

**REGION 4 ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER, 22, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Director Peggy Weems at 6:30 p.m.

CLUB VOTING DELEGATES PRESENT WERE:

AHACO	Naomi Richmond	ARHA	Colby Powell
AHACO	Diana Berry-Jones	ARHA	Rod Powell
AHCCO	Deb Witty	CASHC	Chris Bickford
AHBAO	Kendyl Modrich	DAHA	No Delegate Selected
AHBAO	Carol Helton	EVAHA	Gina Bressler
AIM	Beth Bonham	PAST DIR.	Julie Hedden

OTHERS PRESENT: Braden Davidson, Bill Condron, Dawn Gossler, Carlene Benson, Nance Worman, Lisa Kolke, Jonathan Howell, Noel Collins, Allisia Agte, Cecily Sotomayor, Connie Chapman, Doug Stewart, Kaye Phaneuf, Megan Kelsch, Millie Chipman, Zoe Prince Brooks. There was one person online that the name was not available.

Peggy Weems moved the approval of the budget further down on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2025 MINUTES.

MSA/Carol Helton/Colby Powell motioned to approve the March 23, 2025 minutes. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT – Barb Garcia

Barb Garcia reviewed the Profit & Loss (P&L) report and the Trial Balance report that were distributed earlier in the day. She noted that one remaining expense of \$1,227.30 is still due to Adventure Medics. Additionally, a refund of \$320.00 is expected from Schneiders due to defective stickers on some awards. Both items pertain to the 2025 Region 4 Main Ring Show.

Rod Powell inquired as to why the Regional Show lost money.

Barb Garcia said that the cow classes were a big expense, approximately \$7000 and entries were very low for those classes.

Director Peggy Weems stated there were not enough exhibitors at the show.

DIRECTORS REPORT – Peggy Weems.

Director Peggy Weems provided a summary of the 2025 Governance Resolution that will be presented at Convention. Key changes include renaming the "Regional Council" to the "National Council" to reflect its expanded role, while Regional Directors' duties remain unchanged. The Nominating Committee will now formally vet board candidates through a detailed questionnaire, with responses shared with Credentialed Members at Convention. Voting for President, Vice President, and three board members will be limited to these Credentialed Members in attendance. The Board will have the authority to modify resolutions, but the National Council may veto such changes by majority vote, with notice to all AHA members. The National Council will also elect three geographically diverse board members from within its ranks. Peggy noted this resolution will

be the first item of business at Convention, and if passed, it will take effect immediately, allowing eligible members present to vote in the leadership elections.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A) Region 4 Championship Horse Show –Deb Witty.

Commission Chair Deb Witty provided a recap of the 2025 Regional Show and addressed financial concerns. She explained that the show incurred a loss of approximately \$7,000, largely due to reduced entries in cow classes following the removal of National qualification requirements. Additional challenges included hosting the event at a new, unfamiliar facility and changing the show dates, contributing to lower participation. The show had budgeted for 250 horses, but only 198 competed, reflecting a shortfall in expected entries during this transitional period.

Deb Witty reported that the Show Commission met in July to address concerns raised by exhibitors regarding the 2025 Regional Show. She also held informal discussions with exhibitors and trainers during the Region 5 show to further understand their feedback. As a result, the Commission has implemented several significant changes aimed at reducing costs and improving the show experience. These include the removal of cow horse classes and shortening the show by one day, now ending on Saturday, which is expected to save approximately \$7,000 in facility costs. The number of judges will be reduced to three, with the western judge also covering working western classes. Class fees will increase from \$70 to \$75 to align with other Regional shows, and patronship fees will also be raised. Additionally, there will be a renewed effort to secure more sponsorship revenue, particularly from the local community.

She also addressed the need for improved footing in the arena, which was a key concern for trainers. She is exploring the option of bringing in sand to enhance the footing, help retain moisture, and make maintenance easier. The estimated cost for the sand is between \$8,000 and \$10,000. She also plans to reach out to contacts in an effort to secure a better drag for the arena, responding to additional trainer feedback. These adjustments are intended to respond to the needs of exhibitors and trainers regarding the footing.

