

WASH Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday November 16, 2021

Present:

Board Members: Amanda, Paul, Billy, Lisa, Judy, Laurie, Jeanne
Audrey declined due to travel

Two members participated: Pam and Kent

Meeting called to order by Paul at 6:06 pm followed by welcome and introduction of Board members.

General Updates

Paul provided general updates including the fact that WASH is now tracking Ranch points. Members can find current point totals and the guidelines for how points are tracked on the WASH website. Members are encouraged to bring any issues or discrepancies with points to the attention of the Board and/or Norm for investigation. Paul also acknowledged the ongoing efforts of WASH member Norm Rivers, who is the score keeper.

Report from the Secretary

Amanda provided a membership update:

- 131 current members, 64 of whom are lifetime members
- 22 new members in 2021
- 24 people did not renew in 2021, all have received two reminders

Kent asked how many new members were annual vs. lifetime: three of the new members are lifetime.

Report from the Treasurer

Judy reported that WASH has \$4245.60 in bank account, plus some small amount in PayPal that has not been transferred to bank account. We have created a new PayPal account that is linked to WASH's non-profit status.

Action: Judy will transfer the PayPal funds into the bank account and then Lisa will connect the new PayPal account to the bank account and deactivate the old PayPal account.

Committee Reports

Paul introduced the three committees and their purpose.

Communications: share information, announcements, and resources with members to build community.

Education/Events: Offer in-person training and opportunities to practice handling and prepare for trials, webinars featuring top handlers and trainers, and other development opportunities.

Awards/Recognition: Celebrate the accomplishments of members, provide "awards" in the form of annual awards and audit spots at clinics and other events

Communications

Lisa provided an update on communication strategies.

Newsletter: Four were created this year with the next one scheduled for December. A recent addition is Audrey's vet corner.

Facebook: We are trying to post weekly; Laurie is helping by posting trial results, photos, and articles etc.

Website: Kylo is helping keep it up to date, which is much appreciated.

Monthly updates: Amanda is sending these to communicate with members in between newsletters.

Webinars: On November 16 (today) we distributed an email to members with links to access to all four webinars. These will be viewable until December 31.

Education/Events

Amanda gave an update on recent events.

- Skills and Drills Day held on October 17 at Fido's. 17 people attended and rotated through activities designed to improve driving and flanking.
- The most recent webinar with Haley on November 3 had 34 attendees.
- The next webinar speaker will be Joe Haynes in February or March, exact date TBD.
- Other suggestions for webinars include Don Helsley and international speakers.

Action: The Education/Events Committee will pursue these options for webinars.

The group discussed events for more advanced Open Handlers as prior events have drawn primarily Nov, PN and early-stage Open handlers. Jeanne graciously volunteered her farm and sheep for an event that could include Blind OR, OR through a gate, double lifts, and/or international shed. We would need to limit participation to advanced PN or Open handlers. Given that, we could offer a corresponding Novice event at a different location like Paul's (the previous Novice event at Paul's was well received). The group discussed that spring might be best timeframe to avoid weather and mud issues. We would need to avoid conflicting with Spring trials like Heppner and Sonoma.

Action: The committee will pursue these options for in-person events.

Awards/Recognition

Paul gave an update on the committee's work.

Audit Spots:

- An audit spot for the Scott Glen clinic was graciously provided by Chris. It was advertised via email and Facebook. 17 people have expressed interest. The winner of the random draw will be notified on November 17.
- Kelly has reached out to Heather Haynes about a possible audit spot at Faansie clinic at Island Crossing Farm in January.
- Lisa is checking on when Patrick will be giving clinic in WA or OR to see if there is an opportunity for audit spot.
- Jeanne will be hosting Don Helsley in Spring and will check to see if he is willing to donate an audit spot.
- The board needs volunteers to actively seek out audit spots. Laurie and Audrey (in absentia) volunteered.

Sunshine:

- WASH continues to send Sunshine acknowledgements to members, while being mindful of privacy of members.

Action: Paul will schedule a meeting for the Awards/Recognition committee to discuss the process moving forward.

Awards for 2022:

- We are in the planning stages. Paul and Jeanne have lots of ideas and members can also send suggestions for consideration.
- The possibility of other awards including sportsmanship and most valuable volunteer was raised. The group discussed ideas for how those could be objectively judged or tracked. The board will consider the possibility of additional awards and seek member input if the idea seems feasible.

Donations:

WASH has historically donated to non-profit organizations such as animal rescue groups, though not for several years. The board discussed that we should revisit this and ask members if this is something we should continue, or if the money should be spent on WASH activities or to directly benefit WASH members.

Action: The board will discuss and seek member input.

New Business

Jeanne asked if WASH has a banner for posting at trials. This was unclear.

The need for an update to the logo (which is not scalable or well suited for printing) was raised.

Action: The Communications Committee will discuss next steps.

Next Board meeting planned for February (date TBD)

Paul adjourned meeting at 7:12pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amanda Jones, WASH secretary November 17, 2021