

NAPHA Regional Advisory Council Meeting (RAC)
Held at the NAPHA National Membership Meeting, February 25, 2011, Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:27 AM on February 25, 2011. Introductions and announcements were made. Those in attendance were as follows:

Voting RAC Members in Attendance: Joline Bell Hahn, RAC Chair (Region 1); Joy Redman (Region 2); Jim Alexander (Region 4); Rich Ovenburg (Region 5); Juan Bosco Sandigo (Region 6); Sharon La Pierre, Acting RAC Secretary (Region 7); Darla Austin (Region 11); Cindy Lemke (region 12); Kathleen Morrison (Region 14); Carolyn Mittrick (Region 16); and Edie Gandy (Region 18).

Club Presidents in Attendance: Jim Alexander; Lucho Dapelo; Annette Kart; Liz Potof; Barbara Windom; and Alice Wolf.

NAPHA Board of Directors in Attendance: Danell Adams; Edie Gandy; Rich Ovenburg; Larry Redman; and Barbara Windom.

Others in Attendance: Barbara Alexander; Carole Hackett; Fetcher & Janetta Michaels; Steve & Fran Todd; and Jo Ward.

Topics of Discussion:

1 - Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2011 RAC Meeting: The first topic of business was to approve the last RAC Meeting Minutes. They could not be approved officially at this time because changes by email had not been made before the meeting. The corrected version will be sent out for approval and placed on the NAPHA website.

2 - Discussion of RAC Members and Terms of Office: The second topic to be discussed had to do with regional representation. Currently, there is no representative for Region 10, and Carol Hayden had to withdraw from serving after being nominated. Therefore, it was suggested by Joline Hahn that Sharon La Pierre represent both Regions 7 & 10 temporarily. Cindy Lemke spoke to the fact that representing two regions is not that cumbersome. Sharon agreed to do it until other measures could be explored.

It was agreed that term limits for RAC members would remain in place until the NAPHA Board of Directors had discussions about elections.

There was a long discussion about Region 2 because it has few members and whether it should be consolidated with another region, mainly Region 1. It was agreed that Jim Alexander, Joy Redman, and Joline Hayne would work on any possible region changes and submit to the NAPHA Board of Directors. Jim Alexander stated that this was the year to re-evaluate the regions because they are generated by the Bylaws every three years and some of the representations were up in 2011.

Joy Redman noted that representatives needed corrected memberships lists from Studbook and Arlynda Castro (main office) in order to know who to represent. Danell

Adams stated that she and Charlotte Dicke Beccerra were working on a Membership Directory with the Board of Directors which would address these concerns.

3 - Review & Discussion of NAPHA Bylaws, Sections 5.7, 5.8, and 6.1: The third topic of discussion dealt with specific sections of the NAPHA Bylaws in relationship to the RAC.

Section 5.7, Regional Advisory Council Duties & Section 5.8, Replacement of Regional Representatives: A discussion ensued in regard to Section 5.7.5, recommending show rules and judging criteria for approval by the Board of Directors.

Rick Ovenburg stated that he had been Chair of the Rules Committee for five years and presented a complete revision in 2007 and 2008 to Donna Bearer. It was approved but not represented in the 2009 Bylaws being discussed because it was not done. Rich left, and Eleanor Palmisano took over as Chair. It was reported that Kelly Powers and Bonnie Gallegos, who currently serve on the Rules Committee, will send those revisions to the committee because Eleanor has been ill. Then, the Rules Committee will continue as a whole when Eleanor gets better.

Larry Redman stated that the Rules Committee needed to bring the revisions to the Board of Directors and enact them. Apparently, Bonnie Gallegos has already inserted some of the changes into the rules. Some have been approved already and others still need to be approved. Various RAC members suggested that this get accomplished in a timely manner.

Joline Hahn stated that Show Stewards have made decisions about rules on the spot at shows to be fair to everyone. They need this option to function effectively. For example, Joline felt that the optional use of leather stirrups because of any disability was a show committee decision. Jo Ward agreed. Rich Ovenburg agreed, as well. A recommendation for wording of this particular concern had been sent to the Rules Committee by Sharon La Pierre and Joline Hahn before the Membership Meeting. Joy Redman thought it was logical to make some decisions on the spot.

A discussion ensued in regard to shows having different concerns, but that standardization of these concerns should be addressed by the Rules Committee. Rich Ovenburg suggested that the Rules Committee needed to look at Show Premiums for problems and enforcement. Alice Wolf commented that optional rules placed in the Show Premium do supercede existing rules for that show. Janetta Michaels made a clarification that Show Stewards are resources for rules and have no authority to change rules. She stated that there should be one set of rules that allows shows to make decisions based on the rules and to place exceptions in the Show Premium book. Joy Redman said that it was kind of like a “shall,” “may,” or “perhaps” kind of thing.

