

October 1, 2004

Re: 2004 AHA Annual Convention

Dear Registered Delegate and/or Attendee:

Located on the shores of Cook Inlet and at the foot of the Chugach Mountains, Anchorage is a unique urban environment set in the heart of great wilderness. Spectacular opportunities await in Anchorage for recreation and the Alaska wilderness experience of a lifetime! Tap into your sense of adventure. Discover Anchorage in the great outdoors!

For travelers of every lifestyle and budget, there's a lot to enjoy in downtown Anchorage: from live music at microbrew pubs to Broadway theatricals, kite festivals to winter carnivals, Native Alaskan dance performance to black-tie galas, upscale art galleries to souvenir shops, and cuisines that range from 4-star restaurants to all-you-can eat salmon feasts.

Convention can be very fun and exciting, but it is also the AHA annual business meeting. Please carefully review the enclosed Resolutions and attachments; then, come prepared to voice your approval or concerns regarding these very important decisions.



IMPORTANT PLANNING INFORMATION FOLLOWS



SCHEDULES -- RESOLUTIONS & CONVENTION:

Enclosed are the Resolutions and attachments for presentation to the 2004 Convention (28 this year), resumes of nominees for positions elected by the Convention Delegates, and other pertinent information related to the convention. Finalized schedules will be distributed at Convention with your registration packet. Any schedule changes during Convention will be posted near the on-site Convention Office or announced during General Session.

For those who are attending the Annual Convention for the first-time and as a refresher for all members, two articles previously published in the *Arabian Horse Magazine*, "**Anatomy of a Resolution**" and "**Who Made That Decision**" have been placed on the AHA website (www.ArabianHorses.org) – About AHA – Annual Convention. Please refer to these articles as reference tools to the democratic process used by AHA. If you are a first-time Delegate, ask for a Gold Star on your nametag at the Credentials desk.

DOOR PRIZES:

All registered attendees will receive a "door prize" ticket in their registration packet. Region 5 will host several drawings throughout the week. **You must be present (in your seat) to win!**

HOTEL AND TRANSPORTATION:

Hotel Reservations – Anchorage Hilton 500 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, Direct: (907) 265-7152, Toll Free: 1-800-245-2527 (mention AHA for discount rates). Online Reservations: www.anchorage.hilton.com

The hotel does not have a shuttle, so taxi transportation is recommended to and from the airport and to get you around town. You can catch a taxi just outside of the baggage claim at the airport. Taxis cost \$15-\$18 from the airport to the hotel.

Listed below are the taxi companies available in Anchorage:

AAA Metro Cab – 907-677-7000
Alaska Cab Co. – 907-562-6805
Anchorage Checker Cab – 907-274-3333

Anchorage Yellow Cab – 907-272-2422
Taylor Taxi – 907-248-0993

WEATHER / ATTIRE :

Winter brings on the snow with *high temperatures* dipping into the 20s, creating a climate very much like ski resorts in the Rocky Mountains, Canada or Europe. Low humidity also contributes to Anchorage's comfortable climate.

What to wear - the weather is perfect for casual wear for people taking advantage of the area's many outdoor activities. Visitors may notice a drop in temperature when taking a chairlift ride to the top of Mt. Alyeska or hiking in the nearby Chugach Mountains, so it's a good idea to bring a jacket for those activities. The key to comfort in Alaska is wearing layers of clothing, then peel on or off as needed.

Comfortable walking shoes are great for all seasons. In winter, bring heavier layers, long underwear, warm hat and gloves, and warm boots. Alaska's informality is perfect for visitors; casual wear is welcome virtually everywhere. Casual business attire is the norm for convention, but this year it would be acceptable for more casual wear during Committee Meetings, General Session and the Welcome Party. Dressy "Cocktail Attire" is requested for the President's Banquet on Saturday night. Weather can vary, so we recommend checking the weather reports before packing.

Daylight Hours - Let there be light! The day with the least amount of sun is on Winter Solstice, yet Anchorage still enjoys 7-8 hours of daylight. During winter, the farther north the fewer the daylight hours.

