

NWCC, Idaho Paint Horse and Treasure Valley Paint Horse clubs,

My Name is Ted Proctor and I'm one of APHA Directors representing Idaho. It is my pleasure to report back to each of you following the 2022 APHA National Convention that took place February 25th through the 27<sup>th</sup> In Fort Worth Texas

This year's convention was a Hybrid convention with virtual meetings daily starting Feb 15 to Feb 22 with the General meeting starting Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Drover in Fort Worth. I'm proud to say that I'm an active director and professional Horseman serving on the Professional Horseman's advisory committee so I wanted to share with you the exciting projects that the committee worked on during 2021.

We were tasked with developing one module on HorseIQ that relates to the APHA Professional Horseman Program. While we did start we did not complete the module it is in progress and will continue as a priority for 2022.

We were asked to develop strategies to increase the number of PH from 181 to 206. We ended the year with 187. We did develop and finalize a new criteria and application process that will assist in only quality, qualified Professional Horseman in the future. This went into effect for 2022.

We were tasked to host a Professional Horseman's Zoom Round Table Discussion/ Listening Session. This is ongoing and planned for 2022.

We were tasked to explore additional ways to leverage the Top 5 Pros list. This is also continued for 2022

Review and make recommendations to create clearer guidelines for selection of Professional Horseman/Horsewoman of the year. The committee completed a rubric to assist in the application and tabulation in selecting the PH person of the year.

So all in all the committee had some very exciting additions and improvements made that will help 2022.

The Horse Community Symposium was enlightening with having the top 5 equine authorities available with speeches and a Q&A session. Represented were the NCHA, NRHA, NRCHA, APHA and USEF. The word of advice is think outside the box to find ways to retain and attract new members.

The APHA World Show being moved back to summer was a big success and they are looking to continue having the show in the summer as to include families while school is out for summer. This allows for the parents to be able to show with the kids.

I would like to continue onto a rule proposal and the debate I had prepared in regards to rule proposal AM-010-3. Unfortunately, I was only able to debate a small portion of what I wrote but felt it important to share on social media following the debate to show my involvement prior to convention through asking for participation from our members in Idaho and the PNW through social media. Please take the time to read the debate. The section in bold was all I was able to share. But had much to add along with proposals and solutions to course correct the decline in membership which was the leading argument for the rule proposal.

APHA State Directors, APHA membership and the APHA Executive Committee, My Name is Ted Proctor, I'm a APHA State Director for Idaho, a proud APHA Professional Horseman and Ambassador. I have a small training program in Nampa Idaho and I have served on the APHA Professional Horseman's advisory committee for the past 2 years. After becoming an APHA State Director representing Idaho, I soon realized how important this role is in attracting and retaining membership with APHA along with representing the members in my state and the states that we have the pleasure of showing in.

For me that's Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona and on occasion Oklahoma and Texas. As my wife and I travel the country, I find that many APHA members share the same ideals and values as myself. We also share the concern that the future of our industry is in need of growth and not the recent reduction of youth and overall APHA membership. It also needs to be noted that the opportunities to show our paint horses at a local home town level is becoming scarce and nonexistent.

**At this time and with personal interest aside, I would like to share the massive and overwhelming response from many Amateurs, Horse trainers and exhibitors across the US and Canada in regards to AM-010-3: Allow Amateurs to give riding lessons as long as lessons are not given at a horse show or public event. Social media appears to have been the best public platform and opportunity to poll and receive feedback in regards to this rule proposal.**

We should be thankful for that as many APHA members would never know about a rule change until it was already passed or somehow impacted their lives. After following and monitoring many posts and a pod cast regarding this proposed change with both APHA and AQHA, there surprisingly appears to be a small number of youth and amateurs in favor of the change. There is also an overwhelming and notably frustrated number of professional and amateur members that do not support this rule proposal in any form.

