



4083 Iron Works Parkway  
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## American Saddlebred Horse Association Minutes of the In Person Meeting

**October 31, 2016**

An in person meeting of the entire Board of the American Saddlebred Horse Association was held on October 31, 2016, at 4047 Iron Works Parkway Lexington, KY commencing at 3:00 pm EST.

**1. ROLL CALL:** The following ASHA Executive Committee members participated at this meeting: Bob Funkhouser, David Rudder, David Mount, Sandra Currier, Tandy Patrick, Kristen Cater, Elizabeth Goth and Cheryl Innis. Also present and welcome were ASHA board members Candy Covino- Aversenti, Allen Bosworth, Brett Day, Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes, Holly Nichols, Matthew Shiflet( via phone), Susan Gebhardt- Shepherd(via phone) Donna Pettry-Smith, Jenny Taylor, Holly Nichols and Kenneth Wheeler Jr(via phone).Also invited and present were ASHA's Executive Director Bill Whitley , UPHA President, Tammie Conatser, Executive Director of Events at Kentucky State Fair, Steve Kelly, ASHA Representative on the Kentucky State Fair Board, Edward R. Bennet and USEF representatives Lori Nelson and Jennifer Mellencamp.

The meeting on Monday October 31, 2016 proceeded as follows:

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Elisabeth Goth made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of #15. Old and new business. Tandy Patrick seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Tammie Conatser, UPHA President Spoke on the ongoing movement to clarify the language in the USDA/APHIS proposed rule changes. She let us know The American Morgan Horse Assoc., The American Hackney Horse Assoc., and the Arabian Horse Assoc., have all joined forces. They all are working together on raising money for legal fees. We have had a Regulatory Lawyer's help with the wording in our Letters of Position submitted to the USDA website. In just a little over a month's \$ 36,070.69 has been raised. Tammie also updated us on the UPHA/American Royal facility. The Kemper Arena has been sold and the 2016 Horse show will be the last one held there. In 2017 the show will move over to the Hale Arena. There are plans to build a horse complex in Wyandotte, Kansas. It is felt that once that is completed all of the American Royal events will be held out there.





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**3. REPORT ON THE 2016 KENTUCKY STATE FAIR:** Edward R. Bennett introduced us to Steve Kelly, one of the interim leaders of the Kentucky State Fair Board. Steve Kelly felt the 2016 Kentucky State Fair Horse Show had run well and will be ready to address some of the minor issues from last year. When asked about the condition and future of Freedom Hall he said it was structurally very sound. While the first three rows of seating do need some repairs it is being handled in house as needed. Donna Pettry-Smith asked if it would be possible to dedicate one gate to horse show exhibitors. This would be safer and quicker for the exhibitors on golf carts. Steve Kelly asked if we would be agreeable to moving the dates of the show up a week. This would start the show the week before the Fair starts and the final three days of the show would be the first three days of the Fair. This would end many of the congestion problems for horse show exhibitors and it was felt it would be easier to schedule the junior exhibitor classes so if was favorable to everyone on the board. The board briefly discussed the idea and a motion was made to consider and pursue the date change. It was suggested that a committee should be formed to investigate the questions that came up such as hotel availability, clearing the dates with USEF, logistics of stabling and possible use of Broadbent Arena. Bret Day, David Mount and Elisabeth Goth volunteered to serve on this committee.

Steve Kelly presented the ASHA Board with a check to fulfill its KSF obligation. He also let us know the incoming CEO at the KSF will be Jason Rittenberry.

**4. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR DIRECTORS:** Tandy Patrick reported on the slate of directors up for election. They are:

Todd Graham  
Robert Griffin  
Scott Hagan  
Emily Lee  
Joan Lurie  
David Mount  
Evan Orr  
  
Susan Shepard  
  
Owen Weaver

Ballots were sent out to the members along with their ASHA membership renewal. By consolidating both into one mailing it has saved ASHA \$ 4,500.00. Voting may also be done online, with voting on the ASHA





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website starting on November 1, 2016. David Rudder made a motion to ratify the slate; Elisabeth Goth made a motion to second. David Mount abstained from voting, all other board members approved this motion.

