

**Region 14 Meeting Minutes**  
**January 17, 2021 @ 1:00 PM**  
**ZOOM Virtual Meeting**

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

**Minutes:** Joe moved and Duane Esser seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe reported on that we had an expenditure for Equine Affaire for 2021, but that was a deposit that will now cover 2022. We had the same thing with Breyerfest – which is cancelled for 2021 and Equitana, which is still planned for this year. And then we had our expenditures for the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund. There were also expenses incurred from Holiday Inn due to the late cancellation of the 2020 Awards Banquet, but sponsors covered our awards' costs. Cindy Clinton moved and Duane seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. This passed unanimously.

**Budget Report:** Joe also reported on the Budget that was prepared for this year. We've raised a couple of categories for 2021, including the Youth Director's budget from \$500 to \$1000 (Ashley Staley) – only caveat is that the funds will be monitored by an adult and paid after invoice(s) are submitted. Duane asked about how we handle the other requests, as far as the dispersal of funds and Joe responded that the normal route is that receipts, etc. are presented and then the funds are paid. Duane moved and Dave seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented. This passed unanimously.

The following items were requested for funding by Region 14:

- ❖ Request for \$700 budget to get custom stall curtains from Cloud Nine for the region to use at events like Equine Affaire, Breyerfest, etc. (Jennifer Tucker). Joe moved and Duane seconded a motion to approve.
- ❖ Requests for \$1500 for promotional video to be created for regional use on for Equine Affaire, Breyerfest, etc. as well as YouTube, Facebook, Google, Instagram, etc. (Jennifer Tucker). Joe moved and Debbie S seconded a motion to approve.
  - Both of the above will come from the Equine Affaire line item.
- ❖ Request from BAHA for \$350 to fund a promotional video of the Arabian horse for the "Meet the Arabian Events" (Jennifer Tucker). Discussion centered on Region 14 funding club promotions. Joe moved and Duane seconded a motion to approve.
- ❖ Request from KAHABA for \$1000 to fund a promotional video of the Arabian/Half Arabian horse as a family / pleasure horse, vs. the show horse. This would be showcased on Facebook, Instagram, etc. Fees would be charged to use this an advertisement (Jennifer Hudson). There was considerable discussion as to how this request differs from the two (2) previous items for videos. Joe moved and Cindy seconded a motion to approve.
  - Both of the above will come from the Promotions/Rescue line item.

All of the above requested were passed by the meeting unanimously.

**Director's Report:** Jeff reviewed some of the changes from convention. Thanks to all our delegates that attended the convention - it was one of the best attended in many years, probably because it was virtual.

- ❖ AHA delegates elected a new Executive Board: President Deborah Johnson, Vice President Lisa Blackstone, Secretary Jan Decker and Treasurer Dave Corning. New Vice Presidents At Large include: Lawrence Jerome and Peter Conway.
- ❖ The revised AHA Handbook will be rolled out soon.
- ❖ There will be a brief virtual AHA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting January 25<sup>th</sup> to rap up some odds and ends.
- ❖ Lifelong member Shirley Nowak has passed away at age 91. She was an active member and officer in OHAHA, a USEF steward and tireless advocate for our Arabian / Half Arabian breed. She will be greatly missed.

- ❖ Cindy noted that it is helpful when Jeff sends out a director's report for review prior to the meeting. [*Note that report is attached as addendum and also available on the regional website.*]
- ❖ Jeff had Cindy and Dave review the U.S. Nationals.
  - Dave noted that the schedule went through seven (7) versions prior to the show;
  - Since qualifications were waived, they had approximately 1000 more entries at the show;
  - Footing is always an issue and some of it was improved but others can't be changed;
  - He reported that there was a lot of discussion on how the schedule worked with the additional entries and how the sessions were handled, but all in all he felt this was one of the best U.S. Nationals.
- ❖ Dave also reported that they are planning the 2021 Canadian Nationals but it is uncertain whether restrictions will be lifted for that show to happen. If it doesn't, then expect another Mid-Summer Nationals to be included with Youth Nationals. If it is, the dates will be July 17-25. However, if it is just Youth, then the dates are July 20-25.
- ❖ Sport Horse Nationals has been approved for the next three (3) years to be held at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, Ohio – which is part of Region!
- ❖ AHA will hold it's next virtual BOD March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The 2021 AHA Convention is scheduled for Niagara Falls, but there is no decision at this time whether it will be in-person or virtual.

