

to go through the Club's by-laws and have made several positive changes to them. We will be working on the remaining by-laws over the next several meetings. I encourage all of you to look through the by-laws ahead of time (they can be found on the WDHA website). If you have something that you would like discussed and will not be able to attend the meetings, please let myself or another Director know and it will be addressed. I **thank you** all again for your confidence in me to elect me as your President. I am here for each of you and for WDHA. I look forward to serving you in that capacity and I strive to bring this club forward. We can do this together, as a team, working for the best interests of WDHA.

I was pleased to serve WDHA as one of your delegates at the annual AHA Convention that was held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada on November 16-19, 2011. I was very impressed by the whole workings of the Convention and awed at the same time. I have been too conventions for FFA, 4-H, different horse ones and for work and have not seen anything like this before. I was impressed with the professional / businesslike manner. I have not seen this style since I was on the Parliamentary Procedure teams in FFA.

I started the Convention with the **Convention How To Seminar**. This gave me the convention basics. The most interesting facts that I learned is that it takes 15 members to start a new club and 10 members to keep it going.

The **Sport Horse Committee** discussed the one day show format and the success the clubs doing them have had and encouraged others to try them. There was talk about adding Sport Horse Showmanship classes to Short Horse shows. This may be something that we may want to try. The Resolution 9-11 regarding the whip length to include Sport Horse Under Saddle (and Show Hack) not to exceed the dressage length had it pass overwhelmingly. Many of the other items discussed went back to their committee for further discussion.

It was interesting to find out that the **Market Development & Promotion Committee** receives part of it's funding from the PB & 1/2 Arabian registrations. AHA's next goal is to rebuild their website to make it more user friendly and inviting for new people to navigate through it. Their goal is to do this in 2012. Did you know that AHA's Facebook page has over 37,000 friends from around the world? AHA has come to the realize that today and the future markets for the Arabian breed will be different than the past and the marketing needs to change to meet these new markets. The Marketing & Development Committee will be focusing on a new membership base – for those people that just want to enjoy their Arabian in what ever way they choose, focusing more on the causal owner, families that can share riding as a sport or hobby and the academy division. We all need all need to think outside the box to get and retain new people to the Arabians breed. Many ideas were shared and many need to start on the local level. There are way too many to mention here, but would make great meeting discussion and some new ideas to try.

The **Equine Stress / Research & Education Committee** was standing room only. This was an interesting committee to sit in on. They discussed genetic disorders and the importance of testing, especially the ones that relate to the Arabian breed. The hot topic was on recue/re-homing and the proposed new rules that will be voted on regarding the issues that involve area of slaughter whether it be transportation, having it done humanely, re-classifying the horse from 'livestock' to 'companion' or any other aspect. We need to be proactive and not let the government make rules that involve all of us when many of them are not involved with horses themselves. The key is to be proactive or we will not have a voice. We will loss much if the hore becomes re-classified to a 'companion' animal.

The **Barn Fire Safety & Prevention Seminar** was very sad and enlightening at the same time. Some of it was very hard to listen to, but everybody needs to here it as 'prevention and practice' are the keys to a barn (or any type of) fire. They highly recommend every club do programs to share this very important

I whole heartedly agree that the sport horse division needs to add Arabian Type to both in hand and under saddle judges score card. If the Half Arabian Sport horse does not possess any Arabian Qualities, what possible good can it do for our breed? I believe it is time to consider why we endorse Half-Arabians and just what it is we want them to be.

The keynote speaker Mr. Jim Heird, Prof. at Texas A & M, spoke to us on the issues critical to the future of the equine industry. He was fabulous and spoke to many different areas of concern involving not only Arabians but all breeds and horses as well. The number of unwanted horses, as well as those in the wild that the BLM deals with has become a frightening number and statistic. The slaughter issue raises many people's eyebrows, but when you are faced with the realities, something needs to be done. 62,740 horses were sent to Canada for slaughter, 52,580 were sent to Mexico, this is a 23% increase since 2009. If anyone thinks this is a more humane way to deal with this, they need to do so homework. We need to push forth legislation for humane equine slaughter in the US. We need USDA to provide necessary, inspection for equine slaughter facilities which opens the door for more humane regulations. Be careful for what you wish for. If Equine is removed from "livestock" designation to "companion animals" few and I do mean "FEW" will be able to own them. Show ring ethics was another topic which we all need to be aware of. It never ceases to amaze me the lengths owners and trainers will go to too win that ultimate trophy. With each new law against drugs or tactics, seems like some crafty person comes up with one even more unthinkable. Be wise!

Stan Morey reported that in 2011 we had 261 judges and 141 Stewards.

Keeneland Track and Churchill downs both had Arabian Racing in 2011 and negotiations for 2012 is in the works. Noted Jockey Calvin Burel is riding Arabians! Arabian Horse Race in France offered a \$750,000. Purse to the winner.

Glenn Petty's EVP report is sent out to all of us. We need to concentrate on the youth and the general public, 1 horse or a barn full, introduce those loving beautiful Arabians to the public, whether through Girl & Boy Scouts, Local level shows, and parades and make your stable aisles at shows visitor friendly.

We need to let the public know what a wonderful horse the Arabian is and the fact that it is financially available in all price ranges.

Mary Trowbridge continues to do an impeccable job with the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund and have benefited many deserving horsemen.

Canadian, SportHorse Nationals& US Nationals were up in numbers and exceeded all expectations.

The Arabian Horse Galleries is well received and continues to be a great success and wonderful promotion for the breed.

Arabian and Half Arabian Registrations continue to decline. I for one would like to know how many foals are not registered that is, born and healthy. I believe all animals that have a pedigree should be registered and deserve a right to their heritage whether or not they are destined to be a national champion.

AHA Clubs went down by 5 clubs. It started at 17 but only 5 of the 17 were able to get their memberships up above 10 adult voting memberships to qualify for an AHA club.

Sweepstakes is still struggling but hopes to pay off their loan as of September 2012. Not out of the woods but on course.

Modern Arabian Horse continues to be successful and is issued 6 times per year.

1. A rake and broom are two tools that can be your best weapon to prevent a stable fire.
2. The five items you should have on hand to protect your horses in a fire are:
 - a. Halters
 - b. Lead ropes
 - c. Gloves
 - d. Towels
 - e. Flashlights
3. A fire drill should be conducted every year and an open halter with an attached lead rope should be on every horse's stall.
4. Discuss fire safety with your family, barn staff, boarders/clients and neighbors.
5. Plan ahead. Be proactive: Ask yourself these questions:
 - a. Where do you go in a fire?
 - b. Where do you put your horses when you get them out?
 - c. What steps do you need to take to improve and protect your facilities?
 - d. Do your friends and neighbors know how to help if you aren't there? Do you know how to help them?
 - e. Are your entrances and exits clean and clear of obstructions?
 - f. If you are in a subscription fire area, are your dues current?
 - g. Is your water supply adequate and close to where the fire department can get to it?
 - h. Where do you store your flammables? Is there adequate ventilation? Are the flammables away from the stable area?
6. Do you have properly charged fire extinguishers available?
7. Get to know your fire department. Have a map of your barn on hand showing where everything is stored from food/hay to tack, manure and especially the water source. How will the fire department get to your barn? Make sure your Fire Marshall, dispatcher, clients and neighbors have a copy.
8. Make sure that your wiring is up to code and that all appliances are turned off and unplugged when not in use.
9. Hay storage is a major cause of spontaneous combustion. Is your hay/feed storage safe for you? Neatsfoot oil on rags bunched up can also be very combustible. Don't leave them around even in a bucket.
10. No Smoking near the barn.
11. Heating systems need to be inspected, cleaned and tested before each season.
12. IF YOU HAVE A FIRE: lead your horses out and close the stall doors behind you and latch them. It can slow the progress of the fire and prevent a loose horse from reentering the stall.

These are just a few things to get everyone started. Make sure you have an evacuation plan and actually run through it a few times. Make sure someone calls 911 right away and have someone available at the end of the driveway if your barn is hard to find.

We also learned that land management is a huge thing to keep wild fires away from barns. Make sure that there is dirt, gravel or a road around your barn to help keep wild fires away from the barns.

Another thing that I thought was smart was to use a can of spray paint on the horses after they are out of the barn so that if they get away, you can identify them.

There was so much more that we learned, but this at least gives you something to think about. Please think about it now, and don't wait till it is too late. Winter is the season for barn fires around here.

One final note: The Arabian Horseman's Distress Fund is an amazing program helping those people who might be in trouble due to fire, injury, death, loss of a horse or many more issues that might cause

The key note speaker was probably the most interesting person I have heard. He talked about what we as a group (all people that love horses) are up against. From government to the PETA. We need to be pro-active in what we want and need to be good horse owners and lovers of this great animal. We are having our rights taken away and we are doing nothing about it. He spoke of what we are allowing to happen to our horses in the show ring and in the breeding barns. I will try to get his speech and maybe we can put it on the web site. He was from Texas A & M and his name is Dr. Jim Heird. He raises Quarter Horses and was just excellent. He spoke from the heart.

I worked with Stacey and Mike at the Youth Auction and that went very well. LOTS and LOTS of really nice things. Stacey will have to tell final sum of the auction. It should be good.

Thank you WAHA for sending me. It was probably my most informative convention. Joan Rose