**5 & 6. ASHA AND USEF YEAR END AWARDS NOMINATIONS:** Bob Funkhouser urged all of the board members to work on putting together nominations for the ASHA Awards and also the USEF yearend awards. He and Elisabeth Goth talked about the importance of having the American Saddlebred represented in the USEF awards. Elisabeth worked on getting the award criteria and deadlines to us. The ASHA deadline for nominations is November 30, 2016 Bob will have the ASHA do another e mail to the members asking for nominations. Elisabeth Goth nominated this year's 5- Gaited Grand Champion, Top of the Mark, to both the ASHA and the USEF horse of the year divisions. David Rudder moved to second and this passed unanimously.

**7. UPDATE ON STALLION SWEEPS:** Jenny Taylor brought us up to date on the ticket sales for the Stallion Sweeps:

Income		\$16,000.00
Expenses		
	Bank/Credit Card Fees	\$581.98
	Contract Labor	204.00
	Database/USEF	3,968.75
	FedEx	68.06
	License Assistance (Strothman & Co	1,300.00
	Printing Expense	640.00
	<u>Renewal &amp; Background Check Fees</u>	<u>184.50</u>
Total Expenses		6,947.29
Net Profit (Loss)		<u>9,052.71</u>





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As of right now with 640 tickets sold our profit is \$9,052.71. Looking at the expenses incurred this year Jenny explained the data base (\$3,968.75) is a onetime cost and would be usable in years to come. People are still in the process of selling tickets and it is felt we will be able to sell more at the UPHA Convention. Stubs of the tickets sold at the convention will be overnighted to Kentucky and will be included in the drawing. Saddle Horse Report will be doing a center spread in the Kansas City issue advertising the Stallion Sweeps tickets and Jenny is looking into advertising in The Arabian Times. She also let us know it was not possible to procure a booth at the Scottsdale All Arabian Horse Show.

**8. ASHA JUDGES COMMITTEE:** Tandy Patrick and Bob Funkhouser brought us up to date on the American Saddlebred Horse Association Policy.





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### **WCHS Rule**

The following was approved by the Kentucky State Fair Board on July 28, 2016:

A Judges' Committee, established by the American Saddlebred Horse Association and comprised of five (5) members, including four (4) members of the Board of Directors of the ASHA and one (1) member of the Board of Directors of the United Professional Horsemen's Association, will assist with the selection of judges for the World's Championship Horse Show.

On or before November 15 of each year, the Judges' Committee shall provide the Horse Show Manager with a list of five (5) potential judges for the WCHS to be held the following August. All potential judges included on such list shall:

- a) be current "Large R" certified judges;
- b) be in good standing with the ASHA and the USEF; and
- c) have indicated to the Judges' Committee that they are available and willing to serve as judges for the upcoming WCHS.

The Horse Show Manager shall hire judges for the upcoming WCHS only from the list provided by the Judges' Committee. In the event that any potential judges cannot or will not serve, after having indicated that they were available and willing to do so, the Judges' Committee expeditiously shall provide a list of additional potential judges to the Horse Show Manager until the requisite number of five (5) judges is hired.

### **Policy/Procedure for the WCHS Judges' Committee**

- The WCHS Judges' Committee shall be a Standing Committee of the ASHA. The President of the ASHA shall appoint four (4) members of the ASHA's current Board of Directors to serve on this Committee, and the President shall designate one of these members to serve as Chair of the Committee.





