

OHSET State Board Meeting June 13, 2010

In Attendance: Bill Weir (Co-ops and By-Laws), Peggy Smith (Southern), Scott Chauncey, Donna Espelein (Northwest) Jan Harer (College Liason), Jaleesa Mobley, Jill Burnette, Dawn Keeney, Linda Sundberg, Brittany Sundberg, Alan Sustello (South Valley), Emily Bernards, Wendy Bernards, Denise John, Ray Hickman (Willamette), Phil Armstrong, Chris Dinsmore (Northeast), Don Pack, Laurie Pack (North Valley), Karren Cholewinski (State Treasurer), Candi Bothum (State Chair), Karissa Dishon (State Vice Chair), Debi Ferrer (State Secretary). We have 13 votes today.

At 1:20, Linda Sundberg substituted voting for Jill Burnette who had to leave.

At 1:25, Ray Hickman substituted voting for Wendy Bernards who had to leave.

Minutes from May Meetings

One correction was submitted to Debi for the second meeting at the State Championship meet – Scott Chanucey was in attendance, and he had been left off of the minutes. It was moved and seconded to approve all the May minutes as corrected. In favor – 13, Opposed – 0, Abstain – 0.

Correspondence

Two letters were read regarding a parent who had a heart attack on the grounds of the State Championship meet and was able to get immediate attention because we had an ambulance and EMT staff on the grounds. Both letters indicated much gratitude for having that ambulance and indicated that the parent had suffered no permanent damage because of the quick response. A \$300 donation was made to OHSET as a result, to go toward securing EMT staff for future state meets.

Judges Training – What needs to be covered?

- Chris said she felt there were a lot of problems in judging dressage. By using a first level test, we raised bar for athletes and judges. Phil said kids who ride dressage regularly said they were often scored significantly lower at the OHSET meets.
- We need to make sure judges are checking the patterns while they're being set up, or they are likely to overlook errors in the ways the course was set up. This happened on several occasions, including at the state meet.
- Denise said drill patterns should be sent in early so judges can look at them early. They had some issues where the judges had the pattern for two weeks, but at the meet the judges indicated there were significant problems with the pattern and teams were notified at the meet that patterns had to be re-drawn a couple hours before the event. If there are major problems, judges should contact district chair or coach and notify them ahead of time. Isn't that the purpose of sending the patterns ahead of time?

- Also, in the trail course there was a problem with the gate and after some athletes went through and after several athletes had already been scored, the judge indicated she would not be scoring the gate very closely. The concern was that the first few athletes to go through may have been scored differently than the rest.
- The biggest problem they saw in South Valley was a judge snapping and being impatient with athletes. They felt that judges need to be patient and courteous at all times.
- Other suggestions were to set up the patterns at the December meeting so we could try to catch some issues before the patterns officially go out.
- South Valley sent out pre-judging questions to the judges and got answers back in advance of their district meets so athletes knew what judges would be expecting. It cut down on judges' meetings. Chris said maybe this should be going through the state clarification process, to ensure that judges are giving correct information. Karissa agreed on rule issues, but maybe questions about personal preferences of the judges would be okay for districts to send out separately for their meets.
- Donna asked if we'll have a class for timing; Candi said yes.
- Donna said gaming judges have a tendency to be out during set up, more so than performance judges, but as district chairs we can send them out and encourage them to be involved in the set-up. She also said that her athletes that serve as Student Event Directors are very involved in the set-up and they catch those errors. Candi said there ought to be a way to have athletes do something similar at the State Meet.
- Peggy asked if we're going to stay with a first level test for dressage; Candi said probably not because all first level tests have to use long court for next year and she thought some districts can't accommodate the larger size (20m x 60m or 66ft x 198ft). Everyone said they thought they could. Peggy said she thinks that first level tests are more in alignment with the level of difficulty in our other equitation classes. Candi said she'll pass this on to the judges who will make a recommendation and the board will decide.
- Peggy said it seems that there may be a major inconsistency in drill judging if some judge asks for major changes prior to the 3rd meet. What happened during the first two meets, if no changes were required? Why are such major changes being asked for at the last meet?
- We need more judges, especially since Washington is using many of our judges now. Candi said there are several new judges who have finished their apprenticeships.

