

Region 14 Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2020 @ 1:00 PM
Clark County Champions Center
Springfield, Ohio

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

Minutes: Joe moved and Pepper Proffit seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Joe thanks everyone for covering for him at convention. He reviewed the year-end report, which was under budget, due to a couple of events that weren't held. Constant Contact, our eBlast service, runs around \$770 per year. We show two payments in 2019, because we paid at the beginning of the year and then set-up auto-pay moving forward. They billed for 2020 in December. Pepper moved and Debbie Glasener seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. This passed unanimously.

Budget Report: Joe also reported on the Budget that was prepared at the convention. The significant changes reduced the money allocated for the trail ride and increased the Awards Banquet budget. We renamed the Promotion category to now include Rescue. There were new amounts added – money was added for the Second Vice Director and Immediate Past Director to help with convention expenses. We have budgeted for a projected negative balance for the end of the year. Jeff noted that we had our budget committee meeting before the caucus meeting, where we spent \$889 for the dinner, and the budget was for \$800. Joe noted that this varies depending on the hotel where the convention is held. Debbie G moved and Cindy Clinton seconded a motion to approve the 2020 Budget as submitted. This passed unanimously.

Director's Report: Jeff reviewed what happened at convention, including the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting. The USEF Task Force was well received by other associations and the affiliates' meetings will expand to cover more aspects of working together. The USEF ad hoc committee will provide an update at the March BOD meeting. AHA still feels we need USEF support and will work to overcome the negativity over Safe Sport.

Statistics for the AHA office:

- The phone system was upgraded as of January 1, 2020:
- The staff consists of 39 full-time and 2 part-time employees.
- The Purebred Arabian Trust (PAT) owns the Purebred Arabian Registry Services (PARS) software. Registration of Purebreds is down 11%, while Half Arabian registrations were up 5%.
- The registry amnesty program was extended until March 15th for horses that are two (2) years old and older (the fees are \$250 for Purebreds and \$150 for Half Arabians).
- He recapped the show numbers that were presented at the November caucus meeting.
- The 2020 slogan for AHA is "Onward and Upward."
- The Leveling data had been loaded on to the AHA website.
- Our 2019 Distance Championships included seven (7) breeds of horses, since it was not sustainable with just our breed.
- The video streaming of national shows had over 200,000 views as well as an increase in our social media presence.
- AHA has developed new guidebooks for first time Arabian horse owners, breeders, etc. – these will be released at the March BOD meeting.
- New promotional material is available from AHA, upon request.
- The youth judging went well this year.
- Four (4) new stewards have been credentialed.
- Guidelines are being looked at for the AHA Value and One Day Shows, to help with how to handle situations that normally would be handled by the stewards, etc. at a fully rated show. Duane commented that all shows should still have their emergency plan in place.
- Cindy Reid is working on a module for judges, etc. for Working Western.

- Upcoming AHA conventions: 2020–Reno, Nevada; 2021–Niagara Falls; 2022–Myrtle Beach, North Carolina. Jeff is part of a committee that will be conducting a site visit to the Sheraton Hotel at Myrtle Beach (a brand new facility).

Duane Esser asked as to what was the status of the AHA's *Arabian Life* magazine. Jeff reported that the executive board voted to phase it out. However, no date has been set, as they have many ads that were pre-paid. Cindy wondered if they will look at putting it on-line or have *The Times* take over the publication.

National Shows status:

- Dave and Cindy will have a meeting to discuss the footing concerns that came up at U.S. Nationals.
- Duane reported on the Academy classes at Youth Nationals. They need to refine the rules for Arabians (i.e. both English and Western pleasure can show in running martingale, snaffles and working tack; no jackets will be required). There was considerable discussion as to how these classes differ from main ring classes, should these horses be allowed to cross-enter into the national classes and the general pros and cons of these classes.
- Dave reported on the Canadian Nationals and that this show has less stress and a more fun atmosphere. They did refund the entries of 139 horses that had been at Youth and couldn't compete in Canada due to the outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). They still had just over 700 horses entered and shown.

Dave also reported on the Arabian Western Pleasure Association (AWPA). They are having their fifth auction. They have paid out \$600,000 and have put away \$800,000 in savings, looking ahead to the first classes under saddle for the horses in 2021. There are 100 stallions and over 300 mare nominations. Stallion owners pay \$1000 to be in the program and then 15% is paid out as bonus money.

Duane reported on the changes the Competitions Advisory committee made to the National qualifications. A First or Second place qualifies for a Regional show, while a Regional Top 5 will qualify for U.S. Nationals. Moving forward these qualifications will only be good for one year. There were increases in the points but not in all divisions.

