

## **AHA Convention – Denver CO (2014)**

I went, I voted and I left.

Wouldn't it be nice if it was that simple? It was a lot more than that. Arriving to the hotel and seeing how big this convention is, brought things to perspective on how things roll.

We started by checking in and getting all the things we needed to get the convention started. Thank god I had a few veterans around to help out! It was interesting to review all the resolutions and then to look at the schedule to organize how I was going to get to all the meetings that I wanted to attend. Once I had a plan, I was ready to go.

This was so not as intimidating as I thought it was going to be, it was quite smoothly ran. I found that once I was able to sit in on these meetings, I really began to understand the process of how this association is run. It was very interesting to see how passionate some people were in regards to the changes that they wanted to see, some of them became a little heated. There were arguments on both sides as to why they were good and bad.

The resolutions that I thought were going to be easy, turned out to be the ones that were debated the most and then pulled. Made my voting easier! I was impressed at how the meeting was very much kept on task and amazed that we were able to get through all the resolutions except for one that was tabled on the first day.

I sat in on all the Youth Committee meetings and was happy to see so many other regions committed to keeping the youth involved. I was eager to learn how they promote their clubs and keep interest going. I was sad to see that our region was not the only region to struggle with numbers, however, listening to everyone's passion for the breed; I have no doubt that we can restore our membership again.

After being involved, I volunteered for an alternate position on the Youth Committee and I am looking forward to learning more.

I was impressed with the Youth auction and how smoothly it was run. I was also amazed at how many people are very possessive of their bids! I was kind of shocked to see that some bid sheets were even guarded! I am happy to say that I bid and won some great items in support of our youth.

There was a presentation made by the Horseman's Distress Fund. I can say that hearing the stories that came forward, reviewing the year in all it's generosity; there was not a dry eye in that room. To be part of a community that supports one another with no question, it is heartwarming.

That being said, I now feel more informed and welcome another opportunity to represent our club in the future.

The Arabian horse brings people together.

Marlene Tomusiak