State Meet Thoughts/Reflections

- Candi read from a list of comments that were submitted at the state meet:
 - Extra Judge for Keyhole to do set up while judge is judging the other side
 - Don't forget to get official timers and back ups for timed events, penning and daubing
 - More formal and accurate hand out to announcer for Grand Entry
 - 3rd judge to inspect for over fences and driving....jump qualifying fence immediately before course
 - Extra judge for team flags...to pound in flags

- Get schedule in advance and ship to Alumni and Alumni families for volunteers, then to districts.
- Board member shirts...specific colors each day – maybe we can make this part of the Big R proposal
- Need a good list of what each event needs for volunteers.
- On jumping pattern page, make a statement something like. If available, all fences should be white or natural – NO stripes, advertisements, or other colors.
- Must have second set of eyes review all points calculations.
- Do points from an alternate who didn't ride on the team count toward overall?
- Very upset about how the team w/the American Flags was introduced. Felt it gave special recognition and attention to this team. Also questions flag protocol Set an unfair mood, etc. (7 separate notes referring to this)
- Not enough done about the horses that were vandalized.
- Grand Entry and SR recognition needs more organization...solution get district chairs planning ahead for this event, so it's not last minute or an after-thought.
- Have apprentice judges come and scribe.
- It is unethical to have a state judge that is also a coach/advisor for one of the competing high schools.
- Trail courses need to be set up with correct strides and distances according to breed level specifics.
- Courses should be designed by professionals in the industry.
- Courses should be approved by district advisors.
- State patterns should be different than district meet patterns.
- Team flag equipment, needs to be alternating colors....Accusation that judge missed something in team flags....
- Add an extra judge for keyhole
- Discussion from State Board Members
 - For Over Fences, we should have one judge to do tack inspection and another judge can do course.
 - Good idea to get state meet schedule out EARLY for next state meet and get that out to alumni athletes and parents to volunteer. Candi thinks she'll have the schedule ready for the next board meeting.
 - Need a good list of what each event needs for volunteers.
 - Need to make changes to points program – big error in overall
 - Regarding the horses that were vandalized...some team had entered stalls of other teams and put paint on the horses.
 - Regarding have a judge who is a coach of a team....we did have one such judge but she did not judge any events in which her own teammates were involved.
 - Regarding an extra judge for Canadian Flags, we need another judge helping set up the flags instead of volunteers. The volunteers at State put the flags in too deep. We could also put marks on the flags to show that they shouldn't go in farther than 4 inches. We already have two judges in Canadian Flags, so maybe one should be watching over flag setting rather than being back by the line.

- Donna said announcer for Grand Entry made a lot of mistakes because people turned in lists that didn't match who was riding. Also, we intended to have seniors only carrying flags unless there was no senior on that team, but there were a lot of non-seniors who were there to ride in it. The consensus was that a form would help clean this up a bit.
- Willamette's camping was as far away from their stalls as they could be. Their camping was on a paved road.
- Denise said she was very firm with her district about making them rent a stall for their hay and tack; but she saw many other districts or teams that didn't follow that rule. We have to be consistent and enforce the rule for everyone.
- Denise said Willamette district would like to see roping dummies allowed. Kids practice haunch turns while they're waiting for showmanship or walk the drill pattern. Candi said the problem was originally because some teams were monopolizing practice arenas with their equipment. Maybe we should just say anyone can set up equipment but they can't restrict other teams from practicing there. This needs to be a rule change. Candi said she will submit that herself. Karissa wanted to go on record saying she agrees with this, but if we have a rule, we need to enforce it consistently.
- Problems with camping – at the last minute they changed it to first-come-first-serve. Teams were spread out all over. Candi said this won't be an issue in Redmond.
- This year, there were no written rules about what was allowed on the grounds. The State Board needs to run the meet so we make the rules instead of the hosting district. They can even go in the rule book.
- Some said the dance was good. The kids had a lot of fun. Others said they weren't impressed.
- Chris said she was impressed that there were no stewardship issues and no one complained about scheduling issues.
- People said they liked having cattle and gaming events on different days.
- Jill said she appreciated that district chairs were willing to move people around and it all seemed to go very smoothly. The district chairs worked really well together.
- Also, districts were caught off-guard when they found out that they not only had to run the events but set them up, too.
- The consensus was that the state board is really working together well and that helped make the meet go more smoothly, but it also makes for a more successful organization overall.
- An information table would be helpful. We did that in Redmond and it worked well. We could have raffle tickets there, too. Districts could take turns manning it. We could use alumni to man this also.
- Dawn suggested a dress code for awards would be nice, since some of the kids were wearing inappropriate attire and we do photos at the awards. It was

suggested that they wear uniforms or team shirts, or at least adhere to school dress code.

