

Minutes from Region 14 Caucus Meeting
November 16, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
ZOOM

Director Duane Esser called the meeting to order with First Vice Dave Daugherty, Second Vice Jennifer Tucker, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Joe Hull present. Sixteen (16) delegates and seven (7) alternates / guests were present, representing the following ten (10) clubs: Bluegrass Arabian Horse Association (BAHA), Buckeye Arabian and Half Arabian Alliance (BAHAA), Daniel Boone Distance Riders (DBDR), Kentucky Arabian Horse Association (KAHA), Kentucky Arabian and Half Arabian Breeders Alliance (KAHABA), Kentucky Arabian Riders And Breeders Society (KARABS), Northeastern Ohio Arabian Horse Association (NEOAHA), Ohio Arabian and All-Breed Trail Society (OAATS), Ohio Half Arabian Horse Association (OHAHA) and Society for Arabian Horses In the Bluegrass Area (SAHIBA).

Minutes: Debbie S asked for approval of the amended minutes (due to typos). Joe moved and Cindy Clinton seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Joe reported that money has been transferred by Cindy C from the regional show account, and that the show was very successful. Pepper Proffitt moved, and Donna Lassanske seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. This passed unanimously. He also reminded those present as to the requirements for the reimbursement of the early bird cost of the delegates' packets. He asked that delegates send him their receipt and then once he gets the checks out, please cash them before the end of December.

He noted that we have budgeted \$500 for the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund (AHDF). After some discussion, Cindy C moved and Debbie S seconded a motion to increase this donation to \$2000, with credit being given to the region and the Region 14 show. This was approved. We also have \$500 budgeted to go to the Arabian Horse Foundation, for the Bill Pennington scholarship. We have budgeted \$100 for convention door prizes. Duane stated he would check on this, then Jennifer suggested we contact Michelle Wertz with AHA about getting gift cards since this is a virtual convention.

Duane stated that Joe has been asking for someone to step up and take over as regional treasurer. Terry Schafer has agreed to take over Joe's term as of January 2024. Joe commented that he was reluctant to take the position after the loss of Jean Hedger but has been glad to serve in the position. Duane stated that Joe has no idea how much he means to our region and Terry commented that he will be a hard act to follow. Joe and Terry will work together to make this a smooth transition.

Director's Report: Duane reported on the AHA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting held at this convention.

- One of the important points that was discussed was the importance and concern of the use of social media and how it is perceived by the public - how it reflects on our breed. Posts that complain about issues should be handled through proper channels - social media can't solve the problem. Recently there have been threads about the judging at U.S. Nationals. If there are problems with the judges, then this needs to go through Mary Jane Brown's office as the Judges and Stewards Commissioner.
- The tongue tie resolution passed at the last convention but the term "tongue tie" was not acceptable for socially licensing reasons. USEF has now approved this as a "tongue stabilizer" rule by the USEF board.
- The resolution to address the shoeing rules is still on hold since the form that was passed can't be enforced at the present time.
- The USEF LITE show format will replace the AHA Value show and can include drug testing. Also as a reminder, anyone who coaches at a USEF competition, must sign the entry forms.
- Duane requested that he represent Region 14 at the upcoming USEF Annual Meeting, being held January 12-14, 2024, in Louisville, KY. He asked that the region pay expenses. Cindy moved and Kara Hatzai seconded this as a motion. This passed.
- Duane reported that AHA finances are in good shape, revised investments are doing well and that all the national shows exceeded their budgets:
 - Youth/Mid-Summer: exceeded budget \$90,000-100,000
 - Sport Horse: exceeded budget \$10,000
 - Ranch Riding: made \$11,000
 - U.S. Nationals: exceeded budget \$50,000
- Membership is down slightly but we have had an increase of 38% in corporate sponsorships.

- Oklahoma City, OK Fairgrounds is in the midst of major construction to the coliseum. The Youth / Mid-Summer show had to deal this inconvenience. Once completed, there will be issues with horses getting from the stabling to the new arena, since it is across the road from the current one and past the demolition of the old arena.
- Debbie Fuentes reported that registrations for Purebreds are up 2% and Half-Arabians up 6%. This is great since we have been unchanged for several years.
- A Youth Committee motion for a free membership for their first year has passed by the BOD for 2024.
- USEF is requiring that all horses have USEF identification numbers by 2025. AHA is working with them to have our registration numbers used by USEF.
- Duane's next AHA BOD meeting will be in-person in Denver CO, March 15th and 16th.

