

**Region 14 Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9, 2024 @ 3:00 PM**  
**Holiday Inn at Cincinnati Airport**

Director Duane Esser called the meeting to order with First Vice Director Dave Daugherty, Second Vice Director Jennifer Tucker, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Terry Schafer in attendance. Nine (9) clubs were represented: BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHA, KAHABA, KARABS, OAATS, OHAHA and SAHIBA.

Joe Hull passed away February 29<sup>th</sup>, after a brief battle with cancer. He was a wonderful human being and a source of rational reasoning when needed – he will be greatly missed. Today’s Awards Banquet is in his honor and you’re asked to keep Joe and Sherry in your prayers.

**Minutes:** Pepper Proffit moved, and Donna Lassanske seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Terry were able to meet with Joe and Sherry at the end of January and they went to the Chase bank to get all the accounts transferred as Terry takes on the treasurer’s position. The bank was very accommodating, going out to the van to get Joe’s signature since he was unable to go inside. The checking and savings were handled that day, and a new credit card was issued in mid-February. Hopefully all these changes will be seamless. Terry has the paperwork ready to get the taxes prepared at a location near his place, especially since the H & R Block preparer that Joe used retired. The Budget Committee (consisting of the Executive Board including Joe) met January 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom and approved the 2024 budget. This was sent to the delegates February 3<sup>rd</sup> and was passed.

The treasurer’s report was sent out to the delegates. There has been little activity since the January meeting, so the report hasn’t changed much. Cindy Clinton moved, and Debbie Glasener seconded a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. This passed unanimously. Thanks to Terry for stepping into this position

**Director’s Report:** Duane reported on the following:

- He attended the USEF Annual Meeting Louisville Omni Hotel and noted that it was well attended. There were two (2) days of workshops and round table discussions, covering topics that included biosecurity, licensed officials and horse welfare.
  - Show management and exhibitors were instructed on how to handle a sick horse situation at a show and how to write up a plan. One of the biggest challenges is finding isolated stalling that is away from the main thoroughfare of the other horses. Temperature spikes are to be reported immediately to the vet and show management and, also exhibitors need to be responsible to not bring a known sick horse to a show.
  - In the session concerning licensed officials, the objective was to protect the judging standards – not allowing and rewarding things that might be deemed unacceptable.
  - On the topic of horse welfare, the speaker was a former president of the AQHA, who spoke about social licensing – how we “sell” what we do to the public and how it is perceived. He made a bold statement that “the Quarter horse industry had done a great job of creating something that no one wants.” USEF has changed its rule that there is a duty to report mistreatment even outside of competition, but there is a chance that this could be misused. USEF is putting into place guidelines that would address false accusations, messing with photographs, etc. Duane noted that a few years ago a hearing was held about perceived abuse in a halter class. It was investigated and no one was disciplined, but then Duane later realized that it was the breed that was on “trail” not just that incident. He spoke with others later about the evidence and they were horrified. Duane realized that sometimes we become accepting of the treatment in the show ring as normal. Cindy feels that this new rule may go too far, that even if the alleged wrongdoing is cleared, the person(s) has been tried and convicted by social media, especially in this age of cell phone videos. There was further discussion about the 2025 microchip requirement for all horses who show at USEF events, including taking temperatures three (3) times per day and who is required to take Safe Sport, like non-USEF members who volunteer at shows.
  - Three (3) competition issues were discussed: lunging, poling and over bridling, i.e. hyper-extension of neck – behind a vertical.
  - It was asked if there are ramifications for “chronic complainers” and the answer is “yes.”

- Cecile Hetzel-Dunn (Martha Rattner's mother) was awarded a Lifetime Achievement award.

Duane talked with Region 13 about the Pre-show date being added to the Region 13 Sport Horse Championships this year. It is too late to change but moving forward, Region 14 will not approve Pre-Show dates for Region 13 Sport Horse and Main Ring Championships for 2025.

Duane appointed the following for this year's Nominating Committee: Kara Hatzai (BAHA), Jackie MacLaren (OHAHA), Danny Thompson (SAHIBA), Cindy Clinton (BAHAA) and Cindy Ryan (KARABS).

