

Region 14 Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Director Jeff Caldwell called the meeting to order, with Second Vice Director Jennifer Tucker, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Joe Hull in attendance. Eleven clubs were represented: ABHAHA, BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHA, KAHABA, KARABS, NEOAHA, OHAHA, OAATS and SAHIBA.

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

Treasurer's Report: Joe reported that not much had happened since the March meeting. He processed the Breyerfest refund and is working on our national shows' sponsorships. Rick Tosch moved and Donna Lassanske seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. This passed unanimously.

Director's Report: [*A detailed report is attached as an Addendum to these minutes*] Jeff reported on the May 17th Board of Directors (BOD) meeting. There was a report from USEF president Tom O'Mara on the value, benefit and risk management of USEF as well as the easing of the COVID restrictions based on day-to-day basis. Also Safe Sport update of effectiveness and DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) training were discussed. Jeff also noted that the Ransom-ware attack on the AHA website is still under investigation.

The 2021 AHA Convention that was scheduled for November at Niagara Falls, Canada will be a Virtual meeting again this year, due to the unknown status of the Canadian border. AHA decided not to sign a revised contract for 2024 so they will lose the \$10,000 deposit that was paid.

Qualifications are again waived for regionals and nationals for 2021. The BOD will be voting at the August meeting on "participation" qualifications that would be implemented for the 2022 and 2023 show seasons. Cindy Clinton expanded on the proposed system. Jennifer read what was on Jeff's report on the pathway to search the AHA website for Leveling status information. Also the USEF Competition Task Force will have a web presentation, scheduled for June 8th to update the membership on their status.

At the March meeting, Jeff asked Duane to draft a letter as a way to explore the concern that there is a lack of participation within AHA from the under 25-age group. Jeff sent this letter to all club presidents and our executive board. We are asking each club to have a representative on a committee (if formed) to study what can be done to bring "young blood" into our breed association. Donna will send the letter to colleges and universities to ask for permission to approach their students to try and get their involvement. Deneb Thompson asked that the letter be amended, changing the reference of Country English Pleasure to Saddleseat, which is a more universal class division. Cindy Ryan moved and Rick seconded a motion to move forward with letter. This passed.

Clubs are asked to update their officer list with AHA as soon as possible.

First Vice Director's Report: no report was given.

Second Vice Director's Report: Jennifer is on the sub-committee of the Local Level Committee that launched a 3-month Virtual Show pilot program. She presented the meeting with some statistics as to how the program has gone so far. Participation of the regions was fairly spread out except that Region 3 had the most with 23, while Region 14 had 3. The largest age group numbers came from the 11-15 year old.

- March: had 53 entries with 38 exhibitors and it brought in 11 new AHA members;
- April: had 47 entries with 34 exhibitors with no new members;
- May: had 16 entries with 10 exhibitors and added 3 new members;

The drop in May participation was a concern. Social media comments were how could AHA have the show with the website down. But this program was being operated through the Paint Horse Association. The feedback so far is that this is good for the youth exhibitors, especially getting the feedback from the judge. The largest classes were Hunter Pleasure Walk/Trot, Hunt Seat Equitation Walk/Trot, Western Pleasure Walk/Jog, Sport Horse Under Saddle and Arabian Performance Halter.

The “Meet an Arabian” events are going well. There are still some events to come and they will be working with the local Chambers of Commerce. They are also working on a Literacy program and there will be another round of “Meet an Arabian” in September.

Jennifer also reported that they are starting to work on the videos that were approved. She is looking for exhibitors to get with her to present their story.

Youth Director’s Report: Ashley Staley was not available for the meeting and there was no report

Awards Banquet: Jennifer is working on a social media promotion that will present the new guidelines for the Award categories to the regional membership. Debbie S asked that she get a copy of the new rules to load on the regional website.

Upcoming Events for 2021: Jennifer reported that Equine Affaire was virtual and our deposit will be rolled over to April 7-10, 2022 event. Breyerfest is also virtual this year, July 16-18, and Ellie Troutman and Tayler Rhinehart are going to give a presentation from their store. To date, Equitana is still on schedule to be at the KHP October 1st-3rd and we will have a 10 x 20 corner booth that includes a stall. (*The layout will be similar to what is done during the Rolex in the covered arena.*) Lorie Henderson and Jennifer will be working on the horses they need. We will be doing a 15-minute presentation in the “annex ring” twice a day for all three (3) days.

Regional Show Report: Cindy stated at this time, the show might not be as big as usual. For the big farms, our show is too close to the dates for the Mid-Summer and Youth National show. She is working on getting volunteers. Again this year, there will be no catering so we will not have the Patrons Lounge. Linda Ferris will be handling the meals for the judges.

Jeff asked Cindy to comment on the accident that happened to some of the horses from the trainer Joel Gangi’s farm. His assistant was taking four (4) horses home from Region 9 and was within 15 minutes of the farm when a semi tractor-trailer basically ran over the horse trailer. Three (3) of the horses were killed and one is being treated for head lacerations and a broken rib at a university vet center. We are all so shocked and saddened when an accident like this happens.

Duane noted since we don’t have qualifications this year, shows are going to be damaged. The Competition Advisory Committee is looking into the qualifications moving forward. Plans are to propose the changes and ask the BOD will vote August 6th on the proposed qualifications for the next two (2) show seasons. But there is an issue with the information being available to the regional directors. Duane noted that there *might* be an AHA Town Hall presentation on the changes. There was some discussion on this subject.

