NAPHA Advisory Council Meeting
03/11/2026

The meeting was called to order by D. Joy Gould at 5:08pm PST

Present: Edie Gandy, Danell Adams, Heidi Opdyke, Penny Clayton, Kathleen Morrison, Lori Harrison, D. Joy Gould, Mike Powers, Joe Chandler, Bill Willis, Michele Wilson, Rebecca Dubois, Devon Harrison, and Jim LaRue

Absent: Mike Moszer, Leigh Anderson, Liz Potof, Horacio Santos, Devon Harrison, and Jim LaRue

Agenda Items: Results from Laureado, Amateur Performance, and National Show Points. Soliciting input for 2027 National Show Judges. Goals for the Advisory Council in 2026. 2026 Judges Clinic

Joy: First item or it doesn't matter what order they go in, but essentially, we are going to talk about the beginning process for soliciting input on judges for the national show for 2027. We need to start early enough so that the NAPHA board can select from our recommendations and secure a judge. The other item is the response to the questionnaire that went out. Are there any other agenda items?

Danell: I went to Texas for the judge's meeting and want to give a brief mention to that.

Edie: Also, the Goals for the AC this year. What we are doing is soliciting from the AC and then getting together with the committee chair and the NAPHA board because we are trying to formulate them into the same format into a strategic plan. This not only gives a big picture of what NAPHA wants to accomplish, but also what each committee wants to accomplish.

Heidi Opdyke: From the results of the survey, is the NAPHA board going to make any changes based on what the survey results are?

Edie: I will go over the decisions that the NAPHA board has made based on the survey results when we get to that topic.

Danell: When are the survey results going to be sent out to all the members?

Edie: Ideally, we want to send out the results along with the decisions that the NAPHA board has made.

Soliciting input for 2027 National Show Judges:

Joy: Let's start with the process by which we will solicit input from the members on selecting judges for the national show. Can we do something like Survey Monkey? Is that something that Becky Oley can do or if I must teach myself how to use Survey Monkey, I could do that.

Edie: It's not that hard to do and we typically do that after the national show. We typically survey not only the members who show but other members because some of the members don't show and it's good to get two different perspectives.

Joy: We talked about this last month, and we discussed starting this process early, as early as June, so that NAPHA had a good selection process. According to the bylaws, the AC is supposed to solicit that information from the members and submit those findings to NAPHA. At the board level, NAPHA makes the final decision.

Edie: If you want to go ahead and start the process, that's fine.

Danell: According to the bylaws, and I think that NAPHA has made a separate decision, but the bylaws also state that the AC is to help choose the location. It sounds like the NAPHA board has decided to stay central with the location and has already made the decision on the location for the 2027 national show. Is that correct?

Edie: Yes, that is correct and again, the AC makes recommendations and the NAPHA board makes the final decision.

Danell: Yes, but the AC wasn't given the opportunity to make any suggestions is the point.

Edie: NAPHA asked, in the last survey, for suggestions for a location for 2027 because the decision was already made for 2026.

Joy: I don't think we have to proceed in any way with recommendations for a location because it has already been decided, but certainly the AC can assist you with the whole process of selecting judges. So, can I work with Becky, and can we get this out in the next month or so?

Edie: Yes, work with Becky and the NAPHA board so that everybody is on the same page.

Penny: Weren't we going to wait for Peru to figure out where they wanted the A, B, C judges assigned before we sent out a judge request or survey? When are they going to do that?

Edie: There is a tremendous amount of divisiveness and distension over the judge's scenario. Lucho Dapelo gave us a report after he came back from Peru and people are being promoted that don't have the qualifications, according to him, or demoted when they do have the qualifications. For example, Lucho's brother, Marco, was just arbitrarily moved from an A list to a B list. So the discussion of the NAPHA board was that if they had been qualified and are qualified on the A or B list, we are going to consider them approved judges.

Joy: We can move forward by submitting the A and B list and leave it at that.

