

## APHA Convention - February 26-29, 2016

In summary, core members of Virginia Paint Horse Club (VPHC) worked well APHA Staff to put on Convention in Richmond. I thank them for putting together all the things that made this Convention a success. First, hosted at the four-star Omni Hotel downtown it is walking distance to restaurants, shops, and historic interesting places. Second, the sponsors did an outstanding job of providing snacks before meetings and at breaks. This was a real treat to fuel us for long meetings that start early, and then we go, go, go, all day long. Last, the social experience of Convention for me was really great and included a Colonial Williamsburg tour. Williamsburg is the largest living history museum (301 acres) in the US. It operates as the restored 18th-century capital of colonial Virginia. Costumed interpreters act as townspeople, tradespeople, shopkeepers, political figures, women, and the enslaved of the Revolutionary City, and portray the period leading up to or during the Revolutionary War. It felt incredible to be in the same space as our country's founders, in the center of our government at that time, where the determination of our country's future was decided.

Topics at the center of attention: Social Media as a platform for communicating; Genetic testing for color markers and health conditions; and Continuing and expanding education for judges, exhibitors, and members. All of these tools we need to use to improve our Association. And these tools too could be used negatively. So, it is essential that we be intentional about how we use these tools. With each horse breeding and transaction, with each Facebook post, announcement, and pronouncement, with each club, zone, coordinating, and committee meeting, with each trail ride, horse show, and year end awards ceremony, we can use these tools to improve the Paint Horse and the APHA.

And then there is fun stuff! I always make a point to circulate, meet people, invite myself to sit with someone different, and to stay up late listening to new ideas and different perspectives on the Paint Horse and the APHA. These are the times when I really learn and have fun (and like any good horse event, end up so tired). I highly encourage you to do the same where you connect because of your Paint. Go to a club meeting, go a little early and stay a little after. Stop a stranger you see on the trail who's riding a Paint. Ride on over to an exhibitor you've never met that you see at the next show and introduce yourself. Hang out at a show in the stands. Walk through the barns at a show. Say hi, and introduce yourself. It really is easy to make new friends when our common connection is the love of our Paints.

*Please read through the following highlights. You'll get a glimpse of how busy, information-packed, and educational our APHA Conventions are. I hope you'll be convinced to come to the next Convention.*

*I arrived Thursday late at night and my two roommates were already in our room. I didn't jump on the bed like last year, so I'm sure Shannon was happy about that. The other roommate Jacki from Pennsylvania, was at her first Convention. In fact we had never met before. We connected through mutual Facebook/Paint horse friends so Jacki didn't have to be on her own.*

Friday, Feb. 26

1. Meeting of the Standing Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Meet with Executive Committee (EC). Topics: Communication; World Show; Improving Processes; Moving the APHA Office to the Stockyards.
  - a. Ratifying the resume of EC Actions. Having learned from my December request for advance list of EC Actions, I brought up the need for this process to be improved. Currently when the EC meets, no minutes are distributed. However, actions taken are summarized and published. Then at the next Directors meeting, we are asked to ratify (approve, endorse) all new actions since the last time compiled actions were ratified. At this Convention, there were 85 actions listed covering from February 2015 through January 2016. As a Director, I would like advance opportunity to review the list, ask EC members questions, and to take time to understand the implications of those actions. Actions can be to approve/deny a variance, a registration status change, program and policy changes, for examples.

