

American Saddlebred Horse Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

United States Equestrian Federation Offices, Vanderbilt Conference Room
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, Kentucky

Wednesday, October 31, 2007
1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

MINUTES

[As Approved February 14, 2008]

Members Present: President Fred Sarver, First Vice President Misdee Wrigley Miller, Second Vice President Vicki Gillenwater, Secretary Mary Ann Pardieck, Directors Mary Anne Cronan, Louise Gilliland, Nelson Green, Tim Lockard, Scott Matton, Dr. Alan Raun, Kay Richardson, Jimmy Robertson, Jim Ruwoldt, Judith Werner, Art Zubrod.

Members Absent: Treasurer David Howard, Directors Bill Blacklaw, Paul Treiber.

Others Present: Registry President Joan Hamilton.
Counsel Jeff Streepey, Executive Secretary Alan Balch.

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m., and a quorum was in attendance. The formal meeting was opened following a joint luncheon with members of the Registry board, the Lexington Jr. League Horse Show, and Dr. Kathryn T. Graves and Dr. Ernie Bailey of the University of Kentucky, who gave presentations on EI and Lordosis, respectively.

II. Consideration of Minutes

When Mr. Sarver asked for consideration of the minutes, Mr. Lockard noted a question in Part III, B, vi, and whether it ought to read: "Ringmasters should have the authority to excuse unruly horses," with the word "should" added. *Ms. Miller moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Ms. Cronan seconded, and the motion carried without objection.*

III. President's Report

- a. **Kentucky State Fair:** Mr. Sarver noted that the Advisory Committee met regarding the 2007 show and will meet again in January 2008. The new

North Wing is complete, and it is possible that the total stabling capacity will remain approximately constant with previous years. The Association and UPHA recommended that judges' results should be posted on the big overhead screen as soon as class results are announced.

- b. **Registry Board of Directors Meeting:** Mr. Balch was asked to report, and he noted that the Registry board meeting earlier this date did not have a quorum in attendance, and that the quorum requirement was high (7 of 9 directors). He further stated that considerations of possible bylaw changes would be referred to the Registry Committee. He briefly mentioned that the Registry directors in attendance covered registration and transfer statistics, the possibilities of owner and breeder searches on the web site, proposed rule changes, and the breeder awards.
- c. **Kentucky Saddlebred Owners and Breeders Association (KSOBA):** Mr. Sarver stated that KSOBA was a Charter Club of ASHA, formed to interface with the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority (KHRA) on the distribution of Kentucky breeder incentive funds for Saddlebreds. The directors discussed the restrictions on the definition of Kentucky-breds, and the need for KSOBA to document in writing how the fund will be applied to Saddlebreds.
- d. **United States Equestrian Federation**
 - i. **Rule Change Proposals:** Mr. Sarver reported on six proposals submitted to USEF from ASHA, and all were discussed. The next step will be review by the USEF Saddlebred Committee at Kansas City.

Ms. Hamilton was asked to explain the background and intent on the proposal submitted by her on behalf of the Registry, to define "severely penalized" in judging the conformation of an extremely low-backed horse. Several concerns were raised regarding this proposal, and various scenarios for taking it forward, or modifying it, were discussed. Members of the Registry board have agreed to work with staff on possibly amending the language to clarify it.

- ii. **Youth Award:** The directors agreed that a mail/email ballot should be conducted for the Saddlebred nominee for the USEF Youth Award.
- iii. **Federation Director:** Mr. Balch reported that Mr. Keith Bartz is willing to serve again as a Saddlebred director on the USEF board. *Ms. Cronan moved that Mr. Bartz be appointed as the Saddlebred representative for another term, Ms. Pardieck seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*
- iv. **Liaison to Championship Event:** Mr. Balch noted that the Federation has advised its affiliates of planning for a "legacy" event for the World Equestrian Games following 2010, possibly to be a "National Championship" event for many affiliated breeds and disciplines at the Kentucky Horse Park, and has requested ASHA to provide a representative for this purpose. *Ms. Cronan moved that Mr. Sarver serve as that liaison, Mr. Robertson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sarver agreed to accept this position.*

IV. Nominating Committee Report/Recommendation by Executive Committee

a. Consideration of Slate of Nominees Proposed

Mr. Sarver reported that the Executive Committee had approved the report from the Nominating Committee [attached]. *Ms. Werner moved that the slate of nominees proposed by the Nominating Committee be approved, Mr. Robertson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

b. Establishment of Date of Receipt of Marked Ballots

Ms. Miller moved that Friday, February 1, 2008, be the date on or before which marked ballots must be received at the Association office to be valid, Ms. Gillenwater seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Balch delivered the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Mr. Howard, and noted that the Association is performing favorable to budget, but unfavorable to year-ago numbers. He also drew the attention of the directors to a new quarterly cash report, prepared by Controller Joan Jones, showing comparative cash balances by fund. The Association is in a strong cash position, despite weakness in comparative Registry income at this point of the year, and some ongoing weakening in membership numbers on a comparable basis. He commented briefly on a positive meeting with a donor held recently.

Following Dr. Bailey's presentation during lunch, wherein he explained a significant savings in expenditures for Lordosis research should the ASHA commit to testing kit purchases at this time, Mr. Balch stated that the necessary cash balance was on hand. [See attached letter.] *Dr. Raun moved the approval of making the grant as Dr. Bailey requested, Ms. Werner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

A brief discussion followed on the future of the Elisabeth Goth Chelberg Driving Challenge, and its location at the Kansas City American Royal this year.

VI. Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Balch reviewed the statistical materials on Association membership and Registry statistics provided the board in advance of the meeting, and noted once again the continuing weakness in Registrations and ongoing weakness in Transfers, though some timing issues would affect the Transfer business this year, namely the absence of the Tattersalls summer sale and late date of the fall sale, which looks to be strong in numbers.

On staff and human resources matters, he noted recent staff changes and called the attention of the directors to the organizational chart provided to all directors with meeting materials, as updated. He stated that business was proceeding normally at this time, but that since these changes were not foreseen, unanticipated problems could develop in the coming weeks but would be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

He commented on the announcements of Regional Championships for 2008, and the various changes contemplated in qualifying both for the Regional Championships and for the Kentucky State Fair.

VII. Old Business

Dr. Raun raised the issue of correspondence from members, which Mr. Balch had circulated to all directors. He provided a letter from a member including some new ideas, and a discussion ensued about how to encourage members to submit ideas, whether they be critical of the Association or not.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Sarver and others noted that the UPHA will hold a forum on safety at its upcoming convention, and a discussion followed on safety concerns at shows throughout the year.

Ms. Richardson noted the need for new ideas related to fund-raising for the Youth programs, and suggested the Association consider endorsing the game "Saddlebred-opoly," a form of the "Horse-opoly" game, to raise money. Following discussion, *Ms. Cronan moved that Ms. Richardson and Mr. Balch work together with staff on developing a financial pro-forma for the idea, Mr. Ruwoldt seconded, and all agreed.*

Ms. Richardson also strongly recommended that all directors be present for and take part in the auction activities at Kentucky State Fair and elsewhere, as their visible support is much needed and appreciated.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the directors, the meeting was adjourned, without objection, at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Alan F. Balch
Executive Secretary