

Shannon O'Dell - 2016 Annual APHA Convention Report  
Richmond Virginia February 26-29 - Washington Director

Wow - what a year 2016 was representing Washington as an APHA director. In my short time as a director this had to be one of the busiest Conventions with some of the most controversial rules. True to form, I feel that for the most part the directors from around the country put forth pretty good rules. For those who would like to see something changed, I encourage you to put forth a rule change proposal. Happy to help you with where to find the form and how to do it.

My trip started out Wednesday night taking the red eye due to the terrible travel connections between Spokane & Richmond. But I ended up lucking out taking the red eye rather than flying out earlier due to the horrible storms that hit the east. Even though I was exhausted, by the time I got to Virginia Thursday afternoon, the weather was nice. That night was a trolley tour of the history of Richmond. It was very interesting but in hindsight I wish we could have done that during the day to be able to see more. But we had a good tour guide that talked us through what we couldn't see.

Friday started off first thing with our General Membership meeting where we received a report from Jay Hickey of the American Horse Council and rules going on in Congress that affect the equine industry. Sad to hear that he is retiring as he has been very informative. One of the things he did tell us is that there is a website to provide up-to-date information on disease outbreaks. He said all we need to do is Google Equine Disease Communications.

President Ron Shelly then gave us a report on his year as President and the things the EC has been working on: strategic planning process to avoid major changes with each new president each year and the use of social media.

Billy Smith then gave us his Executive Director report with these highlights:

1. The EC passed a resolution that the Convention shall be held every other year in Texas and the off years are open to clubs/groups who wish to bring the Convention to their area. APHA still pays the expenses but will rely on the clubs to help them with logistics and promotion. This is an open invitation for other clubs to put in the effort to host (for which I must give a huge shout out to the Virginia Paint Horse Club for their efforts!)
2. APHA increased our market share ever so slightly (but at the same time, AQHA lost market share).
3. While Breeders Trust is still not the program everyone fondly remembers, for the first time in several years, the amount paid out per point increased slightly.
4. Revenue exceeded expenses for the 2nd straight year. We aren't out of the woods yet but we are on a good trend.
5. Registrations continued to decline which is no surprise to anyone who looks around to see stallion owners exiting the game and those who are still in breeding even fewer mares. However, our registrations only declined 6% while AQHA declined 11%.
6. World Show entries and horses were up for the 2015 show.
7. Launching Horse IQ which allows subscribers to view what judges are evaluating (examples of penalties, examples of good vs bad movers, etc. and even a way to test how you would score the class against a judge). We did get a preview of this program in a later meeting. I think you will find it very useful and informative.
8. Launching a professional directory on the APHA website
9. Looking to lease space in the Fort Worth Stockyards. This would mean moving the corporate offices out of the current space (and leasing that out to someone else) and moving the statues down to the Stockyards. Our building is now much more space than we will ever need and it

is felt a presence in a high tourist area will help our retail store take off plus the potential for new members new buyers, etc. who are introduced to our beautiful Paint horses. Plus can you imagine the number of pictures online with our statues? At this point in time no plans to sell the existing building and the Stockyards lease will not be finalized unless some certain things happen with the Stockyards (all in contracts)

10. New corporate partner = Dodge Ram

Billy also reported that we really need to look at the DNA testing for color markers because our registration process has always been subjective and testing for patterns would help to increase color in our breed and reduce the temptation for people to create "fake spots" (which is a bigger problem than I realized).

Billy says we should have 5 guiding principles:

- 1 - look past your own pasture
- 2 - the horse market guides us, it doesn't follow us
- 3 - we are not meeting the needs to many of our members (like our SPB owners)
- 4 - we cannot regulate our way into prosperity
- 5 - exhibitors demand recognition and will go where they can get it

After lunch I sat in on the presentation by Dr. Samantha Brooks on Paint Horse Genetics. The information was very, very interesting and informative and has the potential to help us increase our color percentages for those who choose to test for pattern genes. The science is not perfect and there are horses with white patterns who do not yet test positive for color genes, but those are not common at this point. I do encourage people who are trying to breed to look at investing into this test.

