

The January Meeting was held in person at the home of Kathy Christensen, President, at 1010 Rainbow Hills Lane, Salem OR 97306. The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm

Board Members Present In Person: Kathy Christensen, Gay Adams, Karen Breckenridge, Erin Silver, Sarah DeFazio, & Sara Breyman.

Board Members Present via Conference Call: Nancy Eidam (Nancy dropped off at 1pm, she was having trouble hearing), Tammy Boyer, Patricia Carlson

Board Members Not Present: Camryn Nicholson, Sierra Breckenridge, Kim Moore, Kyndle Cummins, Kiersten Moore, & Sandi Humphres.

Quorum requirement met.

Guest: Kathy DeFazio

Secretary Report - Gay Adams

October & November minutes approved via email. There was no meeting in December, so there were no new minutes to approve. A Board Roster and list of tentative meeting dates was distributed for review. No changes. Please post all the meeting dates to your calendar. There was no discussion of committee assignments.

Treasurer's Report – Karen Breckenridge

We need to reissue the Futurity checks to Susan King for the Futurity. She has a new address which Gay will get from Karen so she can reissue them. Two payments for Futurity ads have not come in yet from last year. Gay has their names and will continue to reach out to them. 1099's have been issued and the taxes are done for 2025. Karen will pay the deposit for the Dye House for our Award Banquet. We actually have a small profit for December. Due to normal fixed expenses that we pay early in the year, a profit is unusual for this time of year. The Profit of \$57 is primarily due to some OMC sponsorships that came in early.

Kathy requests that all receipts be sent in to Karen promptly. Otherwise it creates problems with our bookkeeping for the year. We have had issues with items not being reported in the correct year which causes problems with our budget comparison to actual for the year.

A reminder to all committee chairs: You need to track your income and expenses. If you run out of funds you either need to come back to the Board for a new approval amount before the money is spent, or fund raise to make up the difference. You should not go over your budget without approval.

Our Balance Sheet shows the following as of 12/31/2026:

Checking	\$	26,370
Savings		25,512
Futurity		3,057
Nancy Falk Trust (restricted)		8,893
Oregon Morgan Classic		13,821
Other		273
Total	\$	77,926
Profit/(Loss)	\$	57

SHOW COMMITTEE – Karen Breckenridge

Sponsorship money is already coming in. Karen has received \$1,209 already. Karen remains in charge of contacting our exhibitors for sponsorship. Sarah DeFazio has volunteered to help us get corporate sponsors for the show and for other MHAO activities.

Karen reports all required renewals for the show are in. Also that she has been able to take advantage of a good number of sales in purchasing items as awards, etc. She is pleased to say she is keeping show expenses low. She is hoping for a \$300 grant for our Youth of the Year contest from AMHA and has applied for a show grant. She is not sure she will receive anything from the show grant request as we had a nice profit for the show last year centered on sponsorships.

Judges: We tried for a center ring judge who was also judging at Nationals but were not successful.
Center Ring – Many Smalley
Dressage – Carolyn Lindholm
Western Working – Carla Mofett
Farrier – Natalee Beatty
EMT – still looking

The rest of our crew is set.

Budget is set as a net income of \$5,000. There will again be lots of focus on sponsorship.

HIGH POINT – Erin Silver

Erin is looking for advice on awards. Sarah DeFazio will share some ideas with Erin.

Budget set at \$1,500. This will be \$1,500 above anything carried over from last year. Award expenses are accounted for late in the year and normally do flow over into the next year.

EDUCATION/SPRING CLINIC COMMITTEE – Patricia Carlson

Patricia has been talking with Sarah DeFazio regarding how we could support her with the Saddle Seat Clinic she is putting on rather than MHAO putting on a clinic of their own this year. Sarah's clinic will be targeting the owners of Morgan, Saddlebred, & Arabian horses and be mainly focused on Saddle Seat riding. The facilitators are renowned Saddlebred trainers. The saddle seat disciplines in all three breeds are decreasing in our area, and Sarah wants to revive interest in it. After much discussion on how we could support Sarah's clinic instead of holding a clinic ourselves, it was agreed that we will sponsor or donate to her clinic this year. We will set our sponsorship or donation at \$750 in exchange for MHAO members receiving a discount. Sarah will set the discount amount and decide how our sponsorship or donation will be highlighted at the event. This is not an MHAO event so there is to be no other cost or liability to MHAO.

