

The March 8, 2026 General Membership Meeting was held in person at the Oregon State Fairgrounds during the Signature Spring Clinic and Open Schooling Show event. The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Christensen at 12:04pm.

Board Members Present: Kathy Christensen, Gay Adams, Karen Breckenridge, Patricia Carlson, & Erin Silver.

Not Present: Kim Moore, Sierra Breckenridge, Tammy Boyer, Kyndle Cummins, Sandi Humphres, Camryn Nicholson, Nancy Eidam, Sara Breyman, & Kiersten Moore. Sarah DeFazio was running the event and unable to attend the meeting.

QUORUM NOT MET

MEMBERS & GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Jellerson, Kathy DeFazio, Shelley Bullard, Lela VanDyk, and Karen Weiderman.

Secretary Report - Gay Adams

Approval of the February minutes tabled until the next Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report as of 2/28/2026 - Karen Breckenridge

\$24,305	General Checking
25,513	Savings
3,002	Futurity
8,853	Nancy Falk Donation
12,250	OMC
273	Miscellaneous
\$74,196	Total Assets
(\$5.072)	Current loss

A loss at this time of year is normal and is centered in advertising for the stallion service auction, pre-expenses to get ready for OMC, and general fixed expenses for the club. That should change once our auction closes and as we pull in sponsorships for OMC. So far, Karen has pledged for over \$12,000 in patron sponsorships. Good job Karen! We are also working on commercial sponsors but are not ready to report on that yet.

Our internal audit review is underway led by Patricia Carlson. Other auditors are Christy Nicholson and Ashley Dortland.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SHOW COMMITTEE – Karen Breckenridge

Karen reminded us that points earned at the Oregon Morgan Classic (OMC) count double on our MHAO High Point Program. The Prize List is off to Kelly (our show Secretary) and should be available by March 31st. We are working with the Oregon Horse Center on where the big rigs can park this year. Last year there was a problem from the Center that we will not allow to happen

again. They are expanding the area they use for RV hook-ups and last year they did not communicate with us or direct us to a different area. We are on it!

This year we celebrate 25 years for the Oregon Morgan Classic, so we are putting some things together to make it special and to bring back even more FUN! There will be a pizza party, and the exhibitor party will have a fiesta theme with a taco dinner. There will also be a dessert bar. There will be more! Mischief is afoot. Stay tuned.

HIGH POINT COMMITTEE – Erin Silver

Nothing new to report, but again, the Oregon Morgan Classic will count double for the MHAO High Point Program.

EDUCATION/SPRING CLINIC COMMITTEE – Patricia Carlson

Per Patricia, we don't have any official numbers to report on the Clinic/Open Horse show yet. MHAO made a donation to the event this year rather than holding its own clinic. It looks like we had 9 Morgan horses participating. It appears the clinic had good overall attendance. We will hear more on actual results from Sarah DeFazio at our next meeting.

There is talk about MHCWS and MHAO working together on joint educational events and tracking each other's events. We need to avoid competing with each other for attendees. There are a lot of joint members between the two clubs. The Signature Clinic & Open Schooling Show event seems to be a good way to kick off the season this year. We would have had more Morgan horses here except that the AMHA Convention is going on at the same time.

We have really enjoyed the clinicians that are here. We have heard nothing but good things about them. Additionally, during the open show they are giving reasons for the placings as they announce them and even giving out tips for the future.

COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP - Sarah DeFazio

Sarah was not able to attend the meeting to report on this. She was busy managing the clinic/show event and riding in it.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD – Patricia Carlson

We have one nominee which we will announce at the Oregon Morgan Classic. Patricia is looking for more nominations. This award is for people that go above and beyond to help others.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE – Kim Moore

Per Kathy, nothing to report.

BANQUET COMMITTEE – Patricia Carlson

Nothing to report on the Award Banquet at this time.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – Camryn Nicholson & Sierra Breckenridge

Karen Breckenridge reported for Sierra that for the Youth of the Year, the horsemanship and speech portion will be done via videos before the show. The Judging and test portion will be at OMC. They already have some contestants signed up.

STALLION AUCTION COMMITTEE – Gay Adams

Our Stallion Service Auction is open for bidding with 17 stallions so far. Goal is 30. I'm way behind on my calling. We have 7-8 other items, and Gay is looking for more.

Michigan and New York auctions seemed to be struggling this year. They had the normal number of stallions offered but were lower on winning bids. Gay sees it as a sign of the economy. She asked for help to get more stallions and other items in. Adding some more well-known stallions would help in drawing interest and more bidders. It is always a challenge because we are late in the year, but we are trying to not compete with the other auctions. Patricia suggested we promote our auction as offering the service to be used this or next season. Gay will talk to the stallion owners about that. Most do offer it via their contract. Gay has not pressed this in the past because she wanted the potential bidder to talk to the stallion owner so the owner or agent would know someone was looking at their horse. She does all she can to encourage communication between both parties before a bid is placed.

The close date for the auction is April 18th at 3pm PDT. It is all online, but those without the ability to bid that way can call in their bid to her. Proxy bids are accepted, and Gay explained how that works.