**First Vice Director's Report: none**

**Awards Banquet:** Debbie Glasener reported that the committee (Dave, Debbie G, Jennifer, Larry Kinneer, Duane, Deneb, Sara DeBolt-Siemon and LaDon Donohoe) have decided that the Regional Awards Banquet will be canceled for this year but that we will continue with Awards and present them virtually via ZOOM / FACEBOOK Live at a yet to be determined (TBD) date.

Dave reviewed the Power Point presentation showing the changes to the Awards categories for 2022. Some statistics as to why reorganization is needed – participation is declining:

- ❖ 20% of nominations are never returned (sent to previous directors, club presidents and the Region 14 Executive board);
- ❖ <50% of eligible members vote on the awards;
- ❖ 30% of the nominees don't participate in any way (no bios, vote, etc.);
- ❖ There will be 11 categories (up from the current 10):
  1. Trainer/Assistant Trainer
  2. Volunteer
  3. Groom/Caretaker
  4. Purebred Horse of the Year
  5. Half Arabian Horse of the Year
  6. Adult Amateur of the Year
  7. Youth of the Year
  8. Dressage & Sport Horse Rider/Handler
  9. Local Exhibitor
  10. Arabian Enthusiasts
  11. Ambassador
- ❖ The guidelines for some of the awards are as follows:
  - First and foremost, the nominees must be members of a Region 14 club. And they must have participated/competed in the category they are nominated, whether at the local, regional or national level;
  - Youth of the Year will be based on the AHA/USEF model and criteria;
  - Groom/Caretaker is the only category where the nominees does not need to be a member of a Region 14 club;
  - Adult Amateur criteria based on the AHA/USEF model and criteria;
  - Trainer/Assistant Trainer must have a USEF Professional membership;
  - Local exhibitor must specifically show only at local (AHA or open breed shows) and/or regional shows BUT not at any national level show;

- Arabian Enthusiasts are those that participate regional and/or club events in a non-competitive role, they may not even own an Arabian horse. They must not show. A prime example is Shirley Nowak over her lifetime.
- Ambassador – similar criteria as the AHA Ambassador award category. Basically any type of involvement in promoting our breed in events like parades, “Meet the Arabian Horse” events – any type of outreach not related to competitions.

Jennifer has worked on a Google format so that all the nominations, biographies and voting can be done on-line. The committee has tested this format. The charge for sponsoring an award is still \$125. About 80-90% of the awards are sponsored each year. Also, there was discussion that these awards need to be promoted throughout the year on social media and via e-Blasts. Cindy moved and Duane seconded a motion to approve the changes to the Region 14 Awards program.

**Second Vice Director’s Report:** Jennifer is a member of the Local Level Involvement Committee that was created as an Ad Hoc committee by AHA but is now a permanent committee. Jeff is the board liaison. They meet once per month. Michelle Werts is the chairperson of this group. Ten regions are represented on the committee (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16 & 18) but they are hoping the add representatives from the other eight (8) regions. Their purpose is to bring folks to the Arabian / Half-Arabian breed through local outreach. They are looking at having youth earn Arabian Horse Badges (similar to Scouting badges), continue and expand involvement in the Arabian Literacy program and the Letterman Program, chaired by Nancy Harvey. It is similar to the USEF program for middle and high schools to recognize the equine youth as athletes.

There is an application on the AHA website if you or someone you know wants to be involved in the Local Level committee, with the one requirement being that you must be in charge of one of the projects. Jennifer is actively working on having an AHA Virtual Show. These have been done out West and have been successful.

