



**AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**January 15 and 17, 2015**

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A regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the American Saddlebred Horse Association was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015, and on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at the Marriott Rieverfront Hotel in Savannah, Georgia, in conjunction with the UPHA 2015 Convention. The following Directors of the Board were present in person at this meeting: Betsy Boone; Randy Cates; Bret Day; Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes; Bob Funkhouser; Jackie Hale; Chuck Herbert; Stacey Kipper-Perrelli; David Mount; Holly Nichols; Tandy Patrick; David Rudder; Susan Shepherd; and Matt Shiflet. Director Kenny Wheeler was unable to attend the Thursday meeting, but Mr. Wheeler did attend the Saturday meeting. Incoming directors Sandra Currier, Elisabeth Goth, Donna Pettry-Smith and Jenny Taylor attended the Thursday meeting by invitation. Incoming directors Allen Bosworth, Sandra Currier, Donna Pettry-Smith, and Jenny Taylor attended the Saturday meeting (the first ‘official’ meeting of the new Board); Mr. Day, Ms. Goth and Ms. Kipper-Perrelli were unable to attend the Saturday meeting due to conflicts.— [\(Ms. Goth’s absence was ‘excused’ by the ASHA Executive Committee in advance\).](#)

Also present were Bill Whitley, the Executive Director of the ASHA; Michelle Krentz Partridge, Media Production and Marketing Manager of the ASHA; and Cynthia Lowell, Communication and Technology Manager of the ASHA.

The group thanked retiring board members Betsy Boone, Randy Cates, and Redd Crabtree for their service, and presented retiring board members with a commemorative gift.

The meeting then proceeded as follows:

**1. QUORUM; ADOPTION OF AGENDA; MINUTES.** Tandy announced that there was a quorum for the meeting. Upon Motion made by Bob Funkhouser and seconded by David Rudder, the Board approved the proposed Agenda for the meeting, and also approved and ratified the Minutes from the October 27/28, 2014 Board Meeting.

**2. REPORT FROM REGISTRY.** Tandy Patrick presented 2014 Registry Statistics provided by the Registrar, Lisa Duncan. As of 1/14/15, the Registry has processed the following: 3368 transfers in 2014, compared to 3680 in 2013; 1402 registrations (1241 actually processed), compared to 1506 in 2013; 794 foal crop registrations, compared to 1334 in 2013; and 405 stallions (stallion service reports submitted), compared to 459 in 2013. The group agreed that the declining statistics, particularly with respect to the foal crop number, are very disturbing and the group discussed the need to increase demand for ASB’s. The group briefly discussed the Marketing Committee’s initiatives and also mentioned the need to recognize breeders (include

“Bred By” in publications), add more classes for hunter and western divisions, and cultivate the half-Saddlebred owners/breeders.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.** Bill Whitley explained that financial and accounting services for the ASHA are being transitioned from our prior outsourcing of this work to David Harris of the USEF, to an in-house new employee, and financial statements for fourth quarter of 2014 have not will been completed; these will be distributed to Board by email as soon as they are available. Bill presented a preliminary draft of a Budget for 2015, with the caveat that adjustments to this Budget may very well be necessary when 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter financial information is available. Upon motion made by Bob Funkhouser and seconded by Randy Cates, the Board unanimously approved the preliminary draft Budget for 2015. A new Audit Committee for 2015 will be appointed very soon, which will engage our outside accounting firm to perform the audit for 2014, to be presented by the Audit Committee to the full Board at our July 2015 board meeting.

Bill also reported on new ASHA membership categories for 2015, which range from \$30 to \$2,500; lifetime and contributing members will receive higher quality membership cards (similar to a credit card instead of the paper cards). The Journal is being mailed out to all ASHA members this week; total ad sales were approximately \$105,000, an increase of approximately \$15,000 from last year.

Bill provided a brief update regarding the computer/technology upgrade process. In light of our new technology, the Board encouraged Bill to bring all ASHA functions “in-house”, including communications with horse show managers, as well as the calculation of ASHA high-point awards.

**4. REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR DIRECTORS.** Committee Chair David Rudder and Committee member Chuck Herbert presented the proposed slate of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2015, as well as two ASHA board members to serve on the AS Registry Board, to be voted on at the Saturday (1/17/15) board meeting, as follows:

- President: Bob Funkhouser
- Vice President: David Rudder
- Secretary: Stacey Kipper-Perrelli
- Treasurer: David Mount
- Additional Executive Committee members: Randy Cates, Elisabeth Goth, Tandy Patrick
- AS Registry Board members: Sandra Currier, Matt Shiflet

**5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT.** Tandy distributed annual conflict of interest statements which all Directors signed and returned. Tandy and Stacey presented the proposed new ASHA Regional Map that has been submitted to the USEF for approval (these regions more accurately reflect show circuits); upon motion made by Betsy Boone and seconded by Chuck Herbert, the Board unanimously approved the new ASHA Regional Map.

