



AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Monday, December 6, 2021 at 5:00 PM ET

1. Call to Order – Emily Lee

- a. Roll Call** – Kristen Bagdasarian, Julie Behrends-Jones, Kristen Cater, Jim Cherry, Ali DeGray, Elisabeth Goth, Todd Graham, Anna Marie Knipp, Emily Lee, Helena Moreno, Clif Paulsen, Marty Schaffel, Chris Schubert, Rachel Seifert, Kim Skipton, Missy Hughes Smith, Joan Todd and Owen Weaver. The following ASHBA Staff members were present: David Mount, Katriona Adams and Jean Warren. The following guests were present: Susan Achenbrenner (president of VERSA).
- b. Adoption of Agenda** – Emily Lee called for a vote to adopt the Agenda. Motion was made by Chris Schubert and seconded by Joan Todd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- c. Approval of October 25, 2021 Board Minutes** – Emily Lee called for a vote to approve the minutes from the last board meeting. Motion made by Chris Schubert and seconded by Elisabeth Goth. All in favor. Motion carried.
- d. Declare Conflict of Interest** – Emily Lee ask if anyone would like to declare a conflict of interest. No conflict of interest were declared.

- 2. Mae Condon American Saddlebred Versatility Award – Susan Aschenbrenner**
- Susan Aschenbrenner presented the new Mae Condon American Saddlebred Versatility Award which was created by VERSA. The award honors a person or people for their work with American Saddlebreds in a variety of disciplines. Mae Condon was one of the co-founders of the VERSA charter club organization. VERSA would like an ASHBA board member to sit on a review committee to select the award winners. VERSA also requested that the award be given out during the ASHBA awards luncheon at the national conference. A motion was made by Elisabeth Goth to accept the proposal of partnering with VERSA on the award and seconded by Ali DeGray. All in favor. Motion carried. A second motion was made by Elisabeth Goth to appoint Clif Paulsen to represent the board on the review committee and seconded by Julie Behrends-Jones. All in favor. Motion carried.



6. Executive Director's Report – David Mount

- a. **UPHA National Conference** – David reported that today was the last day to pre-register for the national conference, to be held January 4 - 9, 2022 in Orlando, at a discounted rate. Board meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 5 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM and Saturday, January 8 from 2:00 – 4:30 PM. The ASHBA annual membership meeting is scheduled on Thursday, January 6 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM. The ASHBA awards luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, January 8 from 12:00 – 1:45 PM. In addition, ASHBA will be hosting a DEI discussion with nationally known DEI speaker Rita Holmes-Bobo on Thursday, a breeding round table with representatives from the Arabian and Morgan industry on Friday, and a licensed officials education clinic on Saturday and Sunday.
- b. **Dr. Scott Bennett Scholarship** – David reported that ASHBA was approached by Kris Knight, who helped establish the Dr. Scott Bennett Scholarship of Equine Veterinary Medicine at the Ohio State University, to match a \$25,000 donation from UPHA. David stated that Scott was not only a pioneer in the equine veterinary world, but also a dedicated American Saddlebred owner and breeder. David recommended that the board consider donating \$26,405 to the scholarship fund to get them to their goal of \$100,000. Motion was made by Kim Skipton to give \$26,405 to the Dr. Scott Bennett Scholarship fund and seconded by Joan Todd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- c. **US Center for SafeSport Sanction List** – David reported that ASHBA recently had a lifetime member (Paul Polster) suspended by the US Center for SafeSport. Article II, Part A, Section 12 of the ASHBA bylaws state that membership shall terminate upon the occurrence of expulsion by the board of directors after a finding of a violation of the rules of the association, including without limitation, the association's code of conduct or its registry rules. In addition, other former members who have been banned by the US Center for SafeSport include Randy Cates (membership previously terminated), Phil Godsey, Gordon Wheeler and Greg Reason. Other former members who have been suspended include Nicole Reason. Rachel Seifert made a motion to expel each of these individuals as members from the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association and seconded by Elisabeth Goth. All in favor. Motion carried.
- d. **Other Business** – David reported that new computers were purchased for all staff members and that the office would be moving to a new cloud based server. The current equipment is over 7 years old and is slow by



today's standards. The money to purchase the new computer equipment was taken out of general funds. David reported that the Board needed to vote for ASHBA Horse of the Year. Kim Skipton nominated HS Head's Up for ASHBA Horse of the Year and seconded by Kristin Bagdasarian. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Meet Our New Development Manager – Morgan King

David Mount introduced Morgan King as the new Development Manager. Morgan's official start date is January 3, 2022. David reported that Marty Schaffel has arranged to have the head of the development office at the University of Florida mentor Morgan. David thanked Marty for arranging the mentoring.