We then broke into our committee meetings. Show & Contest met jointly with Youth & Amateur but didn't have time to get through everything to ask questions. Then we worked our way through most of our proposals deciding what rules we felt should be advanced to the floor. Very good discussion. Fortunately Show & Contest had a couple of conference calls during the year where we had already passed through some rule change clarifications to be effective in 2016 (so they didn't have to go through the process to wait until 2017) and we had reviewed the rules so we had time to come with more questions or input in the committee meeting. We used our full time allowance so I was not able to visit any other committees.

Some of the statistics we reviewed at the beginning of our meeting were the Top 20 shows in 2015 (our Zone One show was #17). The Zone 2 show was #1 again with 1,110 entries per judge and 235 horses. We also looked at the AjPHA membership statistics. Youth membership increased in 2015 over 2014 by just over 300. Novice Youth cardholders was down by 135. We have 413 youth members in Zone One in 2015 (which is 5th out of the 14 Zones).

Total Amateurs were down right around 300. We were given the breakdown of all the Amateur cardholders from 2009 - 2015 (which I am happy to give to anyone who is interested).

We also got a spreadsheet comparing 2014 shows to 2015 shows by each month and by each division. The number of shows remained pretty static (2 more shows in 2015) but every division had a decrease in entries except Open SPB, Youth SPB, and Amateur W/T. Again, happy to share this spreadsheet for anyone interested.

Saturday morning started off with the presentation by Dr. Rick Rigsby on "Effective Communication." As usual, he is a fun & dynamic speaker. This was the last year of his contract with us. After lunch I stopped in the seminar by Dianne Eppers on "Making Your Show Better". Much of this was basic information but was very informative for those who have not been involved in putting on a show before. I then headed back to Show & Contest to finish up our

review of the rule change proposals. We used most of our time allowed again so I didn't get a chance to visit any other committees.

Sunday began with our first Board of Directors meeting where we got the presentation of Horse IQ (you need to check this out). Rosemary is retiring and so did not come to present our financial results. I have to say that I missed her terribly as the auditor who presented them went way too fast to read the information or be able to ask many questions. The information will be available online at APHA.

Each committee chair then presented their individual committee reports. These will also be available on the APHA website so I will try to just hit the highlights I found interesting:

- Amateur - recommend an Intermediate Division in the World Show and they are putting forth a clarification on Novice Status since W/T points do not count.
- Breed Integrity - they have been working for the past year on what is a Paint horse? What weight & value should color play vs. genetics? They struggled with whether to increase white requirements (which hurts those true Paint breeders who are trying for color but are getting minimal). Should DNA testing alone determine if it's a Paint even if it does not exhibit a white coat pattern? Should 2 regular registry parents guarantee regular registry papers regardless of color? They support increased use of the color testing.
- Show & Contest - see my notes below
- International - excited about the Youth World Games being held in Germany in 2016
- Judges - in their open session they discussed the use of social media by judges and came up with some recommendations. They will also be improving the online judges directory and allowing judges to control their profile (updated pictures, accreditations, etc). In the closed session they reviewed 12 applications for judges and invited 7 to test in May and invited all 6 re-applications to retest.
- Long Range Planning - set their priorities for Performance Halter, Breeders Trust Development, Judges (small vs mega shows), Ranch Horse Competition, and PAC program. They recommend developing a survey about clubs/shows impacting one another (regional clubs as well as shows by non-regional clubs). Do our defined Zone lines still make sense given the impact? Will be developing a survey to reach out to breeders and are developing a program at the collegiate level to recruit students into operation of our shows that will allow for college credit.
- Professional Horseman - approved 3 new applicants and are exploring alignment with an association for certified horse instructors
- Recreational Riding - discussion on Ride America moving into the PAC program (which I was prepared to fight until this report - see my notes below on the Executive Committee actions). Discussed APHA trail rides and are considering changing club rides to qualify with 10 members.
- Regional Club - discussed a bylaw checklist to help clubs meet minimum requirements in their bylaws. Also discussed how shows not sponsored by regional clubs are impacting those put on by regional clubs. This is becoming an ever larger problem and they are establishing a task force to review rules and come up with some rule change proposals to help protect regional clubs. They formally requested the Executive Committee to step up their communications with directors on changes to policies & programs (many times we Directors find out about changes via a news release or when we get to Convention and are asked to approve their decisions which makes things more complicated than they need to be).
- Rules - they discussed procedures on how to handle rule clarifications so they can be handled differently than changes.
- Youth - many youth in attendance and they got to spend the day on a field trip in D.C.

