

# Sooner State Morgan Horse Association

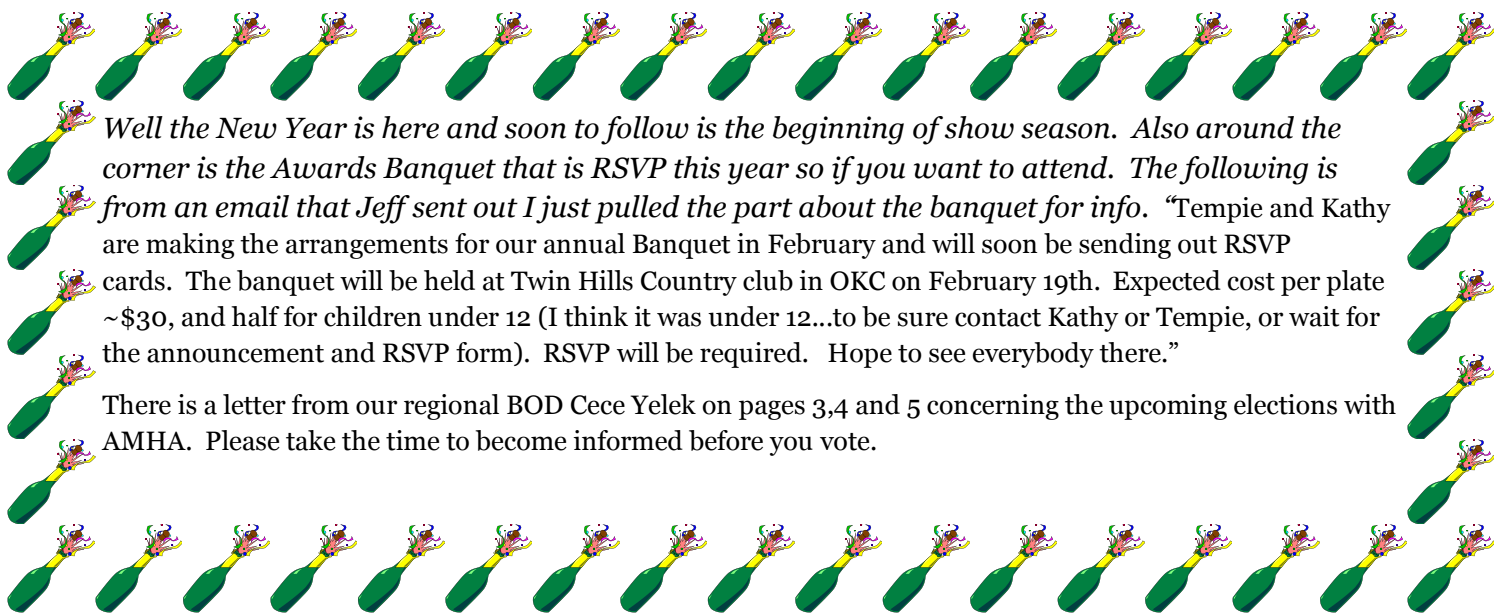
Newsletter January 2011 Issue

## January Meeting



### Next Meeting

*January meeting will be held at Mark and Nicole Ballinger's home address and directions on back page*



*Well the New Year is here and soon to follow is the beginning of show season. Also around the corner is the Awards Banquet that is RSVP this year so if you want to attend. The following is from an email that Jeff sent out I just pulled the part about the banquet for info. "Tempie and Kathy are making the arrangements for our annual Banquet in February and will soon be sending out RSVP cards. The banquet will be held at Twin Hills Country club in OKC on February 19th. Expected cost per plate ~\$30, and half for children under 12 (I think it was under 12...to be sure contact Kathy or Tempie, or wait for the announcement and RSVP form). RSVP will be required. Hope to see everybody there."*

*There is a letter from our regional BOD Cece Yelek on pages 3,4 and 5 concerning the upcoming elections with AMHA. Please take the time to become informed before you vote.*

## PLACE YOUR AD HERE!

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Ads must be submitted by the 29th of every month for the following month's newsletter. Ads can be submitted by e-mail or regular mail.

