



4083 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511
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American Saddlebred Horse Association Minutes of the In Person Meeting

November 1, 2016

An in person meeting continued on November 1, 2016.

Bob Funkhouser called the meeting to order at 9:08 am EST. Roll call was taken and present were: President, Bob Funkhouser; Vice President, David Rudder; Secretary, Sandra Currier; Treasurer, David Mount, Executive Committee members Kristin Cater, Cheryl Innis, and Elisabeth Goth. Also present and welcomed were ASHA Board members; Candida Covino Aversenti, Bret Day, Donna Pettry-Smith, Susan Gebhardt Shepherd; Jenny Taylor, Allen Bosworth, Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes, Holly Nichols, Tandy Patrick (phone), Matthew Shiflet (phone), and Kenneth Wheeler Jr (phone). Also present were Executive Director, Bill Whitley and guest, Allison Pettrey.

The meeting continued with David Mount opening with the financial report.

- 1- FINANCIALS-AUDITORS LETTER:** David Mount opened his report with the Strothman+Co audit findings. They reported “We noted no transactions entered into by the Association during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.” David said the audit was clean with the only suggestion being to create a clear Memorandum of Understanding between ASHA and the ASR regarding the database. David let us know we had hired an HR consultant in May. With her help we have hired three new employees. This has resulted in ASHA saving \$15,000.00 in wages and ASR saving \$ 26,000.00. ASHA has hired Mary Constantine on as an accountant and we are currently searching for a financial advisor. Currently we are interviewing six prospective financial advisors. For the period ending September 30, 2016 assets are at \$437,788.00 which is a downturn of \$47,000.00 from 2015. Accounts receivable are at \$62,748.00. In 2015 accounts receivable were at \$49,282.00. There is expected to be a large change in this when ASR finalizes the Memorandum of Understanding with ASHA and pays its share of the new database bill.





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A question arose about the restricted and unrestricted funds. David will look into some of the older restricted funds to see if they are still pertinent to issues they were donated for or if they can be designated unrestricted.

- 2- **UPDATE ON THE LAUNCH OF ASK ASHA:** Bob Funkhouser informed us the Ask ASHA Website went live on October 24, 2016





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Ask ASHA Program <https://www.asha.net/askasha> Published Date: Oct 21, 2016

The American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA) is excited to announce their new ASK ASHA Program.

The allows members to connect with professionals, trainers, owners, and breeders, increasing your knowledge and promoting the American Saddlebred horse. The ASHA has a great panel of professionals, owners, and amateurs that are eager to answer your questions. The ASHA is here to provide you with the opportunity to ask questions and get answers and share them with the American Saddlebred Community.

"We are excited to bring this benefit to the ASHA membership," said President Bob Funkhouser. "Bill [Whitley] has done a great job compiling a list of well-versed professionals and amateurs who can speak to a number of topics. We'd also like to thank the panelists for sharing their time and expertise with fellow American Saddlebred enthusiasts at all levels."

Please designate a mentor or ask for a general response from the expert list and send your question. Once the ASHA has received the answer, ASHA will post it on the Q&A page. The ASK ASHA panelists may rotate periodically.

You may also download the form, email, fax (859-259-1628), or mail your questions to ASHA, 4083 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511.





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The panelists currently are Kim Cowart, Donna Finch, Nancy Leigh Fisher, Elizabeth Ghareeb, Nelson Green, Smith Lilly, Joan Lurie, Melissa Moore, Merrill Murray, Anne Neil, Gene Van Der Walt and Judy Werner. The panelists will change from time to time and we will be adding a sport horse spokesperson, possibly Rachel Kelly.

At this point the Board returned to the Rule Change Proposals starting off with SB 161 regarding the number of obstacles in the Working Western Pleasure Class. There were no objections to the proposed changes to SB 161 regarding the number of obstacles in the Working Western Pleasure Class. This was accepted as written.

The Board discussed the proposed changes to SB 111 and recommended rewording it to read; all classes must be **divided as equally as possible** if there is more than the indicated number of entries confirmed as entered at least one hour prior to the start of the session. **There shall be no limiting of entries (See GR 915)** Competition has the right to reduce these numbers as they feel necessary.

Number of Entries	Sections
20	All under saddle classed except for following
18	Classes restricted to riders 17 years of age and under
18	Classes restricted to riders 14-17 years of age
16	Classes restricted to riders 13 years of age and under
24	U/S Championships Classes
14	Two year old under saddle classes
12	All Driving Classes
16	Driving Championships





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Bret Day proposed to accept the written changes, with a second by Kristen Cater this passed unanimously.

SB 111 6. Was changed to read, ASR National Three-Year-Old Futurity Fine Harness, ASR Kentucky Futurity Fine Harness and Two-Year-Old Fine Harness

SB 108.3 This Rule Change Proposal was regarding the addition of an Amateur Owner trained division was accepted as written.

SB 157.5 This RCP would allow Professionals to show in more of the ASB Country Western Pleasure classes and was accepted as written.

SB 136 and SB 115.2 These RCPs helped clarify the fact that the Park Trot will be looked for in the Park Division. These were both accepted as written.

SB 103.9 This RCP clarifies the right of show management to establish quiet times at any time, with no attention getting devices and/or noisemakers allowed. This was accepted as written.

SB 104 This RCP deals with nontraditional equipment being used in the ring. The board felt it would help clarify nontraditional by adding the phrase” a hightail brace attached to the saddle with a turn back is not allowed”

SB 101 through SB 203 defined the standards and requirements for the Half American Saddlebred. The Board accepted this all as written.

GR 915.2 This RCP would allow breed specific competitions to use classes or events to qualify for finals.

GR 135.8 This RCP clarified maiden, novice and limit wins under saddle count for all under saddle divisions. A horse must switch to a harness class to regain his maiden, novice or limit status. The Board accepted this as written.





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GR1070 This RCP was proposed by a joint subcommittee consisting of representatives from USEF, ASHA and UPHA. Their intent is to help the learner judges become more proficient. The Board accepted this as written.

GR 201 This RCP was submitted in an effort to remove confusion of the membership over whether a farm must be “active”. Under the proposal, a farm will become a standalone membership category. Since this requires two memberships if there is a Farm name involved Donna Pettry-Smith made a motion to not allow this to proceed. Bret Day seconded and the Board agreed unanimously.

GR 812 This RCP would allow more opportunity for horses to be utilized after retirement in situations deemed appropriate. The Board accepted this as written.

GR 839.1 through GR 839.21 These RCPs concern cruelty and abuse of the horse. As the sport grows it is imperative that the Federation’s rules are amended to guarantee that the Federation stays ahead of the cruel and abusive practices. These changes are needed to ensure that horses are not entered to compete or presented at a Federation Licensed Competition in a condition that evidences improper training practices were used in preparation for the competition or abuse that may have been inflicted prior to the competition. The Board accepted this as written.

GR 844 This RCP would require a necropsy in the case of an equine fatality at a USEF sanctioned event. The information gathered would be used for the research on the health and safety of horses. The Board accepted this as written.

GR 1012 This RCP is to merge the terminology of ‘learner’ and ‘apprenticing’ to one term. The Board accepted this as written.

GR 1015, GR 1037.1 and GR 1038 The RCPs proposed for these clarify roles and responsibilities for Stewards and Technical Delegates and the Board accepted all as written.

GR 1120 This RCP dealt with the flexibility of moving the HOTY Awards Ceremony. The Board accepted this as written.





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GR1202.1 This RCP would mandate a Competition Manager at a Federation licensed competition complete applicable Federation education requirements in the name of safety. The Board accepted this as written.

GR 1211 This RCP would mandate a Basic Life Support Ambulance present during all scheduled performances. The Board felt this might prove too expensive for some of the smaller shows and perhaps not as necessary for the shows that have no over fences classes. For this reason Elisabeth Goth made a motion to turn this down. A second was made by Donna Pettry-Smith and the Board unanimously turned it down.

GR 1306.3 c and GR 1306.3i The RCPs for both of these clarified what duties an amateur could hold and not lose their amateur status. The Board accepted these as written.

- 3- NOTICE FROM THE ASB MUSEUM CONCERNING NOMINEES TO OUR BOD:** Bill Whitley brought us up to date on an American Saddlebred Museum bylaw change. It reads; Trustees may not serve on the American Saddlebred Museum Board concurrently with another Board within the industry. Any current Trustees serving on dual boards will be grandfathered. Individuals may serve on committees of other boards.

This recommendation came from the Bylaws Committee, voted on by the Board of Trustees, and approved on October 7, 2016.

- 4- EMPLOYEE INSURANCE RENEWAL:** Bill Whitley and Allison Pettry shared with us the United Healthcare renewal and options, Anthem options and Humana options for healthcare and the renewal for the Dental for the employees. Mr. Whitley recommended we renew with United Healthcare. Allison had surveyed the seven employees and they all were willing to help keep costs down. Discussion centered on the percentage paid by ASHA (98%) and percentage paid by the employee (2%). Donna Pettry-Smith asked that the wage and benefits package for employees of ASHA be shared with the Board. There was concern the benefit package was outside the norm. Mr. Whitley felt the salary plus the benefits package were working to keep some valuable employees in place. Sandra Currier made a motion to accept Mr. Whitley's recommendations for health insurance for the employees. This was seconded by Bret Day and approved unanimously by the Board.





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5- OLD BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS: Elisabeth Goth opened a discussion about yearend awards. Nealia McCracken was nominated for the Humanitarian Award and Golden Creek Farm was nominated for the Breeders Award. Bob Funkhouser said everything is falling in place for a very nice convention in New Orleans in January 2017. He also felt we had done everything we could do uniting the trotting breeds against the USDA's proposed changes. It might be a good topic to discuss at the convention.

A new Committee was set up to work on the logistics of moving the World's Championship Horse Show a week earlier. Kenny Wheeler Jr. will head this committee with Bret Day, Elisabeth Goth, David Mount, Donna Pettry-Smith and David Rudder serving on it.

Alan Bosworth introduced Tiffany Frey's idea of adding Amateur Owned and Trained awards to the 2018 ASHA Awards program. Alan Bosworth made a motion to accept this addition to the awards program. Donna Pettry-Smith moved to second and it passed unanimously.

Candy Covino-Averesenti brought up the idea of adding a "supportive Dad" award to the yearend ASHA Awards. It was felt the fathers are often the unsung heroes standing behind many of the riders. This idea was well received and Bob Funkhouser and Candy will put together the criteria for it. Candy made a motion to put this award in place with a second by Susan Shepherd. This passed unanimously.

Susan Shepherd made a motion to adjourn at 11:15 am EST with a second from David Mount, this passed unanimously.

