

AGENDA

AHR Board of Directors Meeting

Date: January 4, 2006

Present: Bobal, Dowd, Duvall, Gibson, Hug, Jameson, Kraus, Lehman, Leisure, Sutton, Winder, Yoder, Ruth Schwab, Anita Sweeney, recording secretary

Called to order at 8:08 PM by Paul Sutton

Review of December Annual meeting minutes: approved on line

I. Office Report: Ruth Schwab

1. Office backlog (end of year paperwork rush) is about 6 weeks.

2. New conference call company contract which is dropping the per minute cost from 14.5 cents to 8.5 cents per caller and no minimum charge. It is anticipated this will result in significant savings to the registry.

3. The office has received quotes on a new phone system and a new computer server. Quotes were received for both purchasing a server and also a quote from Gateway for leasing. There is a need to replace the server and there are three old computers in the office, which will eventually need replacing. Ruth asked that a decision be made on whether or not to replace just the server or the server and three PC's. The lease was quoted on the basis of leasing the equipment and then having a \$1.00 buyout on the equipment at the end of the lease. If leased, it would be more expensive, but the payments could be stretched over a 3 year period. A lease may be better because of the registry financial situation right now, but it would be more expensive overall. Because the registry is a nonprofit corporation, there is no tax advantage to leasing because there are no taxes paid. The money is in the budget to buy, however the server is \$5,000 and the pc's are around \$1,000 each. To lease the server, Gateway was the least expensive and a 2 year lease with a buyout option would be \$254.08 a month totaling \$6,097.92.

There was an in-depth discussion on pricing and the various costs of the various lease options. Ruth said they could live with the current phone system for the time being and could do without the PC's right now but that a new server was critical. If the system should crash, they would lose valuable data that couldn't be replaced. Our computer consultant had suggested that they could rebuild the 3 older PC's and reformat them to remove some programs that are interfering with optimal performance. Then as the PC's completely break, they could be replaced at a later time.

Kraus made a motion to buy a new server instead of leasing and it was seconded by Dowd. Approval vote 10 with two objections from Duvall and Hug.

Kraus introduced the idea of a filly raffle to help raise funds for the registry. This will be discussed at another time.

II. Committee Chair appointments

The following Committee Chairs were appointed by Board approval:

AHR Youth - Dave Wilson & Carolyn Sutton

Bylaws - Bill Jameson

Classification - Jennifer Rousseau & Robert Eicher (Paul contacted Jennifer on being co-chair on this committee, but as of conference call time had not heard back from her.)

Finance - Levi Yoder

Nomination - Buzz Barr

Futurity - SIP - Jennifer Sutton

Judges - Joel Greenisen

Membership - Bob Duvall

National Show - Lou Sutton

Pedigree - Theo Hug

Personnel/Office - Paul Sutton

Planning - Willie Lehman and Chuck Kohler

Points/Awards - Danny Inabinett and Ann Walton

Promotions/Advertising/Regional Support - Mike Bobal

Publications - Gary Leisure

Sale - Dave Wilson and Danny Inabinett

Website - Emily Gibson and Gary Leisure

World Federation - Joel Greenisen

Video- Lee Golinello

American Haflinger Fund Directors - Dave Wilson, Levi Yoder, Brent Leininger, Chuck Kohler, Carolyn Sutton, Paul Sutton.

Dave Kraus made a motion to accept the slate for this committee as a whole, Bob Duvall seconded. There were no objections.

III. Committee recordkeeping

There are committee records not available at the office because they are kept at the homes of various committee chairs. Bobal asked where such records should be kept since in most organizations it is unusual to have the committee chair keep records at their house.

Bobal made a motion to send a letter to all committee chairs stating that all original documentation must be shipped to the AHR office. Kraus seconded. Motion passed.

Hug suggested that a time limit be included in the letter for all committees to have their records submitted to the office.

Hug made a motion that all original records must be submitted to the office within 60 days from the end of the event. Kraus seconded and the motion passed.

IV. Inspection/Classification Committee membership

There was a discussion regarding the balance of judges to non-judge breeders on the I/C Committee with a suggestion from Sutton that no judges should be appointed to the committee. Therefore, if there is a problem or a dispute regarding an inspection, the inspection judges are the ones who make the decision on the dispute resolution. A person who judges an inspection in which a complaint is lodged should not be one of the people making the decision on the dispute resolution.

Gibson suggested that the BOD stick with the Board motion from last year that there should be a majority of breeders on the committee. Dowd agreed with this and said that it also should be an uneven number in case of tie votes. It was suggested there be 2 judges and 5 breeders on this committee.

After a long discussion, this topic was tabled until the I/C Committee submits their members for approval.

V. Magazine Front Cover/Inspection Scores in Advertising

Hug said that AHR should respect non-AHR I/C results from organizations that are WHF affiliated and mentioned that we should remember that some Haflingers in North America were inspected when AHR wasn't in existence. That means that years ago horses were inspected when they were in their prime and under the inspection standards at that time. Horses have aged and are no longer in the prime of their life so they can't be re-inspected by AHR in order to receive AHR scores.

