

**Region 14 Meeting Minutes**  
**August 6, 2024 @ 7:00 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 Terry Schafer in attendance. Nine (9) clubs were represented: BAHA, BAHAA, DBDR, KAHA, KAHABA, KARABS, OAATS, OHAHA and SAHIBA.

**Minutes:** Cindy Ryan moved, and Kara Hatzei seconded a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. This passed unanimously.

**Agenda Amended:** Duane noted that Martha Rattner has asked to speak to the meeting. She will follow Cindy Clinton's show report.

**Election of Region 14 Officers:** Cindy, chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers that will serve the region for 2025-2026 (*taking effect at the 2024 AHA Convention*) and then asked for nominations from the floor. Following our procedure, there were none, so below is the list:

Duane Esser - Director  
Dave Daugherty - First Vice Director  
Debbie Swigart - Secretary  
Terry Schafer - Treasurer

One position has two (2) nominees: Second Vice Director – Jacqueline (Jackie) Ferris Maclaren and Danny Thompson.

Cindy has sent an email to all eligible delegates to vote on the Second Vice Director position. She will report the results later in this meeting. She thanked the nominating committee and those that serve as our officers.

**AHA Restructuring Resolution:** Lisa Blackstone, Vice President of AHA and Peter Conway, appointed Vice President-At-Large joined our ZOOM meeting and provided the background as to the Restructuring Resolution that is being submitted to the delegates from the Arabian Promotional Fund. Lisa also wanted to clarify that PAT had no input in developing this resolution and that, pursuant to the merger agreement, could veto it. They have signed off on it. This would restructure the tiers of leadership of AHA, based on previous studies, to bring the governing body of our association in alignment with business associations' standards as to improve how AHA works for its members. She presented a brief history. The Arabian Horse Registry got going around 1960 and our peak numbers were in 1985 with 35,000 foal registrations. The following bullet points are included in the resolution:

- A Regional Council will be formed consisting of the 18 regional directors whose roles will remain the same, being elected by their region with no change to this process.
- The committees, commissions and delegate structure will remain the same except for the Nominating Committee, whose duties will be expanded.
- The new board will be required to develop and implement a strategic plan for our association.
- Make the Board of Directors smaller, meeting weekly vs. the current three (3) meetings per year. Business background/experience in addition to horse expertise would be the criteria for these individuals.
  - This will include the President, one elected Vice President and three (3) board members, voted into office by the whole membership – not just the delegates. The Secretary and

Treasurer positions will be appointed. There will only be one Vice President-At-Large appointed by the Purebred Arabian Trust (PAT). This position will represent AHA and not PAT. These officers will serve three (3) year terms.

- Resolutions can be amended by this new board vs. having to wait to draft another resolution to fix any problems. But the Regional Council has veto powers if needed.

It is this group's goal to make AHA run like a business to better serve our membership. Please check out the Arabian Promotional Fund website for all the details and FAQ section.

The question was asked about our positive financial status, and Peter summarized that we sold the old headquarters, so we gained about \$1 million from that, then because of COVID, our loans were forgiven and that generated another \$1 million and in 2020, the addition of Mid-Summer to Youth Nationals and then U.S. Nationals (with no qualifications) were hugely successful that year.

One comment was that our peak was in 1985 and then the tax shelter laws changed in 1986, which has led to the decline in the equine industry as a whole. Will there be a way for this new business structure to address that problem? Peter noted we will probably never recover to the point of having 35,000 registrations per year and that our decline has accelerated in the past 10 years. Tax law changes are probably beyond the scope of this group.

It was also noted that if a rider wants a high trotting horse, they go to Saddlebreds and for reining, etc. they go to Quarter Horses. We, as a breed, need to promote our horses as being versatile but also that they are the best breed for Endurance. Also, our breed's emotional attachment to humans also needs to be highlighted.

Duane thanked Lisa and Peter for their presentation and their work on this resolution.

**AHA Leadership Point of View:** Deborah Johnson, AHA President and Stan Morey, AHA Executive Director joined our meeting to speak to the state of the association and were open to any questions we had. Both noted that our association is very complicated, and they are not sure how this restructure would work. We have already downsized our staff to be more efficient and fiscally sound. Stan is concerned as to how the employees will be treated in the new structure, he wants to see changes that aren't divisive and that are constructive. Deborah stated they've initiated a convention "vetting" process to better understand the expense of putting on an in-person convention and they've changed how we handle the review of contracts for anything over \$5000 – both are more cumbersome, but they provide better outcomes.

The question was asked why it took a group to propose this as a resolution vs. our current board making the changes. Deborah stated that a study was done in 2018 and that provided a plan of proposed changes. Past AHA President Nancy Harvey counselled Deborah as to how and when to implement the changes of this study. These plan details will be presented to the Board of Directors on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

A comment was made that over the years, we have had leadership that was "divisive" but that our recent officers have done so much to improve how things are handled and to be welcoming to our members.

Another question was asked if there could be any economic incentives offered to new members to help offset the expense of showing our horses. Stan feels we need to cultivate the equine activities that don't necessarily involve showing our horses.

