

2021 Convention Reports

Kathy Hetrick notes for '21 convention

Cheryl and I were together for this whole week and shared the jobs of note taking even though we were in the meetings together.

Sport Horse Nat'l Show Comm....Prior to this meeting the commission held 2 closed sessions and elected Their Chairperson and Vice Chair. We were told the resolutions were already handled. There was a short review of the approval and disapproval of the resolutions they covered. We then watched a video of WEC and discussed the amenities in Ohio.

The talk then turned to the Sport Horse Nationals schedule changes, breaks, barn parties, etc. The meeting was adjourned early.

Local Level Involvement.....We heard the reading of the minutes from the last meeting of the committee. It was especially noted that the tab on the AHA page was changed from "outreach" to "involvement". The committee is hoping to make searching easier for our members.

We then moved on to reviewing current programs and launch dates. New programs noted are May Arabian month and Ride an Arabian week for 2022. Other current programs are the lucky listener reading program which includes children visiting local farms and read to the horses. The committee is also investigating creating a scout merit badge program and developing materials to help farms offer services with a how to guide.

Working Western Committee...There were 105 attendees and we were told the committee had 5 resolutions to consider (3, 10, 11, 14 & 15). We were advised the general consensus was to approve all of them.

It was reported that at youth nationals there was an increase in entries for cow work. Participants are asking for patterns to be posted 2 weeks in advance. The talk was very active and nothing was settled at this time. Also riders are asking for more trail courses and levels.

Under U.S. Nationals we talked about scheduling issues. The model for the industry has changed in the last couple of years because of covid. The committee is working to rewrite the schedules

Talk turned to sweepstakes/jackpot classes. Some people want 1 go round and some want to keep the 2 go rounds because interest is up. The committee has agreed to address this issue in scheduling. The committee is recommending sweepstakes be a stand alone class with 1 go round. Time and space are the main issues in the committee's answer.

The committee announced there will be a sub-committee to address trail classes

The next discussion was to address the 10yrs and under w/t class and the

proposal to add the word "may" to the part about entering the arena. It was proposed to allow a rider to enter the ring at the trot but was discussed and knocked down as unsafe and we will keep the rule to say riders will enter the ring at walk.

We were told the competition advisory committee handbook is not done yet so any additions could be put in but must be addressed ASAP.

Eventing and Driving Comm...The committee started by stating they were given no resolutions to discuss. It was announced that anyone wanting to serve on the committee should remember to sign up each year.

Discussion on eventing began with talking about USEF describes eventing to be a 3 stage event (jumping, dressage, and cross country). It was noted that in 2013 aha offered exhibition classes and in 2014 there were horse trials. Now members are asking to put combined training back in to the schedules/shows. Exhibition classes offering ribbons have been a success and the committee plans to continue in 2022.

Members are wondering if there is enough interest in a 3 phase event. We talked about get AHA interested in recognizing the event.

We then moved on to driving. It was presented that in 2021 the class Gambler's Choice, was replaced with a class called Reverse Psychology, wherein the driver would run a course of numbered course then turn and run it backwards. Everyone loved it and it will remain for 2022. Discussion was on ways to have different classes and entice more participation. One class mentioned was Coach Dog Class.

General Session.....So we began Saturday morning with technical difficulties as people could not find the task bar that was supposed to be at the bottom of the page. The tech crew got it all fixed and the meeting began. voted on and passed the standing rules and the agenda.

For the treasurer's report it was noted that do data was lost from the 2 hacks suffered in 2021. All the work was done by hand until the system back up and running. A working capital amount of -38K as of 3/31/21 was shown. the association since received ppp monies in 2021 and the overall financial picture is better than it has been in years. Discussion was on challenges and uncertainties for the future.

There were several presentations from the commissioners review panel and the American Horse Counsel, Nominations were opened to all committees and panels.

Canadian Nationals plans are proceeding for 2022. Brandon City is sponsoring show merchandise and it was noted that Canada still insists on proof of vaccine to enter Canada.

Presentations on virtual shows and classes. A report from the distress fund. There was also a report from the Exec. director.

We held voting on resolutions. Resolution 16 had been withdrawn. Committees pulled res 1, 2, and 4 from the consent agenda and the remainder passed in the

consent agenda 180 to 22.

There was a presentation on scoring and it was announced that the association needs scorers and an email would go out in January to invite anyone to train.

There were then discussions on resolutions 1, 2, and 4. Resolution 1 passed 138 to 56. Resolution 2 was referred to the research committee 187 to 2. Resolution 4 was passed 153 to 49. I want to note here that the committee approved this resolution, but the SH commission did not. The discussion was long and it had to be voted on to end the discussion then voted on the resolution itself.

The vote moved to nominees for offices. For commissioners review panel, we have Donnie Bullock, Jeff Caldwell, Ron Gekiere, Canthy Vecsey and I missed whether Kevin Price or Tony Steiner was voted in. Ethical Practice Board elected are Kim Dickinson, Laura C Mickelson, and Cory Soltau. Judges and Stewards Selection officers are now Ann Knoop Caarl Malicote, and Judie Mitten. Nominating Committee only had 3 nominees so no vote was necessary and members are Karen Caughell, Katie Russell, and Peggy Weems. And Probable Cause Panel nominees had an addition of Robert Obermiller. Tom Connelly was elected.

Next was a presentation on distance riding. Door prizes were awarded and then more presentations by the Youth Assoc, the Discovery Farm program and it was announced that Feb 19 2022 will be National Arabian Horse Day. Other presentations were by the Arabian Foundation and we heard from the Judge and Stewards Sel. Committee the list of judges and stewards hired for next year.

The convention and planning committee presented the plans for Myrtle Beach in 2022 and after voting it was approved that the convention would be virtual every other year. For 2024 Reno was the approved location.

Cheryl Schmitt AHA Convention 2021

Amateur Committee.....The discussion began with changing the jr. age from 18 to 21. The hunter jumper people were for the change but after discussion most were against the change. It was noted that effective Dec 1 2021 at 18 you are automatically considered amateur and 17 and under you are a non-pro.

Resolution 16-21 has been withdrawn. Discussion then turned to 2-21. Most of the talk centered on hoof length and shoe measurements. The intent is to change the disqualification to the specified class rather than be disqualified for the entire show. Members asked for verbiage to the effect that the exhibitor must get the horse reset prior to resuming showing.

The vote in the room showed 44 to 22 for the change.

Canadian National Show Commission....I came in 20 minutes late. There was talk of the effects of COVID and how each district had different restrictions to work with.

There is the possibility of adding western dressage and sport horse classes. Everyone is excited for 2022 as there looks to be a show again. They are already planning the schedules. They did say they are waiting for official

word but if it were given tomorrow, the show would be a go.

Equine Stress/Research....Over 70 participants logged in and discussion began with resolution 1-21.

Someone pointed out that horses with a blindness issue already compete under saddle so the committee had been asked to bring the resolution to allow the in hand class be included in that allowance. Much discussion ensued on reasons for blindness and that since SH in hand is regarded as a breeding and conformation class, such blindness would be a fault and should not be included. It was suggested that only geldings with loss of sight be allowed in the class as they are not reproducing. The National Committee are not for the change unless it be only for geldings.

Discussion then ensued about genetics and blindness. A study from Europe reported heritable blindness is about 1% and appaloosas do have a heritable blindness issue so the half arabs, half appaloosas would present an issue. The committee decided to have more discussion as regards changing the wording to "geldings".

A straw vote in the room showed the majority opposed the resolution as written.

We then moved on to resolution 2-21. Discussions centered on shoes and pads which differed from hoof length. Some people mentioned the use of lead with can be put on then removed vs. bar shoes. It was pointed out that more weight can cause more stress. The committee agreed to revisit the shoeing ruld for divisions. Majority of the straw vote showed opposition to the resolution.

Following all the discussion there followed a quick overview of the projects of the foundation which was cut short as we ran out of time.

Arabian Horse Found...There was a change of agenda and we covered research before a financial report.

It was agreed to keep the meeting open instead of closing the second half. Beth Minnich gave a report on projects including JIE, ECA, EMS, LFS, OAAM and melanoma as well as the effects of hoof trimming. It has been discovered that JIE does not involve only 1 gene but several and the study is shifting to finding what other genes are involved.

Projects not funded yet but planned for include IRH {which is bleeding from the kidneys and is exclusive of arabians}, additional therapy options for soft tissue injuries, muscle diseases (noting that commercial testing does not align with the needs of the arabian), and OAAM1 and OAAM2 as they have discovered different genetic mutations. It was noted that research shows numbers of affected horses is dropping.

Under the financial report we learned that the foundation gave out more scholarships than they had money for. They were able to use some funds from their market account and will budget accordingly for 2022. There was a then a short discussion on their parameters for scholarships.

Marketing/Dev & Promo...The discussion began with the concept of collaboration of clubs, regions and breeds. The example of Louisiana All Arabian cub worked together with Alabama All Arabian club to hold a combined show in 2021 and Region 15 and 16 coming

together in 2022 were given as how to work together and keep our shows going. Ideas were presented on making shows and events more fun by having parties, auctions, costume classes, etc.

Other discussions included ideas for creating events using social media, holding open houses, sponsoring dinners to raise money. The committee is open to and welcomes input for new ideas from everyone.

