

2014 AHA Annual Convention - Denver

General information regarding the organization was given at the first general session.

It was decided to stay in the current building which is a free and clear asset. It is the biggest asset of AHA. Much needed upgrades of heating and cooling have been made taking advantage of energy type rebates in Colorado that will expire not to be renewed this year. Some of the work was accomplished during the convention time period. Among other things the new roof will include an R-value of 35 which will result in considerable energy and resultant financial savings in the future.

There is an ongoing review with staff to make the business flow properly, utilize staff efficiently, and serve the members which is the main purpose of the “business”.

There has been a review of the investment policies. Show Commissions must review their budgets and were charged to do so at the convention so the Association budgeting and finance process can begin sooner.

An Ad Hoc committee to review the Regions, boundaries, etc. gathered a great deal of information, suggestions, ideas and opinions. No boundary or other changes are anticipated at this time.

The scoring system's have been reviewed, compared, and contrasted to other systems used nationally and world wide in an ongoing attempt to refine and improve what is available.

The nominating committee has been charged to come up with job descriptions for the various offices. This is to aid in clarifications for those who might run as well as inform those of us who elect them.

Sweepstakes has also undergone ongoing review. Surveys showed that the membership wanted more of the money to be available at the Regional level. Check the web site for details.

The competition “Leveling System” is being incorporated. The intent is to have competition based on achievement regardless of age. I believe a recent AHA email blast has indicated that members may now verify their records by accessing the AHA web site. In doing so members will notice that the site is under reconstruction. Some shows are starting to include such classes.

Members are reminded to select “Arabian” for their first choice and preferred discipline second when joining or renewing their USEF membership. This helps promote and Arabian horses in that organization including but not limited to financial support.

There is a “Learn to Ride” area on the web site. We were reminded that a lesson program may provide a steady source of income for trainers and teachers. It is a place for people to start and they often then stay with that breed and become horse owners. It also provides a secondary market for “retired” show horses.

As a final thought we were reminded that we cannot afford to be “left behind” as the competition for time and involvement in the horse industry is fierce.

The final report of the credentials committee indicated that of 428 eligible delegates, 268 were actually credentialed at this convention. There were 12 clubs at risk of losing their charters, but by the end of the convention that was corrected and the number reduced by about half.

The treasurer reported that conservatively speaking the outlook appears good. Everyone has worked hard to cut costs and be fiscally responsible. Our cash flow cycles throughout the year based on shows, events, convention, etc. Registrations remain flat and memberships continue to decline slightly (which appears to be true with most all horse organizations), while expenses and overhead continues to increase primarily due to inflation. Youth, Distance, and Sport Horse National reports are in and all these events appear to be in the positive financially.

I attended numerous committee meetings all of which discussed various issues and whichever resolutions that were assigned to them.

Of the thirty resolutions brought before convention, six were withdrawn. Resolution #9 regarding required notification regarding the use of photographs in advertisements of an altered animal was defeated. All others passed. The resolutions are available on the AHA web site and are pretty straight forward.

Mary Trowbridge again presented a moving video and discussed the Horseman's Distress Fund. Our Region generously donated the \$1000 we had budgeted for that purpose. We earmarked it for Region 10 horsemen in need. I don't know the exact amount, but I believe over \$20,000 was pledged for the fund during the convention.

I would be happy to answer any questions regarding the resolutions, general sessions, committee meetings, etc., I attended. I think I have been to about 28 conventions and it seems to me that the resolution process is getting more and more refined. More study, thought, and careful vetting by the various committees and interested groups seems to have improved the process considerably. I would encourage all to explore the new AHA web site as well as the Region 10 web site for further and future information.

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Delegate