

VCMHC Minutes

February 8, 2025

Parizade Restaurant, Durham, NC

The meeting was called to order by President, Jen Valentine at 6:00. The minutes from the last meeting were not read. Twenty members and guests were present.

First on the agenda was discussion of club sponsorships for 2025. We have a substantial reserve fund from prior years of Southern States' successes. We voted to send \$5,000 to the Grand National for Youth events and another \$5,000 for the GN show as a corporate sponsor. For this we have numerous benefits including two full-page color ads and 24 box seats – so if you want to attend this year, you can sit in the VC box(es?).

In addition, we discussed the use of up to \$2,500 for sponsorships of local shows and clinics. We voted on an immediate expense of \$250.00 for a banner to be displayed at Cavvietta Quarter Horses and Cattle Co for the entire year.

We also discussed the picnic at Southern States Horse Show and voted not to sponsor this activity this year.

Jim Paden reported of the Grand National, that interest has grown tremendously in the Working Western and Western dressage divisions. Congratulations especially to Elizabeth Abernathy for her World Championship in the Intro Level Western Dressage and Grand National Championship Intro Level Tests 1-4 with Stilwell Thunder, CH!

Promotion of youth activities for our young Morgan enthusiasts is a major club project! Jen enlisted the help of Addyson and Ryleigh Metts to get something going in our club states. Jim has an active Academy program at Cedarwood Equine and takes several Morgans and riders to open shows in the area, where they are constantly approached by folks asking about their beautiful horses!

We had a good discussion about activities that could encourage membership – why would other Morgan owners join us? We discussed having trail rides, perhaps at facilities that also accommodate driving horses. Linda Sewall agreed to plan

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one for this year. Having a Zoom book club about horse and Morgan books received positive comments. Farm visits can be combined with pot-lucks or picnics.

There are lots of Morgans/enthusiasts in SC who are not club members, as well as in Virginia. If we develop some regional activities, we can expand our base of operations for sponsorships, promotion, etc.

Rather than holding elections tonight, we decided to put out an 'invitation' to members and potential members to ask for participants to run for both officers *and* board members. Terms are usually for two years with elections in alternate years. Officers need to have been paid members for at least a year. After this year, we can return to the two-year terms as described in our by-laws.

We voted to have our 2025 Awards banquet the third Saturday of November this year, again at Parizade Restaurant in Durham. We also set April for our next club meeting, to be on Zoom. Information and the link will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Buchanan, ad hoc secretary for Liz Holmes

Presentation of Awards were given after the dinner. Many thanks to Elizabeth Abernathy for selecting such wonderful prizes and to June Davis for keeping the points! Results will be posted on the website.

