

Minutes from Region 14 Caucus Meeting **November 21, 2024 @ 8:00 PM**

After a great group meal at the Brew Brothers Restaurant within the Silver Legacy/Eldorado Casinos complex, we adjourned to our assigned caucus meeting room where Director Duane Esser called the meeting to order with First Vice Dave Daugherty, Second Vice Director Jackie Maclaren, Secretary Debbie Swigart and Treasurer Terry Schafer present. Eighteen (18) delegates and four (4) alternates / guests were present, representing the following nine (9) 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), 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 the approval of the minutes as submitted. Cindy Clinton moved, and Kara Hatzai seconded a motion to approve. This passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Terry noted that our expenses are on target with the budget and that the successful regional show exceeded its budgeted income. The money has been transferred from the regional show account. Cindy moved and Kara seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. This passed unanimously. Terry also has transferred the bulk of our Chase savings account into a Fidelity Money Market account where it can earn more interest.

Director's Report:

- Duane noted that since the delegates are attending the General session and most of the committee meetings, he will forego his review of the AHA Board of Directors meeting.
- He asked that we set a date for our next regional meeting. After discussion, it will be a ZOOM meeting, set for January 12, 2025, at 1:00 PM.
- He also is planning on attending the USEF Annual Meeting January 23-25, 2025, in Lexington, KY and asked if the region would help cover his costs. Cindy moved and Jeff Caldwell seconded a motion to pay Duane's expenses. This passed.
- Duane led a lively discussion on our Social Media accounts and how to move forward. Currently, only Jennifer Tucker has administrator powers for our regional Gmail and ZOOM accounts. Debbie S would like to be able to access these to schedule meetings, etc. since Jennifer is no longer a regional officer. Jennifer also is the lead on our Facebook account, and it was agreed that we need to have more than one person being able to access it to post on events, etc. Debbie S noted that this is part of her Facebook account and that at this time she and Duane also have administrator access. Kara has talked with Jennifer and reviewed what they discussed. It was noted that there is a second Facebook page for the region that was for regional member access. All felt there needs to be more than one person to report on regional activities, doing our best to be consistent in our presentation, as well checking our other accounts. Duane will follow-up with Jennifer to get this resolved.
- It has been requested that we again fund a sponsorship for the upcoming 2025 Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA. There will be a great group of Arabians and Half Arabians that will be in that parade to represent our breed. After some discussion, Jeff moved, and Jackie seconded a motion to give \$1000 to that group. This passed.

First Vice Director's Report: Dave waived his report until our January meeting.

Second Vice Director's Report: Jackie, our newly elected 2nd Vice Director also waived her report until the January meeting.

Kara noted that if we are going to have our booth at Equine Affaire, the cut-off date for payment is January 3, 2025. Jennifer will be limited as to her time so will need help with this event. She is hoping the Wikel girls will step-up. The dates are April 10th thru 13th which coincide with the OHAHA Spring show (at WEC in Wilmington) which is scheduled for April 11th thru 13th. Dave noted that he has helped in the past but with this conflict in dates won't be able to this year. Jackie noted that this is a very important event as it reaches the grass roots and those looking to getting into horses. Plus, last year it had a lot of youth involvement thanks to Sara Siemon and the riders that presented the horses from their farm. But these folks will be at the OHAHA show. After discussion Jackie moved, and Kara seconded a motion to budget \$5000 to fund this event for 2025. This passed.

Region 13 Show Approval Discussion: Three Region 13 members – Director Ron Gekiere and trainers Shawn Rooker and Steve Duell – spoke to our meeting, asking that we reconsider our motion to disapprove their two Pre-show dates at WEC for the Sport Horse and Region 13 Championship shows. The discussion centered around how them having these pre-show days would impact the attendance of the Region 13 exhibitors at our OHAHA Spring, Buckeye and Medallion shows. Ron noted that the lack of a pre-show date mostly impacts their main ring Championship show and that their largest classes are Walk/Trot. The trainers both felt that the approval of the Region 13 pre-show would not impact the participation of Indiana and Michigan exhibitors at our Region 14 shows. There was constructive discussion. Ron feels that between Region 13 and Region 14, we have the best shows, he is just asking for our cooperation. We appreciate their situation and assured them that we will re-visit the motion that Dave made back on January 7, 2024.

After they left, the delegates discussed how reversing that motion will affect our Region 14 shows. Dave provided a history on how we came to this point:

- Region 13 came to Dave (as Region 14 Director) asking for permission to move their shows for 2007 thru 2010 to the Champions Center at the Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield because they had lost their facility, the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, as it was closed for renovations. Then after 2010, they continued to show at that facility until they moved to the WEC in Wilmington, and then they moved their Sport Horse Championship in 2021. This had been held as part of the IAHA Hoosier Horse Classic in Edinburgh, IN. They didn't ask for permission to move this show into our region, and they continued holding their regional show, not looking to move back to Indiana or Michigan. Also, the OHAHA club cancelled their Fall show so that Region 14 could move its show dates to August.
- Someone who voted in favor of the original disapproval motion, needs to move the resend that motion and/or make a new motion to approve their pre-shows.