**Business Card-** \$5.00/ad or \$35.00/year or \$8.00/ad or \$70.00/year (Non -Member)

**Classified Ad** (30 words or less) \$3.00/ad or \$5.00/ad (Non-Member) (\$0.10 for each additional word)

**1/4 Page-** \$5.00/ad or \$37.50/year or \$10.00/ad or \$75/ year (Non-Member)

**1/2 Page-** \$8.00/ad or \$40/year or \$15.00/ad \$80/year (Non-Member)

**Full Page-** \$12.00/ad or \$50/year or \$20.00/ad or \$100/year (Non-Member)





# Silver Lining Herbs

HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR HORSES

11223 S. Pine  
Guthrie, OK 73044

West Benson  
405-206-5995

## Up Coming Events

Jan 22 SSMHA meeting @ 7pm @ Mark & Nicole Ballinger's home

Feb 19 SSMHA Awards Banquet Time and place tba

LESSONS • TRAINING • PLEASURE OR SHOW • SUMMER CAMPS



MORGAN HORSES FOR SALE

GERT SHUCKHART  
Manager

7070 W. Rock Creek Road

Norman, OK 73072

(405) 321-5031

e-mail: [majicstable@aol.com](mailto:majicstable@aol.com)

[www.homestead.com/majicstables](http://www.homestead.com/majicstables)

If you have any horse show dates please email them to me so I can add them to the calendar. Or anything horse related like clinics and such!

Thank You Mary O



John & Georgie Green  
Jamie, Bob, Tatum & Mattie Willard  
Gina, John, Sarah & Molly Pruett

10 ★ RANCH

P.O. Box 233 Morgan Mill, Texas 76465

(254) 965-6444 (254) 965-3844 fax



Dear Morgan Lovers and AMHA members,

Below is a list of the most frequently asked questions by members about the upcoming election. If you have any further questions I hope you will call me or send me an email. I would be more than glad to chat with you about this. I feel passionate about the issues as they may well affect us so strongly here in the Southwest. We really could lose representation from our area and that poses potential problems getting our needs met with the organization. Please make sure you vote. My personal views are NO on #3 and YES on 1, 2, 4.

Thank you,  
Cece

Cece Yelek  
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#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

1. A member asked: "What is item #3 (on the ballot) all about"?
  - A. Item #3 is the proposed Bylaw changes that the Plaintiffs drafted after AMHA agreed in the mediation agreement to put a proposal from the plaintiffs to a vote. This item will completely alter how directors are seated, will eliminate regional representation and will cause the association to incur expenses for software and systems. Our starting estimate for this is \$20,000.
2. A member asked: "Did the court mandate these by-laws"?
  - A. No. The judge ordered the two parties to mediation. The two sides mediated and signed a settlement agreement. The judge approved the agreement not because he thought it was right but because the two parties had agreed to the terms.
3. A member asked: "Who is the author(s) of this proposal"?
  - A. Over the last few months the plaintiffs submitted three versions of the proposal. The most current version dated November 2010, is included on the ballot. Joyce Quigley and Robert Painter along with Marjorie Hazelwood and [Margaret Gardiner](#) directed their counsel (Eric Poelhman and Karen Lukas) to draft this proposal. According to reports of members who have read internet discussions, there have been declarations from this same group that they plan to continue various changes to the structure of the bylaws of AMHA in order to support this division.
4. A member asked: "Is the membership voting on the whole proposal as it's written"?
  - A. Yes, the vote is for EVERYTHING contained in the proposal dated November 2010 which is contained in the election materials. This is all or none proposal; in other words, the proposal is one unit, not individual items.

**Continued on page 4**

5. A member asked: "How will this affect the structure and makeup of the AMHA board"?
- A. A maximum of 11 eleven directors will make up the entire board. Five must be Sport/Utility/Enjoyment labeled and five must be Show labeled. An eleventh will be whoever achieves the most votes in the election regardless of designation. According to members that have read some internet discussions, it has been reported that per the plaintiffs there will be block voting from each of the labeled groups.
- B. Regional representation will be eliminated. Candidates will be nominated from the ten regions but the entire AMHA membership will vote for or against each regional nominee. **Comparison:** In US politics, each state nominates and votes for two senators to serve. AMHA regions would each nominate candidates and then the entire membership will vote for or against each candidate. Each of the 10 regions may or may not have any representation from their region.
6. A member asked: "Do we have proxy voting now"?
- A. Yes, but with far greater controls to insure the integrity of the election. The opportunity for members to handle ballots to be cast is eliminated. The tabulator will have control to insure privacy and accuracy. Ballots may be cast by paper/mail, electronically on a secure site, by proxy or in person at the annual meeting.
7. A member asked: "What is the issue with entity memberships"?
- A. As part of the mediation agreement, entity members (eg; husband/wife, mother/ daughter, partnership) must designate the voting partner and that partners' name must be submitted to AMHA and verified. It is an uncertainty as to what this new process will include; what we do know is that the cost of the proof will rest with the member. This may include personal legal costs to members. A member may be the voting member for up to a total of 3 entity memberships. Also, those running for the board must have an individual or life membership (the reason we are including item #4 on the ballot).
8. A member asked: "Regarding SHOW vs. Utility/Sport/Enjoyment; if a member shows carriage and/or dressage but enjoys going to all competitions whether judged by a Morgan judge or discipline judge, which category will the member fall into?"
- A. Per the plaintiffs proposed changes, the member will be categorized as a show person if they ever show under a Morgan rated judge.
9. A member asked: "Regarding SHOW vs. Utility/Sport/Enjoyment; If a member has a 16 hand 1400# horse ridden primarily for big game hunting and trail and the horse is most comfortable/sound with a 4-1/2" hoof, does this automatically make the owner a show person"?
- A. Per the plaintiffs proposed changes, yes the member will be labeled as a show person.
10. A member asked: "Regarding SHOW vs. Utility/Sport/Enjoyment. If a member volunteers at a local show and it has Morgan classes, does this make the member a show person?"
- A. Per the plaintiffs proposed changes, no; as a volunteer the member is NOT a show person.
11. A member asked: "Regarding SHOW vs. Utility/Sport/Enjoyment. If a member has utility/sport/enjoyment Morgans, but is a vendor for ribbons for horse shows including Morgan shows, does this classify the member as a show person?"
- A. Per the plaintiffs proposed changes, yes this would classify the member as a show person.

