

## President's Report

This will be my final President's Report and I would like to take this time to personally say "Thank You" to each and every one of you; for all of your support, patient, time, help, words and encouragement that you have given me over the last three and a half years. I have learned a great deal and I believe that our club has come a long way as well, and it all has to do with each and every one of our members coming together to work for our common goal – the Arabian horse. I 'Thank You'!

Your delegates (Vikki Dalton and myself) returned from the annual AHA Convention last Sunday from Denver, CO. We had a great time, great weather and a productive convention. Most impressive was the fact that we finished all of the resolutions in one session on one day - a record.

The Youth Committee used a free website – Volunteer Spot – to fill the volunteer slots at the Youth National's with great success. They encouraged other clubs to utilize this website for any of their needs. Region 10 used this website for the regional show this past year as well, with great success. The Youth will be doing the T.A.I.L. program at all the National shows in the future, like they did this year with great success. There are scholarships available through the "Foundation" for anyone that is in school. Many of these scholarships are going unused for some reason. There was discussion on local clubs doing a T.A.I.L. program and the girl scouts and home school students are great outreach places. There is lots of information on the AHA website for information and materials. Also, the Marketing department will help draft press releases and will help with any information / questions.

President Cynthia Richardson spoke on the State of the Association.

After a study of the building headquarters, it was decided it was best to stay in the current location. With staying, the HVAC system need to be replaced, both the heating and AC. Much of which has been completed and the remaining is in the process. After the completion, the roof will need to be replaced. There has been much progress in the past year, but still much more to go. All the National shows did very well and exceeded expectations in most cases. It was stressed again, that we need to focus on the 'grass roots' of our breed. The Community shows and one day shows are a great way to do that. We also need to 'Connect' (our theme for this year's convention) with outreach. Local clubs need to be connected on a regional level and the regional level needs to be connected at the AHA level. Our target audience is the 52 year old female and mothers. Mothers are the decision makers in the family regarding the long term activity of the children. The 'Learn to Ride' programs are a great secondary market for the retired show horse and a great ambassador for our breed. We (AHA) cannot be left behind (the other breed organizations), we need to be the kind of club, origination and people that are inviting to others. This starts at the local level with each of our members.

The Sport Horse Committee will be offering a showmanship class and a PB & ½ /AA Arabian Sport Horse under saddle 14.2 class.

I attended the Luncheon: Colic: Recognition, Dispelling myths and up-to-date information for prevention given by Nancy S. Loving, DVM. Dr. Loving is a local vet that has written two books – Go the Distance and All Horse Systems Go. Did you know that a horse has 100 feet of intestines? Did you know that it is normal for a horse to have 8-12 bowel movements/day?

Myth - a horse rolling is not necessarily the reason for a twisted gut. Impaction colic is 8-10% of all colic's and caused by a high grain diet. The best ways to prevent colic include: Regular exercise is essential, feeding free choice grass hay, feed alfalfa in small amount every five hours, feed soaked beet pulp, high fat diets, regular deworming, avoid sudden changes in feed, feed at least 10% forage by weight (not by volume), low grain diets (less than 5#s /feeding), avoid obesity, limit rich pastures, limit supplements, parasite control (clean up manure in pastures/paddocks 2x's /week is half the battle).

I attended the Angel Heart Farm Forum presented by Tracey Kujawa.

Tracey was in the music business prior to creating Angel Heart Farm, when she had a dream of helping 'bald' children. Tracey herself is a four time cancer survivor and her Arabian was a huge part of her therapy. At Angel Heart Farms, Tracey helps children with life threatening diseases, along with their family, using horses (most of which are Arabians) for therapy. The children learn all aspects of horse care, riding and even show – and do very well, at local, rated and even regional level shows. The two ponies at the farm were donated by country singer Alan Jackson, who she worked with often. The equine at Angel Heart Farm provide many opportunities for community service at nursing homes, hospitals, libraries and Ronald McDonald House to name a few.

In the Promoting Positive Change session they had an open forum this year to brainstorm ideas. The T.A.I.L. program was discussed (much of which I have already mentioned ideas prior) and ACT classes were discussed. There was discussion on the grass roots marketing of the Arabian horse, as only 2% of horses are at the Regional and National level. We need to think "outside the box" and make our organization the best and most inviting one of the breeds to draw people in. The schools 'Youth Tournament Teams" are a good source to use at open and rate shows. Women's Expo's are at great source to aim at our target – 52 year old females. Other clubs go to local 'festivals and fairs'.

This was a great brainstorming session with some new fresh ideas.

I attended the Adequan Forum, 25 years later. This was an interesting forum. Did you know that Adequan is the only product that will actually repair a diseased joint? In a healthy functioning joint, there is a normal balance of wear and repair going on. When we ride, we create a 'use trauma' to the joints, which causes 90% of lameness problems. By the time we see sign and symptoms, the disease has already started, approximately four - six weeks prior. There are so many things that can start the disease process - stumble, trip or anything. In the early stage of joint disease, when the membrane becomes inflamed, it can be fixed and reversed at this stage. Feeling the legs daily is a great way to know what's going on inside your horse's legs sooner. Normal is cold and anything hot is a problem.

There is no generic form available. The process starts from bovine tracheas from a plant here in Green Bay. These are shipped to France for the seven step (a two year manufacturing process). From there, it's shipped to Shirley, N.Y. to finish the product. This is a very short version of the manufacturing process. In short, Adequan is the only product that can restore quality of joint fluid and the only product that can get into the cartilage.

In the MPD Forum, the outreach and the Arabian horse is going beyond the show ring. How can we share the Arabian horse? The MPD has developed a marketing plan to focus around shifting paradox – 'All about the Arabian horse, it has the ability to change lives.' The new slogan is

“Life looks different with an Arabian.” Our outreach is to bring new people into the breed. Questions each Arabian owner needs to ask themselves is: What can I do, what can my club do, to outreach people? We need an entry point for new members/owners and it is our responsibility, not AHA, to introduce new people to our Arabian. We also got a glimpse of the new website. The MPD also gave ideas that they have done to outreach into the community.

It was a great convention and I could continue on, but that would add another page or two, so I’ll stop here. My personal highlight was seeing Thunder III from the Denver Broncos and getting pictures taken, autographs and petting/scratching Thunder. Watch the video on our Facebook page and look for it and the pictures at the banquet on the video presentation.

At the President's Banquet, our club was one of the top 3 finalist in the running for the Club Excellence Awards, unfortunately we did not win. I would like to say ‘Thank you “to Vikki Dalton for the great job on our presentation for this award to get us in the final three.

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving.  
Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and have a blessed New-year!

Polly Bonfigt  
WDHA President