Sarah's clinic is the Smith & Alexander Lilly Signature Spring Event, March 6-8 at the Oregon State Fair Grounds in Salem. People can start bringing their horses in on March 5th. Her host hotel is the Hilton Holman Edition. The event is facilitated by Smith & Alexander Lilly who are top trainers renowned in the Saddlebred world. Friday evening will be a 'meet and greet' welcome reception. There will be food and drink offered, a silent art auction, a book signing, pictures taken, and a

keynote address. Maybe more. Saturday will be the clinic which is open to all. Outreach for the clinic is focused on the owners of Morgan, Saddlebred, & Arabian horses. There will be demonstrations, vendors, and an evening barn party at 5pm in the stables. There will be horses available from all three breeds that can be borrowed by those who don't have a horse or horse they can use for this discipline (11 pledged so far). These are horses pledged from all three breeds. On Sunday there will be a Spring Warm Up Show with ribbons and awards, a variety of classes, signature performances, music, and a doggie show at intermission. Ideas are still flowing. Sarah is pulling in a good level of sponsorship for her clinic & show, especially from corporations.

Our By-Laws require us to hold a General Membership meeting (GM) no later than April 30th each year. If we choose, we could hold our GM meeting on Friday, March 6th in the Floral building or Saturday somewhere else on the grounds. This will be separate from the clinic, but Sarah says our attendees are free to take advantage of the food & refreshments her clinic will offer. We may decide to have our meeting at a different time and place. This part is still under discussion.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy will check with our insurance company to see what we would need as insurance coverage for a GM meeting that would be by itself rather than with an MHAO clinic.

Patricia doesn't want to pledge the whole Education budget to Sarah's show as she may want to do something else, too. A small open schooling show combined with a clinic is under discussion. We have already paid Susie Morgan for a clinic (her facilitator fee, but not for her travel expenses). No date or place is set. It is still an open item. Discussion is tabled for now. Arcuri, Blackburn, & Deardorff stables would like to see this type event. Washington has 3 Morgan shows each year with BC maybe coming on line in Lynden next year. Oregon just has the Oregon Morgan Classic. More discussion will follow.

Patricia requires our written agreement with Sarah's LLC (the Saddle Horse League, LLC) not move forward until it is reviewed by an attorney on our behalf. This needs to be done before she signs it to be sure there is no liability to MHAO beyond our sponsorship or donation. She also wants to be sure the contract states that if the clinic is not held for any reason, we will get a full refund. As part of Patricia's leadership for education, Patricia will be the one to sign any contract with the LLC. Need for a contract will be investigated further. Patricia wants to be sure MHAO is protected. Sarah said the contract she sent Patricia was an example, not the final version. She agreed to the changes and will get a new final version to Patricia if needed. Kathy will contact Shelley Bullard for advice.

After discussion it was decided to take \$500 from the Education Committee to sponsor or as our donation to Sarah's clinic and another \$250 from a different committee or program. This would be in lieu of us offering our own Spring Clinic this year. Sarah created her event before becoming a Board member of MHAO and has yet to be voted in. This event is put on by her LLC, known as the Saddle Horse League, LLC. Sarah is the sole member of the LLC, but there are others supporting her efforts. Sponsorships are coming in, and almost all of her expenses are already covered. Her website shows entry fees and sponsorship levels. Our sponsorship or donation to her clinic benefits MHAO by allowing it to meet its mission of education for this year. The club will not be made liable for anything else regarding the clinic. That said, individuals are needed to help at the clinic if anyone is interested as an individual. Again, the event is not considered an MHAO event.

MOTION: Gay moved that we sponsor or donate to Sarah's clinic at \$750 with \$500 of that coming from our Education Committee budget and \$250 from our General Fund. This is in lieu of giving our own clinic this Spring. Kathy seconded the motion. Approved.

On our budget sheet, the Education budget will be shown as \$750.

AWARD BANQUET COMMITTEE – Patricia Carlson

Nothing is really planned yet for our year end Award Banquet. We will stay at the same location as last year, which is the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem in the Dye house. Expenses for everything are going up but she will try to stay with the same budget as last year. Karen will send in our deposit for the location.

Budget set at \$750.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD – Patricia Carlson

Patricia has one nomination submitted by Shelley Bullard. Patricia did not want to disclose who was nominated. She is looking for more nominations. This award is sponsored by Patricia. The goal of this award is to recognize those who go above and beyond during emergency situations like fires, floods, etc. to help others. There was discussion about changing the timing of when we present this award so there is more visibility for it. It was decided to award it at the exhibitor meal we offer at OMC instead of before or between classes in center ring.