Jo Ward commented that most problems are small things and adjustments must be done. Alice Wolf stated that clubs make changes to be “inclusive,” not otherwise. Rich Ovenburg noted that the rules are meant to be a framework for the clubs.

Danell Adams said that Kelly Powers is working on creating a document about “how to” put on a show to be more consistent in presentation. Some of these concerns and questions will be addressed in the publication about deviation and variation of rules.

Section 6.1.4, No Regional Representative shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms without a break of at least one three-year term. It was determined that

this needed to be modified, and Joline Hahn asked for feedback and recommendations for changes to the Board of Directors. Joline stated that the RAC is a “communicator to the membership” and this rule needed to be adjusted because no one is willing to serve in some regions. She stated that she sent out nomination forms in the fall for re-election and only received one back from those regions where the terms of office were about to expire in 2011.

Alice Wolf suggested that there needs to be re-elections but that the current representatives should stay in place temporarily. Larry Redman expanded on this and suggested that the Board of Directors should appoint the representative if there is no one to run for the region.

Jim Alexander wanted to be sure that the particular regions had input from its members and that no changes should be made unless members had a chance to come forward from that region. Any re-districting of regions for consolidation shall be done by the Board of Directors to overhaul for the purpose of representation. Jim agreed to work with Joy Redman and Joline Hahn to recommend any proposed changes to the Board of Directors.

4 - Review and Discussion of NAPHA Committee Task Description list: The fourth topic of discussion was in regard to committee obligations in relationship to the RAC. Joline Hahn pointed out that the description of the various committees can be found on the NAPHA website for everyone to review. The discussion was brief.

Joline commented that the Joy of Riding (JOR) fit in well with the RAC and had been represented as a club on phone conference meetings and placed under the RAC’s jurisdiction for now.

Also, it was pointed out that the Ethical Committee had been suspended and was under review for legal reasons. This concern was being discussed by the NAPHA Board of Directors and the advising attorney for future direction.

Joline stated that the RAC’s responsibilities and duties as per the bylaws allowed it to make suggestions and recommendations for the National Show location, judge, and show chair.

The only committee that the RAC has is the *Policy and Procedure Committee*. Joy Redman suggested that the RAC resurrect an old report from this committee (dated 2009) and rework some of the recommendations for the Board of Directors to review. It could be used as a prototype for committees and sent out to members. This would allow the Board to use the recommendations of the RAC.

5 - The Fifth Topic of Discussion: This was a very extensive interaction in regard to official, recognized club status and how to promote NAPHA regional memberships to attain more members and involvement.

It was noted that there were no current benefits in joining NAPHA, such as a membership card or directory.

Joline Hahn pointed out that in order to be an officially recognized NAPHA club, the clubs need to have 10 national members. This gives the club status within NAPHA and a place on the RAC. Membership can be recruited through the club, itself, drill teams, and various activities related to the Peruvian Horse.

Liz Potof pointed out that she had 16 members in her club but the reasons used as to why people are not joining NAPHA were: (1) a lack of money; and (2) no benefits for incentive. She felt that NAPHA needed to promote excitement because many big ranches have gone away because of the economy. She suggested that clubs maintain viable websites for all to see.

Juan Bosco Sandigo talked about a get-together/seminar at his place in Arizona as a way to generate excitement and involvement. He commented that NAPHA needs to give members free access to Studbook instead of charging an extra fee.

Larry Redman continued this discussion, commenting that the loss of ranches and major breeders, as well as the economy, have driven the Board of Directors to think about supporting more seminars and trail rides to become more of a community.

Danell Adams encouraged participants to look outside the box for social events, clinics, BBQ's, and all breed shows as possibilities to promote membership and market the horse.

Annette Kart looked at the problem from a marketing perspective and stated that she thought there were too many regions, making it more confusing. She suggested a zip code data base search capability and to publicize the JOR more to gain members. Further, Annette thought that it is important to treat the situation more professionally in regard to promotion of the Peruvian. For instance, is it the Peruvian Horse or the Peruvian Paso?

Joline Hahn reiterated that the RAC members are the "fingers to the total membership" and in order to attract people various possibilities could be explored such as informal open houses to meet the Peruvian Horse; play days; clubs being open to other breeds for showing, or reaching out to part bloods, to name a few.

Cindy Lemke talked extensively about get-togethers for encouragement and promotion. She suggested having shows that are not for breed standards, but rather for exhibitions and demonstrations. She suggested that a NAPHA banner be made available so clubs could use this to promote their events. She thought that the membership fee should reflect what benefits are offered and that a membership packet should be created. This could be sponsored to produce.

Sharon La Pierre talked about her attempts to organize a Region 7 Women and Peruvians Luncheon, but it got little response and other conflicting events and had to be cancelled.

Lucho Dapelo wanted a current membership directory as a way to increase memberships.

The American Competitive Trail Horse Association (ACTHA) was mentioned as a possible involvement for members. Alice Wolf pointed out that the requirements are a serious undertaking and might not be realistic for some clubs.

Rich Ovenburg talked about how he offers a clinic at his ranch for people to start small instead of at a regional show. He suggested smaller shows at state fairs, green horse classes, open tack to get people involved, informal one day shows, or wine rides.

Janetta Michaels pointed out that this is a difficult breed to get into because of the language, unusual tack requirements, rules, or need for a Peruvian judge at a show. She suggested more play days to introduce the breed to others.

Barbara Alexander suggested an increase in novice classes for shows and perhaps offering a Barrida for all, including other breeds at the show.

A brief summary included the following suggestions that were made so far: (1) ranch parties and seminars; (2) open houses; (3) informal, open shows; (4) optional tack for informal shows, and (5) all breed show involvement.

Jim Alexander thought it was difficult to recognize club status in various regions because there are no funds to allot to the main office for help and no functioning NAPHA office as such. He thought that needing 10 NAPHA members to be a recognized organization was a problem because the bylaws cannot recognize clubs unless there are 10 members. Also, needing to own a Peruvian Horse limited involvement as well. Jim further elaborated that a class list had to be attached to the show application to be approved by NAPHA. He felt that individual organizations do not need to be an official club to promote the Peruvian breed. He suggested that NAPHA think about changes to recognize the smaller club. It only takes \$250 for a NAPHA approved all-breed show and \$500 for a NAPHA approved Peruvian judged show.

Eddie Gandy talked about how the United States Equine Federation (USEF) deals with this issue, explaining that there are different classifications such as affiliate and full memberships. She thought to be on the RAC, a club should have 10 NAPHA members to vote. If the club does not have 10 members, it can serve in a non-voting manner, but can make proposals only. Maybe some reworking was in order. It was pointed out that club presidents on the RAC do not vote now, only elected regional representatives. Eddie noted that Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) wants to train Peruvian judges for all breed shows, representing a plus for our breed.

The next part of the discussion on this topic dealt with the possibility of limiting regions or re-adjusting boundaries. It was determined that the quality of the representative was most important as opposed to how many different regions were delineated. Some of the comments solicited by Joline Hahn from the voting RAC included the following.

Carolyn Mittrick thought there should be some degree of condensing the regions.

Cindy Lemke felt fragmented because membership lists were not up to date. The process of doing an election might be solved by creating an application for people who want to serve.

Rich Ovenburg thought it was a localized issue and that things should be sent to all people, not just members.

Sharon La Pierre felt there needed to be some regional consolidation.

Eddie Gandy concluded the discussion by commenting that consolidation should be done temporarily where needed to be more fluid with the situation. "Make it work where there is no interest in serving."

6 –Discussion of Show Classes and Club Presidents' Reports: This was another very extensive and lively discussion. The first item of topic 6 explored a suggestion that was brought to the RAC to do away with or decrease amateur classes, the novice division, and to have more breeding classes at the National Show only, as well as to combine genders in the championship classes. Joline Hahn presented the possibilities of these suggestions and asked participants to give feedback as follows.

Lucho Dapelo spoke with passion, representing Tonya Egger from Region 9 who did a brief poll of her members. He said, "no, no, no!" He stated that there is a need to

sell horses to serve clients in the performance and pleasure areas. Classes should not just represent the breeders because who will they sell horses to? He stated that owners who want to show will not support shows with only breeders and no performance. He commented that thanks to owners there are clubs and shows. Otherwise, according to Lucho, NAPHA would not survive.

Larry Redman suggested that breeders are not the bad guys and that at the National Breeder's Show they had performance and pleasure classes. He felt there was too much dissent within the breed, making it divisive. He wanted to discuss changes, not division. He saw the issue as follows:

- a - Do we want fewer performance classes?
- b - Do we want to eliminate the amateur designation?
- c - Do we want open gender?
- d - Do we want to eliminate individual championship classes?
- e - What classes should we keep?

The question was asked as to how this topic came up in the first place? Barbara Windom explained that Raul Risso, as well as Terry Ellis, called her as a board member and wanted to change the schedule of classes for the National Show. Barbara decided to bring the topic to the RAC for an open discussion to determine what the feelings of members were across the regions.

Joy Redman commented that a four day show is too long and that economics is ruling here. This is why it needs to be discussed.