First Motion: Dave moved, and Danny Thompson seconded a new motion to approve the Region 13 Sport Horse pre-show in Region 14 for 2025. Motion passed.

Second Motion: Dave moved, and Pepper Proffit seconded a new motion to approve the Region 13 Main Ring pre-show in Region 14 for 2025. Motion passed.

A discussion continued as a way for both regions to benefit by finding a way to maybe combining the Medallion and Region 13, especially the Sport Horse classes. Duane said the finances are “tricky” but noted this may be looked into at some time in the future. It was agreed that there are no “villains” here, just regions and clubs struggling with the changing participation at our horse shows.

Also, it was discussed that maybe we could combine our Region 14 Sport Horse classes with the Region 13 Sport Horse show and/or bring back our regional Hunter/Jumper Championships to bolster their show. Debbie Glasener feels this would benefit both regions and increase the number of horses shown so that the shows would be large enough to preclude the chance that WEC might cancel the Medallion and/or Region 13 Sport Horse for a more lucrative Open Hunter/ Jumper show, which Cindy and Duane both agreed is a possibility. Our Hunter/Jumper classes are currently being held as part of the Palmetto Sport Horse show at the Tryon International facility in North Carolina (Region 12). Debbie G moved, and Martha Rattner seconded a motion to bring our Region 14 Hunter/Jumper classes back and to make it a concurrent show with Region 13. The is motion passed.

BAHA Arabian Legacy Show: Kara reported that their show held in June 2024, was not as successful as they had hoped. And that the Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) isn't being maintained. For 2025, they are moving their show to the Covered Arena and changing the date to October 4-5, 2025. This will be an AHA Value show as well as they will have Open breed classes. They are also discussing a possible merger with Natacha Lesburgueres' Bluegrass fall show. Jackie moved and Cindy seconded approval for the changes BAHA is making for their show. This was approved.

Awards Banquet Report: Debbie G asked if the date of March 8, 2025, will conflict with any AHA meetings or shows. Seeing none, we will again be at the Holiday Inn at the Cincinnati Airport (Erlanger, KY) on that date. We will have our March Region 14 meeting in the afternoon. There was discussion and it was agreed that we keep the BINGO game as part of the evening.

Regional Show Report: Cindy reported this year's show was fine, although we were down a few horses, partly due to an increase in fees. She is not getting the additional portable stalls, due to the upfront cost. They must order a minimum number of stalls and there are no refunds if the show doesn't need them all. One thing she is looking at is increasing the Tack stall fee. Dave noted that they will be asking for exhibitors to email their stall count before the show, then will verify that

number. Cindy also reported there are issues on the shavings as to ordered vs. used. The schedule may have some changes for Ranch Riding and Performance Halter classes.

Region 14 Youth Scholarship/Joe Hull Law Scholarship: Jeff reported that of the three (3) scholarships that were awarded this year, only two (2) have been claimed. However, currently we haven't established a time limit on claiming the funds. Kara moved and Jackie seconded a motion to give the recipients one year to claim their scholarship. The passed. Jackie will help with the wording in the program rules.

The Joe Hull Law Scholarship will be available starting January 1, 2025. They would like to set it at \$5000 to start. Terry noted that there may be an increase in this amount from donations. Jeff moved and Cindy seconded a motion to establish this scholarship. This passed. The criteria will be forthcoming. It was clarified that this is going to someone who is attending law school and is a member of a Region 14 club (and maintains their main residence within the region).

Jeff also checked with AHA to see if the Bill Pennington Scholarship is still active within the program managed by the Arabian Horse Foundation (AHF). But they have not provided us with the names of recipients and Terry noted that the \$500 we have budgeted to them each year, Joe was marking it to go to Bill's fund and not their general scholarship program. Duane will follow-up on this with AHA and Susan Racey will follow-up with AHF. After discussion, Jackie moved, and Deneb seconded a motion to pay the \$500 once they verify that it is earmarked for Bill's scholarship as well as the \$500 the Arabian Horsemen Distress Fund for this year. This was approved.

Duane wanted to commend all that we are just the best region in AHA.

Resolutions: We only discussed one resolution, #2-24 which is the proposed restructuring of the AHA Board. Duane noted that change is needed but there are many questions as to this specific resolution. It is expected that if it does NOT pass, it will be brought back in 2025 in a revised form that we hope will not "disenfranchise" many of the directors and members by addressing their concerns and that it would be ready to go into effect at close of convention. Susan, as an attorney, feels that AHA is a company in decline and that we, as horse people, need to fix this before it gets to the point where outsiders are brought in to fix it. The change needs to happen soon, and we must find ways to include the younger generation.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Swigart
Region 14 Secretary

ADDENDUM:

Duane was on the ballot as the only nominee for the elected AHA Vice President position, so he will move into that role at the end of convention. Dave will move up to be our 2025-2026 Director and Jackie will move into the 2025-2026 First Vice Director position. A new Second Vice Director will be appointed by Dave.]