

APHA Convention
Fort Worth, Texas
October 3, 4, 5, 2012

The Convention started off with so much excitement and energy. This was the 50 year anniversary for the APHA and it was proving to be a grand one.

Thursday October 4 started with all of the Committee meetings. I will tell you that there is just not enough time scheduled for these meetings. Lot of decisions must to be made and very little time to do it.

I attended my Committee "Long Range Planning", we discussed going to 1 meeting a year with that date being sometime in February. The pros and cons of this were discussed. Discussions were saving of money for the Association helping others to attend the meeting due to expense. The concerns being, what about the time in the meetings now and how much time would we have with 1 meeting? It was voted to pass this on the EC with a recommendation to have 1 meeting.

We then talked about the solid paint bred horses and what could be done for them.

The committee discussed how to increase the value of the SPB horses that are registered and how to capture those that are not registered. These recommendations will be sent to the EC.

- 1. That APB horses be allowed to show with Regular Registry horses at the two APHA sponsored shows (World Shows) in non-APHA pointed classes.***
- 2. APHA must consider opening the SPB registry to Paint foundation stock represented by registered Quarter Horses and Thoroughbred.***
 - In the same way AQHA relaxed some rules and made it easier for the Paint Horses to be registered with them, we need to relax some of our color rules in a way that will benefit APHA in the long run. The committee felt that QH exhibitors would love the friendlier atmosphere of a Paint show.
- 3. The rules & Contest Committee as well as industry experts must immediately review our APHA rule book to make sure that it is in compliance and conformity with the standard animal welfare procedures in the equine industry.***

There was so much more that was on the table and other things to add to the agenda but time ran out and we adjourned at 11:40 already late for lunch.

With my committee meeting over I decided to attend a new committee that was being formed. The "OMBUDSMAN" Committee. This committee was chaired by Michael Short and met in the Presidential Suite of the Hilton hotel. This committee is in the new stage and the president want

input into the need of this committee. Was it needed or not? With a few people in attendance it was decided unanimously to have this committee. We talked about what the Policy and Procedures would be for this committee. We talked about having Ombudsman in close locations so the members and clubs could come to them for help. It was talked about how it could help the local clubs with the running of them and how with guidance it could stop some of the misunderstandings within the APHA. They were thinking about having at least 1 or 2 ombudsman in every Zone or state with them attending meetings and shows and other APHA events. This way they would be available. This was discussed at great length and the decision was made to have APHA and the chair person work on the policy and procedures and rules of this committee. Those that are interested in joining this committee contact Michael Short or President Reisinger.

Later that afternoon we rushed to the General Membership meeting. Billy Smith, Executive Director explained to us the events that has taken place at the APHA headquarters this past year, and what they had for the future.

Then off by bus, to the Hosted Reception held at the APHA headquarters. It was a wonderful time, with a silent and live auction. The book *“50 years: A golden Beginning”* written by Duke Nuff and Sam Ed Spence was being offered at the book store, a few steps away they could be signed by the authors. The headquarters were open for tour and the general store was open for an evening of buying. With one of our new APHA sponsors the evening was a barrel of fun. Coors passed out beer and spirits for the evening. Tired and full of great food and spirits we found our way back to the buses and hotel for the evening.

This next morning at 7 am several of us meet for breakfast to discuss what our involvement had been the day before. Then off to the board of directors meeting. The meeting was opened with the roll call and voting. All the rules that were on the floor but 2 passed and after the first of the year will be supporting a new point system. There is a new color rule for QH and TB horses with excessive color. Shall I say Crop Out? All the new and revised rules will be posted in the Paint Horse Journal and on the web site. I would be happy to send you a copy anytime.

The passing of the 1 meeting a year was a pressing issue on the floor. It will be set for the first quarter of the year, with the date possibly the end of February. The meeting probably will be held in the Fort Worth area for the next few years. This will mean a change in the agenda with at least 1 more days added to the Workshop Convention combination. This should save on expenses for both the APHA and Directors.

The Board of Directors meeting ran over on its allotted time, so we rushed to the Presidential Luncheon. What a great Inauguration. Gregg Reisinger was sworn in as our new APHA President with Mary Parrot as President-Elect, Ron Shelly as Vice President, Suzie Shaw as senior committee member, George Ready as Fifth Committee member and the new Sixth committeeman was Craig Wood. Again, it was a spectacular Inauguration.

The rest of the afternoon was spent with more meetings. I chose to go to the Membership Services Committee meeting. It was super, with great presentations from the Paint Horse Journal and the Paint Connection, talking about the new things they will be doing in the next few months.

From there we headed to the Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. Now if you have never been to one, you would never have told me that I should have brought a handkerchief! Then again if I had, someone would have taken it from me as the whole crowd was in happy tears. The people and horses that were chosen to be inducted were the tops. I sat and watch those that started this beloved APHA. They were so touched and so happy to have been part of the founding. I could talk all day and I couldn't say enough.

Saturday morning we met again for the Standing Committee reports.

Off we all flew to get to our shuttles and airplanes to make the trip home.

This Convention I would say was the fastest, the most warm and productive of them all. Another great highlight was seeing Butch Wonderlich, accompanied by her son Lyle and daughter Nancy. I worked with Butch for many years in the Idaho Paint Horse Club and I have a fond respect or her. She taught some of us a lot about the APHA and the values of her work.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your National Director, and I value your input. If you have questions of any kind Please contact me.

Sincerely,
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