

Region 14 Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2016 @ 1:00 PM
Clark County Champions Center
Springfield, Ohio

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. There were 10 clubs represented: BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHABA, KARABS, NEOAHA, OHAHA, OVAHA, OAATS and SAHIBA.

Minutes: Debbie noted that she will correct Lisa Blackstone's name in the minutes. Joe Hull moved and Jeff seconded a motion to approve the amended minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jean apologized for the delay in getting her report out – she had her computer updated and she had to adjust to the changes. She reported that she has 541 members paid by the clubs. We received \$5650 for the calendar and \$700 from clubs for the FFA Convention. She paid the \$500 we pledged at convention to the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund (AHDF). She had paid the Equine Affaire fee, which included an early payment discount (\$835 vs. \$1200). She will be paying \$200 for tax preparation and has also paid to update our incorporation fee (for 5 years) with the Secretary of State. Jean reviewed other expenses paid out: convention expenses - \$ 582.52 for caucus meal and \$47.49 for door prizes, \$644 for the banner for U.S. Nationals, a bill/credit from AHA for \$105, Region 14/Silverama ad in calendar for \$375, the fees for Breyerfest \$500 and for FFA \$710, and the 11 delegate packets (\$2475). We received the regional show money so as of December 31, 2015 we have a positive net income of \$31,705.61. Dave Daugherty moved and Donna Kitchel seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. This passed unanimously.

Budget Report: Jeff was chair of the Budget committee that met at convention. He deferred to Jean to present the budget report. The budgeted income for the show is \$20,000 and \$8500 for Awards Banquet. She noted that the credit card rewards and interest will now have a separate line item. The items for expenses include: \$1000 for emergency fund, \$1000 for Breyerfest, \$800 for caucus dinner, \$700 for FFA, \$500 for Youth director, \$100 for convention door prizes, \$500 for AHDF, \$750 for AERC International (sponsorship of youth going outside the United States), and \$100 for Secretariat Festival. No money was budgeted for the Mind, Body, Spirit program for this year. They also budgeted for 15-16 delegate packets. These will put us with a negative \$1005 net budget for 2016. Dave moved and Donna Auber seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented.

Director's Report: Duane reported on the information from the convention. AHA is operating at \$12,000 over budget. They have 47 staff employees. Six (6) clubs had their charters revoked – membership is a huge concern, how do we grow. The AHA website will go through a major upgrade this year, starting January 11th. It is set to be more user friendly. AHDF raised \$22,700 at convention via pledges. Kathy Whitmore was awarded the Region 14 Volunteer service award for work on the calendar. Duane noted that the extra calendars will be made available for Equine Affaire and then Breyerfest. The 2016 convention will be moving back to Denver to the remodeled Tech Center Marriott. He also reviewed the six (6) new Breeders Sweepstakes classes (3 each Purebred and Half Arabian) that will be added to U.S. Nationals; for horses six (6) years old and older, these will be AAOTR classes added for Country English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure and Western Pleasure. The class fee will be \$500 and then that money plus \$15,000 per class will be presented as prize money. (These classes require no qualifications, just need to be a Breeder Sweepstakes nominated horse.)

Region 9 has asked that we approve a Region 14 qualifying show for September 16-18, sponsored by the Gulf Coast States (Houston, TX). Cindy Clinton asked for a current list of shows that will qualify for Region 14. Donna K feels it is a "win win" for our regional show. This was approved.

Duane also commended Jeff for all his work on getting information to AHA for their Insider e-blast they send out each month. Cynthia Richardson (AHA President) likes our presentation of the news and uses our report as an example.

Duane also noted that Kathy has moved outside our region (to Illinois). She struggled this year getting the information from the sponsors for the calendar, still getting ad information just two (2) days before Christmas. Jean asked that with Kathy moving, who will be handling the calendar? Duane poled the meeting – do we still want to

publish a calendar? Cindy commented that she didn't feel it was necessary in this electronic age. A straw vote of those present was taken: 15 Yes and 7 No. Jeff notes that if it is profitable and well laid out, it is a good thing to have to give out at the all-breed events. Mickie Newman said it is always good to have them to give out at Equine Affaire. Most of the time, we either break-even on the cost or make a slight profit. Jean commented that we print over 800. Debbie G noted that the issue seems to be collecting the fees and getting the ads in a timely manner. Ellen Patterson feels it is a good thing.

