

AHR Minutes - General Membership Meeting - 10/22/09

Meeting brought to order at 7:00 PM. BOD present were: Bill Jameson, Gary Leisure, Bob Duvall, Paul Sutton, Andrew Yoder, Dean Baker, Theo Hug, Brian Mitteer, Don Jackson

Discussion: DVD's available of the National Show for sale @ \$10 each

Introductions: AHR Office staff: Ruth Schwab & Sue Casseday; Board of Directors: Welcomed Brian Mitteer as the newest member of the BOD and then had everyone introduce themselves.

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Youth Award Presentations by Aileen Ayers and Carolyn Sutton

Scholarship Program – stated that there is an excellent “new crop of kids” and that it was very hard to pick but it ended up 2 from Indiana – Katie Richard’ and Alexis Zobel. We encourage anyone over 16 to sign up and you will get a quarterly newsletter.

Photo contest winner is Sr Division – Katie Richard’, Jr Division – Alexandria Schut
Writing contest winner is Alexandria Schut
High Point winner is Katie Richard’ with 130 pts

Discussed the American Haflinger Fund – Introduced the members of that board, Dave Wilson, Carolyn Sutton, Scott Sechler, Phil Greenisen and Michael LeVasseur and explained the start of the Fund and the present balances. The group is looking for fund raising ideas for more money to put into the base pot. This Fund is a fully qualified 501C3

Cele Duvall suggested a silent auction at the Fall sale might work next year.

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Robert Eicher discussed about the Disposition and Trainability Program and encouraged members to attend to see what it is all about and that the horses are really “put thru their paces”. The program was developed to quantify the trainability traits of our breed the Haflinger. Binnie Masters is the judge this time and she will be looking for willingness to go thru or to an object the first time thru and then see if the horse improves the second time around.

Bob Duvall had some very positive comments about the program.

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Bill Jameson stated that the Futurity/SIP classes would run at approximately 4PM on Friday. There are 79 horses enrolled and 70+ horses actually showing. Plus the Ohio Haflinger Assoc. donated \$2000 to be added monies to the weanling classes. Phil Greenisen said the OHA has had some great fund raisers over this past year and the most success is the OHA Cookbook of which there are plenty still available if anyone needs one.

The money that is being added is over and above what AHR puts in for 8 weanling classes for both Draft and Pleasure. \$125 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for 3rd place. PLUS if the winner of any of the classes is an Ohio bred horse (the owner of the mare at the time of service is an Ohio resident) they will get an additional check for \$100.

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Mike Woodward questioned the BOD of the statement that people at the Fall Sale and Futurity Show who had Futurity horses - why they could not put up for sale signs. It was understood that the BOD made the decision but it was never put to a vote.

Much lively discussion followed and then Mike Woodward made a motion that we put it to a vote at the general membership meeting.

After more discussion Chuck Hendershot made the motion to close the discussion and put it to a vote. The vote was 22 for and 5 opposed. Motion for Futurity horses to be able to put up for sale signs passed.

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Steve Townsend brought up how are we going to get more uniformity in the judging of our horses by our judges? We need more consistency.

Joel Greenisen agreed but said the judges committee needs help figuring out how to do it.

Brian Gratzner said he gave his fair the AHR judges names and 3 of them said "sorry we don't judge draft".

Stephanie Hearn questioned the judges committee whether there is a code of conduct for the judges?

Joel Greenisen said no, but in the AHR show rules there is a statement that judges are not to fraternize in advance with the exhibitors.

Stephanie Hearn said that as a new person to the breed and the breed shows she wants to see more professionalism among the judges.

Bob Duvall said that Bill Hendershot did lay out a code of conduct (COC) in the old handbook and we could use that as a base and expand upon.

Chuck Hendershot stated that we need to expand our pool of carded judges.

Lisa Schott agreed that we need a bigger pool but we also need to put in a disciplinary action if the COC is not upheld.

Stephanie Hearn and Steve Townsend stated that we need to encourage new people by holding clinics etc.

Joel Greenisen said he would discuss it at the BOD meeting next week.

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Chuck Hendershot complimented the publication committee and the AHR magazine. We do however need to get the show results of the major Haflinger shows published at no cost to the show committees. They already do enough volunteering and running the shows. He asks that AHR please reconsider to help all of us promote the breed.

Much discussion followed and it was determined that the show people are just asking for as much support as the trail drive information gets.

Show results will be published, however, show committees are asked to submit results of a reasonable length to help reduce printing costs.

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Brian Gratzner wants to know what AHR is doing to stop the spread of the Spotted Haflinger. There are 163 registered in 5 states. He feels that the organization is not even legal and he wants AHR to support their demise.

Paul Sutton stated these are not registered horses so there is not anything we can do as a registry to stop the breeding of them.

Joel Greenisen spoke with Hannes Schweisgut about it and he states that nobody has the total right to the Haflinger name.

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Subject came up about the equity in the National Show sponsorships and where the money was being awarded.

Carolyn Sutton was encouraged that she got \$15,000 in sponsorship dollars and over \$7000 of that from non show people. The four horse hitch was sponsored by a draft exhibitor.

All liked the Champions Center and it has been reserved for the AHR Nationals for the same date in 2010.

John Dunkel stated that it was a great National Show facility but we need to get dates back when the youth can attend without missing school. Bill Jameson said that summer is county and state fair shows. Jennifer Rousseau said that the present dates for her is that the Eventing and Hunter/Jumper shows have their finals for the year at the same time. Jim Arnold said that it is too expensive to both show draft and sponsor at the same time. He would like to see us all work together.

The new AHR DVD was shown to everyone's delight. It is available from the AHR office for \$10.