

February 1, 2006 AHR Board of Director Meeting Minutes

Attending: Paul Sutton, Emily Gibson, Theo Hug, Art Winder, Mike Bobal, Willie Lehman, Levi Yoder, Dave Kraus, Bill Jameson, Mike Dowd and Gary Leisure. Bob Duvall gave his committee report and then signed off his cell phone had very bad reception.

Anita Sweeney present as recorder

Ruth Schwab Absent due to attending the International Hoof Care Summit in Cincinnati, Ohio

Called to order at 8:09 pm by Paul Sutton

I. Old Business

January minutes approved on line

Reviewed status of office receiving committee records from committee chairs. The letter went out 2 weeks ago to the various committee chairs and Ruth is to follow up by e-mail and check on status of records.

HBO Update. John Cisler and Paul have talked by phone and have tentatively set up a meeting date to coincide with the Mt. Hope Sale. This will be followed up on and confirmed. .

II. Office Report –provided by Paul Sutton in Ruth’s absence

All registrations and transfers received up through 12-31-05 have passed through bookkeeping and are on to the pedigree department for processing. Pedigree department has processed about half of the foal applications received up through 12-31-05.

Preliminary Numbers for 2005

Registrations: 1893 with 749 of those being received in December.

2003 Total Transfers 4,475

2004 Total Transfers 4,228

2005 Total Transfers 4,093

2003 total Registrations: 2,579

2004 total Registrations: 2,142

2005 total registrations: 1893

The good news is that we are seeing a very large percentage of new buyers on transfers.

Points & Awards – Office staff organized, purchased, and shipped the awards as reported by the Points & Awards Committee:

Income \$380

\$168.25 – Medals
300.00 – Plaques
64.05 – Balance due on blanket monogram
219.58 – Dress sheets x 4: 2 bridle bags and down payment on monograms
50.00 – Two \$25 gift certificates to AHR for Performance
30.00 – Two \$15 gift certificates to AHR for Recreation
32.40 – Postage for shipping recreation awards

\$864.28 – Total (deficit \$484.28)

The new replacement computer is up and running including a couple of new upgraded software packages that will increase our productivity, especially with the internet. The upgraded software allows us to create forms that can be filled in on-line and emailed to the office.

We are hoping to work with Hewlett-Packard to get a donated or greatly reduced computer to replace our existing server.

The office manager made request to the Pedigree Committee to re-visit the issue of stallion breeding reports and the associated late penalties. If a stallion owner who is late with their report has questions about the fines, Theo Hug would be available to discuss the concern.

Consignment for the AHR spring sale opens March 1st. Consignment packages will be posted on the website and included as an insert in the Feb/March mailing of Haflinger Horse.

2006 Membership cards are currently being generated along with a return postcard that will allow members to request mailing of AHR sale catalogs. Please do not tell members in your region to call the office.

III. Committee membership approvals and reports

A. Youth --approved

Dave Wilson and Carolyn Sutton - Co-Chairs

Members: Levi Yoder (Director Representative)

Leona Loller, Judy James, Elaine Durlin and Aileen Ayers.

Committee Report: Goals for 2006

1. To continue to increase membership in the AHRY.
2. To encourage participating in the programs of the AHRY.

3. To increase enrollment in the scholarship program of the AHRY.
4. To add an additional clinic for the youths.

Plan of Action

1. To continue the newsletter for the youth, to come out on a quarterly basis with articles and information about youth and what they are doing with their Haflingers.
2. To include the youth newsletter and information about the youth programs at the AHR promotional booth that goes to the sales.
3. To develop a contact person within the regional groups for relaying information about youth activities to the AHR chairpersons.
4. To devise a plan to provide clinics for the youth in areas of interest for them.

Benchmarks

1. Enrollment in the youth program will increase by 50%
2. A newsletter will be sent to the youth on a quarterly basis.
3. A contact person for each region will be established.
4. A clinic will be offered at the Indiana sale for youth members.

The committee is planning a clinic with Jennifer Rousseau for youth at the Indiana sale. The winter newsletter should be out the first week of February. The youth chairs have applied to the State of Michigan for grant money for youth activities at the National Show which will be held in Michigan. This makes us eligible for money to possibly fund two clinics for youth during the 2006 National Show. Thanks to Brent Leininger for advising us of these funds which may be available to the registry.

B. Bylaws--approved

Bill Jameson – Chair

Members: Willie Lehman and Chuck Kohler

Report: The by-law committee changes passed are being put on hold for future membership voting. This is due to a possible BOD member meeting change and AHR Fund changes and some other potential items. This is so all the changes can be sent together for voting rather than having to make them separately during the year.

