

**Minutes for the Meeting of the
American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.
Board of Directors
Conference Call
April 1, 2007**

1. Attendance: Karen McPhail, Molly Lingua, Marie Dawson, Meredith Bazaar, Rose Crivolio, Renee Casady, Robyn Moug, Sarah Pictor
2. Call to Order:
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 10, 2006 Motion by Molly Lingua and seconded by Meredith Bazaar. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Officers and Committee Reports

President's Report (Karen McPhail)

In addition to our upcoming conference, we have quite a few major projects to be working on.

Board of Directors' Meeting: We need to plan our summer meeting by choosing a site and dates. I suggest some place centrally located at a hotel near an airport. The B of D needs to update and expand on the strategic plan. We may need a facilitator – I suggest someone from within AHA, like a former Board member or a Faculty member. Also, we need to plan additional hippotherapy conferences.

NARHA Conference – we need to plan a **workshop** for this year's NARHA conference and determine the day of the week (Wed. or Sat.). Lori had recommended a Brain Gym presenter from California and I had suggested a PT/PhD who does body mechanics for therapists for the conference in Houston and he ended up not being able to come. But, we could try again and I am open to other ideas, but we need to decide quickly. NARHA will begin planning soon. Do we want to do an AHA Forum for the **Overview**, we have not done one in two years? Also, when should we have our annual meeting – at the forum (Thurs) or during lunch at the workshop like we did last year? Our AHA **Awards** – Therapist and Horse – need better advertising. How about some kind of contest between Regions to see how many applications we can get with a free AHA workshop registration to the top Regional Liaisons.

NOTE: I have signed the same agreement with NARHA that we have had for two years – it basically refers to the arrangement that we each get free ads in each others magazines. This is our Affiliate Partner agreement.

Executive Director – In compliance with our Strategic Plan, now is the time to start funding and finding an ED for AHA. There is a job description and we need an ED Search Committee. Three people, at least one who is not on the Board, would probably be workable. Volunteers are needed.

Nominations – We need more Board members of all 3 types to keep our group viable and to spread the workload. Meeting with potential candidates at the conference would be a good way to start and looking within our more active Liaisons might give us an idea of how involved they could be.

Website – We need to review the start up date and the management of our website re-designs.

Fundraising Committee - I have contacted 3 former AHA Presidents for ideas about fundraising. Compiling their recommendations, we need an inspirational, exciting project to get members to contribute funds. An AHA Growth fund to hire an ED and specific goals for organizational expansion would be such a project.

Treasurers Report (Marie Dawson)

Checking Account – \$35982.92 (March 27)
Investment Account – \$49,639.49 (March 27)
Total: \$85,622.41

We are projecting a Gross from the conference of between \$50 and \$55,000 (Registration fees \$40K – \$45K and Sponsorships approximately \$10K). AHA, Inc., should net \$30K – \$35K! Major expenses are meals (Luncheon, Meet and Greet, Breakfasts and Breaks), AV, printing and Linda's time. Linda has been keeping all costs and expenses on quick books so we should be able to have real specific numbers after the conference.

Revenue is also coming in from Workshops and new members (likely due to the discount on the Conference Registration)

Standards and Practice

No report submitted

Education Committee (Sarah Pictor)

No report submitted

Nominating Committee (Molly Lingua)

The end of 2007 will see several members ending their FIRST term, and 2 members coming off the Board.

Ending FIRST Term

Meredith Bazaar
Marie Dawson
Karen McPhail

Coming Off the Board

Molly Lingua – end of second term
Robyn Moug – end of first term

Currently we have 8 Board members – with 2 coming off.

Several names have been mentioned as possible candidates to fill these vacancies:

Deb Silkwood-Sherer (possible Research Chair when Renee comes off in 2008)

Tim Shirlif (another possible Research Committee Chair)

Pete Dunn

Nancy Mc Gibbon (founding member)

Lisa Harris (possible "Hippotherapy" Magazine Chair)

Ruth Dismuke-Blakely said she has an **SLP** who may be interested. I will make sure I have her name for our conference call 4/1.