Edie: The A and B list is probably going to change because there are protests going on in the association in Peru. It has gotten very political and NAPHA decided to try and stay out of it. If a judge has been through the process and has been certified as a judge on either the A or B list, then those judges are going to be deemed qualified to judge.

Joe: Marco Dapelo said, when we were at the judge's meeting, that the A list are the only judges that Peru will allow to judge any national show, in any country.

Edie: That is the argument as to what Peru can tell us who we can and can't use.

Danell: If Peru tells them they can't do it, then the judge would have problems on their end. We are going to be forced to acknowledge that depending on what happens to them for disobeying that rule.

Edie: It's very contentious down in Peru right now and I don't know how it's going to be resolved.

Jim: Why don't we go ahead and make the choices and get that going. If there is something that comes up later, then it will be up to the NAPHA board to make the decision as to whether somebody that had been suggested would be qualified or not. Let's make the choices and if somebody has to be eliminated then that will have to happen.

Edie: If the judge chooses to opt out because they will be punished for judging one of our shows, then that's ok, but it's to the point that we can't be in limbo and depending on Peru to get it sorted out, when we need to go through some decisions.

Mike P.: A quick mention that you would want us to survey the members as the AC to make a recommendation, but you would also go back to the exhibitors. My position is that they are already members, so they should just be part of the survey that we do and so there should only be one survey because the exhibitors are already members. So, they should already have input.

Edie: We typically do a post-show survey that includes a bunch of things about the show, including the judge.

Mike P.: We are just talking about the judge selection recommendations.

Edie: The survey should ask whether they are exhibitors or not. We will be able to separate those exhibitors out. If the exhibitors who show, want one thing and the non-exhibitors all vote for something else, we have to take into consideration who is going to show. On the survey, we will ask if you have shown in the last three years.

Mike P.: I'm just saying that it's like we are doing two surveys. I believe you are going to put more weight on one survey, and I would say that it should be the culmination of everything, not just one group of people.

Joy: It sounds as though we have a process and Becky and I can get together and work out the details.

Danell: Is NAPHA staying with the policy that the person selected as the national judge cannot judge in any regional show or has that changed and is no longer a part of the process?

Edie: That has never been a rule. It has been a practice, but it's not a rule or a firm policy. NAPHA would prefer that they don't do that, but if a show absolutely feels like they have to have that judge, NAPHA is not going to say it is against the rules or policy. It is against the common practice.

Edie: I would like to preface the results of the surveys with the fact that no matter what the NAPHA board decides, there are going to be some happy people and some unhappy people. That's part of making those decisions.

The results of the Amateur Performance Division Survey: The NAPHA board has decided to eliminate Level 2 for this year, 2026, at the national show. There were two rules that had been submitted that NAPHA thinks could substitute for the levels. One being the proposal by Kim Montee-Cavataio for a pleasure division. The other being the one that Danell, Joy, and a few other people worked on for the non-pro division within the amateur division. The NAPHA board would like to flesh out these two proposals and get them into a format that they can be sent out for member input.

Devon: When you said that it's been decided that there won't be a Level 2, at the national show, does that mean there won't be a Level 1, and it will just be a straight amateur class?

Edie: The two proposed rules will be for the 2027 season. NAPHA has tasked the rules committee with fleshing those rules out, along with the people who authored the rules. They will be working with Kim on the proposal that she made because it needs some work and definitions. They will also be working with Danell, Joy, and the other people on that committee, for the non-pro proposal. We may decide, after we get the member input, to offer both of those proposals or maybe one or the other. That is something to still be decided.

Danell: I just want to give some credit. That non-pro division was an AC discussion and then we had a separate committee and that was me, D. Joy Gould, Devin Harrison, Jolene Bell, and Heidi Opdyke.

Joy: On the subject of the amateur division, I had a conversation that I wanted to share with everyone. I had a conversation with Bonnie Gallegos and Bonnie, and I are going to sit down and talk together because I think a group of us could work together and support each other to flesh these things out.

Edie: We need more communication like that and more working together. The different committees working together with the members that make up the proposals, so that we all end up on the same page. That's a challenge when we are as spread out all over the country as we are.