- Golf cars worked great. We'll use a vendor again next year. But we need to label them so we know who is driving them.
- Donna said we should solicit sponsors earlier next year.
- Karren put together thank-you notes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd with sponsors' addresses, so all kids had to do is write a note and put them in the mail. District chairs need to remind youth winners to make sure those are done.

Budget / Financial

- Last year Karren put together a fiscal year budget, and the form she handed out is year-to-date as of yesterday. She said it looks like we'll come very close to spending exactly what we budgeted, overall. One major cost we didn't anticipate was for the EMTs at the State Championships. \$5,579 was more than double what we had budgeted, but everyone agreed that it is worth every penny if one person is saved as a result, as was the case this year.
- The Basket Raffle brought in \$1530, which was about double what it brought in last year. It was suggested that we use cans so people can't see how many tickets are there for each basket. That could be part of decorating for the basket – each district could create their own design as well.
- TEWP was a big success. South Valleys's contribution in change was \$450. This is something each district could do and then bring to the state meet for some sort of final competition to see which district can raise the most money.

Points Program Problems

The Overall High Point Performance award went to the wrong person, for the second year in a row. It was quite a disaster. The athlete's school gave her a huge assembly with a plaque, the Oregonian met with her. The young lady was very upset when she found out she was the runner-up instead and said she felt like a fraud. Candi said she wanted to do some things to try to make this less disastrous. Suggestions....

- We must have more than one set of eyes to look everything over in the future.
- Try to finish everything by Saturday night and have Awards on Sunday, leaving all Saturday night to get things right.
- Use district points people at the state meets. They could review the printouts.
- Denise said they are going to a points committee in her district.
- Phil said moving team penning to another day would add back some of the schedule problems. He also said some programs require you to enter the data two times and it beeps at you if you don't enter it correctly both times.
- Bill said we need a written document laying out the procedure for calculating these awards.

- Peggy suggested having one reader and two data entry people. Scores get entered simultaneously and can be checked immediately. They can also do the final calculations together. The consensus was that having at least two people enter the same data and do the same calculations should eliminate such a problem in the future.
- Candi also said she wants the young lady who was incorrectly awarded the Overall High Point Performance award to keep the horse blanket, and have it embroidered to say Runner-Up, and to get Runner-Up blankets for all the other award divisions. This will cost a bit, but will help take some of the sting out of the situation for those involved.

Proposal for New Points Program

- Don Pack presented a proposal for using MS/Access to create a new statewide points system. Other people said their district points chairs had indicated MS/Access would do a much better job than what we are currently using.
- Denise moved to accept Don's proposal for initial program not to exceed \$2500 (for design and creation and documentation), and for ongoing support not to exceed \$50 per hour (for training points people). Dawn seconded.
- Discussion: Several people suggested that \$2500 is not very much, considering the amount of time Don estimated it would take him. Chris moved to amend the motion to make it \$3000 plus a \$3000 donation receipt.
- Vote on amendment: In favor - 12, Opposed – 0, Abstentions – 1 (Don).
- Vote on the original motion: In favor – 13, Opposed – 0, Abstentions – 0
- Don said he expects to have it ready for the next season. The consensus was to plan for the training for district points people to be at the open meeting in December.

Board of Education Approval

Candi and Bill worked on getting this taken care of; we had to do a couple of new SOGs and send a copy of by-laws. So we now are official with the Oregon State Board of Education. Candi added that the people she worked with at ODE were very impressed with our website and all the information we provide for members.

Coaching Requirements

Some schools are now requiring all coaches to have First Aid and CPR training. If that's the case, check with the schools as they often provide the training free of charge at the start of the school year. The certification courses are also available online, and are free.

Raffles and Taxes

- Reports have been filed with the state for the last two years we had a permit, so we are done with that.
- Forms have been signed and turned in.