Doug Stewart expressed concern about the increase in class fees, noting the potential impact on exhibitor participation. Director Peggy Weems also shared that she had heard from several individuals who indicated they would not be returning to the show, and she echoed concerns about the potential decline in future exhibitor turnout.

Deb Witty responded by stating that several individuals had expressed to her how much they enjoyed the facility and the show, and many indicated they planned to return. She also noted that during her conversations with exhibitors at the Region 5 show, no one mentioned any intention of not coming back.

Lisa Kolke shared that, as a show secretary, she is continually looking for ways to improve her processes and overall performance. She referenced her experience working at Region 3 in Reno, noting that the footing there was once a concern but has since been significantly improved. She emphasized that, similarly, the Show Commission is learning what needs to be done and is actively working toward making necessary improvements.

Chris Bickford acknowledged that moving to a new facility is a learning experience for everyone involved and that there are always opportunities for improvement. While the facility isn't perfect, he highlighted many positives and expressed confidence that the existing issues can be addressed and mitigated. He praised the facility as beautiful, well-located, and an enjoyable venue. Chris also noted that many past exhibitors returned and emphasized the importance of attracting even more participants. He believes that having a quality facility is a strong way to draw more people into the horse community.

Carol Helton, the barn manager, expressed that the facility staff has been very receptive and easy to work with, showing enthusiasm for continuing to host the show. She emphasized that this presents a great opportunity for everyone to hold the event at this facility.

Deb Witty acknowledged that the Show Commission has worked diligently to deliver a positive show experience for all participants. She also recalled the transition when the show moved from Salem to Nampa, noting that while there were initial growing pains, the event ultimately became well received over time.

Chris Bickford admitted that he was initially opposed to moving the show to Nampa and acknowledged that the first year resulted in a financial loss. However, he conceded that he was proven wrong and that the move ultimately proved to be the right decision. He emphasized that the Show Commission's decision should be respected and supported, and expressed his support that the show should be held at Redmond.

Peggy Weems, who was the 2010 Regional Show manager stated that the first year in Nampa the show had a profit of over \$10,000.

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

Lisa Kolke reported that the 2025 Sport Horse Show was a success, earning a profit of approximately \$1,400. Although entries were down slightly—45 this year compared to 54 last year due to some participants attending Nationals or competing in Canada—entries per horse increased to an average of 7.2 classes. A group from Region 3 also attended the show. She shared that sponsorships included \$900 in garland sponsors, \$1,200 in patron sponsors, and a \$1,500 donation from Gretchen Love to cover the tent. Lisa praised Devonwood as an excellent facility that takes great care of exhibitors, including providing water and cups at each arena. She also acknowledged the support and collaboration from AIM, AHACO, and AHBAO clubs, who contributed time and resources, helping make the show a success.

C) Judges Selection Committee – Dawn Gossler.

Dawn Gossler reported that the judges list has been submitted to Show Manager Patty LeBon, who is currently hiring judges for the 2026 Region 4 Show. The show will use three judges instead of four due to a schedule change, with the Main Ring Western Judge also covering working western. This adjustment is expected to reduce judging costs slightly.

D) Local Level Committee– Julie Hedden.

Julie Hedden reported that grant funding is still available through the MDP for “Meet an Arabian Horse” events, with applications accessible in the Marketing Toolkit on the AHA website. She also shared that Past AHA President Deb Johnson gave a presentation on her

lesson program, including how she manages and markets it, as well as the scheduling software she uses. A discussion followed on the potential development of a lesson horse network for retired horses whose owners would like to see them still utilized.

E) Sport Horse / Dressage – Jonathan Howell

Jonathan Howell reported that there were five entries in the Sport Horse Prospect Class at the Region 4 Sport Horse Show. He also shared that five horses from Oregon competed at Sport Horse Nationals in Wilmington, and all returned with championships, including a purebred that won the Grand Prix Dressage. Additionally, he is working on revitalizing the High Score Open Show Program, with plans to include Western Dressage.