C. Inspection/Classification-- Discussion about the composition of the committee needing to be limited to seven members with a limit of two judges on this committee so the following was approved:

Jennifer Rousseau and Robert Eicher – Co-Chairs

Theo Hug, Abram Miller, John Dunkel, Brandy Wagner

The committee needs to propose another non-judge member

Inspection/Classification Committee Report

This large committee represents what is necessary for the growth and continued development of the AHR Inspection and Classification program in 2006. It has been carefully selected to be geographically diverse, weighted in favor of the non-judge members (8 to 5 including the learner judge), and is stacked with volunteers who are passionate about the Haflinger breed and the importance of this program. It also represents a very diverse group of viewpoints, from small breeder to large breeder, from official to participant, and from vast experience to brand new exposure. There is a variety of expertise in technology, organizational skills and breed promotion on the committee as well. We feel that this combination of experience and diversity is critical to our ability to offer a viable, valuable and functional program to the serious North American Haflinger breeders.

2006 Goals:

1. At this time, there are four locations confirmed for 2006:
 - August 14 – Blainville, Quebec
 - August 23 – Loudonville, Ohio
 - August 26 – Honey Brook, Pennsylvania
 - August 28 – Herald, California

There is still room to add a date in the Southeast if a location can be agreed upon. Larry Smith is visiting with Florida breeders next month to try and develop consensus and determine if there is enough interest to support adding the location. We have had inquiry from the Southwest as to the requirements for hosting an inspection and have forwarded that information to the interested party.

Lukas Scheiber has been contacted and has agreed to be the International Judge again in 2006.

2. The I&C committee will accept the task of evaluating the role of senior judges in the committee process, and present a recommendation to the BOD at the conclusion of 2006. In recent times it has become clear that the role of the judges, the Judges Committee, and that of the I & C committee, overlap and interact in many, many areas including committee jurisdiction and areas of responsibility or operation. Both committees are necessary, however, a great deal of work is needed to explore how to develop the relationship between the committees. We must retain the valuable knowledge and necessary input from both groups while determining items of administrative detail that could be more effectively handled by one or the other. There may be places where both groups should have equal input, where one might need to approve action of the other, as well as places where they could work independently. Please note, we are extremely fortunate in that our judges are also breeders, participants in the AHR program, and highly educated on the process both in North America and in Europe. The 2006 I&C committee will commit to examining how this inter-committee relationship should work as the program grows and report their findings to the BOD in time for their annual meeting.

3. The committee has pledged to develop a “workshop” meeting format, in conjunction with and spearheaded by Judges Committee, for annual review and meeting of all Senior and Senior “C” Judges. The format, as described to the BOD at the December 2005 BOD meeting, would involve the actual judging of a horse, using the scorecard, by each individual judge, followed by a review and assessment from the other attending judges. Modeled after the USEA ICP (Instructor Certification Program), the idea would be to record and document feedback from the other judges so as to provide a basis for the Inspection committee to select competent judges from year to year. This could also serve as the method by which all North American judges stayed current and consistent with the breed standard, ring procedure and the scoring process. The intention would be that this workshop would be a mandatory step for judges in order to maintain their judges card. While the program would run on an annual basis, judges would be mandated to attend one every two years, though recommended to attend annually.
4. At least one informational clinic is scheduled for the Spring Sale in Ashland. This clinic is intended to educate and familiarize breeders with the entire inspection and classification process, from preparation and presentation techniques, to what the judges are actually looking for and how they use the scorecard. It is possible that this clinic could be tied into the proposed Judges Workshop this year, using the same venue for both.
5. The committee will experiment in 2006 with a traveling National Coordinator who will handle all paperwork involved in the registration and cataloguing processes, as well as the follow up recording and documentation post inspection. This will depend largely on ability to finance same, as we are mindful of the need to show fiscal responsibility, but essentially would allow for one person to handle all administrative transactions associated with the inspection process.
6. It is the sincere desire of this committee that the AHR BOD should become more familiar with the process and its intent, not only from the perspective of interested observer but from the perspective of the judge and judging. Any member of the AHR BOD who would like to learn more about the process is invited to contact Jennifer Rousseau so that a definitive learning situation may be arranged at one or more of the locations in 2006. The BOD would be welcome and strongly encouraged to attend both the Judges Workshop and the Spring I&C Clinic. Another excellent learning opportunity is available via a trip to the Tirolian Mare Inspection in March. Several committee members will be attending and any BOD member would be welcome. The goal of the I&C committee is to be sure that the BOD is making informed, educated decisions about the program as it continues to grow and flourish.
7. The Inspection and Classification committee is optimistic that an agreement between AHR and HBO, to absorb the activities of the HBO, is near. We look forward to welcoming and working with representatives of the HBO, to incorporating their ideas and input into our discussions and policy making this year, and to work together to establish long term goals and directives for the AHR Inspection and Classification Program. We would like to reinstate our offer of assistance, to facilitate the negotiation process at any stage of the discussion.

