

News from WAHA

www.wisconsinarabian.com

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Reminders:

- WAHA Annual Meeting January 16—FREE dinner!
- Complete Mentor Program survey—sent via e-mail
- Remember to renew AHA and USEF memberships

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President's Message

Happy New Year to all! WAHA will be kicking off 2010 with our Annual Meeting at Summit Town Hall in Oconomowoc on January 16th. A FREE Italian Dinner will be served courtesy of the WAHA Board and guests are welcome along with members. Please contact Barb Bischoff at 262-742-5494 for reservations. See the notice elsewhere in the newsletter for details on reservation deadline and social hour and meeting time.

We will be electing four Directors and discussing a number of topics

of importance to the general membership. Among them will be discussion of the location and format of our May show in future years. We are again at State Fair Park for 2010, but we want the membership's input on the rising costs of holding the show at that facility.

Additionally, WAHA has recently formed a newcomer mentoring committee headed by Debbie Alt. The Mentoring Committee's goals will be highlighted in a brief discussion at the Annual Meeting and we are eager for your input!

Watch the Newsletter and the Website for further details on events planned for 2010. As always, feel free to contact me anytime with your ideas and suggestions! Many of our best ideas come directly from the general membership and I am always glad to hear from you! I can be reached at 262-672-9742 or via e-mail at jcts@jvl.net.

Jessica Cole, WAHA President

Committed to Growing Breed Involvement: WAHA to start mentoring program

WAHA has a new mentor committee charged with creating ways to help new Arabian/Half Arabian horse owners. From finding a horse to identifying reputable equine services and

products in Wisconsin, the idea is to get more people involved in the breed and refute stereotypes of Arabian horses. WAHA has emailed a survey to all its members. Please complete

this survey if you have not done so already. The Survey asks questions about who you use for services and if you would be willing to help mentor a person looking

President's Awards Honor Volunteers

It's my privilege to select two volunteers each year for AHA Club level volunteer service awards. In a busy club like WAHA, it is very difficult to narrow the choice down to just two recipients each year. We are blessed to have many volunteers who work very hard to make our club achieve great things, and we have the distinction of being one of the largest and most proactive AHA local clubs in the country.

This year the awards go to Stacey Dunn and Dick Hoeft, who have both served many years on our Board of Directors. Stacey has served as an alternate to Region 10 numerous times and also helps to run the Hippology contest at Youth Nationals. Stacey is an exceptionally constructive member of many of our WAHA Committees and really pounds the pavement to get committee work done in many areas. She is a go-getter to the extreme and has also been co-coordinator of the Midwest Horse Fair for many years.

Dick has served on the WAHA Board for many decades. He manages the barns at most of our WAHA Shows and is our liaison to the Equestrian Land Conservation organization. He sets up many of

our WAHA meetings including our Awards Banquet each year, and he drives the WAHA Thanksgiving Day Parade horses to Chicago each year. In short, he has always selflessly helped out wherever he could, whenever he was asked, and often even when he was not asked!

Lastly, it is also my privilege to select one volunteer from WAHA who has given exceptional service on a Regional level, and this year I selected Gay Jeanne Bower to receive that award. Gay Jeanne does a multitude of things for WAHA locally, from managing shows to running the point system, but she is also exceptionally active on a Regional level. She has been a longtime delegate to Region 10 and runs the Region 10 Open Show Point Program. She is also the liaison for the Region 10 Scholarships, and she takes care of the Region's insurance each year. Additionally, she has recently been named Chair of the National Amateur Committee and she is Vice Chair of the Awards Committee.

Thank you, volunteers, from all of us in WAHA!

WAHA Board Elections

The WAHA Board is composed of twelve directors, four officers and the immediate past president. WAHA Board members are elected for three year terms and each year four of the twelve positions are open. The WAHA By-laws state that only four names can be presented by the nominat-

ing committee. However, anyone who has been a member of WAHA for the past year may run from the floor at the annual meeting. Following are brief bios and statements of interest of the four board candidates being put forth by the nominating committee.

