

A Proud Future APHA Convention 2012 Report

Did you ever ask yourself, “Why?” Billy Smith was presenting later in the Convention and he mentioned his personal why. These words I had heard before get to the heart of our existence, or our purpose, or our goals. It made me think about my personal why in regards to Paint Horses, APHA, NWCC, Zone One, and my own Regional Club Rainier.

My personal why: The Paint Horse, everyone unique, like us each one of us unique, but when we stand together by this bond of appreciation for our uniqueness, we have solidarity and friendship. I have been so lucky to gain many friends just through my love of, and involvement in the Paint Horse Breed.

APHA On the Web: You can find the voting results of the proposed rule changes here:

<http://press.apha.com/pdfs/rulebooks/OnlineRuleChanges1012 .pdf>

There is so much more online. Check out all of the apha websites

EC (Executive Committee), Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting –

1. One Annual Meeting. Executive Director Billy Smith shared how combining Workshop and Convention could be one more highly participated, dynamic, intensive, educational, and social Annual Meeting. Keys to implementation:
 - Tools, technologies, training, resources and virtual meetings between, proposed timeline
 - 2013 June Workshop reviewing Rule Change Proposals
 - 2013 October No Convention virtual meetings and collaboration and as needed
 - 2014 January No new rules (only needed clarifications or emergency changes)
 - 2014 February Annual Meeting, voting on proposed rule changes, and annually thereafter
 - 2014 Year-round virtual meetings and collaboration and as needed thereafter
 - 2015 January New Rules and New Rule Book
2. World Shows. Interest in knowing if the Youth WS and Amateur/Open WS would be combined as it once was. A goal to have a balanced budget, like combining the meetings into one per year, continuing to build each World Show separately is trending towards increased revenue

Long Range Planning Committee – Interestingly, the committee took a short range approach to the topics discussed. It required a mind shift for me. The topic I was most interested in, Solid Paint Bred horses potential opportunities to initiate right away. A lengthy discussion ensued about adding solid horses in the non-point classes at WSs. There was no consensus. I decided I would write up my thoughts about the SPBs and send it directly to the Chair, Vice Chair, and EC at a later date. Committee meeting outcomes:

1. Recommend the EC consider including AQHA and Jockey Club registered horses into the SPB registry with the rationale that these horses were part of the foundation of the APHA breed, and including them again would allow their bloodlines back into breeding programs.
2. Recommend the EC considering having the Rule Book reviewed by subject matter experts to ensure APHA is aligned and in compliance with animal welfare policies and procedures.

There was not enough time for three other topics on the agenda.

A terrific idea from Kathy Tuttle, APHA Member from SW Washington Paint Horse Club, was that we create a SPB weanling class, jackpot, futurity, or other opportunity that would lead into a longer-term program.

Recreational Riding Committee – A large attendance and a lot of ideas were brought up for a quite interesting meeting of this committee since I’ve been participating. To keep this program self-sustaining, these ideas included revising the enrollment requirements (fees, membership, maintenance of logs), and the award levels. It was suggested there be an auto-renewable membership, with an opt-out feature to simplify for enrollees. It was recommended that the Ride America program be revitalized and re-launched.

APHA Headquarters Reception – Wow!!! A short presentation was followed by self-guided touring of the offices, which are amazing, and being greeted by the staff, even more so amazing than I already knew. Just

about every staff member and some of their family members worked that evening, serving food, serving beverages, ushering, managing the parking lot, cleaning up during and after, decorating, selling products. The top-notch offices were spic and span clean and organized. The art displayed, the furniture, everything was over the top. A band played for our added enjoyment and some of us got to dancing.

Regional Club Committee

3. How to protect Regional Club APHA approved shows from other entities APHA approved shows.
4. Education about Lifetime Credit Earnings
5. PAC Enrollment Statistics – New reports were circulated with historical and current data
6. Ideas to Encouraging Participation
 - a. Participation vs Competition events
 - b. Offering any 4-H member with a registered Paint, a free Regional Club membership
 - c. Specialty Event back to back with APHA Show – Registered Paints that have never earned Points, ask facilities to donate use of the arenas, ask judge to donate services the night before a APHA approved show

General Membership Meeting

1. Sponsors: Are we doing things to help sell their products? They do things to help us promote our product the Paint Horse. Make it clear when we buy from our sponsors who we are, members of APHA.
 - a. New corporate sponsor: Coors
 - b. Representatives from corporate sponsors Gist, Markel, JWBrooks, and Farnam gave short presentations on their business, themselves, and told their own stories.
2. Trail of Painted Ponies winner Harmony will be on sale beginning January
3. Membership: In 2003 75% of members joined forcibly, for example because they needed to transfer a horse they bought or sold. The current drive is to increase 60,000 over the next few years, with a goal of 15,000 new/renewed members by January
4. Communications: Using Fresh Paint and Paint Perspective to make sure Directors here about it first, pass along to newsletters, facebook, and post these through club resources
5. General Store: Website was redesigned, technology was improved, and sales are up 70%.
6. Paint Horse Connection will be redesigned to be more fitting for all horse lifestyles
7. Guest Speaker: Jay Hickey, American Horse Council spoke about issues in Washington D.C. saying, “You may not like it, but you can’t ignore it. They are there to inform Congress and the Federal Regulatory Committees how what they do affects horse owners. It is critical that we each take responsibility for knowing the facts before we repeat things because we may spread misinformation.

Board of Directors Meeting – After roll call, Rosemary Teate gave the financial report. She highlighted revenue streams where we did not meet projected income including Sponsors, Paint Horse Journal, Registration, World Shows, and the Texas State Senate Bill Revenue. Each staff member is being asked to evaluate how they and their work impacts revenue. The Directors proposed a resolution to have one single Annual Meeting, which passed (the timeline listed above).

Rule Change Proposals and Voting –

New Business

1. Changing Processes – If changes need to be made, input will be sought from committees, individuals, directors, and members.
2. Director Participation – How is the attendance rule enforced? The perception is there is participation if a Director is listed, when there is not.
3. EC Nomination and Election Process – Ideas have been looked at over the last 2-3 years, and will continue

Nominations Presented and Election of EC – Linda Vance, as the Nominating Committee Chairperson, presented the nominated slate of officers

Luncheon – The outgoing President Scot Jackson presented his remarks and looked back at his Presidential Objectives and how he made a difference in horse show conduct and transparency in communications. Incoming President Gregg Reisinger of Eldora, Iowa was a man of few words. Awards were presented to Regional Clubs.

Dinner – The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and presentation was tremendous!! I have extra Program Booklets if anyone wants one, please let me know. I will carry them with me to NWCC/Zone One meetings. The individuals that were there to accept the honor, recognition, and award were overcome with emotion at how 50 years so much has been accomplished with the Paint Horse breed, and in the Association.

Committee Reports Highlights (other than those mentioned above)

1. Show and Contest. Trail obstacles count clarification. Wording to suggest (versus mandatory) High Point All Around show title.
2. Amateur. Walk/Trot division is growing very strong. Clarification of trading out services versus receiving remuneration. Importance of affordable flat fees. The fun factor, free classes for youth if they allow their parents to show their horses. No Bling Show. Lots of ideas for increasing participation.
3. Breed Improvement. SPB horses in non-point earning classes competing with Regular Registry was a hot topic again. Genetic testing on registration papers and online at this time will not be required but it was recommended that a program for positive benefit to breeders to advertising results of testing to encourage a fellowship of responsible breeders.
4. Judges. Changing the Seminar fees to have a day fee. Intercollegiate judging program is losing money and may discontinue the program.
5. Professional Horseman. Considering a Guide for Buying and Selling Paint Horses. A logo designed for shirts and other items.
6. Rules. A task force should review trail rules and trail obstacles. Require rule clarifications to be published. How point tabulations need to not be confused with credits earned through PAC.
7. Ways and Means. Consider the one annual meeting staying in Fort Worth for the next 3-5 years.
8. Youth. Ideas for participation were compiled and sent to Youth Advisors. I requested they also to be sent to club secretaries, show managers, and national directors. Clarification of horse being shown by multiple riders. Marketing PAC and APHA to 4-H, and at Open Shows. Moving AjPHA Workshop to before the Youth WS.
9. American Paint Horse Foundation. Pursuing a signed guitar from Lynn Anderson to auction off.

Respectfully submitted,

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