- Foundation - they now have new donor tracking software and were proud about the dedication of the historical marker in Gainesville where APHA started.

After lunch on Sunday I then went to the Regional Club Committee presentation on "Communicate. Inspire. Connect" which was about the use of social media and our actions and how we can communicate better & more positively to connect with other APHA members as well as non-members and inspire each other. Very good presentation. We then moved right into "The Game Plan" with David Dellin and David Denniston. Excellent information as always and the laughs we all got with the practical jokes Denniston played on Dellin were priceless!!!! For the first year ever, I skipped the Hall Of Fame Banquet. I had intended to go to dinner with a director I had just met who wasn't going and didn't want to be alone and then sneak in for the induction ceremony, but we ended up having such great conversation that I missed the induction. I hear it was wonderful.

Monday was our last day in Virginia and had the potential to be a long day (which was problematic since our tour buses left for Colonial Williamsburg at 12:30). The moving up of executive committee members was uncontested. And the 6th committee slot was a very close vote of 52-48 (attesting to the qualifications of both candidates). The 2016-17 Executive Committee is: President Susie Shaw, President Elect George Ready, VP Craig Wood, Sr. Committee Member Mike Short, 5th Committee Member Casey West, 6th Committee Member Karen Thomas, and Immediate Past President Ron Shelly. It was a pleasure to welcome Mary Parrott back to being "one of us" :)

We then voted on the rule change proposals (see below). Quick change of clothes and hopped on to the tour bus for the tour of Colonial Williamsburg. What a treat! Wish I had more time to explore on my own as it was very interesting (the town is set up just like it would have been in colonial times and people dress and talk in period).

Thanks again for sending me to represent the State of Washington! I look forward to doing the same in 2017 and encourage you to contact me with questions or ideas.

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#### RULE CHANGES:

- Control AIII regarding Article III - Directors: disallowing felons to serve as a director. This was defeated. It was pointed out on the floor that the rule had no time frame and one of our directors with a non-violent conviction 40 years ago would be ineligible to serve. I expect this will be brought back with a rewrite next year.
- Control AIX-1 re: Article IX - State/Provincial Regional Clubs: this was amended in committee to say: Section 3.C.1 (a). Regional Club officers and their Board of Directors shall be required to carry a current APHA membership during the term of their office. (b) Allow only persons with current memberships in the club to vote in elections. Related rule ARTICLE IX - State/Provincial Clubs Section 4.A (2) Regional Club officers and their Board of Directors shall be required to carry a current APHA membership during the term of their office. And related rule ARTICLE IX - State/Provincial Regional Clubs, Section 3. Each Zone Show must be coordinated and sponsored by a Zone Coordinating Committee consisting of representatives from each state and/or Regional Club of the zone. Zone officers and Executive Board members shall be required to carry a current APHA membership during the term of their office. This rule passed.

- Control GR-010 regarding rule GR-010-which made some changes to the language of our rule change process due to 1 meeting per year - passed.
- Control RG-020-1 regarding RG-020 which would have required genetic testing of a color gene for all crop outs to be registered - defeated in committee
- Control RG-00-2 regarding rule RG-020 which would have required genetic testing of a color gene for virtually all horses to be eligible to be registered - defeated in committee
- Control RG-110 regarding RG-110.E requiring 6 panel testing of all stallions was revised in committee to read: All breeding stallions are required to be genetic tested by DNA in order to allow parentage verification of offspring. In addition, all breeding stallions are required to have a Genetic Panel test on file with APHA prior to the registration of their foals that result from breedings occurring after January 1, 2018. The Genetic Panel test includes HYPP, PSSM, MH, GBED, HERDA, OWLS. Genetic Panel test results will be available to all APHA members. The owner or lessee of such stallion shall at his own expense, file with the Association an official report of the stallion's required DNA test results obtained from an APHA approved laboratory and in accordance with procedures adopted by the Association. Once a stallion's required DNA test results are filed with the Association, it is not necessary to repeat such filing annually, except as requested by the Association.
- This rule did pass on the floor by a hand count of 54-39. I voted against this rule not because I am opposed to genetic testing to identify known hereditary disease and the color marker OWLS but because I feel that mandatory testing should not be the stallion owners' alone to bear. These diseases and color marker are also passed along by the mare yet the mares are not required to be tested. I spoke as such at the microphone and will be working with someone to draft a rule change proposal for the future stating such.
- Control SC-105 regarding rules SC-100.A and SC-105 were split in two at my request. I felt that since the rules are not directly related they should be separated. SC-100.A was revised in committee to state: SINGLE JUDGE SHOW. A single-judge show is limited to one judge in the arena at any given time and held on one or more days. (1) Single-judge shows may also offer a clinic in conjunction with the show with the official judge serving as clinician. Clinicians must be approved by the APHA. (a) Single-judge shows offered with a clinic are not required to offer the minimum class requirements outlined in SC-095 pending APHA approval. The related rule language in JU-000.G was not amended but does still apply. This passed. This rule allows shows to set up a clinic in conjunction with their show however they see fit - do a clinic on Saturday and the show on Sunday or even start the morning with a showmanship clinic then do showmanship, then have them saddle up english and do a hunter under saddle clinic then do HUS, etc. Gives shows a lot of flexibility. APHA has rolled out a new clinician program so you will need to make sure your judge is a clinician per the rule.
- Rule SC-105 which would have eliminated Paint-O-Rama shows and decreased Zone show judges from 6 to 4 was defeated in committee.
- Control SC-105-1 regarding rule SC-105.B.2 allowing an exception for livestock shows to have a 3 judge show = passed.
- Control SC-105-2 regarding rule SC-105.A.4 which allows judges to confer on DQ, 5 point & 3 point penalties passed. Some comments during convention that this should be defeated because judges should "know their job" but the reality is that on multiple judge shows not all judges can get a good angle on all obstacles or all lead changes. In my many years of experience the judges have all known something happened but couldn't tell if it was 3 point or 5 point penalty or if the exhibitor 2 handed or just raised the offhand like they were going to. The judges are trying to get it right for that exhibitor (not hitting you with a DQ or a 5 point penalty if it wasn't deserved and they want to get it right for the other exhibitors - they miss your DQ and you end up placing over someone who did not but the other judges saw the DQ. This rule is not meant to allow them to not pay attention but rather to let them ask the other

judge if the penalty was a 3 or a 5 or whether or not the exhibitor 2 handed because they couldn't tell from where they were sitting. Must be done in the presence of a ring steward.