Started general session at 11:00 am with a wonderful report by Deb Johnson. With 338 delegates. 185 to accept roll. Agenda and res. committee 188 to accept general agenda. Treasury report- No data lost from the hack. All financial info was handled. Working capital was 86k Received ppp loan . Discussed challenges and uncertainties. Open nomination to all committee/panel. Report from Julie Broadway of America horse counsel. The Canadian National for 2022 plans to proceed for next year. Michelle Wertz reported on the local level comm. Brenna Johnson talked about the success of the virtual shows. Came back late. Started voting resolutions . Res.16 withdrawn 1 2 4 pulled. 180 yes and 22 no. Consent agenda passed. Showed a scoring presentation How MOS works Talked about 1-21 resolution voted on an approved 138 yes 56 no. 2-21 resolution committee disapproved moved to stress review referred to research committee. 187 yes 12 no 5-21 committee approved. During discussion it was pointed out in fox hunting tradition only. Voted to end debate 184 yes 18 no. Voted on amendment 140 yes 68 no Voted on resolution 153 yes 49 no approved. There was presentation on distance riding on everything that is required to set up a show. Youth association talk of new program AYHA Are you ok for mental health support. Kathy Filter talk of the Discovery Farm program. Market day promoted National Horse Day Feb.19. Pam Bingaman talk on the plans for convention 2022 . Will be Nov 9th-12 in Myrtle Beach and 2024 convention on Reno. Voted to have 2023 convention virtual 136 yes 27 no approved. voted to go to Reno 2024 164 yes 12 no approved. Most judges are hired for 2022.

Rachael Harze AHA Convention 2021 Notes

This was my first time participating in convention. Meetings were held all week on Zoom. I was able to work around my work schedule to participate in most meetings.

Professional Horsemen

Debating the new shoeing resolution. Most are for an amendment that allows toe length to still complete after a change but pads and shoes would sit you out for a whole show.

Showmanship/Equitation

One member suggested getting a separate panel of judges for the UPHA classes at Youth. This would be an extra expense and would need to be talked about further.

Want to add Adult Medal Hunt Seat classes. Others voiced that medals are moot as they aren't needed for qualifying. Others are worried about qualifications being that patterns are required to qualify and patterns are not required for hunt seat classes. Someone mentioned that there is an exemption in the handbook but they would have to check.

Competition advisory

Qualifications were made to make it easier for show management. They don't want a lot of one horse classes. They tried to make it easy to qualify. Want show managers to cater to their exhibitors.

Amature

New rule change will allow amatures to lunge for pay. Will also allow amatures to teach Beginner lessons. Must be under a pro. No more than 20hours a week and can't teach at shows. This only applies to select breeds not disciplines like Dressage or Hunter/Jumpers. Amatures can be a brand ambassador or a social media influencer. If a pro is 25yo or under then can apply for amature status and only wait for 4 months. This helps people who decide that being a pro is not for them. There was a proposal for changing the junior age to 21 but that did not move forward.

They want to make midsummer a national show again.

US Nationals

Feedback about performance halter at US is to keep the open card. Too many conflicts with other rings. Comments were made about US nationals needed a dedicated warmup for halter.

Sport Horse

Watched a video, overall everyone loved the facility. (Had to leave early)

Judges/Stewards

Very small active stewards(about 15 active) and judging pool 128 judges.

Canada

Schedule is jam packed; they don't see being able to add new classes like Western Dressage. Separating out SHIH has added to their schedule. Using the outside rings is not ideal as the weather can be unpredictable and they don't have enough staff.

Nationals Shows

Changing, allowing friends to come in for pictures. Issues at US Nationals: more than 5 people coming in to take pictures. Safety and time concerns. Leaving it up to the shows and rings. They are going to do a new write up of expectations. No dogs should be in the ring and children should not be put on horses for pictures in the ring. Need to discuss stabling issues at shows. Trainers bring more horses and can't fit in their same spot. Need to let patrons know that they may not be in the same spot if they don't bring the same number of horses. This needs to be discussed in a sub group. Patrons are on the edge; they don't want anyone upset. Considering changing cuts, some want it to stay the same while others want less cuts. This would make larger classes so horses don't have to compete as much.

Working Western

Ranch trail w/t concern for having live animals. Responsibility of show staff and exhibitors to not create an unsafe environment.

They want patterns posted 2weeks before a national show. Encourage show committees to post patterns before shows for all shows. Cow classes are up and have been sponsored again.

Schedule needs to be redone for US nationals. Should they keep the 2 round trail patterns?

They have a lot of exhibitors and are running into logistical issues. People expressed that people don't want to go to nationals and only show once. Others have suggested one go round for sweepstakes. Most people that spoke wanted 2 go rounds for both trail and reining. In order to make sweepstakes 1 go round they would need to change the handbook. It was suggested to make these classes an event with a party. Heardwork wants two gos. This may cause a schedule problem. Thoughts are working cow horse needs to go away and just have reined cow. One suggestion was to run them at the same time. Cow horse would be picked from the highest cow score. Two classes with one run. Sub committee needs to look into combining them and figure out scoring.

Eventing/Driving

The combined training class at SHN was a success. They had over 20 entries. The plan is to make it a National Championship class next year but further discussion is needed. The new reverse psychology class was a success. This replaced Gamblers Choice. Looking to promote carriage driving to more people. The Prx Caprilli has potential to be added to more shows and maybe eventually SHN.