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To: The CCC and California APHA Members:  
Re: 2008 APHA Convention Report

Dear Colleagues:

The 2008 APHA Convention was held in San Diego, California on October 1 – 4, 2008.  
An overview of my activities are as follows:

Thursday: Ways & Means Committee Meeting  
General Membership Meeting

Friday: Board of Directors Meeting - Voting on 2008 Proposed Rule Changes  
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting  
World Show Task Force Meeting

Saturday: Board of Directors Meeting  
Standing Committee Reports  
Director's Open Discussion Regarding:  
Novice Youth – Pros & Cons of World Championship Titles  
Split of the World Show – Importance of early decision from the EC

Ways & Means Committee:

The Ways & Means Committee serves the “financial arm” of the Association. Financial status and direction of the Association is discussed in this Committee. As is the case of many organizations during these financially trying times, APHA is spending more than we are receiving. This fact leads to making “hard decisions” surrounding increasing fees in addition to reducing expenses wherever possible.

A significant decrease in the number of registrations as well as in the number of transfers has significantly contributed to the Association's decreased revenue. Interestingly, AQHA registrations has fallen even more than our APHA registrations which confirms that our financial circumstances are being felt throughout the industry.

To address the Association's financial situation, several increases in fees can be anticipated. In particular, show fees for POR's will be increased from \$3/horse per judge to \$5/horse per judge. The increase is targeted to help off set the large increase in awards expenditures over the past several years. No increase in show fees has accompanied the expanded awards program for many years. Increases in registration fees can also be anticipated.

### Long Range Planning Committee:

As you will recall, I have been appointed to the Long Range Planning Committee whose Mission Statement is to support & assist the EC in charting APHA's direction to ensure our Association's long term success. We have been requested to look "into the future" and to address strategic issues that have longer term implication for our horses, our members and to our Association. Because of the nature of the Committee, my report will include generalities rather than specifics.

Committee members may include not only Directors but also outside individuals who are not Directors but who have knowledge, insights and experience that can be helpful to the Committee's work. Diane Paris, former APHA president, and former California trainer and resident, chairs our Committee.

Committee discussion centered on ways to attract new exhibitors to our shows as well as ways to increase attendance at APHA shows a general. Topics discussed included green classes, "green" riders, embedding APHA classes in other shows, ways to add value and recognition to paints participating in 4H/FFA programs. We also discussed the pros and cons of the current ownership/lease rules regarding Youth/Amateurs. As a general topic, we explored ways of creating a "feeder program" for our Youth/Amateur Programs which centered around the concept of a "novice rider" / "novice horse" program where "retired" show horses could serve a valuable purpose in events that were not their specialty. Essentially, a recycling program for "retired" show horses which have value but are no longer competitive in the show pen.

In conclusion, we discussed the implications of governmental and political actions on our industry. APHA work with the American Horse Council and other lobby organizations was discussed. Of central focus was discussion regarding the horse slaughter issue and legislative action impacting horse prices and the large number of horses that are being abandoned. One example was given of 10's of thousands of abandoned / wild horses being fed alfalfa by government funded programs.

### World Show Task Force:

This Task Force is a working committee within the Show and Contest Committee addressing issues surrounding the World Show. The Task Force is chaired by Ron Shelley who also serves as Chair of the Show & Contest Committee. They address problems as well as provide World Show recommendations to the EC as well as APHA staff. I was very impressed with the organization and "get down to business" attitude of the group of individuals.

For those of you wishing to voice your concerns, ideas or "good job" comments regarding the World Show and now the Fall Championship Show..... this is the place to go. Comments in writing will probably be the most effective. Ron's address and email address is in the Journal under Directors. He is a Director from Texas.

### Board of Director Meeting:

APHA presented a financial report to the Directors indicating that the Association “lost” money for the second year. Although the Association has adequate financial reserves to “weather” the current financial situation, the APHA is reviewing and exploring opportunities for reducing cost and increasing revenues.

Most of our time was dedicated to discussing/debating the Rule Change Proposals put forth for our consideration. A detail description of the changes will be published in the December Journal.

Changes to make note of in particular are as follows:

RG-020 – The Rule Change was withdrawn by the EC for further study following legal action regarding it from several large APHA breeders. This Rule Change would have allowed a way around the One Paint Parent Rule.

SC-091.M – Longe Line: An exhibitor may show a maximum of 2 horses in a class. An additional handler will be allowed in the arena to assist.

SC-245.....– 3 Year Old Western Pleasure: Exhibitors of 3 Year Old’s take note..... Three year olds may exhibit in only one Open Western Pleasure Class at the same show..... Also changes regarding the bits used on 3 Year Olds is included.

SC-250.... Trail Course Obstacles.... Show Management & exhibitors take note...

AM-090. C.2 – Definition of Junior/Senior Halter Classes. The split between Junior and Senior is now at two years of age.

YP-085. B.2 – Definition of Junior/Senior Halter Classes. The split between Junior and Senior is now at two years of age.

For a complete understanding of Rule Changes passed, please see the December Journal for more details.

### Board of Directors – Open Discussion:

The Board had a very “spirited” discussion regarding the pros and cons of offering a World Champion title/buckle for Novice Youth. Both sides of the issues made valid points. Issues discussed will be taken into consideration in making decisions for the 2009 World Show.

Members of the Board made a passionate plea for the EC to make an early decision regarding the splitting of the 2009 World Show. Continuation of the Fall Championship Show seemed highly likely. The general consensus seemed to be that moving all the Open and Amateur to the Fall is highly desirable and that allowing exhibitors time to react to the decision was key to the success for both the Summer and Fall shows.

The meeting was adjourned Saturday, October 4th at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Bonner-Brown

California National Director