Jeff reviewed how AHA will conduct their search for a new Executive Vice President, to replace Glenn Petty who is retiring at the end of June. Four (4) directors will interview the selected candidates. The Search Committee has been conducting an external search for candidates and then the Selection Committee will review these candidates. The short list will be selected by the Executive Committee (not the Board of Directors) and then narrowed down to two (2) at the March meeting. Then the first round of interviews will begin in April, with the position to be filled by end of June.

Jeff noted that USEF sent out a reminder as to the changes made to the Show Pass and how it applies to Organizations/Syndicates/Farms, which is based on their status with USEF pursuant to GR202 of USEF rules.

Show recognitions:

1. AVS by Companion Arabian, Daytona Beach, Florida (April 11-12, 2020) – discussion revolved that this is an Arabian Value Show and we should not recognize it since, although you qualify for AHA points, the show is not recognized by USEF. Joe moved and Cindy seconded a motion to not recognize this, as a value show, as a qualifier for Region 14. This passed.
2. Arabian Autumn Classic B by Gulf Coast Arabian Horse Club, Bryan, Texas (September 18-20, 2020) – it was discussed that this show has been approved in the past. In 2019, Duane judged this show, with Danny Thompson being a learner judge and Deneb Thompson was there as a learner steward. Duane moved and Debbie G seconded a motion to renew this recognition. This passed.

Proposal for Financial Help for a Kentucky Arabian Farm: Ellie Troutman, who owns and operates Windy Meadows Equestrian and Event Center, is an equine advocate and has been involved with law enforcement in animal welfare, specifically horses, as well as working to change laws as to how to handle abuse. One of the hardest parts of dealing with these situations is that no one is allowed to legally go onto a property and help the horses without the owner's approval or a legal warrant.

She presented a current case to the meeting attendees of an Arabian horse farm that is in crisis. [*Being prudent, Joe excused himself from this discussion as he is on the Ethical Practice Review Board (EPRB), where this case may be heard in the future.*] This involves a farm, owned by two (2) partners, that has over 100 horses in Kentucky. There have been warrants served to inspect the property. A request for assistance was made and turned down by the Arabian Horsemen Distress Fund (the farm's situation didn't meet the criteria of the AHDF by-laws). So far, 22 horses have been taken into care and efforts are being made to sell these horses to keep the value in our breed. Ellie is asking for financial help from Region 14. The owners of the farm are conflicted about asking for help and they still love the horses but they are experiencing financial hardship that is affecting the care of the horses. They need supplies for these horses plus the cost of rental for the property and the funds for hay (they use 110 round bales per month at a cost of \$70). Ellie is asking the donations (supplies and monetary) be made through her so that there is accountability that the horses are cared for. Some of our Region 14 clubs have already helped and others are encouraged to help if they can. A motion was made by Pepper and seconded by Debbie G to give \$2500, from our Promotion/Rescue fund. This passed. Maybe we can get an update at our March meeting.

First Vice Director's Report / Regional Awards Banquet: Dave and Debbie G reviewed what they have planned for the upcoming banquet March 14th. The postcards have been printed and Deneb will be mailing them out around February 1st. There was a discussion as to the room rates, as Joe had the contract we signed after last year's banquet that listed a block of 20 rooms would be held, at a cost of \$102 per night. Debbie G will contact the Holiday Inn because they had agreed to a fee of \$99 per night. For entertainment, we will have Bingo, seven (7) games with prizes and then a grand prize of a TV for the 8th game, which will be a cover-all. Carl Malicote will be handling the Silent Auction again this year. We want this to be a fun evening – celebrating its 13th year.

Dave noted that he had sent requests for nominees to all club presidents, the region's executive board and all past directors. He had set a deadline of January 11th, but it should have been the 22nd and he contacted everyone of the deadline change. To date, of the 19 requests he sent out, he had received only 8. There was discussion as to the fact that it seems that the same people are nominated year after year and many are submitted that have already won in the past five (5) years.

It was discussed that we may want to re-evaluate the categories moving forward and Jeff suggested a committee could be appointed to look at what can be done to get more interest in this event. Jennifer noted that we need more promotion through the year, especially for new members that come to the region. Dave reported that several have agreed to be on this committee and they will meet for the first time before this year's banquet and then another meeting at a latter date, with a report to be given at the regional August meeting. Those on the committee are: Dave, Debbie G, Jennifer, Larry Kinner, Duane, Deneb, Sara DeBolt-Siemon and LaDon Donohoe.

