



**AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET

1. Call to Order – Allen Bosworth

- a. **Roll Call** – Board Members Present: Kristen Bagdasarian, Julie Behrends-Jones, Allen Bosworth, Jennifer Dixon, Larry Hartsock, Diane Hauslein, Anna Marie Knipp, Smith Lilly, James Nichols, Joe O’Brien, Christy Parker, Clif Paulsen, John Scheidt, Chris Schubert, Rachel Seifert, Joan Todd and Malissa Welke. ASHBA Staff Present: David Mount, Katriona Adams, Kim Skipton, Katie Porter and Jean Warren. Others Present: Steven Sherman, attorney with Stoll Keenon Ogden.
- b. **Adoption of Agenda** – Allen Bosworth called for a vote to adopt the agenda. Motion made to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session at the end of the meeting. Motion seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- c. **Approval of Board Minutes** – Approval deferred to later date.
- d. **Declare Conflict of Interest** – None declared.

2. New Championship Horse Show Update – Smith Lily and Joe O’Brien

Smith Lilly reported that revised bylaws and articles of incorporation for the new horse show were included in the board packet. The revisions took into account suggestions and comments made by individual board members. The new organization would be organized as a 501(C)(3) non-profit entity. Joe O’Brien commented that the mission statement for the new horse show states that the new entity could start a new show or collaborate with an existing show. Stephen Sherman, ASHBA attorney, stated that the reason why the new horse show entity was organized as a 501(c)(3) was to shield ASHBA from liability, while giving the new entity more flexibility to operate. Also, Stephen said that the ASHBA board would need to name the new board for the horse show entity if they approve the revised bylaws and articles of incorporation. Motion made to approve the bylaws and articles of incorporation for the new horse show, have our attorney make any corrections and non-substantive changes as needed, and elect Smith Lilly, Joe O’Brien, Emily Lee, Sandy Currier and Chris Schubert to the initial board of directors. Motion seconded. All in favor with six abstentions. Motion carried.

3. Executive Director’s Report – David Mount

- a. **USEF Youth Sportsmanship Award** – David reported the USEF Youth Sportsmanship Award nominations were included in the board packet. Applications were presented for multiple candidates.. Samantha Robinson stated that the award identifies potential future leaders in the equine industry and recognize their past youth achievements, with the winner receiving a \$1,000



scholarship. Motion made to nominate Ria Raju and seconded. All in favor with one abstention. Motion carries.

- b. USEF American Saddlebred Committee Update** – David reported that the USEF American Saddlebred Committee will need to be repopulated and asked those interested in serving on the committee to reach out after the meeting. The committee is where all proposed rule changes go for approval, including American Saddlebred rules, other national breed and discipline affiliate rules and general rules.
- c. November In-Person Board Meeting Update** – David reported that the November in-person board meeting will be on Monday, November 11 at the UPHA/American Royal National Championship Horse Show in Kansas City after the morning session.

4. Competitions Council Report – Chris Schubert and David Mount

David reported the Competitions Council met last week. The council has been tasked with revising the Horse Show Application, Star Show Program and the National Select Series for the 2025 competition year. The council hopes to have the revisions to the board in time for the November board meeting.

5. Development Council Report – Anna Marie Knipp and Kim Skipton

Kim reported that a revamped Faithful Friends fundraiser will be launched this Fall to raise money for the new database project. For a \$200 donation you can get the name of your horse on the ASHBA website and on a wall of honor at the ASHBA office. In 2014 a similar fundraiser raised approximately \$35,000 for ASHA. It was also reported that total donations through the end of July was \$417,133, an increase of approximately \$75,000 over the previous year.

6. Finance Council Report – Rachel Seifert and David Mount

Rachel reported on the July 2024 financials. Total income was \$1,102,235.34, up \$71,796.18 over the previous year. Total expenses were \$1,088,035.15, with a net income of \$14,201.19. Total assets were \$3,097,566.01 and total liabilities were \$920,006.79. Also, Rachel reported on continuing work through the Finance and HR Council to update the Employee Handbook and Employee Benefits, which will be presented at the next board meeting.

7. Governance Council Report – Rachel Seifert and David Mount

Joan Todd reported that the Nominating Committee met in July to discuss a recommendation to replace Juliette Dell's seat, who resigned due to other commitments. Joan stated that the committee was primarily looking at demographics and experience. The Nominating Committee recommended Sandy Currier for the open seat. Motion made and seconded to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation. All in favor. Motion carries.



8. Marketing Council Report – Joan Todd and Katie Porter

Katie presented the final designs for the American Saddlebred specialty license plate that will be submitted to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Katie thanked the National Horseman, who did all of the design work on the license plates. Also, Katie reported on promotional activities at the All American Horse Classic in Indianapolis. Social media engagement for the ASHBA prize program class videos was strong. And, Katie reported on a Breeders Forum, also held at the All American Horse Classic, which had over 40 attendees. The forum was moderated by David Mount and included Kristen Bagdasarian, Emily Lee, Smith Lilly and Melissa Moore.

9. Programs Council Report – Malissa Welke and Katie Porter

Samantha Robinson gave an update on upcoming youth activities at the St. Louis National Horse Show, Ocala International Horse Show, National Academy Championship Horse Show and the UPHA/American Royal National Championship Horse Show. In St. Louis there will be a youth pizza party and junior judging, along with celebrating participants in the ASHBA National Pleasure Equitation Finals. In Ocala, Youth Council Chair, Alexa Dahl, will be coordinating youth activities paid in part by a Youth Council Grant. At Academy Nationals, ASHBA will be sponsoring a pizza and bowling party, along with doing junior judging and other youth activities. In Kansas City we will be doing youth outreach again with local Girl Scout troops and local high schools.

10. Registry Council Report – Kristin Bagdasarian and Katriona Adams

David reported for Katriona who was having technical difficulties. Registrations are up about one hundred from this time last year, but transfers continue to be down. David reported that a breeders survey went out to approximately 1,200 breeders and stallion owners over the past three years. Surveys were also passed out at the Breeders Forum in Indianapolis last week.

11. President's Report – Allen Bosworth

Allen reported that there is a USEF affiliate retreat for the trotting breeds scheduled in December in Cincinnati. Topics will include what can ASHBA do to improve our relationship with USEF and what can they do better to improve their relationship with ASHBA.

12. Additional Business – Allen Bosworth

No additional business.

13. Adjourn – Allen Bosworth

Allen ask for a motion to adjourn. Motion made and seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM ET to go into Executive Session.

14. Executive Session – Allen Bosworth