Also Jeff purchased pole risers for the trail equipment. Cindy will make sure that the regional show will re-imburse the general Region 14 fund. Also Deneb Thompson and a group of 12 SAHIBA members repainted the trail equipment.

Old Business: Jeff worked at the Palmetto Sport Horse Classic show that held our Region 14 Championship Hunter Jumper classes. He received an email from Robert Obermiller with the show’s statistics. Saturday dressage had 66 rides and Sunday dressage had 58 rides. Sport Horse Under Saddle averaged about five (5) per class, with some having 11 entries. The Sport Horse In Hand classes (hunter & dressage type) had 82 entries with 164 scores. The Hunter Jumpers qualified 35 horses (as far away as New York) on Saturday and those all showed in the Region 14 Championship classes on Sunday. They are planning on having the Palmetto Sport Horse Spring Classic in 2022 and would like to again host our off-site classes. Cindy noted that Region 13 Sport Horse Championships was held at the World Equestrian Center (WEC). Martha Rattner noted that the Clemson venue is a great facility.

The Sport Horse National will be held at WEC for next three (3) years. Joe thinks this would be a good opportunity for Region 14 to promote at this event. What can we provide for all the exhibitors – dinner at Golden Lamb, pizza or donuts? There was a lot of discussion – coupon for burger and fries from WEC restaurant during the show; or pizza party for the welcome party; or donuts each morning might be the best option. Cindy spoke to some of the WEC costs she had at this year’s Buckeye. Joe will contact Paige Lockhart at AHA and see what we need to plan for and are there any restrictions from WEC. Martha also suggested that we get “welcome” banners for the two (2) entrances that can be used for the next three (3) years. AHA may charge us to put up signage. A budget of about \$5000 for food and signage was suggested.

Linda Laufer had reported earlier in the meeting that the Preble County Fairground in Eaton, Ohio has recently opened a new covered arena, similar to the one at the Clark County Fairgrounds. The first show will be held later in June and the OVAHA show will now be held there in October.

Our next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, August 9th at 7:00 PM, via ZOOM. Duane moved and Debbie S seconded that motion. This passed.

Joe moved and Jennifer seconded a motion to adjourn. This passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Swigart

Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary

ADDENDUM:



To All Region 14 Members,

June 7, 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.

Topics of AHA BOD meeting on May 17, 2021 included the following:

Tom O'Mara, USEF President -Discussion of USEF value, benefits and risk management practices: It was discussed that COVID-19 restrictions are currently being lifted on a day-to-day basis. The 7-valueable resources from USEF to Organized Equestrian Sports are the (Rulebook, Hearing Panel, Licensed Officials, Drugs and Medication, Competition Licensing, Safe Sport & Return to Play). As for Safe Sport, congress did not go far enough to help explain the Safe Sport Ruling for Equestrian Sport, so it was very hard for the general membership to understand; the reasoning for it; youth involved in unsafe practices. DEI Training "Diversity Equity and Inclusion" Is awareness of how people feel and to help raise awareness, not meant to be political, nothing to do with race, nationality, gender, especially beneficial for all license officials, officiating competitions. There was discussion that USEF needed to be more transparent for the Arabian breed, use our breed for more promotional materials and re-evaluate the amateur rule.

Ransomware Attack still being investigated.

Convention 2021 update and update of 2024: Discussion on revised contract, not in the best interest of AHA to sign at this current time, so will lose the \$10,000.00 deposit, 2021 convention is being planned as a Zoom Convention.

Additional Competition News

2021 Qualifications: Qualifications have been waived for the 2021 Regional and National Championship Shows. Qualifications for 2022 and beyond will move to a "Participation" based system and the chart will be finalized at the August 6, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.

Leveling: The new view for Leveling is now available under your login. Go to the AHA Horse/Rider Points and Competition Records link under the “I want to...” section. Go to “Rider Search” and select “Leveling Points” to view your current record for the 2021 competition year. Note: depending on where your points were earned, you may be riding under different levels at the Regional/Recognized level versus the National Level.

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Competition Task Force Status Update

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. EDT

Join USEF President and Competition Task Force Chair Tom O’Mara and Chief Executive Officer Bill Moroney on Tuesday, June 8, at 5:00 p.m. EDT for a 60-minute presentation to update the membership regarding the work of the US Equestrian Competition Task Force. As a follow-up to the Competitions & Conversations webinar sessions held earlier this year, the task force was formed to analyze the current competition environment, review feedback provided by members and affiliates, and address the issues and concerns raised.

This session will provide members with important updates regarding the work of the task force to date, as well as provide a look into ongoing areas of focus as the task force seeks to increase opportunities, improve access, and enhance experience across all levels of the competition environment.

Questions can be submitted live during the webinar using the Q&A feature. They will be answered at the end of the presentation if time permits, and feedback is welcome at the conclusion of the webinar. Additional feedback can be submitted to CompetitionsTaskForce@usef.org.

Panelists:

Bill Moroney – Chief Executive Officer, US Equestrian
Tom O’Mara – President, US Equestrian

At our last Regional meeting past director Duane Esser agreed to help create a letter for distribution about the lack of participation of regional members under the age of 25. Duane has done that, now we need to form a committee to spearhead this.

Donna Lassanske has agreed to reach out and have communication with equine colleges and universities, to help promote the Arabian breed, more to come on this.

I would like to ask all Region 14 clubs to get your club officers information updated with AHA and also to update your club’s bylaws to reflect any recent changes and submit to me by June 30, 2021.

Report Submitted by:
Jeff Caldwell
Director Region 14