She also noted that the Discovery Farm program with AHA is now FREE. Firelight Arabians (Lorie Henderson) is one of those farms. You get a sign and are linked on the AHA website, etc.

Jennifer is asking that folks send her information for the AHA Regional Insider eblast by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, either via her email ([jennifertuckerky@gmail.com](mailto:jennifertuckerky@gmail.com) or [Region14Arabian@gmail.com](mailto:Region14Arabian@gmail.com)).

**Youth Director’s Report:** Our new youth director – Ashley Staley – was unable to present her report today as she and her family are in the middle of moving. Danny Thompson reported for her. She is planning on the Region 14 youth having a Photo Contest, with two (2) categories – 13 and Under and 14-18. The prizes will be gift cards TBD. Three (3) judges will select the winners. So far one of these judges is Donna Lassanske. There will be other contests like Favorite Show Music.

**Regional Show Report:** Cindy reported that the 2020 show was wonderful with great volunteers. We were up with 565 horses. We didn’t have the Bistro, due to COVID restrictions.

The dates for the 2021 show are June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>. As with last year, there will be no qualifications needed, so the Pre-Show will not be concurrent. This seemed to create a more relaxed atmosphere at the show. Linda Ferris will again host the Patron’s Lounge, which will take care of the judges’ meal breaks. So far Cindy has hired the following judges.

Pre-show:

Sue Kolstad – Dressage / Sport Horse  
 Terri Delbridge - Halter  
 Ann Judge – Working Western / Ranch Riding  
 Brian Scoggins – Main ring

Regional:

Lisa El Ramey - Dressage / Sport Horse  
 Brian Scoggins - Working Western / Ranch Riding  
 Ann Judge – Main ring  
 Two (2) regional judges - TBA

Cindy has also worked on fixing the Dressage / Sport Horse schedule. Pepper Proffit asked what the champion awards will be and Cindy noted that most like the halters.

Duane praised Cindy for all her hard work that makes our regional show one of the best in AHA. With that said, he moved and Dave seconded a motion to give Cindy a \$1000 bonus. This passed unanimously.

**Equine Affaire, Breyerfest & Equitana:** Jennifer reported the following event dates:

- ❖ Equine Affaire 2021 – April 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled (may go virtual). 2022 dates are April 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Breyerfest 2021 – July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> has been changed to a virtual format; We will check out our options on how we can participate;
- ❖ Equitana 2021 – October 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> is still scheduled to happen but will wait to see.

Joe moved and Dave seconded a motion to budget \$800, to be used at Jennifer's discretion, for what may be needed to participate in the virtual events. This passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Jeff requested that the region give approval for the Palmetto Sport Horse Classic (June 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>) at Clemson South Carolina, hold the off-site Region 14 Hunter Jumper classes. Cindy moved and Donna L seconded a motion to approve. This passed unanimously.

One award will have “permanent” sponsorship: Dave moved and Duane seconded a motion for OHAHA to sponsor the Arabian Enthusiast as the Shirley Nowak Award. This passed unanimously.

It was suggested that we change the date for the regional March meeting to avoid any confusion with the cancellation of the banquet. We will have a ZOOM virtual meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Duane moved and Donna L seconded this motion. This passed unanimously.

Joe wanted to thank the Awards committee for their work to improve this regional program.

Jeff moved and Donna L seconded a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart  
Region 14 Secretary

## **ADDENDUM:**

To All Region 14 Members,

January 17, 2021

I feel as your regional director; I have an obligation and responsibility to keep you informed, as to what is happening in our association.

Please note, there has not been much activity since our AHA Annual Membership "Virtual" Convention. I would also like to thank all the delegates who attended convention, this was an increase in delegates over the past couple of years.

### **Newly Elected AHA Executive Committee Members**

**President** *Deborah Johnson*  
**Vice President** *Lisa Blackstone*  
**Secretary** *Jan Decker*  
**Treasurer** *Dave Corning*

Below are new changes to the 2021 handbook.

