

**Annual AHR Member Meeting
Ashland, Ohio
October 25th, 2012**

The annual membership meeting of the American Haflinger Registry was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday October 25th in Ashland, Ohio by Board President Brian Mitteer. Brian thanked Susie Raber of Baltic Meats and her team for providing the tasty dinner buffet.

The Directors introduced themselves and then each attendee introduced themselves, the farthest coming from Purcell, Oklahoma.

Aileen Ayers and Carolyn Sutton announced the Youth Awards to Emily Hummel for High Point and the Photo Contest and Sara Sheats for the Drawing Contest. Scholarships were awarded to Emily Hummel and Alexandria Schut. Aileen encouraged the AHR Youth members to get more involved and participate in the Youth contests and to work on their scholarship applications throughout the year.

AHR Show committee Chair Lou Sutton and Show Manager Ruth Schwab showed a presentation highlighting the winners of the Draft and Pleasure Performance Awards from the 2012 National Show. The Draft High Point Performance winners were Ferrari BW6 and Willo's Chip RKF, both owned by Kevin & Michelle Flory of Triple F Farms of Greenville, Ohio. The Reserve High Point Pleasure Horse was All American Ladd WRF shown by Emily Hummel and owned by Walnut Ridge Farm of Medina, Ohio. The High Point Performance Horse was Bonita Rox PA owned and shown by Brian and Dana Mitteer of Moravia, New York.

After the presentation there was discussion on whether the exhibitors wanted a Thursday through Saturday show or a Friday through Sunday show. The response showed a slight lead in the desire for a Friday through Sunday show. Since the facility moved us to the last week in September for our show, exhibitor Kevin Flory expressed concern that the draft exhibitors would not come that late in the year due in part, to the cost of re-setting the shoes on the draft horses for one more show at a cost of \$100 per horse. Jacques Woodward suggested investigating the option of incorporating our National Show with the Ohio State Fair August 8-10, 2013. Several past exhibitors at the Ohio State Fair expressed concern about the lack of cooperation and unpleasant attitudes of the staff at that show. Dave Ayers suggested that as a stipulation for our participation, our staff must run our show. Bill Hendershot thought it was a great opportunity and would give us needed exposure. Lou Sutton was directed to make the initial inquiry by phone to Ron Mack on the Ohio State Fair Board and then form a committee to present at the State Fair Board meeting in December. AHR member Julius Heil knows Mary Taylor, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio and offered to forward letters of concern about the attitudes of state employees to her. Carolyn Sutton, who is the lead in soliciting sponsorship for the National Show requested assistance in making those calls.

Paul Sutton, AHR Futurity Committee Chair, thanked the members of the Ohio Haflinger Association for their financial support of the Futurity. They are adding up to \$2800 in payouts to the weanling classes at the 2012 show. Chuck Hendershot added \$500 to help the Futurity and H.O.P.E. will present their awards at the conclusion of the SIP classes.

Board Treasurer Chuck Hendershot summarized the financial reports provided to members in their meeting packets. The organization is financially sound at this time, due to cash on hand. However, we do have challenges as we can't keep dipping into the cash reserves to run the business. Membership continues to decline and is 6% down from last year and magazine advertising is down. Members are encouraged to continue supporting the Registry through membership and advertising in *Haflinger Horse* magazine.

Inspection & Classification Committee chair Bill Hendershot announced that the 2012 program was financially solvent even with the additional expense incurred with including an international judge on the panel. Thank you was expressed to Robert Eicher who was able to get \$2000 in sponsorship money to help pay for the event. Bill asked that anyone interested in hosting a site in 2013 should contact him or a member of the committee. At this time, there are no sites in planning for next year.

Owen Yoder, Stallion Parade & Service Auction Chair asked what everyone thought of mixing the stallions in rather than having a separate "Stallion Row". In some cases, stallion owners also have futurity and/or sale horses and it makes caring for them more difficult since they are in different barns. Most of those that commented felt that "Stallion Row" was a better option for those interested in finding a breeding stallion but also felt that if the stallion owner wanted his stallion stabled with his other horses that should be his option.

Brian asked AHR Member and professional auctioneer Dave Wilson to help by auctioning off some extra dessert and food from dinner. Included were several pies and food platters. Paul Sutton bought the first pie at \$50 and the money went to the general fund. The rest of the food was earmarked to support the Youth program and members were very generous: Apple Pie - \$100 from Kevin Flory; Peanut Butter Pie - \$250 from Paul Sutton; and Cherry Pie - \$275 from Dave Ayers. Additional \$20 food platters were purchased by Tony Matheny, Terry Schott, Mike Williams, Bob Duvall, and Theo Hug. Dave Wilson added his \$100 donation to the collection. Thank you to Dave for his auctioneering skills and to all the donors for their generosity (including those I missed listing during the bidding frenzy!).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Schwab