Duane appointed a Budget Committee with Joe as chair. Those on the committee are the executive officers, including Terry. The date of this ZOOM meeting will be January 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM. Joe will send out the budget request form to all club presidents and the executive board and would like to have them returned by December 19th.

Danny Thompson reported that the Arabian Hunter Pleasure Association (AHPA) program stated that the Lucky Pony fund raiser was very successful at Sport Horse Nationals (SHN) thanks to Region 14. Around 166 "Lucky Racoons" were distributed, the most ever for SHN, exceeding the 75-100 from past SHN. We should budget for this for next year.

It was decided that our next meeting will be a virtual ZOOM meeting and will be scheduled for Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

Duane updated the meeting on our "Believe" statue at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) museum. He noted that he interviewed Karen Kasper for the "We Love Arabian Horses" podcast. He also noted that the Purebred Arabian Trust (PAT) purchased a statue blank, and Karen and her daughter will be working on the PAT funded artwork for this one in Lexington KY. It will be displayed at the Louisville Children's Hospital.

Duane reported that U.S. Nationals will have three (3) panels of judges for next year's show – one panel each for Hunter, Western and English.

Duane and Cindy Ryan brought up the approving of the Region 13 shows held in our region. She has found out that the Region 13 Sport Horse show has added a day for a Pre-Show – June 11th, adding to the June 12-14 dates. It was an implied understanding that the Medallion held the weekend before (June 8-9) served as a qualifier for the either region's dressage and sport horse classes. Duane noted that if this came through AHA, he didn't get a notice. Debbie S noted that we did approve the Region 13 shows at the July 30th meeting – three (3) shows: the Sport Horse show, the Main ring Pre-Show and Regional show. There was considerable discussion on how this was handled – the history of these shows and that the "welfare" of our Region 14 club's shows is paramount. There was also a comment that Region 13 is not willing to combine their Sport Horse show with their main ring show, like Region 14 does successfully. More follow-up is needed, and Duane will pursue this further.

First Vice Director's Report: Dave reported that the AHA BOD approved a contract for the U.S. Nationals to be held in Tulsa, OK for 2024 (Oct. 17-26) and 2025 (Oct. 16-25), with no increase in prices, with an option for 2026. He summarized that the "early arrival fees" were actually spread across the stall fees for the entire show. When you stall one horse in a barn, the facility charges for the whole barn. He did note that they looked at WEC in Ocala Florida, but the estimated cost was significantly higher:

OCALA – over \$1.1 million (\$450 per stall for 5 days)	vs.	TULSA – around \$769,000 (\$350 per stall)
--	-----	---

The exact stats for the show are on the AHA website, under the Competitions tab. But Dave reported we had around 751 entered horses with 4258 class entries.

Second Vice Director's Report: Jennifer reported on her involvement with the Local Level Committee. For 2024, they will work on a pilot lesson program to pay for the first lesson to those that attend the Meet an Arabian Horse (MAH) events. Remember that AHA and Region 14 will promote your MAH event. This committee is also working on recognition of the MAH and Discovery Farm horses that act as everyday "ambassadors" at these facilities. This will be a point system and will

include 2021-2023. Also, funding has been made available for those who held or will hold events from April 2023 through April 2024, in the amount of \$7000 – given out as \$500 per grant. Check AHA for a Google form that can be completed.

The Market and Development Program (MDP) had a roundtable discussion during this year's AHA convention that recapped this year's events. They are also promoting the Tournament of Roses Parade participation, including saddle pads, etc. The *Equestfest* is held a couple of days before the parade and folks can meet those horses that are participating. Duane added that to help with the continued presence at the Tournament of Roses Parade, Nancy Harvey (past AHA president) is asking for financial support for these horses and riders, who participate at their own expense. Kara moved and Pepper seconded a motion for Region 14 to donate \$1000. This pass unanimously. This is a great promotion of our horses.

