

The 2014 Annual AHR Member Meeting was called to order 7:12 PM by Board president Brian Mitteer. Board introductions. Member introductions.

Brian reminded that last year everyone was asked to get involved. He then recognized and thanked members of committees for their hard work over the course of the year.

Lisa Schott announced the Youth contest winners. Chuck Hendershot reviewed finances. Year to date we are in the black, however, revenues are down. Membership leveled off for the first time in four years. We had been seeing about a 20% drop in the last few years. The Magazine operates at a loss so think of advertising your farm and horses. Also check with local business in your area that provide products or services that would be useful to our readers.

Chuck gave report on the classification committee. There are some changes to procedures for classification sites coming for 2015. The committee is looking for people willing to manage and operate a site for classification. Contact the AHR office or committee. There will be a December 31st deadline for classification sites. Site forms to be posted on the website. Based on forms returned that will help decide where sites are realistic. Theo Hug asked what the minimum number of horses is for an I&C site? Bill answered that it is typically about 20 horses but it is based on expenses. For a site in Canada, a major expense is judge travel to the site. Theo will work with the committee to determine costs.

World Haflinger Report. World show in June 4-7, 2015. Five farms attended the 2014 filly sale and bought fillies. Those will be staying in Austria and will be prepped and shown at the 2015 World Show before being exported. A group will be going to the Show so anyone interested should contact Chuck.

Judges report. We started the year with six classification judges. We still need to add show and I&C judges. This year we had two judges meet the requirements for classification. Classification judge's cards will be issued to Robert Eicher and Nicole Cable.

Brian called on committee chair Robert Eicher to give an update on futurity. Robert asked the exhibitors to please complete the questionnaire included in their show packets. Feedback is necessary in order to improve the program. The committee is working towards larger payouts for the three-year old classes to encourage people to stay in the program.

Bill Hendershot reminded the committees to help the AHR office with as much workload as possible since we are reduced to one employee.

Andrew encouraged members to bring horses to the sale. Hopefully the new program to sell futurity winners at the sale will be successful. Bill Hendershot asked if it would make sense to offer a sale slot to the first three places rather than just one. That may be an option in the future once the logistics wrinkles are ironed out.

Jacque would bring horses if we allowed a no-sale option. Austria classifies their fillies with a different starting price for each class. There is a No sale option if it doesn't meet the minimum bid. Theo Hug – as a buyer has different thinking. He won't drive 1500 miles to go to a sale with a no-sale option. Having a minimum price per horse is ok. Figure out a way to increase the number of buyers.

Phil Greenisen asked for feedback on why our sale numbers have dropped off. Some went to Mt. Hope instead? Any thoughts? The responses included consignment price, payment the same day, more buyers because of the diversity of the sale.

Rocky and Cindy Bates came from Oklahoma. It is worth coming the greater distance for multiple events like this sale and the Mount Hope sale. Cindy suggested putting an ad for our sale in the Mt. Hope sale catalog.

Robert Eicher did send a horse to Mt. Hope because he wants to expand the market for his farm. He also brought two to AHR sale.

Owen Yoder asked what people thought about having the stallion service auction first on Saturday at the spring sale rather than between the stallions and mares. Stallion owners felt it was a better time so it will be scheduled that way in 2015.

Bob Duvall asked what happened to D&T. Andrew responded that the program was discontinued at this time due to lack of interest.

Steve Webel asked how we could do more in association with the Indiana State fair and National Draft Show. Is it possible to have a booth? Everyone agreed it was a good idea. Finding people to staff a booth is a challenge and support from the regional groups would be necessary.

Andrew encouraged the group to be enthusiastic and “keep this going as long as we can. The Futurity and member meeting is time for us to get together and exchange ideas and support one another.”

Ian Wengred, AHR's youngest board member, looked at the crowd assembled and said “There's not many here my age. Who is going to carry on? Let's keep this going.”

Amidst the chuckles and comments about the “old”... I mean “older”... I mean “wiser” members of the board, Brian called for additional business. No additional business was brought forward. Meeting adjourned.