

AHA Convention 2012

Submitted by Cricket Stoncius

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Sport Horse Committee – This meeting's discussion centered on three main topics. First, there was a brief discussion on recommending the addition of sport horse under saddle select rider to Sport Horse Nationals. The committee and meeting attendees thought this was a good idea. I like the idea of having some consistency between all of our national shows. A far more important topic discussed was tie breaking in sport horse in hand classes. Currently, the master score sheet used by shows to summarize all entries notes the following: In case of tie, Movement is first; Conformation, second; Overall Balance & Harmony, third; Expression & Manners, fourth. If horses are still tied, judge must decide. The current rule does not agree with this comment. AR164.4 states Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to the totals of the movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only). The committee would prefer to eliminate AR 164.4 and eliminate any mention of scoring procedures from the rule book. The other hot topic involved Resolution 23-12 (Including whip rules in Arabian Chapter). This resolution's intent was to incorporate a working hunter rule into the Arabian section so exhibitors would not have to look in two places. This met with a resounding no. The sport horse folks who show in the open world want the rules to be consistent across the disciplines regardless of breed. If the hunter rules were added in to the Arabian section, then, any time a hunter rule was changed, it could take a full year before the Arabian section would adopt and approve of the same rule change because of our rule change process. If an open hunter trainer started showing Arabians, he or she could be showing under different rules. By adopting this resolution, the rule become more exhibitor unfriendly than friendly. Ultimately, this resolution was not passed.

Sport Horse Nationals Show Commission – The commission was pleased to announce the addition of several new classes: sport horse under saddle select rider for both purebreds and half-Arabians, combined training, and a scurry driving class. The show will be returning to Nampa, ID in 2014. And of course, the conversation returned to offering splits for dressage type and hunter type. I made the comment that the conversation always seemed to be about splitting all eligible classes. My suggestion was pick one class, offer the splits, and see how it works. Bill Pennington said he would not be opposed to doing that. The commission assumed the exhibitors would like a split in hand class, but the audience preferred a performance class. Another topic was using the two judge system. Most in the meeting would prefer showing to just one judge vs. the current two judge system. The argument being to a certain extent, the horses with lower scores are placing higher than the top picks because the judges negating each other's picks. The show dates for 2013 are September 18th -22nd.

Judges & Steward's Steering Commission – The conversation in this meeting was mainly about Resolution 30-12. This resolution wanted to allow extended gaits to be called for in western pleasure classes. Stan Morey was in favor of this passing. His comments were that in many cases in deep western pleasure classes, the hand gallop often times decides the placings. By allowing judges the ability to call extended gaits, these other gaits could be useful in pinning classes. The judges in the room were for it; the trainers not. The trainers' concerns were that it's difficult enough to get amateurs and juniors to walk, trot, canter without having to add additional gaits. The resolution was ultimately approved by this committee in an amended version to read for open classes only. The amended version did not make it to the floor and was defeated as originally written.

Equine Club Liability – Kimberly Douglas of Markel Insurance covered two areas of insurance. While to me, this was a sales pitch detailing the benefits of a Markel policy, she did address a couple of areas of import to our clubs. I thought this meeting especially important as we consider purchasing our own club policy. While all club members are protected in the event a suit arises from a club activity, not all policies cover volunteers. I wouldn't have even considered that. Maybe, the easy thing to do is create an internal "single event membership" and charge a dollar. That way there can never be a question. I also thought our insurance was just for shows and events. Kim mentioned that the Markel policies also cover meetings and banquets. Something else I had not considered. The second topic she discussed was directors and officers insurance. Kim explained that often times these claims result from well-meaning individuals, volunteering their time and efforts that may not have the requisite skills to perform the tasks at hand. Even though our clubs operate as not-for-profits, we must still operate our clubs and shows as any for-profit business would.

An audience member asked Kim about our \$1,000,000 liability coverage provided by AHA to all members. Kim quickly explained that \$1,000,000 coverage was in aggregate. So, if a member has a claim in February of \$500,000 there is only \$500,000 in remaining coverage for the entire year and for the entire membership. Did not know that.

Region 15 Caucus – Three main topics were covered during this meeting. First, Marty presented the final insurance quotes for each club if they choose to participate with the region. PAHA's share will be \$1,407 for 17 insurable days. Certificates of insurance issued to AHA, USEF, & USDF are not charge. Any additional COIs are \$35 each. Each show or activity that needs to present a COI to a vendor or grounds would have to pay for these. Wayne had gotten a quote for \$2,100 approximately for the same days. We may have to discuss this again at the December meeting. The other insurance related item was the additional cost incurred by the region for 2012 for additional days of activities. Region 15 had a budgeted for 67 insurable days for 2012; I believe the actual days were 84. Some clubs requests for insurance were late and some clubs had new activities. Two questions were posed. Should clubs that had new activities during 2012 pay for the additional days incurred or should the clubs that failed to notify the Region by the deadline pay for the additional expense. The decision reached was that clubs that failed to notify the region by the deadline will be billed for the additional expense over budget.

Johnny Ryan sat in our meeting. He is currently working with BB&T Bank to create a high point program for all shows in Regions 12 & 15. The details have not been entirely worked out, but BB&T may commit a substantially amount towards prize money in this program. The intent is to draw exhibitors to our regular shows. Regional shows would not be eligible. They are hoping to have Eastern Arabian & East Coast be the first show to participate. The general idea is a nominal fee paid with your entries at the show and they then results will be tabulated. It is pay per show program. Results will be announced at each Regional show.

Friday, November 16, 2012

Equine Stress/Research & Education Committee – This committee had a brief discussion about Resolution 53-12 which was for AHA to adopt a neutral position regarding equine slaughter. Two main themes running through convention were retaining and acquiring new members and supporting and attracting youth. The proponents of this resolution hope was to appease that part of the membership who is very opposed to equine slaughter. If AHA adopted this neutral position, the proponents believed that regardless if you are opposed to or support of slaughter, the mother organization should not pick sides so to speak. The other topic of conversation regarded shoeing regulations. Lori Conway was very

outspoken about judges and especially stewards enforcing the rules and they need to start measuring feet. Show management should make a statement to such in the prize lists that feet will be measured and rules enforced. That way if an exhibitor's horse is not compliant the exhibitor has time to make corrections before showing. Having just attended the steward's clinic in May, her comments are the exact opposite of what was discussed. USEF does not believe stewards should be the police force running around pointing out rule violations. Lori's comments also met with some angst by show managers as this would be a sure death to their shows.

Amateur Committee – The amateur committee heard the proponents of Resolution 3-12. There appears to be a problem with horses being transferred before a show and then immediately after a show to circumvent the amateur owner rules. This was very apparent at Youth Nationals and Sport Horse Nationals last year. Laura Mickelson said of the 1,000 + transfers that occurred this year, 100+ were transferred back to an original owner within a few weeks. It has now been passed that it is deemed unethical if it appears that a transfer of ownership seems suspicious. A person can report to the Ethical Practices Review Board a transfer that appears to be done for showing purposes. In determining whether or not a transfer is deemed unethical the EPRB will look at distribution of prize monies, ownership reverting back in less than a year, a horse being transferred for less than fair market value. It is also deemed unethical if a person does not provide any information or documentation if requested during an investigation. Laura and Stacy Dunn see this as the first step in changing some of our ownership rules. They would also like to see same sex couples able to show amateur owner and an unrelated third party added to the registration papers so that unrelated person can show amateur owner.

Karen Homer-Brown mentioned the increasing interest in western dressage. New tests and rules are available on the WDAA website.

Leveling the Playing Field – Stan Morey and a panel presented to a packed room ideas about creating a tiered or ladder program for showing. The discussion focused on a structure that would encourage showing against peers of the same ability level. This came about in part because of rewriting the select ride rules. It would look like this:

- Open – novice open, intermediate open, open
- Amateur – novice amateur, intermediate open, amateur, prime time
- Youth – novice youth, intermediate youth, youth, walk/trot

Instead of having age based splits for youth and amateurs, there would be splits based on not having won top tens, regional awards, ect. The exception is the prime time category which would be for 55+. This concept is very new and the panel has very roughly drawn this up.

Resolutions Highlights

1-12: While I personally do favor a calendar year membership, there would be substantial costs involved apparently to make the switch back. This was defeated and I did vote that way. My feeling is if the organization is now just getting back to a better financial footing, any additional expense isn't necessary.

3-12: If only roughly 10% of transfers that occurred this year are deemed suspicious, I don't think it's a big enough problem to warrant an ethical practice rule. This did pass.

13-12: Due to qualification requirements, yearlings may now be show champions.

EEA-12: A national or reserve national championship will know disqualify someone as a select rider.

46-12: We can now offer HA/AA stallion halter classes and HA/AA stallions may now compete in all classes.

49-12: Due to dropping exhibitor numbers, regional shows may now opt to only have two judges instead of the required three if the previous year's entries are below 250 horses and one judge if less than 150 horses.

53-12: AHA adopted and will maintain a pro-slaughter position. The proponents of this resolution thought by maintaining a neutral position, this would appeal to those members that are against slaughter. The opponents believe by maintain a pro stance, we as an organization, will hopefully have a say if and when processing plants reopen.

CONVENTION REPORT 2012

DRESSAGE COMMITTEE

FROM JOY EVANS

SE PA DISTRICT DELEGATE

Dressage Committee, November, 2012

Dressage Committee

DISCUSSIONS:

- **Breaking Ties in Dressage: (Resolution 25-12)** Discussions indicated that normally using a decimal point would usually keep scores from being tied, however, it was disclosed that in two instances it has occurred that there have been a tie. Resolution 25-12 indicates the proponent stating a need for a tie breaking method for USEF AR156.b(4) Dressage Classes: That USEF AR156.11.b(4) Dressage Classes be amended to read: "In the event that the Collective Marks are identical, the competitor with the first highest movement score shall be determined the winner. (Start at the top of the movement scores and work down until the tie is broker). *If a tie still remains, the judge(s) must break the tie.*"

This Resolution, 25-12 was voted on in Committee and "**Approved**" in General Assembly

- **Placing Dressage Seat into the Equitation Section** in the USEF Arabian Equitation Section so exhibitors can find the rules and keep it simple. **(Resolution 26-23)** Approved in Committee and **Approved** in General Assembly that USEF AR 224 Dressage Seat Equitation be amended by striking out reference to USEF AR 157.
- **Adding Dressage Walk/Trot to the Walk/Trot-Jog Performance Section (Resolution 44-12)** Approved in Committee and **Resolved**: That the USEF Walk/Trot section add (where appropriate in subchapter AR-28): "WALK-TROT/DRESSAGE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS. (Requires Dressage Judge)A current USDF Intro Test limited to walk/trot will be utilized.
- **Clarifications on Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabians being allowed to Compete**: Discussion in committee that since Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabians registered with AHA or having an AHA Certificate of Registration are permitted to compete in AHA performance classes and in Sport

Horse classes that they should be allowed in Equitation and Dressage. It was approved in Committee with some some modifications, It was therefore, **Resolved** that USEF Rule Book AR253.3 and AR253.4 be deleted and (in an appropriate Article number) add: "Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian stallions may show in Half Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Class (in-Hand and Performance) and may also show in Half Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes when Arabians and Half Arabian/Anglo-Arabians compete together."

Regarding Resolution #7: (This Resolution: "Clarifying the Definition of Performance Classes". There was lots of discussion and comments, opinions about allowing the horse that might have loss of sight (blind) to compete in Dressage classes. The committee agreed to allow these horses, loss of sight in either one or two eyes, to compete. The Resolution: "All horses except horses entered in Sub-Chapter AR-25 Equitation and Sub-Chapter AR-27 Showmanship must be serviceably sound. All horses must be in good condition. Horses with loss of sight in one eye may compete in any class except Breeding/Gelding-in-Hand classes and Sport Horse in Hand classes.

There was much discussion on the Helmet rule in that FEI will be require to ride in helmets; schooling and competitions only. Questions regarding Awards ceremonies and the wearing of helmets during these moments? The committee agreed that the awards ceremonies should add that helmets should be required. Also, discussion on Sport Horse under Saddle requirements regarding Dressage attire.

There is now a new Dressage test out for less than stellar dressage riders and horses, which is online now. And December 1st will be a "Training Level Free Style test, which could impact qualifying scores.

NEW

Lots of discussion on the new discipline of Western Dressage: This is a new discipline which should be in a different chapter than our Dressage division and non-recognized, but seems to be rapidly on the rise. The rules are in the Morgan Dressage in USEF. There were many uplifting comments regarding balance, quietness and good horsemanship. The web site for Western Dressage is WDAA.com

CONVENTION REPORT 2012

AMATEUR COMMITTEE

FROM JOY EVANS SE PA DISTRICT DELEGATE

Amateur Committee, November, 2012

Amateur Committee

Discussions:

Amateur Owner Rule added to Code of Ethics: (Resolution 3-12) Discussions regarding short term transfers with the intent of in effect creating a lease should be unethical practice and that it is setting a

bad example for our youth, which is mainly being doing for the Youth Nationals. See the new addition to the AHA Code of Ethics 104. Rule of Conduct, to Resolution 3-12 which was approved by the Delegates.

There was much discussion and explanation on the new **Western Dressage**: Also called Cowboy Dressage. This being an opportunity to showcase horses, a new avenue. Questions were fielded on judges in this discipline and where to find rules, education and the tests (www.wdaa.com). Also on types of bits, one or two hands, etc.

Other Resolutions:

Membership Dues Restructure: (Resolution 52-12) That AHA has not had a dues increase for the Adult Membership since the membership restructure in 2006... with a dues increase it is the intent the every member would receive a subscription for the AHA Magazine (Modern Arabian Horse)...etc. etc. and the it was **Resolved** and approved that the AHA Adult membership fee be set at \$65 for an Adult who joins AHA direct without and HA Affiliated Clud (\$175 for a three year membership) and \$45 for adult joining through and AHA Affiliated Club (\$125 for a three year membership), Effective December 31, 2012.

AHA to Adopt Neutral Position Regarding Equine Slaughter and Equine Processing Facilities, Resolution 53-12: Resolution Disapproved by Delegates.

Reports on the 2012 Arabian Horse Association Convention Linda Manwiller

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Ambassador Award (for representing the Arabian breed to the general public) for 2012 was awarded to Sshameless++. General discussion during the meeting also revolved around the need to emphasize Equine activities *outside* the show ring for this award.

The Open Competition Award for 2012 was given to Hope Springs Eternal+/-.

Applications for both awards are due September 1st. They should be succinct in following the application guidelines.

The committee approved in substance the question of free style dressage being eligible for Achievement Points. They recommended the dressage committee better clarify the request. The working western committee is also considering a point scoring system (much as dressage is using). That committee is working on a scoring chart to that purpose.

The AHA liaison to the Awards Committee was requested to remind AHA of their commitment of four \$150 Awards annually for the Awards Committee's use. There is also \$200 remaining from a donation made expressly to the committee last year.

DISTANCE RIDING

There was no chair or vice-chair present for this committee. The meeting was conducted by Cynthia Richardson, BOD liaison. She reminded the body that Distance Riding's national ride will change in status from a National project to a national "event". This is because the distance rides do not make enough money to break even or make a profit. In fact, the distance commission has had to pay not only their own expenses, but also those of the AHA staff that attends the rides! The Rides will now be 'marketed' as a promotional tool for the breed...perhaps the best way to market the breed to an international market. FEI has noted a 300% increase in distance riding in the last decade.

Sweepstakes representative Grace Greenly was present to ask the body's opinion on how to best keep distance riding an important part of the Sweepstakes, keeping in mind that it is a breeder's program. She noted that in the early years, the top Sweepstakes money winners were often the distance horses.

Comments to this – Distance riders appear to have a different mindset than show people and are generally more interested in competing than in winning per se. The present point system for Sweepstakes seems to award only those horses that are 'pushed' to win. Could Sweepstakes money be channeled into miles completed, perhaps by using a step-up system for each ride from local to national level. That would help the Regional rides that are really lacking in attendance. (A comment was made it might help if you had to qualify for the national ride by first doing a regional ride.)

There was also grumbling about the rising costs to local clubs of holding rides. Discussion centered on the question of having a vet/farrier 'on call' as opposed to 'on site' (the more expensive option). A straw vote favored the 'on site' option even considering the cost of about \$600/day because of the danger of liability and bad press if anything should happen.

There was a general feeling that somehow distance riding has to pull in more beginner and/or young riders. Holding shorter distance rides would seem to be the answer to this. However AHA presently does not recognize rides below 25 miles in length. A suggestion was made that AHA should institute a Competitive Pleasure division on the order of that used by NATRC.

EQUITATION COMMITTEE

There is an equitation manual in the development stage that will be posted online. Meanwhile, the general information in the current manual is okay, but the pattern information has changed. AHA is also working on a specialty card for equitation and showmanship. USEF will be holding a seminar on an open card for saddle seat.

Several resolutions were referred to this committee including 7-12 dealing with walk-trot classes. It was agreed that walk-trot classes for 'beginning' teens who are not ready to canter (such as the adult walk-trot classes) are a good thing. Shows could include these on their own. Other resolutions Reactions: 34-12 – if you can spin and lope in one class, you shouldn't be in a

walk-trot class; 41-12 – if you can't back, don't enter this class; 42-12 – 'paddock boots, jodhpurs are preferred'.

There was also a feeling that judges would like more guidance on patterns for hunter walk-trot classes. Perhaps a 2013 resolution could address this need.

40-12 The showmanship rules are all too ambiguous, and they need to be the same for everyone – so they should be more specific. Too many people see Showmanship classes as a precursor to halter showing. That is not its intended purpose. A newcomer from the paint horse world was especially scathing in his criticism of Arabian Showmanship, seeing it as amateurish and extremely confusing.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTIONS

William Harless, the new MDR head, was introduced to the audience and seems to be very enthusiastic about his first few days on the job. His approach is to see the AHA from the customer point of view and he is very invested in elevating our 'brand', i.e. the Arabian horse, in the marketplace.

1-12 - The proposed change of the membership year back to a calendar year was the first resolution under discussion. Much of the reason for defeating this resolution hinged on the anticipated costs for restructuring the computer models. Straw vote for this was NO.

2-12 – Harless liked the idea of changing the concept of the competition card to a 'premium' card. He admitted that more work needed to be done on this concept.

52-12 - Everyone was in favor of restructuring the AHA online dues process to encourage membership in local clubs. However, both the committee and the audience weren't in favor of dues increase. The current website should be changed to place the club membership option to the forefront.

A new vendor (KJP of Texas) has been chosen to improve the AHA website. They have also worked on the Wildlife Federation site (nwf.org). Hopefully, the new look will allow the various departments of AHA to make daily updates on their sections. The new website should be seen as a portal to local activities with a 'tack box' entry that will hold everything necessary for a club to customize that 'brand' message. (Much of this material is already on AHA's site under the heading of 'marketplace'.) However, the main push for members needs to come from the local clubs using these AHA's materials as 'support' in selling the 'brand'. Clubs also need to concentrate on selling the total package of the Arabian horse experience, not just a specific show or activity.

SPORT HORSE COMMITTEE

It was decided that there would have to be over 40 entries in order for sport horse under saddle classes to be split dressage and hunter at the Youth Nationals. This, of course, led to a further discussion on hunter vs. dressage type and the comment that judges don't care if a horse is one or the other...just as long as the class is consistent.

Those present liked the idea of splitting dressage equitation into 13 and under and 14 and over for ages 10 and under was approved, but that is not to prevent shows for including non-point walk-trot classes for other ages.

Discussion ensued over what is Arabian 'type' and how it should be weighted on Sports Horse score sheets. Should 'intended use' be emphasized over 'breed type'?

There was general consensus that showing yearlings puts show knowledge on them and can be a good experience for a young horse (!)

(There was more discussion – but I had to leave after the first hour to attend another meeting.)

Forums etc.

Arabian Horseman's Distress Fund

The AHDF (www.horsemensdistressfund.com) is not a part of AHA, but it is an integral way in which the Arabian community comes together to help its own. The committee members are all volunteers. Some of their sponsors include Markel and Arabian Horse Global. Their presentation was illustrated with several examples of how the fund has aided those in need – the Black Tie stable fire, Silcox Training, several barn fires, etc. (This was one of those hanky programs!) It is not set up to trade on tragedy, but to become a vehicle to promote the type of community that the Arabian horse draws : it is a reminder of our common reason for being here.

The AHDF is a 503(c)3 charity and has benefited from fundraisers of all sizes from cook offs to show profits. Region 15 adult stick horse class and dunking booth were part of the fundraising efforts. Their theme is “It’s not a hand out...it’s a leg up”. Go to their web site for more information.

Level the Playing Field

An extension of the Select Rider program the purpose of this forum was to discuss a draft of Competition Advisory proposed amateur and open division categories that would group similar levels together. These are for the Nationals level at the present time.

There were several reasons given for promoting these categories. One was to add to the market for ‘second career’ older horses that were already ‘used’ as stepping stones for national riders. Another was so that riders would have additional stepping stones to advance to a National level abilities and a third was to allow riders to show in more classes.

These divisions would require separate classes and while presently suggested for National shows, they could conceivably be used at Regional levels as well. Not all classes would have to be offered. They could also be a replacement for age groups depending on varying degrees of skill instead of chronological age.

The proposed categories are Open (novice, intermediate, open), amateur (novice, intermediate, amateur, prime time/55+), and Youth (novice, intermediate, youth, walk trot/jog). If you are interested in seeing an additional breakdown, contact me and I’ll email the entire draft.

One of the spurs for such divisions would be the growing awareness that there are a growing number of ‘amateur youth’ being mounted on professionally trained horses that are continually winning over the truly amateur ridden and trained horse in National shows – hence the idea of leveling the playing field. There were several suggestions from the audience that it might be better to start such classes from the bottom of the showing tier instead of the top. That there is interest in some form of change was evident by the fact that this was a standing room only meeting.

Insurance

Kimberly Douglas of Markel Insurance presented a forum on insurance for associations and clubs and for directors and officers. She discussed various coverage highlights, depending

on club size. General highlights included: limits of \$300,00 to \$1 million, protecting all members if a suit arrived from a club activity, liability for fire, medical payments, and spectators, and including volunteers as additional insureds. Base premiums cover up to 100 members, 3 public days (with set up and take down days) up to 250 spectators, a parade day – but no rodeos, and club-members events. Additional premiums could include inland marine (club property), crime (actual money), events with concessions (note: vendors should have proof of their own insurance, as should the site facility), and product sales.

Most policies do not cover volunteers as a basic.

Clubs should make certain their bylaws address how to treat emergency or human relations problems. For example, on-site injuries must be taken care of by EMTs or immediately taken to an emergency room for treatment.

Policies can usually be paid for on an installment schedule. A club should designate one person to be responsible for dealing with insurance.

Directors and Officers insurance is recommended in case of a 'wrongful act by the organization or its representative. Usually this involves mismanagement of funds or investments and is as true for not-for-profits as for profit businesses. Markel strongly suggests D&O insurance as it makes recruiting leaders easier, strengthens defense against litigation, and protects the organization from loss of reputation.

Luncheon Forum

The 2012 Luncheon Forum theme was Emergency Preparedness and Barn Safety. Evidently, last year's forum on much the same topic was so well received that AHA decided to have a replay. It was certainly worth the time. Officer Lori Torrini of the Colorado Springs Police Department used examples from this year's Colorado fires to drive home her points.

- Have an Equine Emergency Kit available that includes a fire extinguisher, water/feed bucket, lead rope, medications and instructions, ID papers AND photos, legal ownership papers, feeding and care instructions, 50 foot cotton rope, equine first aid kit, flashlight, roll of duct tape, animal marking pen or other ID methods, hoof pick and grooming tools, horse blanket, fly spray/mask/sheet, tack, trailer, change of clothes for you, and a human emergency kit.
- Important records should include bill of sale, registration papers, microchip registration, veterinary records, Coggins and health certificates, and photographs
- Use mane or halter tags and temporary marking items to put name and address or phone numbers on your horse. If he gets loose the finder has some way of locating you. Permanent markings can be done by hot or freezing branding, lip tattooing, or (the best bet) microchipping

The University of Kentucky Ag Extension has an excellent article available on 'Equine Emergency and Disaster Preparedness'

The second part of the presentation was by Craig Christiansen, the intrepid announcer for the General sessions. His talk on Barn and Stable Fire Safety was filled with all the common sense material that is frequently overlooked. These include:

- The best fire prevention items in any stable are a broom and a rake – keep your barn clean of fire enablers.

- Essential ‘on-hand’ emergency items – a leather or cotton halter that is hanging OPEN on the stall door, a cotton lead rope, gloves, towels, flashlight, duct tape.
- Make certain you close stall doors if you are leading horses out of a bad situation. Remember, their instinct is to bolt back into their stall: they see it as a place of safety.
- Annual fire drills for home and barn.
- Fire and safety discussions with your staff and boarders – neighbors, too. NO SMOKING should be a no-brainer.
- Make certain your hay storage is safe. Spontaneous combustion is a major fire starter.
- Have an emergency plan in place.
- Smoke alarms, smoke alarms, smoke alarms.
- Train your horses to accept the noise and confusion of fire equipment. Invite your local department to your farm for a training day. It will help both your horses and the fire company to become familiar with one another.
- Make certain your wiring is to code and in good condition. The same is true for any heating systems.
- Know your fire department and have them know your setup as well. A well-labeled map of your property with locations of items noted – including how many horses are there – could save time, trouble, and unnecessary tragedy. Give one to your fire department and to your neighbors.
- NEVER lock your barn or stables. If there is a fire, you may have prevented any rescues.

General Sessions

The committee meetings, educational forums, and other networking are a prelude to the General Sessions – when (supposedly) all delegates meet in body to listen to the talking heads tell us what/how AHA accomplished ‘this’ year and to vote on the resolutions that will form part of the governance of AHA – or not. 307 of an eligible 474 delegates were credentialed.

From the speakers’ comments, I gathered that AHA’s financial situation is improving for the third straight year, but there is still a ways to go. Sweepstakes money has been completely repaid. There have been major staff changes 47 down from the 102 at the time of the merger), but the Aurora office is now ‘in good shape’.

There is still a decline in membership – a concern that seems to plague all of the breed organizations. The general consensus is the push for membership has to come from the grassroots. (A thought : if showing and participating in AHA events is the only reason for joining AHA, why would someone think having an AHA membership a ‘necessary’ thing?) One thing that was abundantly clear – the Arabian horse community must reach out to the non-showing family and market the Arabian as a family horse. The cost of showing is too high for the common family. There needs to be a new emphasis on other ways to enjoy the Arabian horse, especially in this economic time where many venues are vying for recreational dollars.

USET’s David O’Conner was one of several speakers who commented on the need to capture and keep youth participation in breed promotion and use. If their horse interest in captured as youth, they may slip away between ages 21-40, but they frequently return during their more mature years.

Exec. VP Glenn Petty touched upon the Aurora building's condition in his talk. The three-story circa 1980 building needs some serious renovation. Since there is also a lack of storage space and parking, it may be a better option to sell this building and look for a better site.

Throughout the general sessions additional speeches were given by representatives of the Arabian Jockey Club, the American Horse Council, Arabian Horse Youth Association, the Arabian Horse Foundation, Bill Harness of Marketing and Promotion etc.

The Keynote speaker, Dr Jerry Black of the University of Colorado, spoke on trends in the equine industry including the decline in registrations and transfers in purebred breeds. The main thrust of his comments was reserved for the problems of the "unwanted horse". There are several reasons for this increase. Certainly, the economic decline is the major one. When this is combined with the closing of American slaughterhouses and the cost of euthanasia/carcass disposal, there is a resulting glut of old, lame, and feral horses, as well as those who may be in good health but "failed to meet their owner's expectations"! Over 115,000 equines have been shipped to Canada or Mexico for processing and shipping to European markets. Additional points in his speech were the increasing problems with animal welfare agencies, the problem of equine obesity, and a need to revitalize the 'equine' audience (i.e. to draw in a society that no longer has common day-to-day interaction with the horse).

Results of the elections were announced. Cynthia Richardson is the new AHA President and Nancy Harvey is the new Vice President. Treasurer Dave Corning and Secretary Jan Decker were unopposed incumbants.

Resolution results, committee appointments, and judges selection can be found on the AHA website <http://www.arabianhorses.org/membership/convention/2012/default.asp>

2012 AHA Convention Report

Submitted by Marty Kleiner

Arabian Horsemens Distress Fund

AHDF Meeting- Reviewed programs from 2012 and future ideas. Fundraising at nationals went well and they also worked with a local charity in Tulsa. Region 15 Championships donated \$1,100.00 in 2012.

