

Minutes from Region 14 Meeting
August 11, 2013 @ 1:00 PM
Hyatt Regency
Lexington, KY

Director Frank Gaddie called the meeting to order, with First Vice Director Duane Esser, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Jean Hedger in attendance. Eleven clubs were represented: BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHA, KAHABA, KARABS, NWOAHA, OHAHA, OVAHA, OAATS and SAHIBA. Frank also had everyone introduce themselves.

Minutes: Tony Conner moved and Jeff Caldwell seconded a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve them as submitted. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jean Hedger reported that club dues have been paid for 352 members; however she is still getting checks so that number will go up. She has paid a \$300 sponsorship to Canadian Nationals and has also paid for the 2014 Equine Affaire booth. There is no Midwest Trail ride this year so there will be no expenses or income from that event. At this time we have a current positive net balance of \$220.70. We have not received any money yet from the regional show so she did cash in a CD to make monies available for upcoming expenses. Cindy Clinton moved and Tony Conner seconded a motion to approve the report. It passed unanimously.

Budget Committee: For 2014, the committee consists of Duane as chair, Jean, Jeff, Dave Daugherty, Joe Hull and Bill Pennington. This year, they will meet at the convention and then their report will be presented at our January meeting.

Director's Report: Frank reported that at the AHA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting last week, the annual financial report was presented but the directors have been asked to keep the details confidential at this time. However, the association is in good shape financially, including the Sweepstakes program. They have lost some staff who have moved on to better jobs. Cynthia Richardson, AHA president, attended the Egyptian Event this year and she commented on how well run the event was done. John Morici agreed and was impressed that Cynthia was present. Cindy noted that she received a lot of questions as to why there is such a difference in prices for the Egyptian Event vs. our regional show. This was an "event" and not a regular horse show, which is why they charge higher fees.

On June 16th, eleven (11) Arabian horses ran at Churchill Downs. Kathryn Smoke, director of the Arabian Jockey Club, is hoping that this will become an annual event, with more money added to the purses. Also, they are still trying to set-up an Arabian Triple Crown to coincide with the thoroughbred version. New York seems to be the hold-up. A shah has agreed to pay out \$1 million to an Arabian Triple Crown winner.

Youth Nationals had an excellent show and was up by 100 horses. They have a new coordinator, Susan Laessig, who did a good job since she was moved into this position at the last minute due to the resignation of Jessica Hernandez.

Preliminary numbers indicate that the Canadian Nationals will be up by about 76 horses. Dave has left for that show so was not able to attend this meeting.

Bill reported that as of Friday, Sport Horse Nationals had 494 horses entered and they have budgeted for at least 500 so that show will make budget and may go over.

It is too early to know where we stand as to entries for U.S. Nationals.

Frank advised that, beginning in 2014, they will hold only three (3) BOD meetings vs. the previous four (4) meetings per year. This will help save the regions with directors traveling fewer times to Denver. Tentatively it would be March, August and then November, the day before convention.

The AHA office building is in need of some major work, amounting to at least \$250,000 to \$500,000 for new roofing, HVAC and other updates. Bill commented that this facility is three (3) stories and that the staff only uses two (2), which means the third floor could be leased. However, it has been anticipated that in about three (3) years, all horse organizations are expecting to have budget issues due to the downturn in the economy and the increasing costs of holding shows.

As to the report on the Strategic Plan that AHA has been working on, it will be unveiled at convention. Frank commented that one of the main points of the plan involves the staff being cross-trained to afford more versatility and improve customer service at AHA.

They are still working on updating the AHA website.

Convention Update: Frank reported that he is looking at having the tours available on Tuesday as well as Wednesday so that the BOD can take the tour, which should include Three Chimneys, Woodford Reserve Distillery and maybe the Grossmans, an Arabian farm. He would like to get local volunteers for the buses since they can answer questions about the area. Frank noted that these will be put on the AHA website so that folks can reserve the Wednesday tour along with their packet, luncheon and dinner reservations. The Tuesday tour will be reserved for the directors.

