

**Minutes of the AHS Board of Directors**  
**Conference Call**  
**July 1, 2020**

Present: Edgar Schutte (president), Barb Schmidt, Nancy Connolly, Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck, Meg Williams, Joanne Hodges (executive director), Rachel Erhlich, Rick Toering, Kate Palmquist, Volker Ehlers, and Doug Langer

The President called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. EST.

**Motion: To defer the approval of May 6<sup>th</sup> minutes to the board with changes to be made via email.**

**Motion approved unanimously**

**President's report:**

- Inspection tour: Each individual site working on local recommendations, some areas closed some are not depending on location-creating difficulty planning tour sites. The inspection committee has contingency plans.
- Received approval from Germany to approve stallions without a German judge.
- Will discuss video options for potential approval via video.
- Magazine printed and with Joanne's negotiation saved thousands of dollars
- NASST still to be held at Hilltop Farm and Polyrich farm the end of October/November respectively

**Executive Director's Report**

- The magazine is printed and should be in members' mailboxes this week.
- We are hoping to go live with the website at the beginning of August. This means that the website will have to be down for at least a day, possibly two. We will be doing this over a weekend.
- For the Breyer horse models that we spoke about at an earlier meeting, the question was asked about what the cost would be to AHS: There is no cost. The company is looking for nominations for horse that have contributed to the making of the breed whether that be as a foundation stallion or an outstanding performance horse. Brentina has already been done. Jersey Boy is a possibility. Won the Hunter Derby 3 or 4 times, but we do not know his pedigree.
- The Inspection Committee developed COVID-19 guidelines for inspection site hosts. They have been sent to each host as well as posted on Facebook and the AHS website. The committee decided to make the guidelines suggestions rather than mandates and allow individual site hosts to add other restrictions as they feel would make them comfortable or the state warrants. If a state mandates masks, then judges must wear masks, as well. Three judges are planning to fly for the inspection tour, the rest will be driving only.
- For mare inspections, there are 23 registered, whereas last year from Jan to June there were 27. There are currently 12 MPTs for 2020 and there were 12 for 2019 at this time.

Foals registered by mail total 83 to date, 46 registered for an inspection. Last year there were 77 total at this time by mail and inspection. Futurities this year total 13, last year was 20.

- The Maryland Annual Report has been completed and sent in for AHS.
- Still looking to SmartPak to help with awards. We have gotten some numbers from Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck to be able to compare apples to apples. If we can get the coolers at the same price as she did, then the SmartPak offer will help save money and time. Because we have some inventory, this couldn't take place until the end of the 2021 season.
- In an email from Ludwig, he mentioned that Maren will not be judging for the Canadian tour.

### **August Teleconferencing Board Meeting**

Nancy Connolly will be hosting the August meeting using WebEx. She is trying to determine who doesn't have enough internet capacity for video conferencing. Currently, Rick, Kate, Rachel, and Meg will join via phone only. Nancy will send out potential agenda times in four-hour blocks with breaks after two hours and is looking for 100% participation. If you go into WebEx you can do both audio and video. The hope was that if we called in using audio via WebEx, it will help with the quality of the meeting.

### **Annual Meeting**

Annual Meeting Committee was poised to do something great this year and now we're faced with COVID issues of no attendance. Unlikely others will be travelling. Other associations--USEF, USDF--looking at doing something virtual. Consider educational seminars online. Winter could be worse re COVID, which means more closings and more restrictions. Although bylaws say we have to have a meeting, a pandemic is force majeure and it is unlikely a member will sue the AHS. Need to be proactive and cancel the meeting now.

**Motion: The AHS BOD moves to cancel the in-person annual meeting in West Palm Beach for 2021. Will look at options for the membership- Motion Passed unanimously**

We will notify membership of awards program status, and that this will be evaluated as the year unfolds and access to shows are reviewed. Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck will work on the awards activity/rule changes. We will discuss other options at the summer meeting. Barb Schmidt will contact the committee and thank them specifically for their enthusiasm and work.

### **Mare & Stallion Committee**

During these COVID times, each judge made the decision to travel or not. Three judges are willing to fly at this point in time. Judges will travel by car whenever possible to inspection sites.

AHS stallion judges are allowed to judge stallions without a German judge present--just for this year.

