

Region 14 Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2023 @ 1:00 PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Director Duane Esser 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: BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHA, KAHABA, KARABS, NEOAHA, OAATS, OHAHA, OVAHA and SAHIBA.

Duane led off the meeting by thanking Jeff Caldwell for his service as our director over the past four (4) years. There have been challenging times and he stayed the course. We appreciate his leadership.

Minutes: Pepper Proffit moved, and Dave seconded a motion to approve the November Caucus meeting minutes as submitted. This passed.

Treasurer's Report: Joe sent copies of both the treasurer's report and 2023 Budget. He reported that we ended the year with a positive balance, bolstered by a very successful regional show – thanks to show manager Cindy Clinton. Since the November meeting, the main activity was paying expenses from convention. Donna Lassanske moved, and Dave seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. This passed.

Budget Report: Joe reviewed the budget that was prepared for this year. There were few changes from the 2022 except for the following:

- We increased the Sport Horse Nationals (SHN) sponsorship budget for a package to include a banner in The Sanctuary arena.
- Maintained the Rescue and Emergency funds as well as Promotions that include Equine Affaire and Breyerfest.
- Established a Youth Scholarship program in the amount of \$6000 – to be awarded to three (3) youth (\$3000, \$2000 and \$1000).

Donna moved and Jennifer seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented. This passed.

Director's Report: Duane recapped the 2022 AHA convention, which was in-person this year in Myrtle Beach, SC. It was great to be back together. There were a few of the resolutions that generated a lot of discussion.

- Resolution #5 passed – it dealt with small shows being allowed to have an Arabian judge handle the Sport Horse classes, if they have a Specialty card. It will be up to the Education/Evaluation Committee to establish a way for the judges to obtain this card. It doesn't go into effect until December 2023. It was opposed by many of the Sport Horse members.
- Resolution #6 passed – this dealt with defining unnatural tail carriage and how to bring all divisions into alignment within the Arabian breed rules and how they are judged.
- Resolution #7 passed – this was a change in the shoeing rule to allow for a screwable lead bar to be attached to the shoe.
- Resolution #8 passed – it dealt with the use of tongue ties with full bridles.

Duane also reported on some of the actions of the Board of Directors meeting held at convention:

- Currently AHA has 15,000 members, with an 2% increase in Competition cards. The Purebred and Half Arabian registries were up, as was Breeders Sweepstakes.

- The PAT lawsuit was settled in early December. This suit alleged that AHA was not able to handle registrations when the website was down due to the ransomware problem. But AHA continued to register horses manually during that time. The judge found in AHA's favor.
- Initially the Canadian Nationals were being scheduled for 2023 but has now been postponed indefinitely. There is an ongoing discussion with the Red Deer show committee on how this show could be a Canadian national show in the future. The allocated sweepstakes' funds are being held until this can be worked out.
- The SHN commissioners have renewed the contract with WEC-Ohio (Wilmington) for three (3) more years – 2024 thru 2026. They continue to look for a west coast option.
- The Ranch Horse Championship was financially viable with 26 horses. It should be noted that this is not considered an AHA national show.
- The Youth, Mid-Summer, and U.S. Nationals (USN) shows continue to be strong. Regional shows were up 5.59% for 2022.
- The Judges and Stewards Committee are concerned as our pool of judges and stewards are aging out. We need to encourage the younger generation to get involved. Cindy Ryan and Deneb Thompson commented that they have been contacted about having learner judges at their shows – the Medallion and SAHIBA Spring SASS show. It should be noted that the learner judges must work with licensed judges at USEF sanctioned shows only – not the AHA value shows. This may be a problem in the future.
- The Arabian Horse Foundation has paid out \$1.3 million over the past 23 years in scholarships.

Per a directive from an earlier regional meeting, Duane has been working on creating a Region 14 Youth Scholarship committee. We need this committee to create the structure and criteria for the scholarship. The following members have been appointed to be on this committee: Jeff Caldwell – Chair, Joe Hull (current treasurer), Cindy Clinton, Donna Lassanske, Carl Malicote and Rachel Vaughn (current Youth Director). They will meet soon and report at our next meeting.

First Vice Director's Report: Dave thanked Joe for his continued service as our treasurer and Jeff for his service as director. Dave is now chair of the USN commission. There will be planning meeting in Tulsa at the end of January, to set up contracts with the fairgrounds and visitors bureau. He reminded everyone that if you show at a national show, please complete your survey - the commission reads all of them. They have also formed a committee to review the schedule and try to make it leaner. They plan on rolling it out before the Scottsdale show.