4. Registrar's Report – Katriona Adams

a. Registry Rule Change Proposals - Rachel Seifert

After extensive discussion, Chris Schubert made a motion to rescind the prior motion to distribute the rule change proposals to membership for comment. The motion was seconded by Owen Weaver. Motion carried. The rule change proposals will be sent back to the Registry Rules Committee with Board comments.

e. CH for Half Saddlebreds Proposal – Joan Todd

Joan reported that the CH for Half Saddlebreds was first proposed by EWAC and modeled after the current CH program. The program will create an incentive for owners of Half Saddlebreds to register their horses and become members. Both breed (i.e. Half Arabian) and open breed classes will count toward CH designation. Half Saddlebred equitation horses, who are already allowed to show in equitation classes, can now earn their CH-EQ status. The Half Saddlebred Committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposal to the Board. A motion was made by Joan Todd to approve the Half Saddlebred CH Championship Program, seconded by Kim Skipton. All in favor. Motion carried.

f. Heritage Horse Proposal – Katriona Adams

Katriona reported the proposal originally came from EWAC and went to the Half Saddlebred Committee and Registry Rules Committee for further comments and suggestions. The Heritage Horse designation would be given to horses born prior to 1980 that qualified based on registry rules at the time of foaling. This would allow ASHBA to recognize historically important Saddlebreds and Half Saddlebreds that were never registered. The registry already automatically marks horses at 40 years of age as deceased and offspring of Heritage Horse designated horses will be



reviewed on an individual basis on whether or not they should be included in the program. Motion was made by Kim Skipton to accept the changes, seconded by Joan Todd. All in favor. Motion carried.

g. Half Saddlebred Futurity Update – Katriona Adams

Katriona reported that the inaugural Half Saddlebred Futurity is coming together with a stallion auction scheduled during the All American Cup auction. All proceeds generated through the auction will be added to the purse and 20% of the purse will be reserved for the Stallions that donated their services. David reported that Sunrise Stables will be hosting the stallion preview and auction during a breakfast the morning of the All American Cup auction (Saturday, February 22). David reported that the interest in the program is strong from the Dutch Harness Horse community.

h. Registry Statistics - Katriona reported they will close out the year strong with the month of November higher than last year. The registrations year to date are 13 more than last year with 35 more completed than last year. Transfers for the end of November are up 187 more than the full year last year and with 314 more completed over last year. Katriona reported that the Stallion Service Reports are being processed now.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Chris Schubert

Chris reported a total income year to date of \$1,624,503. Contributions were up from September as we received our \$100,000 contribution from the Kentucky State Fair Board. Expenses year to date are \$1,437,824.40 with year to date income of \$186,678.71. David reported that we are projecting a year end net income of approximately \$150,000. David recommended that the Board evenly split the year end net income between education and scholarship funds. This will allow us more money to invest in education and scholarship initiatives that fits both our mission and strategic plan to better serve our members and breed. Motion was made by Emily Lee to split the profit between development and scholarships, by Elisabeth Goth. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Additional Business – Emily Lee

Rachel Seifert asked for an update on the Ocala International Horse Show and how that show affected Kansas City. David stated that Beth Snider and the office staff are still collecting money for the show and he will present a financials for the show during the January board meeting in Orlando. David reported that Kansas City sold out of stalls and had a strong show. He went to Kansas City and met with American Royal officials with Anna Marie Knipp to find ways to strengthen the relationship between the American Saddlebred industry and the American Royal.



The American Royal would like to partner with ASHBA on the new Learn to Ride for Free program that will launch in 2022. Also, they are interested in additional American Saddlebred programming at their other large events such as their nationally known rodeo in the spring.

8. Adjourn – Emily Lee

Emily called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Kim Skipton and seconded by Rachel Seifert. All in favor. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:04 PM ET.