

**American Hackney Horse Society 2016 Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2016- UPHA Office, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY**

Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order: Rich Campbell, President called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m..

II. Roll call – Maureen Quackenbush, Recording Secretary

Members Present: TJ. Blevins, Rich Campbell, Missy Fleming, Rodney Hicks, Andy Freseth, Bo Lucas, Tony Nastali, Mindy Preston, Maureen Quackenbush, Matthew Schuckert, Junior Schut, Kent Swalla, Brian Yount. There were also four guests in attendance at the meeting, Foundation President John Wrather and incoming board members Tom Lowry, Carl Nichols, and Karen Waldron.

III. Executive Committee: Rich Campbell, Chair - No report

IV. President's Report: Rich Campbell, President - No report

V. Office Report: Ashley Redmon - It has obviously been busy with the timing of the registrations coming in and the time of year. We received 310 incentive registrations. 92 were weanlings that probably would have been sent in by the end of the year anyway, but still a good number for the program. Most of the registrations are done. There are still some that had incorrect DNA that are being worked on and there is a set of them that were granted an extension that have to be completed. Ashley expects to have them all completed by the end of the year, if not sooner. We will have accurate registration numbers by then and Ashley will send out a report along with a 5 year comparison. Right now we are at 311, which is more than last year. The membership was really appreciative of the incentive and hope the board will consider it again in the future.

The current membership count for 2016 is 941 with a few still coming in.

Ashley advised the website was down for one weekend, November 11-13. Ashley does not know what happened but the website was restored by our provider and everything seems to be ok. Ashley has not received any update from Mike Setzer on our new website development. We asked for a six week turnaround which has now gone by. Ashley advised she gave him a bunch of information before he started and he can log into our website to see what is there and pull whatever he needs. Rich Campbell asked Maureen Quackenbush to check with Mike Setzer and for an update on his progress.

Rich Campbell advised he has had complaints from members not receiving registration papers in a timely manner. Ashley advised she had looked into this and there seems to be a problem with the mail. Rich directed Ashley to scan and email a copy of the registration papers to the new registered owner at the same time as the papers are put in the mail. That way, the owner has a copy for their records and knows the original papers are on their way.

VI. Financial & Treasurer's Report: Toni Nastali, Chair - Toni passed out spread sheets of the National Breeder Futurity and Limited Breeders Sweepstakes pay outs and asked Ashley to post these on the website. Toni advised we are over budget in the office due to the expense of the new website development, the expenses of purchasing the new server and new computer for the office, and the cost of the Limited Breeders Sweepstakes grand weekend was up. We also had the cost of printing and mailing the new membership

directory. The incentive registration program raised more money for the Society and trophy sponsorship was up this year. We also donated \$10,000 added money to the AHHS Futurity. We are currently about \$12,000 in the red, not counting the Stableford estate endowment. It was discussed there may be another installment coming to the AHHS from the Stableford estate. Toni will contact the estate attorneys and find out.

The Merrill Lynch investment account has been set up and we are ready to fund it. Merrill Lynch will allow us to fund it with an initial deposit of \$400,000. We have two CDs that will mature in the first quarter of 2017 and we will wait for these to mature. Once they mature, we will close them out and deposit the funds from the two CDs into the Merrill Lynch account.

VII. Foundation Liaison and Promotion: John Wrather, Chair - John Wrather reported the Foundation board met today at 12:00. The Foundation fulfilled all of the scholarships. John advised the Youth Medallion finals were very successful and the luncheon had approximately 100 people in attendance. The Foundation held a fundraiser and raised approximately \$6,200.00. The Foundation is working on an academy class for ponies under saddle. There was also a request for a Medallion final for the Showmanship class. Mindy Preston will check with UPHA to see if this can be held. The Foundation has purchased a tabletop booth for the Foundation for promotion. The Foundation has been aggressive with new promotion and marketing ideas and have developed a new campaign called The Buck Stops Here - It Starts With Me. Brian Yount passed out brochures and gave an overview of the new campaign. The new campaign will be rolled out to the membership at the annual membership meeting in March. The Foundation asked for \$10,000.00 from the Society for a start up fund. The Foundation also asked the board to consider a professionally managed social media and marketing strategy for the program. The Foundation believes this would expand the membership and increase participation with alternate disciplines and with breeding. The Foundation proposed the AHHS hire Horse Lingo at a cost of \$700.00 per month to create and manage an AHHS Foundation facebook page and manage the AHHS facebook page. It was noted that Freedman's is using Horse Lingo to manage their facebook page and they have seen a big increase in their participation.