WAHA Annual Meeting

Want some GOOD FREE FOOD? Want to talk horses? Want to vote on new WAHA Board members or maybe you want to run for the Board? For all of this to happen you need to be at the WAHA Annual meeting on Saturday, January 16, Summit Town Hall, 2911 North Dousman Rd., Oconomowoc, WI.

The social hour is from 6:00 to 7:00 PM with dinner and meeting to follow. Please RSVP to barb Bischoff at 262-742-5494 or 414-254-5864 cell phone by January 11. Please leave a phone number where you can be reached if the meeting is postponed due to inclement weather.

Youth tell you parents that you need to be there also for the WAHA Youth Annual Meeting. We'd love to feed you and your parents.

The candidates are:

David Bilgrien, Heidi Elmer, Amy Rose-Offord, and Debbie Alt,

David Bilgrien — Candidate Profile

I, David Bilgrien, have been involved in Arabian horses for the majority of my life. As owner of Bilgrien Arabian Ventures, I have been actively training, showing, promoting, and marketing Arabians and Half-Arabians all over the country. Show ring achievements have included being successful at the Scottsdale Show, Canadian Nationals, U.S. Nationals, and National Show Horse Finals. I have also been breeding horses during that time, and a

number of the horses I have produced have achieved National recognition.

For the last several years, I have hosted a clinic that was sponsored by WAHA. I believe I have more to offer, I also believe that you need to give back to the industry that has given us all so much. In my opinion, the Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association has been the undeniable leader of the Arabian community in Wisconsin for

as long as I can remember. In these difficult economic times, both in and out of our industry, I choose to believe the glass is half full, not half empty. I also choose to believe that with adversity comes innovation and redirection of growth. I would like to be part of the resurgence and renewed enthusiasm involving the Arabian horse, and for this reason, I believe I would be an asset to the WAHA Board of Directors.

Heidi Elmer — Candidate Profile

I have been on the WAHA Board of Directors, and acted as the Futurity Secretary for the past 3 years. During that time, I have been able to learn a great deal from my fellow board members, as well as be a part of some great changes for our club. One of those involved making the decision to convert our Futurity/Maturity program to jackpot classes. This involved lots of work by our committee, and some tough

decision making, but in the end, it has been very successful for our club, but more importantly, for all of our members.

I have been involved with horses since the age of 5 or 6. I began riding with Joan Rose shortly after that, and I was hooked for life. I now board and train horses on a small scale, give riding lessons, and continue to show as much as possi-

ble in Arabian reining, western pleasure, and a bit of hunt.

I would like to continue on with my work on the WAHA Board of Directors. I feel that we have some great ideas and programs in the works, and it is a very exciting time to be part of this. It's also a great pleasure to get to meet so many new people in this role.

Amy Rose-Offord — Candidate Profile

I have been involved in the Arabian Horse Industry for over 36 years. I grew up on a family boarding/training stable that focused on youth and amateurs. I have successfully participated at various levels of shows: open, 4-H, Class A, Regional and National. I have shown in many disciplines including: saddleseat, western, huntseat, sport horse, sidesaddle, and native costume.

I have been involved in WAHA in various capacities: Youth Member,

Judging Team participant, Judging Team Chaperone, show volunteer and youth enthusiast. I have worked with various Arabian Horse trainers: Mike Miller, Hoyt Rose, Joan Rose to name a few. Over the last 5 years I have become a horse-show mom. My daughter and I have two Arabian geldings that we show and enjoy. We also are very involved in our 4-H club specifically in the horse project always promoting the Arabian Breed.

Professionally, I have managed a branch operation for a publicly traded company for the last 11+ years. With this experience I bring multifaceted leadership experience that can be utilized in various capacities.

I am interested in the Board of Director position to represent the amateur exhibitor, continue my involvement with the youth group, and assist with breed promotion. Thank you for your consideration!

