

AHA Convention 2016,  
Tulsa Oklahoma

I had the amazing opportunity to represent WDHA at the AHA 2016 Convention, in Tulsa OK due to unforeseen circumstances where a WDHA delegate had to cancel. So within a few days I quickly reorganized my schedule, made travel arrangements, picked up/reviewed the convention packet, and packed up.

After we signed in at convention the next thing on the agenda was to change the "Certificate of Selected Voting Delegate and Alternates" or credentialing (a very serious matter). Once changed to my name it gave me the ability to be a voting delegate on behalf of WDHA.

On Wednesday the first meeting I attended was "First-Time Convention Attendees Seminar". It was a educational seminar that covered the AHA rule-making process, credentialing, committee roles, resolution process, voting and much more. Then Gail and I both attended the Plenary Session that reviewed the resolutions. It allowed the proponent of each Resolution the opportunity to express the intent of the Resolution and speak to the reasons for bringing it to Convention for a delegate vote. The resolutions for 2016 were

**2016 RESOLUTION LOG**

	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>EXTRAORDINARY</b>
1	Change in Revocation and Delegate Requirement (Bylaws 2/3rds vote)	Cynthia Richardson	Board of Directors	Yes
2	Article XV (Bylaws 2/3rds vote)	Charles Bass	Bylaws Committee	No
3	Adult Membership Dues Adjustment (Bylaws 2/3rds vote)	Cynthia Richardson	Board of Directors	Yes
4	Remove Limitation on Working Western Guest Panel (USEF/EC)	Judie Mitten	Judges & Stewards Selection Committee	Yes
5	Modifications to the Shoeing Rules (USEF/EC)	Lori Conway	Hoof Study Ad-Hoc Committee	Yes
6	Gate Time Limit (USEF/EC)	Jim Hitt	Competition Advisory Committee	No
7	Falls in Sport Horse Under Saddle and Sport Horse Show Hack (USEF/EC)	Janet Henderson	Sport Horse Committee	No
8	Leveling Modification (USEF/EC)	Jim Hitt	Competition Advisory Committee	Yes
9	Sport Horse In-Hand Scoring Definitions (USEF/EC)	Janet Henderson	Sport Horse Committee	No
10	Removal of Regional Requirement for Trail Course Designer (USEF/EC)	Deb Witty	Working Western Committee	Yes
11	Optional Railwork in Western Horsemanship (USEF/EC)	Deborah Johnson	Equitation/Showmanship Committee	No
12	Convention Resolution Type Change	Linda Abston	North Texas AHC	No
13	Reining Equitation Schooling	Deborah Johnson	Equitation/Showmanship Committee	Yes
14	Comparative Judging Reasons Optional	Joan Palelek	Half-Arabian Club of Washington	No
15	Qualification Timeframe	Linda Abston	North Texas AHC	No

For more information on the resolutions, please plan to attend the January 7th meeting January at the Machine Shed in Appleton from 12:00-3:00.

Thursday we both attended General Session I. We had the honor of listening to Cynthia Richardson, AHA president, "State of the Association Address" which was very informative. Highlights of her speech were