- b. Program and Policy Changes. Having learned from the Ride America Program change that Staff is “still figuring it out,” there was no clear implementation strategy or plan for merging Ride America Program into the PAC Program. I am confused by the information published regarding hours logged and PAC Credits applied to the horses lifetime record. I have seen and heard conflicting information. As a result, I think it should be a requirement that before a decision is made to change a policy or program, an analysis of the impacts and risks, and how they will be addressed should be clearly planned.
2. General Membership Meeting
- a. Introductions: EC; Past Presidents; 2017 Nominating Committee appointed by incoming EC President Susie Shaw, Chair Linda Vance Chair, Vice Chair Mary Parrot
  - b. Welcome: David Lands VPHC President, Why Virginia? Goal to have first time attendees that wouldn't otherwise come, be inspired to continue to participate.
  - c. APHA Historic Marker Dedication: Recent unveiling at Chili's Restaurant Gainesville, Texas signifying the Curtwood Motel location where Rebecca Lockhart and 17 people came to lay the groundwork for establishing a registry and a brand new American Paint Stock Horse Association. In attendance was by Junior Roberts, and the daughter of Rebecca Lockhart.
  - d. American Horse Council President Jay Hickey Report: Thanked APHA for ongoing support of the AHC, and announced his retirement. AHC was organized by a horsemen concerned about federal legislation affecting their industry for national and coordinated industry action in Washington, DC, for all horse breeds, disciplines and interests, and communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry itself each and every day. Highlights:
    - i. Cap on long-term capital gains tax of 20%, maximum capital gains tax rate of 15% for those earning less than \$450,000, 20% for those earning more, in business expense retroactive 2015.
    - ii. Passed a bill reauthorizing the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for the next 5 years, provides \$85 million each year for RTP.
    - iii. Bills to overhaul the H-2B program for undocumented workers and fix some problems of the program while maintaining protections for both American and H-2B workers.
    - iv. Horse protection act being lobbied to address “soring” horses for competition advantage and horse slaughter
    - v. National Forest Trail Stewardship Act to direct the Forest Service to address the current trail maintenance backlog adversely impacting all trail users
    - vi. Time to Ride Challenge. Stables, businesses, organizations are invited to grow their business and the industry by helping people connect with horses for the first time, and compete for \$100,000 in cash and prizes just by sharing the joy of horses. 2016 Challenge opens for registration April 1st, and takes place June 1-Sept 30. Last year over 700 events brought over 40,000 newcomers to the industry. PS - AHC Found Mother/Daughter pairs are most likely newcomers.

*Stay informed about our industry* <http://www.horsecouncil.org/issues/>

*Play in the Time to Ride Challenge* <http://www.timetoride.com/business-about.html>

- 3. EC President Ron Shelly, Address: Most progress was made during his 6-year journey on the EC were his greatest concerns: Leadership, financial performance, membership engagement and participation, and governance. He feels the progress was due to hiring Billy Smith, to staff engagement, and an environment of trust.
- 4. Executive Secretary Billy Smith, Address: Convention every other year will be in Dallas/Fort Worth. Directors should present other cities for Conventions. Appreciation for member support during his wife Mindy's accident and recovery, and during son's military service. EC responsiveness to committee proposals, recommendations, and to those who bring up issues is why APHA is leading in the Stock Horse Industry. HIGHLIGHTS:
  - a. Unveiling the historic marker recognizing the start of APHA

- b. APHA process for introducing members to the EC was recently adopted by AQHA
- c. Breeders Trust increase in money earned per point
- d. APHA increased market share by .25% while AQHA decreased by .25%
- e. Revenue exceeded expenses for the second straight year
- f. APHA registrations fell less than AQHA, by 5% compared to by 11%
- g. World Show (WS) horses competing rose by 13%, 6% was tied to working cow horse and reining events, while there was a decline in halter horses
- h. Membership remained at 50,000, a loss of .23%
- i. Keeping Paints First. Five guiding principles
  - i. Look past your own pasture. Discuss with those that disagree with you to understand fresh perspectives.
  - ii. Horse market guides us; it doesn't follow us. We should look at discipline specific organizations for why Paints participate there instead of APHA discipline specific classes at our shows and events. Are we over regulating, preventing, and creating obstacles to participation?
  - iii. Meet the need of the marketplace. Of APHA membership, 8% show at APHA shows. 42,000 members are doing other things with their Paints. We need to meet their need.
  - iv. Solid Paint Bred horses make up 42% of the registry. We need to meet their need.
  - v. Exhibitors want recognition. We should expand intermediate rider programs to meet their need.
- j. Market Share. Metrics can be viewed in a number of ways to represent the health of the business.
  - i. APHA Market Share in 2014 was 11.71%. AQHA was 84.11% and growth was achieved by opening their registry and market to excessive white horses.
  - ii. APHA Market Share in 2015 was 12.21%. AQHA was 83.61%. APHA hustled up registrations and memberships by going out into the field.
  - iii. Foal registrations have been in a slow and progressive decline is not expected to change anytime soon unless we consider different approaches. APHA suffered the greatest decline of the stock horse breed organizations. APHA has been rapidly losing market share since 2002. APHA current business model will be difficult to sustain. Can breeding and registering the resulting foals be simpler with less risk? How genetics play a part in our business.

