

Annual Board of Director's Meeting, October 24th and 25th, 2011, Akron, OH

Directors: Bill Jameson, Dean Baker, Andrew Yoder, Chuck Hendershot, Brian Mitteer, Gary Leisure, Dave Kraus, and Ruth Schwab. Absent with notice: Emily Gibson and Kim Spann.

Meeting called to order by President Bill Jameson at 8:12 am. First order of business is election of officers:

President: Brian Mitteer
1st VP: Dean Baker
2nd VP: Gary Leisure
Treasurer: Chuck Hendershot
Clerk to the Board: Gary Leisure

Finance –The Treasurer, Brian Mitteer passed out financial spreadsheets summarizing 2011 results through September, projecting the 2011 year-end results and presenting an initial 2012 budget for review. After a discussion an ad hoc committee (Dean, Chuck, Gary) was appointed to explore an amnesty program to recapture registered Haflingers that have been excluded from the registry because of paperwork that was not completed in a timely manner.. The committee will present a plan for the program to the Board at the December 2011 meeting. After reviewing the amnesty program, the same committee will review the fee structure for AHR and present a report to the Board at the February 2012 meeting.

The issue of skipped transfers was discussed. Registry rules currently state that when the chain of ownership is broken the horse becomes a grade. As this seems to be happening more and more, the Board asked the pedigree committee to look at modifying the rules to help new buyers who end up with a horse whose ownership record is outdated, pending verification of the horse's identity.

Bylaws updates passed. New membership types were approved by the membership for 2012.. Unless the membership types are approved again by the general membership they will sunset at the end of 2012, The Bylaw update regarding the annual financial review passed. Revised bylaws will be updated in the handbook and on the AHR website. Per bylaws, the regional structure is to be reviewed every three years. After a discussion by the Board of the current regional structure, Brian **moved that the current regional structure remain the same. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

I&C Committee. The 2011 inspections came in \$800 in the red. The Oregon site lost money and the New York site made money but not enough to cover the loss. The I&C committee has always been charged to assure that each site at least meets expenses. The board requested that the committee explain the deviation in what was expected as far as covering the cost of each site.

D&T – There were six horses that participated in the testing at the fall sale. The feedback from the testing was that the testing took too long and that exhibitors had to come back three times for different parts of the test. The board asked the committee to look at better organization and communication ahead of time to make the day of testing run more smoothly. Chuck Hendershot asked that the committee consider adding an in-hand portion only for horses 2 years and under. Andrew suggested signage that can be posted directing people to D&T. There is a need for more volunteers to help with D&T. Gary will check with students at the Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) to possibly solicit help from the school.

Futurity – Starting at 8:00 on Friday morning worked better. A suggestion was made to use two judges and run pleasure and draft concurrently. The arena in Ashland may be too small to accommodate the concurrent running of draft and pleasure classes.. The other issue with running concurrently is that exhibitors cannot be on both sides at the same time if they are showing multiple horses on both sides. A suggestion was made that pamphlets explaining the futurity be displayed during the show. Exhibitor clinics would be helpful in teaching people the best way to present their horse to the judge. Chuck Hendershot requested that the HOPE program continue in conjunction with the futurity. The board agreed.

Judges – Chuck reported that several new candidates have expressed interest in becoming Haflinger judges. We need to come up with another way to deliver training to reduce the costs to the judges, since we have limited possibilities for income as a judge. . We also need to come up with a way to train performance judges.

Membership – The new tiers of membership were passed by the membership for 2012. We need to continue come up with ways to enhance levels of membership. The membership committee is encouraged to investigate partnering with horse related vendors who are willing to give discounts to AHR members.

National Show – the 2012 show will be a 3 day show on September 6-8 at Champions Center in Springfield Ohio. The dressage day on Sunday will be dropped and more dressage classes will be added on Thursday. Every attempt will be made to not conflict the pleasure halter and dressage class exhibitors. The Board discussed new ADS rule requiring a driver to be in the cart when the cart is stopped between classes (not just someone to head the horse). This rule was instituted for additional safety of all involved with the driving classes, horses, drivers, headers and spectators. No recommendation was made with respect to this rule. The issue of helmets for youth riders and drivers was discussed and the recommendation to the committee is to require helmets for all youth exhibitors. The committee thanked the volunteers who supported the show in 2011 and noted that more volunteers would be helpful at future shows.

