

Arabian Horse Youth Association  
Board of Directors Meeting

Approved Minutes

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Virtual

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 9:04am MST by president Grace Smith

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS/ICEBREAKER

Icebreaker question was favorite game as a child

- Grace Smith, President (14, 15)
- Marin Mckee, Vice-president and Region 5 youth director (freeze tag)
- Brooke Hofmann, Secretary (freeze tag)
- Bella Fajardo, Region 1 (double dutch)
- Acadia Palmer-Toy, Region 2 (tether ball)
- Carolyn Shino, Region 7 director
- Riley Zschoche, Region 8 (hide-and-seek)
- Ainsley Bell, Region 9 (hide-and-seek)
- Ethan Braucht, Region 10 (4 square)
- Carli Marasco, Region 12 (tag)
- Kate Bonafede, Region 14 (4 square)
- Kiki Basta, Region 16 (hide-and-seek)
- Minnie Trimmingham, Region 17 (hide-and-seek)
- Karen, Region 17 coordinator
- Cindy Howey, Youth committee vice chair
- Debbie Himmel

What word comes to mind when you think of AHYA?

- Dedicated, connected, united, community, family, fun, united, positivity, responsibility, courage, community, dedication

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – from November Meeting

- Minutes were approved from November

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Budget approved
- Money for promotions or sponsorships

## REGIONAL REPORTS

- Region 1: R U OK promotion at Class A shows. Working on balancing being a senior and graduation and balancing that with horse activities.
- Region 2: San Fernando Valley group went to Scottsdale and had a dinner to promote the region. Was planning to have a “fun” show before it got canceled. Horse poop bingo as a fundraiser where a portion of the money goes to the youth.
- Region 5: Outreach to youth programs, R U OK speeches at 4H programs and maybe a promotional talk at a local high school. Cornhole, painting, stick horses as activities for a fun day for the youth.
- Region 7: Youth sponsors t-shirt for Region 7 show. Show activities including, spoon and egg and crafts. Service project in the works. Academy program at some of the smaller shows.
- Region 8: Sedalia show and brainstorming activities for the local class A shows.
- Region 9: Upcoming shows including Cow Town and West Monroe. Working on getting sponsors for Region 9 t-shirts; duck races and golden horse shoes will be fundraiser activities; bidding on lessons with other trainers. Little horse ice cream cone treats for a possible fundraiser or give away.
- Region 10: Youth Judging contest with an FFA show and good luck cookies or ice cream treats. “Gathering Day” for local youth to meet and hang out.
- Region 12: Regional horse show grew over 150 horses, 5 more qualifying shows before Regional show. Silent auction, ice cream social, 50/50 raffle. Putting together youth competition teams for AHA. Doing really well as a region and trying to get more social media engagement.
- Region 14: Banquet with a silent auction for fundraising. BAHA open show coming up to qualify for region 14. New dates for their regional show, looking for sponsors for activities.
- Region 16: Starting a zoom equestrian yoga program, youth clinic in June, social media outreach for the off-season. Working on ideas for Class A shows in May. Work with Region 15 for the regional show to come up with fundraisers.
- Region 17: Youth meeting at regional show, youth wanted to have more “fun” classes like egg and spoon competition and costume classes. Morning coffee activities. Sold hoodies and did a silent auction as fundraisers.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### BRAINSTORMING SESSION

- What do you want to see happen in AHYA?
  - More activities with R U OK program
  - Booth at Equitana
  - Booth at a county tack swap
  - More trips with youth or as a board
  - Team bonding or service projects
  - R U OK branding products or more youth products (quarter zip or sweat pants)
  - Reality TV Show (Instagram or Facebook reels)
  - Youth Jackpot classes?
  - All around YN horse award or fan favorite award

- Fun classes at youth (egg and spoon, bareback, command class)
- Walk trot 11 and over classes at smaller shows or regionals
- What can AHYA do to increase participation?
  - Booths at events
  - Boxes with AHYA merch
  - Superlatives
  - Show scholarships for people who want to show but can't afford it
  - Second hand show clothes for people who can't afford them
  - Instagram Takeovers
  - Discipline Takeover to show versatility of Arabians

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Athletes can struggle with mental health too, and raising awareness of that. Selling R U OK shirts, giving speeches about the program and ways to support each other, wearing yellow are all ways to incorporate R U OK.
- Sending out promotional merch for R U OK to hand out at shows.
- Grace talks about ways to promote this program like wearing yellow, handing out flyers, or having food or treats, positive messages with chalk, potty talks (posting flyers in stalls in the bathrooms).
- YN Ideas: wear yellow days (judges too), sponsor classes with R U OK, bake sale, run for R U OK, horse obstacle course, horse ambassador to support people, gold or yellow ribbon for new exhibitors, graduating seniors yellow flowers or yellow ribbon on flowers, yellow post it notes hidden around showgrounds, R U OK candy grams (similar to lucky ponies).
- Grace's info:

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Wednesday night as dark night
- Friday and Saturday night classes are youth only nights (last 2 nights)
- Wednesday Night Block Party:
  - Golf cart parade (not just for regions, but for anyone) (R U OK golf cart)
  - Booths
  - A band for music
  - Getting more food trucks
  - Dunk tank being a fundraiser
  - Opening it up to the public and trying to encourage a large turnout
  - This would be in place of ice cream social and dance
  - Flyers to promote event
- Fundraisers:
  - Lucky ponies with AHPA (need help with delivering ponies)
  - Dunk Tank during dark night
  - Chuck a duck
  - Kiki Basta and Carli Marasco make a motion for white YN shirts

- Marin McKee seconds the motion
- Motion is passed for white YN Exhibitor shirts
- Activities:
  - Stick Horse, Activity Room in chill box, Photo Scavenger Hunt – educational, Golden Horseshoe
- Sponsorships:
  - 1 \$250 t-shirt sponsor per board member
  - Due June 1st
- First time exhibitor Q&A:
  - Broaden the Q&A to not just 1st time exhibitors
  - Encourage more participation
  - Push it out on social media more
- Need more volunteers for the show; always need more volunteers to do various things
- Board meeting before the show starts and we want as many members as possible to attend.
- If you know any flag riders for the show (3 each night), contact Brenna
- Convention:
  - Marin McKee makes a motion for the voting to be online for AHYA Convention; Kate Bonafede seconds the motion; The motion passes to make voting online for AHYA Convention
  - Participation Ideas: pizza party, raffle for people who attend, Icebreakers or games (kahoot or trivia), horse wordle,
  - Decorations: paper roses, red & yellow colors, lots of flowers, find your roses instead of horseshoes
- Other fundraisers:
  - “Candy grams” but with roses
- AHYA Revised Scholarships
  - A mix of revised and old scholarship process
  - Please apply for it!
- Hunt Seat Eq and Judging and YNL:
  - Main ring eq class vs sport horse eq class
  - Splitting the eq classes so main ring riders can show in the main ring and sport horse riders can be judged in the sports ring?
  - Talk to youth in region to keep conversation open
  - Score based/ more structured scoring

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o **March 17-21** – AYHC Symposium – Grace Smith, Marin McKee, and Sophia Huffman
- o **April 1st**- Arabian Horse Foundation Scholarship Due
- o **May** – Meet an Arabian Horse Month (put event on calendar on AHA website)
- o **June 1** – Convention voting eligibility
- o **June 1** – T-shirt Sponsors DUE – **START NOW**
- o **June 15** – Executive Office Applications Due
- o **July** – AHYA Board Meeting at YNL
  - Written Regional Report and Meeting Minutes DUE

## ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 11:39 am MST by Grace Smith

12:30pm MST (1:30) – Breakout groups with AHA Board of Directors

- Met with adult board members to discuss various ways to get more involvement and push out the R U OK program. Lots of positive feedback on mental health awareness, and we had good discussions about getting more involved with different groups of people. Lots of youth support!
- Task region directors to help get local involvement
- Using Tik Tok, Instagram, and Facebook to push out different events and ways to get involved