

**AMERICAN HAFLINGER ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
ASHLAND, OHIO  
OCTOBER 23, 2008

Meeting called to order and opening remarks by President Paul Sutton at 7:12 PM

Aileen Ayers, co-chair of the Youth committee announced the winners of the D. Lee Wilson Jr. Scholarships for 2008. Two \$1000 Scholarships will be awarded. The recipients were Crystal Weesner of Maryland and Katie Richard of Indiana. They each received a plaque. The coloring/drawing contest winners were First Place: Kaitlyn Singapole, Second Place: Alex Schut. Writing contest winners were First place: Alex Schut and Second place: Kaitlyn Singapole. High Point Winner was Kaitlyn Singapole.

Awards of Appreciation were presented to Carolyn and Lou Sutton (by Bill Jameson) for their long time dedication in making the National Show a success.

Bob Duval, thanked the HOPE (Haflinger Owners Promotional Enterprise) organization for their advertising program and support in presenting the Haflinger to the public, their efforts were appreciated.

Carolyn Sutton on behalf of the Sutton Family presented the AHRY FUND with a check for \$1000. The AHRY FUND financials were passed out by Fund President Phil Greenisen, and it was mentioned that the fund was tax deductible, 501C3, and they would welcome more contributions. It was also mentioned that the purpose of the fund was to award youth scholarships.

Paul Sutton addressed the horse market with a forecast that we would survive and that in 2 to 3 years we would have a shortage of good Haflingers and prices should increase because of the rule of supply & demand. Paul pointed out that the most marketable Haflingers seem to be the 5 year old and up that have a lot of training.

Jennifer Rousseau in reviewing the financial reports stated that the 2006, 2007 final numbers had not been published to the general membership. Joel Greenisen endorses what Jennifer said and that the general membership has a right to know the actual numbers. We cannot expect membership support without them being aware of our status. Discussion followed regarding the annual financial review in process. We have a new accounting firm who is being very thorough. Tana indicated that 2006 and 2007 should be complete by December 1, 2008. Jennifer asked if the final reports would be mailed or in the magazine? Paul Sutton responded that they would be in the Feb/March issue of the magazine.

Phil Greenisen pointed out that a bill cleared the House of Representatives making it illegal to slaughter horses in the United States and they are now working on making it illegal to restrict transport out of the country to slaughter. If you have contacts or relationships with your representatives let them know your feelings. Bob Duval stated that at a recent Farm Bureau Meeting those present were asked their thoughts about the horse slaughter issue.

Paul Sutton stated that the final report of the National Show was not complete; Lou was asked to give a summary. Lou reported that about 230 horses pre-entered but for various reasons cancellations and no shows and some late entries the final number was approximately 220 which were about 25 more than the previous year. It appears at this point that the show ended with a plus of approximately \$4300 for 2008. It must be pointed out that this was made possible only by the fact of over \$13,000 in sponsorships and \$4700 proceeds from the fun auction. Joel Greenisen was also thanked as being the largest sponsor of the AHR National Show. Thanks Joel!

Before the extended discussion on the National Show, Lou Sutton had expressed that he has retired as chair person for the National Show.

Bill Hendershot asked who was going to chair the National Show and where was it going to be held? Paul Sutton indicated that Indiana was available if the membership so desired. Bill Jameson stated that the option was left open to come back and would be discussed at the BOD meeting this next week. He also stated that there were other options and new plans and they would soon get the information out. He was hesitant to discuss in detail until the further information had been gathered and people contacted. Ken Tearman stated that it was very important that the membership be kept informed.

This subject was pursued by asking if there was a possibility of splitting the National Show to Draft at Indiana State Fair and Pleasure at one of the established large Pleasure Shows. There were many ideas presented, National Show in tact to return to Ohio, split show with a futurity show at the fall sale, not splitting and pursuing new locations. Don't piggy

back with another show as there are presently not enough shows. Karen Young asked what was meant by piggy back on another show; did that mean before or after a presently scheduled show?

Bill Jameson explained how the Belgian draft and Percherons use the Indiana State Fair as their National Draft show, and could just add the Haflinger National Draft show with added halter and youth classes.

Karen Young stated from exhibitors standpoint good idea to split due to expenses.

Lou Sutton spoke against splitting show because we are one breed, but also pointed out the difficulty in running the show to break even, noting that the premium payback for 6 places amounted to \$11,700 which went to all classes except dressage and hunter. Lou also pointed out the draft already considers the Indiana State Fair as their Nationals, therefore splitting was beginning to look more feasible. The feasibility of removing some or all of the premiums was discussed.

Jennifer Rousseau stated opposition to split as they show to advertise their breeding animals and have equal prospects from both pleasure and draft exhibitors. She feels the breeders are still the primary financial supporters of the AHR as the breeder contributes most to registrations and transfers.