Budget to MHAO is \$0 as it is fully sponsored by Patricia Carlson.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – Karen Breckenridge reporting for the committee

For our budget, we will pull \$500 from the Nancy Falk Trust account that was donated to us for our Youth. We are also hoping for a \$300 grant this year from AMHA to support our 'Youth of the Year' contest at the Oregon Morgan Classic Horse Show (OMC). We are getting more Youth Newsletters out, but there is very little new content each time. Gay will suggest the content be changed & expanded each month, more than just changing the birthdays shown. There are lots of sponsorships available to those involved with horses that can be talked about. Each issue of the newsletter needs to feel fresh. Cami Nicholson & Kyndle Cummins are the editors. We want the club's Youth committee to add more fun events and activities for our youth in order to get them more engaged & involved all year.

Gay will add information from this meeting to the youth newsletter and let Cami & Kyndle know. They can add more information. Pulling more information from the AMHA website was suggested.

Per Karen, Sierra is working on getting the 'Youth of the Year' written test set up so it can be taken before the show. We need to increase our 'Youth of the Year' (YOTY) participation at the Oregon Morgan Classic (OMC). Last year, we had none. This year we already have one sign up.

We need volunteers to help with the 'Youth of the Year' session where participants are judging a class.

We discussed adding a new level of membership to MHAO for kids involved in 4H, FFA, & OHSET (or other high school equestrian teams) set at a price ranging from \$10 - \$20 as one level or different levels with different benefits. This new level of membership is to give young riders access to our local Youth of the Year program and our Scholarship. It will include our Youth and regular

newsletters. Anyone can access our Facebook pages. We will reach out to these organizations to recruit new youth members. Sarah DeFazio will see if we can find people willing to loan horses to this effort to encourage these riders to ride a Morgan horse, to attend our show, and compete in our Youth of the Year contest. Access to our Open Incentive Program and our High Point Program will require a full membership in MHAO (\$30 for an individual or \$35 for a family). We can call this new level our 4H/FFA/HSET Affiliate membership.

It was mentioned that if a youth completes level one of the 'AMHA Youth of the Year' education program, they get a free youth membership in AMHA (our parent organization). We need to check out the AMHA website (www.morganhorse.com) and share more information on what they offer. AMHA also has several scholarship and scholarship type programs.

Erin will reach out to the contacts she has in 4H and FFA. Patricia also has some contacts and will do the same in her area. We will also look for contacts in the Oregon High School Equestrian Team (OHSET) program or other high school riding programs.

MOTION: Erin Silver moved to approve one new membership level for youth involved with 4H, FFA, or OHSET (or other high school equestrian program) at a fee of \$20 to include our Youth of the Year education and enter the contest at OMC and the ability to apply for the MHAO Scholarship. Full membership in MHAO would be required to utilize our High Point or Open Incentive programs.

Seconded by both Sara Breyman and Patricia Carlson. Approved.

There was a question about our normal membership rates and if they should be increased. That discussion was tabled for now. We will look at it again mid-year.

Budget set at \$500 plus \$300 from the AMHA Youth of the Year grant if it is received.

STALLION SERVICE AUCTION COMMITTEE – Gay Adams

We have 9 stallions verbally pledged so far. I am still waiting for paperwork. There was one more inquiry I am waiting to hear back from. Goal is 30 stallions offered as well as "other items" to bid on. Nominations will remain open through March. Bidding is all online and will start mid-February. Close date is April 18th at 3pm PDT. Sponsors of our auction & futurity would be very appreciated. If anyone can help Gay get some popular and well known stallions, that would be appreciated, too. The big names are where our larger bids come from.

At some point, Gay would like to have an event for the close of our auction. Right now, she doesn't think enough people would attend to make it worthwhile. Sarah DeFazio and Gay will talk about how we might do this. Sarah asked if we might do a joint event with Saddlebred owners. Maybe Arab owners, too. Nothing was decided and nothing is planned for this year. More discussion will follow.

Budget is set at net income to the club of \$5,000 in exchange for the Futurity classes at OMC & after transferring the portion that is dedicated to the futurity.

FUTURITY COMMITTEE – Gay Adams

Currently we have 25 horses in our futurity which includes three 2025 foals. Renewals are due March 31st. Gay passed around a list of the futurity horses.

Nominations at the initial fee of \$45 are due by December 31st in the year the foal is born. Late nominations or renominations change to \$100. We often get horses nominated late up through

their 2-yr old year. Late nominations are accepted by paying \$100 for any fees they are late on. The normal renewal fee for each of the 4 renewal years is \$25 due by March 31st each year. Again, if late, that changes to \$100 for each payment that is late. Erin said she has a 2025 foal she wants to enter.