Further statistics and comments were made suggesting our consideration of the Rule Change Proposal (RCP) for the Paint Horse as defined by genetics regardless of color: Arguments included the difficulty of determining whether a paint horse is solid or has qualifying white; "We don't register paint horses we register pictures of white spots;" APHA/we have changed the color requirements 11 times; To implement genetic testing into the registration process to eliminate the subjectivity and the debate; It could become impossible to biopsy white spots if a white spot is created with newer technologies, and that DNA can't be mistaken.

- k. APHA ranks among the most fiscally stable, with a balanced budget the year in a row.
- l. Rather than use investment income to fund operations, we have made operations leaner in order to use investment income to fund other member incentives.
- m. Yes You Can campaign for the 2016 WS, reducing futurity administrative fees
- n. WS 2017 move to September was decided by the EC with input from the WS Advisory Committee.
- o. Help show managers raise professionalism of shows.
- p. Youth World Games 2016 to be held in Germany. 14 Countries will be represented.
- q. American Paint Horse Foundation Fundraisers and Hall of Fame Banquet will have a new Pledge Drive. The Welcome Reception will feature a Silent Auction with ten items featuring secret contents inside valued at \$150, and Saddle Raffle.

- r. Fort Worth Stockyards office lease is considered because the APHA building is four times the size of our current needs. Maintenance and operational costs are too high even when shared with the current tenant. It could be easier to attract one large tenant. The Stockyards will allow us to move to a service related model in a public venue. The move will include moving the bronze statue for added visibility.
  - s. Publications: Chrome, PHJ, Flash continues to receive honors in many contests.
  - t. Dodge Ram: New Corporate Sponsor.
5. PAINTSTRONG , AjPHA President Sydney Schmidt Address: 2015–2016 Presidential Service Project to increase scholarships to youth members, with a the goal of awarding 14 (one in each zone) random scholarships in 2016.
  6. Paint Horse Genetics, U of Florida Dr. Samantha Brooks, Seminar: EXCEPTIONAL presentation for the layman walking through basic markers (Tobiano, base color) to more complex markers (patterns, pattern variants), and then color probabilities and color carriers. Emphasizing the progress in the study of paint color genetics and the results of the study called The 300, of DNA from 294 registered Paint Horses. It is thought the spotted pattern Sabino first appeared on the equine over 5000 years ago.
  7. Regional Club Committee Meeting Session 1: Refer to my complete notes at the end of this report.

*Friday Night coming back from dinner we were stopped in the hotel lobby, I was proposed to, asked for pictures of my tiny purse, Kathy shared her size 6 boot, and Linda was asked for her autograph as a Committee Chair. It was the AjPHA Youth Leadership Convention Lubrisyn Scavenger Hunt! Then we congregated in the hotel restaurant in an informal gathering. I sent messages out and others joined in. Social Hour fun time ended late with heavy hearts as Mary Anne unexpectedly decided to leave for home due to a family emergency, and also with a change in perspective or two having naturally gone to discussing RCPs and other issues.*

Saturday, Feb. 27

8. Everyone communicates. Few Connect. Rick Rigsby Effective Communication Training: A review of the messages from the training at the Convention last year, and then more in depth training about “connection.” If you ever have the chance to hear Rigsby speak, TAKE IT!!
9. Making your show better, NSBA Executive Director Diane Eppers, Seminar: Basics of budgets, exhibitor and trainer needs, judges contracts, putting the customer first. The content was pretty basic for those of us that have managed shows. Common concerns: Accountability of the volunteer: Will they show up to help when they signed up to help? Stall Fees as the basis for show profit: How much should it be? Are we tapping our Chambers of Commerce to learn how we can get rebates? Making our shows friendly at all points of exhibitor contact. It would have been great to have more time for sharing with other Show Managers.
10. Regional Club Committee Meeting Session 2: Refer to my complete notes at the end of this report.

*Saturday night was the Hall of Fame Reception, Induction, and Dinner. New this year was recognition of Judge Emeritus Status. I was lucky to sit at the table with two honorees: Linda Neely Norton’s daughter accepting posthumously, and Bill Englund. Like during each of the three honored classes before, this year I shed some tears. I can’t help it when I hear the heart-warming stories and personal histories told first hand.*

Sunday, Feb. 28

11. Board of Directors Meeting, Session I
  - a. Introduction of Past Presidents, Sitting EC and their background, Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, APHF Board, Parliamentarian.
  - b. Roll Call 2015 APHA Board of Directors. All Washington State Directors and Alternates present. One Oregon Alternate present. One Idaho Alternate present. Directors and Alternates swearing in.

- c. Financial report by independent auditor: A few statistics were shared showing the strength of the financial position. It was difficult to see the slides and the report was very brief. The complete content of the report will be posted on the APHA website. Rosemary Teate used to present in depth financials. Last year she gave notice she would retire. Her replacement has been hired by Billy Smith. Teate will be working part time during the transition.
- d. APHA Director Service pins and Gist Club awards announced.
- e. Motion/Second/Passed to approve minutes of the Board of Director meeting March 2015 (previously posted online and in online reports by Directors of NWCC Member Clubs).
- f. Motion/Second/Passed to ratify the resume of EC Actions.
- g. Standing Committee Reports: Complete minutes for each committee will be posted online. Each committee reported on which rules they passed out of committee to be voted on by the entire directorship, and which they defeated. Amendments were allowed to be made. Four RCPs were petitioned successfully (enough signatures) to be brought forward for vote by the entire directorship. Each described new ideas, shared they were in support of moving the office to the Stockyards, and what they will address over the coming year.

*Not all, but a few Committee highlights. All will be published by APHA:*

- h. Breed Integrity: The EC requested they try to define, "What is a Paint Horse." How high importance, the weight, and value should be given to the white color. Should a Paint be considered colored because of the DNA it carries (color markers) even if it looks solid? The Committee determined to follow the rule book and they determined the breed should exhibit, and we should see white color. It is understood that breeding for white color is a risk. The importance of genetics and the DNA testing for color markers was considered. Should two RR parents determine the ability of a foal to be in the RR regardless of displaying any white? The importance of the horse having the ability to produce color based on its DNA was considered and determined not to be enough to allow the horse into the Regular Registry (RR). Color is still the guide, not DNA testing. Bottom line 9-1 in the Committee, decision not to allow a solid looking foal, by two RR parents, entry into RR. Without a doubt, DNA testing gives breeders incentive to go to colored mares and sires. APHA need something to bring more color into the gene pool for the long term. Regardless, we cannot support giving a solid horse RR papers. The Committee prepared guiding principles for coming RCP. They will learn as much about Dr. Samantha Brook's work. The Committee felt the DNA test was a tool to increase probability of color and increase color gene into pool. There are advantages and testing has merit to use this technology for a horse on the border line with marginal white and Paint Pattern, to decide RR or SPB. In this specific way for RG-110, if prior tests were conducted per process, at an approved lab, will be allowed. In a close color decision, the Committee could endorse staff allowing genetic test results.
  - i. Judges Open Session: Guidelines will be developed and distributed to Judges on using social media. The Judges Directory new online format when implemented will allow judges themselves to update.
  - j. Long Range Planning: 5 priorities for 2016: Ranch Horse Competition, Performance Halter Classes, Breeders Trust, PAC Program, Interference of Regional Clubs.
12. Communicate. Inspire. Connect. Regional Club Committee Seminar: A continued effort to support Regional Clubs, content was presented that showed how social media can be used to engage members, and get attention of potential members. There was a discussion of how negativity and complaints can have negative impact, and how having social media as a platform to share opinions and ideas can have a positive impact. It's a positive result when people have discussions among other interested people, together, virtually. Last year's seminar was filmed and is available on <http://clubs.apha.com> I believe this one will be too.

13. The Game Plan – Hunt Seat Equitation and Western Horsemanship, by Director of Judges Dave Dellin and Judges Committee Chair David Denniston: A continued effort to share information with exhibitors and trainers, share what judges are being told and taught, how individual scoring is done, using videos, and in an interactive format.

Monday, Feb. 29

14. Board of Directors Session II

- a. Horse IQ Online App, Dave Dellin presented a new innovative tool which will provide an event by event introductory video and Lesson. The concept is to have a virtual rule book with explanation, specific performance teaching points, and review of penalties. This is an exciting industry leading edge technology tool. Later versions will include a judging test of knowledge designed to allow user to score, and then compare to the score of a professional judge, with a class summary. The app will roll out with 3 classes sometime this year and will require a membership to access it, with a discount for APHA Members. Other associations supporting development of the app may include NSBA, NRHA. Later plans are to have a library of different horse/exhibitor/event combinations. *VERY COOL!!*
- b. Outgoing President Ron Shelly Remarks: Ron lectured for about 20 minutes insisting how open and transparent the EC is and how the EC listens to input.
- c. Roll Call and determination of a Quorum. Introduction of 2017 EC Nominating Committee. Introduction of the EC Slate and nominees for 6<sup>th</sup> Committee Member Karen Thomas and Allison Umberger. In the uncontested races, Dr. John Hertner Parliamentarian declared nominations closed and directed staff to record the result. In the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee Member contested race, each gave a time limited speech, both candidates articulated their equally impressive but different credentials, horse experience, education, work experience, and background. Directors voted, and while ballots were counted and the vote certified, the meeting continued holding us in suspense.
- d. 2017 Rule Change Voting. If you haven't seen the results posted almost immediately on the APHA Facebook page and then shared by many on our own timelines, you can find the results here:

<http://apha.com/news-landing/news-details/apha-board-of-directors-pass-new-rules-at-2016-convention>

*And if you are still in suspense and did not yet see the results, the EC 6<sup>th</sup> Committee Member is... Karen Thomas*

- e. 2016 Installation: APHA President Susie Shaw was given a personal and touching introduction by her daughter, then Shaw called to order the 2016 Board of Directors Meeting, roll call, and then Installation of 2016 EC, Directors and Alternates.
- f. Incoming President Susie Shaw Remarks: The message was to share our passion of the APHA, to sharpen our pencils, brain, and energy in order to grow, protect, and preserve the APHA, and its mission. Shaw announced Committee leadership and assignments would come after Convention. She will avoid giving leadership positions to those who have used social media to vilify and criticize. Shaw said our job is to cultivate creativity and inspire. The EC has taken a lot of heat for the policy change to eliminate the WS points from Breeders Trust. Shaw stated conflict, and public conflict, create different results than what we need. Clubs are the conduit to inspire participation, or can be the conduit for the reverse. Shaw looked for new talent for leadership of Committees to cultivate potential. Areas of focus in the next year: Use of genetic testing, strengthen the BT Program, and encourage the development of youth.
- g. New Business:
  - i. Texas Director Sally Griffin: Could the Convention schedule adjusted to allow Directors the opportunity to attend committee meetings other than their own during the workshop sections.
- h. 2016 Board of Directors Meeting Adjourned

*Soon after, our bus loaded we drove to Colonial Williamsburg. It was a delight to get out in the fresh air for some walking! Later back at the hotel that night many had already left. After a few of us went to dinner, Stacie from Kansas and I hoofed it up hill to see the beautiful historic Jefferson Hotel. Rooms are \$450 a night! Glad we didn't stay there. We Ubered back and said our good-byes, only to find later we all had our flights cancelled, delayed, and rebooked around the mid-west storms.*

#### Regional Club Committee Meeting Notes

1. Call to order 3:03pm 26-Feb-2016. Jo Long Acting Secretary.
2. Welcome and introduction of newcomers, guests, Committee Members.
3. Review of Committee Purpose statement
4. Minutes of last meeting teleconference 4-FEB-2016 approved as earlier distributed.
5. RCPs and their impact positive or negative to Regional Clubs
  - a. AIX-1 requiring officers and their board members be members in good standing of the APHA
  - b. SC-105 Paint O Ramas – The need for income from this format. Challenge the RCs to find a format or change the show to include exhibitors that would not attend a POR. Draw of judges attracts exhibitors and covers show expenses. When PORs are back to back it creates a type of exhibitor that is elitist that can afford the combined shows. How can we get the middle class back, they can't afford these shows. Better to put some type of limit to the number of judges, or shows, or consecutive days.

*The Committee consensus was to communicate to the Show and Contest Committee this RCP is not in the best interest of Regional Clubs, we cannot support SC-105.*

6. Independent Organization Sponsored Shows. Sometimes they cause harm to RCs. We discussed how much easier to navigate putting on a show as an independent organization, than as a RC due to the rules and policies a RC must adhere to. We discussed what might be different criteria for an independent, what exactly causes harm, what could be implemented fairly to protect the RC without discouraging the independent, without excluding what is good for the exhibitor, and ensuring it is good for Paint Horse promotion. We talked about if the Rule Book could be clarified or if we need to go through the RCP process. The Committee addressed this in 2012 with two recommendations to the EC, and both were rejected. We decided to write up a clarification, consider all the show and event types, and give time frame for when it should go into effect. Without excluding what is good for the exhibitor and paint horse promotion. Volunteers to address this and report back in the next RC Committee meeting are Margie Lawler, Colleen Dubsy, Jo Long.
7. Connect Communicate Inspire. We did a walk-through of the seminar, shared suggestions and gave feedback.

