

AHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH, 2017

- AHA is financially the strongest it has ever been thanks to initiatives began by Lance Walters. Told AHA is was operating like a club and needed to operate as a business. Went from \$2M deficit in early 2000 to positive \$200K currently. All building improvements at AHA were paid and nothing is owed on them. Took several years and some very hard work by Lance, Cynthia Richardson, Glenn Petty, Brad Short and now Nancy Harvey. Averaging \$300K per year in improvement.
- There is an increase of over 200 new breeding registrations over last year.
- 38 Arabian shows will offer Western Dressage this year and it will be a recognized class at Sport Horse Nationals. USEF reported that the Arabians are the 2nd largest breed involved in Western Dressage.
- All of the AHA National Championship shows were collectively \$118K better than budgeted.
- All breeds are experiencing declining memberships across the board and fewer breed registrations. Other breeds are going from minus 22% to plus 3%. Arabian memberships were down 4% in 2016; purebred registrations were down 6%; Half Arabians were up 7% and Sweepstakes nominations were up 2% with breeding entries.
- In April, 2018 AHA will raise membership fees from \$40 to \$50 for one year membership; 3 year membership will be \$135. The 11-90 educational fees will increase by \$5. Halter and performance futurity processing fees will go up \$10.
- Critical that everyone's email address is correct at AHA because with the new Multiview financial software they are using, the email address is used to issue financial statements.
- Regional entries were down in horses but they were in more classes. Seeing an increase in specialized shows; i.e. Sport Horse; Working Western, etc.
- Ranch Riding is a new working Western class that is seeing huge numbers of entries. Horses do not go in a frame of a Western Pleasure horse. More relaxed and great way to get young horses in the ring. Class is being added to Canadian and US Nationals.
- AHA will have a booth at both the Ohio and Mass. Equine Affaire Exhibitions.
- Convention will be in Denver for 2017 and in Tulsa for 2018 and 2019.
- The Sweepstakes Commission wants to make sure that all the Regional shows are awarding Sweepstakes ribbons in the appropriate classes. Some Regionals have not been doing this. Should also make sure to announce the breeders name during the pinning of the class.
- Halter trainers are requesting that the halter scoring go back to a comparative base as opposed to the score card. In 2017 the National halter classes will be a MOS scoring

system and will have a 3 judge system as well as a penalty judge. The penalty judge will monitor the horses and exhibitors to make sure they are not shanking or intimidating the horses. Can be issued a warning or can be excused from the class.

- The Purebred Arabian Trust has numerous duplicates of books, art, sculptures, etc. that they are willing to donate to clubs. These artifacts were given to them for the museum and they can't possibly use everything. They're being stored in a warehouse in KY. Need to contact them to find out what is available. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I'll give you Howard Pike's contact information.
- Arabian members are the highest number of breed exhibitors in USEF.
- The Marketing Development Committee is promoting the Arabian horse through its Arabian Horses for Humanity. Contact Mary Trowbridge for more information.
- Regional Caucus meetings were very valuable. All regions rely on their Regional shows to fund the activities in the Region. Compared expenses, etc. throughout the regions to see what others are doing.
- Region 17 issues a regional directory and made \$4000 profit on it.
- Getting volunteers to help with the show is getting more difficult. Some regions are resorting to recruiting non horse people to help.