

**AHA 2011 Convention**  
**Vancouver, British Columbia Canada**  
**Nov. 16-19**  
**Submitted by Danny Thompson**

I would like to thank MTAHA for letting me attend the Convention again this year. This was a very well done Convention. Lots of things were discussed and talked about in regards to the shows, racing and the breed. Below is a report from the Convention that will detail the Resolutions, General Session Meetings, Region 12 News and Committee meetings that I attended

This is the list of resolutions from 2011 and how they were voted on with a brief overview of each .

Res. 1-11 **Approved** (Extraordinary) Redefining the Age Limit for Youth.

*Pending USEF approval* this will up the age for the youth to 18. Youth classes will now be 18 and under or 13 & under and 14-18. Takes effect in 2012

Res. 2-11 **Approved** (Extraordinary) Resolution Submission Date Changes date for resolutions to August 15<sup>th</sup> instead of Aug. 1. Takes effect 2012

Res. 3-11 **Withdrawn** Convention to be held in Denver

Res. 4-11 **Withdrawn** Running Martingales on 3 year old English Pl. Horses

Res. 5-11 **Approved** Updating Level Judges This was a house keeping resolution to insert the words "Eastern & Western Canadian Breeders Championships" into the USEF rulebook at USEF GR 1004.16

Res. 6-11 **Approved** Ginger Testing Puts enforcement of ginger testing into the hands of USEF instead of the Competition Management.

Res. 7-11 **Approved** Bar Shoe Horses with a bar shoe can only have one bar per shoe. The bar must not exceed 3/8 inch thick by 1 1/8 inch wide, nor extend below the ground surface of the shoe.

Res. 8-11 **Disapproved** Add Arabian Comparative Judging System to the AHA Handbook

Res. 9-11 **Approved** Conform Whip Length in Sport Horse Under Saddle Whip can not exceed length of whip in DR 120.

Res. 10-11 **Withdrawn** Add Arabian Breeders World Cup Score Card

Res. 11-11 **Withdrawn** Amend Breeding and In-Hand Classes

Res. 12-11 **Approved** Hunter Seat Equitation Changes Allows test 16 to be called for in Hunter Seat Eq. This test allows the judges to swap horses.

Res. 13-11 **Withdrawn** Education/Evaluation Commission Modification

Res. 14-11 **Approved** Education/Evaluation Commission Term Limits No member of the EEC may serve more than three consecutive terms.

Res. 15-11 **Approved** Vet-Outs exempt from 9-90 fee If horse is vetted out at a show the AHA 9-90 fee will be refunded.

## **Region 12 News**

Dates for the Regional show next year are May 8-12

Proposal for Region 12 2012 Meeting in May

75% of show money after Region 12 put into a Money Market Account (for show) 25% put into general fund. If the general fund needed the money it would require a full vote from Region 12 Board of Directors.

Proposed changes for the 2012 Regional show

Spotlight Stallion Auction in the Sales Pavilion

Putting the Hunter/Jumper classes during the Regional show in May. Instead of off site like in the past few years.

There will be a Region 12 and 14 qualifying show in GA in June.

Region 12 Volunteer Service awards went to Ben and Linda Smith of Florida

Eric Rueter from the Knoxville area is on the AHA National Distance Commission

### **Highlights from General Sessions I, II and III**

Last day of Convention had 266 out of 487 delegates that had gotten credentials.

AHA had a 300k profit for the this year.

Sept. 2012 Sweepstakes note paid off.

Modern Arabian Magazine won another USEF magazine award

AHA is going to fund the Youth \$25,000 starting in 2013.

Youth Nationals had 888 horses and Canada had 647 horses both made money but had less horses than projected.

Canadian Nationals will have yearling classes for PB and HA's next year with prize money for PB at 15K and HA at 5k. Money being given to those classes for 5 yrs from Rae Dawn Arabians.

Sport Horse Nationals had 536 horses (more than budgeted) was the biggest and most profit in history of the show. Sport Horse will be on a East West rotation.

US Nationals had 1805 horses (budgeted for 1700) Halter class entries were up.

USN's has proposals out for other venues for 2013-17 they are due back to AHA by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. The Tulsa Visitors bureau is proposing to give AHA/USN's 500k per year for the 2013-17 years if USN's is back in Tulsa.

US National Distance ride held in NM did well this year.

Memberships are down but not down as much as in years past. Next year there will be discussion on Res. 1-10 (from last year) this was referred to the AHA Task Force last year. Res. 1-10 is AHA Memberships to run on a calendar year.

PAT and AHA to hold annual meetings in September.

Sweepstakes will pay out around \$10 per point. Sweepstakes nominated stallions was up. Brought in 95 new stallions this year (105 stallions in the last 4 yrs.)

2014-2016 the Convention will be held in Denver, CO.

**Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund (AHDF) [www.horsemensdistressfund.com](http://www.horsemensdistressfund.com)**

Mary Trowbridge gave a talk on the benefits of the AHDF and showed a very moving video about the tragic barn fire that happened at Fred Goslin's (Arabian trainer in Texas) barn in August. The AHDF helps out Arabian owners, breeders and trainers when there is a crisis.

Region 12 donated \$5,000. **Both Kimberly and I discussed and thought that MTAHA should donate to this fund. We both agreed on an amount of \$250 to be donated from MTAHA.**

**This is tax deductible as well.**

**MTAHA please make check for \$250 to AHDF and mail to  
AHDF 263 Henry Sanford Rd Bridgewater, CT 06752**

In total there was over \$30,000 raised on the Convention floor for the AHDF.