Debbie Alt — Candidate Profile

My father bought me my first horse 44 years ago on my birthday ...a quarab mare that was very rough around the collar to say the least...hard work paid off and we grew up together winning many high points. That wonderful mare lived to 40 years old and I was hooked on Arabians and half Arabians from then on.

I have been a member of WAHA most of my life –joined as a youth member in 1972. I went to the UW Madison and received a BS in Extension Education/Animal Sciences. I was a horse 4-H leader for 10 years, and a Girl Scout leader

for 3 years as my children were growing up. I enjoy people and now work for Commerce Corporation –the leader in Lawn and garden products as a sales person. I am involved with German Shepherds in Shutzhund training and one of my dogs is a reg. therapy dog that visits nursing homes.

My small herd of horses consists of my grey ½ Arab mare Reba that is trained for western Pleasure and my new ½ Arab palomino filly –Sera that will be a halter / western horse. We also have 2 adorable mini donkeys-Reiley and Annie.

I serve on the clinic Committee and I am the chair of the new Mentor Committee. I try to help where needed in the club and my wish is to bring new people into the breed and club.

I would like to run for the board to help promote the Arabian horse and I hope to bring some new ideas on board. I am very excited about the possibilities of the new mentor program.

WAHA Wins Finalist Award in Breed Promotion Category!

WAHA was chosen as one of three finalist AHA Clubs for the AHA Club Awards in the category of Breed Promotion!

WAHA's delegates were hopeful that we might win the top award this year, but instead it was taken by the Calgary AHA.

Nonetheless, we are very proud that AHA recognized WAHA's breed pro-

motion efforts by selecting WAHA as one of the three finalists.

Thank you to all the members, directors, and volunteers who work hard on breed promotion throughout the year! Among our efforts are: Midwest Horse Fair, Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade, two free clinics each year, High Point award sponsored at State 4H Show, three

shows each year, and a TAIL program! All these things could not happen without all the people who pitch in to do the work. Great job!

WAHA Mentor Program

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for a horse. Committee members hope to assist new owners with their first horse purchase and make the process as pain free as possible. This is also a great way to guide new owners to becoming active with the breed and WAHA.

This results from the survey will also help existing members with

names and addresses for services they may be looking for-taking out the guesswork of where to go for farrier or chiropractic (for instance).

A clinic is planned for spring to highlight the Arabian horse. Topics include: prepurchase exams, proper hoof care, feeding and nutrition, and acupuncture and chiropractic care. Several quality

horses in many disciplines will also be showcased. Door prizes and information booths will be set up for attendees to gather information. Stay tuned for more event details. Make sure to fill out and email your survey. The mentoring committee consists of the following WAHA members; Debbie Alt, Stacey Dunn, Joanne Jones, Gay Jeanne Bower, Bevra Cole and Laota Hoeft.

WAHA Youth Participate in Judging Competition at U.S. Nationals

The Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association and Region Ten recently sent two judging teams to the U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show in Tulsa, Oklahoma to compete in the 2009 Arabian Horse Judging Contest. Team A consisted of Krysten Ekenberg, Melissa Kelly, Hayley Simmons, and Taylor Disch coached by Janet Ekenberg. Team B consisted of Jocalyn Carpenter, Taylor Colin, and Emily Wood, with Joan Rose serving as coach.

WAHA youth members, under the



The teams take a moment for a group picture!

guidance of Cathy Arnold (WAHA Youth Coordinator), held several fund raisers, including a silent auction at the awards banquet and concession stands at shows to help raise money for the trip.

Despite a few bumps in the road during the preparation of this trip, it turned out to be very successful. The H1N1 Virus was looming in the background, and one team member on the B team was unable to go because of it. Krysten Ekenberg recovered from the flu just in the nick of time to accompany the teams on the long drive to Tulsa. They arrived on Thursday, Oct. 29th, during torrential downpours which flooded the parking

lots at the horse show! Fortunately, the weather was much more cooperative after a day or so. Despite these obstacles, the teams had a great experience in the judging contest and had the opportunity to enjoy many beautiful classes offered at the show. Team members were able to view some of the most beautiful Arabian and Half Arabian horses in the world as they showcased their skills with both amateur riders and professional riders.