While many professionals openly admitted there is a need for beginner level training programs, having a rule that supports amateurs receiving remuneration for giving lessons is not the resolution for helping youth kids, increasing membership or inviting folks to join APHA. Many very well-known amateurs simply say NO.

In fact, many members feel that the repercussions of passing this rule would cause a reduction in membership because the amateurs that choose not to give lessons will just stop showing as they feel they will be competing against "semiprofessionals." On the other hand, support for the proposal had comments like "amateurs won't get rich giving lessons so the pros have nothing to worry about, and "it's not going to hurt a pros income."

With that said let's do some quick math. Average Joe earns around \$20 per hour, 8 hours a day, that's \$160 a day. The average lesson at 1 hour is \$50. 4 lessons a day could earn \$200 a day. If that amateur were to give lessons 5 days a week they would earn \$1,000 per week working only 4 hours a day. That quickly becomes \$4,000 a month. For a trainer that gives beginners lessons, that is a substantial loss of income.

Yes, this is a best case scenario but for a driven amateur it can quickly become reality and an opportunity for a part time business which by definition makes them a professional. Last and not least. There was a lot of conversation about policing the rule if it passes. Part of that debate was that

**we don't have enough trainers at a local show level to offer lessons for the kids needing them. We need to stop and think about that statement for a moment... If the pros aren't at these beginner or local shows, who's going to stop the at home amateur coaches from becoming a horse show coach? Will that be the next rule change proposal? I'm sorry but APHA struggles as is to police violators currently bending the rules. If we allow this proposal to pass, in my opinion we will lose the camaraderie amongst the amateurs and eventually the amateurs all together. Folks, where do the youth kids come from? Let's remember this proposal is supposed to benefit beginner youth and increase the membership as a whole. It should not result in animosity and poor sportsmanship.**

I know that my Pro Horseman's committee put much effort into this and while many of us did not support the rule change proposal, we made an honest attempt to help it work. As it left our committee, the proposal had qualifications, standards, code of conduct and consequences. I have to admit I was shocked to see this proposal in the simple, stripped down, and current form. Think about that... why did it get stripped down? What group made that decision? Where did this proposal come from?

With all of this said and as a State Director, I cannot and will not be supporting this proposal. While I will be voting No, I do strongly suggest that the State Directors, and the Executive Committee realize a need and call to action APHA in collaboration with the industry professionals to develop programs like

(a) A program that pairs a young and upcoming trainer with an established proven trainer to provide a referral for these youth and beginner riders in need of lessons.

(b) Training scholarships that would provide payment for training to an established proven program for a deserving beginner youth for a year.

(c) Offer by state, free beginner clinics that would tailor only to beginners. This could be a grant in part by APHA to 4-H or Open show organizations that apply for it. It would be a great opportunity for APHA Professional Horseman and Ambassadors to contribute along with an opportunity for these new training programs to gain visibility with the already existing youth programs.

(d) APHA sponsored booths at Horse Expos in collaboration with the local APHA clubs to promote The American Paint Horse, the local trainers and what they have to offer. Another great opportunity to utilize your current APHA Professional Horseman's network to assist these newer training programs and inject our association into the local markets where these expos exist.

(e) A Junior or B judge program for new judges that limits them to single or double judged shows. Cap their judging fees for the first 4 or 5 years in an effort to reduce cost for the smaller clubs. This would help clubs with the expense of putting on shows and allow new judges to get time in the arena. As I conclude, I want to applaud everyone that has put time and effort into this proposal. After being part of this in committee and then following the thousands of comments regarding this proposal, I better understand the wishes of the membership and its professionals driving this industry.

In conclusion, the 2022 Convention was informative and sent a message regarding the growth and future of our organization. I'm looking forward to having Kory Kumar leading the Long Range Planning committee and have many ideas to assist the association in growth. All in the Convention passed 18 rules and 3. Thanks for the opportunity to serve NWCC and the great state of Idaho.

