

**Minutes from Region 14 Meeting**  
**September 22, 2019 @ 1:00 PM**  
**Holiday Inn at the Cincinnati Airport**  
**Erlanger, KY.**

Director Jeff Caldwell called the meeting to order with First Vice Director Dave Daugherty, Second Vice Director Jennifer Tucker, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Joe Hull in attendance. Seven (7) clubs were represented: BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, NEOAHA, OHAHA, OAATS and SAHIBA.

**Secretary's Report:** Cindy Clinton moved and Lana Chaffin seconded a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe reported we are in line with expenses, etc. and the regional show made budget – thanks to Cindy. Dave commended the budget committee on how we have been able to manage the money in order to support our events - Equine Affaire (Jennifer), Breyerfest (Lorie Henderson) and the regional show (Cindy), all while maintaining the “health” of the region’s finances. Cindy moved and Jennifer seconded a motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. It passed unanimously.

**Director's Report:** Jeff provided the meeting with a thorough accounting of the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting that was held August 2:

- AHA membership is down 6.5% (2019 = 16,225 vs. 2018 = 17,367);
  - Of these memberships, 9666 (youth and adult) held Competition cards (also down 6.3% compared to being down only 1.8% in 2018); Jennifer and Cindy asked if we could find out the distribution of memberships to see if some regions are down while others are up or is it across the country;
- Nancy Harvey (AHA President) noted that the USEF Affiliates meeting was well attended and asked that we remind folks to mark Arabian/Half Arabian as your breed of choice when they join USEF;
  - Cindy went to this meeting, representing the National Show Horse (NSH) breed and a couple of the topics were the promotion of Safe Sport and also the role of USEF for AHA;
- Youth Nationals – no final numbers yet (as of August 2); it was down a little but they had an increase in sponsors;
- Canadian Nationals was over budget on horses until the outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis (*VS – a contagious viral disease*). Dave spoke to the issue and how it was handled. The Canadian government won’t budge on their rules – they have not had the disease in their country since the 1960’s. This disease affects cattle more so than horses, so it impacts the beef and dairy markets. Dave also noted that Glenn Petty (AHA Executive Vice President) approved that they waive the non-competing stall fees for the Youth National horses to stay in Oklahoma, as the state had not had this disease for almost 30 years. If you find yourself in this situation, always contact AHA and the commissioners directly – don’t rely on social media like Facebook for the facts. But overall, the Canadian Nationals was a fun – family friendly show. Dave thought they had about 812 horses, a record. They allowed exhibitors to switch one qualified horse for another if they were affected. So of the 51 horses from the Youth show, 17 could switch out and were able to show at Canada. In total, 139 horses could not be shown.
- Jeff noted that prior to the BOD meeting, a 40-page Power Point of reports from the senior staff was sent out to provide background on items on the agenda and allow them to consolidate the meeting to just one day.
- As of August (prior to the deadline) there were nine (9) resolutions that had been submitted.
- The BOD approved the financial report that will be presented at convention.
- Two (2) insurance representatives were at the meeting, since there had been a merger of insurance companies and they wanted to go over how they will be able to cover things like the recent lawsuits, etc. There was a case where a Half Arabian from Region 2 was denied registration due to the results of the DNA test. After about two (2) years of litigation, the owner’s insurance was ordered to pay AHA \$9000.
- As a reminder, AHA can’t initiate a lawsuit or counter lawsuit without BOD approval.
- Glenn announced that he would be retiring on or before June 2020, so they have started the process of finding a successor for his position. It was noted that Glenn has taken a lot of ‘heat’ based on the rumors out on social media. It is not deserved and hopefully that it is not the reason for him leaving.
- Breeders Sweepstakes Committee: based on an action by this group, five (5) classes are being added to U.S. Nationals:

- Purebred AAOTH Stallions, Geldings and Mares Performance Halter - with a payout of \$25,000 and full Top Ten placing for each class;
- Half Arabian/Anglo-Arabian AAOTH Geldings and Mares Performance Halter – with a payout of \$15,000 and full Top Ten placing for each class;
  - Dave reported on how these were developed. These were originally proposed as Jackpot, Open classes. There are rules posted on AHA for these classes. Jeff noted they have held the Performance Halter classes at the SAHIBA show.
- Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:
  - AHA Handbook:
    - Adding a chapter for definitions;
    - Changing from paragraphs to bullet points;
    - Chapter 11 will be divided into four (4) smaller chapters since this one big chapter deals with qualifications, judges and stewards and other competition matters;
  - Local Level – how to improve grass roots involvement to improve the promotion of our breed; Events like the American Horse Council’s Time to Ride Pilot Program (right now the Arabian breed has the largest participation for 2019) and Tractor Supply Company (TSC) [or similar store] “Meet an Arabian” were discussed. These events should provide information about farms, and also club and show involvement.
  - Regional Review Task Force was split into two (2) working groups:
    - Review governance changes and regional structure;
    - Review the regional shows and their structure; they are acting upon a resolution from 2018 and will present a new resolution to allow regions to merge shows;
  - USEF - a motion was approved to continue AHA’s affiliation with USEF, but this will be an on-going investigation for further evaluation;
- Convention Updates: they have revised the meeting schedules and will be having the President’s Banquet on Friday evening, instead of Saturday. They are planning on the Saturday session ending at noon. Joe is concerned that this new schedule could be tight. For 2020, it will be held on November 17-21 in Reno and for 2021, it will be held November 16-20 in Niagara Falls.
- Board of Directors meetings dates for 2020: March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Competitions Advisory: Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the qualifications for National Champions will change from being for the life of the horse, to four (4) years and Reserve National Champions will be qualified for two (2) years. Jeff reviewed specifics of the qualification changes. Cindy noted that there are two (2) committees looking into this and some feel the increase in points will help small shows but others are upset. Jeff noted that these changes would go to convention. There was some discussion as to what is happening to entries at the shows.
- AHA is working on more guidelines for the One Day and Value Shows. There are show managers who need help on how to be more prepared since they are not required to have an EMT or vet on the grounds during the show. Issues like injuries and/or possible death of an exhibitor or a horse are of concern. Also some judges are concerned since they don’t have a steward to verify rules, etc. Joe asked what are the requirements to have a Value Show. Jeff stated it is the number of classes and distribution between purebred and Half Arabians as well as other breeds. For many clubs, it is a money saver but is the risk worth it.
- The Market Development and Promotion (MDP) Committee have been researching short and long term actions. Their plan must be based on the AHA Business plan. There are 16 horse statues in the Arabian Horses for Humanity program. Region 10 was recognized. [*Unfortunately Duane Esser was not able to be here to present a report on our horse – “Believe.”*] Also it was reported that the Purebred Arabian Trust (PAT) allocated \$10,000 in to support the ‘Meet an Arabian’ day promotion.
- Jeff noted that there are changes to the Regional Youth Team Tournament, but McCartney Swears, our Youth Director, is not here to report.
- AHA Futurity Commission is proposing to increase the re-nomination fees so that they can increase payouts.
- USEF Report: the affiliation agreement between AHA and USEF has not yet been signed. It is under review. There is pressure being applied to Safe Sport to be more lenient to the equine industry.
- Arabian Racing Committee note that numbers are ahead of last year. But they have had trainer issues. In 2020, Texas will receive added purse money from the Agricultural Department. The 2019 Darley Awards ceremony

moved from California to Texas. The \$100,000 President of UAE Cup race was held at Churchill Downs in June. It was well supported by our Kentucky clubs. The Arabian Jockey Club TV has been a big hit.

- PAT has taken over the Arabian Gallery at the Kentucky Horse Park KHP as to upkeep, etc. since the KHP has backed out of its agreement to maintain the gallery.
- As part of the BOD meetings, they held a regional caucus discussion and reviewed some of the regions that have had low numbers: Region 6 only had 66 horses, Region 18 only had 62 horses, Regions 1 and 2 were up on entries and Region 12 was down 96 horses. The Region 7 show was not really affected by the VS outbreak. Regional fund-raisers were also discussed.
- A possible forum at convention would be on the topic of allowing horses to qualify for the national shows at some of the larger Class A shows.

Cindy asked if the changes to the national shows were discussed and approved at the meeting or will it be proposed at convention. There was confusion as to whether the changes went to the show commissions and National Events Operational Procedures (NEOP) committee - what was moved and approved.

**Regional Show Approval:** Region 16 is planning on having a Region 14 concurrent show for Elmira Sport Horse Fall Show (in New York state) October 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, Lurline Combs is the contact. And Iowa (Region 11) would like to have a Region 14 concurrent show April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids. Kelly Kaut is the contact. Since we don't have a quorum of delegates present (only 8 of 21), we can't vote on these shows. Jeff will contact Courtney Gibson at AHA to let them know we couldn't vote on them.