Rebecca: Has there been any discussion or thought to just tightening up the amateur division? Like not having carded judges riding and if you have won X number of Championships or especially Champion of Champions kind of thing so you are no longer an amateur? Has that discussion already been had or is that a non-starter?

Edie: There has not been a formal proposal for a rule change made for that.

Devon: What's going to happen because we are going to take away Level 1 and Level 2. All amateurs are going to be bunched back together. I have counted my placings and right now I have 19 champion of champions awards, which would have put me very close to Level 2. So, now that doesn't matter anymore and I have to just go back in with all the amateurs, both Level 1 and Level 2?

Danell: This is only for the national show.

Edie: Level 1 and Level 2 was an experiment to start with and there really wasn't clarity about it and it obviously caused a lot of problems. The simplest solution, right now, is to eliminate them and then try to come up with an additional class that would probably substitute for the Level 1 and Level 2 issue, still providing a place for riders, like Kim's proposed pleasure class, for example, since it is less challenging than the actual performance class would be. It will be clearer when we can get it all cleaned up and out to everybody

Heidi: At this point, I feel I do have to interject. I put in a formal complaint with three other individuals into the board 6 months ago, all about this issue. That has not, to my knowledge, been resolved. Yet here we are, openly trying to discuss it, just let us do away with those divisions Level 1 and Level 2 and sweep it under the carpet, pretend it never happened, and let's try and stick another class in.

Edie: Heidi, a letter was sent to you, indicating that the process for filing a formal protest, you needed to name names. You need to have specific witnesses. There needed to be a lot more information provided.

Heidi: We have named what happened and when it happened. This is a complaint about the NAPHA board and its ethics in inserting those rules at the national show. It was not clarified, you realized you had a problem after the initial show. You messed about with it for the whole year and then when the premium came out, we realized you were going with exactly the same as you had the year before and at that time, it was in hard date writing, and that was when the complaint was formalized. Then other people joined because it also influenced them at that show. This is not a complaint about the rule, and this is where everybody is missing it. It's a complaint about the ethics of how it was done. That is a complaint against the board. The board cannot make the decision about it. It has to go to a third party.

Kathleen: However, your complaint was deficient. The NAPHA board didn't have enough factual information.

Edie: Heidi, we need to take this offline, we could spend all night on this argument. The charge against the NAPHA board was a conflict of interest and self-serving behavior.

Heidi: And ethics.

Edie: The ethics were self-serving behavior, if I remember correctly. We can hack through this all night. The rules allowed what happened to happen. It was printed in the premium. You signed

an agreement to follow those rules. So, we can argue back and forth all you want to. We can take this to a third party, cause aggravation and angst and still that's going to come back to the fact that the rules were followed.

Heidi: I will predict before you announce it to everybody that this year, at the national show, two horses are going to go though the champion of champions to get a third leg of a Laureado. That is going to be allowed to happen, and it stinks for everybody involved. I'm not just talking for me, and I never was just talking for my own benefit. But the horses that are going into the open amateur division will get a chance to get a second Laureado. So, once again, NAPHA is allowing this to happen.

Edie: We are not going to resolve this issue on the call tonight.

Joy: I will just say that I would love for this issue to come to some kind of resolve, so that the people who are concerned, although they may not be happy, but this can come to a resolve and we can move forward.

The results for the Laureado Survey:

Danell: What is the decision that NAPHA made on the Laureado issue?

Edie: The decision was to leave the Laureado as it is.

Danell: Heidi, the Laureado rule is being left as it is because the results of the survey showed that 66.7 percent of the members supported leaving it as it is. So now, we can move on in our old-fashioned way. I think my suggestion to the NAPHA board is that they review the scenario for this year. Without going into detail, I think we need to use some caution, and I encourage that this whole issue that Heidi is talking about be put to bed as soon as possible.

