

ASHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Embassy Suites, Lexington, Kentucky
Thursday, February 19, 2004

Members Present: President Fred Sarver, First Vice President Tom Pettry, Second Vice President Tom Ferrebee, and Treasurer David Howard.

Also Present: Edward Bennett, Marcia Carothers (ASHA Executive Secretary), and Jeff Streepey (ASHA Legal Counsel).

Members Absent: Secretary Bruce Hanson. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Tom Pettry moved, and David Howard seconded, to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2003, and the January 5, 2004, Executive Committee meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding the process by which Patrick Gallagher, Ph.D., was chosen to pursue lordosis research for the Association. Edward Bennett stated that information from a client of his had been forwarded to the ASHA office for distribution to the Board. The proposal from Mr. Bennett's client was sent to President Fred Sarver, Dr. Gallagher, and Dr. Gus Cothran. Based on their opinions, the proposal was not mailed to the Board for further review.

Edward Bennett raised additional questions as to how Dr. Gallagher had been retained and what the process was for reimbursing him for lordosis research.

David Howard moved, and Tom Pettry seconded, that the Board needed to ratify the proposal approved by the Executive Committee to grant seed money to Dr. Gallagher for lordosis research. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the new judging specifications that were passed recently by the USEF Saddlebred Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Howard presented the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003. Mr. Howard reported that the investments for both the Association and Foundation indicated an increase of 18.3% for the year 2003, compared to an increase in the S&P 500 Index of 28% for that same time period. However, when the investments were evaluated from inception in October 1999 through December 31, 2003, the S&P 500 Index reported a loss of 10.5%, while the ASHA investment portfolio experienced an increase of 20.3%.

Mr. Howard briefly reviewed the financial statements, noting that revenues exceeded expenses by \$24,000, while the additional \$66,500 gain on the Association's investments allowed the net profit to increase to over \$90,000 for the year.

The budget for 2004 was reviewed. Mr. Howard stated that several changes had been made to the budget, including the reallocation of various funds and accounts. All major sources of income, including membership dues and KSF income, were reallocated to General Administration. In addition, non-departmental expenses were reallocated to General Administration.

Tom Pettry moved, and David Howard seconded, to accept the Treasurer's Report and 2004 Budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF CHARTER CLUB BYLAWS

The Executive Committee discussed the feasibility of requiring ASHA membership for all Charter Club members, not just the mandatory 25% currently required by the ASHA Bylaws. Note was made that Charter Clubs were an essential part of the Association,

emphasizing the promotion of the breed they offer through their small one- and two-day horse shows. No action was taken; the issue was tabled to a later meeting, at which time additional statistics would be available.

ELECTION RESULTS

Re-elected to the ASHA Board of Directors in 2004 were Nancy Boone and David Howard. Elected for their first term were Carter Cox, Matthew Heiman, Mary Ann Pardieck, and Dr. Alan Raun.

Discussion followed regarding the possible resignation of one or more Board members. Should this occur, Fred Sarver suggested that the new Nominating Committee present any nominations to the Board for approval at the July meeting.

UPDATES

In light of the recent USEF rule change that now allows horse show management at most shows to determine whether or not championship classes are to be stripped, the group discussed the status of, and need for, stripping horses in these classes. Most of the group agreed that stripping horses served no purpose – boring, too much time, decision of judges – and that only breeding classes needed to be stripped.

Fred Sarver reported that the KSF Advisory Committee had met on February 3, 2004, and was assured the same classes that have always been stripped at the World's Championship Horse Show would continue to be stripped, including the classes for juveniles. A suggestion was also made that the ASHA Breeders Committee should submit titles for the various classes that are held at the KSF WCHS.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom Ferrebee questioned why the ASHA Board of Directors was not privy to the salaries of the staff of the Association, adding that it was the fiduciary responsibility of the Board to be informed. It was noted that the salaries were reported on the financial statements distributed to the Board at each meeting; however, salaries are grouped together by the various departments to which they are allocated. Edward Bennett suggested that the Board might be able to make better financial decisions if this information were provided. Fred Sarver emphasized the confidentiality of salaries among staff members. A lengthy discussion ensued, and it was recommended that the salaries of all staff be available at the Saturday Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

David Howard suggested that the ASHA Board of Directors needed to meet more often than three times a year, or that the currently scheduled meetings should be extended to a full day, so that all issues could be more thoroughly addressed. Mr. Howard continued, stating that several Board members felt that all decisions were made within the confines of the Executive Committee, totally without the input of Board members. ASHA Legal Counsel Jeff Streepey stated that Executive Committee meetings were implemented in order to streamline the process, so that a smaller group could review pertinent issues and then present its consensus to the Board.

There was discussion regarding the need for the proxies that are mailed to ASHA members with the ballots; although proxies do not count in the election process, they are needed during the ASHA Annual Membership Meeting should a vote of the membership be required.

The issue of allowing only ASHA members to submit letters to the editor for the *American Saddlebred* magazine was deferred to the Board meeting.

Tom Ferrebee suggested that ASHA Customer Service Representatives be present at the ASHA Annual Meeting to field questions. Edward Bennett reinforced Mr. Ferrebee's suggestion, stating that ASHA needed to be more user friendly. Note was made that several staff members, versed in the functions of the Registry, were always present at the Annual Meeting's registration desk and were available to answer any questions; additional staff was also present for various Committee meetings. There is a need for staff members to remain at the Association office to carry on the day-to-day duties and to assist any visitors who may want to transact business while in town for the Annual Meeting; in order to assist with any pending transactions, the paperwork on file at the office would be necessary. Additional Customer Service Representatives at the Annual Meeting might be redundant and could take away from work that needed to be done at the office; however, the group felt that a stronger Association presence was needed at the Annual Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

ASHA BOARD MEETING

Embassy Suites, Lexington, Kentucky
Thursday, February 19, 2004

Members Present: Edward Bennett, Nancy Boone, Mary Anne Cronan, Lewis Eckard, Tom Ferrebee, Vicki Gillenwater, Elisabeth Goth, David Howard, Kris Price Knight, Sandy Lilly, Scott Matton, Tom Pettry, Kay Richardson, Robert Ruxer, Fred Sarver, and Misdee Wrigley.

Also Present: Bill Bennett (ASHA CPA), Marcia Carothers (ASHA Executive Secretary), Aileen Gordon (ASHA Administrative Assistant), Jeff Streepey (ASHA Legal Counsel), Mary Ann Pardieck, and Dr. Alan Raun.

Members Absent: Carolyn Groves and Bruce Hanson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Misdee Wrigley moved, and Scott Matton seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from October 25, 2003. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Howard deferred to Bill Bennett, ASHA CPA, for a review of the 2003 financials. Mr. Bennett reported that although the 2002 investment portfolio had indicated a 20% (\$150,814) decrease in value, the 2003 investment portfolio had increased by 29% or \$174,959.

Bill Bennett stated that the Association continued to reduce the amount due on its lease with the American Saddlebred Museum; that advertising revenues had increased for the second straight year; that ASHA expenses were reduced by \$60,000; and that overall 2003 assets were increased to over \$87,000. Mr. Bennett did comment that the benefit package offered to ASHA staff might need to be addressed, as the cost of insurance continues to rise.