MDP is involved with the Karen Kasper display that runs through the end of the year at the KHP. This includes our "Believe" horse statue which is in the same area as "Bask" as well as another statue – "Salute" from Region 10, who is at the Visitors Center entrance. There have been some updates to the displays within the Arabian Horse Gallery. MDP will present an award to Karen for all her work and contributions to the Arabian breed. Jennifer also went to the Gallery to take photos for AHA and then recorded "virtual" tours of both the main displays and Karen's special display.

Jennifer updated the meeting on the communication platform she is investigating for use for regional events. She is looking for ten (10) volunteers to help with testing over the winter. She also noted that there have been changes to the AHA Regional Insider so now there are no limit to pictures, etc. and content can be submitted directly or through Jennifer to AHA. If you have a flyer, you need to allow a three (3) week lead time for it to be included. The deadline is the 15th of each month for publication. As to our Promotional Committee, they will probably meet in December to go over events for 2024 including Equine Affaire and Breyerfest and any other events that can be added.

Jennifer noted that there have been a lot of changes as to how we participate with our clubs. We used to need the physical meetings to catch-up but now we have social media, etc. She wants to get more involved with helping our individual clubs and how we can retain membership, grow membership and encourage their involvement with the region.

Awards Banquet Report: Debbie G reported that Joe has returned the signed contract for March 9th at the Holiday Inn at the Cincinnati Airport (Erlanger, KY). The room rate has increased to \$119 per night. Debbie G also noted that Danny Thompson gave her information on a magician that could come and entertain at the banquet as well as the BINGO. She will check into this and report at the next meeting. Jennifer will work with Dave to send out the Google form to all club presidents, the Executive board and past directors for nominations.

Regional Show Report: Cindy C stated that this had to be the best show ever. Thanks to all those who volunteered, especially those in the Sport Horse venue. We had 668 horses (557 in 2022) and sold out all the stalls. We can add 50 stalls, if needed, but this will have to be done in advance. Next year's dates are August 14-18, 2024.

Pepper commented that Rachel Vaughn, Region 14 Youth Director, did a great job. She was able to have the ice cream social (even though Cindy C noted there was an issue with WEC, since this was held in the Vendor Village. Debbie G commented that they have this at SHN, but they are held at one of the barns with a large common area). Rachel also had the t-shirts for the youth but was not able to have the Egg and Spoon race. Jennifer commented that the region received \$600 in donations via Venmo. Pepper also noted that TJ, the WEC liaison for our show, became a new father during the show and they got him a baby gift from the region.

Youth Director: Rachel has been elected as the new AHYA treasurer and so therefore must step down as our director. A replacement will be announced at the January meeting. Rachel still wants to be involved and will help and mentor the new Youth Director.

Pepper asked about the youth activities cost and would like for us to consider increasing the youth budget to at least \$1500-2000 for 2024. We will work with Rachel and the new Youth Director to put through the budget forms.

Region 14 Youth Scholarship: *no report*

Old Business: *none*

New Business: A motion was made by Joe and seconded by Pepper that we award Cindy C a \$500 bonus as our manager of a very successful 2023 Region show. This passed. Cindy C thanked the meeting for their support and we can be proud of our region.

Resolutions: We discussed two (2) of the 11 resolutions:

- **1-23** has been withdrawn; this would have provided a Show Certificate for Arabian horses who came from rescues, etc. but don't have papers and would allow them to be shown at our breed shows. Their heritage would be verified via DNA.
- **3-23** deals with a person having multiple club memberships and that AHA would provide a discount of AHA fees, which could prove to be an incentive. The discussion centered around getting more people involved in local clubs vs. just a national membership. This would especially apply to the those who join Arabian Professional and Amateur Horseman's Association (APAHA) only and aren't joining their local clubs. This passed Budget and Finance at AHA. But IT wasn't sure they could accommodate it in the system, so it was amended to go into effect in 2025. However, the point was raised that many clubs provide Associate memberships that allow the member to be involved in the club but not have to pay an extra AHA fee.

Jennifer moved and Pepper seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary