

AHA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2013

The AHA convention took place November 20-23 in Lexington, Kentucky home of USEF, The Kentucky Horse Park, Churchill Downs and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Approximately 301 delegates were accredited at this year's convention. Eligible delegates for the 18 Regions are 435. Currently there are 235 clubs in AHA.

AHA National events had excellent attendance this year. Youth Nationals (837 horses), Canadian Nationals (736 horses) Sport Horse (536) and the US Nationals were approximately 1800 horses. Some exciting new classes were offered at the Nationals this year. Youth had Limited Reining Cow, Canadian and US Nationals offered adult Halter Showmanship. There was good participation in the working western division at US Nationals, with an exciting demonstration in Ranch Sorting.

AHA is looking at cost effective marketing. With decreased registrations and declining memberships, challenges are inevitable. Social media offers alternate forms of advertising which in turn effects the magazine publication. AHA staff has decreased by half. The updating of the IT infrastructure and technology is underway. We look forward to completion in the near future.

AYHA youth are working hard to represent the Arabian Horse. Tori Oto spoke to her involvement within the association in 2012/13. Kathryn Johnson nominated for Youth of the year 2013/14. A privilege, and an honor, as this is the first ever Canadian to win this award. Congratulations we are all proud of you.

Resolutions

Resolutions were discussed at length in the various committee meetings.

Resolution 2-13 – Two unrelated amateurs to Co-own a horse in Amateur division was defeated.

Resolution 5-13 – The shoeing change for the country pleasure was disapproved.

Resolution 6-13 - "Amateur - Leveling the Playing Field" looks like it will go forward as of 2015. The different level of competitors will be determined through their achievement points.

Resolution 20-13 – In the halter division show committees now have an option of which judging system they choose to use at their shows. If the scorecard is not used and comparative is chosen they show must have approval from AHA.

Resolution 21-13 - An increase of \$15.00 for AHA memberships will be implemented effective April 1, 2014.

These are just 5 of the 21 resolutions that were in consideration. Please consult the AHA website for more information.

The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington Blue Grass Country is home of the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Gallery. A visit to this incredible museum Friday evening proved to be entertaining. There are artifacts, bronzes and pictures detailing the history of the Arabian horse. People have spent countless hours working on the Gallery. Hats off to these people for perpetuating the dynasty of this beautiful animal.

The AHA organization strives to keep the convention educational, informative and productive. As a Canadian and an Aurora member it gives me great pleasure to be there. Thank you to the Aurora Arabian Horse Association for giving me the opportunity to attend the convention as a delegate.

Although there is a lot of serious business conducted, there are many friends and fellow horsemen that attend the convention.

If an opportunity arises and you can attend the AHA convention I highly recommend you make the time. There is a world of Arabian horse people out there that wants to share their enthusiasm with you.

Carla Jackson