- ❖ AHA Convention was originally to be held at the Marriott Denver Tech Center but due remodeling issues had to cancel and AHA scrambled to reserve the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa OK for 2016 and were welcomed back with open arms.
- ❖ The PAT (Purebred Arabian Trust) has brought litigation against AHA over the ownership of the HRS (Horse Registration System). AHA intends to strongly defend ownership of assets developed by AHA money and continuing to do business as usual.
- ❖ AHA Future State moving to get AHA into the 21st century by focusing to offer its members the best service it can provide, but challenged to provide that service with old hardware and software. The first project is to get a new website with its main focus as a great marketing tools for new members.
- ❖ AHA main focal point for much of 2016 was to change over to a new financial system, MultiView scheduled for December 1, 2016.
- ❖ ***AHA Members are strongly encouraged to update their accounts with a correct email address, so they can receive invoices and statements via email to get away from snail mail.***
- ❖ Cynthia reviewed the highlights of all the AHA national events and their successes in 2016.
- ❖ Breeding numbers have slowed their decline in 2016 and actually up a few from last year with the middle market horses once again starting to sell. We need to create more outreach efforts to get folks to come and see our horses and then want one. There is lots of competition for the ideal horse and we need to build our market share. It is proven that most individuals will purchase the type of horse on which they learned to ride. Our speaker this year, Patti Colbert, will tell you about the very successful program, "Time to Ride".
- ❖ USEF is launching a whole new look and feel for their members and investing a great deal of funds on an ad campaign with the "Joy of horses" with several versions of the video to bring attention to the fun we have with our horses and different disciplines. They are also building an educational place on their website to give value to being a USEF member. ***She also reminds everyone to check Arabian as their first choice when joining/renewing their USEF membership as we get a grant from USEF based on the number of members that we have.***
- ❖ One of the goals for AHA in 2016 was to improve AHA financial status and she was proud to announce that for FY16, the first year since the merger that AHA cash plus working capital is in the black.
- ❖ AHA motto for the last 3 years has been Connect, Collaborate, and Create
  - Connect - Our efforts to reach out to our members
  - Collaborate - Our efforts to work together
  - ***Create - and now our efforts to build our market share***

Deborah Johnson of the MDP (Market Development & Promotion Forum) committee gave a presentation on the "Arabian Horses for Humanity". The Arabian Horses For Humanity project is modeled after the painted cow and other animal parades that have appeared throughout the world, displaying various life-sized, fiberglass models painted in vivid and diverse ways. These statues are then displayed throughout a region or community, sponsored by businesses and local community members, before being auctioned at annual fundraisers, with proceeds earmarked for a charity of choice. Each Arabian Horses for Humanity event shares a few common elements-community involvement, sponsors, artists, charities, beautiful statues, increased tourism and notoriety.

Thursday I attended the "Forum: Judges & Stewards Commissioner Q&A. Stan Morey provided an educational seminar for all Convention guests to have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the expected criteria for their classes & disciplines.

Thursday we both attended the Equine Stress/Research and Education Committee. Discussion covered the three different types of stress

- Biological Stress - stress which is a body's method to react to a challenge
- Environmental Stress - Everyday life is full of environmental stressors
- Mechanical Stress - which lead to the Ad Hoc Shoeing Study. This resolution brought with it a lot of controversy and there were many veterinarians, farriers, horse trainers, and experts that attended the discussion.

Thursday evening we both attended the Regional Caucus Meeting. Chuck Richart, Region 10 president provided a directors report and 2016 club revenue sharing was discussed and approved.

Friday morning we both attended the Amateur Committee and I was actually asked to take minutes for the meeting to my surprise. There was in an depth discussion on the AdHoc Shoeing Study/Resolution and also discussion on resolution 6-15 "Joint Ownership" by non-related members and again a very in depth discussion on why/why not. We then both also attended the Market Development & Promotion Forum.

Friday afternoon we both attended General Session II with session highlights

- Meet the candidates Q&A
- Office Nomination Speeches
- Regional Level Volunteer Service Awards
  - Congratulations to Kristin Urban chosen for the AHA Regional Service Awards for Region 10.
- Resolutions
- Elections

Saturday we both attended General Session III and some of the session highlights

- Keynote Speaker "Patti Colbert" with focus on her marketing efforts on "Time to Ride". Time to Ride is an initiative of the American Horse Council's marketing alliance, formed to connect people with horses and designed to encourage horse-interested consumers to enjoy the benefits of horse activities. Plan to attend the January WDHA meeting January 7th at the Machine Shed in Appleton to find out more on the "Time to Ride" initiative.
- 2016 Youth of the Year Presentation
- 2017 Convention Invitation
- Racing presentation
- Resolution/Convention action
- Announcements of Judges for the 2017 National Horse Shows
- Results of the elections.

Saturday evening we both attended the Presidents Banquet and enjoyed good food, company, and entertainment.

Thank-you to WDHA for giving me the opportunity to attend the AHA convention and please plan to attend the January meeting for more convention information.

Sincerely,  
Shelly Lehman