

Minutes from Region 14 Caucus Meeting
November 19, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Downtown
Tulsa, OK

Director Duane Esser called the meeting to order with First Vice Director Jeff Caldwell, Second Vice Director Debbie Glasener, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Jean Hedger in attendance. We had 12 delegates and 3 alternates present – representing 8 of 12 regional clubs: Buckeye Arabian and Half Arabian Alliance (BAHAA), Daniel Boone Distance Riders (DBDR), Kentucky Arabian and Half Arabian Breeders Alliance (KAHABA), Kentucky Arabian Riders And Breeders Society (KARABS), Northeastern Ohio Arabian Horse Association (NEOAHA), Ohio Half Arabian Horse Association (OHAHA), Ohio Arabian and All-Breed Trail Society (OAATS), and Society for Arabian Horses In the Bluegrass Area (SAHIBA). Those clubs not represented at convention were: Ablackhorse Arabian Horse Association (ABHAHA), Bluegrass Arabian Horse Association (BAHA), Kentucky Arabian Horse Association (KAHA), and Ohio Valley Arabian Horse Association (OVAHA).

We were asked to approve two (2) shows as concurrent qualifiers for Region 14. First, Molly McGraw is asking for approval of a show to be held at the end of March in Alabama. She reported that they want to expand their show (which has been struggling) and they propose holding a four (4) day show: two days for Region 9 and 12 and two days for Region 14 and 15. The second show asking for approval is a one day concurrent show held in January in Miami, Florida (Sunshine State Arabian). There was considerable discussion, noting that both will help the Region 14 show attendance. These are well outside of our draw for local exhibitors and are not during any Region 14 shows. There was some question if the Miami show will hurt any smaller shows in that region but this is a long established show and Duane noted that he had spoken with Region 12 director, Lisa Blackstone. Dave Daugherty moved and Michele Reser seconded a motion to approve the Florida show. This passed. Pepper Proffitt moved and Jean Hedger seconded a motion to approve the Alabama show. This also passed.

Minutes: Sherry Hull moved and Donna Kitchel seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jean reported that she is still collecting for the 2016 regional calendar. So far she has collected \$3225, but we are due a total of \$5750. She reported that the Awards Banquet made \$369.07. She paid (in August) for the repairs on the regional trailer. The final cost for the U.S. Nationals sponsorship (including having a new banner made) was \$644.09 (paid out of the regional show budget). It was noted that ours was the only regional banner flown in Ford Arena. She also paid the annual \$25 for our website name plus Duane's director's expenses. We have a positive net income of \$184.23 (August through November) but our year-to-date balance is a negative \$4504.69. Duane noted that Cindy Clinton told him she will be sending a check from the regional show profits. Dave asked as to why there appeared to be so much money in the Lorain Bank (regional show account) and Pepper asked when we would get a report on the show? Per Jean, that bank balance is from the last statement that she had received in September. She also noted that at that time, they had not paid all the bills yet. Debbie G noted that usually Cindy gives her report, including the amount of the profit, here at convention. There was more discussion on this topic. Sherry moved and Donna seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report submitted. It passed unanimously. [*Duane received a text from Cindy during the meeting, reporting that she has not hired judges for 2016, the show dates are June 29 through July 3, 2016 and she also noted that the bills were paid.*]

Director's Report: Duane reported on the Breeder Sweepstakes program and the changes for 2016. They are adding three (3) classes for each breed at the 2016 U.S. Nationals. There will be a \$500 jackpot fee plus a \$200 class fee per entry and these classes will be open to Sweepstakes horses only for the following classes: AAOTR Country English Pleasure, AAOTR Western Pleasure and AAOTR Hunter Pleasure – no qualifications needed. The Sweepstakes program will put up \$15,000 plus the \$500 from each entry into the prize money. They are also adding Sport Horse Yearling classes (Sweepstakes horses only) and a Dressage Young Horse class to the 2016 Sport Horse Nationals.

