

ARABIAN HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
*Approved Minutes*  
Denver, Colo.  
November 24, 2013

Tori Oto, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**PRESENT:**

Tori Oto, Pres.	Skye Williams, R9	Molly Schwister, R10
Jackie Pakula, Vice Pres.	McCamey Kimbler, R6	Jacklyn Abernathy, R12
Holly Schnader, Treas.	Grace Cusick, R16	Kelsey McMahan, R7
Katie Johnson, Sect.	Kate Lewis, R11	Jenna Dillin, R9
	Flora ElmColone, R2	

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Cynthia Richardson, AHA President; Nancy Harvey, AHA Vice President; Debbie Himmel, Youth Committee Chair; Shawna Strickland, AHA Youth & Family Programs Director; Nedra Johnson, Region 2 Youth Coordinator; Linda Abston; Liz Williams; Joan Rose, Region 10 Youth Coordinator; Yvette Howey; Cindy Howey; Darlene Barrett.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Holly Schnader, That the Board of Directors agenda of November 24, 2013 be approved and left open. Seconded by Katie Johnson.  
Motion Passed Unanimously. **(Motion #1-11/24/13-BOD)**

**APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Jackie Pakula, That the Board of Directors minutes from July 19, 2013 will be reviewed and approved via email at a later date. Seconded by Flora ElmColone.  
Motion Passed Unanimously. **(Motion #2-11/24/13-BOD)**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The youth budgets (we have three) have done very well in fiscal year 2014. The main discussion centered on what the AHYA Board would donate to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Colorado. Cynthia cautioned the Board about giving too much money, as it could reflect poorly on our own fundraising efforts. The conversation focused on whether a donation of a flat rate or a percentage of funds raised would be used.

**MOTION** by McCamey Kimbler to make a flat rate donation of \$5,000 to Make-A-Wish Colorado for fiscal year 2014. Seconded by Molly Schwister.  
Motion Passed Unanimously. **(Motion #3-11/24/13-BOD)**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Who's Who:** Please be sure to update your Who's Who blurbs and send them and a photo to Shawna as soon as possible.

**Social Media:** The AHYA Board of Directors Facebook group is invite-only. Please request to join so you can stay updated. Please follow AHYA on Instagram: @arabianhorseyouth. There are multiple pictures up from the fall meeting and tour already.

**Thank You:** The importance of Thank You notes was expressed by Cynthia and Shawna. Holiday cards from Shawna and the Board will be sent to sponsors, judging contest volunteers, and other volunteers in December.

## **BOD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each Board member is required to sign the AHYA Board of Directors Code of Conduct and Three Strikes agreement. The 2013-2014 timeline of responsibilities will be sent by email after the meeting, and includes regional and committee reports (due every 2 months). Communicating with the Regional Youth Coordinator (RYC) in your area is extremely important – if you do not have an RYC, please let Shawna know.

## **COMMITTEES**

The responsibilities of the chair person were discussed: 1) you must keep in touch with your adult counterparts and relay information to your committee members, 2) you must be on at least 2 committees if you are on the AHYA Board (chairing a committee counts as 1 committee), 3) non-AHYA Board members are welcome on committees, and Chairs need to reach out to these members to engage them, and 4) new committee chairs will be elected at the fall meeting every year.

## **Reports**

*Convention/Credentials* – The adult Board passed a motion to change the prerequisites of being a delegate to the AHYA Convention so that any youth member may attend in July (given they have been a member since June 1 of the given year). Therefore, pre-registration is not required and Regional Directors will be asked to simply promote the Convention and the eligibility of all members as opposed to signing individuals up to represent their region.

It was mentioned that this committee's role is to assist with the set up and execution of Convention, and its members must be available and willing to help onsite at Youth Nationals.

*Youth Nationals* – It was discussed that the Youth Nationals and Youth Activities committees are extremely similar; while one focuses on activities at Youth, the other focuses on working with the Show Commission (and the Regional/National Classes committee focuses on classes at the show).

**MOTION** by Katie Johnson to eliminate the Youth Nationals committee and merge its responsibilities with the Youth Activities committee. Seconded by Kelsey McMahan.

Motion Passed Unanimously. **(Motion #4-11/24/13-BOD)**

*Youth Activities* – Nothing to report.

*Membership/Fundraising & Promotions* – This committee is working on developing a Fundraising Handbook with examples of successful local, regional, and national fundraisers that have been held by current AHYA Board members and their predecessors.

Another area of potential outreach is the Interscholastic Equestrian Association, which offers a relatively affordable way for high school students to show horses in western, hunter, and saddleseat disciplines.

Jackie (Chair) requested assistance from the Board to increase the membership of her committee and aid in the outreach efforts she has begun (membership is currently low on the committee).

Other programs suggested to investigate/utilize included AHA's Learn to Ride, Mentor Network, Online Calendar, Discovery Farms, and TAIL programs. Jacklyn also suggested looking into an AHA/AHYA presence at the Egyptian Event to promote the Association's programs.

It was announced that the new AHA website should be live by November 2014.

*Regional/National Classes* – Mickey Hegg, Chair of the Youth Nationals Show Commission, requested that the AHYA Board discuss a proposed change to the age divisions at Youth Nationals; it is being suggested that the age groups change from 13 & Under and 14-18 to 14 & Under and 15-18. Discussion was held about whether it was more fair for 14/15 year olds to show against 18 or 11 year olds.

The Board held a straw vote on the statement: Youth Nationals should adopt the age divisions 14 & Under and 15-8. The results: 7 – Opposed, 5 – In Favor, 2 – Abstained.

Due to the split nature of the result of the previous vote, the Board took a straw vote on the statement: The decision whether to change age divisions should be postponed until after the Youth National Championship in 2014 to allow the age split question to be brought forth to the delegation at the 2014 AHYA Convention. The results: 14 – In Favor, 0 – Opposed.

*Equitation & Showmanship* – Discussion was raised about the use of Hunter Jumper judges in Hunt Seat Equitation and the appropriateness of a Pleasure Equitation division.

The discussion was tabled until a later meeting, with Katie Johnson tasked with writing a resolution to present at the 2014 AHYA and AHA Conventions that addressed using main ring judges to officiate Hunt Seat Equitation at a national level.

*Nominating* – The committee is formed of members of the Board who are in their last eligible year as youth members. For the 2014 election year, these members are Katie Johnson, Jackie Pakula, and Camille Waechter.

*Public Relations* – It was discussed that the role of this committee is very similar to that of the Membership, Fundraising, and Promotions committee.

**MOTION** by Katie Johnson to eliminate the Public Relations committee and merge its responsibilities with the Membership, Fundraising, and Promotions committee. Seconded by McCamey Kimbler.

Motion Passed Unanimously. **(Motion #5-11/24/13-BOD)**

*Working Western* – Jackie discussed several topics, including the addition of a short stirrup reining class to the Scottsdale show for 10 & under walk/jog riders (and the possibility of doing a clinic or exhibition class at youth). It was suggested that the committee look into the viability of having English trail as a competition at Youth Nationals.

*Sport Horse* – There was no report. A chair must be elected. The Board was reminded that the “sport horse” category includes dressage, jumping, sport horse under saddle, sport horse in hand, carriage pleasure driving, etc.

*Canadian Nationals* – In its inaugural year, the committee hosted a photo booth, TAIL tours, and other youth-oriented activities at Canadian Nationals. The chair, Sydney, has requested that more people from the Board volunteer to help run programs at the show and in preparation for the show to help increase participation.

*Distance* – The committee is working on an email to reach young endurance riders to inform them of the opportunities available with AHYA. The committee would appreciate materials to bring to rides, and is working on fundraisers for AHYA at ride competitions. Discussion about whether or not AHYA/AHA could sponsor scholarships at more rides (currently \$500 is offered at the AHA National Ride) to increase awareness about youth programs.

### **Assignments & Admin**

Cynthia suggested looking into new youth brochures; Katie will work with Bill and Shawna as she has experience in this area.

Shawna reminded committee chairs to set goals and an action plan early in the year, and that any AHYA member can serve on a committee.

## Chair Elections

- Youth Activities
  - Chair: Taylor Kyse
  - Vice Chair: Kelsey McMahan
- Membership/Fundraising Promotions
  - Chair: Jackie Pakula
  - Vice Chair: Tori Oto
- Regional and National Classes
  - Chair: Molly Schwister
  - Vice Chair: Jacklyn Abernathy
- Equitation and Showmanship
  - Chair: Katie Johnson
  - Vice Chair: Grace Cusick
- Working Western
  - Chair: Jackie Pakula
  - Vice Chair: Jenna Dillin
- Sport Horse
  - Chair: Holly Schnader
  - Vice Chair: Kate Lewis
- Canadian Nationals
  - Chair: Sydney Young
  - Vice Chair: Molly Schwister
- Distance
  - Chair: McCamey Kimbler

## **2013 YOUTH NATIONALS DEBRIEF – 2014 YOUTH NATIONALS PLANNING**

In 2013, we saw a decline in Hippology Contest participants at Youth Nationals year over year. We also had difficulty with the Novice Judging Contest, as it was cancelled/postponed/moved due to weather and scheduling conflicts. The Road Apple Rumble was a challenge due to needing a horse and a pen, and needing the horse to poop (it also didn't make as much money as hoped). Most of the other events were successful, however.