In Joe's memory, a separate scholarship has been proposed. Dave feels this should go through our current Youth Scholarship committee, with the addition of Terry and Jackie. Cindy moved and Dave seconded a motion that it will be funded separately and will be awarded to a Region 14 member who is going into law. This passed unanimously. The committee will report details at the next meeting, with this beginning in 2025.

**First Vice Director's Report:** Dave shared a story about a family that came to him wanting to purchase Arabians for their daughters but had noted "bashing" of the breed and farms on social media. They attended Region 14 last year. The father had grown up around horses and his brother shows Quarter horses. They haven't decided yet. Dave emphasized the need to "take a step back" before you post on social media. The fallout can adversely affect the future of our breed. Pepper noted that when we are frustrated with the inaction of the associations, sometimes posting on social media in the "right way" to generate change. But Duane noted that sometimes issues are addressed but are not publicized.

**Second Vice Director's Report:** Jennifer reported on the results so far of AHA offering a free one-year youth membership this year. To date, they have had 95 join in January and 72 join in February. She asked that if your club gets any of these new youth members, please try to get them involved.

She also presented the results of her search for an app to allow Region 14 to text updates. A handout with the QR code for GroupMe was passed out to those present. By scanning the code, it will go to a link so you can download the app. It will be used by the youth and the plan going forward would be to use it during the Region 14 Championship show and for meeting reminders. Currently we are not paying for this, it is a test phase to see how many will sign up. Jennifer will report at the next meeting where we stand on this. Jeff noted that Scottsdale used this app and it was well received. Cindy C noted that Ryan also sends texts to exhibitors but not through this app.

- This is the second year for our Promotion Committee. Tonya Taylor has replaced Carl Malicote on the committee. They met recently to clarify what is happening with the regionally funded events, etc. Upcoming events include Equine Affaire in April, Meet the Arabian (MAH) in May and Breyerfest in July
- Again, we have budgeted \$500 - in \$100 grants for MAH events which are available to a barn or club. Jennifer will send out a Google form link April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- T.A.I.L. tours are being planned for Sport Horse Nationals.
- You can submit information directly to the Regional Insider, due by 15<sup>th</sup> each month.
- Jennifer is now the vice chair of the Local Level Committee (LLC) and they are having less meetings. Jeff is now on this committee. They will be working on publicizing lesson programs. Region 14 had a good response.
- The Discovery Farms can now earn points and their horses will be recognized. In December, there were 100 horses (from 2021-2023) nominated. First, they will receive a stall plate, second a halter and third their own page on the AHA website.
- The Market Development and Promotion (MDP) committee is active again now that the AHA and the Purebred Arabian Trust (PAT) lawsuit has been resolved. Ideas will be presented to AHA to execute and match funds for local outreach. This is in the early planning stages. AHA has a new marketing director.
- The database CRM was started last year at the Keystone event in Ocala. Then it was tried for the Rose Parade, but it was not successful. Equine Affaire will be the next event – more to follow. Jeff noted that if new ideas to put are forward, they are looking to Region 14 as a "mentor."
- Arabian Horses for Humanity is going through a refresh. Currently "Believe" is with Duane and the Region 10 horse "Salute" is in Jennifer's garage for a couple of months. Karen Kasper is working on the horse for the University of Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington.
- Equine Affaire is April 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>, with setup on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Currently she is working with Sara Siemon and they have 14 or 15 horses set to be part of the demo – 9 are youth riders and of those participating all are new except for maybe two (2) horses. Duane is a clinician this year. Darker N Bey,

owned by Jan Sharp - a previous AHA Ambassador horse - will also be there. The current budget is \$4500 and \$3895 has been spent to date (stalls, etc.) After discussion Jackie moved and Pepper seconded a motion to increase the budget for 2024 to \$5500. This was passed. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ohio Equine Affaire.

- After a letter writing campaign last year, Danny Thompson let Jennifer know that we will have horses for Breyerfest this year. Last year they went over their budget of \$3000 – a lot of it went towards promotional printing etc. After discussion Pepper moved and Debbie G seconded a motion to increase the 2024 Breyerfest budget to \$4500. This was passed. The dates are July 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Volunteers will be needed for both events. Also, the last weekend in May will be the MAH event at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP). Deneb noted that June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the Kentucky clubs will participate in the Parade of Breeds at the KHP.

