

Region 14 Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2026 @ 1:00 PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Director Dave Daugherty called the meeting to order, with First Vice Director Jackie MacLaren, Second Vice Director Kara Hatzai, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Terry Schafer in attendance. Eleven (11) clubs were represented: AAA, BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHA, KAHABA, KARABS, NEOAHA, OAATS, OHAHA, and SAHIBA.

Minutes: Kara moved, and Debbie Glasener seconded a motion to approve the minutes from both the August and November meetings as submitted. They passed.

Treasurer's Report: Terry reviewed the reports from August and November as well as the year-end report that were submitted to the delegates via email. We ended with a surplus as we didn't spend any funds for Equine Affaire and Breyerfest and no scholarships were awarded in 2025. Dave commended Terry for the increased income from the interest received from funds that Terry moved to low risk, high reward investments. Terry stated that it had been a strategy that he and Joe Hull planned. Kara moved, and Mike Miller seconded a motion to approve the reports. They passed.

2025 Budget: Terry reviewed the submitted budget from the committee who met after our caucus meeting at convention. We budgeted conservatively for income and "worst case" for expenditures. Jackie moved and Mike seconded a motion to approve the 2026 budget. There was considerable discussion when Kara proposed adding a line item to the budget that would allow for up to \$500 for each of our clubs that need to update their websites. This could amount up to \$6,000 if all of our 12 clubs asked for this money. Susan Racey noted that this is being promoted by the Local Level Committee (LLC) and that Lindsay Rinehart has a webinar available to aid on setting up and/or maintaining websites. The LLC feels that clubs not having an updated website is more harmful, because it reflects on that club's activity. It was asked how many of our clubs websites were outdated. Questions were raised as to why the region should pay for the clubs and would this be awarded based on proof of need. Some clubs are using Facebook because they don't have a website. Others felt that this could help lift-up some of our clubs who are struggling. Dave commented that the new governance body wants to focus on the grassroots and our clubs. Kara moved and Jackie seconded a motion to establish this program. Upon further discussion, it was amended that this would be a grant by which a club would provide receipts for the amount and proof of an updated website. Susan noted that this total amount is less than 50% of the interest we earned last year. She feels these websites should be used for promotion, listing of farms, lesson programs, etc. and Discovery Farms. Danny Thompson asked for another addition to the budget, increasing our convention sponsorship from \$500 to \$1000. Deneb Thompson noted that SAHIBA will not be asking for the website grant, so they can apply that \$500 to this increase. Jeff Caldwell also asked for funds to pay for scholarship trifolds that can be passed out at events. Donna Lassanske had checked and they can get 500 copies printed for \$390. Terry stated that could come out of the Promotion line item. Danny noted that he has a printing vendor who is cheaper – 500 trifolds for \$102. More to follow on this. Below are the three (3) motions to be approved:

- Pepper Proffit moved and Debbie G seconded a motion to approve the \$5000 for the website grant program proposed by Kara. This passed by a majority.
- Pepper Proffit moved and Debbie G seconded a motion to increase the convention donation from \$500 to \$1000 for 2026. This passed.

- Pepper moved and Mike seconded the motion to approve the 2026 budget as amended. This passed.

Director's Report: Dave reported on the new changes in the structure of AHA. He noted that the 14-member Board of Directors (BOD) meetings will only follow Robert's Rules of Order at convention, but it is no longer necessary for the weekly meetings. Communication seems to be good.

The three (3) directors from the National Council (comprised of the 18 regional directors) were elected for the Executive Board and funds were approved for their travel expenses. The three (3) directors that were appointed are: East - Mike Wilson (Region 12), Central - Claude Clark (Region 6) and West - Michelle Pease-Paulsen (Region 5). Dave has been selected as the Presiding Officer and Tony Reid as Secretary of the National Council. They plan on having monthly meetings and Dave meets with Lisa each week after the AHA board meetings.

After passage of the 15-25 resolution at convention, two (2) positions were added to the Education/Evaluation Commission (EEC). Skylar Powell and Richard Doran were appointed to those positions.

Dave noted that U.S. Nationals was down by 72 horses. They are working on their budget for the show. They are adding classes for 4-year-olds for non-Sweepstakes Purebred and Half-Arabian Country Pleasure since the AWP, AHPA and AEPA horses already have 4-year-old classes. The Breeders Sweepstakes will add six (6) classes for Choice Western, Hunter and Country Pleasure. Select and Elite can't show in these classes. There will be other changes, but they require board approval so announcements will be forthcoming from AHA.