Ken Tearman asks if moving the National Show back to non school time had been considered. Lou Sutton said that the 2008 show had the largest number of youth and that moving it earlier in the year may conflict with county fairs.

Dave Ayers stated that breeders are breeding one horse. Not draft, not pleasure, and therefore splitting would not be good for the breed. Many people didn't know how long and hard the organization had worked to put together the Breeders to show horses @ futurities plus to get them great prices at the AHR sale. Remember draft or pleasure they are the same horse it's all about a good Haflinger we are breeding one horse. It is all in how they are presented.

Joel Greenisen underscores most of what Dave says it is a "Breeders Organization" and we have gotten away from that.

Bill Hendershot, ok we have listened to a lot of good ideas but I still must ask WHO IS GOING TO TAKE OVER THE NATIONAL SHOW AND RUN IT? It was asked for volunteers to stand up that were willing to run the show for 2009 and no one stood up.

Lou Sutton also reminded of the need for sponsors.

Jacque Woodward stated she plans to keep the Buckeye show aimed at youth and less experienced exhibitors.

Jill Wagner expressed her thoughts that why we pay premiums? She doesn't feel they are required for Nationals.

Jennifer Rousseau said that if it is decided to have a big national futurity consider, qualifying classes at regional level shows. Also she would be willing to be on the committee.

Karen Young stated that the new OHA Jackpot was great and would like to see it continue and expand.

Terry Schott who helped organize the jackpot, expressed some disappointment at the number of participants. Nine weanlings pre-registered (eleven actually participated). Hopefully excitement about the program will grow in future years.

Joel Greenisen warned not to be trapped into thinking that having a futurity at the sale will rescue the horse market. Previous success of this effort was in a completely different time of showing and selling.

Brian Hummel stated NRHA both shows and magazine is very exhibitor friendly and they are putting more money in to the non-pro which is increasing participation. Money makes the world go around.

Theo Hug makes the suggestion that people not take weanlings to sales; it just brings the average prices down.

Ken Tearman stated he was willing to work on the National Show committee but would not be chairperson.

Jacque Woodward would like to see more communication from the BOD to the members. Please don't assume word of mouth keeps all members informed of what is going on. Also referencing the BOD minutes of meetings, no new business? How can many committees go month after month with nothing to report? How can there be no report from the I & C committee when there were location cancellations and successful inspections at other locations?

Paul Sutton stated they would print the reports if they had them from the chairman and that all of our committee members and chair persons are volunteers. Committee chairs are supposed to report monthly to the board. But we have to be careful not to beat them up too much.

Carol Hummel questioned the number of committees, and is it time to review?

Karen Young asks why we are missing 5 of our directors at our one annual membership meeting. Also what was the result of the director elections?

Paul Sutton stated that the election results were:  
At large—Bob Duvall and Paul Sutton, (Dean Baker defeated).  
Southeast—Art Winder seat empty and BOD will appoint in due time.  
Central – Dave Kraus re-elected  
Those from long distance not present due to cost of travel.

Bill Hendershot referenced the By-Laws stating that committee chairman have the responsibility to report on their committee and it is the duty of the BOD to enforce the By-Laws.

Brian Hummel stated that the BOD is expected to know how the committees are operating.

Dave Wilson pointed out all committees are volunteers and for instance the sale committee went from 19 to 4 with the same amount of work.

Ken Tearman stated that in March he talked to several people about a national point system. He submitted his ideas/proposal which were taken from parts of AQHA, APHA, PHBA and had received little feed back.

Jill Wagner questioned where points would be accumulated from? Ken's response was from any approved Haflinger shows also requiring approved judges.

Terry Schott felt that the point system benefit would be two fold, a good way to create interest and improve the value of our animals.

Cele Duvall questioned how do we get more people to run for director positions? She stated the problems of getting petitions signed in some of the more remote areas and suggested consideration of a by-law change to simplify the procedure.

#### Just for Fun - Membership Trivia Questions

1. How many horses has AHR registered as of October 17, 2008?
2. How many people currently own an AHR registered Haflingers?
3. What horse has AHR registration #1?
4. What US owner owns the most registered Haflingers?
5. On what date did the first Haflinger set foot on US soil?
6. Which US stallion has sired the highest number of offspring?

#### Answers:

1. 30,263 Haflingers registered
2. 13,555 Haflinger owners
3. Starwonder born 4/10/56 and imported by Temple Farms
4. Dave Wilson presently owns 72 Haflingers & Ron and Connie Osborn own 57
5. The first Haflinger arrived on 8/18/58.
6. The stallion Aristocrat has sired 303 recorded foals; 133 colts, 170 fillies

Paul Sutton introduced the office staff:

Ruth Schwab, Tana Money Penny, Sue Casseday. Sheila Pearson not present.

Motion made to adjourn by Terry Schott, seconded by Dave Ayres, meeting adjourned at 8:53PM