

Annual AHR Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order by Brian Mitteer at 8:15 am on Monday October 14th 2013.

Directors Present: Ian Wengerd, Andrew Yoder, Brian Mitteer, Paul Sutton, Dave Kraus, Ruth Schwab. Carolyn Sutton-Acting Clerk.

Appointment of Directors:

Names put forward for appointment to the Board for open seats included Susie Haszelbart from Elizabeth, Colorado for the Western Region, Melanie Cornman from York, Pennsylvania and Chuck Hendershot from Bristow, Virginia (and Cameron Mills, New York) for At-Large positions.

Paul Sutton moved to accept the appointment these three directors for 2014. Dave Kraus seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers:

President: Brian Mitteer

1st Vice President: Paul Sutton

2nd Vice President: Andrew Yoder

Treasurer: Chuck Hendershot

Clerk to the Board: Susie Haszelbart

Brian Mitteer moved to accept these officers. Paul Sutton seconded. Motion carried.

Finance:

Chuck presented the finance report for the first eight months of the year and projected another year of ending up in the red. Membership continues to decline year after year which is a significant loss to the operating funds of the Registry. There was discussion on creating a breeders membership that would have different cost structure as compared to an owner membership.

Office:

The landlord has been made aware of our situation and in order to keep us from looking for alternative space, he has agreed to a two-year contract reducing the rent from \$1251 to \$800 for the next two years. Paul suggested contacting AT&T (Registry phone and computer lines) because his business doesn't pay as much for phone service and wondered why the Registry's was more. The Registry has five incoming phone lines which include 3 phone lines, 1 fax line, and one DSL line for the computer. The contract with AT&T is reviewed annually and adjusted. We will investigate if there are any significant savings by dropping from three phone lines to two.

Bylaws: A work group split off to review the current bylaws. The recommended changes were then presented to the board for consideration. The approved changes will be presented to the membership for vote on a future ballot.

Nominating: There is still one vacancy on the board for an At-Large Director. Prior to last years restructuring of the regions, the director seats were staggered so four of the twelve director positions would come up for election each year. After the reduction to four regions and nine directors, there will need to be some term adjustments so that multiple seats do not expire at the same time. The committee will make recommendations back to the board on how to correct the term expirations using the newly appointed directors.

AHR Youth: The board recognizes that the Youth are the future of the breed and the Registry so the recommendation was made to bring an “honorary” youth director to the board. This will need to be examined by the Bylaws Committee.

I & C: The Board has directed the Classification committee to modify the current regulations and procedures to incorporate the following concepts in the I & C process. It is directed that all the judges’ scorecards/worksheets are the property of the AHR and the Classification committee and will be turned in at the time of the classification. In cases where a consensus cannot be met among the judges, a procedure will be instituted to resolve the conflict and may involve a majority vote, averaging or excluding a score. Measurements will be completed by individuals that are not inspectors of that group. It is felt that the judge should not see the horse prior to it entering the ring for official inspection. Furthermore, the board asked that the I & C committee include an international judge on the panel whenever possible. Dave made a motion direct the committee to take the action required to develop procedures to incorporate these concepts into rules for the 2014 inspections. Andrew seconded. Motion carried.

Judges: Chuck advised the board that he has had discussions with international judges who expressed interest in coming and judging in the U.S. The New York Gold Classic is tentatively planning on including judges’ clinics and a Classification that weekend. USEF has developed and forwarded requirements for an “Affiliate” member. If AHR is successful in becoming a USEF affiliate, the Haflinger rules would be included in the USEF rule book and all USEF judges would be required to be familiar with our rules and breed standards, greatly expanding our show judge pool. It was requested that a judge evaluation sheet be developed which would be used to help evaluate and train judges.

D & T: There does not seem to be much interest in the program. We are going to turn the committee over to the sale committee for now.

Futurity: Returning to having a different judge for SIP was well received. There was a discussion about the possible need of braiding requirements for Draft horses. It was decided not to make any rules regarding braiding.