A motion was made by TJ Blevins to hire Horse Lingo to manage the Foundation and AHHS facebook pages at a cost of \$700.00 a month. The motion was seconded by Toni Nastali. The motion passed without opposition.

A motion was made by TJ Blevins to fund The Buck Stops Here campaign with \$10,000.00 and to reevaluate yearly or as necessary. The motion was seconded by Toni Nastali. The motion passed without opposition.

VIII. Committee Reports and Discussion

Annual Awards: Brooke Jacobs, Chair - Maureen Quackenbush reported the committee met this week and the awards have been completed. All of the award winners have been notified and Beth Snider has been provided with the contact information for the award winners, and additional information about the award winners, for use in producing the award videos for the Convention.

Audit Committee: Missy Fleming, Chair - Nothing to report at this time.

By-laws: Missy Fleming, Chair - Missy recommended the new members of the by-laws committee work on reconciling the language in Article 5, Section 2 with the new language in Article 5, Section 7.

Convention: Rich Campbell, Chair - Rich Campbell noted that the convention this year is being held in New Orleans from January 18 to January 21, 2017. We will be having our own silent auction this year. Ashley

Redmon would like the board to participate in gathering items for the silent auction. The silent auction at the convention is generally a success and the more items donated, the more money that is raised.

Open Competition/Dressage Committee: Sandra Surber, Chair - The final points for 2016 are being tallied. The forms are in the process of being updated to state the points will be sent to the points keeper and all money and ribbons will continue to go through the office.

National Breeders' Futurity: Bo Lucas, Chair - The futurity was a success and all monies have been paid out.

Limited Breeders' Weanling & 3-Year-Old Stakes, & Stallion Auction Committee: Matt Schuckert, Chair, Rodney Hicks - The LBS weekend will be held on March 24 and March 25, 2017 at the Horseshoe Casino in Elizabeth, Indiana. The regional youth high point awards will be given out at the general membership meeting on Saturday evening. The committee is planning a Saturday afternoon outing for the juniors. Friday evening there will be a presentation of some type with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The committee is looking in to a Friday evening pizza party for the juniors. The committee just received buffet menu choices yesterday. Rooms will be \$129.00 a night for Friday and Saturday night. The committee is meeting again this week to work on details.

Membership/Membership Directory: Andy Freseth, Chair - The membership directory has been printed and distributed. It was noted that the directory had been well done.

Nominating Committee: Kent Swalla, Chair, Rodney Hicks - Nothing to report at this time.

Regional Associations: Maureen Quackenbush, Chair - All of the regionals were sent an email asking for information. Only Northeastern and Mid-West responded with information and Southeastern advised they would report at this board meeting. Northeastern Regional hosted a "Celebration of the Hackney" event at Rodney Hicks Stable. They had a good turnout including current Hackney owners and exhibitors, owners and exhibitors of other breeds, and a number of local people who had no connection to Hackneys or other breeds. There were demonstrations, opportunities to drive the Hackney, a raffle, a trip to the Berkshire Carousel to see "The Aristocrat" and ride the Carousel, and a cocktail hour with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Mid-West Regional held their annual auction. The turnout was good and sales were brisk. Many purchasers opted to nominate their purchase to the Mid-West Hackney Futurity. Bo Lucas reported Southeastern Regional has 119 members and over \$15,000 in their bank account. They also have \$5,000 in their breeders stake program that is held in Morristown, TN. There is no in hand. There are harness classes for 3 year olds, and for 4 and 5 year olds. It is an open futurity. If all of the back fees are paid, a pony can come in. The cost to get in as a three year old would be approximately \$150.00. The membership has been active. The regional had Matt Schuckert come in for a presentation which was really appreciated by their membership. There is nothing new to report for New York, Wisconsin, Hoosier, or Mid American at this time.

Registry Review/Stud Book: Junior Schut, Chair, TJ Blevins - Junior Schut reported that we have good rules and good bylaws in place and everything is fine at this time.

Trophy Committee: John Wrather, Chair - Nothing to report at this time.

UPHA Liaison: Rich Campbell, Chair - Rich Campbell recommended more/better communication between the AHHS and the UPHA. Rich noted that a time slot had originally been reserved for a general

membership meeting at the Superconvention in Boston but he was told when he arrived that the meeting had been canceled. A time slot has been reserved this year for a general membership meeting at the Convention on Friday, January 20, 2017 between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. The board members agreed this meeting will be held as informational, even though the official annual general membership meeting will be held in March during the LBS weekend.