According to Bill Bennett, the ASHA Foundation has shown strong growth in fund-raising in the last couple years. Note was made that investments dropped in value by 10% (\$48,395) during 2002, but had rebounded strongly in 2003 with a 41% increase in value to \$168,646. Overall assets in 2003 were increased by over \$160,000.

Robert Ruxer inquired about the Association's management fees to Merrill Lynch. David Howard informed the Board that it is a percentage, based on the combined amounts of all the funds. The larger the funds, the smaller the percentage the Association pays in management fees to Merrill Lynch.

Mr. Ruxer also inquired as to how Merrill Lynch had been selected to manage the Association's funds. He was informed that Merrill Lynch had been managing the funds for a very long time; however, a few years ago when an investment policy was adopted by ASHA, the Association changed fund managers in an effort to successfully implement the policy. ASHA management interviewed several managers with other firms and eventually chose Steve Specht, who was with Merrill Lynch. Bill Bennett reminded the Board that the Association is unusual in relation to other organizations as it keeps a large amount of cash on hand, due to its multiple prize programs. Mr. Specht is guided and restricted in his management of the funds by the financial policy and the ASHA Finance Committee. Mr. Ruxer asked if the policy had been reviewed and was informed that the Finance Committee reviewed it on an annual basis.

Misdee Wrigley inquired about the fund termed "emergency." This fund was established in 2001 when the Association had a comfortable surplus in revenues and was able to set aside \$50,000. The goal for the fund was to accumulate a six-month operating cushion.

David Howard presented the 2004 Budget, noting the various changes in allocations of funds and departments. Mr. Howard reported that the Association's major sources of income, i.e., membership dues and the contribution from the Kentucky State Fair, had been reallocated to General Administration. With the reallocation of funds, the Board could review the financial statements to ascertain which departments were profitable, and then decide how that revenue should be spent. To comply with several requests he had received, Mr. Howard felt very strongly that the financial statements should reflect the true status of each department.

Mr. Howard pointed out that the administration fee paid to the Association by the Foundation had been raised to \$50,000, based on the fact that several ASHA staff members contribute greatly to the Foundation's daily operations and special fund-raisers. Since no salaries are currently paid by the Foundation, the increase in the administration fee did not seem out of the ordinary.

The allocation of membership dues to the magazine was discussed. In 2003 as in previous years, 40% or \$24 from each senior membership was allocated to the Magazine Department to help defray the cost of four magazines and the *American Saddlebred Reference Book*. Mr. Howard stated the magazine was the Association's main communication with its members, other than the Web site. A lengthy discussion ensued and many questions were asked – should the magazine be a profit center; was the magazine worth the cost; were the costs being evaluated and reviewed; would it be more cost effective to outsource the magazine; was a team of professionals producing the magazine; why were multiple copies sent to the same household; why wasn't there more advertising; were printing bids taken on a regular basis. The consensus of the Board was that the Magazine Committee should address these issues with staff to confirm answers to the questions.

In reviewing the Special Events and Public Relations Department, note was made of the costs attributed to the requests of Charter Clubs for additional brochures and other promotional material. Vicki Gillenwater asked why letters were sent to the various Charter Clubs recently, asking how the Association could assist them in their various functions for 2004. Ms. Gillenwater stated that perhaps her Charter Club in Tennessee might be able to assist ASHA financially.

Mr. Howard noted that the profit center of the Association was its Registry. Therefore, in light of the decline in registrations and transfers in 2003, he felt that it was mandatory that

the Board determine exactly how these revenues should be spent in the future, prior to allocating funds to any specific program or department.

Edward Bennett asked whether the budget could be changed once approved. Mr. Sarver noted that it could, since the budget served as a reference point from which the Association operated, and added that it was very difficult to predict expenses a year in advance. David Howard added that the Board should and would need to review and possibly change the budget, should the flow of income/expenses change drastically from these projections.

Sandy Lilly moved, and Lewis Eckard seconded, to approve the 2004 Budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fred Sarver reminded the Board of the ASHA mission statement: *The mission of the American Saddlebred Horse Association is to safeguard the integrity, promote the use, and expand knowledge of the American Saddlebred.*

Mr. Sarver informed the Board that the Association had had a long year in working on lordosis issues. However, progress had been made. Patrick Gallagher, Ph.D., has started the research on lordosis in the breed. Through the issue of lordosis, it became clear to Mr. Sarver that the American Saddlebred Horse Association needs to be the primary force in all matters concerning the American Saddlebred horse. The job of the Association is to uphold the standards of the breed.

Mr. Sarver announced that Betty Cox, Triple Crown equitation winner, was featured in the February issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

In regard to the situation of the five horses maimed at Double D Ranch, the Association did a good job in responding to the media attention, and in turning what could have had a negative impact on the breed's reputation into a positive message about the breed and industry.

The Breeders Committee will be asked to look at the trend of declining registrations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2004 OFFICERS

Fred Sarver appointed Nancy Boone and Mary Anne Cronan to the 2004 Nominating Committee for Officers; Robert Ruxer was appointed as Chair.

REGISTRY REPORT

The Registry Committee took no action in its meeting held earlier in the day.

ASHA UPDATE

There was no great increase in the membership numbers with last year's requirement that all owners and trainers showing at the 2003 Kentucky State Fair be members of the Association. Robert Ruxer asked if there had been any negative feedback regarding the requirement, but none had been reported. Mr. Ruxer raised a question for consideration – If our registration numbers were to increase, can the industry support them, i.e., are there enough trainers?

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR UPDATE

Mary Anne Cronan reminded the Board that at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, immediately following the ASHA Annual Membership Meeting, representatives from the Kentucky State Fair would be answering questions regarding the World's Championship Horse Show during the ASHA Open Forum. Ms. Cronan also stated that there were some changes to the schedule. A short session of classes would remain on Thursday morning. The evening classes on Sunday through Thursday would begin at 6:30 p.m., while Friday and Saturday evening sessions would begin at 7:00 p.m. The Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show has begun working on clarifying titling the classes at the show;

Scarlett Mattson will make the titles available when the list is complete. The Fair is looking at various scenarios to address safety issues in the warm-up ring.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred Sarver mentioned that the Magazine Committee will be asked to review the production of the magazine and research ways to lower costs. In addition, perhaps at each meeting the Board might possibly review one of the Association's programs.

The Charter Clubs have not had fees adjusted since inception. Currently, only 25% of the Club's members also need to be members of the Association. Note was made that the Charter Clubs needed to continue to be a tool for the Association in promoting the breed at the grassroots level. Kay Richardson suggested that there are different philosophies among the various Charter Clubs – some continue to thrive and support themselves, while others question why the Association doesn't do more to help them with their promotional efforts. Nancy Boone stated that she felt that no expectations were ever given to the Clubs as to what their responsibilities actually were. Vicki Gillenwater requested a copy of the 2001 demographic study, which was presented at the 2003 Charter Club Luncheon. The complete study will be provided to the Board.