Duane also noted they have added a day to his March Board of Directors meeting at AHA. It will be a forum to discuss promotion, since AHA is a member organization and it is up to the regions to market our breed to the public, more so than what AHA can do. Plus the forum will reinforce the convention theme "Connect, Collaborate and Create."

First Vice Director's Report: Jeff reminded everyone that he needs information for the AHA Insider before the 15th of month for publication for the next month. He also opened a discussion as to something new that came from USEF for the upcoming show season. Exhibitors must have documentation of their horse's Equine Influenza and HSV vaccinations, within six (6) months of the show. The show office will NOT be responsible for checking this information, but it will fall on a show official. Acceptable documentation would include a bill/invoice from your vet OR a receipt from the purchase of the vaccinations for those that give their horses the shots.

Second Vice Director's Report / Regional Awards Banquet: Debbie G noted that our banquet date is March 5th at the Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, Ohio. We don't have any rooms reserved as they were requiring a credit card to hold the rooms' availability. At this time, they don't have any rooms available (per the Lodge) but others noted that they could get a room but the cost is \$325 per day. She noted that the Comfort Inn has rooms available at \$89. Mickie noted that you can get a discount via AHA for Comfort Inn. Also the Super 8 motel is close by and its room rate is \$58. Last year's banquet went well, with over 100 attending. This year, Debbie is adding lottery tickets for Kentucky and Indiana in addition to the Ohio packet. Meals are the same - \$35 for adults and \$15 for kids. She would like reservations by February 29th. Checks are to be made out to *Region 14*. Eblasts will be sent out with contact information.

Debbie G has had issues dealing with the Great Wolf Lodge this year, so she is pursuing other venues we could go to. One of the choices is the Roberts Convention Center, which is north of the current location on I-71.

Dave continued the report on the banquet. He reminded all that Ellie Troutman is again handling the Silent Auction. He is still getting nominations but the deadline is soon. He will email those nominated to get their bios. Voting will last for two weeks, once everything is ready. The ballot can be faxed, emailed or snail mailed. Please refrain from "stuffing the ballot box" - one vote per each AHA member only. There have been issues with voting integrity in the past. Dave is also looking at venues (water parks) in Columbus and Newark.

Duane noted that we will have a guest speaker - Phillip G. Anderson from Indianapolis, IN. He is a speaker that gave a presentation at convention on dealing the generations and how to target goals.

Equine Affaire: Mickie noted that the booth has been moved to a better location in the Voinovich building. Volunteers are needed for all four (4) days - April 7-10 (set-up on the 6th). If she knows ahead of time, you will get tickets to get in to the event. She needs horses for the booth stall (plus a spare stall). We also still need someone who can coordinate the Breed Demo. Duane commented that this venture offers great opportunity to reach a large number of people and young riders. Mickie noted that with our horses at the booth and in our demo, we dispel the "crazy" Arabian horse myth. Duane and Debbie G both would like to check with Tommy Garland, who is a presenter at Equine Affaire and see if he can spend some time at our booth. Cindy even commented that he could present one of his horses at our booth.

Regional Show Report: Cindy spoke to the meeting and wanted to clarify some of the questions that arose at the convention caucus meeting since she was not there to present her report. As to the facility bill, she may not get it until 30 days post the show and then they negotiate the bill, which takes even more time. Also they were still trying to collect on a few bad checks. Ellen Patterson, regional show treasurer, works at U.S. Nationals and she had a death in the family (her sister) so that created some delays. All in all, the show was very successful. And once again, our regional show is one of the cheapest to show at in the country - we don't charge patron's fees. Thanks to all who helped make it possible.

For 2016, the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) wanted to raise our contract \$50,000, but Cindy has negotiated that down to just \$5000 plus we will pay \$10 per stall. The dates are June 29th through July 3rd. She has contracted with the following as judges:

Pre-Show:	Debbie Banfield (Carriage)
	Bob Bennett (Halter, Trail and Reining)
	Karen Homer-Brown (Main Ring)
	Karen Winn (Sport Horse)
	Sue Mandas (Dressage)
	Susan Martin (Youth)
Regionals:	Dana Gardner
	Todd Hickerson
	Mary Jane Brown
	Kelly Elm
	Arlene Rigdon (Sport Horse & Dressage)

Cindy noted that some of the pre-show judges are local, as booking flights at the Lexington airport is problematic. Also, she will be ordering a new banner that will be used as a background for the photographs in the arena. She has hired Eric Schultz as ringmaster. She has added JTR Sport Horse classes. She needs help with Sport Horse ring again this year.

