

The 2014 Annual Director's Meeting was called to order 8:10 a.m. on Monday October 13th by President Brian Mitteer. Additional in attendance are Andrew Yoder, Chuck Hendershot, Paul Sutton, Bill Ellingson, Melanie Cornman, Ian Wengerd and Ruth Schwab.

Moment of Silence and Personal Reflection

Introductions.

Election of Officers

- President – Paul Nominates Brian Mitteer. Seconded by Andrew Yoder. No objections
- 1st VP – Ian nominates Paul Sutton. No Objections
- 2nd VP – Ian nominates Andrew Yoder. Chuck seconds. No objections
- Treasurer Ian nominates Chuck. Seconded by Paul. No Objections
- Clerk to the Board – Paul Nominates Suszie Haszelbart. Chuck seconded. No objections.

Finance

Chuck Hendershot reviewed the Balance Sheet updating the board on where we stand financially as an organization. Revenue is down but the cost cutting measures implemented for 2014 have offset. Magazine revenue is down. National Show income is in the black. Chuck suggests re-implementing the stallion breeding report for the purpose of giving us an idea on the number of foals to be expected in the following year.

- Preliminary Budget 2015

Not substantially changed from 2014 budget.

Office

Ruth Schwab advised the board of a lot of extra time spent in the last 2 ½ months in order to get everything done by deadline. Help in the office is really needed at crunch time. One person can't keep up especially in the fall. Discussion of a part time person or an intern ensued and Chuck was asked to review the budget for 2015 to see if there was a way to add a part time person for part of the year. There was discussion on rent vs purchase of office space. Changing our address is challenging since forms sent out in the last 15 years with multiple addresses are still in circulation. No action at this time indicated.

Bylaws

Committee Chair Paul Sutton advised that all bylaws changes approved my membership vote October 2014.

- Other – Chuck opened the discussion on adding Directors to the board that have expertise in specific areas where we need help such as a marketing person, breeder, draft exhibitor. After discussion Chuck moved a proposed change to bylaws: ***Set the minimum number directors on the board at 6 and a maximum number of board members at 12.*** Seconded by Paul Sutton. Motion Carried.
- Chuck opened a discussion on our current bylaw which states that director candidates have a minimum membership requirement of three years. This eliminates new and excited Haflinger owners that may be excellent candidates. Chuck proposed a bylaw change: ***Remove the 3 year membership requirement and replace it with a requirement that board members must be a current member and maintain membership during tenure on the board.*** Bill Ellingson seconded. Motion Carried.
- Chuck made a motion: ***The proposed changes to the bylaws be presented to the membership in a special election through an insert in the Dec/Jan issue of Haflinger Horse with a return deadline of December 31st.*** Bill Ellingson Seconded. Motion Carried.

Nominating

Paul Sutton reviewed the 2015 seats up for election. Andrew Yoder will reach his term limit so his At-Large seat will be up for election. Brian Mitteer and Paul Sutton will be up for re-election. Discussion about possible candidate for one current remaining board seat. Names written in on the recent election ballot were considered for appointment. Appointment tabled until the result of the special election.

AHR Youth

Reviewed the committee report submitted at the member meeting. The committee is to be reminded that funds are available through generous donations to the Youth program in excess of \$2000. Discussion on suggestions for the committee to use the funds available to benefit the widest number of youth participants. Suggestions can be made to the committee chair.

I&C and judges

Bill Ellingson stated that he has found a perception that the program lacks credibility. Brian Mitteer said the board spent a lot of time at last year's meeting setting recommendations that the I&C committee refined. Comments heard indicated that people felt that the 2014 I&C was again dominated by one judge. Chuck explained the difficulty in setting judges panels with so few Classification judges to choose from so the focus should be on getting new judges for both the Classification program and for Haflinger shows. Two new judges going forward are Robert Eicher and Nicole Cable. The Committee plans to request site coordinators to step forward by December 31st with site location suggestions.

National Pleasure Show – Lou Sutton and Duane Stutzman in attendance.

2014 show was a success. Feedback from exhibitors indicates a request to look for an alternate facility. Lou Sutton has done a great job for many years. Duane Stutzman was new on the show committee this year and will take over more responsibilities going forward. Duane thanked the Sutton family for their years of support. Hilliard has been a great transition spot as it has been very cost effective. An alternate sight being considered is Eden Park, located in Sunbury, 20 minutes NE of Columbus off I-71. Two indoor arenas, 54 premium stalls with an additional 300 8 x 10 stalls, Show Office, three outdoor arenas, three indoor washracks with heated water, cafeteria and vendors on site, camping with electric and water. The downfall to this site is no shower facilities. Portable showers are an option and are being investigated with the facility. Dates open are last two weekends in August and the second weekend in September. Third week in August is out due to conflict with the Draft National Show. Chuck made a motion: ***Give Duane the authority to execute a contract with Eden Park for facility rental not to exceed \$5000 for either the 4th weekend in August or second choice being the 2nd weekend of September.*** Andrew Yoder seconds. Motion Carried.

Futurity.

The new committee in 2014 did an excellent job of reinvigorating the Futurity. The committee implemented changes for 2014 and 2015 with the plan to increase the payouts for the 3 year old futurity class. There was discussion on the need to figure out a way to get the futurity show in front of potential new buyers. Is there a better location to promote the breed? Adding futurity horses to the sale got off to a slow start with only 1 of the 20 horses eligible that actually sold, however, it is felt the idea is good and should continue. Logistical issues with the paperwork were discussed and the committee will be asked to consider additional information based on board discussion.

Adjourned for the evening at 4:45 pm.

Tuesday – Called to order at 8:09 am.

Futurity continued. Discussion continued about the 3 year old championship following a letter read from an exhibitor asking if the performance should be a requirement. Referred back to futurity committee for consideration.

Points & Awards

Brian asked that we remind buyers (in the sale catalog) that points remain with the horse and can be continued by the new owner. Can Performance side be cumulative also? Is there a way to make the program free? Committee will be given the recommendation to figure out a way to revamp the program and remove the bulk of the tracking from the office.

Pedigree

No issues have come to the pedigree committee in 2014. Ian reviewed the project where he called owners to update records. Chuck reported that the World Federation has passed a rule that all pedigrees will show the % of Arabian blood on the pedigree. Some Haflingers in our Registry are more than 1.56% Arabian blood due to the early acceptance of horses with a higher percentage. As time goes on pure breeding is diminishing the number of horses that exceed the 1.56% allowed. Discussion is on-going as to how AHR should handle these horses in our Registry. Chuck asked that AHR reinstate the stallion breeding report with the expectation that it would help for planning purposes of how many foals to expect the following year. This would be for planning purposes only and there would be no fee associated with the report. Bill asked the question as to why all fillies need to be DNA tested for registration. Some will never be used as brood mares. At the time DNA was initiated, most Haflinger mares were expected to be bred at some point. Most stud colts do not require DNA testing as the majority will be gelded. Ruth pointed out that errors are much more easily caught and corrected if found early. No changes recommended at this time.

AH Fund

No Scholarship requests came in for 2014.

Promotion

Even though finances are tight the Board agreed that advertising is a necessary expense. Equine Affairs and Horse Expos are the best advertising as it puts the breed in front of a large audience of the right people. It is important that Regional Groups be encouraged to step up and support these events in their regions whenever possible. Melanie mentioned that the Horse Expo in Pennsylvania in Harrisburg had no Haflingers last year and that we need to make sure Haflingers are represented March 5-8, 2015. Horses for a demo and volunteers to help at the booth are needed. The Ohio Haflinger Association does a great job at the Ohio Equine Affaire. The OHA and the AHR had booth space at the Ohio Horse Progress days and also received TV coverage of the Haflingers. The discussion turned to the AHR Facebook page and some felt the page should only be open to AHR members. The page has become a place to advertise products and horse rescue which is not the purpose of our page. Other Facebook pages address those needs. Should commercial advertising be permitted? Promotions committee will be asked to design a magazine advertising package that could include permission to advertise on our facebook page. Brian indicated that people were disappointed that there is no calendar for 2015. Due to workload the office was not able to produce a calendar yet. Promotions committee will look at options for creating a calendar.

Publications

A suggestion was made to reduce the number of issues of *Haflinger Horse* magazine. Brian reminded us it was brought up at the Membership meeting in 2013 and the membership asked the number of issues remain six so no changes are recommended at this time. Members should continue to be encouraged to submit articles and advertising. Committee members are requested to solicit articles, advertising and photos for each issue. Ruth pointed out that a small business could reach our 800 – 1000 members and subscribers for one full year for less

than the price of a postage stamp. A 48 cent stamp to 800 recipients is \$384. A quarter page ad that runs in six consecutive issues is \$250.

Sales

Andrew advised that the committee recommended that the stallion service auction be moved to the first thing on Saturday morning starting in 2015. Also the modification was made that stallions may be presented during the sale on Saturday even if a service is not being sold. The Fun Auction in the spring continues to decline in the amount of items donated resulting in less funds generated. It was suggested that a person be appointed to solicit donations during the year. Andrew suggested that we start the spring tack sale later in the day in the hopes of increasing attendance. Andrew also asked if it was time to increase the minimum bid which is currently set at \$175. The Board referred the discussion to the committee for recommendations. Uncataloged horses accepted until uncataloged deadline and an insert to the catalog will be created for those horses. After the uncataloged deadline the owner will be responsible for providing the insert and copies for distribution.

World Haflinger Breeding and Sports Federation (formerly World Federation)

Do we want to continue involvement? Chuck advised that a website is being developed and the USA is being invited to participate. Concern was expressed that the Directors of the World Federation disrespect the US. What are we getting as a member of the World Federation? The jury is out on the new organization and hopefully the value will become apparent with time. Their first year has been used to get organized and they are now moving into marketing and promotion. Potential marketing of US horses in World Federation countries would be a value add for membership. Having access to international judges would also be a value add. There are currently 32 member countries.

Long Term Goals Reviews

- To keep the Registry financially solvent
- To promote the Registered Haflinger
- To increase membership

Other Business

Ad hoc committee recommendations: Breeder's Committee (Chuck): What are they looking for and what do they want? Performance Committee (Paul): What can we do for you and your clients?

Andrew makes a motion to adjourn. Chuck seconds.

Adjourn 12:38 pm