Awards Banquet: Debbie Glasener stated that the menu is under review. Jeff and Carl are handling the Silent Auction. We are having BINGO again. Joe noted that the room rates were raised to \$109. That rate is open until 30 days prior to the event, which is March 11th.

Dave noted that the nominations are due today (January 15th) so that there is time to cross check those names. The nomination forms went out to all our club presidents, the executive board (officers), and past directors. There has been some confusion and discussion as to why the general membership can't directly nominate folks for these awards. This could be discussed with the Awards committee, but limits may have to be imposed. Also, we need to encourage everyone to vote, last year only about 40% of the membership voted. The Awards committee will meet this summer to discuss ideas. Pepper asked about sponsoring of an award. Dave stated that they are \$135 each and that the sponsor's name will be put on the award. He also reminded the meeting that all the net profit from this event will go towards our regional Youth Scholarship. Debbie G. will also get a \$200 package of lottery tickets to raffle. Dave also noted that the region has purchased a projector and screen for the slideshow that is played this event. In the long run, it is cheaper than renting it from the venue. Jeff wants encourage donations to the Silent

Auction, asking show managers to donate packages for their shows (usually a stall, sponsorship package, etc.) Duane commended Dave who got this event going when he was director as a venue for our members to get together in a non-show atmosphere, with time to visit and have fun. Debbie G. is asking that maybe clubs can help pay for their members to attend. Currently Debbie G needs to get with hotel to settle on the cost of the meals. There was a discussion about sending out the postcards that we have done for the past couple of years. Danny and Deneb Thompson both commented that they think we need to just utilize Facebook and an e-Blast to get the word out to the membership – it will be faster and may reach more people. Cindy C thinks that will work well, especially if we all also share the Facebook post. There was also a discussion about the region paying for the nominees' dinners, but that would be costly. Dave reminded everyone that the net profit will go to the youth scholarship. If there is a problem with a nominee not attending due to the cost, it can be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Second Vice Director's Report: Jennifer began by discussing the subject of the region having a texting option to get information out to the membership, as suggested by Sherri Lewis at convention. Jennifer checked into it and a basic plan cost about \$29 per month for 500 text messages. This could be used for reminders as to meetings, events, etc. This generated a lot of discussion. Some of points brought up were how the limit of 500 text messages are determined – is this one message to unlimited numbers or one message to 500 numbers, or one message to 250 with 250 replies? What about privacy issues? Cindy C. moved and Jeff seconded a motion to utilize a trial subscription. Cindy C noted that show secretary Ryan Chambers uses this at the regional show. Jennifer noted that there were plans that went as high as \$89 per month with the provider she checked with. Some noted that they don't always have a phone with them, like when working with horses. Maybe we need to get more information. Duane asked to amend the motion to do include doing more research. Joe agreed and suggested it would then presented to the executive board. Then they can determine if it is within our budget. Cindy C agreed to amend the motion and Joe seconded. The motion passed.

Jennifer continued her report on the MDP and an update on the Stallion Stampede that the Rotary Club of Scottsdale is sponsoring. Statues of various horse breeds, including our mold of Goldie, have been decorated and placed around the Scottsdale area from January through April. AHA is setting up a display of our Arabian statues at the Scottsdale show. All the Rotary statues will be auctioned off for charity at a gala at Royal Arabians in April.

The CRM data program that the AHA board approved was used at the Keystone Experience in Ocala in November and will also be used at Scottsdale.

MDP is going to have monthly meetings with the AHA Marketing staff. They want to have more collaboration with the AHA committees and more outreach. MDP had been in a holding pattern due to the PAT lawsuit.

She reviewed the resolution that the Membership Committee proposed, which was withdrawn at convention. It essentially stated that all members of AHA needed to belong to a club. It wasn't well written, but it started a lot of discussion within AHA, especially within the board. There is also a new chair of the Membership committee that will be working on getting more involvement of our membership.

Jennifer is this year's chair of the Local Level Committee (LLC) and they are getting started on what the group will be doing this coming year – again we need more T.A.I.L. tours, etc. and to work together better. They also want to focus on the "second touch," i.e., following through with those first contacts.

Jennifer also still wants to get help with managing our regional social media accounts. Also, she noted that AHA Marketing is offering a free e-Blast service to the regions. If you have something that you want sent out, get the information to Jennifer and she will send to them – right now it’s about a two (2) week turnaround time. These e-Blasts will go to the entire AHA membership. She also noted that we need to pursue the Succession Planning ideas for getting more members involved in our association.

In May, we will again celebrate “Meet an Arabian” month. Our region has set aside \$500 to award \$100 to up to five (5) different clubs to host one of these events.