It was also mentioned that Mike Frame had a barn fire and lost 4 horses. Mike is a well known ringmaster. He ringmasters at the USN's, Egyptian Event and multiple Regional shows.

**From Dave Corning AHA Treasurer**

AHA building has a roof leak and HVAC problems. As of now leak stopped and HVAC in ok at the moment. Might have to look at moving to a smaller building. Or using Defense fund money to fix the problems. It is estimated at \$270k to fix..

AHA shows are mostly stable but could trend down.

**From EVP Glenn Petty**

Work on local promo for the Arabian Horse. There is a new power point presentation from AHA that covers history, type, judging, disciplines and etc.

AHA website is going to be upgraded in the future.

**Dr. Jim Heird (Equine Sciences professor at Texas A&M)**

The US Government is debating on returning slaughter back to us. Outlaw horses for food.

The National Animal/Equine ID was about tracking diseases but is not moving forward within the government.

Other Legislative decisions affecting horses(owners)

Changing law laws, changing transportation laws, Child labor laws not allowing anyone under 16 to work with horses and review of racehorse medications

Talks about limiting public land for horses and riders. Public land is owned by federal and state governments

There is 262 million acres (11%) of public land. TN has 3.7 % of public land.

There are 38,500 wild horses and burros. 12,000 more than BLM estimated. 11,400 feral horses in BLM adoption. There is 26,400 horses are inadapttable.

**Nancy Harvey Arabian Horse Foundation Report (ADF)**

Larry Kineer is retiring from the president of ADF.

Used \$12,500 in research funds for further study in CA. The test has moved from a marker based to a DNA based test.

**Laura Killian AHYA Report**

Goals of reaching other youth in other breeds.

Want to publish newsletter and other AYHA promo.

Looking to raise money for March of Dimes and Breast Cancer research.

AHYA raised over \$20k at Youth Nationals with a silent auction.

## **Arabian Jockey Club Report**

Arabian racing interest is very strong from the Middle East.  
There will be Arabian racing again in 2012 at Church Hill Downs.  
Arabian race in France that has a 500,000 euro purse.  
The first Arabian race in Ireland will take place next year.  
Also news of an Arabian race at the Belmont track.  
And there is talks of a major Arabian race held with a major TB race next year. From what I heard it could be one held during the Preakness.

Darley Awards are in Houston, TX next year and are free to attend this year. Normally it is \$125 per ticket.

## **Stan Morey Judges and Stewards Commissioner**

There are 261 judges and 141 Stewards  
Reviews many score cards from the judges at the shows.  
He attends many Class A, Regional and all National Shows during the year.  
If he is at a show and sees something that a judge is doing that he feels is a problem he deals with it at the show with the judge.

## **Committee News**

### **Sporthorse Committee**

Proposed changes to SHIH scorecard. Removing Manners, Expression and Willingness and replacing with Arabian Breed Type/Standard. This was discussed and a majority decided this was not a good idea.

Adding Sport Horse In-Hand Showmanship JT and AAT

Talks of adding list class in down the road. I personally am not in favor of this. The discussion of how the class would run was not very well thought out. There are no rules set for this class. They were not sure how they would be judged. Someone said that a few dressage shows offer this class. I am not sure if a hunter judge or even most dressage judges are going to be comfortable judging this type of a class since this is not what they normally judge.

Also talked about adding Breeders Group Class (like get of sire and produce of dam except the two horses have to be "bred" by the same breeder). Again no rules set up.

Both the SH Showmanship and Breeders Group classes were sent to the National and Regional Classes Committee for approval but both were sent back to the Sporthorse Committee since neither class had any rules setup for them.

### **National and Regional Classes Committee**

In 2013 add

PB/HA Carriage Pl. Driving Scurry Obstacle to the National Class List.

PB/HA Working hunter 14.2 & under to the National Class List

PB Jr. Horse Cutting to the National Class List.

HA Jr/ Horse Cutting to the National Class List.

PB Cutting JTR to the National Class List.

HA Cutting JTR to the National Class List.

Added to the Standard classes list

Dressage First Level Jr. Horse

### **Sport Horse Nationals Commission Meeting**

SHN's on an East/West rotation. 2012 in Nampa, ID and in 2013 back in Lexington, VA.

Splits of Hunter Type and Dressage Type may not happen until 2013 or until smaller shows start using the splits.

14.2 hand and under Hunters will stay an Exb. Class for 2012 since it is not on the National Class List (this was taken care of by the National Class Committee and will be added to the approved class list for 2013)

### **US Nationals Show Commission Meeting**

Notes about the 2011 USN's

- Only had 16 empty stalls this year.

- Added new footing to the ramp leading from the top of the Quic Trip barn to the bottom of the barn (where the work area is located)

- Used Prefiert portable stalls this year.

Changes for the 2012 UNS's

- Adding 250 more stalls for 2012.

- Adding another barn for stalls on the North side (near race track)

- Having a different layout of stalls in the Quic Trip barn so a water truck can water the aisle.

- Painting the Ford Truck arena wall white.

- Adding more tables around the halter ring and more decorations.

- Adding live feeds to all arenas and some work areas. This would allow exhibitors to see how the classes are moving along.

- Working on a protocol in case of a contagious equine disease outbreak at USN's using the armory.