

APHA Workshop
Irving, TX. June 1 & 2, 2007

APHA Directors and Alternates from each state are just returning from the annual APHA workshop, where everyone worked together to come up with ways to help improve our Paint Breed and the Association.

As an alternate for Washington I started this years experience by attending the Foundation Dinner and Auction on Thursday evening. The silent and live auction was a huge success bringing in better than \$600 from items donated by clubs in Washington alone, with total earnings of better than \$6000.00. The Foundation appreciates all the donations it receives for this event.

Friday morning started most of the committee meetings. Since the committee that I am a member of did not meet until Friday afternoon I was able to sit in on a couple of other sessions first.

The Breed Improvement Committee discussed the possible reasons as to why registration and transfer numbers are down. A discussion also took place regarding the reconstruction of this committee so that it would meet on Thursday evening so that it's members could attend some of the other committee sessions to relay recommendations which Breed Improvement felt could help improve the Paint Breed.

Show & Contests started their day early with a joint meeting with two other committees. After reviewing items of importance with these committee they started to work on their own. Their day was very long since they were discussing a number of rule change proposals. Those which the committee feels would benefit the breed, our shows, and the exhibitor will be published shortly in the Paint Horse Journal. Then they will be voted on at this year's convention in October.

My committee is Recreational Riding, or Ride America. The review of the APHA sponsored Trail Rides was very impressive this year. Two rides have been held so far this year with a total of 64 riders taking part in them. There is a ride scheduled for July in Raymondville, MO where 19 riders are currently signed up. The annual Ft. Robinson ride scheduled for Labor Day weekend has approximately 30 + riders so far. APHA is already working on rides for 2008 with plans for one in New Mexico possibly mid August.

They would really like to have a ride here in the Northwest. If any of you know of a good place to hold such a ride please contact Cindy Grier at APHA.

At the General Meeting Saturday morning we were told about the current happenings at the APHA office and heard committee reports from all the committee chairs. A couple of items which I thought you might be interested in are the involvement APHA is trying to start with the local youth. Recently they held a Kids Day at the APHA headquarters. The staff volunteered their time to help with face painting, balloon tying, giving

horseback rides, serving hot dogs and even a petting zoo. There was even a Fire Truck that the kids could climb on.

Another idea is to develop a Therapeutic Riding Program for handicapped children. Also the possibility of opening or adding special classes at our shows for the handicapped child.

The Youth committee brought us the idea of a Youth Breeders Trust Program which would be done on a scholarship type payout. They also suggested the idea of a Novice Youth 18 & under Walk Trot class. All of these ideas will go back to the committees for more discussion.

Some numbers which were shared with on regarding the association were:

- Registration and Transfers are DOWN

- Number of horses being shown are DOWN by 3%

- PAC is UP by 4%

- Ride America is UP by 8.3%

- Approximately half of APHA members own SPB

- Average number of horses owned by members is 8 (1 Stallion, 5 Mares, and 2 Geldings)

I appreciate everyone having the Faith in me to be one of your representatives to APHA. If there is anything that you feel I could help you with or ideas to help better the Paint Breed or the Association please contact me.

Joy Bearden