Mary Anne Cronan asked about the feasibility of scheduling an all-day Board session to review the various programs of the Association. The Board concurred that a date in May should be set.

Robert Ruxer requested that a Board meeting be held without paid employees present, since he believes that it would lead to more flexibility in the Board's discussions. Mr. Ruxer was informed that at any meeting the Board could go into executive session, at which time staff members would be excused.

Scott Matton gave a report on the Pleasure Horse Committee meeting. The Committee is proposing to revamp the National Pleasure Horse Awards. Under the current rules, the Awards were given out at designated classes, held at various shows across the nation. The proposal would change the program into a high point system. Points would be earned at USEF shows rated "A" in the Pleasure division. The "A" rating would be further classified by ASHA in the following manner: A – horse shows with 10 classes and \$1,000 offered in the pleasure division; AA – horse shows with 15 classes and \$3,500 offered in the pleasure division; and AAA – horse shows with 20 classes and \$7,500 offered in the pleasure division. Points would be based on the rating and the number of entries in the class. The only exception to the high point system is the Pleasure Equitation Award, which would be opened for bids from shows willing to host the class, beginning in 2005, with a five-year commitment. A full proposal will be distributed at the next Board meeting for approval.

Mr. Matton also reported that the Pleasure Committee proposed that backing in Pleasure Championship classes be at the judge's discretion. In addition, the Committee would like to request that USEF spend time in their judges' clinics reviewing how to evaluate western pleasure classes. Finally, Janet Thompson plans to work on a booklet, which would outline how to design obstacles for Saddlebreds in working classes for distribution to horse shows.

The Board meeting went into executive session. ASHA Executive Secretary Marcia Carothers and ASHA Administrative Assistant Aileen Gordon were excused from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

ASHA FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

Embassy Suites, Lexington, Kentucky
Thursday, February 19, 2004

Members Present: Edward Bennett, Nancy Boone, Mary Anne Cronan, Lewis Eckard, Tom Ferree, Vicki Gillenwater, Elisabeth Goth, David Howard, Sandy Lilly, Scott Matton, Tom Pettry, Kay Richardson, Robert Ruxer, Fred Sarver, and Misdee Wrigley.

Also Present: Bill Bennett (ASHA CPA), Marcia Carothers (ASHA Executive Secretary), Jeff Streepey (ASHA Legal Counsel), and Mary Ann Pardieck.

Members Absent: Carolyn Groves, Bruce Hanson, and Kris Price Knight.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Kay Richardson moved, and Elisabeth Goth seconded, to approve the minutes from October 25, 2003, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Howard reported that the status of the financial statements of the Foundation was excellent. With the recent fund-raisers, "Toast 'N Roast" in 2002 and *American Saddlebred Idol* in 2003, and the grant from the Katharine B. Tierney Charitable Foundation, the assets of the Foundation have increased during the last year by over \$160,000, while investments have appreciated by 41% (\$168,646).

Mr. Howard pointed out the budgeted increase in the administration fee to the Association that was projected for 2004. In 2002 and 2003, the fee paid to the Association for its assistance in administering the Foundation's youth programs, auction, fund-raisers, etc. was in the amount of \$15,000; however, beginning in 2004, that amount was increased to \$50,000. The Foundation's budget does not include any staff, subsequently the reason for the assessment of the administration fee.

Note was made that the \$50,000 Katharine B. Tierney Charitable Grant was earmarked for lordosis research. Along with the funds raised at the *American Saddlebred Idol* event in October, these monies will be used to subsidize the research of Patrick Gallagher, Ph.D., and Dr. Ernest Bailey at the University of Kentucky. Although the Foundation has received only proposals for the estimated cost of the research, an expense of approximately \$51,000 was booked in 2003 as a projection of the expenses the Foundation will incur in 2004.

Misdee Wrigley moved, and Elisabeth Goth seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the 2004 Budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON LORDOSIS

Fred Sarver reported that Dr. Gallagher had begun his lordosis research in early February and had visited several farms to start collecting measurements and DNA samples of both affected and non-affected American Saddlebreds to proceed with research to identify the gene causing lordosis. The Executive Committee met in January to approve the payment structure to cover the \$28,000 to Dr. Gallagher, which would include \$2,000 to \$3,000 as seed money to begin the project, with monthly statements to follow.

Edward Bennett asked about the proposal from one of his clients that had been sent to the Association office shortly after the October Board meeting. Mr. Bennett questioned why Mr. Lee's study could not be included with Dr. Gallagher's research.

Misdee Wrigley acknowledged her concern with lawsuits as a result of the research and its

use within the Association. Fred Sarver explained that over 900 horses would be tested in the blind study. Neither the Board nor the staff will be privy to which horse or horse family is infected with the gene – all horses will be designated at UK with a code, not a name. Once the testing is completed, the decision as to how the information should be used will be that of the ASHA Board of Directors. Robert Ruxer asked if it would not be the responsibility of the Association to disclose this information to the Board. Mr. Sarver stated that would be a decision for the Board once the research was completed. Mary Anne Cronan commented that the Association needed to be prepared to answer any and all questions about the research and the application of its results. Edward Bennett questioned the intent of the project and whether the \$50,000 assessed for the research could not be put to a better use elsewhere within the Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS

Mary Anne Cronan expressed her concern with the cover of the *Breeders Guide*, which now appears to be a publication from ASHA due to the similarity of the word "SADDLEBRED" across the top of the page. Ms. Cronan suggested that the Association add its logo to the cover of the *American Saddlebred Reference Book*, so that readers will know that the *Breeders Guide* was not a publication of ASHA. Jeff Streepey will follow up with a letter to the publication.

David Howard moved, and Misdee Wrigley seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Ruxer offered a special thank-you to the retiring Board members.

The meeting was adjourned.

ASHA COMMITTEE REPORTS

BREEDERS

Members present included Chair Carter Cox, Carl Fischer, Joan Hamilton, Tim O'Brien, Dr. Alan Raun, Fred Sarver, Ed Teater, along with staff members Dede Gatlin and Marcia Carothers.

Fred Sarver reported that an Executive Committee meeting was held on January 5, 2004, to review the extraordinary rule change proposal that was presented to USEF on January 2, 2004. After discussion of the entire rule change proposal process, the Breeders Committee agreed to recommend to the ASHA Board that a request be submitted to USEF that the final meeting of the Saddlebred Committee be held at the USEF convention, not in conjunction with another convention.

The Committee also reviewed the following topics and made various recommendations:

- Recommended that all championship classes, including three gaited and five gaited juvenile, at KSF be stripped (except Park, Pleasure, and Pony).
- Recommended that Saddlebred Record points be award in stripped championships only; if final class is a stake or championship and is not stripped, NO CH points will be awarded.
- Recommended that championship classes with Grand National prize money be stripped.
- Recommended that stripping be required in championship or stake classes for which sponsorship money is requested.
- Suggested that a regional plan be considered for the Sweepstakes.

