

The 2013 Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday October 10th, 2013 by AHR president Brian Mitteer. The board members introduced themselves and Brian thanked out-going director Gary Leisure for his 11 years of service on the AHR board. Bill Jameson, who was not in attendance, was also thanked for his service to the board. Brian then asked the members to introduce themselves. There were 60 attendees representing states from New York to Oklahoma.

Bill Hendershot got the discussion started by asking the board if they had any plans to address the problem of the continually declining membership. Board members assured the group that the declining membership was a constant discussion among the board. Ideas were discussed about how to enhance membership to attract the non-breeder horse owner. A core membership benefit for non-breeders is Haflinger Horse magazine. Members were encouraged to support the magazine by submitting articles about what they were doing with their Haflingers, training articles, health articles etc. The possibility of a creating an issue of the magazine that can be printed in large quantities with information/articles/ads that will not become outdated quickly was suggested. This issue could be distributed at expos, vet offices, tack shops and used as a breed promotion tool that could hopefully be paid for, in large part, by the advertisements within the pages.

Attendees were reminded that the Points & Awards program allowed members to track their recreation time as well as show points. The program can enhance the value of the horse by documenting time spent.

Concern was expressed that it is becoming apparent that registration papers are not necessarily important to people looking for a trained horse that they don't plan on using for breeding. Grade Haflingers at the Mt. Hope sale sold just as well or better than registered Haflingers.

The AHR FaceBook page should be more effectively utilized to spread the word on AHR programs, events, and the versatility of the breed.

A brief discussion was held about the possibility of offering a no-sale option at the AHR sales. The overall comments indicated that it was not a feasible option.

A question was asked if there was a way to tap into the "it looks like a Haflinger" owners that would like to participate in Haflinger events with their unregistered horses.

Gary Leisure asked the members to be willing to get involved. There will be many committees that will need members that are willing to bring fresh ideas and hard work to the table. If you are interested in serving on any committee, please let any board member know of your interest.

Brian thanked the members for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.