

To:  
California APHA Members  
CCC Representatives

From: Sharon Bonner-Brown

Re: APHA 2008 Workshop National Director Report

The APHA 2008 Workshop was held in Dallas, Texas from May 29th-31<sup>st</sup>.

Thursday evening, five of your national Directors met to discuss current challenges facing California. Your remaining directors were still in transit. We discussed issues surrounding Zone and had an opportunity to meet with two other Directors who run a successful Zone Show in the southeast. It seems that it is common for Zone's across the country to have a profit sharing program in place. Also, Zones typically work directly with the Regional Clubs rather than with a Coordinating Committee. There are two other Coordinating Committees: Texas and the Northwest.

We were given an update from the EC and APHA staff regarding the Strategic Planning process began last summer. APHA has hired an outside resource to assist in the development of a Strategic Plan to help us successfully navigate through the current difficult period. With the economic issues facing us as well as the major challenges facing the horse industry, everyone believed that this focus is particularly important.

Following the update, each Standing Committee was given a list of topics to discuss in their respective Committee meetings, Each was ask to write a report to the EC giving feedback that will be utilized in formulating this very important planning document.

I attended committee meetings of Ways & Means, Breed Improvement and Long Range Planning. My report will center on Long Range Planning since that is my official Committee assignment.

The horse industry has too many horses..... aggravated by anti-horse slaughter legislation compounded by changes in ergonomics and economics. The prices of horses are dramatically down across the country, which has negatively affected registrations and transfers. As result APHA finds itself in a financially challenging situation. In particular, registrations declined almost 11% in 2007 and AQHA registrations declined approximately 18%.

We explored ways to increase APHA membership and horse ownership. Particular emphasis was placed on attracting youth to the APHA. We reviewed 4-H & FFA membership trends. Statistics were available through 2005. They showed approximately 7 million youth participating in 4-H across the country. FFA membership was reported by state. California leads the nation with over 66,000 members, followed by Texas with 63,000. Regional Club participation in "outreach" programs seemed to be the most effective approach to reaching these youth.

An additional Youth Scholarship Program was explored. The new idea would allow Youth to accumulate “scholarship monies” based on the number of youth points they earned in APHA competition. The APHA Foundation is evaluating how such a program might work and be financially funded. At this point, APHA has contributed over 2 million dollars to Youth Scholarship Programs.

The Committee also suggested that APHA could be very helpful to Regional Clubs by providing a Group Policy through which clubs could purchase insurance to cover their club shows. This idea will be taken back to the EC.

All Committees were asked the question: Should “cropouts” be registered with the APHA and if so, in what capacity. There was a lengthy discussion with valid arguments being put forth for both pro and con positions.

The Registration Committee passed through to the floor a Rule Change proposal that will create an Appendix registry for “copout” mares. AQHA owner may list these mares for a fee and then any subsequent foals meeting the color requirements of the APHA will be admitted into the Regular Registry. This rule change proposal will be voted on at Convention.

John Corbin, President Elect, and member of the EC met with us to ask our thoughts on the show approval process. The EC wants to review rules in this area to see if they are still appropriate. In particular the 250 miles “rule” and the ability to have back-to-back 2 judge shows was discussed. Our recommendation to the EC was for them to write a letter to every Regional Club president and ask the opinion of their clubs. This would open up new avenues of communication as well as communicate through behavior to the Regional Clubs that the EC cares what they think.

In listening to the Standing Committee reports on Saturday AM, it appears the majority of Committees believed the 250 mile rule should remain and that the ability to have back-to-back 2 judge shows would be helpful. In talking with Directors across the country, it seems that the 2 judge shows were quite popular. POR were also important. Other states seem to have fewer POR’s than California.

Regarding horse slaughter legislation..... APHA has joined forces with others across the nation to appeal to the Supreme Court to repeal the Federal Law prohibiting horse slaughtering in the US. In particular, the coalition is requesting the reopening of slaughter plants to address the growing “abandon horse” problem in the United States.

We were asked if the Breeders Trust should be revised. Changes to the Stallion enrollment fees were discussed as well as ways to increase the number of eligible foals being enrolled in the program. In particular, the Committee suggested that the APHA send a letter to the owner of every eligible Breeder’s Trust foal that did not enroll in the program. We also discussed the possibility of a Breeders Trust Select Yearling Sale that

would generate monies for a 2-year-old Select Breeders Futurity for those being sold in the sale. The EC is working on this concept for the Fall Championship Show.

Friday evening the Directors met for an APHA Foundation Fundraiser. There was both a live and silent auction. The evening raised over \$7,000 for the Youth Scholarship Program and, combined with the APHA Kid's Day, the association raised over \$18,000 for St. Jude's Hospital.

We met Saturday AM to listen to Committee Reports and to be briefed further by APHA staff and the EC.

#### Show & Contest / Youth Committee Reports:

Preliminary entries for Novice Youth classes are large – 50-60 in a class. Pro/Cons of giving World Championship titles to these classes was explored. Those opposing believe that Novice Youth classes are to provide experience and encouragement to youth to continue to improve so they can become World Champions. Consideration is being given to a “Top of the Nation” Show being offered prior to the World Show in future years. Exhibitors in the Novice Youth Program will not be allowed to compete in any other youth events.

APHA monies currently being given to outside organizations (NRHA, NCHA, etc) to promote APHA participation should be brought back into APHA programs that benefit directly our loyal APHA exhibitors. EC will evaluate their recommendation.

World Show Qualification: The EC has “tabled” this question until the details of splitting the World Show have been worked out. It is the opinion of the Committee that this subject as initially submitted last year should be acted upon in an earlier timeframe.

#### New Rule Change Proposals Highlights:

##### Amateur Halter Classes:

Jr & Sr. Division will be made at 2 years of age instead of 3 years of age.

##### Longe Line:

Exhibitor can show up to 2 horses in a class. They may have a handler in the arena to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> horse.

##### Lead-Line:

Person leading the exhibitor must be 16 years of age or older instead of 18 or older.

#### Judges Committee:

Four new DVD's to assist in Judges Training have been sent to judges. These same DVD's are available for purchase from the APHA General Store for those exhibitors who wish to improve their own knowledge of what judges are looking for. A DVD on scribbling is being developed and will also be available for sale.

World Show Drug Testing: Every Champion of every class will be drug tested. Random tests for all horses will also be conducted.

The APHA has reviewed extensively the calendar and the problems associated with it. They are approving no additional shows on Workshop or Convention dates but will leave existing show dates unchanged. It is encouraged for clubs to be reserving their venues at least one or two years in advance. In particular, tie down the sites contractually to avoid future scheduling problems.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned Saturday at noon.