Discussion continued on the subject of the drop in registrations. Various opinions were expressed and suggestions included the need for more publicity, celebrity presence, sponsorships, and additional prize money for young horse classes.

EQUINE WELFARE

Members present included Chair Bruce Hanson, Elisabeth Goth, Nancy Trent Jones, Claire Seagen, D.V.M., Toni Weldon and staff member Aileen Gordon.

The Committee discussed on-going projects.

Bruce Hanson reported that he is working on an article to be published in the March/April issue of the *American Saddlebred* magazine. He requested that other Committee members consider writing an article for future publication. Elisabeth Goth volunteered to write for the September/October issue.

The Committee discussed the situation with the forty-seven horses seized in Campbellsville, Kentucky. Currently, donations can be made to the Taylor County Animal Shelter. The Committee was in agreement to request that the ASHA Foundation Board open up the Equine Welfare Fund to donations specifically for the care of these horses. Nancy Jones and Elisabeth Goth agreed to contact Taylor County Animal Shelter to set up a time to visit.

A request for money from Fieldstone Farm for expansion of the retirement farm was reviewed. The Committee agreed that the Equine Welfare fund did not have enough money at this time to support this request.

The Committee agreed that they still do not feel that the American Horse Council discussion regarding national equine identification is an equine welfare issue, but would like to stay abreast of developments.

Bruce Hanson requested that if any Committee members had any further information that could contribute to an equine rescue directory, to please pass it on to him.

ASHA FOUNDATION AUCTION

Members present included Co-Chair Kay Richardson, Kayce Bell, Candy Glaze, Paula Harris, Germaine Johnson, along with staff members Marcia Carothers, Aileen Gordon, and Jennifer Gray.

The Committee made several decisions regarding the 2004 ASHA Foundation Auction to be held during the World's Championship Horse Show.

The theme for the 2004 ASHA Foundation Auction will be *Youth – Our Rising Stars*.

The Committee discussed putting together a "triple crown" package, of box seat tickets to the Junior League Horse Show, the World's Championship Horse Show, and the UPHA/American Royal National Championship Horse Show. The Committee would also like to have either hotel rooms or dinner or another event to compliment the tickets with each horse show.

All twelve of the ^{CH}Belle Elegant bronzes have been sold. There is the possibility of another bronze being given to Grand National, which would donate the bronze to the auction. Along with the bronze, if it is available, and the horse show package, the Committee will also pursue having on the Live Auction the cover of *American Saddlebred*, Tommy Lovell Rocking Horse, James L. Crow portrait, and a scooter.

In addition to the auction, the Committee would like to have an event for the youth. Discussed was producing a poster in an 8" x 10" size and holding an autograph session with trainers following the closing of the youth tables.

The \$10,000 raffle will be held again this year.

ASHA HERITAGE VENTURE

Members present included Chair Bob Johnson, Dede Gatlin, Cynthia Hecht, Sally Jackson, Wendy Johnson, Nancy Trent Jones, Don Leshar, Mark Thompson, and Lynn Via.

The Committee reviewed the status of multiple projects and made future plans.

The Castleman Classic Horse Show turned another profit for the Heritage Venture in

2003. This year the show will be Saturday, July 3, 2004 – one full week before the Lexington Junior League Horse Show. The Committee anticipates a very good turnout for the Castleman Classic this year. Six historic trophies will be added to the show.

Heritage Venture will continue with its interviews of various persons in the Saddlebred world. The Committee hopes to complete eight hours of interviews during 2004. Last year six hours were captured on tape.

The Committee plans on proceeding in having one to four of the completed videoed interviews professionally edited and possibly be made available to the membership.

Over the course of this year the Committee will try to collect historic biographical information from farms and stables so that a useful pocket historic directory can be published and made available to the membership.

A new project will be working on taking photos of existing horse show grounds for historical record, publication, and provided to the membership.

The 2004 calendar was the first historic calendar filled with photographs from the McClasky collection and was provided to the membership for free. The response to the calendar has been exceptional, and the Committee plans on producing another calendar for the year 2005. This calendar will also be provided free with the fall mailing of the *American Saddlebred* magazine. Copies will also be available for the Holiday season.

ASHA KENTUCKY AND NATIONAL FUTURITIES

Members present included Chair Ed Teater, Carter Cox, Redd Crabtree, Smith Lilly, Joan Lurie, Fred Sarver, along with staff members Marcia Carothers, Patricia Edwards, and Dede Gatlin.

The Committee reviewed the status of the Futurities and made proposed changes to the fee structure. The fees have not been raised since 1993.

The Committee reviewed the rule changes passed by USEF regarding ASHA Futurities and Sweepstakes. Note was made of the recent change for the in hand divisions, whereby an unequal number of entries could be chosen from each section to go back for the final class; however, the total number of entries would not exceed twelve.

The Committee was pleased to see that the prize money in the Futurities stayed consistent with past years, even with the decline in registration numbers.

The Committee recommended raising the dam nomination fee from \$15 to \$25.

The Committee recommended combining the two payments made in the yearling, two-year-old, and three-year-old years to one payment: either \$50 if made by January 31 of each eligibility year, or \$75 in the yearling year if made by April 15, \$100 in the two-year-old year if made by April 15, or \$150 in the three-year-old year if made by April 15.

The Committee recommended extending the grace period for payments from five days to ten days.

The Committee recommended adjusting the final date all registrations must be completed from February 28 of the yearling year to March 31 of the yearling year.

The Committee would also like to explore different ways to promote the ASHA Futurities, perhaps through advertising.

PLEASURE HORSE

Members present included Chair Scott Matton, Mike Arnston, Betsy Boone, Elisabeth Goth, Don Lesher, Sandy Lilly, Claire Panke, Janet Thompson, along with staff members Aileen Gordon and Jennifer Gray.

The Committee reviewed a proposal to change the National Pleasure Horse Awards

Program. In the past the Award was given in designated Championship classes held at various horse shows across the nation. The proposal is to change the program to a high point award system. Points would be given to the 1st and 2nd place horses in championship classes for which awards were given, whose owners were members of the ASHA, at USEF horse shows rated "A" in the Pleasure division. They would be based on the number of entries in the class and the number of classes and prize money offered by the show in the Pleasure division.

The Committee reviewed the proposal carefully and discussed several options to expand the program. One suggestion was to allow points to be earned in qualifying classes as well as the championship classes. Another was to offer more awards. In the end, the Committee agreed to use the parameters set by the original rules, as it was felt that is always easier to add and enhance a program than it is to take away from a program.

Claire Panke moved, and Sandy Lilly seconded, to offer points only at USEF horse shows rated "A" in the Pleasure division; to offer eight awards in the following sections: Show Pleasure Three Gaited Junior Exhibitor, Show Pleasure Three Gaited Adult, Show Pleasure Five Gaited, Show Pleasure Driving, Country Pleasure Three Gaited Junior Exhibitor, Country Pleasure Three Gaited Adult, Country Pleasure Driving, and Country Pleasure Western; and that points would only be earned in Championship classes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed at length how to define the different classifications of horse shows.

Elisabeth Goth moved, and Mike Arnston seconded, to approve that at the "A" level, horse shows must offer at least 10 classes and \$1,000 in prize money in the Pleasure division, at the "AA" level, horse shows must offer at least 15 classes and \$3,500 in prize money in the Pleasure division, and at the "AAA" level, horse shows must offer at least 20 classes and \$7,500 in the Pleasure division. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also discussed expanding the awards given to the winners. Currently, only a cooler is given to each winner. The Committee discussed pursuing sponsorships for the program and perhaps designating trophies for each division in which an award is given.

Scott Matton proposed to the Committee the idea of eliminating backing in Pleasure Championship classes. Mr. Matton believed that this would help move show along and keep the audience more engaged in the show. Janet Thompson mentioned that she encourages her judges to back saddle classes as a group to help with the time issue. Another point raised by Mr. Matton was that if a horse was a bad backer, that it was probably also a bad actor during the class, and therefore not a contender for a ribbon. The Committee discussed other issues surrounding backing the Pleasure horse.

Sandy Lilly moved, and Mike Arnston seconded, to propose that backing in Pleasure Championship classes be at the judges' discretion. Motion passed with one opposed.

Janet Thompson requested that the Committee revisit the idea of pleasure pony classes. The Committee did not believe there was enough support at this time for the creation of this division.

Janet Thompson raised the issue that USEF Saddlebred judges are still not educated enough in judging Western Pleasure. The Committee requests that a letter be sent to USEF asking that time be allocated to fully cover the rules in the Western classes of the Saddlebred division.

Ms. Thompson also mention that she has

noticed that horse shows are using dimensions for the obstacle classes that are designed for the Quarter horse. She has helped various show redesign the obstacles for the Saddlebred. The Committee agreed that this was an area in which the Association could help shows. Ms. Thompson agreed to put together a pamphlet on obstacles for the American Saddlebred.

Ms. Thompson also requested that the Committee give some thought on how the Association can work to help the Academy rider make the transition into the show ring. The majority of people begin their show career in the Pleasure division and this could be area for promotion of the Saddlebred as a pleasure mount. The Association puts out a brochure call the Newcomer's Guide. Jennifer Gray reported that many Charter Clubs and Academy tournaments request the brochure so they can have it available to those interested in purchasing a Saddlebred.

The Committee then revisited the National Pleasure Horse Award program to discuss the Pleasure Equitation Award. This will not be a high point award, but will remain a designated class. The Committee will offer shows the opportunity to bid on hosting the classes in 2005. Of importance to the Committee is the placement of the class in the schedule and if the show can offer a scholarship to the winner.

Sandy Lilly was requested by a member to ask the Committee to consider proposing allowing Equithan to be allowed in the Country Pleasure division. Equithan is a gel-like substance that covers a horse's frog and sole. It would easily allow lead to be concealed and the Committee will not consider allowing its use at this time.

Janet Thompson moved, and Claire Panke seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

ASHA REGISTRY

Members present at the meeting included Chair Tom Pettry, Lewis Eckard, Tom Ferree, David Howard, Fred Sarver, along with ASHA Legal Counsel Jeff Streepey and ASHA staff members Marcia Carothers and Dede Gatlin. The Registry Committee met to review several issues:

Three-year limit on the use of frozen semen from deceased stallions – tabled for mandatory review in 2005, unless challenged.

Use of frozen semen straws – referred to ASHA Breeders' Committee for assistance in developing a policy to conform to ASHA rules, which currently limit authorization of a breeder's certificate by the current recorded stallion owner or manager.

Sale of a horse without the prior surrender and cancellation of its Certificate of Registration – tabled until the July meeting.

Judicial confiscation of McRae's horses – tabled until July or reviewed via conference call to determine hearing/penalties.

Amnesty – tabled as general consensus at annual membership meeting indicated there was not enough interest. Board member will follow up with results of the American Hackney Horse Society's recent amnesty program.

Withholding a breeder's certificate – suggested that stallion owners file a lien or formal security interest in horse when mare owner fails to pay stud fees.

ASHA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Members present included Chair Kay Richardson, Mary Anne Cronan, Vicki Gillenwater, and staff member Jennifer Gray.

The Committee reviewed the status of the Scholarship program.

In 2005 the Committee recommends continuing to award five \$5,000 scholarships.

The application packet was reviewed, and no changes were suggested.

The success of the ASHA Foundation Auc-

tion held during the World's Championship Horse Show is vital to the continuation of the Scholarship program and the Committee was encouraged to promote and support the Auction.

ASHA SPORT HORSE

Members present included Chair Judy Werner, Martha Aitken, John Bennett, Betsy Boone, Fred Sarver, Misdee Wrigley, and staff member Charlotte Tevis.

The Sport Horse Committee met to discuss several issues:

Prejudice against Saddlebreds is a concern of Saddlebred owners who are participating in the sport horse disciplines. As David O'Connor stated last year, ASHA needs to start at the bottom (i.e., Horse Fairs) with educating on the use of Saddlebreds in sport horse events.

Consideration was given to moving the points record keeping on the ASHA sport Horse of the Year Awards to ASHA office. They points are currently tabulated by Committee member Paula Briney, who as a volunteer may not be able to devote the time necessary as the program continues to grow.

Investigating a point system for participating in non-rated shows and schooling shows for a new award in the ASHA Sport Horse Year End Awards. Betsy Boone distributed the rules for ASAC Hunter/Sport Horse classes. Should a new award be created, it would be the responsibility of the participant to have the results verified by the horse show.

A proposal was made to add versatility to the Sport Horse name.

A suggestion was made about the possibility of creating a Sport Horse finals class.

ASHA needs a primary list of organizations interested in press releases about the American Saddlebred sport horse.

John Bennett questioned how to encourage other Saddlebred owners to become interested in sport horse disciplines. Misdee Wrigley suggested a one-day seminar for young trainers to introduce them to sport horse disciplines, perhaps through ASHA Charter Club functions or by participating in Equine Affair events. Betsy Boone requested if ASHA could provide guidelines for seminars.

Martha Aitken distributed literature on a proposed American Saddlebred Versatility Western Ranch Horse Award. This would be discussed at a later time possibly changing the name. The Arabian has a similar award titled the Frequent Rider Program.

Misdee Wrigley distributed literature from *The Friesian* magazine that could relate to training a Saddlebred in dressage.

ASHA STANDARDS/RULES

Members present included Carter Cox, Carl Fischer Jr., Vicki Gillenwater, Joan Hamilton, Mary Ann Pardieck, and staff member Aileen Gordon.

This was the first meeting of the Standards/Rules Committee. The main focus of the meeting was determining how the Committee could best serve the Association and the possible addition of more members.

The Committee voted Mary Ann Pardieck as Chair.

The Committee discussed ways it can better integrate the Association with the USEF Rule Change Process.

ASHA STATE FUTURITIES

Members present included Bill Bell, John Hogsett, Aileen Moss, Bill Breitweiser along with staff members Patricia Edwards and Dede Gatlin.

The Committee had nothing to report.