There are currently two Divisions for halter for 0-2 yr old horses. One is Traditional and is typically for what we think of as “show horses”. The other Division is for Sport/Western horses. Both divisions are judged against the breed standard. Each Division has its own Sweepstakes. We also offer performance classes for 2-4 yr olds. Gay would love to have corporate sponsors for the Sweepstakes classes. Sarah DeFazio said she might be able to help with that. Gay & Sarah will talk. Erin mentioned she would like to see Sport & Western split from one another. We would need a lot more horses entered in that division than we currently have before we could consider it.

Gay still needs to get the prize money for the photo contest out.

Budget for the Futurity is normally breakeven. It is funded by the fees it charges and by its portion of funds from the stallion service auction. It has been pulling some prize money from its reserves since 2020. The reserves were increased in 2020 when we had income from a stallion service auction but no show following it due to the Pandemic. Since then, she has pulled some funds from her reserves each year to increase the prize money payout. Reserves are now at a level where Gay would like them to stay so she has some working capital. We will see how it goes this year.

Budget for the Futurity is at breakeven.

PROMOTION COMMITTEE – Erin Silver

We have two main promotion events. Our best is the Oregon AgFest as it reaches families interested in teaching their kids about agriculture. Schools bring in kids as well. This is our target audience. We have a booth with a Morgan horse available to see and touch as well as handout information about our breed. We also put out a table with information about Morgan horses at the Oregon State Fair. Erin asks who will be entering classes there and coordinates riders for the show’s “Challenge of the Breeds” class. We ask that all Morgan participants be stabled together and put out an information table about Morgan horses and our club. This is not considered to be an MHAO event. It is a State Fair event.

When she can, Erin also finds people willing to bring their horses to a judging school at OHSU for FFA participants to judge Morgan horses. We need to find a way to do this type of thing whenever we can, and to educate the Open show judges about Morgan horses. We will continue to watch for other promotion opportunities.

Erin will create more information packets for handouts as needed, and will also create flyers with information about Morgan horses to distribute at various tack stores, horse shows, etc. She plans to pass out brochures at the McMinnville open shows.

Erin will apply for a promotional grant. She thinks the most she can ask for is \$1,500. The grant amount we might receive will not be known until March or April if we even get one. The application is due next week. If a grant is received it will add to our promotion budget.

Budget for Promotion from the club is \$1,000. If we get a grant, it will add to this amount.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Kathy Christensen & Gay Adams

30 members have renewed their membership in MHAO so far this year compared to 27 this time last year. We had a total of about 70 members last year. We show a trend of losing more members than we gain each year. We need to reverse this and start growing.

Gay & Kathy are working on outreach for new members. Gay is currently calling people looking for ads in the Membership Directory which will close on January 31st. She has a list of prior advertisers. If they are not current members, she is asking them to join as well as advertise in the directory and other MHAO venues and sends them a membership form. She is keeping Kathy informed on who she has talked to. It was suggested that Gay post something on Facebook for Membership and the Membership Directory, which she has agreed to do. There have been postings in the Stable Sheet.

Kathy reminded Board members that they all need to be members of MHAO.

Sarah suggests we provide a way to join and pay dues on our website which we have long wanted to have in place. Sarah will work with Gay and Dallas (our webmaster) to get that going. We also want to have a functional “Member Only” section where people can access our Membership Directory.

Gay has a call into Dallas to gain access to the website so that Gay can update it. She will see if Sarah DeFazio can also have access. We want two people to be able to update the site throughout the year. The reason for two people is so they can cover for one another. Due to her schedule, Dallas prefers to only update our site once per year. Dallas holds primary access.

Once Gay has access to the site she will update it for 2026.

The budget for net income from membership is set at \$2,500.

RIDE/DRIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Kathy Christensen for Sandi Humphres

There has been very little activity in this program. We will keep the same budget as last year and see if we can promote it more.

Budget is set at \$100.

OPEN INCENTIVE COMMITTEE – Karen Breckenridge

There was low activity in this program last year, probably because the maximum we will pay per year and per event is set lower now. We can't really raise it until our income each year goes up and stays consistent. Our current reimbursement is a maximum of \$10 per event, and a maximum of \$30 per year per membership. These amounts are set annually at the end of the year for the upcoming year.

Budget is set for 2026 at \$150, the same as last year.

WEBSITE/STABLE SHEET – Gay Adams

Part of what we pay for the Stable Sheet program we use was billed as a lump sum to cover 3 yrs. We have at least one more year covered for that. Part of what we pay is paid annually. We estimate about \$700 expense this year, but Gay is not sure of the amount nor is Karen. The cost for the website is separate and is paid for out of the General Fund which is a separate category.

