

August 2002

Hello Delegates, Alternates and other interested Region 10 members,

I had the opportunity to attend the IAHA Board of Directors meeting in Denver last weekend and wanted to provide you with a personal update on some of the exciting news that came out of this meeting. The meeting was very eventful and the consensus of the Board is that there are big changes on the horizon which will have a dramatic impact on the future of our breed and our organization. You can read about the actual motions on the IAHA website. Be sure to check out iaha.com for the complete report. I will only be touching on the highlights.

There were several motions and items of business that generated a lot of discussion and will potentially have a huge impact on our organization and how we do business. The first major item was the report from the mediation committee on the proposed merger with the AHRA. I waited to prepare this update until the "official" press release was issued outlining the points discussed in the board meeting. We do have a tentative agreement for the merger of the two organizations, subject to approval by the respective boards and the delegates at convention. The following highlights of the agreement are from the joint IAHA/AHRA press release. The full text of the press release is on the IAHA website, www.iaha.com

- * The new corporation's Board of Directors will total twenty-nine (29) members consisting of eighteen (18) regional directors, four (4) at-large directors (initially comprised of persons appointed by AHRA), the President, the 1st Vice President, two (2) At-Large Vice Presidents to represent the interests of owners and breeders of purebred Arabian horses, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.
- * Regional representation and the convention delegate process will remain in place.
- * A Purebred Trust will be formed from certain existing assets of AHRA and will be funded prospectively by a portion of registration revenue and investment income. Income from the Trust will be used for the promotion of the Arabian breed.
- * The Purebred Trust trustees will be self-perpetuating and will appoint successors to positions initially selected by the AHRA Board of Directors.
- * A Registry Commission will be formed and will be responsible for all rules relating to the registration of purebred Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses and make all decisions regarding registration issues.
- * A Market Development and Promotion Committee will also be formed to oversee the marketing and promotional activities of the new corporation.
- * The new corporation will immediately undertake a study to review the governance structure of the new organization and to create a strategic plan.

More details will be available as merger documents are finalized. The IAHA deadline of

August 21 for submission of resolutions will be met. Merger documents will be made available no later than mid-October.

The big point for all delegates to understand about the tentative agreement is that the various terms of the proposed merger are not negotiable. ALL points have been discussed extensively by the mediation committee, and both sides have compromised on various issues with the end result being a proposed merger agreement that is acceptable to both organizations. Do you know how long these two organizations have been talking about this? A LONG TIME!!!!.

I am excited for the Arabian breed and what this means to all of us. I am proud that I was allowed to be a part of this process. Thank you for your trust in electing me as your director.

Another BIG issue that was discussed, although no motions were presented to the board, was a recommendation from the Planning Committee to withdraw from USAE. The Planning Committee will be putting forth four resolutions at the convention. These resolutions are actually companion resolutions. I anticipate that there will be a resolution to withdraw from USAE, a resolution to adopt our drug rules, a resolution to adopt our competition rules, and finally a resolution to adopt new hearing rules. There were a number of questions on these proposals, but it appeared to me that there was a majority supporting the withdrawal. This is an important matter and more info can be found on the IAHA web site and in the proposed resolutions that will be coming out. We need to be sure to discuss this with the membership of our clubs so we can all make an informed decision.

Myron Krause presented a motion on behalf of the Local Shows and Events committee to adopt an "IAHA incentive shows" program for shows with 75 or fewer horses. This program is designed to encourage people to get involved with showing their horses who might otherwise not be showing at our Class A show and beyond. The program has fewer rules, less fees, and will have a point program for the participants to compete in. These shows will not provide regional or national qualifications or legion points. This was seen as a very important step in trying to reach out to Arabian owners who we are not reaching now.

There was also a significant amount of discussion about the Local Shows and Events committee's recommendation to change the way we award points by using the number of horses that you beat in a class to determine regional and national qualifications and award legion points. There was also more discussion about the bronze, silver, and gold rider programs. Bill Pennington will be appointing a committee to review the point program as it relates to qualifications, etc. During all of the discussion on these issues, it was apparent that we need to think outside of the box when we consider proposed changes to how we show our horses and promote our breed. It is clear that we need to do something different than what we are doing now. Our horse numbers and registrations continue to decline. We need to take action to deal with these issues.

Another "hot issue" had to do with the decision to award a full top five in all regional classes. After extended discussion, a motion was made to rescind the motion that established this practice. The motion passed by a vote of 15 to 8. The majority felt that most members did not like this practice because it cheapened the award. Additionally, there were real problems with

how only the top 50% of the class received sweepstakes. There was also significant concern about the legion points being awarded to everyone and concerns about added national qualifications. This was another "hot issue" that may resurface at the convention if someone brings a resolution to reinstate the practice again.

Please check out the IAHA web site for more details about the Board meeting.

I would like to encourage all clubs to send their full slate of delegates to the convention. This will be an very important convention to the future of our breed.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the following deadlines:

Aug 31 - deadline for regional volunteer service award to me as regional director

Sept 1 - list of delegates and alternates due to IAHA

Sept 20 - early bird registration deadline for the convention

Oct 1 - committee sign up forms must be submitted to IAHA to be in the handbook

The last item I need to talk to you about is the October 27 meeting. I will be unavailable for the meeting due to a judging commitment. Dean Meier was going to chair the meeting, and I know he would do a great job, but in light of all the big news at the last Board meeting, it may be better if we could try and reschedule the meeting for the first week in November. Kristin will be asking you to advise her of your availability.

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