FOUNDATION STEERING

Members of the Committee present were Co-Chairs Sally Jackson and Lynn Via, Elisabeth Goth, Fred Sarver, Misdee Wrigley, and staff

members Aileen Gordon and Marcia Carothers.

Misdee Wrigley suggested that the Committee alternate its annual fund-raiser between a roast and an idol competition. Subsequently, Ms. Wrigley presented a plan for this year's event, which will be a roast of Jimmy Robertson, including a videotape of his trip to New York for the makeover by Carson Kressley. The Committee agreed and will recommend to the Board that proceeds from the 2004 roast be earmarked to replenish the funds in Heritage Venture.

The Committee reviewed several other topics, including:

Suggested candidates as additional members to the Committee.

Recommended that every Board member buy two tickets to the upcoming fund-raiser.

Suggested that the Heritage Venture become more visible through continuing publicity in the *American Saddlebred* magazine, on the ASHA Web site, and any other means.

Recommended that a separate line entry be added to the membership application and renewal notices so that members could donate to the various Foundation funds when joining or renewing their membership with the Association.

YOUTH

Members in attendance. Chair Paula Harris; Cindy Boel, Jennifer Del Bosque, Bonnie Kittredge, Scott Matton, Sally McConnell, Kay Richardson; Jennifer Gray (ASHA).

Members not present. Ron and Nancy Dowty, Carleton Huntoon, Germaine Johnson, Alice Lear, Liz McBride-Jones.

Paula Harris, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Paula opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.

Approval of Minutes. Cindy Boel made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2003, meeting. Jennifer Del Bosque seconded. Motion carried.

Youth Conference. Jennifer Gray reported that as of today 167 are registered for the Youth Conference. The Conference begins with registration at 5:00 p.m. today. Germaine Johnson is coordinating the Fun Night "At the Circus," which will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, the group will tour Premier Stables, Equine Services Surgical Hospital, and Alliance Stud in Simpsonville. Lunch will be provided at Claudia Sanders Dinner House. The group will also see the Shelbyville, Kentucky, show grounds and hear about the heritage of the American Saddlebred in Shelby County. The Youth will join the adults for the ASHA Awards Dinner on Saturday evening. Youth awards will be presented in a separate ballroom followed by a dance.

Youth Award. The group reviewed the criteria for the point system for an award to honor participation in ASHA. The age groups will be 13 and under and 14 through 17. One high point winner in each division will be recognized during the Annual Youth Conference. ASHA youth members may submit point sheets through December 31 of the year for awards. The Committee will present a proposal to the ASHA Board for approval of this new award.

Saddle Time. Since the changes were made to create two levels of participation and to allow payment of full registration in two increments, Jennifer Gray has noted a significant increase in participation. Eight participants have reached Level VI.

Junior Judging. Kay Richardson continues to see good participation in the junior judging program. Kay and Jennifer Gray both noted that having the program cover two sessions during the World's Championship Horse Show provided a way for more youth to participate.

Academy Awards. Scott Matton raised the issue that once academy riders have reached the gold level they have no other year-end goals to attain. After discussion of several ideas, Scott made a motion to continue awarding gold medals once that level is attained. Jennifer Del Bosque seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jennifer Gray will change the forms to notify riders that they may continue to receive gold medals.

Foundation Auction. Kay Richardson gave an update on the Foundation Auction to be held during the World's Championship Horse Show. The theme will be "Youth - Our Rising Stars." The live auction and raffle will be continued. Plans are to have a poster signing by noted trainers during the silent auction.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Youth Committee will be during the Lexington Junior League Horse Show in July. Cindy Boel offered to help find a meeting location at the Red Mile to accommodate those involved with the horse show.

ASHA ANNUAL MEETING

*Embassy Suites, Lexington, Kentucky
Saturday, February 21, 2004*

ASHA President Fred Sarver called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2003, Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

William H. Bennett, CPA for ASHA, briefly reviewed the annual audit. With the upturn in the stock market, ASHA investments increased by \$175,000 in the year 2003. Advertising revenue with the magazine also increased last year. Revenue from memberships leveled off. There was a reduction in the Registry revenue, but management was able to cut expenses. Over all it was a strong performance year for the Association.

David Howard, ASHA Treasurer, also addressed the membership regarding the new layout for the 2004 budget. The change shows all revenues and expenses for each department. The only profit center in the Association is the Registry; all other functions should be considered a service to the membership.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

ELECTION RESULTS

New directors to the 2004 ASHA Board of Directors are Carter Cox, Matthew Heiman, Mary Ann Pardieck, and Dr. Alan Raun. Directors returning to the Board are Nancy Boone and David Howard. ASHA President Fred Sarver expressed his thanks for their service to ASHA to the Directors retiring from the Board: Elisabeth Goth, Bruce Hanson, Scott Matton, and Thomas Pettry.

The floor was opened for the membership to make nominations for the Nominating Committee to select next year's slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. Julie Andrew nominated Nancy Trent Jones. Jim Ruwoldt nominated Elizabeth Deknatel, and Elisabeth Goth nominated Joan Hamilton.

A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations to the Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Note was made that all Committee reports will be published in the March/April issue of *American Saddlebred* magazine.

Scott Matton reported on the changes to the ASHA National Pleasure Horse Awards being recommended to the ASHA Board for approval. The recommendation is to turn the program into a high point award, and to open

the Pleasure Equitation Award to bids from horse shows interested in hosting the class. In addition, the Committee also made the recommendation that a rule change be considered that backing in Pleasure Championship classes be at the discretion of the judge.

Carter Cox reported that the Breeders Committee reviewed the rule changes that are to go in effect March 1, 2003, regarding lordosis and stripping. In addition, the Committee also discussed their concern over the decline in registrations in 2003. The Committee will be looking at ways to bolster money in young horse classes.

Lynn Via reported that the membership received the first historical calendar produced by The Heritage Venture. The Committee plans on continuing to offer this calendar free to the membership.

Sally Jackson and Lynn Via reported on the plans from the ASHA Foundation Steering Committee for the fall fundraiser. This year will be a roast of Jimmy Robertson with footage from his "make-over" trip to New York with Carson Kressley.

Nancy Jones, on behalf of the Equine Welfare Committee, informed the membership of 47 horses seized in Campbellsville, Kentucky. John Lenore pledged \$1,000 and Randy Haper pledged \$2,000 from the UPHA Foundation to be used for the care of the horses.

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL

Jay Hickey and Amy Mann from the American Horse Council gave an introduction to the ongoing discussion regarding a national equine identification plan. The reasons for a plan to identify every horse in the United States focus around health, natural disaster, and bio-terrorism threats. The American Horse Council has put together a task force to look at the need for such a plan, the benefits and drawbacks it would have on the horse industry, how it could be implemented, and how it could be maintained, should the industry decide to proceed with any identification plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fred Sarver reviewed the Registry Statistics with the membership. While registrations and transfers were down in 2003, the prize money offered by ASHA was over \$1 million.