**Reimbursement of Delegate Packets:** Joe reviewed that, since the January meeting was canceled due to weather, it means that there were only two (2) meetings vs. three (3) for delegates and alternates to attend. Based on our past requirement (*a motion from November 1997*), a delegate must attend two (2) meetings and/or regional functions to have their packet reimbursed. After 2010, we also required that those delegates must attend all of the general sessions and regional caucus meetings to receive the funds. We discussed that a qualifying regional event is one with a line item in the budget. Again, we didn't have a quorum so we will table this until the regional caucus at convention.

**Budget Committee:** Jeff appointed the following to be the budget committee, who will meet at convention and report at the January, 2020 meeting: Joe, Debbie S., Dave, Duane, and Jeff.

**First Vice Director's Report:** Dave reviewed some of the reasons that we continue to see numbers decline at horse shows (all breeds). We are living a more mechanized society and the horse is no longer a necessary. They don't have a community presence. Also, with our current economy, expendable income is stretched. So we need to cultivate a public presence and hopefully get families involved. We need to add Academy classes at our shows. We need to make people feel welcome to be involved in our breed. Tonya Taylor asked what are the numbers of youth memberships and the geographical distribution. Linda Laufer noted that we should show at open-breed shows so they can see what are horses are really like. Jeff is on the Grassroots Ad Hoc Committee and these will be the topics that will be investigated.

**Second Vice Director's Report:** Jennifer reviewed the increase presence of the region on social media. She has boosted 'likes' on Facebook and has added an Instagram account. She cautions that we shouldn't be reacting to the negative topics. She wants to add highlights of members to our Facebook, so please send her information – fun stories, etc. And also she wants to start putting nostalgic Region 14 photos and stories, under "Throwback Thursdays." Contact her with your ideas at [jennifertuckerky@gmail.com](mailto:jennifertuckerky@gmail.com)

She also discussed the "Meet an Arabian" promotion. Around \$300, per request, was allocated for the event and you were asked to submit a budget prior to receiving the money. There have been 21 groups who have received this funding. The down side was that they wanted to be scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>. We have had several groups in our area and it doesn't have to be on that date only. Lana Chaffin noted that TSC contacted them. The store was very helpful.

Jennifer also suggested that maybe we need to survey the volunteers that have worked at Equine Affaire, Breyerfest, etc. to see how we are doing and asked for any suggestions as to how we can approve these events. She wanted to discuss what type of horses we pick for these promotional events and who volunteer at these events. Joe noted that we have to be

careful as to creating limitations to the horses and people we accept and Sherry Hull said this has to apply to both events. There was considerable discussion on this topic. We will discuss this more at our caucus meeting in November

**Equine Affaire:** Jennifer reported that, due to Easter, the dates for 2020 are April 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. The Wikel family from Pegasus Arabians were a big help and have ideas for the future. We will vote on participating at this event at the convention caucus.

**Awards Banquet:** Dave reported that it will be March 14<sup>th</sup> here at the Holiday Inn. We need to increase the voting and increase the nominees – have more variety. Many of the nominees are the same people for multiple years. And it is important when you nominate someone, make sure they are a member of a Region 14 club and have actually been shown or involved in the award division. He doesn't accept ballots that are sent in mass, except families. They are also looking for entertainment ideas. We want to encourage more participation towards the slide show – he'd like it to have 300 pictures of our region's members having fun.

Please send ideas to Dave at [ddaugh1@insight.rr.com](mailto:ddaugh1@insight.rr.com) or to Debbie G. at [notr2469@yahoo.com](mailto:notr2469@yahoo.com)

**Regional Show Update:** Cindy reported that we were down a little over 60 horses for 2019 (488 vs. 557 in 2018). She will work on fine tuning the changes, but having the Pre-Show and Youth show as concurrent worked well. She also reported that our regional trailer has been painted and that we also have new radios – both paid from the show budget. For 2020, she will not split the Sport Horse in Hand classes (Dressage & Hunter-type). The cost of the extra judges, the number of entries, etc. were some of the determining factors in this decision. Overall the show went very well and received many compliments. We will be using a new vendor neck year for the neck garlands. The dates for 2020 are June 24<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Breyerfest:** Lorie Henderson is not here to report but Jeff commented that it was well attended and thanks to all that was there and endured the hot weather.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Jeff reported that Amir M. Ghonim, producer with the Middle East Broadcasting Network was here in July to film a documentary on the Arabian horse in the U.S. The production will be presented at the Sundance Film Festival and other film festivals. It will be aired overseas to around 100 million households. They are amazed as to what we do with our Arabian horses here in this country. They spent a few days with Glenn Petty, Nancy Harvey and Stan Morey at the Youth Nationals and local farms.

Cindy moved and Sherry seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart  
Region 14 Secretary