

APHA Convention

February 26-29, 2016

Richmond, Virginia

Mary Anne Black, Idaho Alternate Director

This year's APHA convention was a challenging and remembered one.

As we left for the airport we were notified the flights had been cancelled and we had been placed on an afternoon flight. So we finally left Boise at 4:30 in the afternoon instead of 6:30 in the morning. So we arrived in Richmond at 2:45 in the morning and then caught a taxi to the hotel. So much for all the planning and setting up transportation and plans.

Our opening of the General Membership meeting the first day of the convention was again rewarding and informative. We heard from the Horse council, Jay Hinkley. Later that afternoon was Dr Samaththa Brooks with information on Genetics. This was a seminar that could have gone on all day, but we hurried off to our Committee meetings.

I set on the Long Range Planning Committee, we had 5teliconferances during the year. Several thing had been sent on to the EC from our committee. Breeders Trust, Performance Halter, is a few. We have been working on Breeders Trust for a long time and just a few things have come through the EC on our recommendations. With the loss of stallions paying into the breeders trust the dollar amount for points have gone to just above \$7.00 a point, we need to get the dollar amount back up to \$10.00 a point. There have been more ideas than can be talked about here in the last few years, but the committee still feels that without all the stallions having a part in the pay in and more fees attached to the mare owners of the foals we could still be in a declining position with the Breeders Trust Program. The EC did decide to eliminate the points earned at the World Shows in the payout calculations. We asked APHA to send out a survey to stallion owners for ideas and see their feelings of all stallions be listed in the breeders trust for a flat fee, etc.

POR recommendations! What should be done with the POR, variances and expansions above the rules for shows?

We asked APHA to set up an APP for the smart phones etc., so the PAC and Ride America could log their credits.

During the evening Reception a petition was being circulated on a rule that the Long Range Planning had been working on for a long time, maybe years. The rule did not make it out of committee, but the over whelming majority of the directors were for this Rule. So it passed around the room for the allotted votes to bring it to the floor for a vote. I feel if a rule is presented by someone that is a rule they are passionate about then we as directors should look at this rule as a whole. These rules should come in front of the board for a yea or no answer. The rule was the Performance Halter Rule.

Saturday of the convention with speaker Rick Rigby, again very informative and entertaining.

Making your Show Better was another very enlightening seminar presented by Dianne Eppers.

The Long Range Planning meeting was again in full swing all afternoon.

We talked about several new ideas and some old ones as well. Breeders Trust. Solid Paint Breed and what can be done to bring the value up to what they are deserved to be. A new idea was presented by Don Beard on bring the QH and TB into the association as solids. This was discussed at some length.

Zone Boundaries were discussed and asked to bring to the Zones in our area, to see if they are working or if there is a better split. Some states have a traveling distance that is so far they are not attending their zone. Is that something that can be fixed, either with different location of zone show or changing the states into different zones to accommodate more participation in the program? Or should it be eliminated all together?

During the meeting I received a phone call from my sister back in Idaho that our Mother Viola Black was so ill that they felt I should return home. I was at that time a voting alternate for Idaho and felt I needed to remain and vote in the morning on rules that were important for the association. I found out shortly after that the director from Idaho had just arrived and would be voting, so with both Idaho directors there I would not have a vote. This is very troubling that the directors show up for vote and roll call but not attend the committee meetings. But, I made the decision I should return on an earlier flight back to Idaho to be with my family. Arrangements were made to leave the next morning early and arrive in Boise by 3: pm. I arrived in time to be with my mother for the last night of her life. Our mother passed away on Monday February 29 at noon.

I would have loved to be able to supply you with more information on the Convention this year, sorry I am unable to.

It was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones at Convention again this year, and look forward to next year and more planning for the association. Please feel free to ask if you have a question I could answer, or a rule change you would like to see presented.

Thank you,

Mary Anne Black

Idaho Alternate Director