Cindy noted that Jean has been working with Smokey Mountain Arabians – Rob Thompson from Tennessee on coming up with a way to generate on-line entries for the show. This would allow an exhibitor/owner/trainer to fill in a form on-line and then print it off or email it to the show secretary (they will still need to present their horse papers and AHA/USEF cards or send copies). The information entered on-line would then be kept in a database for future use at other shows that subscribe to this service. At this time, the show will not be charged for this service. This is still a work in progress, so more information will follow.

Cindy has hired a new photographer for the main ring – Jon McCarthy (who has worked with Howard Schatzberg).

Duane thanked Cindy for all her hard work in making our Region 14 show so successful. He has proposed and it has been passed that Cindy will receive a raise this year.

Website Report: Debbie S reported that she has updated the Calendar of Events on the website. She also updated any changes to the contacts. The Excel file from AHA with the directory data has been sent to Jeremy (webmaster). Once all the “bugs” are worked out, we will make it live and send out an eblast. Also, if you have information you want added to the calendar on the website, send her that information (event info, location, etc. plus main contact name, phone number and email).

As to our regional Facebook account, we have over 800 ‘likes.’ Duane, Debbie S and Ellie are the administrators of the account.

Joe asked who has access to put information on the new AHA website calendar. Duane will check on that.

Duane noted that we need to update the emails on our Constant Contact account. At this time, most of our e-blasts have a delivery rate of 23-29%. Joe suggested that Jeff put that request in his next submission to the AHA Insider.

USEF: Duane reported on the Arabian Meeting at the USEF Convention earlier this month at their convention. There were no major changes, other than they discussed trying to make Hunt Seat Equitation consistent with the other breeds.

They are discussing a change in the procedure for halter classes. They want there to be no bags allowed in the halter ring or warm-up area. This comes about due to the bad public perception of this practice. It has also been something that was addressed at our Judges Seminar. For all shows, it will be changed through USEF. But in the meantime, Dave noted that the following changes will be enforced at U.S. Nationals – in a controlled paddock: one groom will be allowed and the whip cannot have any appendage beyond the lash. They will also not allow any excessive noise (no banging on walls or cans). There will also now be a steward present during the pre-show dates of the show.

The CEO of USEF, Chris Welton, has stepped down unexpectedly, so Bill Moroney has been selected as the interim CEO.

Also we would like to congratulate those from the Arabian breed that were nominated for USEF Equestrian of the Year award – Martha Murdock-Rattner and Michael Damianos.

Education & Promotion: Sherri Lewis was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, so many of the questions cannot be answered at this time. Tammy Hawkey noted that she believes lessons are still being purchased via GroupOn. Duane asked if we have a valid address for the Mind Body Spirit website. He had reviewed a link that Sherri had sent him, but the site seemed very “black and white.” Tammy noted that they want to get more barns to participate. Jean asked that a receipt be sent to her to verify her payment for the website.

Old Business: Contact Ellie about items for the door prizes and the Silent Auction for the banquet. [She is currently working as a consultant for a movie starring Jon Voight.] If you want to donate a basket that would include any type of alcohol (wine, spirits, etc.), be advised that the Great Wolf Lodge does not allow alcohol in the banquet facility. You either need to include empty bottles or a picture of the bottles. Check with Ellie or Debbie G for more details.

New Business: Sherry Hull, reporting for the Daniel Boone Distance Riders (DBDR), clarified the AERC money that Jean had reported in the budget report. AERC International is sponsoring an exchange program for four (4) kids that show competitive distance and/or endurance riding. We had kids here from Australia in 2015 and our kids will go to Australia this summer for a couple of weeks. They stay with host families and horses are supplied. DBDR was worked directly with the Australian club. We are pleased to note that two of the four kids are from Region 14, plus one from Region 13 (Indiana) and one from Region 11 (Illinois). They need to raise \$8000 for this exchange program. A show in Florida this winter will serve as a fund raiser for this program.

Jeff moved and Donna K seconded a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary