

**REGION 4 ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Director Julie Hedden at 11:00 a.m.

CLUB VOTING DELEGATES PRESENT WERE:

AHACO	Not Present (2)	ARHA	Not Present (2)
AHCCO	Deb Witty	CASHC	Chris Bickford
AHBAO	Carol Helton	DAHA	Not Present
AHBAO	Cheryl Deahn	EVAHA	Gina Bressler
AiM	Not Present (2)	Past Director	Chris Bickford

PRESENT: Julie Hedden, Karla Moffitt, Dawn Gossler, Chris Bickford, Peggy Weems, Gina Bressler, Deb Witty, Braden Davidson, Cheryl Deahn, Alissia Agte, Kay Herbst.

MSA/ Carol Helton/ Chris Bickford motioned to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT.

Barb Garcia was absent, Director Julie Hedden read the Treasurer report.

MSA/ Chris Bickford/ Carol Hellton made a motion to accept the treasure report. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT – Julie Hedden.

Director Julie Hedden gave a recap of the AHA Board of Director’s meeting she attended in Denver, March 15 & 16. She said the BOD meeting was on Friday, and on Saturday, they met with the Youth Board via Zoom, and had a strategic planning meeting. She said the recap of the motions that were passed is on the AHA website and was sent out in an email blast.

DISCUSSION ON RESTRUCTURING – AHA Vice President Lisa Blackstone.

Vice President Lisa Blackstone via telephone, gave a brief history of the Promotional Fund. She said The Promotional Fund was launched in 2018 with the purpose of expanding the reach of the Arabian Horse Community to include more enthusiasts. It has been involved in many promotional efforts including Horses for Humanity, the “Goldie” project. It is a stand-alone 501c3, which means if someone wants to donate to the fund they can write off their contribution, unlike with AHA which is a 501c5. Although we are two completely independent entities, the fund works closely with the marketing department and the MDP of AHA. From its inception, the board members include Lisa Blackstone, Lara Ames, Peter Conway, Becky Nash, and Mary Trowbridge. But there are many others who contribute their time and effort with our projects.

Vice President Lisa Blackstone explained the meeting in Ocala that started the conversation about how to turn around the downward trend. She said collectively, they became more and more

concerned with the continued decline of our sport over the last few years, which is dramatic. In the last 20 years alone, we are down 77% in registrations (14,000 to 2,000) and down 64% in memberships (45,000 to 14,000). We decided to meet in person to discuss ways to turn around these trends and the interest snowballed. More and more people wanted to attend. We invited others and by the time we actually met, 60 plus people were in attendance to discuss how to help our breed and association.

Vice President Lisa Blackstone explained there have been hundreds of hours of brainstorming with many, many people in our world. And ultimately the consensus mirrors the advice given to AHA by two separate consulting firms who said: one, you need to have a smaller board; and two, you need to run it like a business. She stated the crux of the proposal is to elect a leadership team solely focused on implementing a strategic plan to reverse our downward trends. This team should be comprised of highly talented people, dedicated to Arabian horses who have the business acumen to devote to the welfare of this organization. They will be laser-focused on this task and accountable to the membership to perform. Furthermore, she said this proposal will take place in the form of a resolution that all delegates vote on in November. It is a Bylaw change and therefore, will require a 2/3 vote.

Vice President Lisa Blackstone sent a PowerPoint presentation with 6 Key Concepts of the Proposed Board Structure which are:

1. The 18 regional directors remain intact with similar duties and responsibilities with the new name of Regional Directors Council.
2. There are no changes to the structure of Committees, Commissions and Delegates.
3. The new Board members will be elected based on their requisite business experience combined with their knowledge of the Arabian horse industry. They shall be laser-focused on the strategic plan of AHA and charged with reversing the downward trends within our industry.
4. The Board should have, *in rare situations*, the ability to modify Resolutions that threaten the welfare of the horse, the best interests of our members, the integrity of the sport, or implementation of the strategic plan.
5. The President and three board members will be voted on by the entire membership, to give everyone a voice, including all members in the process.
6. The P.A.T. maintains proportional representation on the EC and the Board

She then gave an overview of the proposed board structure vs. the current structure. The current structure is composed of an Executive Committee which includes: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary all elected by the delegates. It also includes the Past President and 2 Vice Presidents at large appointed by the Purebred Arabian Trust, PAT, for a total of 7. The Board of Directors is made up of 18 Regional Directors, elected by their Regions, and 4 Directors at Large, appointed by the PAT, for a total of 22. Which brings the total BOD to 29.