1. Handbook Revised Change to Working Hunter Scoring
2. Performance Halter Placing defined
3. Approve 2021 Handbook

We are saddened to announce the passing of Shirley Nowak, one of Region 14 most acknowledged members and the passion she had for the Arabian horse! Shirley was born in 1929 in Lakewood, Ohio to Howard and Betile Benham. She grew up in Olmstead Falls and she has lived in Medina County for the last 60 years of her life. Shirley fell in love with horses at a very young age and won many awards and accolades while showing horses over her lifetime. Over the years she judged or stewarded a host of major shows in both the US and Canadian Nationals, Pinto Nationals, Friesian Nationals, Morgan Grand Nationals, and the Star World Show. She was inducted into The Region 14 Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) Judges Hall of Fame 2007. Shirley also judged and stewarded with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) spanning from the 80's to 2013 where she once held a seat on the board of directors. Shirley also was an avid quilter, she enjoyed embroidery and cross stitch. She is survived by her sons, Carl (Cindy) Nowak and Robert (Julie) Nowak; granddaughter, Carla (Brian) Wolfe; and great grandson, Parker Wolfe, sister, Claire Ernhart; niece, Roberta (John) Shaw; nephew, Alan (Cathy) Ernhart; along with many friends. Shirley is preceded in death by her husband, Frank Nowak. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Medina County SPCA, 8790 Guilford Rd, Seville, OH 44273.

I encourage every member within our region to please pass information along to Jennifer Tucker; of all activities, events, etc. that your clubs have planned so we can publish it in our AHA Regional Insider news, we cannot announce things if we are not aware of them and this is a great way to get it out to the Arabian Horse Community....

I also would like to challenge every club to reach out and recruit a new member, we need to really think outside the box, and do more community outreach at the grass roots and local level, to bring new members into our industry and to market the wonderful Arabian horse to the user-friendly equine enthusiast. There are tons of equine enthusiast out there that have not been introduced to the Arabian horse. So do your part as an Arabian owner, breeder, member or just a lover of the Arabian horse and let's promote the Arabian and Half-Arabian horse to the equine enthusiast that have not yet discovered them!

I would also like to give a big shout out to everyone on the Region 14 awards committee, for all their hard work, time and effort in the changes they have for our upcoming awards program!

Please read below the following email I received from the "LLITF" Local Level Involvement Task Force committee chair Michelle Werts.

Dear Regional Directors,

We are excited about the new Local Level Committee and are asking for your help in recruiting new members to help execute the exciting projects we have in the works for 2021!

Our goal is to have representatives from each AHA Region participate on the Local Level Committee to bring ideas as well as help implement the programs created by the committee in their respective Regions. ***The ideal committee member is passionate about the Arabian horse, enjoys sharing Arabian horses with new people, will attend monthly calls and is willing to take a leadership role on Local Level projects.***

The Local Level Committee's Mission: "To bring people to the Arabian horse through local outreach."

Our History: In 2019, AHA formed the Local Level Involvement Task Force and at the 2020 AHA Convention, the Task Force was given standing committee status and became the Local Level Committee. Our first major project was the 2019 Meet an Arabian Horse Day, which was a success nationwide. In 2020, Meet an Arabian Horse went virtual and we developed a variety of online stories, handouts, and other materials available on the AHA web site during the long months of quarantine. In 2021, we have a variety of programs in development that we would like to implement and are looking for new committee members to help us do that!

If you know someone who would be a good fit for the Local Level Committee, please forward their name and contact information to me and we will follow up with them. Or feel free to forward the attached membership application and return to Michelle Werts, Committee Chairman, via email at [Michelle@PerspectiveFarms.com](mailto:Michelle@PerspectiveFarms.com).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email or phone. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,  
Michelle Werts  
AHA Local Level Committee Chair  
[Michelle@PerspectiveFarms.com](mailto:Michelle@PerspectiveFarms.com)  
573-424-4565

We hope and pray that this will all soon pass, and we can get back to our normal lives and association structure, please stay safe and continue to support our wonderful Arabian Horse.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Caldwell  
Director Region 14