## **2014 Planning**

It was determined that the following will be hosted at Youth Nationals:

- The AHYA Board meeting (traditionally held Friday morning) will be held Thursday afternoon, July 17. A unanimous straw vote of the Board approved this change.
- The AHYA Convention (traditionally held Friday afternoon) will be held Friday morning, July 18, and will precede the Novice Judging Clinic. The Clinic will serve as an educational extension of Convention activities.
- Novice Judging Clinic – to be open to all ages and to include a reasons workshop. Will be organized with the help of Stan Morey, Judges and

Stewards Commissioner. To be held Friday afternoon, July 18 (pending Commission approval).

- Parade of Regions (route may be altered, awards that are themed/funny will be given as opposed to solely participation ribbons) – to be held Sunday, July 20.
- Hippology Contest – to be held Tuesday, July 22 to make it more feasible for traveling teams to attend both the Novice Judging Clinic and Hippology
- Barn Night Out – to be held Wednesday, July 23. Fewer restaurants will be selected.
- Ice Cream Social – To be held Thursday, July 24
- Consignment Sale to return
- Flying Pigs to return
- Trailer Raffle – it is hopeful that the sponsor will return for 2014, which would be ideal as this fundraiser was the biggest financial success for AHYA in the fiscal year.
- Limited Edition AHYA Product – the hats were a lot of fun last year, but perhaps a different product this year (i.e. phone case?)

### **Theme**

There was discussion about several themes, including masquerade, luck of the Irish, Hollywood, and superheroes. The Board was encouraged to think of a simple theme that would be easier for barns to participate with than the last two years (based on feedback from survey and on social media).

The Board voted unanimously to have a Hollywood theme.

### **Publicity, Signage, and Volunteering**

Last year, flocking took a lot of time and there were not enough volunteers available to speed it up; many people spent several late nights on grounds for the event. Discussion was held about making the cost per flock higher and about limiting the number of days flocks are available (e.g. Monday-Thursday as opposed to the whole show), but a final decision was tabled until the March meeting.

More signage for events is need in 2014. Shawna will work on making this happen within budget.

### **Convention**

The Board voted to have a key note speaker at Convention in 2014. Several potential speakers were discussed, including David O'Connor, Horses Inside Out, Scott Trees, a professional vaulter, and someone related to horses but not within the Arabian industry. Shawna will look into possibilities, and the Board will discuss further in March.

The Board will discuss recruiting ideas for delegates at the March meeting.

### **Youth Activities**

It was determined that the Parade of Regions needed more excitement. Fun awards will be presented this year instead of just participation ribbons.

The Board voted to have Barn Night Out on the dark night again.

### **2014 CREATIVE CONTEST THEME**

The theme will tie in to the Convention theme. Suggestions were made, including "Reach for the Stars."

### **YOUTH AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

#### **Youth of the Year**

The 2014 Youth of the Year, Katie Johnson, was presented at AHA Convention. She is the first Canadian to win the award. Jackie Pakula, runner up, was also recognized and will be receiving a \$500 scholarship.

#### **USEF Awards**

The Youth Sportsman of the Year award has had an Arabian-involved youth as the runner up for the last two years: Tori Oto in 2012 and McCamey Kimbler in 2013. USEF also offers the Junior Equestrian of the Year award, which is due Nov. 1 of every competition year.

If you know of available awards for youth in the Arabian community, let Shawna know so she can promote them to the membership.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

AHYA had a presence at the United States Pony Club Annual Meeting in 2013, but we are unable to attend in 2014.

Shawna will be taking at least two AHYA Board members to the American Youth Horse Council Symposium. The Symposium will be March 21-23 in Minneapolis, Minn. AHYA will be giving two presentations at the Symposium: one targeted to a professional audience about social media community management (presented by Shawna), and one targeted to the youth audience about fundraising (presented by the Board members).

### **MARCH MEETING**

The adult Board will meet March 14-15, 2014. If AHYA wanted to meet concurrently as in the past, the meeting would be March 13-16, with arrival on the 13<sup>th</sup> optional for an optional tour day on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held about the importance of meeting with the youth Board's adult counterpart.

**MOTION** by Katie Johnson to have the Youth Board meeting at the same time as the AHA Board in March. Seconded by Jacklyn Abernathy.  
Motion Passed Unanimously. **(Motion #6-11/24/13-BOD)**

Committee Chairs must have their goals and plans in to Shawna by Feb. 28 so the March meeting is as productive as possible.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Nancy Harvey reminded everyone about the dangers of posting proofs and copyrighted images to social media. Posting a proof is a formal offense in USEF's eyes, and they will fine the perpetrator \$500 per infraction. It's also getting more and more difficult to hire photographers for shows. **DO NOT COPY OR POST PHOTO PROOFS!**

In 2014, Markel Insurance will be offering a \$5,000 scholarship at Youth Nationals for the high point horse and rider team who show in showmanship, equitation, and an under saddle class.

### **REMINDERS**

- November 30 – RYTT results close
- December 15 – RYTT results due to AHA
- March – BOD MEETING
  - Written Regional Updates **DUE**
  - Regional Poster **DUE**
  - Regional Meeting Minutes signed by RYC **DUE**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.