Youth Director’s Report: Rachel Vaughn introduced herself as our new Youth Director. She has been showing for about three (3) years and she has five (5) horses – 4 Purebreds and 1 Half-Arabian. Her family will be getting into showing as well. She shows in Western Pleasure and had been to two (2) nationals. She was with a trainer but is currently on her own.

Her goals are to increase the involvement of the youth at our shows and also to establish some events, maybe education, clinics, “meet & greets” and a fund raiser. She is planning on attending the in-person March AHYA board meeting in Denver. Duane confirmed that we have \$500 set aside for the Youth Director. He suggested that Rachel contact Brenna Johnson at AHA, who can help her verify transportation and accommodations for the meeting. Pepper has volunteered and Duane appointed her to act as a liaison for Rachel.

Cindy C got a phone call from a riding instructor asking if the region has any help for the costs to show for the youth. She said she felt like that should be a club grant. Duane agrees that should be a grant from a club. Cindy C wants to challenge our regional clubs to help our up-and-coming youth get involved.

Regional Show Report: Cindy C again thanked everyone for a wonderful 2022 show. She is working on the prize list for the August 16th – 20th show. Send her any suggestions for the show. Judges are as follows: Jason Daniels – Preshow main ring; John Lambert, Rhein Standish and Todd Hickerson – Regional main ring; Charlotte Trentelman and Judy Downer for Sport Horse/Dressage.

The 2022 show had 557 horses (office fees paid), using 1027 stalls. The class for youth scholarship raised \$3300+, thanks to Brian Murch for suggesting it and thanks to the sponsors of this class.

In addition to WEC prices going up for stalls, shavings, etc. for 2023, the award costs for ribbons, etc. will go up as *All Things Equine* is going out of business. They will have to investigate another vendor. She would like to go to the Region 12 show in May to investigate how they handle their show. After discussion, Pepper moved and Jennifer seconded a motion for \$1800 from the show account be available for Cindy C to use to attend that show in Ocala. This passed.

Cindy C also wanted to thank Sharon Blendinger, who attended convention as delegate for the BAHAA club since Cindy C couldn’t go. They are also going to work on increasing their club’s membership numbers so that they would be eligible for two (2) delegates.

Equine Affaire & Breyerfest: Jennifer thanked everyone who makes it possible to support these events. The dates for Equine Affaire are April 13th through 16th, with set-up on the 12th. We will have the same location at the venue, and she is putting together her line-up of demo horses. She was looking into offering a “Ride an Arabian” session at the event. The Haflinger breed held one last year and it was very popular. There are insurance coverage issues that must be worked out with regional and/or AHA insurance. She also needs volunteers.

Breyerfest is July 14th through 16th, with set-up on the 13th. Our booth reservation is due in February. It should be noted that there is another group doing an Arabian demo –we have not been able to identify who they are. Duane asked whether our booth is worth the effort. Jennifer noted that Jeff helped her set-up the 10 x 10 space in 2022 and we got some items from AHA, including a list of Discovery Farms. Jackie MacLaren was there for the first time. She was amazed at the attendance and thought our presence at this event was great, it is important having our breed represented. Jennifer read ZOOM chat comments from Kara Hatzai: “It was very busy on Sunday and there was a lot of interest about the Discovery Farms. It is a very good opportunity to reach people outside of our breed.” Danny commented that we have always been busy at the booth space. After some discussion, Pepper moved, and Jackie seconded a motion to participate again this year. This passed. Jennifer noted that our board wants to create an event committee. Duane stated that he is working on creating a Region 14 Promotional Events committee. Again, Jennifer thanked everyone for their support!

Old Business: Duane reported on the status of our Believe horse statue. There was some consideration to include our horse at the Scottsdale venue but there were concerns about the cost of shipping and insurance against damage. He decided that it would not be a good idea to use our Believe statue. Then we had a discussion about placing our statue at the WEC-Ohio facility, like Region 12 at WEC-Ocala – this could be the AHA Goldie statue. We need to have our statue placed where it would be seen but still be safe from damage. Maybe we could put it in the mezzanine area of the Sanctuary arena or at the restaurant. Others noted that it should be placed where it could be seen by the general public. Duane was still hoping to have it benefit the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. He was looking into the Dragon Fly Foundation, which has fund raisers that helps families of sick children, but then COVID hit. After considerable discussion, Dave moved, and Jennifer seconded a motion for Cindy C to check with WEC-Ohio for them to display for one year. We would need a plaque to label the display. This passed.

New Business: Cindy C noted that we want folks to think about who our officers might be for next election in late summer **2024**.

Dave moved and Pepper seconded a motion to adjourn. Our next meeting will be at the Holiday Inn at the Cincinnati Airport March 11th at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Swigart

Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary