

# American Saddlebred Horse Association, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting

By Teleconference

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** President Fred Sarver, First Vice President Misdee Wrigley, Second Vice President Mary Anne Cronan, Secretary Sandy Lilly, Treasurer David Howard, Directors Nancy Boone, Carter Cox, Lewis Eckard, Matthew Heiman, Nelson Green, Tim Lockard, Mary Ann Pardieck, Dr. Alan Raun, Kay Richardson, Robert Ruxer, Paul Treiber, Art Zubrod.

**Members Absent:** Director Vicki Gillenwater.

**Others Present:** UPHA President Randy Harper, Counsel Jeff Streepey, Executive Secretary Alan Balch.

**I. The meeting was called to order** by President Sarver at 2:00 p.m. and a quorum was established as present.

#### **II. Minutes**

- a. The minutes of the meeting held October 12, 2005, in French Lick, Indiana, were considered. *Upon motion of Mr. Zubrod, seconded by Dr. Raun, they were unanimously approved.*
- b. All members of the Executive Committee being present, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of November 21, 2005, were considered. *Ms. Cronan moved their approval and Ms. Lilly seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection.*

#### **III. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Balch briefly commented on financial matters, but at the suggestion of Dr. Raun, all directors agreed that a formal report should be deferred until Mr. Howard had had more time to review the detailed financials.

#### **IV. Executive Secretary's Report**

- a. Mr. Balch noted that the Association is required to set a return date for ballots voting new directors that will be sent to the membership with the Annual Meeting notice. Mr. Streepey had advised that the date to be set, per the bylaws, is the date by which ballots must be received by the Association. Per the staff recommendation, *Mr. Ruxer moved and Ms. Richardson seconded that the return date be established as Friday, February 3, 2006, consistent with previous years, and the motion carried without objection or abstention.*
- b. The Executive Secretary led a brief discussion of the statistical material sent to directors, showing that while membership continues to be strong, both Registrations and Transfers appear somewhat weak compared to year-earlier figures, as of December 1.

#### **V. Status of Action Items from Board Retreat**

- a. ASHA Recommendations to Kentucky State Fair Management

Ms. Cronan reported on the meeting held between Mr. Sarver, Horse Show Manager Mattson, and herself, on the previous Friday, the results of which had been communicated to the board. She noted that Ms. Mattson had recently returned from a lengthy trip to Africa, and following the meeting, had advised Ms. Cronan that she felt she should consider the Association's recommendations at greater length now that she had additional time. Ms. Cronan stated, therefore, that the recommendation for an Unset Tail split of the Two-year-old Three Gaited class would be re-visited and discussed at the upcoming meetings of the Kentucky State Fair Advisory Committee, scheduled for tomorrow (Wednesday, December 14), and again in late January.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the wisdom of the recommendation coming from the ASHA. Mr. Cox and Mr. Lockard, who had been unable to attend the retreat, voiced opposition to the ASHA recommendation. Mr. Cox felt the recommendation was "philosophically dangerous, since set tails are the essence of the breed," in his opinion.

Mr. Harper commented on the UPHA's concern about the recommendation. He noted that the option to show any Saddlebred with an unset tail is currently in the rules.

Mr. Ruxer, Mr. Zubrod, Ms. Lilly, and Mr. Green all discussed and repeated the evolution of thinking at the retreat that had resulted in the recommendation, and Mr. Ruxer emphasized that the retreat had focused on means of growing the breed and developing more markets for Saddlebreds. Mr. Green stated that the Association must not sacrifice the top end of the breed to accommodate the bottom end.

Mr. Harper stated what he viewed as his membership's concerns, to the effect that the recommendation was being considered too hastily and forced upon it.

Mr. Sarver noted that he had advised the Kentucky State Fair and the UPHA repeatedly that one prime purpose of the recommendation was to be able to view such a class, prior to considering any possible rule change about unset tails on 2-year olds, and that he had met repeatedly with the UPHA board, its members, the local chapter, and its young professionals group at Kansas City, along with Dr. Raun, so he felt the ASHA leadership was adequately explaining the board's reasoning. He noted again that nobody would be disadvantaged by holding such a split of an existing class, and that the board packet included detailed written materials outlining the ASHA position.

b. Other

Attention then turned to Judging Standards on the list of Action Items provided by staff, and Mr. Balch briefly reiterated the status of each item.

Ms. Pardieck and Mr. Balch described the thinking of the Standards and Rules Committee, and the suggested steps that would be taken, particularly to prepare the Points of Emphasis bulletin.

## **VI. Award Selections**

Mr. Balch referred the board members to the packet materials indicating the results of the secret ballot of the Breeders Committee to select three finalists for the Breeders Award, as well as all finalists for the other awards. He stated that it was now planned to conduct a secret ballot election immediately, and urged directors to return their ballots as soon as they could, once received.

## **VII. Old Business**

Mr. Heiman stated that he would like to review the matter of the Kentucky State Fair Board appointment. Ms. Cronan noted that she would have to leave shortly, and that perhaps this matter could be discussed after she had departed, unless there was other business to be discussed. All agreed that this item could be held until after other Old or New Business.

## **VIII. New Business**

Mr. Sarver and Mr. Balch noted that the USEF had asked for nominees from the Saddlebred breed for a new FEI Pleasure Driving Committee, and that the names of Misdee Wrigley and Marilyn Macfarlane had been put forward from ASHA.

Mr. Balch noted that Ms. Gillenwater had suggested a new annual ASHA award be presented, for a family's contributions to the breed, and that it might well be named in honor of her late parents, as an example of family involvement for the betterment of Saddlebreds. *Upon motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Ms. Wrigley, the inauguration of this award was accepted without objection or abstention.*

Mr. Zubrod raised questions about how the rule change process was conducted, and a discussion including explanations of the relationships of the ASHA to the Saddlebred Committee of USEF and the board of USEF continued. All agreed that efforts should be made to include a description of the process on-line.

Mr. Heiman noted the declining numbers of Registrations and Transfers and asked whether the board's attention might be focused on how to grow the breed. Mr. Sarver responded that that was exactly the question that opened the retreat, and that virtually all discussion there centered on how to do so. Mr. Harper noted the past UPHA experience with "selling" or "claiming" classes.

Ms. Cronan excused herself from the meeting at 3:20 p.m., and discussion returned to the matter of Old Business, and the status of the Kentucky State Fair Board appointment. Mr. Sarver and Mr. Zubrod described and commented on the Association's current position as expressed in previous minutes of board meetings, and no further action was taken.

## **IX. Adjournment**

At 3:35 p.m., Ms. Pardieck moved for adjournment, Mr. Eckard seconded, and the meeting was closed by agreement of all in attendance.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alan F. Balch  
Executive Secretary