

The 2019 APHA Convention was held in Ft. Worth on March 1-3. It kicked off with a general membership meeting that began at 9 AM on the first. There was a presentation from the representative for the American Horse Council. He discussed the progresses being made for all horse breeds and owners. There are things going into legislature having to do with visa work programs for people that work on horse type farms. There was also discussion of how horses are still being classified as livestock although it sounds like there has been discussion about making them pets. He invited everyone to go to D.C. and lobby in the fall for horse interests. Billy Smith presented a progress report on how APHA is doing. Several times over the weekend we heard how APHA is in the forefront. Other organizations contact APHA staff with questions and with Horse IQ, we have an internet based platform for all people to learn from.

After lunch, I went to the joint meeting for Show and Contest, Amateur, Judges, and Youth. We went through the proposed rule changes in these categories and there was discussion. Several proposed rule changes we went over did not go to the floor on Sunday to be voted on. Rules SC-50, SC-090, SC-090-1, SC-301, AM-085, and YP 109-1 were all put down in committee meetings. There was much discussion about the ranch rule changes with most everyone being on the same page. The youth walk trot and how to handle that class were a hot topic. The w/t rule proposal that the youth committee made was the one that went forth to be voted on.

I also went into the breed integrity committee where the rules having to do with what a paint horse is defined at were being discussed. This seems to have been a talking point the whole conference. There is much debate about the fact that genetics has become a big thing. There was much discussion on a breeder recognition program. The discussion centered on recognizing breeders that have contributed to the Paint industry. They would also like to figure out best how to add more testing. I believe this stems from all the discussion about the W20 gene. There was a lot of talk about how the rule proposals being brought forth this weekend are only based on one test and there is concern that we may wind up breeding the color out of the Paint horse with the little bit of information we have.

Friday night, everyone was bussed to Cooper's BBQ in the Stockyards. It was a great social hour where we got to talk with other attendees. The youth walked around during dinner with a questionnaire. They had to find different types of directors and ask them questions. During this time, Lyn Fick walked around getting signatures so she could get YP 109-1 brought to the floor. The youth walked over to Exchange Street and saw the bones of what will become the new APHA office.

Saturday began with at 8AM with roll call. A financial report was given. The old building and lot on Meacham was sold at a financial gain. The sale was wrapped up in December of this last year. One of the biggest losses APHA has seen is publication revenue. It was at \$900,000 in 2014 and by 2018 has dropped to less than \$650,000. It is believed that much of this has to do with social media. The standing committee chairs came up and gave their reports. There was talk at this time about the governance task force and what the objective is.

I did not attend the Horse IQ luncheon as I had just attended an event on it in January. Horse IQ is a web based platform that was set up for trainers, judges, and exhibitors. It is a subscription based thing with APHA members getting a discount.

I spent the remainder of the afternoon discussing the rule changes and making sure that I understood the intent of what we would be voting on. I also had some discussion with several people

about the equestrian experience and what is being done to promote the PAC program. It seems that they are going to change the pricing and make sure that PAC members are getting the recognition that other exhibitors get. There was also discussion about how PAC is a great program to market to Europe as there are not as many Paint shows. A representative from Ireland made the comment that while prizes are wonderful, recognition in the journal would make European exhibitors happy.

Sunday morning began with roll call again. Rules changes were voted on. There was a decent amount that had little to no discussion.

- ART III-3 passed 102/8.
- ART IX-1 passed 106/3.
- ART IX-3 passed 100/6.
- ART IX-4 passed 104/5.
- ART X passed 106/4.
- ART XIV passed 107/2.
- GR-010 passed 102/7.
- RG-020-2 defeated 80/28.
- RG070-1 defeated 65/43.
- RG-100 defeated 88/16.
- SC-192 passed 84/14.
- SC-206 passed 88/15.
- SC-301-2 passed 106/1.
- SC-301-3 passed 99/3.
- AM-176 passed 78/24.
- YP 109 passed 78/31.

The new board was sworn in with Mike Short being the new president and Casey West the president elect. David Lands had been the member brought forth to run for the 6<sup>th</sup> committee member. Randall Roser was brought forth as another candidate. After a vote of 72 to 37, David Lands was put in place as the 6<sup>th</sup> committee member.