Duane thanked Deborah and Stan for being available to meet with our Region 14 delegates and for all their work for our association.

**Treasurer's Report:** Terry submitted the treasurer's report via email. He received a check from AHA which seems to be a "grant" for a regional *Meet the Arabian Horse* event on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Do we need more

information on how to apply this check? It would appear it may be for Equine Affaire, as Jennifer had the QR code posted so that AHA Marketing could track who visited our booth and do follow-up contacts. It can't be for Breyerfest as we didn't have the QR code posted at that event. Terry created a separate line item in the budget and just wanted to make sure it wasn't to be forwarded to a club, etc. Also, Terry will be following up with Dave on making sure all our national show sponsorships are taken care of. Per Dave, Duane should also be getting invoices from AHA for our sponsorships. Danny will also work on getting an invoice from Arabian Hunter Pleasure Association (AHPA) for the "Lucky Pony" promotion for Sport Horse Nationals. Cindy C moved and Pepper Proffit seconded a motion to approve the report as presented. This also passed unanimously.

**Director's Report:** Duane reported that Welfare Enhancement will be added to the USEF rule that will provide for the investigation of cruelty by a USEF member that happens outside of the horse show venues. It will also allow for penalties as needed.

Duane noted that Dave can provide specifics on the Youth Nationals/Mid-Summer show. Duane was there and the weather was wonderful, and the show seemed to go well.

We have been asked to approve a new show for March 2025. SAHIBA will be offering another Dressage venue at Windy Meadows Stables in LaGrange, KY. It is hoped that it will give exhibitors another show to qualify. Deneb Thompson noted that the SAHIBA Spring Show and KARABS Medallion both had more dressage rides than they normally have. Cindy R commented that the dressage ride numbers really helped the Medallion's bottom line. Deneb commented that they can't handle any further increases at their SAHIBA Spring show. There was discussion as to how this might impact all these shows, as well as the early spring show at Stonehurst. Deneb stated that she had talked with Natasha Lesbuegeres, and she didn't think it would negatively impact her show, which also had more rides than her facility normally handles. This will be an AHA Value show with no Sport Horse classes offered, just classical Dressage for Arabians and Half Arabians, Intro through Fourth levels one day and Western Dressage for all breeds the second day. This show was approved, with Cindy R abstaining.

Our AHA convention will be in-person this year at Reno Nevada. The Plenary Session will be held November 13<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM at 7:00 pm EST, a week ahead of the convention, which runs the week of November 18<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Silver Legacy Hotel. He reminded delegates to get their early bird packets ordered. Debbie S asked that those present to remind their club presidents to get their delegate/alternate nominees into AHA by September 1<sup>st</sup> and that they send her a copy for regional records.

Duane appointed the Budget Committee to consist of the Executive Board: Duane, Dave, Debbie, Terry, Jeff and the next Second Vice Director. They will meet at convention.

**First Vice Director's Report:** Dave reported that Youth Nationals/Mid-Summer had 942 horses. The weather was amazing for most of the show. Three (3) of the judges were involved in an accident, which totaled the car and two (2) were taken to hospital, but they were able to work the show. Dave is now the show's Operations Manager to help with the numerous rings of this show. The Arabian Horse Youth Association met during the show and their board voted for a shorter show schedule and to go back to being just the Youth Nationals, eliminating the adult classes.

There is a new arena being constructed at the Oklahoma Fairground and it will be a state-of-the-art facility, including a covered walkway. It should be ready for next year. However, the implosion of the old facility may take two (2) years.

**Second Vice Director's Report:** Jennifer was not feeling well so no report was presented.

**Youth Director Report:** Ella Duncan was not present, so Rachel Vaughn reported on what the youth have planned for the Region 14 show. They plan on having the ice cream social on Friday, Golden Horseshoe

hunt and coloring contest. She will have to check with Pepper on the ordering of the t-shirts for this year. She also reported that the Region 14 youth did participate in the Youth Nationals golf cart parade.

**Breyerfest:** Danny presented a report on this event. It was well received, and Danny posted videos to his Facebook, but there were delays in getting those onto our regional Facebook page. He checked and the videos had more than 10,000 views. Everyone who participated did a great job, with the most volunteers ever for the booth. They had signed pictures of Ann Judge and Thunder to give away. Deneb said that Breyerfest sells an event ticket that includes a model and that those were sold out by late Friday afternoon (last year they didn't sell out until early Sunday). Folks could still come, but they had to buy a Kentucky Horse Park admission and would not receive a complimentary model. It was a big success, and the hand fans were a huge hit (*it was a very hot weekend*). They got questions and comments on why the other horse breeds don't have booths. A brochure and display poster were created and presented at our booth which aligned with this year's Breyerfest theme of "Against All Odds." It highlighted the stories of Witez II (*Polish Arabian stallion saved during World War II*), Ronteza (*a Witez II daughter, who was shown by Shelia Varian as the first Arabian at the Reined Cow Horse Open Championship*) and Bask Elect +/ (*despite being blinded at age 9, went on to be rehabilitated by Martha Murdock Rattner and shown by her to numerous U.S. National championships and Reserve Championships*). Deneb had created wonderful Breyer Arabian horse model display that was from her extensive collection. And then we had our breed demos all three (3) days. Duane thanked all who were there and made this a great outreach event.