As to the status of the Ohio Valley Arabian Horse Association (OVAHA), Dave stated they have no officers registered with AHA. Pepper reported that she talked with Cassie (*Greutman*) who stated she gave the money to Sherri Lewis. Then she talked to Sherri about restarting the club. Pepper encouraged her to attend this regional meeting. Pepper contacted Sherri three (3) more times since their initial conversation and but has not heard from her. Dave will look into this further. They have members who are not being communicated to.

Dave said that Region 13 looked into going back to the Indianapolis Fairgrounds for their show, and it still would be in the arena that is divided by columns. But the cost is more than at WEC in Wilmington. They had also checked into three (3) other venues. They have decided to not have a separate regional Sport Horse show so instead will add on to their main ring regional show. They are promoting the Medallion as a Sport Horse pre-show since Region 13 is not having one for Sport Horse.

Dave has sent past directors and club presidents (except Cindy Young – lacking a valid email) the request for nominations for the regional Awards.

Cindy Clinton asked Dave to elaborate on the new governance restructure for the regional directors. Clubs still go to their regional director. Then the regional director takes it to the National Council and then Dave and Tony take it to the three (3) directors that were appointed to the board.

Mike Miller has been working with Dave on the U.S. Show Commission, and he and Cindy both commented that the meetings have been very productive.

First Vice Director's Report: Jackie had no report.

Second Vice Director's Report: Kara had no report.

Awards Banquet: Debbie G. noted that we will have info on Facebook. She reminded everyone to get their dinner reservations made, it will cost \$50 per person through February 28th and then \$60 after that date. Everything is moving forward and she's working with Carl Malicote on the Silent Auction. She is asking that other clubs, besides OHAHA, contribute towards the prizes for BINGO. Dave noted that he still had four (4) awards that had not been sponsored. Martha Rattner, Susan Racey (Local Level award), Sherry Hull (Volunteer award in Joe's memory) and Mike Miller (Caretaker/Groom award) pledged to pay for those awards. An eBlast will be sent out to remind all about the event and it will be put on the website.

Dave noted that Michelle Pease-Paulson had initiated a version of our regional awards for Region 5 and that her banquet had 202 in attendance at this year's event. She said they get so many positive comments about doing those awards. Dave is hopeful we can aspire to that. He also noted that the Kentucky folks vote a lot more than the Ohio folks.

Regional Show Report: Cindy C announced the dates of our show are August 12th through 16th. She has some of the judges hired: Mike Van Handel will judge main ring Preshow and Regional Trail classes. She is also planning on using a local Western Dressage judge, Teresa Wysong. She wanted to thank Caitlin Heinz for helping her with this and the judges for the Dressage, Western Dressage and Sport Classes she is adding to the Buckeye. She also has hired Karen Homer-Brown and Christy Higman-Clements for Regional main ring. She is going to step-up her involvement with the Sport Horse and Dressage classes, which are helping our shows succeed.

She reported that WEC has new manager, Christian ("Swampy") and maybe there will be some reduction in fees. Jennifer Lewis asked if our Arabian shows are going to have to use the new system for health documents that WEC is using for their Hunter Jumper shows. Cindy said we won't use their computer program but will handle it as we usually do. Cindy Ryan wondered if there will be problems since the Medallion contract was signed by the previous management. Cindy C. has three (3) contracts with WEC that came from the previous management. Susan wants these shows to become events and would like to see Academy and Ranch Riding classes added to our shows. Also, we have such versatile horses and there was a discussion as to using a term other than "main ring" for our performance classes – maybe use Pleasure and Halter, and maybe we can start a trend. Cindy R. did note that Medallion is adding Academy classes and offering a stall discount. Cindy C. has also asked Jennifer to help with the added Buckeye Sport Horse and Dressage classes.

Region 14 Youth Scholarship & Joe Hull Law Scholarship: Jeff reported that there have been no changes to our scholarship offerings and we're moving forward for this year.