The work of the Foundation has also been growing. Research is proceeding for the genetic cause of lordosis, the youth conference has over 175 participants this year, Heritage Venture is making great progress in conducting interviews for recording our history, and Equine Welfare will be working hard to protect our breed.

The meeting was adjourned.

ASHA BOARD MEETING

Embassy Suites, Lexington, Kentucky
Saturday, February 21, 2004

Members Present: Edward Bennett, Nancy Boone, Carter Cox, Mary Anne Cronan, Lewis Eckard, Tom Ferrebee, Vicki Gillenwater, David Howard, Kris Price Knight, Sandy Lilly, Mary Ann Pardieck, Dr. Alan Raun, Kay Richardson, Robert Ruxer, Fred Sarver, and Misdee Wrigley.

Also Present: Marcia Carothers (ASHA Executive Secretary), Aileen Gordon (ASHA Administrative Assistant), Tom Pettry (*ad hoc* Director), and Jeff Streepey (ASHA Legal Counsel).

Members Absent: Carolyn Groves and Matthew Heiman.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ELECTION OF 2004 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee appointed by

Fred Sarver to present the slate of nominees for ASHA Officers consisted of Chair Robert Ruxer, Nancy Boone, and Mary Anne Cronan. Robert Ruxer presented the slate of Officers for the year 2004: President – Fred Sarver, first Vice President – Tom Ferrebee, second Vice President – Edward Bennett, Secretary – Sandy Lilly, and Treasurer – David Howard.

Dr. Alan Raun moved, and Lewis Eckard seconded, to approve the slate of Officers as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMPOSITION OF ASHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fred Sarver proceeded with discussion about the status of the Executive Committee and the need to retain continuity in the decision-making process for the Association. Note was made that in 2004 there were two key members of the Executive Committee retiring, Bruce Hanson and Tom Pettry. He reminded the Board of the recent rule change that allowed the Board to elect a former Director to serve on the Executive Committee.

Carter Cox moved, and Mary Anne Cronan seconded, that the 2004 Executive Committee be comprised of the ASHA Officers and Tom Pettry. Motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the ASHA Annual Meeting, Elizabeth Deknatel and Joan Hamilton were elected from the ASHA membership to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2005 Board of Directors. Nominations were taken for two current ASHA Board members to serve on the Committee. Carter Cox nominated Misdee Wrigley. David Howard nominated Vicki Gillenwater.

Mary Anne Cronan moved, and Mary Ann Pardieck seconded, to close the nominations of Vicki Gillenwater and Misdee Wrigley to the Nominating Committee for the 2005 Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Alan Raun stated his firm belief in holding an open election. Vicki Gillenwater and Misdee Wrigley explained the problems and debates that the Nominating Committee had experienced in putting together the slate to present to the Executive Committee. The greatest obstacle has been the lack of participation from the ASHA membership. Mary Ann Pardieck mentioned that the American Saddlebred Museum had experienced positive results with a closed election, since it allowed people with great talents to contribute to the organization.

David Howard moved, and Dr. Alan Raun seconded, that the Nominating Committee submit a slate of eight or more nominees to the Executive Committee for the 2005 Board of Directors. Six voted in favor, and ten opposed the motion. Motion was defeated.

ASHA President Fred Sarver appointed Kris Price Knight as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Mary Anne Cronan suggested that the Board consider a combination ballot, where some seats were closed and others were open. Sandy Lilly raised the point that the membership currently can write in a nominee on the ballot. Marcia Carothers mentioned that she had received about 15 names on the write-in line of the ballots this year. Robert Ruxer inquired about how the proxies affected the election; he was informed that the proxies have no bearing on the election.

It was noted that there was a possibility of resignations from the Board in the very near future. As appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee, Kris Price Knight suggested that, should the need arise for any replacement on the Board, the Nominating Committee be prepared to submit a nominee(s) for said replacement(s) at the July meeting.

BREEDERS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Carter Cox reported that the Breeders Committee had discussed the lordosis rule changes and the procedure for rule changes through USEF. Fred Sarver informed the Board that he had spoken with the Co-Chairs of the USEF Saddlebred Committee and UPHA about scheduling open forums to discuss upcoming rule changes during the Kentucky State Fair and the UPHA/American Royal National Championship Show. He and UPHA President Randy Harper have also requested the opportunity to audit USEF Saddlebred Committee meetings to help foster communication among all organizations. Mr. Sarver pointed out that ASHA has not traditionally been actively involved in the rule change process. One change that will be made is that ASHA will have the rule changes available to its members in the *American Saddlebred* magazine and on the ASHA Web site, including a link to the USEF Web site.

The Breeders Committee also discussed the issue of points being awarded in the Saddlebred Record (CH) program in classes that were not stripped. The Committee was opposed to two points being awarded in championship classes that were not stripped. However, at this point, there is no way to determine whether the new rule will change the number of classes being stripped. It was noted that CH points have been awarded to classes that were not stripped under the old specifications; the rules for Saddlebred Record were not based on whether the horse was stripped, but on whether the horse had qualified in a previous class for the championship or stake class. Sandy Lilly suggested that it might be unfair to change the program rules in midstream.

Sandy Lilly moved, and Mary Anne Cronan seconded, to accept the Breeders Committee Report. Motion passed unanimously.

EQUINE WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board discussed the recent developments in Campbellsville, Kentucky, where 47 horses had been confiscated and were now under the care of the Taylor County Animal Shelter. The suggestion from the Equine Welfare Committee was to establish a separate fund within the Foundation, whereby interested parties could donate monetarily toward the care of these horses.

Misdee Wrigley moved, and Mary Anne Cronan seconded, to accept the Equine Welfare Committee Report. Motion passed unanimously.

KENTUCKY AND NATIONAL FUTURITIES REPORT

The Committee reviewed the rule changes passed by USEF regarding ASHA Futurities and Sweepstakes. Note was made of the recent change for the in hand divisions, whereby an unequal number of entries could be chosen from each section to go back for the final class; however, the total number of entries would not exceed twelve. The Committee was pleased to see that the prize money in the Futurities stayed consistent with past years, even with the decline in registration numbers.

The Committee also reviewed the fees and the fee structure for the Futurities. The fees have not been raised since 1993. The Committee recommended raising the dam nomination fee from \$15 to \$25. In addition, the Committee recommended combining the two payments made in the yearling, two-year-old, and three-year-old years to one payment: either \$50 if made by January 31 of each eligibility year, or \$75 in the yearling year if made by April 15, \$100 in the two-year-old year if made by April 15, or \$150 in the three-year-old year if made by April 15. Also, the Committee recommended extending the grace period for payments from five days to ten days,

and adjusting the final date all registrations must be completed from February 28 of the yearling year to March 31 of the yearling year.

Similar changes are being considered for the Sweepstakes, pending the approval of Chair Bill Wise. In the Two-Year-Old Sweepstakes, there would be one payment of \$75 if made by June 1 of the yearling year, or one payment of \$125 if made by September 15 of the yearling year. Also, the grace period for payments would be changed from five days to ten days. The other change to the Sweepstakes rules would be that applications would need to be received in the ASHA office by January 31 of the yearling year, versus the current requirement that the foals be registered by January 31. The date that the registrations must be completed would be changed to March 31 of the yearling year.

