



ARABIAN
HORSE ASSOCIATION
REGION 10

Communicator

Spring/Summer 2008
www.region10arabians.com

Regional Officers

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dean Meier

I am sure many of you are concerned by the plethora of rumors and innuendos that are circulating about our organization.

Unfortunately, some are true - especially those concerning our poor financial performance for A.H.A. fiscal year 2008 that ended March 31, 2008.

While I am concerned with the issues facing the Arabian Horse Association, I am even more concerned by the grim outlook for the

entire equine industry which includes major declines in all major breed registration numbers, ever increasing costs to own horses, loss of land for recreational use, pasture and production of hay, escalating fuel costs, the increasing problems of unwanted and neglected horses and an overall reduction in the real or perceived value of a registered animal.

When I started my term 3-1/2 years ago, I was optimistic about the new direction our association could pursue as a result of the merger creating substantial funds for promotion of our great breeds and our transition from two separate entities - I.A.H.A. - that was primarily a horse show organization and the A.H.R. that was primarily a registration entity - to our rebirth as one strong total breed organization that could move forward and be a positive influence in the lives of all people who love the Arabian horse, regardless of where their interest lies.

Unfortunately, it is my opinion that we are our own worse enemy. We need to somehow lose the "us and them" mentality that permeates our breed - it is not just "I.A.H.A. vs. P.A.T." - it is "Show vs. Endurance", it is "Halter vs. Performance", it is "Professionals vs. Amateurs", it is

"Breeder vs. Show People" and it is "Delegates vs. Board of Directors" - the list goes on and on.

Van Jacobsen said it best when he was running for president- "United for the Arabian Horse". It is not too late to change. It starts with each of us. WE are A.H.A., there should not be a "they"! We are at a critical juncture in our organization. Seriously, this may be our last opportunity to work together to find real solutions to the myriad of issues we face.

MDP/PAT MDP FUNDING: There is a rumor that PAT has cut **all** funding for MDP projects. That simply is not true! Yes, they have reduced funding but at least for FY 2009 there looks to be adequate funding in place for current projects.

GOVERNANCE: The Board of Directors approved a new concept that would allow committees to be more productive. The main change will be to utilize committee specific sites on the WEB to increase the productivity of our committees. Copies of the report will be available at the next meeting.

THE 5-90 TASK FORCE: A presentation was made by Cindy Clinton at the last Board meeting. It appears this committee, chaired by Region 10's Peter Conway, did an outstanding job (Van Jacobsen also served on the committee) of conceptualizing and recommending possible changes. The A.H.A. Board of Directors unanimously approved having the taskforce prepare the proper documentation and possible resolutions for implementation.

Arabian TV Documentary to Broadcast this Fall

Watch for the one hour documentary being produced through the efforts of the AHA Marketing Department and the Market Development and Promotion committee - it is nearly complete. First reviews say it is extremely well done. AHA's goal is to have this documentary placed with several cable TV networks so it will be broadcast this fall!

ARABIAN HORSE MUSEUM

Housed at the Kentucky Horse Park this project is moving forward. Collateral fund raising information has been prepared and will be distributed soon. Watch for news of this exciting new facility!

USEF

A meeting between the Arabian Horse Association and the United States Equestrian Federation was held on October 22, 2007, both organizations have pledged to continue and expand their relationship for the benefit of their combined member bases.

Specific areas of agreement include:

The USEF will join the AHA in the promotion of the breed throughout the United States. The USEF will work with both the AHA and its discipline affiliates to identify competitions of mutual interest.

The USEF and the AHA will create a reciprocal membership for members of both organizations

and will devise new entry levels of joint membership for non-competitors and entry level exhibitors.

The USEF and AHA will explore IT initiatives that eliminate redundancy and minimize cost to both organizations. Sharing of data bases for the purpose of joint membership and competition entry forms will be the first initiative.

Both organizations agree that the cost of exhibiting at lower levels is a barrier to growth while "non-recognized" shows are flourishing. It was agreed that a new level(s) of shows be created for entry level exhibitors. These shows might not have drug or mileage rules and would expand on the idea of the AHA Community show format.

Both organizations agree to identify team members to develop each of the areas of agreement with a formal kick-off during the first quarter of 2008.

REGION 10 REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM

Your help in making this years' R10 Show a success can now directly benefit your club. At the January 2008 meeting, the Region 10 Board approved a system to return Region 10 funds that are in excess of the funds needed to operate our Region to clubs based on a formula that was developed to benefit all Region 10 clubs regardless if they are big or small. All your club needs to do to participate is to insure that at least 50% of your club's Region 10 delegates attend Region 10 meetings regularly. A profitable 2008 Show should enable us to make our first distribution of funds in January 2009.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For 2008, the Regional Board has approved a new Volunteer Incentive Program to increase and reward those who volunteer to work at our Shows. Ann Benson has agreed to coordinate the volunteer activities again this year - see her separate article explaining the new incentive program and then email Ann at prairieviewfarm@msn.com to volunteer. Most volunteers comment that they really enjoy meeting other R10 members and have fun helping.

SAY GOOD BYE TO THE COMMUNICATOR

In an effort to share Region 10 information, a more timely and cost effective basis, the Region 10 Board decided to discontinue publishing and mailing our newsletter.

We will be publishing articles and information on our website www.region10arabians.com as information becomes available. This will enable you to receive better information more frequently.

Special thanks to Jackie Johnson who has published the newsletter the past 3-1/2 years and to Bevra Cole, our Region 10 webmaster who has done a wonderful job with our website.

If you have newsworthy information you would like to have considered for inclusion on the Region 10 website, you can email Bev at bpcole@centurytel.net. All documents must be ready to publish in Microsoft Word format.

Please check the website on a regular basis as information will be placed there periodically.

ELECTIONS

Effective after Convention, our new officers are:

Director: Van Jacobsen
Vice Director: Laura Mickelson
Treasurer: Christine Richart
Secretary: Nancy Miller

Congratulations. Region 10 continues to have great individuals to represent us. Please give them all your support.

Region 10 Communicator
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CALENDAR

Our up-to-date calendar is on the website at: www.region10arabians.com Please check often - dates for additional shows are always added.

REGION 10 MEETING

Region 10 Delegates - Mark you calendars. The next meeting will be November 2th at Sweetwaters in Eau Claire. Show Committee meeting at 11 and regular meeting at noon. See the website for directons.