D. Nominations—approved

Buzz Barr – Chair

Members: Brian Winkler, Anita Sweeney and Paul Sutton.

E. Finance—approved

Levi Yoder – Chair

Members: Abram Miller and Paul Sutton

Committee Report

Business: Budget for the year 2006 approval and submitted to the publication committee.

F. Futurity and SIP—approved

Jennifer Sutton – Chair

Members: Bill Jameson and Anita Sweeney

G. Judges—approved the following with an additional name needing to be submitted

Joel Greenisen – Chair

Members: Jennifer Rousseau and Mike Bobal.

H. Membership—approved

Bob Duvall – Chair

Members: Art Winder and Leon Troyer

Committee Report

The Affiliate Membership proposal has been sent to the By-Laws Committee for approval.

I. National Show—approved

Lou Sutton – Chair

Members: Bill Jameson, Brent Leininger, Steve Verhoff, Jennifer Sutton and Carolyn Sutton

Committee Report

Business: They are planning our first conference call in the next two weeks. Work is currently being done on revising the class list and contacting and hiring judges. They have applied for a program with the State of Michigan which Brent Leininger had researched to possibly receive financial assistance to help subsidize the premium payments. Work is well underway, but there is still much more to be done. There may be additional members added to the committee.

J. Planning—approved

Willie Lehman and Chuck Kohler – Co-Chairs

K. Pedigree—approved

Theo Hug – Chair

Members: Ray Miller, Abram Miller, Anita Sweeney and Dave Kraus.

The Pedigree committee has been tasked to come up with written guidelines pertaining to issues such as deviation in accepted coloration, physical defects or any other potential disqualifying conditions for registration.

L. Personnel/Office—approved

Paul Sutton – Chair

Members: Levi Yoder, Gary Leisure, Theo Hug and Carolyn Sutton

Committee Report

Personnel Business: The office is hoping a member contact with Hewlett Packard will help obtain a server and computers for the office at a reduced cost.

M. Points/Awards—approved

Danny Inabinett and Ann Walton – Co-Chairs

Members: Doris Thomas, Edie Ferguson and Art Winder.

Committee Report

The goal for 2006 is to double the participation in the program.

N. Promotions/Advertising/Regional Support—approved

Mike Bobal – Chair

Members: Dave Kraus and Lisa Schott.

Committee Report

Mike told the board that due to financial constrictions, there will be cut-backs on programs. The committee will meet and come up with information and suggestions for the BOD.

O. Publications--approved

Gary Leisure – Chair

Members: Emily Gibson, Judy James, Art Winder, Linda Winder, and Anita Sweeney

Committee Report

No new numbers to report since the December board meeting. This issue over 3,100 copies were printed and 2,752 went out to members, 234 to subscribers and 200 extras.

P. Sales—approved

Dave Wilson and Danny Inabinett – Co-Chairs

Members: Phil Greenisen and Levi Yoder.

A question was asked in regard to the \$50 consignment fee. Currently the registry had been keeping half and refunding the other half. Rather than raise the commission fee from the current 5%, the registry will keep the \$50 fee in 2006 and not refund the other half as has been done in the past.

Q. Website—approved

Emily Gibson and Gary Leisure – Co-Chairs

Office Advisor: Ruth Schwab Member: Mike Dowd

R. Video—approved

Lee Golinello – Chair
Member – Dave Kraus

S. Performance Evaluation—approved

Robert Eicher – Chair
Members: Lou Sutton, Brandy Wagner, Glen Yoder, Emily Gibson and Peg Brown
The Committee is working on developing a program.

IV. AH Fund Report

Dave Wilson, Levi Yoder, Brent Leininger, Chuck Kohler, Carolyn Sutton, and Paul Sutton

The AHF had a conference call meeting January 25, 2006, and the board elected officers for the year.

President – Brent Leininger
Vice-President – Chuck Kohler
Secretary – Carolyn Sutton
Treasurer – Levi Yoder

The goals for the year:

1. Resolve the issue of the current status of the Fund Corporation.
2. Complete the Articles of Corporation to direct the fund.
3. Compose By-laws for the Corporation.
4. Invest the funds in the best interest of the Corporation.
5. Procure more funding for the Fund Corporation.

The motion made by Levi Yoder and seconded by Bill Jameson that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