Continuing Saturday, February 27, 2016

8. Update on RCPs
  - i. SC-105: Passing from committee as two separate rules. We reported on our input.
  - j. AIX-1: We were requested to add that Zone Committee members also be APHA members. Does it change the intent? Are we following our process? Should anyone representing the Regional Club be an APHA member. Question is membership by representation. Discussion of the process and how we might make it a related rule, amended rule, or not change per our process. Options discussed:
    - i. Do nothing
    - ii. Amend as requested to add Zone Committee members Article X, Section 3
    - iii. Do nothing, let the Rules Committee clarify

*Motioned, second, passed to let the Rules Committee clarify (which they later did by amendment to the RCP)*

9. Update on Seminar Presentation: Incorporated changes, confirmed sound would be available.
10. Standardization of Bylaws: Background on bylaws, 5-year review requirement, the template online, how clubs could be inconsistent in their bylaws as changes are made over the years. Could a standard be required with adjustments for specific law? Periodically bylaws should be revisited by clubs for updating, at a minimum for the 5-year review. We reviewed the Rule Book list of eight criteria and the requirement to align to APHA Bylaws.
  - a. Should there be a requirement that Board members must be a the Resident of that state
  - b. Wording has been required to be changed with notice from APHA, how is that processed
  - c. RCs need to be pushed to ensure their bylaws are consistent, and make sense
  - d. How do lay people get the information to know what's required in a set of bylaws
  - e. Readdressed what's in the Rule Book, must align with the purpose and rules of the APHA, must have the 8 categories in the bylaws
  - f. What is our process for the 5 year review, out of date bylaws, notifications
  - g. Should it be required that clubs add how disputes are resolved to their bylaws
  - h. Good records and good minutes to substantiate and aid conflict resolution are necessary, how can it be a requirement of bylaws
  - i. Recommend bylaw review based on a new checklist: Does your bylaws contain X, Y, Z, and Rule book 1-8
  - j. Should the 5-Year review form to include 1-8 as a checklist so clubs actively check their bylaws
  - k. Once a club is chartered, how are we monitoring whether/when their bylaws are changed, are still are okay, and when they are not what is the notification process
11. Independent Organizations Sponsored shows
  - a. Competing for exhibitors because dates and location are close, on top of, or up against other RC shows
  - b. Ensure we consider all types of shows/events in the Rule book, SC-090, SC-096, SC-100, SC-105
  - c. Should independents be required to be a special interest club under a Regional Club
  - d. We want them to have shows, just not to negatively impact a RC
  - e. Should independent be able to have more than a one-judge show, required to get the local RC approval
  - f. Is there something in the rule book that ensures Regional Clubs are not harmed?
  - g. The 3 volunteers will review this issue and provide the Committee ideas and verbiage for a potential policy change to submit to the EC
12. Club Disputes and Support
  - a. APHA does not stepping in to help with internal disputes. What are the resources available to a club. APHA was not set up to be the governance of the clubs and it is inconsistent with the purpose of staff
  - b. Consistent with the purpose of our committee is to initiate dialog to ensure RCs know we are their consultant/advisor, this could coincide with 5 year review
  - c. RCC Members as Advisors: Who do clubs go to as their advisors. Directors that are members of the RCC, and APHA EC Liaison could act as advisors. Should we split up the clubs among us and proactively contact them to let them know we are available to get them help. Each RCC Director could choose for the next year who they will initiate dialog with and report back.
13. Club Sponsorship Program. Get the Sponsorship form up on the website. Copies are in the lobby. Announce the deadline.
14. 2016 Calendar of Teleconferences: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday April 7, July 7, October 6, December 1, to early Feb 2, 2017
15. Other: Craig Wood reported the EC received input from Lori Nevin and plans to implementation a change to communication about Program and Policy Changes. How the EC will engage the Directorship and Chairs and Vice Chairs will be discussed. Time sensitivity can be addressed.

ADJOURN: 4:56PM