Equipment Needs

- Some districts may need new computers.
- Candi said maybe we need to have districts buy their own computers; this seemed to be the consensus of the group. Candi said when she has checked around, we don't necessarily get a deal by buying several at a time. Another option would be to get on a program to buy some new computers every so many years.
- Candi said she wants to have an OHSET computer for the new Points person. That information shouldn't be on their personal computer.
 - Denise moved to buy a computer not to exceed \$1500, Dawn seconded. In favor – 12, Opposed – 0, Abstentions – 0
- Hard copies are okay for data backup but each district needs to be maintaining records of past athletes etc.
- Trailer proposal for state cargo trailer. Used by state chair/vice chair to haul state owned equipment to and from the state meet.
 - Dawn moved to purchase equipment trailer not to exceed \$3500. Don Pack seconded.
 - Donna was concerned with electronic items suffering heat/cold issues. Suggested insulated trailer.
 - Chris suggested that reader board be used by districts, not just sit for the balance of the year.
 - Vote: In favor – 11, Opposed – 0, Abstentions – 1

Eligibility Challenge

- Background – Dawn Keeney's son, who is home-schooled, is 17 years old, participated in OHSET for 3 years, did not participate this past year, but would like to participate next year. She contacted Candi last year (2009) during the State Championships to see if it was okay. Candi read the rule 2.3.2 on page 27 and told Dawn that according to her interpretation that should be allowable. But Bill Weir said that isn't what was intended by the rule, and OSAA wouldn't allow it. However, our rules do allow us to decide on an exception. Candi said the young man will be allowed to play football next year, but that's a little different because he didn't play his freshman year, so this will be four years of football in a row.
- Discussion:
 - Denise said she has seen at least one 5th year senior play varsity football, 2 years, then a year off, then 2 more years.
 - Decision needs to be made about how we interpret our rule first.
 - Phil said he can't imagine we ever intended it to be other than 4 consecutive years.
 - Chris said 5 year students have come up before, and we've approved it before.
 - Bill said that's part of the exception ruling, dependent on our decision about the first ruling.

- The question came up as to whether or not we need a motion, and the consensus was that we do not, but we should get a consensus about what the intent was. The consensus was that Bill's interpretation was the intent.
- Jill moved to allow an exception to our eligibility rules for Ethan Keeney , Don seconded;
- Discussion
 - We've allowed exceptions before for athletes for whom OHSET was very important. Ethan did not ride in practice, but he volunteered and helped out all season long.
 - Peggy said she doesn't feel that it's fair that he got an extra year of practice, in part because the rules are a little different for home schoolers than other athletes.
 - Donna said she felt that she needed to understand a little better how this could be worthy of an exception.
 - Dawn said he is very young and has been held back for social reasons; he was not ready to graduate this year.
 - Candi said we need to look at this from an organizational standpoint....does this decision harm OHSET?
 - Denise said there seems to be no reason he was held out of OHSET because of bullying. Why wasn't the bullying addressed? Jill explained that attempts have been made in the past but the family involved is still trying to make his life difficult because they are trying to challenge his eligibility now, even though the boy has graduated.
 - Peggy said that because Candi reasonably interpreted the rule to say he would be eligible, and the Keeney family decision to hold Ethan out of OHSET was based on that, even though she doesn't like the idea, she feels we need to grant this exception.
 - Phil said he has been able to compete in high school sports for five years because he's a home-schooler. Other athletes would not have this opportunity.
 - Karissa said the decision to hold him back in school was not because of the bullying but because of his age and maturity.
 - Donna said she agreed because of the information that was given to this family. She's particularly bothered that the bullying went on and wasn't dealt with effectively. We need to do something about it.
 - Chris said bullying has taken a huge amount of time from this board.
 - Phil said if the bullying wasn't bad enough to be penalized, but was bad enough to drive someone out of the program, it should have been penalized.
- Call for vote: In favor: 13, Opposed: 0, abstentions 0
 - Note Dawn turned her vote for South Valley over to Alan Sustello because of her personal involvement in this issue.

Bullying

- Candi finished up by saying that we need to do something about bullying – maybe we need to have a policy that defines bullying; Phil said figuring out where to draw the line is the problem. Maybe we can have facilitators who go in and see the situation and make some judgments, explaining to all involved what will not be allowed and what the consequences will be.
- Scott suggested we could have minutes from Districts sent to state board. Candi said we can do this and post them on each district's page of our state website. So, let's have districts send minutes to be posted to website and to Candi. This might help us to get problems earlier.
- It was suggested that our recent decisions seem to be a bit backwards. We're sending messages to bullies that what they're doing is okay, and to victims that they need to just back off and avoid bullies. We're in consensus that we need to do something. Candi said she'll give it some thought and then we'll work on it at a later meeting.