Gibson reminded the BOD that the cover is not considered an advertisement per se even though it is purchased by private individuals. and that only general information, i.e. "inspected and approved for breeding" should be used in a cover description rather than inspection scores or ribbon color. However, information regarding I/C scores in an ad is a different issue than it is regarding a cover and this has been considered acceptable by the Publications Committee. The purpose of the cover is to represent the Haflinger breed. It was decided that this clarification be published in the magazine so members are aware of this policy.

There was discussion as well about the verification of inspection scores that are advertised in the magazine if the inspecting organization is not AHR. If a horse was not inspected by AHR, there weren't records that can be checked to verify the score. It was decided that when scores are submitted for publication in the magazine which the registry can't verify, it will be required the score results be faxed to the office or a copy of the score be sent along with the ad when it is submitted.

VI. National Show Funding

Sutton requested that a motion be made to move the national show from the auspices of the American Haflinger Fund back to the American Haflinger Registry. The reason for it being changed over from the registry to the fund in the first place was the 501(C)3 status of the fund and that donations are tax deductible. Moving the show from the fund back to the registry probably won't affect very many people because breeders, etc. are already using farm expenses in their tax programs.

Jameson made a motion that the show be moved from the American Haflinger Fund back to the American Haflinger Registry and Kraus seconded. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Sutton also reported that Brent Leininger mentioned an \$81,000 Michigan grant to help pay for horse shows which we could apply for. This financial assistance can be affected by how many members live in the state of Michigan.

VII. Review of proposed dues and subscription increases for 2007

Sutton requests review of the motion that was made and passed in the December board meeting that starting in 2007 dues would be increased to \$65 a year for full membership and the magazine subscription alone would increase \$30 to \$45, which will become effective in June. He has gotten some feedback that the amount is too high and he was concerned that the registry might lose more money through the loss of membership than they would gain. Gibson stated that the magazine subscription rate must cover printing and mailing costs with a small profit. The dues of \$65 will include the magazine in 2007. Ruth mentioned that there are probably less than 200 people who just subscribe to the magazine and who aren't full members. It was mentioned that Rural Heritage is \$28 a year and Driving Digest is \$24 but they are funded by an enormous number of ads from various companies and have a much higher circulation. The registry needs to work to provide enough services and good services to make people feel that it is worth the money to be members. The office and BOD are working on ways to reduce costs however possible, such as the recent conference call change.

After some discussion, the BOD is staying with their decision made in December regarding price increases.

VIII. Review of Bylaws Change Proposals

Bylaw change proposals were approved at the December meeting to be submitted to the membership for approval, but one change may not have been worded correctly and could impact new members elected to the BOD. Jameson mentioned that was concerning Article 5, Section 1. The old bylaw stated that newly directed BOD members are not eligible to be elected officers in their first year. When the change was suggested in the December meeting, the wording was amended and it says that newly directed members are not eligible to be officers in their first term. Since a term of office is 3 years, that is not what the way it was meant to be. It was only meant to apply to the first year of their term.

A motion was made by Jameson that the motion which was made at the December meeting regarding a change to Article 5, Section 1 be eliminated and be left as is. Levi Yoder seconded and the motion passed.

The proposed bylaws changes need to be sent out to the membership for voting. Jameson will get a sheet ready to be included as an insert in the next magazine. Kraus suggested that perhaps some people could vote on-line and Ruth is to check on that.

IX. Other Items

Jameson asked about whether or not a check had been mailed to a photographer for work done at the 2004 I/C. She has submitted her invoice on two occasions but still hasn't been paid. Ruth said that since neither invoice has been forwarded to the office, a check hasn't been sent. She asked that the photographer submit the invoice directly to the office, possibly by fax, so that a check could be mailed to her as soon as the invoice is received..

It was emphasized that a monthly update from each committee chair be submitted to the Board before each conference call. It was decided that was a good idea and that by doing this, there could be closer contact with the committees and their work and greater accountability. All new Committee Chairs will be informed of this expectation.

Yoder mentioned a few minor changes on the proposed 2006 budget figures, which had been previously sent to BOD members. There were no objections to Levi's budget and the proposed 2006 budget will be included in the magazine. Ruth will ask Tana to make the necessary corrections and submit the report to Melanie for publication.

Gibson asked about moving the BOD meeting to coincide with the fall membership meeting in October. If this is to happen, then planning should be started as soon as possible.

If this meeting date is moved then the newly elected director starting date needs to be changed. There was discussion about the BOD meeting being held prior to the membership meeting, but if this is the case, then suggestions from the members couldn't be addressed quickly. Then it was suggested that perhaps the BOD meeting could be held on the Monday following the sale. This would save on travel costs for members who are traveling long distances to attend. Gibson suggested that the President set up an ad hoc committee to come up with ideas for the meeting this fall.

Since many potential BOD candidates live in areas where it is extremely hard to travel to farms to get signatures for their petition, it creates a hardship since the signature forms haven't been available until June (which is after many of the sales which are held). Ruth is going to include signature forms for BOD director candidates on the website so they will now be downloadable along with the candidate form which will also be downloadable. Signatures can then be obtained in a more expanded time frame. It was noted that the signatures will still have to be obtained in the same year in which the candidate is running for office.

Motion made by Kraus that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Winder

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.