Region 14 Website Update: Debbie S. reported that a couple of weeks ago, the delegates approved us moving forward with updating our website so we could get that switched to Mark Anderson's Pappy Productions and avoid paying the over \$600 of fees from our former web host – HostGator – which were set to renew within a day or two of this meeting. She noted that Mark is moving forward and it's looking fresher. He is asking for photos of horses to be submitted that he can use on the site. Susan reminded us that we need to include Discovery Farms and lesson programs on the site. Debbie will pass that on to Mark. Dave was looking at our site, and our regional Discovery Farms are listed with

links. Kara wanted to thank Debbie S. for spearheading this change and for the work she has put in so far.

By-Laws: Susan reported that her and Jeff had worked on cleaning up our By-Laws language and make it more up to date with current policies and consistency with AHA. She thanked Debbie S. who went through the document and marked where the changes were made, plus made some further suggestions for clarification. Those changes will be presented at the March meeting and then they'll be sent to all of the regional members so that these can be voted on at our annual meeting, which will tentatively be in August. One thing we want to change is make amending those By-Laws more flexible, not just once per year at a specific meeting.

Equine Affaire: Kara reported that her and Susan are on tap to coordinate this year's Equine Affaire, scheduled for April 9th through 12th. They have confirmed that we have a 10' x 30' booth reserved (#810) that includes a stall at the booth. They are now working on finding horses for the demonstrations as well as at the booth. Susan will be handling the booth, and they have our curtains, projector, supplies, etc. They want to make this an opportunity to involve our youth with this event. This is a prime event to make contact with the grassroots. It should be noted that no stallions are allowed at Equine Affaire.

Eric Schultz noted that this is the same weekend as the OHAHA Spring show, so he won't be available to help. Comments were made that we might suggest to those that come to our booth and want to see a horse show could be directed to drive to WEC, which is only about an hour and a half south of Columbus. Jackie can work on a flyer to have at the booth. She wants to also be able to promote our calendar of events and our farms.

Breverfest (July 10th through 12th): Deneb Thompson stated that we had requested to have a booth and to be part of the horse demonstrations. They will inform us about the demo around January 31st. We won't hear about the booth until around June 1st. She'll keep us updated.

Meet an Arabian Horse: Susan would like to establish an event at a farm in a central location within our region. She has been looking at Pepper's farm or Siemons – both have charm, good location, lessons and grassroots outreach. We'd like to make it both a Meet an Arabian Horse and also hold a clinic. We would need to check on what our insurance would cover or if we could be covered by AHA. Pepper noted that she doesn't have a lesson program. Susan said they would be promoting lesson programs throughout our region. Maybe we can look at holding this in July before or after Youth Nationals.

Youth Director's Report: Ella Duncan was unable to attend this meeting, so Sophia Blankley presented Ella's report. The youth still would like to see the region offer a new Youth High Point Award at the Banquet, for Walk/Trot and/ Walk/Trot/Canter divisions. They could use a survey to sign up for their division and add their AHA number. Ella would create a spreadsheet to calculate the points to determine the winner. Hopefully this could be implemented for 2027. New ideas are needed for our youth. Dave would like to set-up a meeting with Ella, her Youth Council and Debbie G.

Pepper wanted to a recap to the delegates as to what the youth did at our regional show. All champions in the youth classes received a leather bracelet with a name plate. All youth exhibitors received a welcome bag with a beaded bracelet – separated for 10 and under and 11 and over. They had a water gun fight on Saturday night. They also had the t-shirts, "Find the Horseshoe" and the

coloring contest. They want to offer more fun activities, and she noted we have budgeted \$800 for youth activities. They also got some sponsorships last year and hope to get those for this year.

There was a discussion that Ella had formed a Youth Board. Dave noted we've never had one before, but these are our future leaders, and we would like to coordinate this and make it more formal. Jackie feels they need a framework (even by-laws) and that this is a good thing. Dave asked Sophia who is on this board. She stated it was Ella – director, Sophia – vice director, Abigail Brown – secretary and Malana Young – treasurer. Pepper noted there were others and Susan wants to help motivate this group to help at Equine Affaire. Cindy C. offered that they might want to meet at the Spring show.

Old Business: none

New Business: Jeff is asking folks to send him photos via his email so he can compile them for a slide show to be shown at the Awards Banquet.

Debbie G. reported that some new exciting stuff will be happening at this year's Sport Horse Nationals.

Dave reported that WEC had bought new portable stalls.

Kara moved and Debbie G. seconded a motion to adjourn. Our next meeting will be in-person at the Holiday Inn at the Cincinnati Airport March 14th at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Swigart

Debbie Swigart, Region 14 Secretary