

Approved Minutes of the AHR Board of Directors
October 6, 2004 – Conference Call

President Paul Sutton called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Directors Greenisen, Hendershot, Hug, Leisure, Rousseau, Smith, Sutton, Wallace, Yoder and Young were present. Director Duvall joined later. Director Inabinett was absent. Recorder, Karen Young and AHR Office Manager, Ruth Schwab were also present.

Finance Committee Chair, Levi Yoder led discussion regarding the possibility of increasing fees, stating that AHR Spring Sale income was down and that additional income was needed. Yoder requested that proposed fee increases be shared with the members at the annual meeting. With additional discussion it was decided that any fee increases would become effective January 1, 2005 and that members would, in fact, be educated as to the need for any increases prior to that. It was suggested that a new member campaign, more Haflinger Horse advertising sales, higher fees for late/rush registrations and increased stallion report fees were all possible areas for additional income. Yoder will lead a presentation at the Annual Meeting regarding the proposed fee increases.

Young moved to go into Executive Session. Rousseau seconded.
Young moved to go out of Executive Session. Greenisen seconded.

President Sutton shared the dissatisfaction many breeders had with the recent classifications which took place. Classification Chair, Jennifer Rousseau stated that a survey has been sent out to all 2004 classification participants and that an invitation to an October 28th Breeders Forum has also been sent to all 2004 classification participants as well as participants from previous years. This forum would serve as an opportunity to exchange ideas for improving the inspection program. The panel at this forum would consist of the Classification Committee members. The Board of Directors are also invited. Hendershot shared his concern that the number of dissatisfied members was not in the minority and stressed that the Board and the Classification Committee now need to listen to the members. Sutton thanked Bill Hendershot for the huge amount of work he has contributed to the program. Hendershot, in turn, thanked several others for their efforts, including Jennifer Rousseau, Carol Hummel and all the regional coordinators, hosts and volunteers. It was agreed that the majority of concerns about the inspection process was not about the judges, but about the application of the scoring system. Based on some of the score sheet comments, several breeders are concerned that too much bone is being bred out of the horse. There are also additional concerns that the classifications are not consistent enough from one year to the next. Young stated that an impartial moderator should be present at the forum to keep discussion flowing properly. Director Rousseau is to arrange for a qualified and impartial moderator.

Young questioned whether the promotional video would be ready for distribution at the Annual Meeting. Sutton confirmed that it would.

Hug asked if AHR was going to be at the Equine Affaire in Massachusetts this fall. It was stated that AHR would not be present, but thought that possibly the Northeast Haflinger Association would be representing the Haflinger breed there as they had in the past.

Wallace noted that there will be a 1 hour demonstration by the GLHA during the Draft Horse International Show on October 17th at Michigan State University, which will include riding, driving, draft and pleasure. Wallace mentioned this is an honor for the Haflinger breed to be included in this debut event for GLHA.

Smith briefly visited the “why?” question on the Director’s application and it was determined that additional discussion would follow at the December Board Meeting.

Rousseau moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2004 minutes. Hug seconded. Passed unanimously.

Hug moved to adjourn. Yoder seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.