

## **Annual Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 27-28, 2008**

### **Minutes**

Attending: Paul Sutton, Bob Duvall, Andrew Yoder, Theo Hug, Gary Leisure, Bill Jameson, Dave Kraus, Willie Lehman, Ruth Schwab.

Absent with notice: Michael Levasseur, Mike Bobal, Emily Gibson.

#### **I. Elections of Officers:**

President:

Paul Sutton nominated Bill Jameson. Theo Hug seconded the motion. Bob Duvall moved nomination be closed. Andrew Yoder seconded. President: Bill Jameson

First Vice President:

Bob Duvall nominated Theo Hug. Dave Kraus seconded. Bob Duvall moved nominations be closed. Dave Kraus seconded the motion. First Vice President: Theo Hug

Second Vice President:

Andrew Yoder nominated Bob Duvall for Second Vice President. Dave Kraus seconded the motion. Willie Lehman moved to close nominations. Theo Hug seconded the motion.

Second Vice President: Bob Duvall

Clerk to the Board:

Bob Duvall nominated Emily Gibson for Clerk to the Board. Dave Kraus seconded the motion. Bill Jameson moved to close the nomination. Andrew Yoder seconded the motion.

Clerk to the Board: Emily Gibson

#### **II. American Haflinger Fund**

Update by Carolyn Sutton. Paul Sutton resigned and Mike LeVasseur was added. Phil Greenisen has been elected President. We have had two donations recently. Brian and Dana Mitteer and the Paul Sutton Family. Carolyn explained the finances of the Fund. Two scholarships were issued this year for \$1000 each.

#### **III. Committee Reports**

1. AHR Youth – Youth committee is growing with a newsletter, youth raffle at the sales, youth activities at the sale, and youth prizes at the National Show for all youth participants. Clinics are hard to schedule at the National Show because of the tight schedule.

2. Bylaws Committee – One Bylaw passed by the membership this year. Ruth has updated the website already. Paul suggested that maybe we should look at the term limits on both officers and directors. The pro and cons of term limits were discussed. Due to the fact that it is so hard to get signatures in certain parts of the country, it was suggested that any member could sign for any directors. Several options were discussed. This would require a bylaw change so the bylaws committee will review and make recommendations. Gary suggested we look again at the map of the regions which must be reviewed every three years according to AHR bylaws. The Northeast region currently has the highest number of horses and members, surpassing the previous leader, the Ohio Region. The discussion of dividing the West into two divisions was suggested by Emily Gibson. If split as suggested, the Southwest would have 154 members, and Northwest would have 112. This split would require a bylaw change. Input from Western Region members was suggested and more discussions about this will take place during the year. Willie suggested the Region map that was handed out at the Member meeting be published in the magazine or as an insert.

**Motion: Bob Duvall moved Per Bylaw requirement Article IV, section 6 that the regions were reviewed and accepted by the board. Dave Kraus seconded. No objections. Motion passed.**

3. Classification - Five sites were involved with classification during 2008. Ruth presented the income and expenses for each sites. Sixty-one horses, 2 and over were at this year's classification plus some informal evaluation of youngsters. Discussions followed regarding the possibility of permanent I&C sites, with consideration of locations with airports close by for logistical convenience. Discussed ways to improve the program and make suggestions to the committee.

4. Disposition and Trainability Assessment committee - One site at the ATI in Wooster in connection with the OHA clinics. Disappointment was expressed in the lack of participation this year. It is a new program and needs to be given time to develop further. In 2008 the program lost \$244.48. The board is behind this program and wants to see it continue for at least another year. The program has three parts. The in-hand portion is required with either or both driving and riding.

5. Finance – The new Accounting Firm is currently in process of the Annual Review and appears to be doing a very thorough job. The 2009 Budget was reviewed line by line.

