**Report on the AHA Board of Directors Meeting March 6-7, 2020**

**Aurora, Colorado**

As many of you will know the Board of Directors for AHA meeting twice a year in Aurora at the AHA Office and then in November at the site of the convention. I hope that after you read this report you will realize the depth and breadth of work regarding the Arabian horse and horsemanship in general that the AHA is involved in. At the March meeting the Arabian Youth Board also meets and I was so pleased to be able to introduce Kade to many of the other regional directors.

Probably the most important update is on the search for a new Executive Vice President. Glenn Petty announced his retirement at convention and as such there is an Ad hoc selection committee formed to find a new EVP. There have been approximately 70 applicants and at this point the committee is short listing the candidates. Interviews will be held soon. I will keep you posted on any news as I am aware of it.

The president formed the “Local Level involvement Task Force” purposed is to bring the Arabian horse in touch with our local communities. The Region 17 representative on this task force is Sylvia Caruthers (vice chair). The main even that they have focused on is the “Meet an Arabian “horse day scheduled for May 17th. All information including promotional materials is on the AHA website. AS well, I have posted about this event on our facebook page.

For those of you who show you are aware that there is a 9/90 fee with each entrees. This money is used for the education of AHA’s judges and stewards. The fee has not increased for over 20 years. The Budget and Finance committee presented a resolution that the fee would increase to $20/horse at an AHA Recognized Regional Championship show and $25 /horse at an AHA National Championship show. This fee will not happen this show season but will take place from Dec. 1, 2020

There is also a restructuring of “Events and Marketing” at AHA. Many of you will know Kelsey Berglund, the AHA staff member that has been the national events manager for several years. You would have met her at Canadian nationals for sure! Kelsey will now become the Director of Marketing and Events. With this amalgamation there will be a reduction in the number of full time employees and the money saved in salary will be used to utilize an external media firm to promote AHA and the Arabian breed outside of our current membership. There will be a sun setting of the printed version of Arabian Horse Life after 2 more issues and then there will be a newsletter.

Some of you might have participated in the last chance buy in for the Arabian Breeders Sweepstake. There were a total of 391 entries which realized $1.4 million in revenue. It was reported that the Trust is nearing the point where its income could fund new prize money initiatives. And for those of you who are breeding Arabians/part Arabians a motion was passed to increase the breeder/nominator payback from 10% to 15% effect in 2020.

Some interesting facts:

* AHA ended 2019 with an overall 1.27% decrease in the total number of entries and a decrease of 1.77% in the number of horses. The 2018 comparison showed a greater decline of 2.29% in entries
* Comparing to 2018 Regional entries were down 2.08%. Horses were up 1.1%
* Breeding entry numbers are down 4%
* The 2020 Halter Futurity nominations are 1398 compared to 1444 for 2019. This reflects a 3% decrease in nominations. There was a 2019 decrease of 7% and a 2018 decrease of 6%
* There has been a decline in purebred registrations and an increase in half Arabian registrations
* There has been a 4.6% decline in membership and 3.9% decline in those members holding a competition card

Judges and Stewards Statistics:

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| Total # of AHA Judges | 261 |
| Total national/Regional Judges | 156 |
| Total Accredited/Judges (Less N/R) | 105 |
| Total # AHA Stewards | 92 |
| Total CTR Stewards | 9 |
| Total END stewards | 14 |

The 2020 Convention will be held in Reno. Region 17 provided a $100 sponsorship at this time.

As many of you know the Arabian/part Arabians have excelled in distance rides. The 2020 event is being held in LaPine, Oregon – closer to home that many of the rides have been held in the past, so I’m hoping some of us can go experienced this event. The 2021 ride will be held in Oneida, Tennessee. Of note AHA has applied to USEF to become the USEF Endurance International Discipline Affiliate. We (AHA) believe we are the logical choice for this position because:

* The AHA is a well established association with a history of successful distance riding programs and competitions. 16 regions in the US have held regional championships for both endurance and competitive trail riding
* AH has an existing Distance commission, Distance Committee, Licensed officials Commission and is a pioneer in supporting and hosting multibreed distance competitions.

As mentioned in the Competition Advisory Report there have been changes to the one day and value shows. Please check the AHA website or with Lesley Lockhart (AHA staff) before you plan one of these events. We are hoping that the new rules will be easier and clearer.

Finally the handbook has been redesigned to improve the readability and accuracy of it. Some of the changes that you will find are:

* A table of Contents for each chapter
* All of the chapters were reviewed for consistency of verbiage and correct punctuation
* Long and unwieldy paragraphs were bullet listed
* Started list of definitions