



2015-2016 Officers

Mary Jane Brown, Director
Chris Bickford, Vice-Director
Barb Garcia, Treasurer
Lisa Kolke, Secretary

Arabian Horse Association
AHA REGION 4

REQUEST FOR VOTE REGION 4 AHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION WITHOUT MEETING August 11, 2016

VOTING DELEGATES

AHACO	Chris Bickford	AIM	Janet Jones
AHACO	Lori Sage	AIM	Sarah Asby
AHBAO	Julie Hedden	CASHC	Kaye Phaneuf
AHBAO	Karla Moffitt	DAAHA	Lyn Kinney
AHCCO	Chana VanderZanden	EVAHC	Dawn Gossler
		IPP	Peggy Weems

Change of venue for Region 4 Sport Horse Championship Show

Motion to approve:

The ad hoc Sport Horse Committee's recommendation that AHA Region 4 execute a contract with Gwen & David Blake DBA Donida Farms, Auburn, Washington. Major points of the contract shall include, but not be limited to:

- Donida Farm will take full responsibility for the Region 4 Off-Site Sport Horse Championships.
- Said contract will be for a period of two years, with the option to renew for an additional two years.
- AHA Region 4 Off-Site Sport Horse Championships will be held the third weekend of July, commencing July 15-16, 2017, at Donida Farm, Auburn, Washington.

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE NO LATER THAN August 21, 2016

BACKGROUND

The Des Arab club's contract to conduct the Region 4 Off-Site Sport Horse Championships has expired. The club does not wish to renew the agreement and no other club has stepped forward. Director Mary Jane Brown appointed an ad hoc committee to consider and make recommendations on the future of these championships.

The committee, consisting of two members from each of Region 4's three sport horse-oriented clubs: Sarah Asby and Jon Howell (AiM), Kaye Phaneuf and Barbara Zellner (Cascade), Teri Ellis and Lyn Kinney (Des Arab), plus Chair Chris Bickford, met on July 13.

DISCUSSION POINTS

The committee considered the pros and cons of many facilities throughout Region 4, including price, available dates, accessibility, amenities, and proximity to volunteers. We discussed merging Region 4's Sport Horse and 'main ring' shows or cancelling the Sport Horse show completely. We looked at what surrounding regions are doing, and even considered merging Region 4 & 5's Sport Horse Shows.

Three years ago, Region 5, following Region 4's example with AiM and Des Arab, contracted with Donida Farm (Gwen & David Blake) to take on the Region 5 Sport Horse Championships. It proved to be a wise decision: the region has no responsibility for their Sport Horse Championships, sport horse exhibitors enjoy a well-run show tailored to their needs, and the show itself is growing every year. Donida Farm has made the same offer to Region 4: they would like a four-year contract to own and operate the Region 4 Sport Horse Championships and a qualifying pre-show. They would assume all responsibilities and risks: financial, staffing, licensing, promotion, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

Region 4 faces critical shortages in three areas: financial support, manpower, and entries. The costs and risks of putting on this show are higher than Region 4 or any of its clubs can continue to take on, yet we can't afford the penalties of *not* holding it.

Although Donida Farm's location south of Auburn, Washington, is well north of the Region 4 boundary, it is within 30 minutes of Puyallup and Spanaway, both frequent destinations for Region 4 exhibitors. And the Region 5 Sport Horse Championship Show draws well from Canada, eastern Washington, and even Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. This committee believes that the Blakes and Donida Farm have the facility and expertise to provide the quality show experience that Region 4's exhibitors expect and deserve.

RECOMMENDATION

The committee unanimously agrees that Region 4 should accept Donida Farm's offer to take on the Region 4 Sport Horse Championships starting in 2017. We recommend a two-year contract with the option of an additional two years. We agree that the third weekend in July (13-16, 2017) would be best for this show: after Region 4 and Region 5 main ring, and midway between the Region 5 Sport Horse Championships and SHN. It's not an ideal date for those targeting Youth Nationals, but sufficiently before Canadian Nationals, and does not conflict with major Northwest dressage shows, traditionally the strongest sport horse discipline in our area.

NEXT STEPS

- Region 5's Executive Board has approved allowing the Region 4 Off-Site Sport Horse Championships, with a qualifying pre-show, to be held within their region.
- Region 5's Board of Directors will be asked to confirm their Executive Board's action at their September meeting.
- Donida Farm has cleared their calendar for our desired weekend.
- The ad hoc Region 4 Sport Horse Committee asks that you **vote to approve** the motion at the top of this email so that a contract can be executed and planning for the 2017 Region 4 Sport Horse Championships move forward.

VOTES TO APPROVE: Total of **11**

VOTES TO DISAPPROVE: Total of **0**

NO RESPONSE: Total of **0**

ABSTAIN: Total of **0**

RESULT OF VOTE: Motion **passed**

Respectfully submitted August 16, 2016

-Lisa Kolke

Lisa Kolke
Secretary
Region 4 AHA