

**REGION 4 ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Director Peggy Weems at 10:00 a.m.

CLUB VOTING DELEGATES PRESENT:

AHACO	Naomi Richmond	ARHA	Colby Powell
AHACO	Diana Berry-Jones	ARHA	Rod Powell
AHCCO	Deb Witty	CASHC	Chris Bickford
AHBAO	Kendyl Modrich	DAHA	Insufficient membership
AHBAO	Carol Helton	EVAHA	Noel Collins
AIM	Beth Bonham	PAST DIR.	Julie Hedden

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESENT:

Region 4 Director Peggy Weems, Region 4 Vice Director Braden Davidson, Treasurer Barb Garcia, Secretary Julie Hedden.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Region 5 Director Michelle Pease Paulson, Dawn Gossler, Lisa Kolke, Doug Stewart, Cecily Sotomayor, Sheryl Yochum, Millie Chipman (joined at 10:41 a.m.), Jonathan Howell (joined at 10:43 a.m.).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Director Peggy Weems announced the passing of longtime Region 4 member Beth Garvison.

Director Peggy Weems amended the agenda, moving the Director's report, the election of officers, the election of the judge's selection committee, and the discussion on the Veterans Championship class to earlier in the meeting.

MSA/Kendyl Modrich/Naomi Richmond motioned to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT – Peggy Weems and Michelle Pease-Paulsen.

Region 5 Director Michelle Pease Paulsen reported on the new AHA governance structure. She explained that the organization is divided into three zones - Western, Central, and Eastern - with a Regional Director from each zone selected to serve on the Board of Directors. She noted that she has been chosen as the Western Regional Director.

Michelle reported that the new Board of Directors began meeting in January. She stated that the Board held a corporate retreat in Denver, where they discussed implementing a new software program, Intellect, currently used by AQHA. She further noted that the Board has appointed Ralph Manning as Treasurer and that Taryl O'Shea will assume the role of CEO. She added that the Board also voted to eliminate qualifications.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Chris Bickford.

Nominating Committee Chair Chris Bickford presented the committee's slate of nominees as follows: Braden Davidson for Director, Chris Bickford for Vice Director, Barb Garcia for Treasurer, and Julie Hedden for Secretary.

ELECTION OF REGIONAL OFFICERS FOR TERMS BEGINNING AT THE END OF 2026 AHA NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Voting for Regional Officers was done by email. Delegate votes were sent to Lisa Kolke and Barb Garcia for counting.

The nominations for Regional officers:

Director: Chris Bickford nominated Braden Davidson, Colby Powell nominated Rod Powell. MSA/Chris Bickford/Naomi Richmond motioned to close nominations. All in favor.

Director: Braden Davidson. Vote count 6-5.

Vice Director: Deb Witty nominated Chris Bickford, Colby Powell nominated Rod Powell. MSA/Julie Hedden/Carol Helton motioned to close nominations. All in favor.

Vice Director: Rod Powell. Vote count 6-5.

Treasurer: Chris Bickford nominated Barb Garcia. No other nominations.

Treasurer: Barb Garcia by acclaim.

Secretary: Chris Bickford nominated Julie Hedden. No other nominations.

Secretary: Julie Hedden by acclaim.

ELECTION OF 2 POSITIONS ON THE JUDGES SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Voting for Judges Selection Committee was done by email. Delegate votes were sent to Lisa Kolke and Barb Garcia for counting

Kendyl Modrich nominated Dawn Gossler and Millie Chipman.

Julie Hedden nominated Deb Witty and Chris Bickford.

MSA/Julie Hedden/Kendyl Modrich motioned to close nominations. All in favor.

Judges Selection Committee: Deb Witty.

There was a tie between Chris Bickford and Dawn Gossler for the second position. Votes were sent to Lisa Kolke and Barb Garcia with delegates voting for either Chris Bickford or Dawn Gossler.

Judges Selection Committee second vote: Dawn Gossler. Vote count 6-5.

VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS – Kendyl Modrich.

Kendyl Modrich requested the addition of a Veterans class, explaining that the goal is to attract the public to the Regional Show while highlighting the Arabian horse as a valuable therapeutic partner for veterans and at-risk youth. She noted that there would be no expense to the Region, as

grant funding has been secured, and added that she has already coordinated with Silver Aspen and Stewart Performance Horse to provide horses for the class.

Braden Davidson expressed his support for the proposal, stating that it presents the horse in a positive light and serves as an excellent opportunity for community outreach.

Barb Garcia inquired whether the class could continue if the show relocates from Eugene in the future. Kendyl confirmed that it could, as the program is organized in partnership with local agencies and organizations.

MSA/Carol Helton/Julie Hedden motioned to support the Veterans Championship Class. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.

1. November 20, 2026, Reno Caucus meeting

MSA/Kendyl Modrich/Naomi Richmond motioned to approve the minutes. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT – Barb Garcia.