**Regional Show Report:** Cindy reported that things are progressing. Martha Rattner had requested a change in the schedule. This brought up a discussion. Mary Loden noted that there can be conflicts with those who show Trail and Dressage. Caitlin Heinz suggested that the Trail be moved to the evening session to avoid this issue. Cindy will work on this. She needs volunteers and Jennifer Lewis will be assisting Tony Reid with Sport Horse and Dressage. The show is August 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. Currently most of the prices are the same and there doesn't seem to be an issue with the main ring schedule. The World Equestrian Center (WEC) has raised their tractor fees.

- The Pre-Show judges (*per Cindy's Facebook page*) are Main Ring - Lindsey Rhinehart and John Power and Dressage (Western & Classic) and Sport Horse - Natalie Lamping.
- For Regional classes, the judges are Main Ring – Brian Scoggins, Brian Ferguson, Scott Brumfield and John Powers and Dressage (Western & Classic) and Sport Horse – Heather Stalker.

Cindy has also ordered 50 more stalls. She will still monitor the number of tack stalls, etc. It was suggested that Cindy check with Wilmington College since they have an Equine program for volunteers. Deneb Thompson noted that SAHIBA has a Sno Cone machine and would like to have a youth party at Region 14.

Duane noted that horse show statistics were presented at a recent Competition Advisory Committee meeting and last year Region 14 was one of the few regional shows that was up and was the largest.

**Region 14 Youth Scholarship Program:** Jeff reported that the forms have been updated for 2024 and that he has copies here at the meeting. Kate Bonafede proposed that the scholarship be offered to Juniors as well as Seniors to get more participation. The committee will review this request.

**Youth Co-Directors' Report:** Rachel Vaughn introduced our new Youth Director - Ella Duncan. Rachel will be a co-director to help Ella this year and because Rachel is the AHYA treasurer. They acknowledged that their budget is \$750. This year they want to have the T-shirts again at the regional show. They are working on more outreach and at Equine Affaire. They need to submit a report to AHYA and Pepper recommended to include shows you're attending and their activities at the shows. They are working on having social media "Bingo." Jennifer suggested doing some video on your outreach. As to starting a youth mentorship program, Rachel not sure where to start. Pepper thinks that's a great idea and she will help with that. Jeff suggested they send (via snail mail) "Thank-You" cards for those that donated items to the Silent Auction since this benefits the youth. Carl will get her a list. Kara suggested they do a presentation explaining the classes. Cindy stated that Brian Murch and John Powers will be doing something like this through APHA.

Ella reported that for the regional show, they are planning for the ice cream social, youth booth, coloring contest, golden horseshoe and ducks. Jennifer suggested they plan ahead and get help – use your resources. Rachel asked that more money be budgeted for the youth, not just the scholarship. There was discussion and Dave agreed that we need to increase the budget to help with an increase in activities.

**Awards Banquet:** Debbie G noted that this is our 18<sup>th</sup> year and thanks to all! We have 108 dinners reserved; it definitely helped to have a deadline. The auction will be large. Cindy noted we should recognize the committee with a gift certificate but Dave said saying "thank you" and the applause is enough. He explained that the BINGO games will be three (3) rounds and will be slightly different than last year – two (2) at \$100 gift card each and then the finale is a \$500 gift card. The schedule is for the cash bar, Duane's opening remarks, then dinner followed by BINGO and then the awards. Two (2) items will be included in a Facebook Live Auction: Cloud Nine \$500 gift certificate and Region 14 show packet with payment made via VENMO within one hour.

**Old Business:** - *none*

**New Business:** Cindy C wants to clarify that Safe Sport must be completed before the show and that you must join USEF (show pass or membership) before the show as well. She also reported on the OHAHA show youth classes held Friday morning. The dates are April 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter weekend.

Deneb noted that youth must do Safe Sport once they turn 18 years of age, including during show season.

Jennifer announced that KAHA is offering a Volunteer Scholarship for the who volunteer for at least five (5) Region 14 shows. The reward is two (2) \$1000 scholarships to any accredited learning institution – even non-equine courses OR a two (2) show sponsorship packets that include two (2) stalls and two (2) classes. This will be earned over two (2) show seasons and signed off by the show managers. Must be a KAHA member, even an associate. Martha worked on this with Cindy.

Dave moved and Jeff seconded a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart  
Region 14 Secretary