Tandy explained that all ASHA Committees would be repopulated for 2015 by the new ASHA President, and urged Board members to let the new President know of their particular interests, as well as good candidates for various ASHA Committees. Tandy also presented a summary of the ASHA's current office lease, which is actually a sublease from the American Saddlebred Museum that expires on 12/31/2018; the ASHA has the option to 'purchase' their leasehold space (which would require that the building be dedicated as a condominium regime), which option must be exercised on or before 12/31/2017. The new ASHA President will form a special task force to review this and report back to the full Board.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.** Bob Funkhouser provided a brief update on the "SuperConvention", to be held on February 10 – 13, 2016, at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston. Elisabeth Goth provided a summary of proposed USEF rule changes, and expressed the need for our board and industry to develop "best practices", with five and ten year plans, and to generally be more proactive and involved. Elisabeth also distributed Minutes and related information from the USEF National Breeds & Disciplines Council.

The Marketing Committee will hold an 'open' Committee meeting on Friday afternoon, January 16, followed by an 'open' meeting of the Publications Committee. We are hopeful that UPHA folks, as well as ASHA members, will attend both of these Committee meetings.

**7. REPORT FROM KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BOARD.** The Board welcomed Kentucky State Fair Board President Rip Rippitoe, and the ASHA representative on the Kentucky State Fair Board, Fred Sarver, to the Saturday afternoon board meeting. Mr. Rippitoe announced the exciting news that a recommendation would be made to the Kentucky State Fair Board at its meeting on 1/22/15 to approve the addition of another day to the WCHS, such that the WCHS would commence with an evening horse show session on Saturday, August 22, as well as a Sunday afternoon horse show session [NOTE: this change was approved by the Kentucky State Fair Board at its 1/22/15 board meeting]. Rip explained that a meeting of the WCHS Advisory Committee would be held in mid to late February, 2015, and that he intended to solicit suggestions for class scheduling from the Advisory Committee. He explained that an additional facilities structure for stalls and storage will be added to alleviate the crowding that was in the North Wing in ~~2015~~2014; an outside consultant has commenced a comprehensive master plan study for the Kentucky State Fairgrounds (there is not yet a plan for Cardinal Stadium); and marketing for the Kentucky State Fair is being evaluated. In response to the ASHA's suggestion for adding an Assistant Horse Show Manager, Rip reported that there will be new "Service Ambassadors" during the WCHS who will report to Scarlett Mattson; these will be individuals who are familiar with the show and the Saddlebred industry, and who can address concerns and issues that arise during the show. The issues with the scoreboard are being addressed (the scoreboard is old and is not able to utilize modern technology); Rip explained that there will be two people who will carefully proofread text for the Saturday night show (Bob Funkhouser volunteered to work with R.H. Bennett to provide material for viewing during 'downtime'). Rip is addressing the need to fill seats and have higher attendance at horse show sessions. There will be an announcer who will provide color commentary between classes for the Saturday night show; and the issues from 2014 VIP Parking will be addressed.

The group noted that the later dates for the WCHS may have a negative impact on school-age exhibitors, and expressed the board's prior request to move the WCHS to the second week in

August; Rip explained that the Street Rod auto show has booked the fairgrounds through 2022 so a change would not be possible until then. The group shared the idea of a “study hall” for school-age exhibitors, similar to the American Royal, and Rip agreed to investigate having a similar program at the WCHS.

Additional concerns were discussed briefly by the group, including the need for safety in Stopher Walk; restriction of delivery trucks to Centerpoint catering (which is located beside Stopher Walk); golf cart traffic and safety; and traffic between barns and Stopher Walk. The board requested financial information on the Webcast, as well as data on the overall economic impact of the WCHS.

**8. ELECTIONS.** Upon motion made by Holly Nichols and seconded by Jackie Hale, the board unanimously voted to approve the proposed slate of Officers for 2015 (described in Paragraph 4 above). Upon motion made by Sandra Currier and seconded by David Mount, the board unanimously voted to approve the proposed slate of three additional Executive Committee members for 2015 (described in Paragraph 4 above). Upon motion made by Kenny Wheeler and seconded by Jackie Hale, the board unanimously voted to approve the proposed slate of two ASHA board members for the AS Registry Board (described in Paragraph 4 above).

Upon motion made by Holly Nichols and seconded by Chuck Herbert, the board unanimously voted to appoint Kenny Wheeler and David Rudder to the Nominating Committee for Directors; they will join Kristen Cater and Kim Cowart who were elected by the ASHA membership at the Saturday morning annual meeting, as well as a fifth person to be appointed by the new ASHA President who will serve as Chairman of this Committee. Upon motion made by Kenny Wheeler and seconded by David Rudder, the board unanimously voted to appoint David Mount, Holly Nichols, and Matt Shiflet to serve as the Nominating Committee for Officers; the new ASHA President will appoint a Chair for this Committee from one of these three individuals.

**9. WELCOME TO NEW PRESIDENT.** The group welcomed Bob Funkhouser as the new ASHA President, and presented Tandy with a thank-you gift for her past three years of service.

**10. NEXT MEETING.** There will be a telephonic conference call of the Executive Committee on Monday, February 9, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. EST; all Board members are urged to participate in this call. There will be standing conference calls on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. EST, and in-person ASHA board meetings in Lexington in July during the Lexington Junior League Horse Show, and the last week of October, dates/times to be announced.

Upon motion made by David Rudder and seconded by Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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Tandy Patrick, President  
American Saddlebred Horse Association

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