

The meeting of the Judges Committee was called to order by Committee Chair, Fran Soukup, at 7:02 PM CDT on July 25th, 2024. Nick Hauptly, Fran Soukup, Jerrika Mumford, Cathie Kindler, and Tami Lash were in attendance. Tami left the call at 8:12 PM. Tor Sorenson was unable to attend.

Cathie motioned to approve the agenda, Tami seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Cathie motioned to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

On-demand clinic update was provided by Jerrika. Things are progressing and there will be a more substantial update at the next meeting.

Fran had reached out to the superintendent committee to discuss the opportunity for superintendents to complete evaluations on judges they hire. Fran checked in with the superintendents committee for feedback on the committees working together but did not receive a response. Fran will follow up.

There were four apprentices approved via email by the Judges Committee, Governing Board and BOD. The following were approved: Benjamin Carothers, Stephen Fritz, Denise Fehrenbach, and Allie Justice.

Harvey Pool was approved as a permanently certified judge via email by the Judges Committee, Governing Board and BOD..

New Business:

Kim Schechinger requested to be approved as an HPY judge. The committee received three apprenticeship evaluations. She has met the requirements. Motion was made by Nick. Cathie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Harvey Pool requested to be approved as a teaching judge. The committee received 5 letters of recommendations. Tami motioned to approve Harvey Pool as an HPY Teaching Judge. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Diego Camacho requested to be approved as an HPY Judge. He completed four apprenticeships. Tami motioned to approve. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Austin Wright requested to be approved as an HPY Apprentice. Tami motioned to approve Austin Wright as an HPY Apprentice. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kelsee Robinson requested to be approved as an HPY Apprentice. Tami motioned to approve Kelsee Robinson as an HPY Apprentice. Cathie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Amanda Wick requested to be approved as a permanently certified judge. She has met the requirements. Nick motioned to approve Amanda Wick as a permanently certified judge. Cathie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kelsi Matthew requested to be approved as an HPY Apprentice. Cathie motioned to approve Kelsi Matthew as an HPY Apprentice pending payment of dues. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

These approvals will be brought to the Governing Board for approval.

Cathie motioned to enter an executive session to discuss multiple concerns. Tami seconded. Cathie motioned to leave the executive session. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Discussions were held regarding the spring clinic for an individual who disputed that they did not meet the criteria to enter the apprentice program. The clinic instructors' evaluation indicated the individual was not ready to enter the program. The committee agreed with the clinic instructors' assessment. Fran will send a letter to the applicant. A current judge conflict was discussed, the committee agreed to add a note in a judge's file for future reference if further concerns are brought to the committee. Another current judge conflict was discussed, the committee agreed to draft a letter to the judge and add it to the judge's file for future reference.

Amanda Wick wrote the committee seeking approval to move the fleece clinic to November. The committee will contact Amanda and recommend she resubmit the request with an approved Advanced Teaching Judge and new schedule and budget. Nick will draft the letter.

The committee discussed several guidelines changes:

Cathie motioned to approve an addition to the guidelines addition for the apprentice reflection form. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The addition is as follows:

IV.A.3.d.(3) Apprentices and clinic attendees, for all apprenticeships and seminars, must complete and return the "Apprentice Reflection" form to the judges committee within 15 days of completing an apprenticeship or seminar.

Fran brought up the age of apprentices. Cathie motioned to approve a change to the guidelines. Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The change is as follows:

IV.A.3.h) Interested parties may enter the apprenticeship program any time during on or after the year of their 18th birthday.

Fran will draft a change regarding the wording in the guidelines for becoming permanently certified. The current section it is in can be confusing.

The committee discussed adding to the guidelines a limit to the number of apprentices at one show. Cathie suggested that shows (including dual judged and dual sanctioned) may accept up to two apprentices. Fran suggested reaching out to the superintendents committee with the suggestion. Fran will work on the change and send it out for review.

Tami left the call at 8:12 PM.

The committee discussed limiting the amount of time an apprentice has to complete their apprenticeships or the amount of time to apply to become an apprentice after completion of the seminar. There was no agreement on limiting the amount of time to complete apprenticeships at this time. Nick motioned to add to the guidelines that clinic attendees must submit their application to the apprenticeship program within 90 days of their clinic. Jerrika seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The addition is as follows:

IV.A.3.a.(1) Clinic attendees must submit their application to the apprenticeship program within 90 days of their clinic.

The committee discussed requiring the open book test to be completed at clinics in the future. Nick is drafting changes to the seminar planning guide.

The committee discussed the requirements to become a teaching judge, specifically the requirement to attend a seminar. The committee will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Cathie and Nick are in the initial planning stages of a HPY clinic in May of 2025. They will keep the committee updated.

The next meeting was set for August 15th at 7 pm central daylight time. Cathie motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nick seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Adjourned at 8:31 PM CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerrika Mumford