Nominating –The list of names derived from the submitted ballots was discussed. After the discussion, a short list of names was given to the nomination committee. The nominating committee will contact the individuals on the list to collect additional information. Several of the write-in candidates did not meet the AHR membership requirements to be eligible for election to a Board position. These individuals will receive a letter from the Board explaining the situation, thanking them for their interest and soliciting their participation on the Board committees for 2012.

Pedigree – The pedigree committee received a request to add photos of the stallions on the AHR stallion list on the website. After investigation, it was determined that the photos are attached to the stallion name on the website, where a photo has been received but the presentation needs to be modified to make the availability of photos more obvious. The office staff will oversee this modification. Discussion continues regarding a complaint brought against an AHR member and the process involved in disciplinary action.

Personnel/Office – The purchase of new computer drives for the office computer server was discussed and approved. Discussion on scanning for the purpose of file retention and cost reduction was held by the Board. Ruth Schwab was directed to get a quote on the scanner and software required for the record retention project.

Promotions – The board reviewed the publications in which we are currently advertising. The feasibility of creating a revised farm directory was discussed and sent to committee for further action.

A discussion was held concerning AHR assisting regional groups attending Equine Expos to promote the Haflinger breed. After the discussion, Chuck made the motion that **the board provide up to \$1000 in sponsorship dollars annually to regional organizations for the promotion of the breed for use at events such as equine affaires or horse expos with individual sponsorships being approved by the board.** The motion was seconded by Dave Kraus and unanimously passed.

Chuck made a motion that **AHR provide the Keystone Haflinger Association with up to \$250 to help promote the Haflinger breed at the 2012 Pennsylvania Horse Expo.** The motion was seconded by Dave Kraus and unanimously passed.

The Board then discussed the prospects of working with HOPE in supporting these regional groups. If the two groups had complimentary programs and worked together we both could leverage our limited funds to promote the Haflinger breed. Chuck was asked to present the idea to HOPE.

Points & Awards - This program is included in the programs being reviewed by the finance committee in their pricing structure discussion. The committee is considering adding a hunter pace division to the Point & Awards program.

After the Points and Awards committee report the meeting was recessed at 8:00 pm. President Bill Jameson stated that the meeting would resume the next morning at 8:00 am with the Publications committee report.

Publications – Gary provided a spreadsheet of the Magazine Recap for the past year. The members voted at the annual meeting that they liked six issues per year after the suggestion that we drop to four. The Board discussed ideas on how to improve the magazine. We need more Haflinger owners to share their stories along with encouraging outside writers. Chuck put out a challenge that each board member find one non-Haflinger owner advertiser for the magazine. We will investigate the possibility of attracting corporate partners. Extra magazines can be requested from the office for distribution at equine events.

Sales – The averages for the spring and fall sales from the past three years were reviewed. Although the prices are very close from sale to sale in the period, it appears that the prices are firming. The volunteer ring men are working out well but need to be reminded to also watch in the upper grandstand for bidders. Catalog order was discussed. Putting the auction on line was discussed. One company that does that is DVAuction.com. Horses sold through the fall sale went to 16 states and Canada with a few slated for export to Korea for a government initiative riding program for young people.

Video – Anyone can submit video clips which will be considered for inclusion in our future promotional video.

World Federation – update pending from North American Vice President to the WHF.

Key goals to focus on over the next five years – The Board began the development of a five year strategic plan with the discussion and establishment of

1. Re-invigorate breed promotion through regional groups.
2. Stop the decline in membership in 2012 with a 10% growth in five years.
3. Initiate a plan to provide accreditation for 20 performance and halter judges and 12 non-breeder “C” judges within 5 years.
4. Increase participation in D&T by 100%.
5. Increase total sale revenue by 25%.

Dean moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chuck seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.