**Regional Show Report:** Cindy C feels the show will be wonderful, with 1164 stalls are sold so far and 30 stalls still available. She will again have to hire extra judges for dressage. She also added Ranch Horse and Junior horse classes. She is moving the Performance Halter classes to the main ring (must have 3 judges). As always, she needs help, especially with Sport Horse and Trail. Martha asked about start times for trail, since Performance Halter is moved. Jennifer Lewis asked about social media video coverage as well as "Ask A Judge." There will be people available to answer questions about the Restructuring Resolution. She will also have the Men's Sidesaddle class as a fund raiser on Saturday night. She has arranged for someone to make a Region 14 commercial. We will have the AHPA promotion with Danny and Deneb delivering "Lucky Goats." WEC did give approval for the youth ice cream social.

**Martha Rattner:** She wanted to present her take on her show experiences this year, especially showing at WEC – she was a temporary Ohio resident. We need to be open to change – in all equine sport, but especially our breed. Region 9 and Region 14 have all national shows at premier facilities in their areas. Classical Dressage, Western Dressage and Ranch classes are growing, which is a positive for our breed. She would like to see Region 13, Region 14 and Medallion look at creating one bigger Sport Horse show.

**Region 14 Youth Scholarship:** Jeff submitted a report to the delegates via email (*Addendum to these minutes*). He reviewed the criteria, then announced the three (3) scholarships awarded this year to the following youth: \$3000 presented to Eliyana Shank, \$2000 presented to Melanie Schick Fernandez and \$1000 presented to Haley Waldschmidt.

These will be publicly presented at the Region 14 show Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> evening after class 538.

Jeff also noted that the scholarship committee will be meeting to work on our new Joe Hull Law Scholarship. He hopes to have a report at our Caucus meeting.

**Awards Banquet:** Dave noted that one club still needs to pay for their award sponsorship and Terry said they are working on clearing this up and it involved Venmo. Debbie Glasener had no updates and asked that you can send ideas to her and Dave. The event netted about \$4400 which will go towards our Youth Scholarship.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Danny asked if the region will be sponsoring anything at the convention. Dave noted that we need to check our budget. Jeff noted that we should have a budget line item for convention gifts. After review, the budget has \$100 for the gifts plus \$1500 for our caucus meeting. Duane reviewed the many levels available from gift cards up to \$10,000. Pepper moved and Debbie G seconded a motion to sponsor at the \$500 level. This was amended to be taken from the National Show Sponsorship line item as a budget variance since there are funds available. This passed.

**Election of Region 14 Officers (cont'd):** Cindy C reported that Jackie MacLaren has been elected as our Second Vice Director, winning a close vote. Thank you to all our officers.

Pepper moved and Jodi Koford seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*[Our convention Caucus meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM, at the in-person AHA convention in Reno Nevada.]*

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart  
Region 14 Secretary

**Addendum:**

The Region XIV Scholarship Committee Members are:

My self-Jeff Caldwell-Chair, Cindy Clinton, Carl Malicote, Donna Lassanske, Jackie MacLaren, Terry Schafer and Rachel Vaughn.

The Region 14 Youth Scholarship requirements, eligibility and information are as follows:

Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, leadership, community service, and involvement in equine activities.

Scholarship winners are to use the award toward undergraduate educational expenses at institutions of higher learning. An institution of higher learning is defined as one which may only be attended upon receipt of a high school diploma or its equivalent. These institutions may include colleges, universities, junior or community colleges offering an associate degree, and trade schools providing education in a field leading to permanent employment.

Region XIV annually offers three scholarships: one for \$3,000.00, one for \$2,000.00 and one for \$1,000.00

Eligibility: Each applicant must be: (1.) a current member of AHA through a Region 14 Member Organization (Club); 2. A current high school senior or be in receipt of a high school diploma (or its equivalent) 3. 18 years of age, or younger, at the time of the application submission deadline.

We now would like to announce the 2024 Region 14 Youth Scholarship Recipients:

The \$3,000.00 scholarship is awarded to Eliyana Shank of Berlin Center, OH with a GPA of 4.6, Eliyana will be attending Boyce (Christian College) in Louisville, KY Studying: Media Design & Photography.

The \$2,000.00 scholarship is awarded to Melanie Fernandez of Eminence, KY with a GPA of 4.3, Melanie will be attending Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts Studying: Mental Health & Equine Therapy.

The \$1,000.00 scholarship is awarded to Haley Waldschmidt of Lexington, KY with a GPA of 3.43, Haley will be attending the University of Kentucky, Studying: Interior Design.

**We also ask you to be present during the Region 14 Championship Horse Show on Saturday Evening August 17, 2024, after class #538 the Arabian English Pleasure Stakes class for pictures and a "LARGE" check presentation.**

**Scholarship payment will be made to the applicants, once proof of payment for tuition and/or books is submitted to the Region Youth Scholarship Chair: Jeff Caldwell**