F) Scholarship – Dawn Gossler.

Dawn Gossler reported that Kelsie Younce was selected as the 2025 Adult Scholarship recipient and awarded \$2,000, as there were no Youth applicants. Kelsie submitted an outstanding application. Members were encouraged to help promote the scholarship and urge eligible individuals to apply. Appreciation was given to Lisa for her efforts in promoting the scholarship through the website and Facebook.

G) Audit Committee – Julie Hedden.

Julie Hedden reported there has been no action this year.

H) Youth – Noel Collins.

Noel Collins reported that there is not much activity at the moment but expects to have more updates as the show approaches. She noted that last year's stick horse activity at the Region 4 show was well received and hopes to see increased participation this year.

I) Region 4 Performance Futurity – Rod Powell.

Rod Powell reported that he will begin working on the futurity soon and asked for volunteers to assist; Doug Stewart and Carol Helton offered to help. Rod shared his idea of reviewing entries from the past three years to consider eliminating classes with only one entry and reallocating awards to allow for more placings in larger classes. Lisa Kolke agreed to provide him with the requested information before leaving for Nationals.

J) Breed Promotion

No report. Beth Bonham did mention that the Northwest Horse Expo has been discontinued.

K) Distance (Endurance & Competitive) – Carlene Benson.

Carlene Benson reported the 2025 Region 4 Endurance season saw unusually low participation. Although 21 horses signed up for the High Point Achievement Award, only one has qualified so far, compared to the usual nine or ten. Fewer entries were seen across events, including the 55-mile Regional Championship at Lava Cast, which had only one horse complete the AHA ride. Contributing factors include riders using multiple horses, injuries, and more participants competing out of region. Despite this dip, the trend is believed to be temporary, as the program has grown steadily in past years. After around a decade of service, the current Endurance Rep is stepping down and will be succeeded by Nance Worman of Boise. A budget of \$1,100 is approved, and the outgoing Rep expressed gratitude for being nominated for the Volunteer Award.

L) Recognition Committee – Sonya Bickford.

No report.

M) Region 3 / 4 Cow Horse – Peggy Weems

Director Peggy Weems stated because qualification for the cow events at Nationals have been waived, entries are low, so there will be no cow classes at the 2026 Region 4 or Region 3 show.

OLD BUSINESS.

Kaye Phaneuf announced that \$1,400 remains in the fund from the disbanded Cascade Arabian Horse Club. These funds are designated to help cover expenses for delegates whose clubs are unable to afford sending them to Convention.

BUDGET – Chris Bickford.

Chris Bickford explained that the budget committee has not yet met and expressed his belief that the budget should be discussed and voted on in person. He recommended moving this agenda item to the Regional Caucus meeting scheduled for November 20, 2025, at the Silver Legacy Resort in Reno.

MSA/Chris Bickford/Deb Witty motioned to have the Budget discussion and approval moved to the next Region 4 meeting, November 20, 2025, at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, NV.

All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED SHOWS:

Two shows have been officially approved: The Fall Classic, scheduled for September 26–28, 2025, and The Rally in the Valley, set to take place March 27–29, 2026.

ELECTION OF SHOW COMMISSION:

There are two open positions on the Show Commission for the term January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

Nominations were as follows: Julie Hedden and Carol Helton were nominated by Deb Witty; Kendyl Modrich was nominated by Carol Helton; and Doug Stewart was nominated by Gina Bressler.

Voting was conducted via email, with votes submitted to Dawn Gossler and Barb Garcia.

Following the vote, Julie Hedden and Carol Helton were elected to serve on the Show Commission for the upcoming term.

CASH delegate Chris Bickford had connection issues and dropped off the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Lisa Kolke, alternate delegate, seated in his absence.

ADJOURNMENT - (NEXT MEETING IS NOVEMBER 20, 2025, CONVENTION CAUCUS, SILVER LEGACY HOTEL, RENO NV.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Peggy Weems - Director

ATTEST:

Julie Hedden – Secretary/Transcribed