

Minutes from Region 14 Caucus Meeting

November 20, 2025 @ 8:00 PM

After a great group meal at the Brew Brothers Restaurant within the Silver Legacy/Eldorado/Circus Circus Casinos complex, we adjourned to the general session meeting room (*our assigned meeting room was locked*) where Dave Daugherty called the meeting to order with First Vice Jackie Maclaren, Second Vice Director Kara Hatzai, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Terry Schafer present. Nineteen (19) delegates and four (4) alternate/guests were present, representing the following nine (9) clubs: Arabian Action Alliance (AAA), Bluegrass Arabian Horse Association (BAHA), Buckeye Arabian and Half Arabian Alliance (BAHAA), Daniel Boone Distance Riders (DBDR), Kentucky Arabian Riders And Breeders Society (KARABS), Northeast Ohio Arabian Horse Association (NEOAHA), Ohio Arabian and All-Breed Trail Society (OAATS), Ohio Half Arabian Horse Association (OHAHA) and Society for Arabian Horses In the Bluegrass Area (SAHIBA). AHA Vice President, Duane Esser and Director-At-Large, Susan Racey also attended our meeting.

To have a shortened meeting, the agenda was waived until the January 2026 meeting.

Director's Report: Dave reported that he had been contacted about approving the Elmira Arabian and Sport Horse Classic, May 15-17, 2026, in Horseheads, New York. They want to hold Region 14 qualifying classes to make the show concurrent with Region 16, but this show is the same weekend as the Buckeye show. Deneb Thompson checked the mileage; it's 505 miles from WEC, which technically not a conflict. Cindy Clinton stated that it could hurt, since she is adding these classes to Buckeye for 2026. This New York show could give the Dressage and Sport Horse exhibitors more opportunities to qualify at just one show. But since individual region qualifications aren't required, why are they asking. A straw vote was taken, and it was disapproved by all 23 present. Dave will report to AHA that we disapprove it, and give them our reasons, but the club could still make it concurrent as two (2) Region 16 shows.

Resolutions:

1-25 AHA Bylaw Governance Change: We had a discussion and it was noted that in 2007, we had 965 Region 14 club members (plus 200 direct-to-AHA members). This year, we have 453 total club members. Debbie Glasener stated that the "outlier" divisions (Dressage, Sport Horse, Ranch Riding, etc.) are growing because they are competing in shows that can be open to all breeds and are being adjudicated by judges from the open world. Looking at *most* main ring shows, these are being judged by Arabian judges, many of whom are our breed's trainers. Our breed has issues, it needs help. Duane noted that Charles Bass (Credentials) had helped the proponent clean up some of the language and that the resolution will have an Amendment #1 when brought to the floor for a vote. This requires an approval by a 2/3rd vote. Consensus of the group, it will be approved.

2-25 Modify the Number of Stewards Required at Large Shows (USEF GR1211.4g): This one will mainly affect the Scottsdale and U.S. Nationals shows, could help them financially.

3-25 Soundness (USEF/EC): This one is asking for a "black and white" definition of the soundness of a horse.

4-25 Removing "Substance" from List of Items to Adjudicate Western Pleasure Jr. Horses: This one is dealing with what defines the appearance of a "fat horse." The word "substance" has been removed from other class specifications.

5-25 The Importance of Suitability to Discipline When Adjudicating:

6-25 Clarifying Country English Pleasure: Seems to be controversial and some trainers are against it.

7-25 Addition of Low Working Hunter 2'6" Open Division to AHA Recognized Classes: This is preferred for our Arabian breed.

8-25 Dressage/Western Dressage Warm Up: Change the requirement of having separate make-up rings at a show for Dressage and Western Dressage. It is currently required by USEF due to what equipment is allowed in one discipline but not the other. This would save a lot of small shows money if they don't need to pay for separate warm-up rings or if one is not available.

9-25 Modifying Chain Use in Sport Horse In-Hand: These classes currently don't allow for the use of a chain over the nose when showing in a halter, which only applies to the young horses (Yearling and Two-Year-Old). Allowing the chain to be used over the nose provides a safer means of presenting the horse and falls in line with USDF breeding class guidelines.

10-25 Assigning Who Selects patterns for Nationals:

11-25 Dressage Seat Equitation Rule update:

12-25 Dressage/Western Dressage Walk Trot 11 & Over, Rule Language clarification:

13-25 Amend Resolution #2-07 to Add Additional Internal Audit Committee Members:

14-25 Eliminate the Resolution Mailing: Removes the option of delegates to request mailed paper copies of the resolutions and make them only available electronically. This will save the association an estimated \$4500.

15-25 Increasing the Number of Members of the Education & Evaluation Commission:

16-25 Competition Eligible Horse Certification: WITHDRAWN – This was handled by a Board of Directors vote to allow Arabian horses to reclaim their pedigree papers if they can be matched to their previous registration via DNA and doesn't conflict with sale contracts.

17-25 Work-Off Procedure for National Championship Hunter Seat Equitation Over Obstacles Classes: This clarifies that after rail work; horses leave the area and then re-enter to do pattern one-at-a-time.

18-25 Further Defining SHIH Showmanship: This year was first year for this class at Sport Horse Nationals and there needs to be some adjustments made to the class specifications.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM via ZOOM.

Awards Banquet: Debbie G stated the date is March 14, 2026, at the Holiday Inn at the Cincinnati Airport. Plans are to still have our Silent Auction with Carl Malicotte. He's already getting stuff and wants to make a lot that will go towards our youth.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Dave asked that we vote Terry and Carl to the Judges and Stewards Selection Committee. Also, we were asked to vote for Debbie Cinotto (Region 9 director) to that committee as she is familiar with Dressage and Sport Horse.
- Duane asked if we could approve funds for him to attend the USEF Annual Meeting, January 15-18, 2026, Louisville, KY. Jackie moved and Kara seconded a motion to approve these funds. This passed.
- Dave welcomed Mike Miller and Ashley Roberts, delegates for our newest Region 14 club – Arabian Action Alliance. Dave also thanked Mike for all his help at this year's U.S. Nationals.
- The delegates were given four (4) choices for the 2027 AHA Convention: Tulsa, OK, Reno, NV, Anchorage, AK and Orlando, FL. The group agreed they would prefer Orlando.

Pepper Proffit moved and Caitlin Heinz seconded a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary