

2015 APHA Annual Convention Report
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February 27 - March 2, 2015 - Fort Worth, TX

Whew - what is it with this weird cold weather in Texas this time of year? Arrived in Fort Worth to cold weather and it just got worse. At one point people who lived locally went ahead and stayed at the hotel because the roads were so treacherous with the snow & ice. Unfortunately this also meant we were all trapped in the hotel for all our meals because the hotel was on a golf course so nothing else around and no way to leave with the bad roads. But with this group of crazy directors we made the best of it. But as I start this report I am trapped in the DFW airport unsure if my flight will be able to leave this evening or not due to all the weather delays...

We got started on Friday with our General Membership meeting which was solemnly started off with a recognition of judges and directors lost in the past year. Jay Hickey with the American Horse Council gave us a presentation on what is going on in Congress that affects the horse business (things like passing that veterinarians could legally transport controlled substances, Horse Protection Act, and the Equestrian Safety Helmet Act). The American Horse Council is involved with the Unwanted Horse Coalition, low cost gelding clinics, Time To Ride, and disease outbreak communications.

Billy Smith then gave his report. Despite the snow & cold weather he was happy to report that a lot of money was raised in the golf tournament on Thursday. Registrations for the Convention were the largest yet and first time in years we've had membership growth.

APHA is estimating that we fail to register about 2,500 Paints every year (based on the fact we are registering only about 45% of all horses submitted on stallion breeding reports) and this is something we need to identify why and how to bring them into the Association.

Billy wants us to set 6 goals:

1. develop clarity around governance roles
2. renew focus on education throughout organization
3. strengthen club structure and purpose
4. broaden APHA's appeal beyond exclusive registry and show organization to wider array of people who are just interested in horses
5. uphold western values and heritage
6. expand or reconfigure services to industry pros/non-competitors/first timers

We then broke into our individual committees. Show & Contest met jointly with Youth & Amateur to review the proposals to see if there were any questions or suggestions or things that we jointly needed to know. In Show & Contest we reviewed a breakdown of 2013 vs 2014 shows and how the entries broke down per division. Some up and some down. Amateur W/T had the largest increase in growth (let me know if you want to see the breakdown). We also reviewed the criteria for the 2015 Regional Championship program. Several in the room were surprised that Zone One had decided to do our own Rookie program in lieu of the Championship program and I explained that we felt we needed to recognize our new exhibitors more than those who show a lot but may not have competed/placed at the World Show. We also reviewed a proposal to disallow World Show points counting towards Honor Roll, Top 20 and Zone Top 5 awards. The task force who evaluated this said that World Show did alter those placings but overall didn't add or drop off horses - mostly just rearranged the final order of placing. With the majority of the committee opposed, Show & Contest opted to take no action on the proposal. We then went through the rule change proposals (see below).

The Friday welcome reception sponsored by the Virginia Paint Horse Club (who will be hosting us in Virginia for 2016) was a welcome sight with only the 1 small onsite restaurant. As always, met some new people and had some interesting discussion about the day's events.

Saturday started off with Dr. Rick Rigsby and "Shared Leadership: Working Together." I have really enjoyed having him speak to us, but unfortunately I did not stay for the entire presentation. He impacted me to communicate - I was frustrated about a variance that was being denied for another club and the fact that no rule change proposal had been drafted to resolve it and so I set out to investigate how to do an emergency rule change proposal and justify it and then get overwhelming support so it would pass (which all required communicating with the right people). Unfortunately I later discovered that my window had passed (still learning how this all works with the combination of Workshop & Convention). Rule change I worked on will be submitted again in 2016.

After lunch we again broke into our Committee meetings to finish up our business before the Board of Directors meeting. Then we got to board buses (fortunately the roads were clear enough) to have dinner in Roanoke where we got to choose from several restaurants in a very close area. Met some new friends and went to the Hard 8 for pit cooked steak - YUMMY!

Sunday morning started with our first Board of Directors meeting. Rosemary presented the financial report. The highlights are that operating revenue was up \$527,424 over 2014 and operating expenses were down \$707,777 vs 2013. After the Texas Senate Bill money, the Youth World show lost \$121,918 and the Open/Amateur World show profited \$163,027. Senate Bill money was down significantly in 2014 vs 2013.

Committee chairs then gave their standing committee reports:

- Amateur - discussed rule changes and governance task force items. Concern over no staggering of elections when moving to the new 3 year cycle. Lots of discussion on maybe revamping the entire ammy program.
- Breed Integrity/Registration - discussed the Breeders Trust relaunch - seems to be successful. Creating a task force with Long Range Planning to discuss ways to further revamp BT.
- Show & Contest - see my notes below
- International - they had more international attendees in their meeting than those from the US (good group of international directors present at this conference). Concern with the governance task force being able to appoint 10 vs 5 additional delegates. Are recommending that every other year, the distinguished service award should go international.
- Judges - 16 judges retired and 3 died in 2014. They are developing a virtual learning website and a way to add biographies of judges to the website.
- Long Range Planning - working on a performance halter rule. Looking at ways to prop up Breeders Trust and make successful. Looking at limiting rules (like 25 yearling points towards superior). Asking for implementation of Stock Horse Registry (sister organization). Recommend Breeders Trust establish a low flat fee for stallion nomination to be paid by all stallions filing a breeding report, establishing a mare nomination, and figuring out how to cap points.
- Professional Horseman - recommend a website with biographies and adding year end awards
- Recreational Riding - reviewed Ride America program. Brought committee up to date on trail legislative issues.
- Regional Club - reviewed their VR3 presentation to be shown later today. Will be incorporating the membership committee that was dissolved.
- Rules - discussed the rule change deadline. Looking at whether there should be a separate section in the rule book for the various international rules/exceptions. Discussed requiring regional club officers to be APHA members in good standing.

- Youth - discussed potential election changes and recruitment. Established a task force to review their bylaws.
- Membership & Foundation - membership committee dissolved since most activities are regional club related. Foundation made about \$8,000 on the youth scholarship golf tournament Thursday. Planning a major fundraising initiative with the Virginia convention.

After lunch I went to the VR3 presentation - Volunteer Recruiting - Retention - Recognition. Very thankful this PowerPoint will be loaded to the regional club website as some wonderful information. Some of the bullet points I took away:

1. with zero training & zero transition you will have negative progress. If we are responsible for recruiting our own replacement, very likely will have a successful transition.
2. recognition is the basis of recruitment & retention (people want to be recognized for their efforts)
3. Email allows us to stay in touch but it's not personal. People need personal communication to keep volunteers.
4. And my absolute favorite new saying..."Don't engage in Sport Bitching". This was related to the tendency many have to taking to social media to just complain. Not only does this make it hard to bring in people but it isn't productive because there is no solution in just complaining.

Love that APHA has continued "The Game Plan". Great information on what judges are looking for in the show pen and the information that the judges are being told in their certification seminars. Everything should be judged on the positive - even a penalty or a fault doesn't need to make the entire run negative. For those who cannot get to Convention to catch this in bits & pieces, I strongly recommend joining the Snake River Paint Horse Club in the Boise area for a 2 day, more in-depth seminar with this same information. It is so incredibly valuable to all of us involved with the show pen.

The Hall of Fame dinner and induction was again such a wonderful affair. Always wonderful to hear about horses and people who helped shape where we are today.

Our final day was the Board of Directors meeting part 2 where we voted on the rule change proposals (see below) and voted on our Executive Committee. Ron Shelly to President, Susie Show to President Elect, George Ready to VP, Craig Wood to Sr. Committee member, Mike Short to 5th Committee member, and Casey West was voted in as the 6th Committee Member. Mary Parrot is the Immediate Past President. Unfortunately the afternoon tour of Texas Motor Speedway and the Fort Worth Stockyards was canceled due to the crummy weather.

It was a true pleasure representing the State of Washington, and I hope to hear from any of you who have questions or suggestions or comments.

On a side note - finally made it out of Fort Worth but too late to catch my Spokane connection. Ended up spending the night in Salt Lake. It must be said that I am hugely impressed with the customer service Delta Airlines provided to me and so many other affected travelers. Much better than the service I have received from past airlines! Glad to have made it home to warmer weather (who would have thought Spokane would have nicer weather than DFW!!)

Respectfully submitted
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RULE CHANGES

- Control All-2 changing the length of time for notification of the annual meeting - passed

- Control AIII adding a new section about duties & responsibilities of directors available in the directors guide book - passed
- Control AIII-2 - this was amended in committee. Rule deals with changing the election to 3 years instead of staggering them and changing the definition of a "representative area" that a director shall be elected from - passed
- Control AIII-6 requiring national directors to provide a resume about themselves to be made available to the voters - passed
- Control AIII-7 regarding election of alternates - passed
- Control AIII-8 regarding vacancies in the Board of Directors - passed
- Control AIII-9 - giving lifetime Director-At-Large status to a director who serves a cumulative tenure of 25 years instead of 30 - passed
- Control AIII-10 regarding allowing the annual membership meeting & annual board of directors meetings to be held at the same meeting dates & changing quorum due to the change of one meeting per year - passed
- Control AIV-3 regarding allowing the Executive Committee to appoint 10 additional directors instead of 5 (this was amended in committee) - passed
- Control AV clarifying some language about the Executive Officers - passed
- Control AIX-2 allowing regional clubs to use the word Association in their title - passed
- Control AX updating some language regarding Zone shows (this was amended in committee) - passed
- Control RG-070 redefining the reference points for white markings on crop outs (this was amended in committee) - passed with immediate implementation. I was opposed to this rule as I do not feel this does anything to protect our Paint only breeders and I think we will see an influx of Quarter Horses seeking dual registry that barely meet white requirements and will unlikely be an improvement to adding more color to our gene pool (no doubt good bloodlines - but I hold firm that APHA is a bloodline registry that celebrates chrome)
- Control RG-070-1 allowing non pigmented skin on penis shaft to be qualifying white - defeated in committee
- Control RG-070-2 requiring a predominantly white horse without enough contrasting color to submit genetic testing confirming the horse carries a pattern gene before being able to be registered - defeated in committee
- Control SC-085 adding the various allowed drug guidelines as prescribed by the manufacturers to be posted in the rule book - given the heated discussion in our committee I was surprised this passed without a count of cards
- Control SC-090-1 giving Europe a variation to the mileage restriction between shows due to the existing restrictions they have on traveling between countries - passed
- Control SC-110 allowing show management to accept additional class entries at their discretion. This was significantly altered in committee. Passed.
- Control SC-160 requiring halter exhibitors to wear their numbers on their backs - defeated in committee
- Control SC-176 clarifying how the Overo & Tobiano color classes should be judged - passed
- Control SC-180 allowing some Solid Bred horses to be used as Get representation in Produce of Dam and Get of Sire classes. This was amended in committee. Passed.
- Control SC-245 defining evaluating western gaits - passed
- Control SC-290 adding disqualification rules to barrel racing - passed
- Control SC-296 changing the Stake Race pattern back to the old pattern with the start line in the middle. Defeated in committee.
- Control SC-301 - this was not published prior to Convention and was brought forth as an emergency rule change proposal. This changed the existing Ranch Horse Competition into 4 separate Ranch Classes - passed with early implementation of May 15
- Control SC-302 adding novice to Ranch Horse Pleasure - passed

- Control SC-302-1 adding some minor rules to Ranch Horse Pleasure - passed
- Control JU-000 regarding the mileage restriction for judges at European shows - passed
- Control JU-000-2 regarding seminar requirements for European judges - passed
- Control AM-010 changing the language about who can pay entry fees/expenses for an Amateur - passed
- Control AM-085 regarding an exhibitor showing multiple horses - this was amended in committee - passed
- Control AM-135 regarding team roping time limit - passed
- Control AM-205 regarding novice amateur eligibility up to 100 points - defeated in committee
- Control AM-205-1 regarding novice amateur eligibility up to 75 points - defeated in committee
- Control AM-205-2 changing the timeframe for points & World show titles from 10 years to 5 years - defeated in committee
- Control AM-210 allowing Novice Amateurs to exhibit non owned horses but not earn points or titles - defeated in committee
- Control AM-210-1 allowing Novice Amateurs in Zones 12, 13 & 14 to exhibit non owned horses but not earn points or titles (amended in committee) - passed
- Control AM-245 allowing Novice Amateurs in Zones 12, 13 & 14 to exhibit a horse of any age in a snaffle - passed
- Control AM-245-1 allowing Novice Amateurs in all Zones to exhibit a horse of any age in a snaffle - defeated in committee
- Control AM-300-1 allowing W/T exhibitors to reclassify to/from W/T eligibility one time per year (amended in committee) - passed
- Control AM-300-2 allowing W/T exhibitors in Zones 12, 13 & 14 to exhibit a horse of any age in a snaffle - passed
- Control AM-300-3 allowing W/T exhibitors in all Zones to exhibit a horse of any age in a snaffle - defeated in committee
- Control AM-310 creating a Platinum division in addition to Classic & Masters - defeated in committee
- Control YP-110 allowing youth W/T exhibitors to cross over into novice youth & 13 & under. This was one of my proposals. The youth committee advised me they failed this rule because it did not address the impact on youth rookie status and they are going to work on rewriting for 2016.
- Control YP-137 changing youth team roping - passed
- Control YP-205 changing novice youth eligibility to 40 points in open/youth - defeated in committee
- Control YP-205-1 changing novice youth eligibility to 40 points in open/youth except in Zones 12, 13 & 14 (amended in committee) - passed
- Control YP-245 adding age divisions for Solid Bred youth - passed

We also voted on the various Executive Committee actions taken throughout the year. These are not published anywhere so please let me know if you want a copy.