Little Lighthouse is a home for mentally and physically handicapped children from 2 to 6 years of age. A horse was taken over to the home to meet the children. A video of the visit was presented.

At the convention presentation in a brief time over \$18,000 was pledged including \$1,500.00 from the Region 15 championship and its exhibitors.

A request was made that if you know someone who is in need please contact a board member (Van Jacobsen, Mary Jane Brown, Stan Morey, Rev. G.T. Schram) or Mary Trowbridge.

Ethical Practices Review Board

EPEB- a rule was presented for consideration as an addition to the ethical practices list in the handbook. The rule would make it an infraction to use or post proof without the permission of the photographer or videographer.

The members of the EPRB suggested to bring this back as a resolution for 2013.

USEF has approved it as an infraction IF posted in the show prize list and charges may be brought by the show management.

It is a violation of Federal Copyright laws to use, copy, reproduce, store, transmit or alter by use of computer, mobile device or print, or any other means any image produced at the Region 15 Championship show by the Region 15 Show Photographers or Videographers. Exhibitors found in violation will be reported to AHA and USEF by the Region 15 Show management as being in violation of rules as stated in the show prize list.

Membership-

Discussion was centered on the change back to calendar year membership and the pros and cons: dues to the clubs, web site changes to favor club membership, etc. EVP Glenn Petty spoke on the cost of changing back. The committee and straw vote were 50/50. Failed in convention vote

Change of name for membership card: instead of competition card suggested name was Premium Card so that members that did not compete would also know they had insurance coverage plus other benefits. Was withdrawn from convention vote.

Standard Membership Fee: proposal that there be just one membership fee (other than business or farm) of \$50.00 was withdrawn for further research and discussion in the future.

Level the Playing Field-

New divisions were discussed to allow a fairer structure to the class requirements'.

DRAFT I

AHA PROPOSED AMATEUR AND OPEN DIVISION CATEGORIES

OPEN

Novice Open	Has not received a Nationals Top Ten in the Intermediate Open or Open, or more than two Top Tens in the Novice Open in the particular division.
Intermediate Open	Has not received more than two Nationals Top Tens or better in the Intermediate Open or Open in the particular division.
Open	Eligible as an AHA member to compete in Open classes.

AMATEUR

Novice Amateur	Has not received a Nationals Top Ten in the Intermediate Amateur, Amateur, or Prime Time, or more than two Top Tens in the Novice Amateur in the particular division.
Intermediate Amateur	Has not received more than two Nationals Top Tens or better in the Intermediate Amateur, Amateur, or Prime Time in the particular division.
Amateur	Eligible as an AHA member to compete in the Amateur classes.
Prime Time	Must be of the age of 55 or older and eligible as an

AHA member to compete in the Amateur classes.

YOUTH

Novice Youth	Has not received a Nationals Top Ten in the Intermediate Youth or Youth, or more than two Top Tens in the Novice Youth in the particular division. May not compete on a horse that has been a National Champion or Reserve National Champion in the division (exception in the Novice Youth Division).
Intermediate Youth	Has not received more than two National Top Tens or better in the Intermediate Youth or Youth in the particular division.
Youth	Eligible as an AHA member to compete in Youth classes.
Walk Trot/Jog	Eligible as a AHA member to compete in Walk Trot/Jog classes. Riders over 8 years of age who have received a National Championship or Reserve National Championship may no longer compete in that particular Walk Trot/Jog division. (May compete in other Walk Trot/Jog divisions, or advance to the Youth classes.

Commissioners Review Panel

Concern was expressed about the Judges, Stewards, exhibitors and the use of social media. Stan Morey, Commissioner, will look to develop some guidelines with the panel for future reference Confidentiality is paramount and reports/concerns to the commissioner should be in writing but phone calls will also be acted upon so if there is a concern or complaint please contact Stan Morey.

Marty Kleiner was re-elected to the Commissioner's Review Panel. This panel hears complaints about judges and stewards that are deemed necessary by the Commissioner. In 2012 two cases were heard and acted upon.

New Officers:

President Cynthia Richardson, Vice President Nancy Harvey