

AQHA 2011 Convention Report

March 3-7, 2011 (Revised June 4, 2011)

New AQHA Executive Committee

A new AQHA Executive Committee was elected during the 2011 AQHA Convention in Grapevine, Texas.

Peter J. Cofrancesco III of Sparta, New Jersey, was elected president of the American Quarter Horse Association (the only AQHA president and AQHYA president in history).

Gene Graves of Grand Island, Nebraska, was elected first vice president.

Johne Dobbs of Champaign, Illinois, was elected second vice president.

Johnny Trotter of Hereford, Texas, begins his second term as a board member.

The newest member of the AQHA Executive Committee is George Phillips, 61, of Sumrall, Mississippi.

AQHA Professionals of the Year

The Most Valuable Professional and the Don Burt Professional Horseman of the Year and the Professional Horsewoman of the Year awards were presented Saturday night during the 2011 AQHA Convention Awards Banquet. The awards were presented by AQHA Corporate Partner Professional's Choice.

On Saturday evening at the Awards Presentations we had the pleasure of Don Burt speaking to us on camera from his home in California. Don was unable to attend in person due to health issues.

Wanda Louder: The Most Valuable Professional or "MVP" of 2010. Wanda serves as the Maine Quarter Horse Association second vice president as well as the youth co-adviser.

Sandy Arledge, Rancho Sante Fe, California : The 2010 Professional Horsewoman of the Year, Sandy is a true horsewoman and pioneering businesswoman, with success as a breeder, trainer and boarding-facility manager.

Denny Hassett, Auburn, Kansas: The 2010 Don Burt Professional Horseman of the Year, Denny has served the Quarter Horse industry many years and is a trainer and exhibitor. In fact, Hassett has been to every AQHA World Show since its start in 1974.

AQHA Recognizes 2010 High-Point Titles

At its annual convention in Grapevine, Texas, the American Quarter Horse Association handed out its coveted all-around high-point awards in the youth, amateur and open divisions. Molli Lyn Jacobs and **Radical McCue** won the Featherlite AQHA Youth All-Around High-Point title; Lindsey Stevenson and **RL Cocons Version** won the Featherlite AQHA All-Around Amateur title; and **Four Bonnie Bay**, owned by Mike St. Clair of Kahoka, Missouri, won the Featherlite Open All-Around High-Point title.

Detailed stories about each of the 2010 high-point winners appeared in the April issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, as well as in the *Journal's* new digital supplement, *Journal Plus*.

2011 AQHA Hall of Fame Inductees

Horses:

Skipper W
Streakin Six
Mr San Peppy
First Down Dash

Individuals:

Doug and Nancy Dear: Montana
Frank Howell: Georgia
Joe Kirk Fulton: Texas

Schedule Highlights:

Thursday March 3, 2011

7:00-10:00 PM
CQHA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday March 4, 2011

8:30AM-12:00PM

AQHA Board of Directors Summit

- reviewed the strategies for 2011
- reviewed figures, financials from 2010
- guest speakers on topics of concern to our current industry

2:00-4:30PM

Marketing Breeder's Educational Forum

- emerging markets: Europe, South America
 - China: changing economy
 - new tax laws for Horse owners (USA)
 - Medications & thresholds: FEI
- See Report from Haidee Landry below

7:00-9:00PM

President's Reception

Saturday March 5, 2011

9:00-1:00AM

Membership General Meeting

- President's address
 - Reports: Treasurer, Executive Vice President
 - Presentation of Directors Emerti & Directors-at-Large
- Allocation of Directors for 2011

11:30AM-1:30PM

AQHA Directors Luncheon

2:00-3:00PM

Levelling Forum

- Presented by Patti Carter-Pratt
- hard copies of the presentation were distributed
- the program is still in the conceptual stages

The standing committees work together to recommend rule changes to the AQHA Executive committee for adoption at their April meeting. If adopted, the changes will be circulated to the membership through the AQHA Journal and to the show managers/secretaries. The revisions will then be in the following year's rule book.

3:00-5:00PM

AQHA Standing Committee Meetings

6:30PM

Annual Awards Presentation Banquet

Sunday March 6, 2011

8:00AM-4:30PM

Farm Tours

- the farm tour was very well attended by families, guests and spouses who were not attending meetings
- the report on their return was very enlightening and also included a camel and turtles

8:00AM-5:00PM

Standing Committee Meetings

6:00PM

Hall of Fame Banquet

Monday March 7, 2011

8:30-11:00AM

Membership Business Meeting

-Standing Committee Reports

Nominations & Credentials Report

-Election of AQHA Directors

-Appt Nominations Committee for Officers and Executive Committee

11:30AM-3:00PM

AQHA Directors Luncheon

-Role call of all AQHA Directors

-Business conducted at this luncheon is the acceptance of the Standing Committee recommendations to the AQHA Executive that were read at the Membership Business Meeting

- motions were made to change the recommendations from the Show Committee to the Executive Committee: 448(d)

3:00-6:00PM

New AQHA Director Orientation

Newly Elected Canadian AQHA Directors

Alberta: Dr. Wayne Burwash & Kate Bamford

Saskatchewan: Sherry Clemens

Manitoba: Larry Clifford

Ontario: Kathy Patterson

Respectfully Submitted by

Gayle Pawley-Wilson

AQHA/CQHA/BCQHA/AQHA Region 1 Director

AQHA Report

On March 4th I attended a Marketing forum. The discussion surrounded emerging markets and the work AQHA has been doing with China and the differences in culture. There are some significant hurdles to overcome such as the language, government and culture barriers combined with some distrust on both sides. AQHA has been furthering the progress into China with thru David Snodgrass, manager of LTI

Associates, who is fluent in the language and understands the culture. China is a top down kind of government so the equestrian progress comes first through government and the easing of their regulations and not from a grass roots or an individual's desire. There is a quickly expanding middle class in China and to own a horse is a status symbol. It was expressed to us that it will take decades to fully realize the market in China our horses but will be well worth the effort as AQHA is currently laying the foundation for future commerce.

In the marketing forum the discussion also surrounded the markets in Europe and South America. We see the numbers of AQHA members and horses registered in these countries increasing at a time when those numbers are decreasing in North America. The International markets are very important to the stability of AQHA through our current economy.

Mike Phillips talked about the United States Livestock Genetics export. He talked about a program where the government provides funding for the bulk purchase of semen to export the livestock genetics to developing countries and AQHA has been participating in this program. Semen from 4 sixes ranch has been sent to South America.

On Saturday March 5th before my committee meetings commenced, I attended an impromptu special meeting regarding the proposed leveling of AQHA shows. I have a hand out for the membership to look at. I will speak to this new proposed model of AQHA classes that is expected to be implemented sometime in 2012 and answer questions if I can.

We also received more information regarding the proposed Novice World Show. It has been confirmed, there will be an AQHA Novice World show in 2012 held the 4 days immediately prior to the Youth World Show and at the same facility. To qualify for the Novice World Show a competitor must place in the top ten in that class at their Regional Championship Show or compete in that class at 10 AQHA shows. The qualifying period will be from May 1 to April 30.

The committees work together to recommend rule changes to the AQHA Executive committee for adoption at their April meeting. If adopted, the changes will be circulated to the membership through the AQHA Journal and to the show managers/secretaries. The revisions will then be in the following years rule book. There was a proposed rule change submitted from our area regarding the family of show managers and allowing them to show at a show that their family member was managing. This proposed change was not recommended to the Executive committee for adoption.

The 2012 AQHA Annual Convention will be in Las Vegas.

Respectfully submitted, Haidee Landry