In Germany, HV has set up video test along with live judging and they were close. A sample video is being sent by Germany. Germany is planning to have this rule permanently. For Hanoverian and non-Hanoverian mares. Video scoring will be one score only (pass/fail). Individual scores will not be given on video. Premium status cannot be done via video. We should pick two judges per video.

The suggested rule changes are

**5.2. Mare Inspection** – Mares may be inspected at an official inspection site or mares may be inspected via submission of a suitable video.

**5.2.1 Mares Inspected at Official Inspection Site**

Mares shall be inspected based on the following Evaluation Criteria and as set forth in §3.1.1.4:

- a) Typiness, Femininity
- b) Quality of the Conformation
  - 1) Head
  - 2) Neck
  - 3) Saddle position
  - 4) Frame
  - 5) Foreleg
  - 6) Hindleg
- c) Correctness of Gaits
- d) Impulsion, Elasticity (Trot)
- e) Walk
- f) Overall Impression and Development

**5.2.2 Mares Inspected via Video Submission**

Mares will generally be inspected following the Evaluation Criteria. However, mares will not receive individual scores for each of the Evaluation Criteria due to the inherent limitations of the video submissions. Instead, mares will receive an overall score for purposes of studbook placement as set forth in §5.3. Mares inspected under this section shall not be considered for the Hanoverian Premium Mare Program. Mares inspected via Video submission may be subsequently inspected at an official inspection site.

**Motion: Adopt the proposed rule change to 5.1/5.2 as amended above and recommended by the Corporate Regulations and Grievances Committee, and approved by the Mare and Stallion Committee providing for mares to be able to be inspected via video. Motion passed unanimously.**

The current fee is \$155.00 for mare inspection and \$75 for reinspection fee. Fees for video inspection will remain the same.

### **Minimum Score for Stallion Testing**

Stallion requirements for the AHS-discussion of Germany's change to eliminating the minimum score—Pros and cons of this effect on the AHS discussed.

Changes in Germany done due to market pressure or be isolated as the only registry holding to prior stallion score requirements. Large difference, in Germany they evaluate 600 stallion prospect, in the US may look at 20. Germany felt their breeders would not choose inferior stallions with so many other options available. Discussion deferred and recommendation that Edgar and Kate will summarize the issue for the board and present back to the board.

### **Futurity Awards**

With the elimination of sponsorship for the futurity awards, the \$3,000 that is normally paid will now have to come out of the AHS budget. The Finance Committee is concerned about this as are no additional funds. AHS could eliminate the award; absorb the hit to the budget; develop a new, less

expensive, way to reward participants; or find a new sponsor. The suggestion was also made to tell members that with the advent of COVID, the AHS is forced to cut back on the amount paid out but this would only be an answer for one year. We should not continue a program that does not pay for itself. Could put \$15 of each entry into a pool. Could put out feelers for sponsors. Discussion to continue at summer meeting. Proposal: Because of COVID, we will not do a payout of the futurity for 2020 and will look at the program again.

We will finish this proposal by email as many of the Board had to drop off the call.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m. ET.

Outcome of additional motions via email post teleconference:

1. **Motion: Doug Langer to serve as interim AHS BOD treasurer until the November elections. Motion passed unanimously**
2. **Motion: The AHS BOD approve, for a one year license extension for provisionally licensed stallions that need to finish their performance requirements but could not do the test this year due to cancelation related to the Covid-19 pandemic. For those that would do the test this year even though they are 6 next year and age out before completing the required second test, 7 year olds will be allowed for the next 2 years to accommodate all in this situation as they have done this year in Germany and test requirement adjustments have been made. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. **Motion: Due to budget restraints and concerns, AHS 2020 Futurity to not be funded out of the AHS budget this year as a budget conservation measure, with the hope that individual sponsors can be found to fund the futurity in the future. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **FUTURITY UPDATE;**

**Leatherdale Farms has agreed to fully sponsor the Eighth Annual \$3000 AHS Yearling and Two-Year-Old Futurity held during the 2020 inspection tour!**

**This funding will provide the stability to maintain the futurity program at full monetary awards. It will allow the AHS to message, encourage and incentivize members for their \*\* participation.**

**The entire Board thanks Leatherdale Farms, and Louise Leatherdale, for their generous support. Thanks also to Barb Schmidt for facilitating this donation**