



**AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Monday, August 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM ET via Zoom

1. Call to Order – Allen Bosworth

- a. **Roll Call** – Board Members Present: Kristen Bagdasarian, Allen Bosworth, Jennifer Dixon, Anna Marie Knipp, Smith Lilly, Christy Parker, Clif Paulsen, Chris Schubert, Rachel Seifert, Kim Skipton and Joan Todd. Absent: Julie Behrends-Jones, Jim Cherry, Rick Curl, Juliette Dell, Larry Hartsock, James Nichols and Joe O'Brien. ASHBA Staff Present: David Mount, Katriona Adams, Katie Porter and Jean Warren.
- b. **Adoption of Agenda** – Allen called for a vote to adopt the agenda. Motion made by Anna Marie Knipp and seconded by Rachel Seifert. All in favor. Motion carried.
- c. **Approval of May 2023 Board Minutes** – Allen called for a vote to approve minutes from the board meeting on July 10, 2023. Motion made by Rachel Seifert and seconded by Jennifer Dixon. All in favor. Motion carried.
- d. **Declare Conflict of Interest** – None declared.

2. Executive Director's Report – David Mount

- a. **Fundraising and Event Manager Update** – David reported that Kim Skipton has accepted the position of Fundraising and Event Manager and has resigned from the Board.
- b. **Youth Programs Update** – David reported that a new Youth and Outreach Coordinator position has been created and that the job will post soon. Katie Porter gave an update on planned WCHS youth activities and reported that Ellen Beard will not be able to help ASHBA with youth activities after WCHS due to increased work commitments. Allen encouraged Board Members to show up and support the youth activities at WCHS.
- c. **WCHS Update** – David reported that Robertson Equine Sales will be responsible for the Breeders Challenge online and live auctions during WCHS. The live auction will take place after the last class Friday night in the Saddlebred Café. Free food and drink will be available, but no live entertainment due to complaints from trainers in the North Wing last year.



Katie reported that that ASHBA has been working with Kentucky Venues and Erin Jones at In.Mode on story pitches for the media and has hired an intern with Saddlebred experience from Incanto Sport Group to help with social media and video content.

d. Hunter Task Force Update

Allen gave an update on the recent Hunter Task Force meeting. The Task Force is addressing ways to grow the division from the bottom up by adding classes and promoting the division outside of WCHS. Also, USEF is working on a multi-breed Hunter series that will help promote the division outside of WCHS.

e. USEF Rule Change Proposal

David reported that the USEF American Saddlebred Breed Committee, with the approval of UPHA, has recommended increasing the age of Master Classes to riders/drivers 60 years and older. Motion made by Chris Schubert and seconded by Joan Todd to approve the recommendation. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Strategic Plan Update –Allen Bosworth

David reported that we are now in the interview phase of the strategic plan process after receiving good feedback from two rounds of surveys. Plans are being finalized for the strategic plan workshop in September. Allen stated that Committee Chair, Cece Hagan, has done an outstanding job keeping the process on time and on task and that Rachel Friend, the strategic plan facilitator, has given us good outside perspective.

4. Website Update – Allen Bosworth

Allen reported that UAT testing is finished and there are no major outstanding issues to report. The plan is to do a soft launch of the new website in September, which will run concurrently with the old website until December 1, 2023, when the old website will be disabled.

5. Convention Update – David Mount

David reported that ASHBA received its first significant convention sponsorship, \$50,000 from Genn Hess. He thanked Jennifer Dixon for her help in securing the sponsorship. Allen reported that William Shatner will be attending the 2024 convention and asked that the Board consider giving him the Lifetime Achievement award for his significant contribution to the breed as an owner, exhibitor, breeder and promoter of the breed. Motion made by Joan Todd to give William Shatner the Lifetime Achievement Award and seconded by Kristen Bagdasarian. All in favor. Motion carried.



6. Registrar's Report – Katriona Adams

- a. **Historical CH Proposal** – Katriona reported a proposal for Historical CH designation for Dixie Duke, shown as Stonewall's Duke of Dixie. Motion made by Joan Todd and seconded by Rachel Seifert. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer's Report – Rachel Seifert

- a. **Q2 Financial Report** – Rachel reported that the financials are looking strong with total income of \$1,003, 322.66, total expenses of \$918,556.28 and a net income of \$84,766.38 through June. Total assets were \$3,176,138.79 through June, which will decrease after prize program payouts in September. Motion made by Allen Bosworth to approve Q2 2023 financials as presented and seconded by Joan Todd. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. President's Report – Allen Bosworth

Allen reported that USEF will be sending out a press release soon on the revamped USEF Competition Lite program, which was a collaboration between ASHBA, American Morgan Horse Association, Arabian Horse Association and USEF. USEF will not limit the number of years a horse show can be a Competition Lite show now and there will be money set aside at USEF to help shows pay for stewards, along with waiving application fees for the shows.

9. Additional Business – Allen Bosworth

Rachel Seifert reported to the board, according to the by-laws we will need to elect a director to fill the open board seat, which would actually fill Helena Moreno's term, ending in 2025. This would keep the board balanced at three classes of six members. Allen stated that the Nominating Committee would meet and make recommendations to the board at the next meeting.

10. Adjourn – Allen Bosworth

Allen called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Rachel Seifert to adjourn seconded by Joan Todd. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:06 PM and went into Executive Session.