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Subject: report

I just returned from the APHA Convention in Ft Worth, Texas ,held Oct 3-Oct 6.It was a very momentous occasion,as this year marked the 50th birthday of APHA.Among the many special events was a reception out at APHA headquarters-a most impressive facility,as well as the Presidents Inaugural luncheon,and the Hall of Fame Induction dinner,both held at the host hotel .The presence of founding member Rebecca Lockhart,as well as many other 'original Paint people of significance',ensured there was not a dry eye in the house.The sheer history of this breed,and the era it was evolving in,made for stories we could not get enough of.But aside from the socializing,and recognizing,we had our jobs to do as Directors,and so we set about our tasks on Committees,and in the voting booth.The different committees all seemed to share some reoccurring themes; ie. getting new members into APHA,increasing members satisfaction with the organization to ensure further continued membership,increasing the value of SPB's and creating new markets for them,and how to make it affordable for all involved while still continuing to grow APHA's bottom line.Regardless of what side of the border,or world,you sit on,we are all sharing some common reoccurring issues as well-in these tough economic times,just feeding and caring for your Paint horses is frequently an ongoing struggle,let alone breeding,or showing ,or racing.....

The Youth Committee,which I sit on,had a lot to get through,and more phone conferences will be forthcoming.The poor attendance and huge deficits of the Youth Worlds brought about the combining of Appaloosa Nationals and Paint Youth Worldsfor this coming year.It is expected to be an amazing event,but obviously comes with many challenges,especially trying to schedule already full slates into a'good time was had by all' kind of event. Combining both breeds for non point earning events,such as Bareback Eq.;Youth Team Tournaments or Relays;Social mixers-are only some of the ideas the committee is working on.Other topics of interest covered by this group included-

Last years Remember the Code was a huge success, good will prevailed at the Youth Worlds,and hopefully will continue to do so.

In keeping with downsizing to one APHA meeting,the youth also their desire to continue being part of the adult convention,and so will continue to have their Leadership Conference alongside of it.A generous private sponsorship of 200.00 for each of 5 youth has been made available to cover expenses to that conference,there will be an application form forthcoming.

There was much discussion about Pac,and continuing to reach out to those youth,as well as those who participate in the automatically PAC approved events of 4H,pony club,high school rodeo,etc.Much emphasis was put on giving back,and encouraging,and being approachable,to draw new youth into the association who might otherwise have felt insignificant,or intimidated.

There will be clarification of youth family members sharing one horse,to avoid further confusion,but APHA anticipates seeing increased 'ride shares' happening,again due to the economy.

With many new sponsors coming to APHA 's table,Farnam in particular is formulating some new scholarship opportunities,and will have more details soon.As well,APHA and the AjPHC have several scholarships available.

Finally,youth totals are looking up at 5895 Youth members,and just under 1000 Novice Youth,as of August 2012.

I also attended many other meetings, unfortunately time constraints often interfere as many committees overlap.

Show and Contest is also [reoccurring theme] looking to increase participation; as always much discussion about flat fees, and incentives to attend horse shows-free food, free bedding, exhibitor draws, free clinics, great prizes...there was also a Trail Design task force established, due to the ever increasing degree of difficulty and increasing number of obstacles, which tend to discourage the average exhibitor.

Amateur Directors and guests felt that they needed to be closing the 'loophole' whereby Amateur Walk/Joggers could currently show all three available Showmanships, and have them pick only one. They also felt there needed to be more control over Amateurs exhibiting Open horses that were not their own. The Amateur cards totalled 4,125, and 415 Walk/Jog cards.

Breed Improvement generated much good conversation on a number of significant topics-headed by 6th E.C. candidate Don Beard[he ultimately lost to Craig Wood], they felt that while APHA could not force any genetic disorder testing on the breeding animals, there needed to be positive reinforcement and support for the responsible actions breeders who did. They also felt there needed to be more public awareness of these disorders, and the importance of the testing to the horse buying public. A Code of Conduct for breeders was suggested, including recognition for testing, regardless of test results.

Registration managed to pass the [renewed] acceptance of AQHA and AJC registered animals meeting the newer, more stringent color requirements, with a surprising minimum of discussion.

Judges Committee unfortunately had to call for the discontinuation of the Intercollegiate Judging, due to a lack of funding, and previous losses. The Judges Academy is also undergoing a structure change, to ensure future profitability. They also reported that only 5% of APHA members voted on the selection of World Judges, perhaps due to lack of knowledge about this opportunity, and not just ambivalence.

Long Range Planning has made recognizing the SPB a large part of their mandate, most rightfully so when a fifth of registered Paints do not have sufficient registerable color. They would like to see the inclusion of these animals in all non point earning futurities, and also took it a step further to suggest allowing animals registered with AQHA and AJC to become SPB.

Professional Horseman is still a fledgling committee, and currently has 78 Approved members.

Membership echoes the other committees, trying to generate new revenue and keep the level of service up, a particularly difficult feat after restructuring and layoffs at APHA. Paint Connections is also undergoing changes, in an effort to make it more mainstream, and encourage new advertisers.

Recreational riding reports decreased numbers and involvement, and frustration that most Paint Horse Clubs are geared towards the showing portion of the industry. They are also suggesting rate increases, as the program is not currently self sustaining.

Regional Clubs are also raising fees, primarily to non APHA clubs holding APHA classes. Pac is also going to require APHA membership from all exhibitors. A strong sentiment also prevailed over stressing the fact that PAC awards credits, not to be confused with APHA points.

Foundation raised 6600 from the APHA Convention Reception Auction and Silent Auction, and they are also very proud of their activity in the Therapeutic Riding Programs. The remainder of the Trainers Crisis Fund monies has been distributed, and the Hall of Fame will be covered financially by the Foundation.

The moving of Convention and Workshop dates means Workshop will still be in June of 2013, with the Convention to follow in early 2014; this means there will be one Rulebook for two years, but will save the

association a great deal of money ,as well as the National Directors, Alternates and other attendees.

We closed the Convention with Greg Reisinger as the new President,and Craig Wood as the 6th E.C. member. Fort Worth played a gracious and most pleasant host,proud of their heritage and their relationship with the American Paint Horse,and its Association.Personally,I thank you,the B.C. APHA members for the privelege of representing you,and the journeys you share with your magnificent colored[and sometimes not so colored] animals.

Respectfully,

Jodie Moore

2012 APHA Director

British Columbia Paint Horse Club