



# News & Notices

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## UPDATE on AHA response to Covid-19

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To All Region 4 Members,

I feel as your Regional Director; I have an obligation and responsibility to keep you informed, as to what is going on within our association. Please note, there has not been any intention to slight or dismiss anyone, we AHA have been in crisis mode as an Association leadership and in our own lives and businesses....

**National Events** - All the national event commissions have met several times and will continue to do so as we get closer to the events and have the then current information. At this time, we are hoping that we will be able to hold all the National Events. However, we are working on alternative solutions should the need arrive. Qualifications have been waived for both the Arabian & Half-Arabian Youth Nationals and the Arabian & Half-Arabian Sport Horse Nationals.

**Staff Pay** - We started a 20% reduction of pay for our employees. This means that most will be working a 4-day work week. The senior managers have organized their staff so that the office is covered Mon - Fri under normal working hours.

**No Travel** - All travel has been cancelled for staff and volunteers. We have asked all volunteers and staff for the National Events to hold off purchasing any tickets until we are better able to determine if the shows will be allowed to go forward.

**Amateur Task Force** - The Association leaders who are part of USEF have been asked to review and improve the Amateur rules within USEF. The focus is in multiple areas, including a way to allow some Amateurs to give local lessons, how to handle trainers pursuing their amateur status, what to do about social media influencers. The task force believes it is time to bring the Amateur rule into the 21st century. The Amateur Task Force is just beginning so if you have ideas on how you believe the Amateur rules should look please forward them either myself Nancy Harvey or Karen Homer Brown.

**Emergency Response team and Executive Committee** - The emergency response team has been meeting almost nightly. Starting now, they will be meeting Mon., Wed., and Thursday with an E-Blast to go out on Fridays, if necessary. The executive committee, which is part of the response team, will meet by themselves on Tues & Thurs. Weekend calls will be on an as needed basis. They will be working with the JLC Industry Reopening Task Force - a joint effort of several breed associations on procedures to be followed by both barns and shows to help with discussions with local governments that will allow us to hold events under governmental guidelines. Portions of this information should be available this week. Therefore, rest assured that your executive committee is working every day to move forward. Please also note that we have reached out to budget and finance regarding the effects of lack of cash to build a model for moving forward. The response team is now sending out their own E-Blasts on Fridays to help with communication with our members.

**Small Business Loan** - We have submitted the necessary paperwork to 4 different banks. another PPP bill has passed, then we should be positioned to apply for those funds. We have also applied directly to the SBA for a small business loan.

**Endurance application** - The Arabian Horse Association has submitted to USEF an application to become the Endurance affiliate for USEF. The endurance sport is overwhelming made up of Arabian and Arabian cross horses, so the fit with our association seems logical. The board voted on this at our March meeting and so the group assigned has now completed that application.

It is more important now than ever before that we all work together to ensure a strong AHA going forward. If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them although some things by their nature will be confidential until they can come forward. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me. We are happy to consider all solutions.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to make contact with me as your Regional Director or the AHA President Nancy Harvey, [nancyharvey@arabianhorses.org](mailto:nancyharvey@arabianhorses.org)

We hope and pray that this will all soon pass, and we can get back to our normal lives and association structure. Please stay safe and do your part to help with the recovery process.

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**Region 4 AHA**

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