Other Off Topic Discussions:

Edie: One of the reasons people get into our organization is to enjoy their horses and the toxicity and the negativity does nothing to help the breed. The marketing committee is trying to foster member engagement and retention and when we have this kind of negativity that NAPHA has been plagued with off and on for years, it really drives people and volunteers away.

Working for this organization is not a very appreciated job sometimes. We have lost good volunteers because of contentious decisions and divisiveness. One group is happy and the other is not, so we need to all pull together because the breed is going to be challenged, as it is because fuel prices are going up and we are having fewer shows.

If we don't pull together and reach a point where we can work together to try and move things forward and we stay mired in conflicts and disagreements and every time a decision is made that somebody doesn't like, rather than accepting NAPHA's decision and moving on and saying, okay, I will try again next time, it evolves into little snarky comments and back channel conversations that don't do anybody any good and definitely doesn't do the breed any good.

I'm making a plea to try and pull together to try to come together and resolve things. It is healthy to disagree without being disagreeable and be professional about it and try to resolve it in a way that everybody walks away and agrees that we are going to try to look out for what is best for the breed.

Devon: What I like about this group is that this is a platform where we can all express our true feelings even though it may not be the majority feeling, it's still an open space to be able to speak freely.

Edie: Disagreement is a healthy thing, and studies show that teams that have constructive disagreements are actually more creative and do better work than people that bury the conflict or go through the back channels and never confront the issue. I think disagreement is a healthy thing, if we can do it in a way that is constructive, rather than destructive.

Rebecca: I am not sure who make the comment, but they said if we can disagree without being disagreeable, I think that was the most brilliant thing I have heard because I know, as a regular volunteer instead of a show person, I was basically given the forewarning of don't volunteer too much or you will burn yourself out and you will walk away and we don't want you to walk away. So having that ability to disagree, to have creativity and be functional, without becoming disagreeable, I think is extremely vital.

Jim: I think there is a sincere attempt being made, but something that showed up tonight is inclusiveness. Everyone must be included in some of these ventures and at least know that they are going on instead of, oh they did that, or I thought I was supposed to be a part of some of this, and I should have known what was going on. I think we must make a big effort to try and do a lot more inclusiveness with everybody. My other comment is about Level 1 and Level 2. I kind of get the impression that Level 1 and Level 2 are not necessarily being removed, it is more like they are being replaced with another class definition. Is that correct?

Edie: No, the other classes are just proposals right now. Right now, there is just one combined class. There are no longer Level 1 and Level 2 divisions. Level 2 was getting almost no entries; it was costing the clubs money.

Jim: I understand that, but eventually, you are looking at still possibly having another division. The two classes that existed will no longer exist. Maybe there is going to be another class that will accommodate some of the people that just don't fit in one that's going to exist now, is that correct?

Edie: Yes, for example, the pleasure class would be for less advanced riders.

Devon: The pleasure class would be where the novice riders would go? If not, where would the novice riders go? When they are no longer a novice, then they would go into the pleasure category or do they go straight into the amateur division with everyone else?

Edie: That is the kind of stuff that still needs to be sorted out. That is why it has been sent back to the rules committee to get with the authors and to try to figure out how to define all of that.

Danell: I think the pleasure division was either open or amateur.

Edie: That is another question. Right now, it is proposed that it was an open class.

Devon: Speaking with Kim, I think the pleasure class can be something that would be really exciting and fun, but again we need to establish whether it's open because now amateurs are going to be in an open class with trainers and judges, and here we are again with no separation of divisions.

Danell: Let them work through this. I think that's what Edie is trying to say is that they haven't flushed this all out. So I think your point is good and that's why this whole thing go started between Level 1 and Level 2 and non-pro is trying to keep that deviation, but I think this is a good opportunity to flush out a couple of good ideas and see where we can place them so that it affects the greater good.

One thing that I would like to add is I would like to acknowledge Jim's point about inclusion, and I would like to see good communication. I think the survey was very viable, not only because of what it surveyed, but because people felt that they were being included. The Laureado was just one example that took us 14 months from the time we first started debating this and we went through all the complaints and the stuff that happened, it just took a little too long.