Youth Medallion Committee: Mindy Preston, Chair, Kent Swalla, Co-Chair - Mindy Preston provided a written report which is attached to these minutes. The Hackney pleasure pony under saddle medallion class is growing. Mindy recommended that shows that offer medallion classes also offer a championship for these classes and we encourage shows to add them. Requiring helmets for pleasure pony under saddle was discussed and whether an extraordinary rule change should be submitted to USEF requiring helmets be worn by riders in Hackney pleasure pony under saddle classes. After discussion, a motion was made by Mindy Preston to recommend the incoming board consider submitting an extraordinary rule change to the USEF requiring helmets be worn by riders in Hackney pleasure pony under saddle classes. The motion was seconded by Rodney Hicks and passed without opposition.

Junior Exhibitor Regional Championship Program: Mindy Preston, Chair, Brian Yount, Co-Chair - Points are being tallied and the awards will be presented at the annual general membership meeting held during the LBS weekend. Mindy will notify the winners they can receive their awards at the annual general membership meeting or the awards will be sent to them thereafter.

IX. Old Business: Rich Campbell reported there is no news yet on the proposed USDA regulations regarding shoeing. Rich advised that there had been inspectors at Louisville with cameras and video cameras who patrolled the grounds and took photos and video of horses in and out of their stalls. It was reported back to the USDA there was no evidence of any "soring" taking place at Louisville.

There are several rule change proposals pending with the USEF which have been approved by the Hackney rules committee. There are several rule changes related to the proposed USDA regulations including the use of chains or rollers as action devices on the competition grounds during or before a competition will be prohibited. Kicking or pawing chains will still be allowed. Leather straps are allowed. No chains were used at the American Royal, Eastern States Exposition, or Twin States Octoberfest.

Additional proposed changes include language stating Hackneys must be serviceably sound. Horses and ponies who show evidence of lameness or broken wind must be severely penalized.

Shoeing- to be directed to improving the comfort, balance, and soundness of the pony or horse. Labored way of going due to shoeing to be penalized.

Pads and wedges- are permitted to protect the feet and limbs from the impact of the pony or horse's natural gait, and maintain the integrity of the hoof wall. Exceptions: Country Pleasure Driving section where no pads are allowed.

Bands- protective hoof bands are permitted to protect the integrity of the hoof and prevent the loss of a shoe resulting in trauma to the hoof. Exceptions: English Country Pleasure Driving sections where no hoof bands are allowed.

The rules committee has also submitted rule change proposals regarding tails. The language in the Hackney pony rules will be changed to eliminate any reference to "cob tail" and will now state tails will "have the appearance of being short".

Ponies and horses may be shown with unset tails in any class without penalty.

Surgical release of only the ventral sacrocaudal muscle is allowable if performed by a licensed veterinarian.

No pony or horse may compete in a class in the Hackney Division with any chemical or other irritant of any

kind present to alter the tail carriage.

Ponies or horses showing signs of inhumane treatment will be eliminated from competition

There is also a rule change pending requiring the use of martingales in all road pony classes.

Additionally, the temporary rule change allowing cross entering between divisions has been submitted as a permanent rule change.

X. New Business - USEF Points of Emphasis - USEF typically collects points of emphasis from the USEF committees of concerns they would like emphasized during USEF Hackney Judging clinics. The USEF Hackney Committee felt that the AHHS might like to contribute "Points of Emphasis". Two points were discussed. 1) judges asking for a flat walk in Hackney Pony and Harness Pony classes when no flat walk is required by the rules, and 2) laboring way of going due to shoeing to be penalized. The board members agreed these points should be emphasized at judging clinics.

Measuring heels on road ponies - After a long discussion on whether or not measuring heels on road ponies should be required, due to safety reasons, it was decided to discuss this further at the incoming board meeting.

XI: Executive Session - At 4:02 p.m., TJ Blevins made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Mindy Preston and passed by majority vote. The guests and the executive secretary, Ashley Redmon, were asked to leave the meeting prior to the beginning of the executive session. At 4:16 p.m., a motion to end the executive session was made by Mindy Preston and seconded by Rodney Hicks. The motion passed unanimously.

XII: Round Table -

Mindy Preston - Thank you.

Brian Yount - Appreciated all of the help this year.

XIII: Closing Remarks: Rich Campbell, President - Rich took the job of president because nothing was happening. The Foundation was dead in the water and now it's moving. We now have a budget committee, we are solvent. We don't need to solicit donations just to keep the doors open. The LBS was less than 100 days away and no plans were in place. He did the best he could to try to turn things around. He has 66 horses to work and cannot rerun for president. He thanked the outgoing board members for being on the board and thanked numerous members of the board for their help during the past year.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rodney Hicks and was seconded by TJ Blevins. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Quackenbush
Recording Secretary