Early on Friday morning, the teams met at the Ford Building for the competition. There were ten classes consisting of four horses each for the teams to judge: Western Pleasure Open, Purebred Country English Pleasure Open, Purebred Hunter Pleasure Open, Hunt Seat Equitation, Half-Arabian Country English Pleasure Open, Half-Arabian Hunter Pleasure Open, Half-Arabian Geldings (Stock/Hunter Type), Half-Arabian Mares (Stock/Hunter Type), Purebred Arabian Geld-

ings, and Purebred Arabian Mares. Contestants were required to present oral reasons to judges on the PB Hunter Pleasure Open, HA Country English Pleasure Open, HA Geldings Halter and PB Arabian Mares Halter classes. Judging took place in the morning, and then team members boarded buses to go to a nearby hotel to present oral reasons to judges. By late afternoon, all arrived back at the show grounds, ready to watch the show!

On Saturday morning, all teams attended the awards banquet, where results were announced and

ribbons were awarded. Lance Walters, AHA President, and Glenn Petty, AHA Executive Vice President joined Team A in a photo op afterwards. WAHA and Region 10 are very proud of the accomplishments of our youth participants in the 2009 Arabian Judging Contest. There were eight teams and 31 Junior AHA participants. WAHA Team A came in 5th place and Team B came in 6th place overall. In Reasons, Team A came in 5th, and Team B came in 7th. In Halter Judging, Team A came in second place, with Hayley Simmons earning fourth place individual, and Krysten Ekenberg earning second place. Krysten Ekenberg was fourth place overall in High Individual out of all Junior AHA members. Not only did the teams do well, but new friendships were formed, and the Arabian horse fan base grew because several team members were new to the world of Arabian horses.

The Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association youth and coaches would like to extend their thanks to WAHA and Region 10 for supporting their trip to nationals. It was an amazing experience for everyone involved.

Report: 2009 AHA Convention

Jessica Cole, WAHA President and Region 10 Delegate

The 2009 AHA Convention in Reno was pretty tame in terms of “hot” issues to be decided on via resolutions. The delegates were not presented with a large slate of resolutions this year, and of those that made it to a vote, there were very few that inspired much debate.

However, broader AHA issues were a topic of much concern. Much has already been written and discussed regarding the Sweepstakes funds that were improperly co-mingled with the AHA General Fund. A plan is in place for those funds to be paid back in full to the Sweepstakes Trust and measures are being taken to avoid such debacles in the future.

The bigger picture for the Arabian world and for the horse world as a whole continues to be one of decline, a reflection of both the struggling economy and world wide urbanization. As society becomes more cen-

tered in and around cities, and in and around technology, fewer and fewer potential newcomers are exposed to the Arabian horse, or for that matter, to any horse.

Each of us in WAHA has a big challenge and responsibility to find ways to expose the general public to our horses, and to make horse involvement and ownership seem like a possibility for the average person. WAHA already does a fantastic job of this through efforts such as the Midwest Horse Fair, the Free Clinics, and the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago.

We can all do something on an individual level by inviting our friends or local social groups out to the farm to meet our horses. Our horses are deeply personal for all of us, and it is by sharing that magic on a personal level that we are most likely to draw in newcomers.

WAHA came home with big reason to be proud of its breed promotion efforts this year as a Finalist for the AHA Club Excellence Awards in the Breed Promotion Category. Only three clubs out of the whole of AHA are chosen to be finalists. Although WAHA did not win the top award, I am still so proud of the efforts and achievements of our club on a grass roots level.

In closing, it is a true privilege to represent WAHA and Region 10 as a delegate. In a time when many clubs are faltering and many Regions seem to be divided within themselves, I find that the people in WAHA and Region 10 continue to be constructive, enthusiastic, supportive, and creative in their efforts for the Arabian horse.