12. A member asked: "Regarding SHOW vs. Utility/Sport/Enjoyment. If a member no longer rides, and in return for barn sitting, a neighbor shows their Morgan in a Western Pleasure class at one show, a local county show that has three Morgan classes. Does this make the member a show person? Does this make the neighbor a show person

A. Per the plaintiffs proposed changes, yes to both.

13. A member asked: "Wasn't MS Hazelwood's lawsuit about access to information? How did it evolve into division of Morgan enthusiast into categories"?

A. You will have to contact MS Hazelwood for a response.

14. A member asked: If this bylaw passes when will it go into effect and what are the costs and effect upon membership numbers?

A. This would be implemented with the 2012 election. The staff is still evaluating, but it is estimated that it will cost at least \$20,000 in software changes and additional personnel to process/track all of the entity paperwork. When costs rise, inevitably dues will need to be increased in order to maintain services. It is impossible to predict overall effect on membership numbers, but it is expected that we may lose members that do not breed or show.

15. A member asked: What is the function/purpose of the newly formed Grievance Committee"?

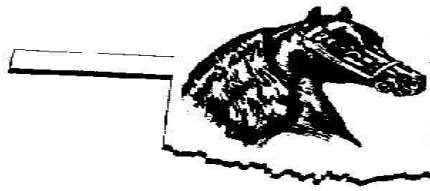
A. The purpose of the proposed Grievance committee is to serve as a vehicle to settle disputes with the Association (not civil disputes) to avoid legal recourse. With that said, anyone can take any issue into the legal system.

16. A member asked: "We know AMHA is paying for the associations legal costs; who is paying the bill for the plaintiffs"?

A. We suggest that members ask MS Hazelwood as it is not confirmed who is paying for this.

17. A member asked : "It seems that three of the involved parties, Joyce Quigley, Robert Painter and Marjorie Hazelwood all lost in their bids for re-election as AMHA Directors. Is this correct"?

A. It is a fact that all three were elected at one point in time and then subsequently lost in their attempt to be re-elected. The membership made their choices in fair elections. The membership needs to be aware that AMHA has spent \$190,000 in legal actions by these three.



# Sooner State Morgan Horse Association

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We are on the web at [www.soonermorgan.com](http://www.soonermorgan.com)

## 2011 Officers

President-Jeff Jackson  
Vice President- Taylor Wilmoth  
2nd Vice Pres- Tempi Rood  
Secretary- Kathy Kyler  
Treasurer- Darrell Reed  
Publications Secretary- Mary O  
Board of Directors-  
Helen Swope, Cathy Blackburn,  
Mark Ballinger, Kim Oplotnik,  
Christina Mitchell  
Youth Director- GertShuckhart



*Thanks to our Ad contributors this month! Don't forget to submit yours next month!*



Thank you to Tempi, Fenton and Shanti Rood for hosting the December meeting/ Christmas party at their home!



## Directions to Mark & Nicole Ballinger's



Address 501 Pleasant Dr Okc, OK 73170. From I-35 get off on the Indian Hills Rd exit and go west until you reach Western (60th for those in Norman) Go North on Western appx .6 miles (first turn coming from that direction) and turn right on Pleasant Drive continue on swerving road until you get to the end and you are there. (Directions provided by Mark Ballinger)