- Controls SC-105-3 and SC-105-4 were variations of Control SC-105-2 above and were defeated in committee in favor of Control SC-105-2.
- Control SC-105-5 regarding SC-105.B - Two Judge Shows allows a 2 judge show held in conjunction with another 2 judge show allows halter & longeline to be judged by all 4 judges at the same time and trail & showmanship to be judged on the same day as long as the exhibitors run the pattern twice (split arena). This passed.
- Control SC-105-6 regarding rule SC-105.B to allow a 2 judge show to be held back to back with a Zone show as long as both show sponsors agree passed.
- Control SC-105-7 regarding rule SC-105.B allowing a Paint-O-Rama held back to back with a Zone show to have halter judged by all 10 judges simultaneously - passed.
- Control SC-165 regarding rule SC-165 allowing for an All Paint Registries class in specific working classes. This was defeated in committee but was petitioned out to the floor for further discussion. The point behind this class is basically to ensure that our Solid Bred horses have classes available in those working classes (see the rule book for all classes but examples would be Jumping, Pole Bending, Reining, Ranch Riding, and Utility Driving). Solids will still be placed based on other solids in the class and regular registry are still placed against other regular registry horses. This did pass on the floor.
- Control SC-175-1 regarding rule SC-175.M regarding when grand & reserve is necessary was defeated in committee.
- Control SC-175-2 regarding SC-175.M creating performance halter as an optional class in the open division only. This was defeated in committee but was petitioned out to the floor for further discussion. As many of you know, the journey about performance halter in APHA has been a long one with many variations. This rule requires the horse be shown in a performance class at the same show (showmanship does not count), is offered only in the open division (hoping to draw in more open halter exhibitors since most youth & ammy classes are full of performance horses already), and is an optional class. So if you have an area where you don't feel the class is needed, then you are not required to offer. This had a lot of discussion on the floor and did pass by a vote of 48-42.
- Control SC-185 regarding rule SC-185.E putting in a date before which yearling & 2 year old performance horses cannot be shown. This was amended in committee to read: 4. Eligible Age For Performance Class Entry. No yearling horse may be exhibited in longeline class prior to May 15. 5. No two-year old horse may be exhibited in a performance class prior to May 15. EXCEPTIONS: Showmanship and Two-Year-Old Longeline. This passed.
- Control SC-192 and SC-192-1 regarding rule SC-192 making yearling in hand trail eligible for all year end titles and awards or allowing those point to count towards an APHA Championship or other awards. Both were defeated in committee.
- Control SC-192-3 regarding rule SC-192.F was my rule change proposal and was amended with approval of the rule committee before we got to Convention. This makes the number of allowed obstacles in in-hand trail align with the walk/trot classes since most shows use the same pattern for both divisions. Course will now require a minimum of 4 obstacles and a maximum of 8. This passed.
- Control SC-206 regarding rule SC-206.D requiring green horses to present an eligibility card. The purpose of this rule was to prevent those who are showing in Green that are not eligible and then being DQd after the fact. Much discussion that the amount of work to process an application and send out a card is probably equal to the amount of work it takes to DQ an exhibitor when APHA verifies show results. However there was discussion that if people are aware of someone abusing this and going in Green when they know they are not eligible (using it as a warm up class) then they need to be reported to APHA. This proposal was

defeated in committee.

- Control SC-206-1, SC-206-2, and SC-206-3 regarding rule SC-206.D. All of these proposals had variations of amending what qualifies as a Green horse. The committee overwhelmingly felt that Green classes are something where we want to see horses pointing out and moving up to Jr. So 206-1 increasing the points to 25 and 206-3 giving up to \$5,000 in lifetime earnings under saddle were defeated in committee. The rule was kept in place for 10 points but 206-2 adding a maximum of \$2,500 in lifetime earnings passed.
- Control SC-246 regarding rule SC-246.D adding a horse that has earned a bronze horse medal in EWU (a European competition) is no longer eligible for green classes passed.
- Control SC-250-1 regarding rule SC-250.I was another one of my proposals. I have been frustrated by the number of trail patterns I see that are not legal because the show uses a pattern from a QH show or uses a course designer that doesn't read APHA rules. So this takes out the requirement of the walk/jog/lope overs needing 4 poles to be an obstacle. This passed.
- Control SC-255 regarding rule SC-255.D allows novice western riding classes to use the green western riding patterns. This passed.
- Control SC-302-1 regarding rule SC-302.C to allow horses to cross over from walk/trot western pleasure classes into open ranch riding classes. This was defeated in committee for a couple of reasons - primarily because the ranch classes still need some tweaking to get people to understand the rules and the no cross over into western pleasure classes is the foundation of those classes so even though these are walk/trot classes it was felt for now we need to keep the integrity of the rule.
- Control SC-303 adding a new rule to create Green Ranch Riding was defeated in committee. Right now almost all horses are considered green in Ranch Riding and so we don't feel like we need another class for them at this point in time. The committee felt this could be a good rule to bring back as the Ranch Riding classes grow.
- Control AM-010 regarding rule AM-010.A allows someone who is a certified therapeutic riding instructor to be eligible for Amateur status as long as the only "teaching" remuneration they are getting is related to their therapeutic instruction (and they meet the other criteria). This passed with an early implementation date of March 1, 2016.
- Control AM-060 regarding rule AM-060.C allows longeline & in hand trail to count towards top 20, honor roll, & Zone awards. This passed.
- Control AM-080-1 and AM-080-2 regarding rule AM-080.A. Both of these proposals dealt with changing the Amateur divisions to allow for an all age class 19 & over and a Masters class (much like AQHA) instead of the Classic & Masters classes as offered now. 080-1 would have changed the Masters to 50 & over. This was defeated in committee but petitioned out to the floor. On the floor it was asked for this to be tabled which was approved. 080-2 was also defeated in committee but petitioned out to the floor. The all age Amateur class is open to all Amateurs 19 & over. The Masters class will be open to exhibitors age 45 & over. But the 45 & over exhibitor can choose whether to show in the all age class or just the Masters class. This also allows the Masters exhibitor to show 1 horse in the all age class and a different horse in the Masters class. I was in favor of this change because it should alleviate some of the requests to combine this class for those in the Masters division. Since the originator of the rule left in the 2 point allowance for show management to combine at their option, I suspect I will still be hit with requests from the younger amateurs to combine the classes. The 080-2 proposal did pass on the floor.
- Control AM-080-3 also dealt with AM-080.A and would have kept the Classic & Masters divisions but changed the ages to 19-49 and 50 & over. This was defeated.
- Control AM-085 regarding rule AM-085.D which would have deleted the language allowing the exhibition of more than one horse in certain classes was defeated in committee.