The proposed structure, would consist of an Executive Committee which would include the President, elected by the membership, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary appointed by the

new board, the past president, and 2 Vice Presidents at Large appointed by the PAT, for a total of 7. The Board of Directors would consist of 3 members, that would be elected by the membership, 3 members elected by the Regional Directors Council, and 1 Director at Large appointed by the PAT, for a total 7 members, bringing the total BOD to 14.

Vice President Lisa Blackstone said this is only a proposal and said she has been speaking at the Regional meeting, addressing the delegate to not only inform them but also gather any suggestions or feedback they might have.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A) Region 4 Championship Horse Show –Deb Witty.

Regional Director Julie Hedden appointed Carol Helton to the Region 4 Horse Show Committee. Carol will fill the position that was left vacant when Karin Brown resigned, term ending 2025.

Region 4 Show Committee Chair Deb Witty said the schedule is done for the 2024 show and information is now on the website. She went on to say there will be a barebones pre-show and we will also be hosting the Region 3 offsite Championship Cow Horse classes, and they are subsidizing our show \$750.00 to hold those classes for them. We will also host some Working Western Jackpot Challenge classes, and Sandy Woerle will be bringing her own prizes for those classes as well as helping out with our show as needed.

Region 4 Show Committee Chair Deb Witty stated there is a Regional Show Commission meeting after this meeting, and the Committee will be discussing the contract that was received from the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, to address any concerns or questions. She said they have offered us our original dates, the third weekend in June, for 2026 and beyond if we sign more than a one-year contract. The June dates are not available for 2025, due to a prior commitment for those dates. The dates offered in 2025 would be May 25, thru June 3. She went on to say she will be visiting the site at the end of April, for further discussion with the management of Deschutes County Fair and Expo.

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

Lisa Kolke was excused, no report given.

C) Sport Horse / Dressage – Amy Pike.

Amy Pike was not present, no report given.

D) Judges Selection Committee – Dawn Gossler.

Judges Selection Committee Chair Dawn Gossler stated all judges are in place for the 2024 Championship show and the committee will be having a meeting the end of April, first part of May, to work on a slate of judges for the 2025 show.

E) Performance Futurity – Karla Moffitt.

Karla Moffitt said everything with the Futurity is in order and all the awards have been ordered. She went on to say she would like to step down and is looking for someone to replace her.

F) Scholarship – Dawn Gossler.

Scholarship Chair Dawn Gossler said both the youth and adult application for the scholarships are due on or before May 1, 2024.

G) Audit Committee – Julie Hedden

Director Julie Hedden said she had talked to Region 4 Show Treasurer Connie Chapman, and when the books are turned over to the new treasurer when we find one, then she and the new show treasurer will conduct an audit of the Region 4 main ring show.

H) Youth – Theresa Spencer.

Theresa Spencer was not present, no report given.

I) Distance (Endurance & Competitive) – Carlene Benson

Carlene Benson was not present, but sent in a report that was included with the meeting materials.

J) Recognition Committee – Sonya Bickford.

Chris Bickford presented Director Julie Hedden, on behalf of Region 4, with a beautiful Gladys Brown Edwards Bronze for her service as Regional Director.

K) Nominating Committee – Chris Bickford.

Nominating Committee Chair Chris Bickford brought forth a slate of names to be submitted for the executive committee for a two-year term starting at the end of Convention 2024.

Region 4 Director – Peggy Weems
Region 4 Vice Director – Braden Davidson
Region 4 Treasurer – Barb Garcia
Region 4 Secretary – Cassie Richard

There were no other nominees from the floor. All were elected by acclaim.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1) Election of Judges Selection Committee – (1 position open for the term ending 2027).

Judges Selection Committee Chair Dawn Gossler put forth Doug Stewart to fill the open position. No other names were submitted. Doug Stewart will fill the position by acclaim.

2) Region 4 Storage Unit.

Director Julie Hedden stated we will need to find a place to keep the awards, banners, etc., for the Championship main ring show and sport horse show, since the main ring show will be moving for 2025. It is now stored in Nampa, Idaho, Dawn Gossler's home, and Lisa Kolke's home. The Region 4 Show Commission will look into this further to decide where to store the equipment.

3) Meet an Arabian Horse Month.

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Director Julie Hedden reminded everyone that next month, May, is Meet an Arabian Horse month. It was discussed putting the Discovery Farms, that are in the Region, on the website and Facebook page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Arabian Horse Breeders Association of Oregon will be hosting a dinner to kick off the show season Saturday, April 13, 2024, 5:00 p.m, at Langdon Farms Golf Course in Aurora. Dinner will be provided and there will be a no-host bar, silent auction, and door prizes. Everyone is invited.

ADJOURNMENT - (NEXT MEETING IS SEPTMEBER 22, 2024).

MSA/Carol Helton / Chris Bickford made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Julie Hedden - Director

ATTEST:

Julie Hedden - Transcribed