**Motion by Dave Kraus to accept the budget as proposed. Bob Duvall seconded the motion.**

**Duvall - yes, Yoder-Yes, Hug -Yes, Lehman -Yes, Kraus -Yes, Leisure -Yes, Jameson -Yes, Sutton -Yes, Gibson –No (participating via phone). Motion Passed.**

6. Futurity/SIP- Entries were down a bit this year possibly due to the number of mares being bred. With entries low, the premiums were also low. This was Brian Mitteer's first year as chairman and the board appreciated his efforts. There was discussion about moving the Futurity to coincide with the Fall sale instead of the National show. One advantage would be having the same date and location each year.

7. Judges - Joel Greenisen and John Dunkel were present at the meeting to discuss the judges program and the importance of judging within the breed standards. Six judges have C status, and five judges are at the Senior Level. The consensus was that there is a need for more judges so the Board encouraged the committee to more actively recruit. The board advises that the AHR Judges Accreditation Rules needs to be revised to reflect the possibility of a "fast-track" through the program for existing judges that are reactivating and judges with years of experience, consistency and understanding of Haflinger Breed Standards.

8. Membership - Discussed having a contest among members who refer the most new members. Tana says that she can track this through Quick Books. Bob Duval will write up a proposal. The office staff has suggested a promotional issue of the magazine to all Haflingers owners in the United States and Canada. This would mean printing 13,000 copies of one issue (possibly the June/July 2009). The issue could include inserts of a non-member survey, subscription application for the magazine, membership application, current AHR forms, and a list of membership benefits. Articles could include procedural information that needs to be communicated to all registered Haflinger owners. Ruth will contact Schlabach's to find out the printing costs. A campaign to solicit advertisers will be needed to help defray the cost but the large circulation should help make advertising more appealing.

9. National Show - The National Show made approximately \$4300.00. Two hundred and twenty-five horses participated. The pool of judges is always a problem and this year with a large Belgian show nearby, it made it more difficult to find available draft judges. The board discussed the comments heard at the Membership Meeting regarding the possibility of splitting the National Show into separate draft and pleasure shows. After extended membership discussion the comments were pretty evenly split, although no vote count was taken. Therefore the consensus of the BOD is that the show should not be split so as to continue highlighting the versatility of the breed. Revamping the Premiums was one of recommendations. It was suggested that we need to be more aggressive on the Fun Auction to raise funds. There was some discussion on reviewing and updating

the AHR Show rules. Danville has available dates from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. If we move the show to Ohio we draw more Pleasure Exhibitors and less Draft. Locations in Ohio under consideration were Ashland Fairgrounds and Henderson Arena. Bob Duvall will check with Peace Point Equestrian Center in Bethany West Virginia.

10. Nominating – The Board will need to appoint a South East Director to the Board. Several people were either written in on the ballot or solicited personally including Don Jackson, Joy Bolt, Art Winder, Paul Nordan, Dr. William Hunt, and Rachel King. Each perspective candidate will be sent a letter with Candidate's Biography application.

11. Pedigree - The issue of cloning was discussed. The first cloned horse was a Haflinger. There was also discussion on frozen semen and policy involving a data base. Under current rules it is possible that frozen semen would be available after a horse has died or been gelded. The Pedigree Committee will consider changes to the AHR Rules for Registration regarding frozen semen and cloning. There was also discussion on the discount AHR gives if horses are registered as geldings. There is a growing trend of the discount being taken before horses are gelded and without proper paperwork attached to the application for registration.

**Motion made by Dave Kraus that effective January 1, 2009, the \$10 gelding discount be discontinued when registering horses. Bob Duvall seconded. No objections. Motion passed.**

There was discussion regarding the growing problem of people who are handing off pedigrees and skipping transfers. Discussion included the possibly re-registering horses where the chain of ownership has been lost in order to get those horses back into the Registry. The overall feeling is that it is against AHR rules to skip transfers and owners need to be encouraged to process paperwork correctly in order to keep AHR registered horses current. Any horse that has been sold without proper transfer of ownership being recorded with AHR cannot be updated to the current owner without the chain of ownership being re-established. This is most often impossible but when it is possible this is typically at the expense of the new owner. This is not a good reflection on our Organization to those new owners. Therefore all owners are encouraged to properly file each transfer of ownership with AHR.