Some informal discussion took place during a short break – we need to do more with our student reps and get them more involved in general, but also they might be able to help us resolve some of the bullying issues we seem to be having.

Scholarship Implications

- Jan Harer presented information about some problems some athletes may have accepting our district and state scholarships. For students who go to Div I NCAA school and participate on their equestrian team, they may be unable to accept our OHSET scholarships because the coach of that team is only allowed to give a certain amount of money to athletes on the team, regardless of the source. The coach can divvy up who gets how much money, and since our scholarship is athletic-based it could put the college team over the limit. If scholarships are primarily academic-based, they don't count toward this total team allotment.
- Jan suggested some options:
 - We could allow the athlete to defer the scholarship for a year. If the coach knows ahead of time, he or she can factor it in to the total allotment.
 - The athlete could just not accept the OHSET scholarship and it would go to the second place person.
 - We could change our criteria to be more scholarship-based.
- Regardless of what we do, we need to include something on our scholarship application stating that this is an athletic scholarship and that athletes accepted for Division 1 NCAA equestrian teams need to check with their coaches and college compliance officers about whether or not they can accept it.
- The consensus was to not change our scholarship but to allow a deferment for up to one year and make sure this information is provided to scholarship applicants.
- Jan also said she is getting information on our website about what athletes need to do if they want to go to a college and ride on an equestrian team. There are some things that

need to be done during their sophomore or junior year and if they don't do them, they might not be eligible.

- Donna said she found a few other things that need to be fixed regarding the scholarships. So she'll work with Jan on this and on the other issues, but we can deal with this at a later meeting.

Nominations for State Board Officers

- Candi called for any additional nominations (she and Karissa were nominated at the last meeting); there were none.
- A vote was held and Candi and Karissa were unanimously re-elected to their current positions.
- Candi thanked everyone for working so well together.

Work Sessions

Do we want to have another one? Consensus was yes. One day or two? Consensus was just have one long day. Preference was for a Saturday, probably Jan. 8, 2011.

New Points Chair

Candi has someone in mind but needs to clarify some things and doesn't want to announce until she is sure this person will be qualified and willing.

Coach/Advisor/Youth Rep Training

Consensus was to have this in early October when teams are getting geared up. Consensus was to incorporate this with what Willamette District already has planned. What kinds of things need to be covered?

- Help and networking for new coaches/advisors
- Role of youth reps
 - We probably need to get more on the same page with what they are supposed to do.
 - Donna could come and talk about her Event Directors, 2 youth who were successful in a particular event and are returning, assigned to oversee the set-up of the event, check measurements.

2011 State Championships

- Schedule will be done early and sent out to us before next board meeting so we can start recruiting volunteers to work different events.
- Vendors – Kathy Russell from Central has agreed to coordinate this.
- Matching shirts for board for each day – helps people find state meet officials.

National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium

Consensus was to send Candi and Karissa again, as well as one or two youth representatives, as discussed and a previous meeting. Candi will get back to the board with some cost estimates and details. It will be in Michigan this year.

Goals for 2010-2011 Season

- Have a presences at the NW Horse Expo. Candi said she'll contact them and see what needs to be done. We probably want to have something like an information/vendor booth.
- Create a DVD for promotional activities.
- Recruit more schools. Karren will send an email with a link from ODE showing all school districts in all counties so district chairs can look to see what schools in their districts might not yet have an OHSET team.

Other Information/Announcements

- Please forward your 2011 meet dates to Karissa by email so she can have them posted on the state website.

Redistricting Meeting – Sunday August 29th 9:30 in Eugene, location TBA

There was some discussion about whether or not we need to have one since no one is really asking for any re-districting. The consensus was that there should be a Re-districting meeting once a year even if no changes are made. We need to be watching things ahead, and not just being reactionary when things NEED to be changed immediately.

Other Upcoming Meetings

- Saturday August 28 – 8:30 am State Board Meeting to last for a limited time then go straight into Rules Committee Meeting (Gateway)
- Saturday August 28 – Rules Committee Meeting to follow State Board Meeting (Gateway)
- Sunday August 28 – 9:30 Redistricting Meeting (Location TBA)
- September 10-12 – Judges Training at Deschutes County Expo Center
- Saturday October 2 – State Board Meeting
- Saturday November 6 – State Board Meeting
- Saturday December 4 – Annual Meeting