Funds from the SSA supports the MHAO Breeders' Cup Futurity.

Shelley said she will make at least one donation and be in touch.

FUTURITY COMMITTEE – Gay Adams

No new nominations have been received for 2025 or 2026. Some renewals are already in. Renewal requests will go out soon, due March 31st. Late entries are accepted if anyone wants to get in. Lela VanDyk may add a two-year-old. Erin may add a yearling. Gay explained how the pricing works for late entries.

Prior to renewals, we have 25 entries.

4 – 2022

7 – 2023

11 – 2024

3 - 2025

We now have 2 halter divisions for 0-2 yr olds, each division has its own Sweepstakes class. Traditional and Sport/Western. There are a wide variety of performance classes for 2-4 yr olds. They are not divided by division, only by age. More information can be found on our website.

Gay is also looking for ads for the 2026 Breeders' Cup Futurity Booklet. The benefits offered for entering the Futurity are listed on our website.

PROMOTION COMMITTEE –Erin Silver

We have applied for a \$1,500 Grant. We haven't heard back yet. We hope to hear by the April meeting. The Oregon State Fair Horse Show has been cancelled, and we are looking for what we might do in place of that. There was discussion about partnering with other breeds to do something like "An Evening With Horses". Nothing is decided yet. Not sure we can be ready to do anything for this year. More information to follow.

We will have a booth with a horse present at the Oregon Ag Fest the last weekend in April. Erin is looking for help to be there to answer questions.

On April 25th, 4H is looking for a class of 4 Morgan mares or geldings for a judging clinic in Redmond at the Fairgrounds. Erin can't go because of Ag Fest. If anyone can help, let Erin know. There followed a discussion on how we can help Open, OHSET, and 4H/FFA judges understand how to judge Morgan horses. The discussion will continue.

The Mount Hood Equestrian Center is looking to bring in more horse events to their facility. We will continue to stay in touch with them both for promotional opportunities and as a possible place to hold any new events for us.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Kathy Christensen & Gay Adams

We have reserved some space for ads in the Membership Directory that have not been received yet. Reminders are going out. Once the ads are in, we will go to press.

At 2/21/2026 we had 53 members current for 2026. Of those, 11 are life members who are no longer paying dues. 34 have not renewed from 2025 to 2026. I know some have renewed since 2/21/26 and Kathy said she has talked to at least 5 who have or will join. We have been running a little ahead of the number we had last year at the same time. Membership growth is a focus of the club for this year. We especially want to bring in families.

RIDE/DRIVE PROGRAM – Sandi Humphres

Per Kathy, nothing to report.

OPEN INCENTIVE –Karen Breckenridge & Sandi Humphres

Per Kathy, nothing to report.

WEBSITE/STABLE SHEET – Gay Adams

Our website has been updated.

Stable Sheet issues are available to see as they come out. Current and old directories are available through the Member Only page, and a new directory is being processed. Gay encouraged everyone to go in and take a look at the Member Only page. Dallas did a wonderful job. It is pretty cool. The password is: MHAO2026! (don't forget the exclamation mark).

SOCIAL MEDIA – Kiersten Moore

Per Kathy, nothing to report. Kathy needs to work with Kiersten so she knows what we would like her to do.

SUNSHINE – Tammy Boyer

Per Kathy, nothing to report.

ALEX MOONEY SCHOLARSHIP – Sara Breyman

Per Kahy, nothing to report.

HISTORY COMMITTEE – Nancy Eidam

Per Kathy, nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS – Kathy Christensen

CASCADIA MORGAN HORSE ALLIANCE - Heather Jellerson

Heather introduced us to the Cascadia Morgan Horse Alliance and gave us information on what they are trying to do, and why. They are a 501c3 Non-Profit and are not a membership organization, so they are not in competition with MHAO or MHCWS. They are focused on education and fund raising, and working on the return of the BC show. They want to offer other fun events, and to help other shows. They donated all the flowers for the center ring at this Signature Spring event. There will be a 2027 BC show in Lynden WA, May 27-30, 2027. It will be a 3-day show using 2 arenas. Their goal is to raise all the funds needed for the first year of this show. They do not want to compete with other shows. They want their show to be filled with fun. She also updated us on how difficult it is to cross the Canadian border for people with horses going in either direction.

Heather and the members of Cascadia would like to see all the groups coordinating their schedules, so they are supporting one another rather than competing with one another. Karen said shows in our Region should not be on top of each other. Like us, Cascadia wants to do all they can to support the PNW show. All in attendance to the meeting agreed that communication between all the groups needs to be increased. More discussion will follow.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm with some attendees staying longer.

Discussions continued to almost 2pm.

Next Meeting:

4/15/2026 via conference call. Open to all. Let Kathy Christensen know if you would like to attend.

Next Activities:

4/18 at 3pm, close of the MHAO Stallion Service Auction. The auction is all online. Those who are unable to bid this way can call in their bid to Gay Adams.

4/25 & 4/26, MHAO booth at the Oregon Ag Fest event, Oregon State Fairgrounds. Erin Silver is seeking volunteers for this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Gay Adams, MHAO Secretary