

Report to VIAHA re: 2017 Convention, Denver Colorado

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2017 AHA Convention as the voting delegate from VIAHA.

This years' convention was held in Denver and the theme was Honor, Treasure, Share.

I have attended many conventions in the past few years and I have to say that I felt most engaged in this one and found that the atmosphere was really warm, welcoming and geared to promoting the work of AHA and building the Arabian horse industry. President Nancy Harvey, in her inaugural address, focused on "working together to make things better" – something I thought was pertinent to our own discussion at the recent AGM about this next year and how our club is thinking through the challenges of changes such as dates for our A show, reconfiguring the open shows and the opportunity to submit an RFP for the Saanich Fair, all things that will be new challenges for us this year. She also reminded us that the theme of the 1980 IAHA Convention was "together we grow" and I think that through working through these new changes will also force us to work together in new and different ways which I believe will make VIAHA stronger.

The president is striking 3 Ad Hoc Task Force groups to review:

- a) the Regional Structure of AHA;
- b) Grassroots Development and a
- c) 20 - 40 year old Review committee (as this is the largest declining group in AHA membership)

Committee sessions continue to be the main way that resolutions are discussed/debated/amended and brought forward to convention. There had been 24 regular resolutions and 1 extraordinary resolution brought to the convention. Amongst our regional delegates we all tried to attend different committee reports and then each day would gather in the Director's room to discuss the results of each of those committee discussions and how the region might support or challenge them. By the time the various committees had reviewed them 20 passed, 1 failed and the other 4 were withdrawn

Some of the highlights of the convention were the:

- The report from the Horsemen's Distress Fund that always brings tears to one's eyes and the generous contributions of members to this fund
- The report (from our own director Terry Johnson) on the Arabian Horse Foundation
- That there is a real shortage of Stewards if anyone is interested in becoming a steward
- The report from the EVP Glen Petty that highlights that AHA is moving in a very positive direction making it a stronger and more financially sustainable organization at this point than it has been in the past 10 years
- A presentation from the American Horse Council (which offers many free handouts on the website that we might want to review for some of our communication plans for the next year)
- The Arabian Racing Jockey Club presentation (have information if you would be interested in buying shares in a horse at \$400/share and this gives you 3 horses that you have shares in)

- The discussion about the ongoing lawsuit between the Purebred Arabian Trust and AHA (a court date has been set for March 2018)
- The presence of Thunder (the Arabian mascot for the Denver Broncos) – and his owner and trainer who provided a wonderful presentation and received special recognition on the work that they have done in promoting the Arabian horse locally, nationally and internationally. This is the 2nd time that Thunder has made an appearance at Convention... and this is Thunder #3 and #4 is in training at this time!!!

The next two conventions will be held in Tulsa (2018 and 2019) and the 2020 convention will be held in Reno, Nevada at the Silver Legacy Hotel Casino (apparently the owners are Arabian owners!)

As you may know at the end of Convention I have taken over the role of Region 17 Director. I will be sending an eblast to our membership that gives a more detailed report of the AHA Board meeting as well as a recap of convention similar to this.