There was a discussion about bringing back the Welcome Party for Wednesday evening. AHA had quit having them due to lack of sponsorships. Cindy noted that we have \$7500 set aside for this convention and that the regional show did well this year. This could be held after the Plenary session, maybe 7 – 10 P.M. We could have a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres with coffee and tea and maybe some music. Debbie Glasener moved and Jeff seconded a motion to host the Welcome Party, keeping it at a max budget of \$7500. This passed unanimously. Donna Kitchel will chair this event, with Carl Malicote as local contact. *NOTE: Cindy proposed at the end of the meeting that we use some of the profit from this year's regional show and promote the party be as being sponsored by the Silverama / Region 14 Championship show.*

Frank continued to review what else is being planned for Friday evening. We will be touring the Al-Marah Arabian Gallery at the Kentucky Horse Park with a wine and bourbon tasting. Then there will be a buffet dinner. At this time, there was some discussion as to who is responsible for the event at the Gallery. It had been previously reported that Martha Murdock was hosting that reception, yet there seems to have been no contact with Frank or with AHA. Concerns were raised as to this lack of communication with Frank. He did state that there was a site visit with Kate Cooper in May but nothing was mentioned then. Frank needs to contact Martha directly as soon as possible.

Vendors need to contact AHA and can sign-up on the website for their booth space - a 10 x 10 foot area is \$300. Duane will contact Freemans. Cindy was contacted by Janda and Bee Garlands.

Volunteers are needed to stuff the delegate bags on Tuesday and Wednesday and the items for the bags need to get to Frank by Sunday, November 17th. Door prizes are needed as well welcome gifts for the directors.

The Saturday night President's Banquet will have quiet entertainment and music. Frank's goal is to have all signed contracts to AHA by the end of August.

By-Laws Committee: Dave (chair), Duane, Joe and Jackie Robinson will be submitting the updates to our by-laws at our caucus meeting at convention and then we will vote on these at the January meeting.

Regional Show Update: Cindy reported that we had a wonderful show and thanked everyone. We were short two (2) volunteers this year since long-time barn managers Larry and Shirley Izor were unable to attend. That meant that more questions were fielded by the show office. We were up horses this year and everything went well, including the combining of the Pre-show and Youth show into one ring, due to the severe weather that was in the area that day. We had to use the Kentucky Horse Park caterer this year for the Bistro but we saved money – thanks to Donna K.

New Business: Summer Frost reported that Lorie Henderson presented five (5) costume horses to 30,000 kids at this year's Breyerfest, held in July at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Jan Decker and Cathy Gage have requested our approval to again hold the Region 13 Championships at Springfield, OH again in 2014. Bill moved and Debbie G seconded a motion to approve the show. This passed unanimously.

Web Site: Debbie S reported that working on this website upgrade has been logistically challenging with Jeremy's move to Texas. We are going to launch the new site this month, hopefully within the week. We will have the ability to have stallion listings and once the by-laws are updated, they can also be put on the site. She is awaiting the instructions on making changes to the site as needed.

Regional Awards Banquet: Debbie G reported and Jean prepared the financial report on this banquet. It was a success again this year and we had a net income of \$2,331.52. We were able to give Ellie Troutman \$1,000 (\$500 from the Banquet and \$500 from the budget) towards her horse rescue efforts. Right now, our date for 2014 is March 15th but it was requested that Frank check on the date of his BOD meeting. If it is the same day, we need to look at another date (maybe March 22nd) so that the regional director can be present at this event.

USEF Report: Shirley Nowak is still limited as to how much she can travel due to continuing problems with back pain, so Cindy reported on changes that are coming up concerning new drug rules and reporting horse collapses at shows. Also USEF is doing some major restructuring like many other organizations.

Convention Update Cont'd: Carl asked for further information concerning the Friday night dinner – where is it being held? Frank noted that Spindle Top is expensive and Kate has talked with the Kentucky Horse Park caterers. Carl was wondering if they had checked with The Castle which is on Versailles Rd. Also someone mentioned that Alltech has a brewery/restaurant in downtown Lexington.

Calendar: Kathy Whitmore reported that all the monthly ads have been sold but she has one business card ad left. Also, all those with ads need to send in their payment as soon as possible.

Old Business: LaDon Donohoe asked about AHA booth at the upcoming FFA Convention. This is being held in Louisville, KY October 30th through November 2nd and we have put up \$1000 for a scholarship. We will need volunteers for that event.

Tony moved and Kathy seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Our next meeting will be our convention caucus in here at the Hyatt, November 21st.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary