to adjourn: 9:25 Deb/Rose **carried**

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Pictor