AHA PROGRAMS & EDUCATIONAL FORUMS:

Included as part of the Delegate and/or Guest registration fee, this year's topics are:



COMMITTEE CHAIRS WORKSHOP with a Happy Hour – Tue. (Nov 16th) 5:00 p.m. – presented by Lou Fasulo, parliamentarian and Janet Holloway, AHA Sr. Director of Competition Services

This workshop is designed and highly suggested for all AHA Committee Chairs to help them conduct effective meetings. The goal of this workshop is to give committee chairs instruction and guidance on conducting productive, structured and effective meetings that allow proper member input and participation.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPETITION MANAGEMENT BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK – Tue. (Nov. 16th) 8:00 p.m. – discussions with successful management professionals

Topics include dates, mileage, class codes and rules from both the USEF and AHA.

BREEDER'S FORUM – Wed. (Nov. 17th) 10:00 a.m. – presented by the Registration Commission

This forum is for everyone, from individuals who breed only one mare a year to large, multi-faceted operations that depend on the Arabian horse industry for their very existence.

MARKETING & SELLING HORSES FORUM – Wed. (Nov. 17th) 1:00 p.m. – panel discussions with successful sellers

One of the most frequently asked questions by owners is "What is my horse worth?" Or "What price should I ask if I want to sell my horse?" Buying, selling, breeding horses—discuss what's hot and what's not.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE – Wed. (Nov. 17th) 5:00 p.m. – presented by the Governance Committee

This forum is designed to review the transition process and implementation of the merger agreement. In addition, it will offer a question and answer session.

WELCOME RECEPTION – Wed. (Nov 17th) 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Hosted by Region 5

“Get Wild” about Alaska at the Welcome party. Experience the true flavor of Alaska and feast on delicious Alaskan hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Take in the local entertainment — sure to make a lasting impression.

MEET THE CANDIDATES – Thur. (Nov. 18th) 10:30 a.m. – presented by the AHA Nominating Committee

This forum is to meet and learn more about the self-nominated officer candidates. This will be in a question and answer format for a side-by-side comparison, which will allow you to confidently choose the candidate of your choice.

USE YOUR MARKETING TOOLS – Sat. (Nov. 20th) time TBA – presented by the Market Development and Promotional Committee

Learn to best utilize marketing and promotional tools and materials available through AHA to promote the Arabian horse.

PRESIDENT’S AWARDS BANQUET / DANCE – Sat. (Nov 20th) 7:30 p.m.

“Celebrate Success” at the President’s Banquet. Everyone is invited to come celebrate success and recognize our members and volunteers who make this organization work. See who is awarded the coveted President’s award, National Volunteer Service awards and Club Excellence honors. After the dinner and the awards presentation, “get wild” and dance the night away Alaskan style. Wine and entertainment provided by Region 5. Reserve your individual seat or complete table starting Thursday at the Registration desk. Bring **ALL 10 individual (by name) Banquet tickets** if you are reserving a **complete table**.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY – Sunday, (Nov 21st) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AHA’s “**Show Secretary School**,” available for a small registration fee, is a must this year. You will gain increased comprehension of AHA show rules. Results reporting will be on the agenda, including electronic media (disk, e-mail or interactive website). Come get a refresher on AHA’s rules.

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

Be sure to do your Christmas shopping early at the commercial exhibit area located in the Egan Center. There will be many exhibitors offering a variety of products and services. Select Alaskan native crafts will be the highlight.

AHYA “SILENT AUCTION”

Be sure to save a little of your “shopping money” for the Arabian Horse Youth Association’s annual “Silent Auction” ending on Saturday evening. You may end up with something wonderful, and the money goes towards an excellent cause – today’s Arabian horse youth.

“Get Wild” about Convention and head “**North to Alaska!**”

See you in Anchorage,



Lorie Liddicoat
Sr. Director of Member & Youth Services

LL/II

Enclosures

cc: AHA Board of Directors and Directors-Elect
AHYA President