Meredith mentioned a few outstanding Liaisons.

The Board continues to be comprised of therapists with the exception of 1 non-therapist. There has been much talk of expanding the board to include those with financial or legal expertise, or and MD or Vet. No suggestions/nominations have been received at this time.

We need to nominate and fill 3 positions to bring board back up to at least 9 members. This committee would like to discuss the staggering of terms of the above 3 members ending their first term. Terms are usually 3 years – perhaps we could have 1 of the 3 serve a 2 year term. This would result in 1 board member coming off in 2008 (Renee Casady) and then that shortened term member coming off in 2009.

Research Committee (Renee Casady)

The research committee reviewed one grant proposal in Jan 2007. The research proposal was returned to the applicant for revisions. At the time of this report, the applicant has not resubmitted the grant proposal.

At the 2006 NARHA conference, the AHA research committee provided a person to serve on the research panel. We helped clarify the differences of TR and HPOT and the implications for research.

Monthly * since Sept '06, research inquiries responded to include: Mexico, Latvia, Colorado, Tennessee, Ohio, Alternative Medicine magazine, Brazil, France, Canada, Ireland. Some research inquiries merely request the AHA bibliography. Other inquiries are from high school or college students writing a report on what is hippotherapy. However a significant number of inquiries seem to be from clinicians or students designing a qualitative or quantitative research project. Renee participated in a conference call with the director of TherAPlay and a PT at Indianapolis Univ. as they plan a research study this year.

Most unfortunately, the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) rejected the multi center research proposal submitted by D S Sherer, N McGibbon, R Dismuke-Blakely and R Casady. The research team spent many hours devoted to this worthwhile project. Ruth will follow up with AQHA to uncover reasons why the proposal was rejected. The team will locate other funding sources and may have to re-design the scope of the research project. AHA supported this effort through four conference calls for the research team at a total cost of \$297.48.

Publications Committee (Robyn Moug/Linda Thiede)

The winter issue of HIPPOThERAPY will contain 10 articles in total and 5 of them are international presenters from the FRDI Conference.

Robyn announced she will be stepping down from the board at the completion of her term in November 2007. When she does, it is proposed a committee be formed to review and edit articles. Also it was suggested the editor may not need to be on the BOD. Robyn will develop the needs, requirements and parameters for the editor position. It was suggested it be advertised to the liaisons.

To expand HIPPOThERAPY's articles base, it was suggested the board members and faculty could provide at least one article per year. Another idea was to add "Meet the Faculty", which would give the readers the opportunity to gradually get to know the faculty in each edition.

Our next publication deadline was March 15, 2007.

The AHA E-Newsletter for March 2007 was released on 3/25/07 which included updated information about the AHA National Conference and the pending pilot of the Equine Skills III Workshop. The next issue will be released June 15th.

Office/Membership Report (Linda Thiede)

MEMBERSHIP

We have 787 current members of AHA, Inc., of which there are 4 Legacy, 18 Lifetime and 291 Complimentary memberships. There have been a small number of those awarded complimentary memberships for workshop participation already renewing their membership.

AHA WEBSITE

The website designer has completed the modifications and those modifications are now awaiting review by the board.

Outreach Committee (Meredith Bazaar)

We had a good response from the liaisons for the newsletter. Changes to the Regional/State Liaisons listing will be complete by the AHA Conference.

AHA 2007 National Conference Committee (Rose Crivolio/Marie Dawson)

Less than 3 weeks to go!

We currently have 142 registrations received (including our speakers) and it is growing!

Sponsorships (Rose)

Vendors (Rose)

Hotel (Rose)

CEUs have all been applied for and we are waiting on approvals.

Program (Marie and Rose) The Program will have a cover page for each presentation with the speaker's bio, overview of the presentation and learning objectives; the handouts will be included behind the cover page so that it will all be together for the participants.

The next AHA Board Meeting will be September 7, 2007 in Virginia Beach, VA
Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm EST.

Respectfully submitted by Marie Dawson, Secretary/Treasurer