Report: 2009 AHA Convention

Bev Cole, WAHA Treasurer and Region 10 Delegate

Convention has three main components: 1) speakers & reports both on the convention floor and in special presentations, 2) committee meetings that discuss relevant resolutions & other committee business, and 3) General Sessions, with all delegates on the convention floor, hearing presentation of resolutions for discussion and voting, and electing officers and other key committee/board members.

It was especially interesting to listen to James Hickey, American Horse Council President. He is a wealth of information on relevant issues the Horse Council addresses with congress, including the pros and cons of undocumented workers and business expense deductions.

Go to www.horsecouncil.org for detailed information and to participate in the Horse Council's current survey.

As your delegate, I am active on several committees including Bylaws, Amateur, Regional/National Classes, and Equine Stress /Research & Education. In addition, I serve on the convention-elected Ethical Practice Review Board.

The **Bylaws Committee** often deals with “housekeeping” issues, which are important, although not real attention getters. This year's major issue was allowing the AHA Board to vote electronically rather than in person, and rewriting AHA's relevant Bylaw section to

comply with changes in Colorado law. Relevant resolutions passed easily.

This year the **Amateur Committee** did not bring forth any resolutions but we provided helpful input regarding tying stirrups to equipment, saddleseat equitation changes, park specifications, and select rider clarifications. WAHA's Gay Jeanne Bower is the new chair.

The most interesting part of the **Equine Research & Stress Committee's** meeting was a talk by USEF's chief administrator of the Drugs & Medications program. He discussed the possibility of limiting use of NSAIDS to just one drug. Nothing was decided and USEF will

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AHA Convention Report

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continue to study the issue.

One of the jobs of the **Regional/National Classes Committee** is to determine which classes may be added to national shows. We discussed—and approved—a request to allow combining PB & HA over fences classes at Canadian Nationals and Sport Horse Nationals because entries in the separate classes have been low, and the classes might disappear. Whereas combining PB and HA would create a class large enough to be offered.

We also approved offering PB select rider classes in English, Country English, Western, and Hunter Pleasure at US Nationals. This policy, along with the over fences policy, has also been approved by the AHA Board of Directors, so show commissions can add them if they wish.

The **Ethical Practice Review Board** recommended approval of two resolutions to add sections regarding genetic lethals to the Code of Ethics. We also welcomed delegates, alternates, and guests to join to learn how we operate and to offer questions and concerns. We then went into closed session to discuss confidential business and scheduling. In a General Session, I was re-elected to a sixth 3-year term by the 334 delegates in attendance.

Of particular interest was the **US National Show Commission**, where they told us that US Nationals will be in Tulsa in 2010. They are working with Tulsa to address and resolve many of the problems identified. 2010 is the last year in a 3-year contract, and other sites are being considered, but they noted various problems with others, particularly dates.

Also of concern was the **USEF/AHA**

Task Force meeting. They seem optimistic about working with USEF, with one goal being to have a reciprocal membership with a single membership card for both organizations. However, **AHA's 12-month membership** is a stumbling block, since USEF's membership is a calendar year. Our 12-month membership also causes problems for show secretaries and some clubs. How do you feel about the membership issue?

The **AHA Board of Directors** elected WAHA's Dean Meier to another term on the **Sweepstakes Commission**. Dean has been influential in insuring fiscal responsibility for Sweepstakes funds and in creating the new payback system which gives Sweepstakes points paybacks at class A shows and restructures the payback system overall.

I have a unique job in the **General Sessions** as Resolution Reader, which I've done for the past several years. I present the resolutions on the convention floor and track debate, proposed amendments, and final votes. Resolutions are very important in establishing policies that go into the AHA Handbook and into the USEF Rule Book, so my job is critical in insuring that actions are recorded accurately. I work closely with the convention chair (the AHA President), the parliamentarian, and key AHA staff to keep everything on track and intercept any problems before they become policy by mistake.