I would encourage getting the survey out to all our members. It finished on the 31st of January, and I sent my people the results, but I think we could do a little better about being more expeditious. This is an example of one that probably should have been sent out to the members within a couple of weeks. I think that this is part of the frustration, we need to just getting the information out faster.

Mike P.: I want to clear up a little confusion. For the 2026 national show, the Level 1 and Level 2, amateur division will be eliminated. It will be an amateur division only. Then the Laureado rule will remain as it stands right now. We will just have an open amateur division.

Edie: We are going back to the way things were.

Danell: I think Heidi's question had to do with 2026 and whether those horses that achieved those first and/or second leg of the Laureado are being allowed to finish it this year in just the straight amateur division, so they can go back in?

Edie: Yes. They followed the rules, as they were at the time. They followed the guidelines that were printed in the program. So, it would be hard to exclude them. I think you will get protests either way you go on that one, it's a no-win situation.

Danell: What it did, we had this come up at SoCal this year and we are going to do the same thing at Gold Rush, and I have talked to Joe about it, but what it did as a result of this Laureado

issue, I felt that it was actually an abuse of the premium to turn a rule on it's head. Unfortunately, what it did is you got some people thinking, well, at our regional shows, we can do anything we want. I defined that and said no, we still have to comply with the NAPHA rules. The NAPHA steward signs them, the judges sign them and you have to go with the rules.

I think that the only confusion was with Level 1 and Level 2. Those are an option; those were never a rule. You can do those levels or not do them, that is up to the club, but I don't want to see a precedent set where people feel, well, if we put it in the premium, then it's okay to do that. The premium still has to follow the NAPHA rules. I don't think the premium should be allowed to counter the rules.

There is an exception when you fill in your show application you write in if you are asking for an exception and then that's approved by NAPHA. Then that's in the premium.

Edie: Those exceptions are going to be approved by the NAPHA board. Historically, they have been approved by Becky. Going forward, the exceptions are going to come before the NAPHA board for approval.

Danell: I just don't agree with using the premium as an excuse to override a rule. I think that there are some expectations, like Kim's pleasure class proposal has no retrancas. That is part of that division. I think we just have to be careful in clarifying, so that we don't have a lot of arbitrary rule changes. Just because we can put it in the premium and therefore it stands, it is a bad message.

National Show Points Survey Results:

Edie: The NAPHA board has decided to continue with the quad points for the national show. Recognizing that this is going to make some people happy and others unhappy. Most of the major breeds always have their national show to have a higher point multiplier than other shows. That is the reason the NAPHA board has made this decision.

Other Items from the NAPHA Board Meeting:

Edie: NAPHA is considering having some more virtual events or a virtual event. In the past, it has proved to be a pretty good way to get some people that don't typically travel to shows involved. It also tends to make a little bit of money for the organization. Also, if we do a trail class, we are thinking about including part-bloods, since the only thing we are offering them right now is the JOR (Joy of Riding) program. We are starting to get more and more interest in mules and things like that. I just wanted to put that out there and see how everybody feels about having some virtual events and whether those would be supported or not.

Everyone: Good Idea.

Edie: This way, we could also include some classes for young horses. Right now, people don't really know what to do with the young horses. It's hard to sell a young horse because the breeder feels that they have to just throw it out in the pasture until it's three years old. No, there are a lot

of things you can do, in-hand. There are a lot of breeds that do some in-hand classes for the younger horses. Virtually, you wouldn't have to haul a youngster to a show, yet you can still have some things you are doing with that horse and working with the horse. We are also looking at that in terms of one of the virtual events. We are looking at trail classes, youngsters, and things like that, but if anybody has any suggestions, we would love to hear what you think would be a good event. What you think people would promote. Trail class would need to be something people could set up in their backyard. Give it some thought and we would love to get some suggestions on that.

Danell: NAPHA did a virtual show in 2020 and it brought in about $12,000 and the good news was that we had people who are not exhibitors that participated because there were no tack restrictions and they were able to put obstacles in their backyard. Another thing, when dealing with the younger horses, will they be for sale? So, if a breeder has a 1- to 3-year-old horse and they are not going to keep it, they could use that as a sales pitch for that horse.