Budget is set at \$700 for the Stable Sheet at this time. Gay or Karen will alert the Board if it is higher. See the General Fund for the website.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – Kathy Christensen & Tammy Boyer

Receipts for last year were turned in late, after the end of our fiscal year October 31st. It is requested that all Board members turn in receipts as they occur so that as far as possible, we can record them in the right year. That will also allow us to track and adjust our spending more effectively during the year. Gay & Patricia will donate \$100 each to this fund. The club will add an additional expense of \$400 over the amount already posted from last year. Last year's expenses will not show up until the January statement is available.

The expenses posted are for gifts and flowers as outlined in our sunshine policy. Tammy purchases and sends cards out of her own personal funds for which we are most grateful. This is not a requirement of her. Thank you Tammy.

Budget amount is above last year's expenses which are approximately \$600. The budget for this year is \$600 with \$400 from the club and \$200 from donations. As these funds are used up and an increase is needed, we need the Board to be notified.

ALEX MOONEY SCHOLARSHIP – Sara Breyman

We have a pledge of \$2,000 as a donation to our Scholarship program this year. Last year there was a pledge of \$1,000 but no scholarship applications were received. There were two inquiries last year, but no submissions. We usually award one \$500 scholarship per year.

Expense budget for this year is \$500. The pledge of \$2,000 will more than cover that and the net remaining will be added to our pool of funds for future scholarships.

GENERAL FUND FIXED EXPENSES

This was not discussed during the meeting. The cost of our fixed costs continue to go up and I have included the \$250 additional amount for sponsorship of Sarah DeFazio's clinic in this suggested budget amount.

Suggested Budget, \$4,000.

PRESIDENT'S FUND

Per Kathy, she does not need any funds dedicated to her.

NEW BUSINESS

This was a long meeting, so there was no time left for new business. Kathy asked us to think beyond now to the future of MHAO. She also suggests a full review of our By-Laws. We have two sources to help with that: Shelley Bullard who is our Registered Agent, and Sarah DeFazio who specializes in writing & interpreting contracts and By-Laws.

Bring all your ideas to the next meeting. We will vote to approve the budget at the next meeting.

Via a side discussion: A trail event was mentioned by Kathy DeFazio. We have a member trying to organize one who is looking for MHAO/Morgan owners who might be interested in it. Separate from that, Gay is reaching out to a company that offers Waterfall Trail Rides in the Gorge. She is trying to get more information about it and see if they might donate a ride people can bid on in this year's stallion service auction as an "other item".

Next Meeting is via conference call, February 18th at 7:30pm. Please put it on your calendar. Be sure to send in your RSVP at least a week before.

Motion to adjourn given by Gay Adams, second received from Kathy Christensen. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm. Thank you for the nice lunch Kathy, and to you or whoever created those yummy desserts.

**Respectfully submitted,
Gay Adams, MHAO Secretary**

BUDGET SUMMARY ATTACHED

2026 MHAO Budget

Committee/Class	2026	2026	2026	
	Budget Inc	Budget Exp	Budget Net	
Oregon Morgan Classic	\$ 78,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 5,000	Strong focus on sponsorship needed to make this number.
Nancy Falk - Color Award (\$500-\$700 in and out)			\$ -	Money pulled from the Nancy Falk Trust Account. Accounting is included with OMC
Hi-Point/Awards Committee Expense		\$ 1,500	\$ (1,500)	Above last year's carry over expenses.
Spring Clinic/Education		\$ 750	\$ (750)	
Award Banquet Event		\$ 750	\$ (750)	
Youth		\$ 500	\$ (500)	\$500 to be pulled from the Nancy Falk Trust account plus \$300 AMHA grant if received
Nancy Falk - YOY (\$500 in and out)			\$ -	
Stallion Auction	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	After distribution to the Futurity
Futurity (expense) net \$0	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -	
Stable Sheet		\$ 700	\$ (700)	
Directory			\$ -	
Membership	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	
Promotion		\$ 1,000	\$ (1,000)	Before grant if we get one. Grant will add to the budget.
President's Fund (\$150)		\$ -	\$ -	
Sunshine Fund (new 2021)	\$ 200	\$ 600	\$ (400)	Above last year's carry over expenses.
Emergency Fund			\$ -	
Humanitarian Award (sponsored)			\$ -	Sponsored
Open Incentive		\$ 150	\$ (150)	
Scholarship (started in 2020)	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	Received a \$2,000 donation. Still have \$1,000 donation not used from last year.
Donation				
Ride/Drive Program		\$ 100	\$ (100)	
General/Fixed		\$ 4,000	\$ (4,000)	Includes \$250 toward this year's clinic sponsorship/donation
Total	\$ 104,700	\$ 100,550	\$ 4,150	
			\$ 4,150	