Sales: The averages were up from last year’s Fall sale. The feasibility of instituting a \$300 to \$500 minimum bid at the AHR sales was discussed. In lieu of a no-sale option which was brought up at the member meeting, could the option of a “select” sale be investigated? Perhaps it could be held Friday night, separate from the actual sale, limited to possibly 10 or 12 Haflingers, that would allow consignors to bring high quality horses

that they wouldn't risk consigning at an absolute sale. Consignment fees would be much higher, but the consignor could set a higher starting price and have the option to take the horse home. The sale committee is directed to write an article for the magazine to determine interest. The order of go for the uncataloged horses was discussed as it was run differently than it was published at the fall sale. The sale committee is to determine the order of go for future sales and only announce prior to the sale. The timing of the stallion service auction was discussed as to whether it would be better to start the sale with the stallion service auction. The sale committee will determine this with input from the stallion owners. The sale committee will need to include additional members. With the reduction in the office staff as of January, the Committee will have significantly more responsibility for the operation of the sale.

Several stallion owners objected that perspective bidders and breeders had to buy a stallion parade book. The plan next year for the stallion book will be for the parading stallion owners to each receive 10 books with the option of buying more and then offering the rest of the books for \$2.00 at the AHR booth. Only stallions where service is being sold will return to the ring on sale day.

Points & Awards: The program has value for people who are not showing in the breed show and have horses that are used for recreation. The objective is to revamp the program and then promote the program. It was recommended that there be no fee and that this becomes a reward for membership. This will require getting sponsors for the program.

American Haflinger Fund: It was suggested that we write an article for the magazine that explain the program to parents and youths.

National Show: Feedback from the Draft exhibitors about the National Show/Indiana State Fair was very favorable. Walnut Ridge Farm made and donated the trophies. This year the coliseum was under construction but the show should be back there in 2014. In 2013 100% of the sponsorship dollars collected are going to the payouts for the Draft Exhibitors. The board would like to enlist the help of the draft exhibitors in getting sponsorships for the Draft National Show going forward.

Pleasure National Show: The committee is investigating other facilities, but probably will be in Hilliard for another year. Prices were lowered for stall fees, entries, and camping due to the step down of the facility. The committee is also thinking of going to a four day show so our schedule is easier for the exhibitors. The show plans to add a Western Dressage class.

Personnel: A sub-committee looked at the finances in regards to the staffing of the office. This sub-committee reported back to the board in the morning. With the present financial situation, it was determined that the budget only allows for one person in the office. The decision was made to reduce office staff from two to one as of December 31st, 2013. This will mean that the office will not be staffed on some days and the phone may be answered by an automated attendant directing the caller to leave a message. Maintaining the registrations, transfers and stallion licenses will be the main goal for the office, along

with general customer service. The programs will generally need to be handled by volunteers outside the office.

Pedigree:

In order to qualify for membership with the World Association and be in compliance with our own Registry rules, it has been determined that we will designate those horses within our Registry that qualify as pure Haflingers as defined by World Federation standards of less than 1.56% non Haflinger blood.

Chuck made a motion that all horses that have no more than 1.56% non-pure blood will be marked with a “W” within the registration number. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

There are many horses in our files that are probably not living or that people have sold without transferring the papers. The board will be looking for volunteers that are willing to participate in a phone campaign to contact recorded owners to verify the ownership information is correct. It would be an informational call to update our records and could also be used as a membership drive.

Promotions: Discussion was held concerning the coordination of Haflinger organizations to best promote the horse. We need a strategy on how, when, and where to advertise to best promote the breed. Develop a list of points of why you need a “registered” horse. Marketing the Registry along with the horse should be a goal.

Publications: An ad hoc committee will be formed to organize a special publication for general distribution including Equine Affaire, horse expos, county fairs etc. The goal is an informative magazine including commercial ads, farm ads and articles on the breed and the importance of the Registry. With a printing of 10,000 copies, it is hoped that outside advertisers would participate and help pay the printing costs. Haflinger Horse advertising packages that were offered to members in 2013 will be offered again through the 2014 magazine year.

Video: This committee is going to be discontinued for now.

World Federation: There will be a World Show in June of 2015. Chuck is considering putting together a group to go from the United States. The breed show, held every five years, typically includes 600 to 700 horses of all ages. The Friday and Saturday evening exhibitions will include participants from several countries. Chuck reported that there were several countries that the new Federation refused to recognize as their Registries included Haflingers that exceeded the 1.56% non pure blood.

Long Term Goals:

1. To keep the Registry financially solvent.
2. To Promote the Registered Haflinger.
3. To Increase Membership in the Registry.

Brian adjourned meeting at 12:00 noon on Tuesday.