Robert Ruxer suggested one way to help boost nominations in the Sweepstakes program might be to include a list of all eligible horses on the nomination forms sent to owners.

Misdee Wrigley moved, and Sandy Lilly seconded, to accept and approve the changes to the Kentucky, Kentucky Amateur, and National Three-Year-Old Futurities.

Tom Pettry asked if the Committee had considered the possibility of losing money if everyone took advantage of the early payment. Carter Cox said the Committee believed they would find middle ground on those who made the early payment and those who made the late payment. Dr. Alan Raun suggested that with the late payment, people may be tempted not to pay the early payment on all their foals, but wait to see how they develop and then just pay the late fee on one or two of the better foals.

Motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Planning Committee did not meet during the Annual Meeting. However, as a follow-up to the new mission statement, a chart was distributed for the Board's review, outlining how each of the various ASHA programs falls within its guidelines.

PLEASURE HORSE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board reviewed the revised rules for the ASHA Pleasure Horse Awards.

Dr. Alan Raun moved, and Mary Anne Cronan seconded, to approve the changes to the ASHA National Pleasure Horse Awards Program. Motion passed unanimously.

STANDARDS/RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Ann Pardieck was elected Chair of the Committee and presented her report to the Board. The current Committee consists of Carter Cox, Carl Fischer Jr., Vicki Gillenwater, Joan Hamilton, and Judy Werner. At the meeting, the group reviewed its mission and discussed different ways the Association could become more involved in the USEF rule change process.

Robert Ruxer moved, and Misdee Wrigley seconded, to accept the Standards/Rules Committee Report. Motion passed unanimously.

SPORT HORSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Misdee Wrigley reported that the Committee is considering ways it can work with the Charter Clubs to organize clinics on the American Saddlebred as a Sport Horse. Ms. Wrigley also mentioned that the recent Sport Horse forums during the Annual Meeting were very well received by attendees.

STATE FURTURITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report from the Committee.

SWEEPSTAKES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee did not meet; therefore, the proposed changes to its fee structure will be reviewed for possible recommendation to the ASHA Board at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

Fred Sarver appointed Tom Ferrebee, Nancy Boone, and Kay Richardson to the Regional Championship Committee. The mission of this Committee is to establish a reward system that can stand on its own to help the middle market and to possibly lead to a qualifying system for Kentucky State Fair. Mary Anne Cronan stated that the Kentucky State Fair does not want to be the "only game in town" and is receptive to anything that encourages growth in the industry.

At the October Board meeting, the Board agreed that only letters from active ASHA members should be eligible for publication in the magazine. Susan McFadden, Editorial Director of *American Saddlebred* magazine, has asked the Board to reconsider this position. Well over two hundred people subscribe to the magazine, but are not members of the Association. These individuals should feel involved with the issues presented in the magazine.

Misdee Wrigley moved, and Alan Raun seconded, to allow letters from nonmembers to be considered for publication. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Pettry gave the Registry Committee Report, deferred from the Thursday evening meeting. The Committee had reviewed the issue of offering a period of amnesty two years ago, but the membership voted it down and the Board complied. Until the membership becomes more supportive of the idea, the Committee did not feel an amnesty period was needed. Lewis Eckard will report back to the Board regarding the recent amnesty program adopted by the American Hackney Horse Society.

Note was made that the restriction on the use of frozen semen for three calendar years after the castration or death of a stallion will be up for review in 2005. However, the issue of who can sign for frozen straws of semen retained by an owner who has sold the horse and the horse has changed ownership several times since the straws were collected was discussed. The Registry Committee requested that the Breeders Committee review this issue and evaluate whether a procedure is needed to allow someone other than the current recorded owner to sign for the frozen straws. Discussion followed with several Board members stating they believed a contract should suffice, and that stallion owners should take the proper legal steps to allow for the use of the straws, with no other paperwork needed by the Association.

Carter Cox moved, and Alan Raun seconded, not to alter the process currently in effect as to the manner in which authority to sign for frozen straws was handled in the Registry. Motion passed with one opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred Sarver and Randy Harper, President of UPHA, will make a request to USEF that the Presidents of ASHA and UPHA be allowed to attend USEF Saddlebred Committee meetings.

Considerable discussion followed as to whether ASHA Board meetings should be open, not only to the UPHA President, but also to the membership.

David Howard moved, and Robert Ruxer seconded, to provide that there be a reciprocal

agreement between UPHA and ASHA, whereby the president or an officer from either association would be allowed to audit the other association's Board meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken regarding a suggestion that ASHA Board meetings be open to the membership; however, the Board plans to review this issue at a later date.

Discussion ensued regarding issues that had been discussed in an executive session of the previous Board meeting. ASHA Executive Secretary Marcia Carothers and ASHA Administrative Assistant Aileen Gordon excused themselves from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

ASHA FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING

*Embassy Suites, Lexington, Kentucky
Saturday, February 21, 2004*

Members Present: Edward Bennett, Nancy Boone, Carter Cox, Mary Anne Cronan, Lewis Eckard, Tom Ferrebee, Vicki Gillenwater, David Howard, Kris Price Knight, Sandy Lilly, Mary Ann Pardieck, Dr. Alan Raun, Kay Richardson, Robert Ruxer, Fred Sarver, and Misdee Wrigley.

Also Present: Marcia Carothers (ASHA Executive Secretary), Tom Pettry (*ad hoc* Director), and Jeff Streepey (ASHA Legal Counsel).

Members Absent: Carolyn Groves and Matthew Heiman.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

A request from the Foundation Steering Committee was presented, whereby the funds from the 2004 fund-raiser might be designated for Heritage Venture to replenish the fund and help defray the cost of the Heritage Venture calendar for the next three years. However, an additional request was made to direct the funds toward the Equine Welfare Fund, based on the fact that Heritage Venture was reflecting a balance of \$88,000 in its fund, while the Equine Welfare Fund totaled about \$4,000.

Misdee Wrigley moved, and Mary Ann Pardieck seconded, that the 2004 fund-raiser be earmarked for the Equine Welfare Fund, with the 2005 fund-raiser dedicated to Heritage Venture. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Funding of the lordosis research project was discussed. Note was made that Dr. Patrick Gallagher's proposal was approved by the Executive Committee in January. Edward Bennett stated that he would follow up with his client's proposal after Wednesday, February 25, when Mr. Lee returned from vacation. The Board was concerned that the Foundation had only a proposal from Dr. Gallagher, not a signed contract.

Dr. Alan Raun moved, and Kris Price Knight seconded, that the Foundation be presented with a formal contract from Patrick Gallagher, Ph.D., regarding the lordosis research project. Motion passed unanimously.

Kay Richardson asked for and received permission to present two new ASHA youth awards – one in the 13 and Under age group, and the second in the 14-17 age group. These would be annual awards based on participation in ASHA Youth activities and the award would be presented during the Annual Meeting of ASHA.

David Howard moved, and Misdee Wrigley seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.