Second Vice Director's Report: Jennifer noted that she is committed to marketing and promotion of our breed and our region. She was inspired by discussion at convention that emphasizes our need to retain our current members as well as get new members. She is requesting that if anyone has any ideas, let her know.

Equine Affaire (April 2-5, 2020): Jennifer reviewed the status of her planning of this event. Move in will be Wednesday, April 1st. She is looking for a Western Pleasure horse, as well as Saddleseat horses for the demo. As always she needs volunteers. She is pleased to have the help of Tory Wikel (Pegasus Arabians), who wants to make this a success. Any monetary donations need to be sent through Joe so the region's treasury tracks them. Of course, the amount we budget from the region will be used to help pay the booth with stall, for the stalling of the demo horses (\$150 per horse), food and hotel accommodations for Jennifer as manager of this event.

Equitana (September 25-27, 2020): This event was founded in 1972 as a bi-annual event in Germany, and then expanded to Australia in 1999. This year it will be held in the United States – specifically at the Kentucky Horse Park. Jennifer presented the information she has gathered, after contacting staff with Equitana. She wants to work with Lorie, who handles Breyerfest, to see how they can coordinate horses for demos and for presentation at the booth, similar to Equine Affaire. For a 10 x 10 booth with a stall and drapes, the fee is \$1600, plus \$150 per stall for the demo horses. We would present two (2) 15-minute demos per day. AHA has been approached but it looks like Region 14 will take the lead on our breed presence at this event. Larry noted that this is a great outreach event, but maybe with need to get help from our neighboring regions (13 and 15). Pepper suggested that those interested in participating in the demos should submit bios for their horse. Joe agreed that this event is very important and that we need to have a presence there. Duane moved and Cindy seconded a motion to provide Jennifer with 50% of the \$1600 needed to reserve our spot at Equitana. She will give us a followed-up at the March meeting. Debbie S noted that we should get some help from AHA. Larry suggested that we approach the Marketing Development Promotion

(MDP) since this is an international event. We need to contact Lisa Blackstone (Region 12) who is involved in promotion. The funds would come from our Promotion/Rescue budget item. The motion passed.

Arabian Horses for Humanity – Region 14 “Believe” horse Project: Duane has made contact with someone who is involved in many Cincinnati charities, including Children’s Hospital Celestial Ball. He will have more information at the March meeting.

Regional Show Report: Cindy reported that she is tightening her show budget this year, partially due to the KHP raising fees again, as well as a couple of trainers have gone out of business. She has hired the following judges for the Pre-show: Paul Kostial, Mike Domianos, Chris Culbreth (Trail, Reining and Ranch Riding), Debra Shone (Halter), Marilyn Heath (Dressage) and Allan Ehrlick (Sporthorse). For the Regional judges, she has hired Chris Culbreth, Cathy Vecsey, Scott Brumfield, Mike Domianos (Trail, Reining and Ranch Riding) and Sandi Chohany (Dressage and Sporthorse). Jennifer will help to look at how we promote our regional show.

Old Business: It has been decided that there seems to be little interest in have a Region 14 Recreational Trail Ride so we will table this event at this time.

Duane has been talking and working with Martha Rattner to determine the best way to salvage the KAHA club. The Articles of Incorporation have been cancelled by State of Kentucky. AHA has not revoked the charter for the club that anyone is aware of. Their requirements are the as long as there are two (2) members, it remains an AHA club. To qualify for a single delegate that can represent the club at convention, they need a minimum 10 members. Hopefully by March meeting we will have more information.

New Business: Cindy introduced Sara DeBolt-Siemon as the newly elected president for OVAHA, along with other new officers. Sara wants to turn this club around and is open to any help. Jeff noted that we need find a way to increase interest in all of our clubs. Maybe Jennifer can reach out and find out what they need from the region. Joe noted that we have 494 dues paid by clubs for members in Region 14. Deneb noted that she is only sending out about 360 postcards for the banquet. She also noted that Eastern Kentucky is doing an Expo this year. She said they are taking horses and will keep in touch with this group, as they are excited to have the Arabian breed participation.

Dave noted that when he took over as director after Larry, Region 14 had 1000 members but many had joined direct and not through a regional club. We will try and reach out to AHA to see if we can get a list of those current Region 14 direct members.

Larry feels that we need to find a way to rejuvenate interest in our regional clubs. Debbie G thinks that social media has taken the place of clubs having physical meetings and events. Maybe we need to create a survey to see what folks want. There was considerable discussion about the trend of declining club memberships.

Pepper moved and Cindy seconded a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary