

The APHA Convention was held in Vancouver, Washington on Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2011.

President Travis Titlow moved to office of Past President, Scott Jackson assumed the office of President, and George Ready was elected 5th Committee Member. The other members of the EC are Greg Reisinger, Mary Parrot, Ron Shelly and Suzie Shaw.

A number of rules changes were passed including additional DQ outlines for Horsemanship, Showmanship & Hunt Seat Equitation Classes; Changing the age for Walk-Trot from 5-9 to 5 to 10 years of age; Allowing one rider to ride up to 5 horses in an All Age class with individual work, with no age requirements of age for the horses ridden; Aligning the score sheets and rules for Lunge Line with the NSBA; Show management may now combine classes that are not 2 points classes without unanimous vote of exhibitors; and the Point recalculation rule for other associations was passed. No new color rule was presented for a vote.

In the meeting of the EC & Chairs & Vice Chairs there was discussion of the regional clubs having a hard time competing with private groups putting on shows near them. Ideas for resolution was asked for by the EC.

Also the discussion of animal welfare/horse slaughter was discussed. Ideas for how APHA can make a stand without losing members was asked for.

UC Davis is now contracted to do all of the APHA Genetic Testing. It was questioned whether the results should appear on the registration certificates.

There was a presentation made by Jan Manion of a proposed Breeder's Trust Scholarship Program. It would require that 10% of all Breeders Trust monies go into a fund to be used for scholarships for riders entered in the program. Those riders would be required to pay a nomination fee(similar to the present nomination fee for a foal) and ride a Breeder's Trust Horse (thus giving a new youth market for Breeder's Trust Horses). They would receive a payment for every point earned in Youth Classes to be paid directly to a college or trade school at the appropriate time. This proposal will be put to the participants of the Breeder's Trust for an approval vote in the near future.

Sharon Bonner Brown did a private poll in regards to adding Performance Halter to the APHA Halter classes, and would like feedback from everyone in regards to this issue.

Executive Director Lex Smurthwaite announced his intention to step down from this position. The office is currently seeking a replacement. Lex will stay on until a replacement has been hired.

It was discussed to try moving the Youth Conference to the Workshop venue in June with the hopes that more young people could attend.

The financial report showed a loss in both revenue & entries for the past year, but the numbers seem to be on track for the projected budget.

There seemed to be a lot of positive energy and thoughts surrounding this Convention.

Respectfully submitted by

Jan Larsen