

General Membership Meeting – 10/21/10

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm by AHR President Bill Jameson.

General members in the audience were invited to introduce themselves to the group in attendance.

Bill Jameson welcomed and introduced new Director Chuck Hendershot followed by the introduction of each member of the Board. Theo Hug is retiring from the board and was presented an Auto Hufheisen as a token of our appreciation for his years of service to AHR.

Aileen Ayers and Carolyn Sutton made the presentation of awards to AHR Youth members who had won awards or contests during the year. Two scholarships were awarded from the AHR Fund to Emily Hummel and Olivia Van Winkle. Bill Jameson reminded the audience that Youth members receive a quarterly newsletter, the opportunity to participate in contests, and the opportunity to apply for a scholarship. He asked everyone to spread the word and to encourage participation in the program.

Phil Grenisen spoke of the AHR Fund and the fact that it is a 501(c)3 charitable organization which means any contributions are tax deductible. The fund focuses on awarding scholarships to deserving AHRY members. Please remember the Fund when considering donations and estate planning.

Lou Sutton presented Brian and Dana Mitteer with the award for High Point Pleasure Performance Horse won at the AHR Nationals with their mare Bonita Rox PA. Dana Mitteer thanked one and all who contributed to a great national show.

Ruth Schwab and Sue Casseday created an incentive for new members who were first time Haflinger owners. It is a pamphlet that is sent to every new Haflinger owner inviting them to become members or magazine subscribers. The names of those that respond are put into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for the AHR Haflinger store. This year we had 172 new members and 38 new magazine subscribers. The winners drawn for this year are new member Donna Montelongo of Anderson, California and new *Haflinger Horse* subscriber Shelby Head of Menaw, Arkansas.

Bill Jameson stated that AHR has been doing everything they can to help save money and complimented both Ruth and Sue in the office for doing a very good job.

Attention was turned to the packets of Committee Reports that each attendee received.

The finance committee chair, Brian Mitteer briefly reviewed the report stating that we were hopeful for a break even at the end of 2010. The cost cutting measures that were enacted during the last year were finally showing as a positive on the bottom line.

The Publication committee report from Gary Leisure was that the largest change was the fact that the magazine design and layout was brought in house and that Ruth is doing an outstanding job with it. In August Wade Donahoo was hired on a contract basis to help our magazine bring in more advertising dollars.

The Futurity Committee chair is Cindy Bunner who was not present but Bill Jameson stated that we had 105 futurity horses entered in 2010. Not all will actually show on Friday but it is the most horses we have had enrolled in a long time.

The Sale Committee report was presented by Phil Greenisen. The committee is continuing to look at ways to reduce expenses. At this Fall sale, we will use volunteer rather than paid ring men during the auction. We have 99 horses consigned to the sale on Saturday with 2 late additions. This year we have the Stallion Parade at 1:00, right after lunch. The sale preview will be immediately following. Then the Haflinger Championship Circuit Awards will be presented and then we move into the AHR Futurity at approximately 4:00. Phil and the committee also made the decision to combine the Futurity and Sale horses in the barns so as not to split the horses from the same farm. They also put blue signs on the Futurity stalls and white signs for the Sale horses.

Disposition and Trainability will be on Friday starting at 9:00 am. Six horses entered, five of which are also in the sale. When the sale horses are in the ring the horse results will be stated.

Inspection and Classification Committee Co-chair John Dunkel reported the highlights for this year. There were two inspections held in 2010, one in Taylorsville, North Carolina in May and one in Ashland, Ohio in July during the Buckeye Show. The scores in North Carolina ranged from 70 to 81 and the scores in Ohio ranged from 70 to 83. The committee developed a handbook which was given to all participants prior to the inspection and they had to sign and return the last page verifying they had read the handbook and understood the inspection process. The committee felt that this helped things run smoothly because everyone knew what to expect and how to proceed. Cost for inspection was \$200 with a discount of \$50 if you got the paper work in 30 days prior to the inspection. Bill Hendershot requested that the New York Gold Classic potentially be considered for one of the inspection sites for 2011.

Bill Jameson reported on the National Show. In 2010 we went back to a four day show with most of the youth classes moved to the weekend. Next year is already scheduled for the same place, Springfield, OH, on Sept 8 – 11. This facility is centrally located for our breed. Many thanks to Carolyn Sutton and Tara Biedenbach for their hard work in successfully soliciting sponsors for the National Show. Paul Sutton thanked Wade Donahoo for cultivating our relationship with the makers of Cowboy Magic who then donated a large supply of their products for awards.

Bill Hendershot complimented Ruth for such a well run show. Ruth forwarded the compliment to co-worker Sue for holding down the show office so well.

Deb Parker wanted to let everyone know that the New York Gold Classic is moving to the last weekend of July in Elmira/Horseheads, New York since the NASCAR races moved onto our show weekend and the hotel rooms would be over \$200 per night if we could even find them. We were fortunate enough that another show moved off that weekend so we are in the process of locking it in contractually.

John Dunkel wanted to discuss the possibility of moving the National Show into the summer when a lot more youth competitors could attend. He complimented the facility and the running of the show.

Lou Sutton responded that right now these are the only available dates for this facility and the draft have the Ohio, Indiana and Michigan State fairs in August so that month would not work. It is common with most breeds to have their Nationals late in the year.

Jennie Deephouse stated that the reason for the late Nationals for other breeds is that they have to qualify not just pay an entry fee.

Mary Procopio would like the schedule reconsidered and not have the dressage days split. She knows of many who did not come because of this reason.

Ruth Schwab responded that during early discussion of the 2010 schedule, the dressage was moved to Sunday. In committee, concern was expressed that some use Sunday as a travel day if they are coming from distance (and our show historically ended on Saturday). Therefore, Thursday classes were added so we didn't see it as a split, but rather an addition of classes.

Mary Procopio suggested we needed to consider splitting draft and pleasure by doing two days draft and then two days pleasure.

Cele Duvall suggested for draft to do like the other shows they show at and start with the 6 or 8 horse hitches and then go down to the 1 versus starting at 1 and going up.

Kevin Flory stated that as a draft exhibitor, he would not like it that way since they want their singles to present at their best and if they start large and work down the horses could be exhausted by the time they showed single. He also requested that we consider ways to shorten the wait time between draft halter classes and performance classes. Ruth said that possibly they could start the draft halter later in the day.

Bill Hendershot commented about his concern for safety at the Nationals with the draft hitches being put in with the pleasure horses for the reinsmanship classes. He also questioned whether the judge can accurately judge the class with the draft having two trots and the pleasure having 3 trots.

John Dunkel suggested we rotate pleasure and draft even more then we already do.

Kevin Flory said that the draft people would be willing to show outside in the covered arena.

John Dunkel said we could learn from the Dutch who have formed a publication relations committee and that way we could promote even more what our horses could do. He agrees that it is too much for the BOD or the office staff of 2 to undertake.

Bill Hendershot commented that HOPE and AHR could work together better in order to promote the breed more effectively.

Chuck Hendershot mentioned about the Haflingers in attendance at the World Equestrian Games and the International Equestrian Festival both held simultaneously in Kentucky. Everyone who participated in these events felt that the breed was well represented and much interest was generated.

Bill Jameson adjourned 8:45 PM.

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