

Arabian Horse Assn. 2015 Convention, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Anita Anderson Grant

Unlike other years due to a funeral, I didn't arrive at Convention until Wednesday evening, so I missed a few of the committee meetings I hoped to attend. It's always a warm welcome from many we usually see once a year, and many we know by face only. Amazing what the Arabian horse does for camaraderie and friendships! My convention started out with the first General Session I. AHA is working hard on updating all of our dinosaurs. First and very exciting is the changes that are upcoming to AHA website. It will be up and running January 11, 2016. You will notice it to be a easy to use and interactive. Something for everyone and the youth will have a very fun page all their own. Cynthia Richardsons husband Bill is heading up the IT dept. and we are so lucky to have him. Staff is know up to 47.

Continuing with upgrades our building has had to make upgrades as well. New roof, insulation and lighting. A new HVAC system has saved us 22% savings on Utilities.

The Central Park Show in New York was a huge tassel on our costume, as other breeds wanted in but we were accepted. It will always be a small show as it is limited to 50 horse stalls. The crowds loved it and much POSITIVE PR came to our beautiful breed. It will be ongoing and as I understand by invitation only.

At the end of US Nationals many took the time to fill out a survey sheet. Just to let you know they were read and the insight to what the exhibitors like and don't like was helpful.

Many Delegates complained they were not getting committee emails through out the year and it was explained that if they had opted out of the AHA EBLASTS this is why. I encourage

everyone to go to AHA and sign up for your committee's of interest and get your input heard before it comes to a resolution.

Credentials reported as of Thursday Am out of a possible 368 and a registered 267 only 214 had been credentialed.

Treasurers report in short is that we are doing fine, but need to continue working towards more memberships and registrations.

The rest of the day was busy running to committee meetings. Sporthorse Committee was busy debating balding, clipping, Correct attire for in hand showing and penalties versus faults in hoof black or clear. From my point of view you are best to enter the arena in a clean appropriate attire to be able to run and its best if your horse is left Natural. Coming from my background in this wonderful breed

I feel we should be able to meet somewhere in the middle, but I won't hold my breath.

Equine Stress/Research & Education Committee

(As these two committees met at the same time I was only at both for a short time.) Most of the discussion while I attended centered around hoof length and bands. Some lively discussion ensued, and ended without an agreed concenseous.

JUDGES AND STEWARDS COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW PANEL

A question I promised to ask for interested MAHA Members, was "Why are the Judges not judging according to the specs of the class? Stan Morey reported that while many judges might not like what they are judging....they have to judge what is in front of them. I told him while at the Canadian Nationals I was asked by a spectator...."I THOUGHT THE COWBOYS WERE IN A HURRAY TO GET TO TOWN"...everyone laughed, all kidding aside, the crowd in the committee meeting felt the western horses frame and gait were better?! While we understand the slow canter,

like it or not the general uneducated spectators do not, they feel the horse is lame. We are flirting with PETA, it's just a matter of time. All are encouraged to take the judges course whether you want to judge or not, as it is an incredible learning experience on all levels. Other breeds have come to look at our judges training as a leader in the industry.

The Region X Caucus meeting was held that evening with all our delegates and a few guests in attendance. We discussed the few offices up for Election and any questions about resolutions.

Friday morning brought the Dressage Committee where it was reported that WESTERN DRESSAGE was well received in some part of the country.

THE AMATEUR COMMITTEE brought about much lively discussion.

Resolution 4-15. Definition of family for purposes of showing Arabian horses seemed to be well received, we are just keeping up with the times we live in, and passed.

Resolution 5-15. Leased horses allowed to show in "Owner" designated classes, brought about much discussion pro and con. I did speak out against it as I believe along with many members This is a reward for those who truly own their horse. After much discussion it was withdrawn...side note look for this to reappear in the years to come.

Another resolution that passed was the number of members of a club per delegate count. It was 50 for 1 delegate. While we are losing clubs every year it was felt we need more representation and it has been changed to 35/1.

Many concerns over The Halter arena leaving our U.S. Nationals to a stand alone show. I understand that everyone wants to show in the main arena. Personally I believe we need to support our Halter and showcase the national Champion Mare on Friday night and the National Champion Stallion on Saturday night. I strongly caution not to divide our halter and performance, I believe this would be a horrific decision. While we all want to show at nationals and win that almighty National Ch., Res. Ch. or TT the number of classes

offered creates a show that goes on forever. Again it is my belief we need to offer less classes and get back to when that trophy or ribbon meant something. Call me ancient but having been raised in this breed and horse shows since 1955 I see many changes that cause me concern.

Lets all work together to bring this great breed back as strong as ever!

Thank you to MAHA for allowing me the opportunity to work for our members concerns. It is an honor and a privilege I don't take lightly.

Arabianly,
Anita Anderson Grant
MAHA DELEGATE