Edie: That is a good idea. You could put a little for sale sign on the horse. That could be done for any horse. You could have a little banner that you ran across the bottom saying the horse was for sale and contact this person with their number.

One of the challenges is there are not enough horses out there for people to buy. NAPHA is looking at rolling out marketing and marketing is driving people to want horses. Right now, a trail quality gelding is almost impossible to find.

Devon: I have seen an influx of requests coming into my emails looking for horses, but trail horses in particular. Maybe, go back to the days when the clubs did a trail ride once a year with the club's members. Maybe NAPHA does something like that and that's when we can bring in outside people and they can see the benefits of becoming a member. I am talking to people that have money that are looking to buy horses. We can grow this breed if we concentrate more on the trail aspect and less about show, show, show.

Edie: Absolutely, because there are more trail riders than there are show people and there is a much bigger market for trail horses.

Rebecca: Our club does two organized trail rides a year and we have people asking us about our horses every single trail ride. We have people asking if they can join or do things with us. We try to be super inclusive. We tell people to come over; we are having a bonfire and come hang out. We talk about the horses, and I think that this is a huge, missed opportunity if clubs don't do that.

Edie: Nancy Cox is going to help NAPHA with the recognition of the JOR (Joy of Riding) top awards at nationals. NAPHA hasn't typically done that in the past. NAPHA has added that to the national show program. The top JOR person in each region will receive their picture in the program and an award at the national show. This would encourage them to come to the show and to remind people about the program and the fact that we are gearing it back up again.

Joy: Back to the virtual event, is there a time frame for this because this is something that the AC could spend some time on in our next meeting.

Edie: There isn't a time frame, but we would like to flesh it out first. The sooner we could do it, the better. We definitely want to do it before winter and engage people in something that's more fun and less competitive in a lot of ways rather than dragging your horse to a show. I know the northern states would appreciate having it before winter.

Jim: There was a subject talked about tonight, and I know it's not an agenda item, but a major problem is we are not having many babies born into the breed. I'd be open to ideas, but let's throw some type of incentive to get people to start breeding again. Maybe something like picking up the registration costs on new babies. Automatically add the babies to the sales page on the website. We have to do something to get horses out there, otherwise we are just wasting our time. We have got to find these people that are breeding or would be willing to breed that aren't involved in this group. Just this one, small group and how we are breeding isn't going to accomplish putting out the number of horses that we need.

Edie: Think about all the big breeders that we have lost over the last 5 – 10 years and the rest of the big breeders are producing very few foals.

Devon: The Diamond H ranch, along with Donnie and Pam and Rancho Santos, to name a few, are all producing some amazing foals. There are breeders out there, but we must support our breeders.

Jim: We keep talking about these big breeders, they aren't contributing enough, we have to get these other people involved. When are we going to start understanding that we have to get out of the bubble and get other people involved. There are other people out there that we have got to figure out some way to bring them in so that they will contribute horses as well.

Edie: All breed shows are another good thing. The other breeds see our horses, and they realize that the Peruvian is smoother than their horses and these are horse people already. Doing all breed trail rides and all those events where people can actually see and compare horses is a good thing.

Devon: Who has the contact info to Taylor Sheridan? If we could get a spot on that show, highlighting our horses, it would be over! We are in Texas and we see these cowboys who can't walk. They are in their 60's, all hunched over, they need a Peruvian to be able to keep riding long-term like they want to. Having some star power never hurts.

Joy: You have tapped into something that's really important and it has to do with visibility. We have no visibility. The problem is that the NAPHA board doesn't want to spend $1,000 per month to get visibility.

Edie: We have another proposal that NAPHA is looking at. The membership and marketing committees are having a joint meeting in two weeks. I will have something to announce to you at the next AC meeting.

Joy: I hope we are going with someone who actually has real life experience doing this type of marketing.