There was consideration of the request to remove the words from the Application for Transfer: "It is the Seller's Responsibility to" submit the transfer. The staff reports that the current trend is that the buyer more often sends in and pays for the transfer. The Board felt that since it is the AHR rule that the seller submit the transfer, it might cause additional confusion if that line were removed or changed. No change will be made to the Application for Transfer.

Theo relayed a request from a Canadian member regarding The Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. After brief discussion it was decided that this decision is really a Canadian issue and they needed to make their own decision on the matter.

12. Personnel/Office – There was discussion regarding the AHR office staff including all of the additional responsibilities that have been added. Many of the existing AHR programs that were previously handled by volunteers outside the office and the addition of many new programs have increased the responsibilities of our staff. The request was made that the job descriptions for the staff be updated to reflect the additional responsibilities.

13. Planning – This committee is currently inactive and will be temporarily removed from the list of AHR Committees.

14. Points/Awards - The committee is modifying both the recreation and the performance division. A survey was sent to participants asking for input on the direction of the program in the future. One suggestion that is currently being reviewed is that hours on the recreation side never expire, but rather are built upon year after

year as long as the participant stays in the program. Another is that the performance side be modified to follow a Register of Merit program where the horse accumulates points rather than prizes. There are still issues to be resolved such as processes for approving shows and submitting points.

15. Promotion /Advertising -The AHR promotional booth went to five sales. Indiana, Keystone, Mt. Hope and the two AHR Sales. AHR placed printed advertisements in a variety of magazines over the year. The Horse Illustrated ran a feature on Haflingers and AHR and many Haflinger breeders were able to take advantage of special advertising rates for this issue. Feedback indicated that the magazine was very well received. Due to a reduction in the number of registrations and transfers, AHR has less income so it was decided that Regional Support would be suspended for the next year. Advertising and Breed Promotion will continue with a slightly smaller budget than last year.

16. Publications - For the last twelve months we printed over 12,000 copies of *Haflinger Horse*. The average cost of an issue was 4.72. The committee is working on ways to cut cost including investigating several suggestions on alternate lay-out and design options. The committee is also looking into increasing the advertising rates for non-members. Big Dee's Tack Shop (with store in Streetsboro, Ohio and on-line store) has offered us a program to trade to advertising, for promotional dollars that can be accumulated and used for program awards or youth prizes. This offer will be further investigated.

17. Sales – This was the first AHR Sale where changes were enforced regarding the health paperwork submitted to the veterinarian at check in. All consignors responded by arriving at vet check with an original coggins paper. One consignor was sent home because the horses had not received the required vaccinations. For future sales it was suggested that the sale committee consider random drug testing. There was also discussion regarding the comments made by consignors in the sale catalog and the possibility of changing the consignment form to ask more specific questions with regard to training so as to improve the accuracy of the comments.

18. Video-Michael LeVasseur is still collecting videos for a new promotional video.

19. Website –The AHR website routinely gets 4000-7000 hits per month. The new pedigree page is currently the most popular with the classified page and member farm listing page close behind. Another popular page is the list of licensed stallions where pictures of each stallion are being added. The AHR store currently requires that the order form be printed and faxed in, or the order called in. The use of PayPal to facilitate on-line ordering is being investigated.

20. World Federation - A letter from a member who would like to be appointed as an additional AHR representative to the World Federation was reviewed. The board does not see the need for additional representation at this time.

New Business: A question was raised as to whether AHR should take a stand on the horse slaughter issue. This is a very volatile issue and AHR members may feel differently. It was suggested that articles on the pros and cons of the issue be included in the *Haflinger Horse* as part of an educational series.

Next Board Meeting conference call will be December 3, 2008.

Theo Hug moved to adjourn the meeting. Willie Lehman seconded.