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- The President shall contact the UPHA to determine the name of the one (1) member of the Committee who will serve as the UPHA representative on the Committee, and the Chair of the Committee will include the UPHA Committee member in all Committee communications and meetings.
- Commencing in February of each year and continuing during the months of February, March and April, the ASHA will solicit suggestions from the general ASHA membership regarding judges for the WCHS for the following calendar year. The ASHA will keep this information confidential and anonymous. The ASHA staff will provide the Chair of the Committee with a summary listing of the names of all those who have been recommended, including the number of recommendations received for each name.
- In May or June of each year, the Committee will meet to review the names that have been suggested by the ASHA membership, and to discuss additional names that may have been brought to the attention of Committee members. The Committee will have whatever additional meetings it desires in order to formulate a proposed list of at least seven (7) suggested judges for the WCHS by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. In formulating the proposed list, the Committee will take into account the names of the individuals who have judged the WCHS during the past 15 years.
- In accordance with the Rule, all names on the proposed list must be current "Large R" certified judges; must be members in good standing of the ASHA and the USEF; and shall have indicated to the Committee that they would be available and willing to serve as judges of the WCHS in the following calendar year if requested to do so.
- By October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the Committee shall present its proposed list of suggested judges for the WCHS to be held in the following calendar year to the President of the ASHA.
- At the October Board Meeting of the ASHA, the proposed list of judges will be presented to the ASHA Board, and the entire ASHA Board will vote to select five names from such list by secret ballot.
- The five names receiving the highest number of votes from the ASHA Board shall then be presented to the Committee, and the Committee will contact each of the five individuals to confirm that such individual is available and willing to judge the WCHS in the following calendar year.
- In the event that any of the five individuals receiving the highest number of votes from the ASHA Board indicates that he or she is not able to judge the WCHS in the following calendar year, the Committee will contact the individual(s) who received the next highest number of votes to fill the five (5) judges' positions. If necessary to fill all five (5) positions, the Committee may suggest additional names to be voted on by the full ASHA Board of Directors via secret ballot.
- Any and all communications and discussions of the Committee and the ASHA Board regarding the Committee shall remain completely confidential and shall not be shared with any other parties.

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Two small changes will be made to this policy. It is felt that a judge with a small “r” that has judged five shows also be considered as a potential candidate for judging the Kentucky State Fair. Also if a potential judge holds mostly large “R”s and only one small “r” card they also will be considered a potential candidate to judge.

Since the ASHA Board will be putting a new standing committee together this necessitates a change in our bylaws. (Insert article XI)

Kristen Cater moved to accept the new bylaws with a second by Elisabeth Goth. This motion passed unanimously.

**9. WCHS JUDGE’S PANEL SELECTION:** The ASHA judge’s selection committee consisted of:

Kristen Cater

David Mount

Jenny Taylor

Donna Pettry-Smith

With Jenny Taylor serving as the chair.

Jenny informed us of the selection process. The committee ruled out the 17 judges who had judged most recently in the past five years. The committee then went through the USEF judges list to determine eligible candidates. Through an online survey of the UPHA chapter chairpersons the list was shortened. After more discussion a top ten was picked and the final five that will be asked to judge the WCHS in 2017 will be Jim Cherry, Gary Garone, Ricky Harris, Ray Krussell, and Renee Lavery.

The committee is also looking into ways to widen the judge’s pool. One suggestion was to encourage shows to hire Morgan judges with a card in the Saddlebred division to judge on a three judge panel. This would allow them to become more comfortable judging the Saddlebred divisions. An idea was brought up about charging an additional fee per horse at horse shows. It would possibly be called a judge’s commission fee. It would be used partly to help with judge’s education and possibly be applied to increasing the judge’s salaries at the World’s Championship Horse Show.





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Elisabeth Goth suggested it might be wise to think about hiring different judges for the different divisions at the WCHS.

The judges committee will outline the processes and procedures they used this year to give next year's committee a guideline to the judges selection process.

David Rudder moved we accept the five judges named to judge the 2017 WCHS. Candy Aversenti moved to second and this was passed unanimously.

#### **10. RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS AFFECTING AMERICAN SADDLEBREDS:** Donna

Pettry-Smith, Lori Nelson, and Jennifer Mellencamp brought us up to date on numerous rule change proposals. The first one brought forth was to address the presentation of the Saddlebred to the public.

#### **SB103 General, Soundness, and Welfare**

1. The American Saddlebred has clean, rhythmic and fluid action which is straight and true. Winging, interfering, traveling wide behind, mixing of gaits and loss of form are undesirable.
2. All horses must be serviceably sound. In-Hand classes for sires and dams or prospective sires and dams, transmissible unsoundness only shall be considered. Horses must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or complete loss of sight in both eyes.
3. Shoeing- to be directed to improving the comfort, balance, and soundness of the horse. Labored way of going due to shoeing to be penalized.
  - a. Pads and wedges- are permitted to protect the feet and limbs from the impact of the horse's natural gait, and maintain the integrity of the hoof wall. Exceptions: see English Country Pleasure, Western, and Hunter Country Pleasure sections
  - b. 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: See English Country Pleasure, Western, and Hunter Country Pleasure sections.
4. Horses may be shown with unset tails in any class without penalty.





