

## *Delegate Report Region 17 Fall Meeting*

*October 4, 2014*

*Victoria, BC*

It was a privilege to attend the Region 17 Fall Meeting as a delegate for Aurora, and I wish to submit this report in accordance of fulfilling this role.

The agenda for the Regional meeting was quite ambitious in detail, so this report will be concise in summarizing the key topics.

One of the first pieces of business was the election of Show Commissioners, there were 2 positions to fill. The representative for Manitoba is our very own Gail Tory! Darlene Brouwer was re-elected. Congratulations ladies.

With regards to the Youth portion of the meeting, after the submitted reports from the Youth President and the AAHABC President were presented discussions were held specifically for awards and the Regional Youth Team Tournament Award. Gerald announced that he would be donating \$600 to support the youth, thus increasing their budget. It is important to be aware that the Youth Scholarships does NOT come out of the youth fund. Discussion dealing specifically with Scholarships was tabled for the next meeting.

The Canadian Breeders Report was presented by Tex Kam. This year Breeders had 105 horses turn out. The focus of the Breeders Show is to get the public aware of the Arabian Breed, and they have done an extraordinary job of this as witnessed by the extensive media coverage that they got, ie newspaper and television exposure. Which in turn lead to an estimated 1500 people turning out to the stand for the Saturday night extravaganza. I know that many of us would love to see the same number of people to turn out for our horse shows, so I tip my hat off to the committee members and all the individuals that work tireless to accomplish this. Special attention was given to the horses that are Canadian Breed Horses in the form of "special garlands" thus helping to identify those horses that were Canadian bred as well as a maple leaf was indicated by the names of these horses as Canadian bred. Nice touch and an encouragement to our Canadian Breeders. They are holding the show again at the same facility for June 19-21 2015.

The Canadian Nationals Report was presented by Gerald and the highlights of the report is as such. Due to the virus and quarantine protocol we did see that we lost 2 Texas barns and 1 Colorado barn at the show. Also, there was a decrease in numbers in the Sport Horse portion of the show. That being said the total of horses at the Canadian Nationals was 682 horses. The Canadian Nationals will be held for 2015, 2016 at the Brandon facility. The committee is strongly advocating for a new building for stabling and another warm up ring. However, new roofing and redoing the ventilation system is presently being addressed at this time. Specifically, the areas of ventilation construction is focusing on the warm up area.

The dates for next years Nationals are August 17-22, which is a week later than this years. At this time the concept of leveling the playing field is not being utilized at the Canadian Nationals. With regards to holding the horses in for the presentations it did result in saving time and room. As a side note, it was AHA that decided that only 1 person is allowed at a time during presentaions and that was due to the incident that happened at Youth Nationals.

Discussion about the Region 17 show was a primary focus. The show commission presented the following highlights: 181 horses competed which is 50 horses less than budgeted for. 28 classes had zero entreries, 28 classes had 1 horse and 36 classes had 2 horses; so there will be an adjustment made to the class schedule to offset these low entries. The Sport Horse division paid for itself. Unfortunately, the exhibitors in this division felt that they were "receiving the short end of the stick" as they often heard comments such as , once these classes are done the show can actually start. We need to make sure that our comments to our fellow exhibitors are to enhance their experience not implode on our own people. The hazing of halter horses did present some issues for the classes that were in the warm up areas so there will be made some adjustments made in this area, probably in the scheduling of the classes to minimize the effect. The show commission will be dealing with the following areas; concession hours to accommodate the individuals on the grounds, and improving security on the grounds. Discussion with regards to the track and warm up area and lack there of was promised to be addressed by the committee and it is hoped that there will be improvement in these areas for next Regionals. Our survey did result in a lot of discussion, which is what we wanted. However, I did have to reassure the commission that the objective of the survey was to assist the Aurora delegates in knowing what areas of concern our members did have and that it was to serve as a tool for us. It was not our intention to insult or cast personal aspersions. It was brought forth by other delegates about the facility, is it wise to hold such a show at this facility with the numbers that we have at this time. I, myself, did bring forth an inquiry that had been personally asked of me to make, about a different location, eg Ponoka, Red Deer had already been brought forth. We were informed that Red Deer is not able to be considered (issues are stabling and dates) and Ponoka is not a viable facility(not the standard of a Regional show). It was suggested that we should give the facility a fair time frame of 2 years to make a proper judgement call. It was raised at that point, could we maintain/cost wise staying at such a facility, being that the numbers of the horses consistently showing at Region 17 is averaging out at 200. The answer to that was not addressed at that time. Issues with regards to awards "cheaping out" , and the cost of fees as thought of by exhibitors as being too expensive, thus affecting the turn out of numbers were not discussed primarily due to time restraints. However, these issues will come forth for discussion again at the Spring meeting when the budget for the show will be detailed at length.

It was personally stressed to me that any members with concerns/question should contact the show commission directly. I would like to remind our members that Gail Tory is now on the show commission and we should feel free at any time to contact any member on the show commission to raise forth any thoughts or concerns. They need everyone's feedback to develop this show into what they exhibitors want and desire.

I believe that this covers all area of interest for our club and again Thank you for allowing me to represent you at this meeting.

Respectfully,  
Diane Dyck