

2011 AHA Convention - Vancouver, BC

The 2011 AHA convention was held November 16 - 19 in Vancouver, BC and was hosted by Region 17. The last time that the AHA convention was in Canada was in 1990 and it was also in Vancouver. Region 17 did an exceptional job in hosting the Convention and we should all be proud. The AHA members that attended were blown away by our Wall of Fame sponsorship photos and posters that were across the walls of the meeting hall. It was very impressive and a lot of people were talking about it. Some wanted to copy our idea for their own events. The posters turned out fantastic. The Region 17 Youth held a fundraiser. They had Gary Millar dressed as an RCMP member in red serge. Katie Johnson, Gary and Kevin Johnson (took the photos) went to all the Regions caucus meetings and took photos. They charged \$5.00 per photo with a "Canadian mountie". It was a hit and the youth made some money. Another thing that they were talking about was the banquet on Saturday night. The band was phenomenal and the majority of the people stayed and danced all night until the hotel kicked everyone out. Even the Executive were there until the late hours. Most of them leave after the award presentations and they stayed and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Rumor has it, most were saying it was one of the best (if not the best) conventions in a long time. The Canadians know how to put on great event. A good time was had by all!

There were 266 delegates that attended out of 487 that were eligible. The membership numbers have dropped approximately 5000 in the last three years. In 2009, AHA had 32,694 members, in 2010 they had 29,644 and in 2011 there are 27,626 members. Registrations for 2011 are Purebred – 3200 and Half Arabian – 931.

AHA currently has 261 Judges and 141 Stewards.

There were 15 resolutions. Three were withdrawn. All of the results are on the AHA website. The one that concerns us the most was 1-11. That was to change the age of the youth to be 18 and under instead of 17 and under. It was argued that a lot of youth are still in high school when they are 18 and are no longer eligible to go to Youth Nationals or show in youth classes. It was passed and will be effective upon approval from USEF and EC. It was changed to be an extraordinary resolution meaning that if USEF and EC approve it, it will go into effect as of Dec 1/2011. So that means the youth classes will be 14-18 for 2012.

Resolution 7-11 was the bar shoe. This was changed so that a horse can have only one bar on their shoe, but it must be within the shoe width rules. Apparently some people in the English division were putting several bars or full plates on the shoes so the horses would have more weight on their shoes and possibly have higher action.

Awards Committee

The awards committee named two horses for the Ambassador Award. They are Darker N Bey and Leprachan SCR. There are no new awards being considered for the future.

Amateur Committee

The Amateur committee worked on getting class specs for the Amateur Owned, Trained and Shown class. They voted to change the word Owned to be Owner. This class has not grown as they thought that it would. Some areas don't even offer it in their shows. They discussed the topic of two unrelated amateurs co-owning a horse and both being allowed to show it in the owner classes. There were pros and cons for both sides, but it was felt that with most shows offering the AATR or ATR classes, there really was no need to change the ownership rules.

Working Western Committee

The Working Western committee wanted to see some changes to the scoring and placing since the full Top 10's are being awarded. In some cases, scores of zero were going forward in the sections. They would rather see accumulative scores from the two rounds in classes of 20 horses or less. In classes of 21 or more, there would be a prelim and then a final. They also discussed if there should be a paid warm up round for the trail people to practice. This would be similar to the jumping division. It would be limited to a certain amount of time per horse.

Regional & National Classes Committee

There have been requests to add the following classes to the standard and National class lists: Arabian/Half Arabian Carriage Pleasure Driving Scurry Obstacle, Arabian/Half Arabian Working Hunter 14.2 & Under, Sport Horse Halter Showmanship, Dressage 1st Level Jr Horse and Sport Horse in Hand Breeders Group. The Breeders group and Sport Horse Showmanship were both referred back to the Sport Horse Committee to develop class specs as there aren't any at this point. Youth Cutting JTR and PB and HA Cutting Jr Horse were also requested to be added to the lists.

Sport Horse Nationals will be held in Nampa, Idaho in 2012.

The AHA convention will be held in Denver, Colorado November 14-18/2012, Lexington, Kentucky in 2013 and then in Denver for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The Canadian National show commission won the President's award.

Judges for the Canadian Nationals are: Panel 1 – James Brown, Rebecca Fleck and Patrick Newby. Panel 2 – Bruce Bates, Mary Jane Brown and Jody Strand. Working Western – Michael Damianos, Janice Decker and Rick Maxon. Dressage – Jennifer Maynard and Hunter/Jumper – Peter Stockl.

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