

December 27th, 2016

2016 AHA Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma

By: MAHA Delegate; Anita Anderson Grant

Conventions are always interesting as so many different topics concerning the Arabian Horse come to resolution and others are talked about for further years. This year was quite different from others in that even though we had few resolutions to vote on, only one was a hot topic of debate.

Equine Stress committee took on Arabian Shoeing and what is best for the horse. What with the Tennessee Walking Horses' fate in shoeing is left for the government to decide, the Arabian community decided to look into our own practices and make adjustments for the welfare of the horse. Our own Lori Conway did much to break down the concerns and get the answers for the delegates to see and understand, along with all the major English trainers in attendance. An Engineer from Canada prepared a visual film for us to see the strain on the horse who is shod in the current fashion. While his view came from a scientific equation not on an actual horse, it did give many something to think about. Personally I do not believe you can lump all horses into one group as each one is put together differently. The resolution was passed.

Those of us who hail from the 50's and 60's of Arabian Horses will remember Carol Chapman and her horse Pulque and of course her two pink poodles. Carol left this world in 2016.

Be sure if you opted out from AHA Emails to opt back in to stay informed.

Youth Nationals is set for Oklahoma City. In 2016 the heat was an issue yet the facility is fabulous with everything under one roof. OKC is addressing the heat issue before 2017.

Canadian Nationals in Brandon, Canada was a success with entries up from last year and Brandon is working to make things even more inviting for us. 2016 was the first year for Adult Showmanship and was very well received.

Sport horse NtIs in Napa Idaho added another day for exhibitors. They were also up in attendance.

2016 marked the 50th Anniversary of The Arabian U. S. Nationals. Halter rules were strongly addressed and it is rumored that a group is working to take all Halter away from U.S. I must say having been at the 1st US National and the 50th...not only has the horse evolved but so have many other things changed for "the best?" Personally, I do not think so.

For one I found it very upsetting that there were no Halter classes in the main arena either Friday or Saturday nights! In many years passed the National Champion Mare and Stallion Competition was on Friday and Saturday nights. If we have a versatile horse some of everything should be presented those nights.

US Nationals enjoyed one of the biggest Youth Judging team's tournament, featuring top quality contestants from FFA, 4H, and Arabian Horse Club teams. I might add that our Region 10 teams were amongst the very best.

Distance National Ride next year will feature 6 classes to enter for Arabians and Half-Arabians. Appaloosa's also joined in the ride and was very well received and was a win-win for both breeds.

The Central Park Show was a huge success. The exhibitors tell of great fun and excitement. We should be very proud as the Arabians are the only breed to be invited as previously it was only Hunters / Jumpers and Dressage. It is watched worldwide.

Volunteer Region 10 Awards went to very deserving Kris Urban and Mary Smith.

AHYA Youth of the year is Flora ElmCologne.

Dorothy Fischer has given 48 years as a delegate! I am not sure but I think she just might be our oldest delegate as well. Wonderful, sharp lady who deserves our thanks for the many years she has given to the Arabian Horse.

I believe that Cecil Hetzel-Dunn has served close to the same number of years.

Sport horse Committee was amiss about tack attire and how it should match your discipline and not mix hunter/dressage. Mixing of bits and what is legal for one is not for the other. It was decided that a chart of clarification is needed. Dressage is watching the endurance world of going bitless and is considering following suit. Great committee working on putting together something for everyone! It was discussed that western Dressage is enjoying a huge following in most parts of the country. Dressage Committees seem to not want to accept or endorse WD. It was said that USDF would not accept anything to do with WD. How sad that one group could be so blind....

Our 2017 President will be Nancy Harvey, accepting the reins from Cynthia Richardson. 2017 V.P. Deborah Johnson, Treasurer, Bob Nash

And Secretary Jan Decker

Credentials reported at the final session that 285 out of 361 possible delegates had credentials for 2016.

I would like to humbly thank all those responsible for my years as a delegate for MAHA as a part of Region X. I have immensely enjoyed convention and did my best to speak for the Arabian owners who do not show, amateurs who fight the trainer given system at shows and all that have given me a call to discuss issues that are a concern to them.

The 2017 Show Season is fast approaching, good luck to all!

Anita Anderson Grant