First Vice Director Report: Jeff asked for information on any activities for him to put in the AHA Insider report. He also reported on the FFA Convention held in Louisville, KY last October. The theme was "Amplify" and our local club volunteers manned a booth that was visited by close to 64,000 attendees. We gave out two (2) \$200 scholarships. He reported that they had raised \$700 from seven (7) Region 14 clubs to support our presence at this event. These youth and young adults are our future. We were the only equine breed present. That convention will move to Indianapolis, IN for the next three (3) years [2016, 2017, and 2018] on the last weekend in October. There

was discussion on how to improve the display, including a live feed of the U.S. Nationals (if that is happening on those dates). Watch for pictures in the AHA Insider plus at the awards banquet.

Jeff also reported on the status of the KAHABA club program – supported by the Non-Racing Breeders Incentive fund for Kentucky Arabians and Half Arabians. They are doing well, paying out \$48,000 in 2014. They are set to do about the same for 2015. The points go through the Kentucky Fairs Horse Show Association – with their awards banquet being held in January. The payout will be in 2016.

Second Vice Director Report: Debbie G presented her Awards Banquet report. The 2016 banquet will be held March 5th at the Great Wolf Lodge (Mason, OH). The expense for the speaker took away from the profit of the program. She plans to add Kentucky and Indiana lottery tickets to the raffle. She paid \$200 for those tickets; raised \$650 and the winner won \$205. She would challenge all those that have attended to bring one new guest this year. The room block at the Great Wolf Lodge will be held through December. They won't hold them into the new year. She will also have a block of rooms held at the Comfort Inn (just across the road), which is a cheaper alternative to the lodge (\$69/night). Ellie Troutman will again handle the Silent Auction. Let Debbie G know as soon as possible if your club needs a room for a meeting that day. Duane commented that he picked up a client from the event. A surgeon, from the University of Cincinnati, was attending a medical seminar held that day at the Lodge and had talked with some of our horse folks. She went to the website and then contacted Duane. She is interested in lessons and has joined KARABS.

Mind Body Spirit Report: Sherri Lewis was not at the convention but had sent a report to Duane. Michele commented that she has given out 20 bracelets and is still getting folks from the Group On sales. Many are grandparents who are buying the lessons for grandkids, especially for Christmas presents and also home school kids. Others are previous riders wanting to get back into horses. Several want to buy more lessons. She even had a two (2) year old, whose mother used to ride, who wants to expose her child to the horses. Tammy Hawkey (Tiara Arabians) and Lorie Henderson (Firelight Arabians) have also had riders. Michele noted that Rushlow Arabians (Michigan) have been doing these Group On lessons for a long time with up to 15 lesson horses. Per Sherri's report, she is looking for two (2) more barns to join this program. Duane noted that Sherri states the website is available but we need to get that address so we can link it on our regional website.

This led to a discussion by the delegates and alternates on how to expose the public to our horses. Duane noted that the national events are important but the close encounters with the kids and adults are very rewarding – you could change someone's life forever. Michele reported on the Central Park Horse Show (New York) event. They took two (2) horses – Monticello and Clint Black. They had crowds that gathered to watch them work the horses. Donna noted that the non-paying audience gathered at 5:00 AM to watch them walk the horses. Dave reported that they had 200 people participate in the T.A.I.L. tours held at U.S. Nationals. Our region has had a presence at the Equine Affaire in Columbus, OH and also the Secretariat Festival in Paris, KY. All are opportunities to show what great horses our Arabians and Half Arabians are. Also another thing that is adding to the exposure are the live feeds of these events on the computer.

Calendar and Directory: Duane reported that Kathy Whitmore is finalizing the calendar. Debbie S reported that we have our region's information (in Excel format) from AHA so that we can put the directory securely on the Region 14 website.

Resolutions: Joe Hull led the discussion of the 36 resolutions being considered this year. One resolution would allow a club to send a delegate for every 35 full AHA members (currently it is per 50 members). This is thought to be a way to try and increase attendance at convention. Attendance has been dropping – what are the causes? Many cite the changes in the economy and the demographics (especially the aging) of the delegates. The delegates reviewed this and other resolutions that seemed interesting and that led to some lively debates.

Donna moved and Deneb Thompson seconded a motion to adjourn. [*Our next meeting will be in late January at the Expo Center in Springfield, OH.*]

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary