

937 Middle Road
Woolwich, ME 04579
2 November 2011

Dear MeQHA Members and Friends,

Going into this year, Board members knew that 2011 would be a challenging time for the Maine Quarter Horse Association, and we were certainly correct! We began the year “in the hole”, and focused on efforts to improve our financial situation. Our 2011 show management team was a great success and extremely popular with exhibitors! The Pine Tree Classic entries were good. Members talked with exhibitors and trainers at the shows, looking for ways to improve the shows. A consistent theme was that there are not enough points or prize monies available at the Maine shows. Indeed, it was the lack of points and prize money that had exhibitors going to other shows over the Firecracker Circuit weekend, our entries were extremely low, and we lost money. In fact, we would not have been able to pay all of our show bills without our MeQHA Youth stepping up, and giving us a loan. It was a low moment!

Have the moments all been low? Definitely not! We have been blessed by having some extremely generous sponsors – their names are listed on our website. Please look at the list, and thank them – they help keep us going. Other positives include the classes that we were able to Jackpot, in addition to our Futurities, the Versatility Challenge, our participation in the MESS showdeo, the Trail Trial, the Trail Rides, the Open Show that we held over Labor Day weekend, and, above all, the unceasing efforts of Board members who pitched in and helped out, giving of their time, talent, and treasure.

As we look toward next year, we continue to be challenged by our economy, the costs associated with running shows, how to increase our membership and to diversify our activities so that we can grow and flourish. The Board has scheduled a Strategic Planning Meeting for later this month so that we can look at these challenges and identify strategies for success in a difficult environment.

We know that we do not have the financial resources to hold a banquet, but we are planning an Annual Meeting and Awards luncheon in December ... check the website for information about the date and time ... and please join us! In addition to voting in new Board Members, we propose an amendment to our By-Laws that will allow us to hold our Annual Meeting in either November, December, January or February.

In an effort to keep our members informed, I originally planned to include with this letter copies of the minutes of our most recent meeting, and a treasurer’s report ... then I realized how many pages that would require, and came to my senses. From now on, meeting minutes and the treasurer’s reports will be posted on the MeQHA website for your information. If you do not have web/internet access, and you are interested, please send me your name and address, and I will mail them to you.

As always, with challenges come opportunities for growth and change. Please join us and help us move forward.

Sincerely,

Lynne Wolfe
President, MeQHA