Barb Garcia reported that the Region's taxes have been filed and paid, and that the final financials are complete. She stated that the Region has a balance of \$281,165.11 and reported a net loss of \$11,324.49, which includes the 2025 Main Ring and 2025 Sport Horse shows. She added that the final figures for the 2025 Main Ring Regional Show reflect a loss of \$12,858.25.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

A) Region 4 Championship Horse Show Commission – Nancy Harvey and Doug Stewart.

Show Commission Chair Doug Stewart reported on the 2026 Championship Regional Show. He stated originally the show was budgeted for 200 horses, but at the last meeting it was decided with the instability in the Middle East, to budget for 165 horses. When budgeting for 165 horses, the budget shows a net profit of \$454.50, when budgeting for 200 horses the budget shows a net profit of \$21,072.

Chair Doug Stewart outlined a new approach for the show, noting that in response to declining entries, the focus will shift toward enhancing the exhibitor experience. He explained that plans include incorporating fun events, such as exhibitor parties, increasing vendor participation, free shavings, and offering sponsored prize money in a few handpicked classes, all with the goal of growing the show. He went on to state that six classes will feature \$5,000 in added prize money, 12 classes will offer \$1,000 in added purse money, and five classes will include \$500 in added prize money.

He further reported that, in addition to the Jerry Sindt Perpetual Trophy, five new memorial trophies will be introduced. These trophies will honor Connie Chapman, Irwin Schimmel, Karla Defoe, LaRae Fletcher Powell, and Mike McDaniel, all of whom were pivotal supporters of Region 4.

Deb Witty inquired about the status of a potential return to the Idaho Horse Park for the 2027 Regional Show. Peggy Weems responded that the Idaho Horse Park has extended the deadline to April 1, 2026, for the Region to decide whether to move the show to that location.

Doug Stewart reported that he has been in contact with Joan Palelek regarding the possibility of adjusting her show dates to avoid a conflict. Rod Powell added that, to date, Joan has not been able to secure alternative dates.

Dianna Berry-Jones asked how much of the money brought in through sponsorships is going to operations. Doug Stewart said it is going to prize money, which will bring more people to the show. He also said Kendyl Modrich's family is donating \$20,000 for awards.

Braden Davidson explained having the extra prize money is great, as he worked with Region 12 and ran the spotlight futurity. He said the first year they had the added money they had a lot of support and entries, but each year the entries decreased. He said for next year we need to look at putting back some of the sponsorship money to operations.

Braden Davidson suggested sending out an eblast with the prize list and all the updates that have been done to the Oregon Horse Center.

Julie Hedden inquired about the availability of stalls, and how much growth the Oregon Horse Center can accommodate.

Doug Stewart said there are 360 stalls at the Oregon Horse Center and was unsure at this time what the maximum capacity would be.

Deb Witty asked about the Patron Income and if the patrons are keeping their patronship, even if they are not going to the show, in hopes that the show will move back to Idaho.

Carol Helton who is in charge of Patrons, said she is unsure at this time. She went on to say she had difficulty getting stabling information, so has not been able to get a letter out to all the patrons yet.

Deb Witty said people have reached out to her frustrated without knowing the future of the show. People have also told her that they would be willing to get sponsorships and help out if the show relocates to Idaho. She also explained that Joan moved the dates of her show only 2 years ago, so it would be worth it to keep asking if she can move her dates.

Braden Davidson suggested we give the Idaho Horse Park a \$1000 deposit to hold the dates. Peggy Weems stated they did not offer a deposit to hold the dates, as they have other shows waiting to take the dates if we do not.

B) Region 4 Championship Sport Horse Show Committee – Lisa Kolke.

Lisa Kolke reported that the Region 4 Sport Horse Show is scheduled for July 31 – August 2, 2026, at Devonwood in Sherwood, Oregon. She stated that the event will include a one-day pre-show followed by two days of Regional classes. She added that judges have been hired and that she is currently working on the show schedule. Additionally, she noted that the show has secured two major sponsors, one of which will sponsor an exhibitor dinner.

C) Sport Horse/Dressage – Jonathan Howell.

Jonathan Howell showed everyone the High Point Ribbon awarded at open shows, explaining that it recognizes Arabians participating in open competitions. He noted that the program serves as an excellent outreach tool to encourage owners of Arabians to join AHA and participate in Sport

Horse competitions. He also praised the Sport Horse Prospect Jackpot class at the Regional Sport Horse Show, highlighting that it is a fun event and that many winners go on to compete successfully in other disciplines, including Western and Hunter Pleasure.

D) Judges Selection Committee – Dawn Gossler.

Dawn Gossler reported Judges have been hired for the 2026 show. Tami Pacho Roberts will judge all Main Ring classes, as well as Trail, Reining, and Reining Seat Equitation. Virginia Godwin and Richard Wright will serve as additional judges. A notable change this year is that the Ranch Riding classes will be judged by all three judges.

The Judges Selection Committee will convene after this year's Regional Show to finalize decisions regarding the 2027 show, including date, location, and show manager. A meeting is anticipated in June to develop the slate of judges for 2027.

Current committee members are Dawn Gossler (2029), Deb Witty (2029), Cecily Sotomayor (2028), Sarah Robertson (2028), and Doug Stewart, (2029).

E) Local Level Committee – Julie Hedden.

Julie Hedden reported that all information for the Academy Classes is now available online and can be found on the AHA website. The MDP currently has approximately \$13,000 in grant funding remaining to support Meet an Arabian Horse events and similar outreach initiatives. Region 4 now has one Discovery Farm, with Naomi Richmond having signed up to participate. The committee is also exploring a rebranding of the Discovery Farms program.

F) Scholarship – Dawn Gossler.

Chair Dawn Gossler reported that an e-blast was sent reminding members of upcoming deadlines. She stated that applications are due by May 1, 2026, and that all relevant information is available on the website. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact her via email, text, or phone at dawngossler@gmail.com or 541-521-8429.

Current committee members are Chair Dawn Gossler (2027), Sarah Asby (2027), Whitney McCord (2028), Laura Venne (2028), Naomi Carpenter (2029).

G) Performance Futurity – Rod Powell.

Rod Powell reported that the Performance Futurity has been revamped. Lisa Kolke provided entry numbers for futurity classes over the past several years, and any classes with two or fewer entries were eliminated; as a result, the reining class was dropped. The Country classes have secured sponsorship and will be retained.

Additionally, eligibility has been expanded to include horses aged five and under, rather than limiting entries to three- and four-year-olds, which may help increase participation. Two Ranch Rail Derby classes have also been added.

H) Audit Committee – Julie Hedden.

Julie Hedden reported that an audit of the financials for the Regional Championship shows will be conducted later in the year.

I) Youth – Noel Collins.

Noel Collins reported that she has submitted a request for promotional materials to distribute at the Region 4 Championship Show. She also expressed interest in having a horse available for a “Meet an Arabian Horse” community outreach event during the show, as well as possibly arranging for someone in the stands to help explain the classes and overall event to attendees.

There is still a need for a Youth Director. Director Weems indicated she will provide a list of all youth in Region 4, and Naomi Richmond shared that her son, Eli, may be interested in the role.

Lisa Kolke noted that both the Region and local clubs should take advantage of AHA’s first-year free youth membership offer as an opportunity to encourage more young participants to become members.

J) Distance (Endurance & Competitive) – Nance Worman.

Nance Worman was not present at the meeting. No report given.

K) Recognition Committee – Sonya Bickford.

Chris Bickford delivered the report on behalf of Sonya Bickford. He announced that Deb Witty will receive the Recognition Award in appreciation of her hard work and dedication to the 2025 Region 4 Championship Show.

L) 2025-2026 Budget – Chris Bickford.

Chris Bickford explained that he had just received the Region 4 horse show budget the previous evening and, as a result, had not yet been able to distribute the full Region 4 budget to the members. Given that the budget has not been reviewed, he noted that there is insufficient information available to proceed with a vote at this time. He recommended that the budget be circulated via email, with members invited to submit any comments or questions to him for review.

MSA/Chris Bickford/Deb Witty motioned to distribute the proposed budget via email, with all comments and questions to be submitted to Chris Bickford by Sunday, March 22, at 12:00 p.m. Following the close of the comment period, the finalized budget will be reissued by email, and delegates will have 24 hours to vote on its approval. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A) Other new business.

1. Conflict of Interest.

Chris Bickford initiated a discussion on requiring all voting committee members and Regional Delegates to declare any conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting. Members with a conflict would recuse themselves from voting on the affected matters. The chair would request these declarations in accordance with AHA meeting practices and Robert’s Rules of Order.

MSA/Chris Bickford/Carol Helton motioned to require all voting committee members and Regional Delegates to declare any conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting and to recuse themselves from voting on matters where a conflict exists. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Left over Awards from Region 4 main ring show.

There is remaining award inventory from past Region 4 shows. Discussion focused on how to handle this inventory, given that the 2026 Main Ring Regional Show is being rebranded and will feature new ribbons and awards.

MSA/Chris Bickford/Julie Hedden motioned to allocate the leftover awards not designated for the Main Ring Show to be used at the Regional Sport Horse Show. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

B) Approve Region 4 Shows.

Director Peggy Weems said she has approved a couple of distance rides and the Rally in the Valley show. She will provide Lisa Kolke with a list of all the approved shows so they can be added to the website.

C) Additional business.

Delegates discussed holding the next Region 4 meeting in person. Concerns were raised regarding members who are located farther away, and it was decided that the meeting would be held as a hybrid, offering both in-person and online participation.

MSA/Deb Witty/Chris Bickford motioned to hold the next Region 4 meeting (fall meeting) in person, with an online option. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT - (NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 4, 2026, TIME AND LOCATION TBD.).

Director Peggy Weems called for adjournment at 1:21 p.m.

Peggy Weems - Director

ATTEST:

Julie Hedden – Secretary/Transcribed