Devon: I feel like NAPHA has a very narrow focus and I think we need to look beyond that. There are a lot of different things that we can do that don't cost a fortune. I think we should also start looking for donors. People who are willing to invest in this breed.

Edie: The NAPHA board has voted to put one-page ads in everybody's show programs for all the clubs. We will be getting those ads to you. NAPHA is trying to support the clubs and also trying to advertise the benefits of belonging to NAPHA.

Be on the outlook for scams. Now that our membership list is on the website, our members are getting things reporting to be from the treasurer or from the president, saying I'm in a bind, I'm out of town, could you please give your credit card number to pay for this item for the association and you will be reimbursed. These are all types of scams. Please know that if you ever get a request from anyone on the NAPHA board, please call that person. We are NEVER going to ask you to use your credit card to pay for anything! We are getting inundated with these scams.

2026 Judge's Clinic:

Danell: About two weeks ago, about 17 of the U.S. judges met at Rancho Santos, hosted by Horacio and Mary Kay Santos. We had a very positive and productive two days. We studied the horses, both live and on video, and had some good discussions about that. For our exhibitors we had good discussions about being better judges to establish consistent expectations in the arena and to establish better clarity because we all know the complaints about the differences. Obviously, every judge is different from an objective standpoint, but we had a really good discussion about it.

So, we came up with a lot of, not necessarily rules, maybe a couple to be changed, but mostly add-ons. One of the things that we all liked was the call of class that Canada uses. Very consistent, good for our announcers. But now, it has to be put all together. It was a really good meeting. We have had conference calls in the past, but meeting in person was very, very good.

Mary Kay was a wonderful hostess and Horacio set up a beautiful video set that we were able to study some horses that were out of Peru.

We talked about doing this type of meeting annually or every couple 2 or 3 years. If it can continue to grow, then that's a good opportunity for exhibitors to have an outlet to ask questions or if they have complaints.

Scholarship Update:

Mike: I got everything updated and everything was forwarded to Becky. She got back to me late last week and said that everything had been forwarded to Kyle to be put on the website. The program is up and running.

Edie: There is a new board liaison with your committee which will be Mitch. He will be getting in touch with you, and he is enthusiastic about getting that up.

Mike: All the forms are there and they are available. If in any of your clubs where you have high school-aged kids, there's an opportunity for them to apply for a $1,000 scholarship from NAPHA.

This was all approved by NAPHA before I left the board, it got delayed, but we have made it retroactive for last year and this year, so any kids that graduated last year can apply and be considered for last year's scholarship. Seniors, this year, can apply.

Devon: This is not age related, correct? If they are 18 and they have already graduated, they can still qualify?

Mike: They can apply. The NAPHA board hasn't said that we can award more than one scholarship per year. So, right now, it is one scholarship per year. We are making it retroactive for last year, but they have to build a resume, it is all in the form. Hopefully, they get the form up on the website. I have asked for a blast email to all members who are eligible and to all members announcing the scholarship. I have asked for it to be put in the newsletter and also for it to be posted on the website as an announcement, as well. This way, we will cover all members. I'm letting you know that I've submitted all the forms, and essentially the program could be up and running and we can be awarding two scholarships by the cutoff date of July 31st. The kid has to be a member of NAPHA since this is a NAPHA scholarship.

I am looking for volunteers to help on the scholarship committee. The proviso on that is if anybody is interested, so there are no conflict-of-interest issues, if you have a kid that's applying for a scholarship, then you can't be on the committee.

Goals for the Advisory Council in 2026:

Joy: We had some goals that we talked about last month, and I could put that together, but how fast do you want goals from us?

Edie: Probably by the next AC meeting.

Joy: I will do some communication with everyone on our committee, and I think we could do some things back and forth through emails and then we will submit our goals.

Edie: On the next AC meeting, can we set aside some time to talk about the virtual events?

Joy: Yes, that's what we are going to talk about because this is exciting. There was a lot of enthusiasm when it came up last month and I heard it again tonight. So, it will be the priority for next month's discussion.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8th at 5 pm PST.