- Control AM-205-1 regarding rule AM-205.A increasing novice eligibility up to 80 revalued points in a category was defeated in committee. Even though I did not get a chance to visit the Amateur committee, I was told the conversation centered around the fact that if you are able to earn 50 points in a division you are ready to move up to the next level so that we can keep encouraging new exhibitors to the novice level instead of pretty seasoned exhibitors being able to linger in the novice status making true novice exhibitors feel uncompetitive.
- Control AM-205-2 and 205-3 both related to rule AM-205.A regarding novice qualification for European exhibitors competing in EWU. Both of these rules were defeated in committee by the request of the International Committee so they can rewrite both rules.
- Control AM-300 regarding rule AM-300.F was another one of my proposals related to aligning the obstacles allowed between the in-hand and walk/trot classes. Passed.
- Control JU-000 regarding halter specialty judges passed.
- Control RA-030 creating a racing participation fee and a regional racing awards program was split into 2 rules. Both changes were passed.
- Control YP-075 and YP-075-1 regarding rule YP-075.A were both related to changing the Youth age divisions. 075 would have allowed a 13 & under exhibitor to choose whether to show in 13 & under or in the 18 & under class. This was defeated in committee. 075-1 would have left the splits as is but would have required shows that offered only 18 & under youth classes to offer a minimum of five classes as 13 & under that cannot be combined into all ages. After discussion on the floor the Youth committee requested that this be tabled for a rewrite.
- Control YP-105 regarding allowing leadliners to exhibit on solid bred horses in Zones 12, 13 & 14 only. There were a bunch of us that did not read the rule and thought it was opening up leadline to any APHA horse. The rule passed as is but I do foresee someone bringing it back to allow in all Zones.

We then voted to approve the Executive Committee actions that had taken place from February 2015 thru January 2016. I am happy to send these out to anyone as they are not posted anywhere but the highlights I feel people need to be aware of:

1. starting in 2016 the Executive Committee will not approve Regional Club variances unless all officers of the Regional Club are APHA members in good standing.
2. genetic testing results showing the presence of a Paint pattern gene may be used at the Executive Committee's discretion when trying to determine the eligibility of a horse into regular registry status.
3. Ride America is now part of the PAC program but after a lot of noise by many directors, horses signed up for Ride America will continue to be recognized solely for hours as well as being able to "compete" for the PAC awards in that division. Ride America is wonderful program that I wish I had paid more attention to before. It rewards people for all hours riding their horses except when in competition. Practicing at home? Those hours count. Great way for people to earn more recognition for time spent with their horse.
4. Regional Championship classes held at the Zone shows can now be judged by a maximum of 2 judges.