

June 25, 2010

Dear Members of the MSHSA:

I hope that your summer is going well. It seems like with all of the rain we have been having the welcomed sunshine will be a wonderful blessing! We need the rain but we love the sun too!

I am writing this letter to bring you up to date on some of the changes the Board of Directors had felt important to help the MSHSA grow and become a better horse show association. Our ultimate goal is to produce family fun filled horse shows. First, this past winter our Board worked diligently on rewriting the rules for the association. One of the biggest changes will be the adoption of the Class B show. The Class B show is designed to be more of an entry level show where riders can come and participate without having to spend an extensive amount of money to feel in step with everyone else. Some of the rules for the Class B show include the chap rule where exhibitors were not allowed to ride unless they had chaps. We felt that the chap rule may have been eliminating some of our participants to give horse showing a try. So we are now welcoming exhibitors to show without chaps in Class B shows. Another rule with the MSHSA Class B show is that we are a little more lax on the attire to show. For instance, a rider can show hunt seat without having a hunt coat. A long sleeved shirt, breeches, jods or slacks are acceptable. Lastly, our membership fees have been reduced to encourage membership growth with a FREE individual membership given to any rider age 17 and under to encourage our youth participation.

In addition, we will maintain the Class A shows that are the shows that many of you are familiar with where appropriate attire is required and will generally be a two day show. The point system for the Class A and the Class B shows are different and are listed in our new rule book which can be found online at www.mshsa.org. You also should have received a hard copy of the rule book as a new or renewing member this year.

We, on the Board are very excited about our changes and are hopeful that these changes will make the horse shows more family friendly and beginner exhibitor friendly. Exhibitors may choose whether or not they will want to ride only Class A or Class B shows or both! Everyone is welcome at ALL shows. If you are interested in hosting an MSHSA show, please let us know! We would love to visit with you and make it happen!

We are now at the point where we need to consider our year end high point awards banquet. We would like to try something different this year. We would like for our year end awards banquet to follow directly after the last show of the year and not do the year end banquet in the Fall. This year, the Harvest Classic is our last show and is scheduled for September 4, 2010. This show is scheduled as a Saturday show and will end Saturday evening. Since the show is ending on Saturday we would like to invite all members to come to the show and stay over that night, if they choose, have some fun and get an early start home on Sunday morning! We promise a good time! We would like to have our banquet dinner, year end awards and general meeting after the show on Saturday night following the Harvest Classic.

If you are not able to attend this awards event, we would still love for you to receive your awards! If you are unable to attend the show or the banquet...please get in touch with the board or another MSHSA member who will be attending and make arrangements to accept your awards for you! We will not be able to mail awards to you unless you are willing to send funds to cover all postage and shipping costs.

If you would like to be involved in planning the year end banquet...we welcome you, your ideas and your talents too!

The current Board of Directors has been working hard to make the MSHSA a premiere horse show association. We are very excited about what has come together. At any time, we invite your input, suggestions, recommendations and comments. We also invite you to attend Board meetings. We value you and your direction. Invite friends to join the MSHSA and encourage them to come with you to the shows! We want to make this association what you want it to be and we can only do that if you share your ideas and your resources.

Attached you will find the revised list of year end awards. We will offer a championship and reserve championship in each division. This award system will take the place of any year end awards you may be familiar with in the past.

We look forward to a wonderful show season!

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Rolf, President
Montana State Horse Show Association