You can find a complete record of passed resolutions on the AHA website, but a few are worth highlighting. Resolution 3-09 and 4-09 passed. They add disclosure of horses who are CA (Cerebral Abiotrophy) or LFS (Lavender Foal Syndrome) carriers to the Code of Ethics. Both of these genetic lethals

now have carrier tests, so they should be easy to track.

Resolution 13-09 changes Park Horse specs by adding "with proper cadence and balance" following "brilliant performance" wherever the words "brilliant performance" occur.

Resolution 18-09 provides that a full top ten will be awarded at all AHA National Championship Horse Shows, Endurance, and Competitive Rides, regardless of how many compete. However, only awards made to the top 50% (rounded up) will receive points for Sweepstakes and AHA Achievement Awards. Effective 12/31/10.

In closing, there is a wealth of convention information on the AHA website with complete resolution results, various reports, and pictures of the goings-on. Go to www.arabianhorses.org. I also highly recommend visiting two other significant websites. First is the Arabian Galleries at Kentucky Horse Park, a fantastic project which will expose Arabians to thousands of visitors to KHP. Go to www.purebredearabiantrust.com/Galleries_Info.asp. Second is the Arabian Horse Foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of the Arabian Horse Association. Donations can be designated to a specific area: Youth Scholarships, Public Education, Equine Health & Research, or the Displacement/Rehoming fund. Go to <http://www.arabianhorsefoundation.org/home.html>. In 2009 the WAHA Board voted to donate \$300 to each of these, with the Foundation donation designated to the Displacement/Rehoming fund.

That's it! Thanks for listening, and always feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns. Bev Cole bpcole@centurytel.net 608-356-5340

WAHA Congratulates Regional and National Winners!

Owner	Horse	Exhibitor
Lois Marx	Jazzmyne Breeze	Jessica Cole
<i>Region 10 Reserve Champion Purebred Country English Junior Horse</i>		
Lois Marx	STA A Horse Afire	Jessica Cole
<i>Region 10 Reserve Champion Purebred English Junior Horse</i>		
<i>U.S. Nationals Semifinalist Purebred English Junior Horse</i>		
Bev Cole	Johnny Dangerously	Jessica Cole, Dave Bilgrien
<i>Region 10 Reserve Champion HA Saddle Pleasure Type Gelding</i>		
<i>Region 10 Top Five Half Arabian Show Hack Open</i>		
Ashley Viney	Idlis Last Shadow	Ashley Viney
<i>Region 10 Reserve Purebred Hunter Pleasure AOTR Select Rider</i>		
Sadie Dumbleton	The Scorpion King	Sadie Dumbleton
<i>Region 10 Top Five Purebred Country Pleasure AOTR Select Rider</i>		
Kristen Johnson	WR Bravissimo	Kristen Johnson
<i>Region 10 Top Five HA Stock Hunter Gelding AOTH</i>		
Janet Ekenberg	LW Banquel	Krysten Ekenberg
<i>Region 10 Top five Arabian Western Pleasure Select Rider JOTR</i>		
Hendrickson Family	Mitmik Phantasia	Krysten Ekenberg
<i>Region 10 Top Five Showmanship at Halter JTH 14-17</i>		
Alicia Sprecher	Mattinee Idol+//	Alicia Sprecher
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Champion A/HA/AA Dressage Intermediate I</i>		
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Champion A/HA/AA Dressage Prix St. Georges ATR</i>		
Katie Pfeil	TLA Alioop	Katie Pfeil, Lisa Sharer
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Champion Arabian First Level Dressage ATR</i>		
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Top Ten Arabian Training Level Dressage ATR</i>		
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Top Ten Arabian Training Level Dressage</i>		
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Top Ten A/HA/AA Hunter Seat Eq. Not to Jump</i>		
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Top Ten Arabian First Level Dressage</i>		
Katie Pfeil	Knight Thyme	Lisa Sharer
<i>U.S. Sport Horse Nationals Top Ten Arabian Sport Horse In-Hand Gelding</i>		