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5. Surgical release of the ventral sacrocaudal muscle is allowable if performed by a licensed veterinarian.
6. No horse may compete in a class in the American Saddlebred Division with any chemical or other irritant of any kind present to alter the horse's tail carriage.
7. All horses must be worked both ways of the ring at all required gaits as directed by the judge(s). Workouts will be judged as a separate class and horses must be tied for placings being considered in that workout. Workouts may be called for by the judge(s) for any or all placings. All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at any or all gaits listed in the class specifications that are requested by the judge(s). An exhibitor choosing to not complete the workout for any reason has the option of lining up and receiving the last ribbon awarded in the workout. An exhibitor is entitled to request only one five minute time out per class including workout. (See GR833).
8. A judge must order from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the rider, driver, handler, other **A judge** exhibitor or their entries. (See GR1033.11)
9. A judge must order for the ring any rider, driver or handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any exhibitor, their entries or the safety of class officials. (See GR1033.12)
10. To be penalized: Mixed gaits; unbalanced action; labored way of going; pulling; fighting the bit; tossing the head; carrying head to one side or going sideways; leaving hocks behind; strung out; wrong lead or cross-cantering; breaking of gait; winging; interfering; traveling wide behind; loss of form due to excessive speed; bad manners; exaggerated opening of mouth; carrying sour ears.
11. Horses showing signs of inhumane treatment will be eliminated from Competition. See GR839.
12. Definition of Maiden/Novice/Limit for riders/drivers. Maiden/Novice /Limit classes are open to riders/drivers who have not won one/three/six first place ribbons respectively, at Regular and Local





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Competitions of this Federation in under any ribbons won by a driver in any driving class do not affect the status of a rider in any required to canter will not affect Maiden, Novice and Limit Status.

13. Master classes are restricted to amateur rider/drivers age 50 years and older. Classes are to be judged according to amateur class specifications. Master classes are never to be stripped for conformation judging.

14. Attention getting devices &/or noisemakers (including but not limited to tape measurers, blow horns, bamboo poles, explosives, fire extinguishers, baby powder, whips longer than 6', etc.) are not allowed in and around the makeup and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions. All such items will be confiscated and offenders will be reported to the USEF. (See also (GR839.4i)

#### **SB104 Appointments**

1. Horses shall be shown in traditional tack.
2. Horses shall not be shown in anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class.
3. Horses shall not be shown in/with artificial appliances. Exception: Artificial appliances listed within the SB chapter as acceptable.
4. Tail sets, or other training devices are prohibited in the competition ring
5. The use of chains or rollers as action devices on the competition grounds during or before a competition is prohibited.
6. Inconspicuously applied hair in mane or tail, a tail brace and mouth controls are permitted.  
Exceptions: See Pleasure sections.

#### **Notes:**

With the addition of 6. We can eliminate the mention of "ginger" in SB140, SB147.2, SB157.3, SB162.3, SB167.4, SB189, and SB199.5





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These proposed changes will go before USEF in January 2017 and will be discussed at the UPHA/ASHA Convention January 2017. Elisabeth Goth made a motion to accept these and with a second by Kristen Cater they passed unanimously.

This will be introduced as an extraordinary rule change and will be discussed at the 2017 convention.

The whole ASHA Board was in favor of this with some slight rewording.

SB 20 the ASR Sport Horse Committee recommended changes to the Dressage Suitability Division. These changes will make it more suitable for an introductory level horse to compete. There was also a change to bring appointments in line with the Dressage Division rules. Donna Pettry-Smith made a motion to accept the Sport Horse Revisions as written, with a second from Bret Day, this passed unanimously.

Bob Funkhouser adjourned the meeting at 6:27 pm EST.

