



AHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - APRIL 8-9, 2011

In attendance - Marlene Kriegbaum Region 16 Vice Director. Walter was unable to attend the April BOD meeting, so I represented Region 16 in his place. Here is a brief outline of what took place over the 2 days.

First I am very pleased to announce the BOD unanimously passed AHA's supports the Inherent Risk Law. Currently Nevada, Texas, Maryland, Alaska and New York do not have this law on the books. AHA will draft a letter and sent a copy to all Regional Directors for distribution to the proper authorities. □ When I got home, I immediately sent a copy of the entire motion to Hans Mobius who is the person working with the Farm Bureau to get this law passed in NY as well as helping other states. He in turn called me expressing his delight saying this will have a tremendous impact. He said currently Maryland and Nevada have such a bill on the floor, but has not heard if they have passed.

At our Regional meeting the question was brought up about Discovery Farms so I inquired on how it all works. Basically it is entirely automated and web based. No one is rejected, and it is open to anyone who wants to promote the Arabian horse. The farm does not need to provide lessons or training, they just need to be knowledgeable and be an ambassador of the Arabian Horse to people who are seeing an Arabian for the first time. However, if there are enough complaints and/or negative feedback about a Discovery Farm, AHA can pull the farm from the program and has done so in the past.

The new HR system (Horse Registry computer system) should be up and working by now. There were still some "tags" that need to be improved upon. The AHA's IT staff and the IT task force felt the HR system could go live before these tags were completed. Most tags are very minor and some just streamlining the program. The Directors got a live preview of the new system and how it works. It will be a giant leap forward in technology.

Much discussion took place regarding Canadian Nationals. The management of the facility at Regina made it very clear that it is no longer available for any equine events. The BOD approved holding the 2011 Canadian Nationals at the Keystone Centre in Brandon, Manitoba. This center is about 2 hours from Minot, ND. The contract will be for 1 yr with a 2 year right of renewal. The facility was built with horse shows in mind and is managed by horse show people so there is a great understanding of what is needed to run a great horse show. As many of you are aware of the problem with the footing at Regina last year. It was not stored inside and consequently was wet and not usable for many days. In contrast, Keystone stores all footing indoors. It was reported hotel rooms were already booking up. If anyone would like to check out the facility here is the web site. www.keystonecentre.com/

AHA's BOD spent a great deal of time discussing money matters. AHA cash flow will tight the next few months until income from the National Shows starts flowing in – usually July. This is not unusual and is a situation AHA has encountered the past 2-3 years. It was also noted that in the next few years AHA financial situation overall will not look very good, but this will be due to the depreciation of the HR system which at this point is not being depreciated and can not be until it goes live, It was reported that just over 50% of the AHA membership subscribe to the "Modern Arabian Horse" magazine.

All the judges for the 2012 National Shows have been hired as of the end of March. □•

A Tier B, Breeding/In-Hand Committee, was approved by the BOD and will be included in the 2011 AHA Convention. □

A motion for a Tier B committee for "Pleasure Classes" was defeated. Several Directors noted that most of the current committees are from disciplines AHA from the "open" world like working western with cutting reining, working cow as well as dressage/SH, H/J, etc., that we are trying to mirror as much as possible, not well

established USEF Arabian disciplines. It the generally feeling the USEF rules committee would encompass these pleasure disciplines.

This year at Youth Nationals, sport horse under saddle classes have been added and there will be new events include a cutting clinic, reined cow classes.

Ford Arena will become the "main" arena for the show at USN. All the performance classes, with the exception of working western, will be held in this ring and will be "dressed up" to give the feel of being at a national event. Working Western will again be in the Mustang Ring and most of the halter will be in the Pavilion.

A motion was presented and defeated regarding changing AHA's position on the reestablishment of equine slaughter facilities in the United States. AHA's position on this matter remains the same, which is "pro choice", giving the horse owner the option.

President Walters has challenged the BOD to develop a 3 year Strategic Plan for AHA that can be accomplished and implemented. Dale Harvill, AHA's Vice-President addressed this subject. He noted that to develop a successful plan, LOTS of input is needed from all levels, club officers, members, exhibitors, anyone with a vested interest in the Arabian horse. A plan is to be brought before the BOD in Aug 2011 to be discussed, developed and approved. A questionnaire was developed and available to anyone wishing to voice their concerns and ideas. Please take the time to fill one out and provide your response to email addresses on the form.□

It was brought to the attention of the BOD that USEF is beginning to come down hard on the use of protective helmets. USEF indicated that in the next couple of years, protective headgear requirements may very well be expanded to include other disciplines. The insurance companies are driving this concept. Shows who have dressage classes at their shows need to check the rules closely regarding designated warm-up areas for the dressage riders and protective headgear requirements. At this point it is understood that if there is no designated dressage warm up area and dressage riders are riding in a common area with other exhibitors, everyone riding will be required to wear protective headgear.

Last but not least, the Regional Boundaries issue. The Regional Boundaries committee asked all the Directors to express what their Region thought of realignment. Some were very much against it, some neutral and others for it. Many had the same concerns as the Region 16 delegates expressed – identity & pride, cost, legal issues etc. It was also noted that the BOD has the authority to change the boundaries, but only the delegates at the convention can change the number of Regions. It was suggested that if Regions thought it would be of benefit to them, to work out a plan to bring to the BOD or Convention. It was also the suggestion of the committee to put in a resolution to resend the one that mandates this study every 5 years and to have it be an ongoing study.

Here is the general vote of the Directors and Directors at large from PAT.

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| Region 1 | No |
| Region 2 | Director yes, the Director feels it would be of benefit to AHA as a whole, delegates no |
| Region 3 | Neutral |
| Region 4 | Yes |
| Region 5 | No |
| Region 6 | The Director understands and in favor, but a resounding no from the delegates |
| Region 7 | Absent |
| Region 8 | Yes – Gave an example of why this is needed - currently Region 8 includes the state of Nebraska, which has only 1 club with in its boundaries. Due to the geographic location of the club, it requested and was granted permission to be a Region 6 club leaving Region 8 with no representation from Nebraska. |
| Region 9 | Neutral - delegates were about 50/50 |
| Region 10 | Yes |
| Region 11 | Yes and no – A unanimous no if there would not be a reduction in the Delegates at large as well. |
| Region 12 | Generally not in favor. Would put many of their successful programs at risk, felt if there was a downsizing it should be across the board. Suggested it could have a negative impact and escalate the decline of shows and showing especially on the east coast where people support 3 or more Regional shows – with less Regions & Regional shows, there would be less of a reason to attend local shows – the impact might effect more than just AHA. |
| Region 13 | Neutral - expressed if, were it to happen, AHA should come up with some "How To" guidelines for the Regions. |
| Region 14 | Totally against |
| Region 15 | Against. Expressed the east coast "plays well" together and cooperates with each other. |
| Region 16 | Against – I (as well as many of the Directors voting No) indicated Region 16 might agree if it was left to the individual Regions that could benefit.) |
| Region 17 & 18 | Both are neutral and not effected one way or the other. |

Directors at Large

General consensus, yes, feeling it would be a good business practice and for the betterment of AHA as a whole

Marlene