

**AHA Convention**  
**Vancouver BC**  
**November 16-19, 2011**

The 2011 AHA Convention "*A Little Bit of Heaven in 2011*" was sponsored by Region 17. This was the first time since 1990 that the Convention was held in Canada. 266 delegates were in attendance.

**Election Results**

The Vice President is Dale Harvill, the treasurer is David Corning and the Secretary is Jan Decker.

**In Attendance**

In attendance from Region 17 were Kimberly Toye, Brenda Driediger, and Nicki Muller from AAHABC; Karen Caughell, Lorne Robertson and Debbie Storey, Aurora AHA; Laurie Mostowich and Donna Kavanagh, Calgary AHA; Gerald McDonald, VIAHA; Sue Rousseau from BCHAA, and myself as Regional Director.

Ashley Toye and Doug Archibald from AAHABC, Sandra Gilbert-Stockhausen, Bob Ramsey and Wendy Don from VIAHA and juniors Conley Driediger and Katie Johnson attended as Guests.

**Location, Location**

The Sport Horse Nationals will be held in Idaho for 2012 and Lexington Virginia in 2013.

The US Nationals will be remaining in Tulsa.

Canadian Nationals was ahead of Budget and will most likely be in Brandon again in 2012.

**Our Canadian Show Commission was presented with the President's Award.**

In the History of the President's Award, only 2 individuals have received it twice! Gerald McDonald and Allan Ehrlick! Both Canadians!!! **Congratulations!**

**Our Regional Volunteers were Karen Caughell and Rob Calnan. Thank you for your support**

I also want to thank Shirley and Murray Popplewell of Rae-Dawn Arabians for their financial assistance in hosting a coffee break.

**Of Interest**

A special forum on Barn Fire Prevention was presented and well received, which included how to be prepared in case.

The Horseman's Distress Fund gave a very informative presentation. Region 17 donated \$500. They raised over \$30,000 for the fund that is available to all horsemen in need. Over \$70,000 was raised at US Nationals for this fund.

## **Resolutions**

#1 **Redefining the Age Limit for Youth** *Approved* May be extraordinary depending on USEF/EC approval, so may be in effect for 2012. The youth age limit will be raised from 17 to 18.

#2 **Resolution Submission Date** *Approved* In the past, August 1 was the deadline for resolution submissions. The summer BOD meeting is held the first or second weekend in August, and it is too late to include any changes made by the BOD.

#3 **Annual Convention to be Held in Denver** *Withdrawn*. However, the AHA Convention will be held in Denver in 2012, Kentucky in 2013 and then in Denver from 2014 to 2016.

#4 **Running Martingales on 3 year old English Pleasure Horses** *Withdrawn*

#5 **Updating Level Judges** *Approved* R/N judges are to be used at Eastern and Western Canadian Breeders.

#6 **Ginger Testing** *Approved* Now it will be the responsibility of USEF/EC to determine horses for testing.

#7 **Bar Shoe Rule** *Approved* Now only 1 bar is allowed, up to 1 1/8" wide and 3/8" thick.

#8 **Add Arabian Comparative Judging System To Handbook** *Disapproved*.

#9 **Whip Length in Sport Horse Under Saddle** *Approved*. If a whip is carried, it can not exceed dressage requirements.

#10 **Add Arabian Breeders World Cup Judging System** *Withdrawn*.

#11 **Amend Breeding and In-Hand Class Requirements** *Withdrawn*.

#12 **Hunt Seat Equitation Changes** *Approved*. The top 4 riders at Nationals may be asked to exchange horses.

#13 **Education/Evaluation Commission Modification.** *Withdrawn*.

#14 **Education/Evaluation Commission Terms** *Approved* Starting in December 2012, the new members of the EEC can only serve 3 3 year terms (total 9 years).

#15 **Vet outs are exempt from 9-90 Fee.** *Approved* Vet outs will receive a refund of the 9-90 fee.

## **Sport Horse News**

The Sport Horse Committee is in the process of having the Sport Horse classes included in 1 day show list, and having Sport Horse Showmanship rules and class specifications included in the rule book. These may both take a year or 2 but are now in the process.

**Show Managers please remember that starting in 2012 if you are having dressage classes you must also run Dressage Seat Equitation and Dressage Seat Medal Classes.**

Region 17 hosted the **Wall of Fame** where we displayed photos of many of our Regional and National winners. This was very popular and admired by all the delegates. This was a great fundraiser, and will help us with Convention costs.

I also want to thank Staff Sergeant Gary Millar (not really RCMP) for volunteering to have his photo with many of our delegates. He interrupted the Regional Caucus meetings and insisted that we get photo id of the delegates! There was a \$5.00 fee and this was a great fund raiser for our youth.

Both these ideas were from Kevin Johnson who volunteered to take the photos with Elke Ross and spent all day Friday getting the photos printed and given to the delegates. Thank you Kevin and Elke!

I also want to thank Jennifer Snow for making the Blackberry and Crab-apple Jam for our Directors and Staff gifts. I have already heard that it is fabulous!

We were very fortunate to have Atlantic Crossing play at the President's Banquet. They were very well received and everyone stayed to the end and had a great time.

After the convention I received numerous letters from Directors thanking us and commending us on a great convention. Most said it was the best they had ever attended!

Thank you to everyone for all your help throughout the year. Without everyones help it would be very difficult to promote our beautiful Canadian Horses.

**Terry Johnson**

Director

Region 17 AHA