

## 2014 AHA Convention Report

The 2014 AHA Convention was held in Denver, Colorado November 19-22. There were 268 delegates credentialed out of 428 that were eligible to attend.

There were 696 AHA sanctioned events in 2014. This included shows, endurance and competitive trail rides. Youth Nationals will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico for 2015. AHA will be taking bids for the location of show in 2016 and beyond. Canadian Nationals had 696 horses despite a VS outbreak in Texas and Colorado that prohibited some barns from attending the show. The show will be held in Brandon, Manitoba for 2015 and 2016. Sport Horse Nationals was in Nampa, Idaho and had 370 horses. The show will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2015, 2017 and 2019. US Nationals was in Tulsa, Oklahoma and had 1795 horses. Although the registrations were flat and there was a decline in the membership, AHA ended up \$200,000 over budget. (made more money than they planned).

AHA currently has 258 Judges and 119 Stewards. Stan Morey is the Judges and Stewards Commissioner and has been for 5 years. He over sees the Judges and Stewards and deals with complaints and issues that may come up. There were 324 competitions that sent back 60-65 evaluations. Only 20 were negative.

The 2014 AHA Youth of the year is Jacklyn Abernathy from Region 12.

Gary Millar and Marcia Friesen were awarded the Region 17 Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations to both of them.

The AHA building is 30 years old. It needed some maintenance done (heat, air and roof), so there were some unbudgeted costs.

The Sweepstakes Commission have a hard job – trying to stay solvent in a shrinking market. They sent out 5000 surveys and received 1800 back. They have made some changes. In 2016, the yearlings will once again have a Sweepstakes class so the unborn foals need to be nominated in 2015. Purebred mares can now have their foal nominated if they are bred to International sires. Prize money has been reduced at US Nationals and distributed to amateur classes at the Regional level. The Sweepstake Commission is recommending that the AAOTR classes at the Regionals NOT be split into age groups. If they are split, the prize money gets reduced. Champion will get \$350.00. Reserve will get \$200.00 and Top 5 will get \$150.00. (50% of the class if there are less than 5 entries)

There were 30 resolutions this year. Four were withdrawn. The results are listed on the AHA web site.

The Leveling classes come into effect in 2015. President Cynthia Richardson encouraged the shows to offer the classes if they have the numbers to do it. The US and Canadian National show committees were asked if they were going to offer them. Both have their show commission meetings in February and will discuss it at that time. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, the AHA website should have the member's achievement points listed by division. As of now, all the performance points are combined. This will be

easier for people to figure out what leveling class they are in by the amount of points they have in each division.

### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

The Awards Committee received only one nomination for the Open Competition Award. The horse that was submitted didn't meet the requirements, so it was not given the award. There were no nominations received for the Ambassador Award.

### **AMATEUR COMMITTEE**

The Amateur Committee discussed the resolution about allowing Select Riders to cross enter other classes. In general, they were not in agreement with the resolution. In the end, the resolution was withdrawn. It was determined that the US and Canadian National show commissions were requested by the originators of the Select classes, to not allow cross entry, so they didn't. If this resolution would have passed, then it would have mandated the show commissions to allow it. The show commissions don't need to have resolutions to decide what classes to offer. Also, with the Leveling classes coming into effect in 2015, it was felt that the resolution was not needed.

The committee once again discussed two non related amateur owners owning and showing the same horses in owner classes. The committee was fairly evenly split over this topic. They also discussed the lease issue a (leasing a horse and showing it in the owner classes) and if a resolution should be put forward for 2015. A subcommittee was put together to look into this.

The 2015 Convention is set for November 18-21 in Denver, Colorado.

If anyone has any questions about the resolutions, Committee meetings, or Leveling classes, they can contact me.

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