

The ASHA Board of Directors held its in-person Summer meeting on July 12, 2019 in Lexington, Kentucky. 17 ASHA Directors, 11 ASR Directors, 3 staff members and 5 invited guests were present. Included below is a summary of the agenda items, reports and actions taken by the Board at the meeting.

1. Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Allen Bosworth announced that Vicki Turnball, CMA has been hired to fill the vacant Accounting Specialist position. Vicki brings 30+ years of experience in all areas of accounting to ASHA. The second quarter financials will be presented to the board in August. ASHA Financial Advisor Rob Brewer, who is with Raymond James, reported that ASHA investment accounts have seen a gain of 12.83% year to date and remain within the target of ASHA's Investment Policy Statement.

2. UPHA Update

UPHA President Smith Lilly announced the release of the new UPHA Riding Program Playbook. The Playbook contains an array of information regarding starting a riding program, attracting students, safety, academy competition, creating horse owners, and good business tactics.

3. ASHA Professional Development Program

Elizabeth McMillian from Equestrian Professional consulting announced plans for a professional development pilot program. The program will assist a select group of professionals in growing their business both financially and as brand ambassadors for the American Saddlebred horse. Participants will be selected, interviewed and approved. They will receive monthly coaching sessions, membership to the Equestrian Professional website and supplemental one-on-one coaching materials. ASHA will become an Equestrian Professional Educational Partner with discounts offered to members, priority scheduling of live workshops, along with webinars and articles.

4. Registry Report

Registrar Lisa Duncan reported that the ASR received 820 registrations year to date which is an increase of 149 registrations compared to 2018. The ASR received 1330 transfers year to date which is a decrease of 113 transfers compared to 2018.

5. Sport Horse Discussion

Both the ASHA and ASR Boards voted unanimously to combine the American Saddlebred Versatility Association (VERSA), which is an ASHA Charter Club, with the ASR Sport Horse Committee with the goal of raising the profile of Sport Horses. It was announced that ASHA and the ASR are working with the United States Eventing Association to determine how many Saddlebreds and Half Saddlebreds participate in the growing eventing discipline.

6. Equine Welfare Advocacy Committee Report

Equine Welfare Advocacy Committee Chair Kathie Dunn-Jacobson announced that ASHA has joined the Endangered Equine Alliance which works to protect endangered equine breeds from extinction. The American Saddlebred is on the watch list which includes other breeds with fewer than 2,500 annual registrations. The Ruxer Foundation was announced as the title sponsor for the inaugural Rescue Horse Class. The class is open to American Saddlebreds of all disciplines, with or without registration papers, who have been rescued.

7. Bylaws Committee Report

The Board voted unanimously to amend the Bylaws to include a section requiring that a Director shall be subject to removal from the Board if a Director fails to attend at least two in-person meetings of the Board in a calendar year, at least fifty percent of the regularly scheduled meetings or fails to participate in at least one ASHA Committee. In addition, the Board may remove any Director for cause by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all Directors. The Board voted unanimously to adopt a Confidentiality Policy that prohibits the Board of Directors and employees of ASHA from disclosing confidential information. Also, the Bylaws Committee was tasked with drafting a Social Media Policy that will be presented at the next board meeting.

8. Communication Committee Report

The Board voted unanimously to adopt a Position Statement that affirms:

- The Board embraces and supports what Safe Sport represents for the protection of our youth.
- The Board wants to strengthen the long-standing relationship with USEF to better serve the welfare of our members and our horses.
- The Board is committed to addressing concerns about the US Center for SafeSport's implementation, while strongly supporting its mission.
- The Board believes the current structure of the Center can be significantly improved to better protect our youth while providing fair processes.
- The Board will consider all options that will enhance the relationship with USEF to provide the best environment for the protection and safety of our youth, as well as our horses.

9. Marketing Committee Report

ASHA Marketing and Communications Manager Jessica Cushing presented the new ASHA sponsorship program the #ASHA Dreams Fund. Fund initiatives have been identified as needing the most immediate support have been established as the primary initiatives for the betterment of the breed. The fund initiatives include breed promotion, breed preservation, youth activities, youth scholarships and ASHA Industry Services. A series of videos were created to support the initiatives and can be seen at <https://saddlebred.networkforgood.com/projects/72169-asbdreams-fund> .

10. Youth Scholarship Recipients

The 2019 ASHA Youth Scholarship recipients were announced. Natasha Adams, Haley Krupnick and Kennedy Wilson each received a \$5,000 scholarship. Cassidy Buchanan and Kaeli McCarty each received a \$5,000 scholarship through the John Biggins Memorial Scholarship Fund.

11. President's Report

ASHA President David Mount gave an update on the many initiatives that are currently underway at the association including the Joint Leadership Council, meetings with lawmakers, proposed Title IX changes and the Joint Organization Task Force.

Joint Leadership Council – The JLC has been advocating for more representation at USEF. The USEF Board voted on July 8 to add two new seats to the National Breeds and Disciplines Council from the Advisory

Group of affiliates and to reappoint Cindy Mugnier (First Vice President of UPHA and former President of AMHA) to chair of the Licensed Officials Committee. Lisa Blackstone (Board Member of AHA) also was appointed to the Committee. The JLC has been working with USEF on new Drugs and Medication Guidelines which went into effect on July 1.

DeGette Meeting - On July 1, Helena Moreno arranged a meeting between ASHA and Congresswoman Diana DeGette's (D-CO) office to discuss her bipartisan legislation to establish a commission on the state of the US Olympics and Paralympics (H.R. 3303). The commission would have nine months to evaluate among other things how responsive the national governing bodies are to its athletes including whether or not the US Center for SafeSport can effectively respond to harassment and sexual assault claims. ASHA relayed members' concerns about the lack of communication, due process and the need for clear guidelines.

McConnell and Perdue Meeting - On July 2, David Mount and Terri Dolan with invited guest Bill Moroney (CEO of USEF) met with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and US Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. Leader McConnell was urged to support the bipartisan legislation to overhaul the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (S. 132) that was introduced by Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO). Secretary Perdue was urged to publish and enforce the final ruling on the Horse Protection Act regulations on springing. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with Leader McConnell's office.

Proposed Title IX Changes - The new proposed Title IX rule changes, introduced by the US Department of Education, would require formal due process protections for all parties and the option to apply clear and convincing evidence standards over preponderance of evidence standards. A Federal Judge in Western Tennessee recently ruled that private institutions must provide protections under the Constitutional guarantee of due process. ASHA will continue to monitor these developments.

Joint Organization Task Force - The task force, which was investigating the possibility and possible advantages of combining ASHA and ASR operations, has suspended work pending resolution of antitrust law issues surrounding the restriction of horse sales and transfers. In its place a new committee was formed to deliver a new management services agreement to the ASHA and ASR Boards within 30 days. The committee members are Allen Bosworth, Todd Graham, Matt Shiflet and David Rudder and they will be joined by Terri Dolan and David Mount from ASHA and Sandy Currier and Lisa Duncan from ASR. Also, a discussion about competition recording and qualifying points resulted in the decision to revise a letter ASHA sends to non-members at non-USEF licensed events to incentivize them to become ASHA members.

12. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Terri Dolan announced the launch of the 2019 Stallion Sweeps. All ticket sales will go to prize money payouts for a State Futurity of your choice. The drawing will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 during the UPHA/ASHA Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The Board voted unanimously to have Directors either sell or buy their allotment of tickets to support the Stallion Sweeps program.

13. New Business

The Board voted unanimously to have David Mount fill the ASHA opening on the USEF National Breeds and Disciplines Council.