Juan Bosco Sandigo felt that there was a failure to make a clear difference between performance and equitation. He suggested that NAPHA continue with amateur because of this lack of clarity. He wanted to follow tradition with attire, keeping the poncho with breeding and luxury because he does not like the blazer look.

Alice Wolf talked about understanding the market and audience by opening classes up to give amateurs many opportunities to win. She suggested keeping some amateur classes. She commented that the average person does not see a difference between performance, pleasure, and breeding.

Joline Hahn felt that the novice division should not be at the Nationals and that the difference between amateur, performance, and pleasure needs to be more defined. As in her club, they emphasize a difference to keep the interest of the trainers and Chalan. She stated that the rules define breeding or performance.

Carolyn Mittrick reported opinions on the subject from Charles Melton and Raul Risso. The consensus was that both divisions needed to be treated with respect, but that there were too many champion of champion classes. The complaint was that performance is boring. In many shows there are six champion of champion classes in performance and only three in the breeding division.

Larry Redman stated that the problem with condensing some champion of champion classes is that a Laureado qualifier may be eliminated from a show. It must be practical and would need one to two years to implement before decreasing any classes.

Joline Hahn thought that we could not go backwards and consolidation of genders might be done in the future. If changes are made, the rules will need to be adjusted.

Jim Alexander gave a comment from Larry Braun (CA Club President) who was not present. He felt that the issue of consolidating genders was more important to amateurs than professionals, and we need to be aware of amateur needs. Jim added that

since 1998, breeding, luxury, and performance are changing in this country because of the market. We must be aware of our audience.

Sharon La Pierre felt that genders should not be consolidated because many amateur riders do not want to perform with professionals because they do not have the experience with stallions, for example. We must be aware of our audience to sell a show.

Both Annette Kart and Carolyn Mittrick expanded on the concept of announcing to the audience what criteria is being used to judge the various divisions.

Several RAC members sent in email comments in regard to these issues, taking surveys of their memberships. Jackie Green (Region 13) wrote an extensive email based on feedback from her region, and parts of it were read by Cindy Lemke. One of Jackie's suggestions was to create a family conjunto class so families can ride together and not just breeders or ranches. She thought this would show viewers one of the greatest aspects of the breed. Keep breeding, gait, performance and AOTR as is; otherwise, people will not bring as many horses to the shows. The variety is nice. Jackie felt that showing should be gender specific. Do not combine gender and ages at the championship levels.

The overall consensus about this topic was that there needs to be a balance in class divisions. Most in attendance did not support decreased performance classes or gender consolidation and expanded breed classes because the general membership tends to set the trend as a participating audience.

The second part of this topic was the reports from club presidents. The following reports were given:

- (1) Darla Austin represented Mike Moszier and the Northern Lights Peruvian Club (MN);
- (2) Cindy Lemke represented John Mundus and the North Star Peruvian Gaited Horse Club (WI);
- (3) Joline Hahn represented Charolette Dicke Beccerra and the Los Amigos Peruvian Paso Club (CA);
- (4) Carolyn Mettrick represented Don Bailey and Deep South Peruvian Horse Club (LA);
- (5) Carolyn Mettrick represented Jean Melton and the Central States Peruvian Paso Horse Club (AR);
- (6) Sharon La Pierre represented Joan Boyd and the Centennial State Peruvian Horse Club (CO);
- (7) Kathleen Morrison represented Dave Ryan and the Northeast Peruvian Horse Club (FL);
- (8) Liz Potoff represented the Copper State Peruvian Paso Club (AZ);
- (9) Jim Alexander represented the Northern Nevada Gaited Horse Club (NV);
- (10) Jim Alexander represented Larry Braun and the Win Country Peruvian Paso Horse Club (CA);
- (11) Annette Kart represented the Southern California Peruvian Paso Horse Club (CA).

The reports indicated a great deal of activity with annual show schedules, drill teams, Horse Expo involvement, website developments, parades, clinics, state fairs, Equine Affair participations, play day shows, and trail rides.

7 – Joy of Riding Discussion: A brief update in regard to the Joy of Riding was given by Joline Hahn. At present the JOR is under the umbrella of the RAC. NAPHA wants to emphasize these kinds of programs because 80% of members do not show.

Danell Adams stated that NAPHA is working to get a pamphlet out to identify various programs that might be of interest to members, such as the American Trail Horse Association's events.

The issue of the JOR was scheduled to be taken up as part of the general membership meeting to be held the following day (2/25/2011).

8 – Elections: Two nominations were made to Joline Hahn for Cindy Lemke for the position of Secretary. Cindy declined.

Carol Borden was voted to remain as Secretary by acclamation. Carol's contribution as Secretary was recognized by the group.

Three nominations were made (by email to Sharon La Pierre) for Joline Hahn to remain as RAC Chair. She was voted in by acclamation.

Joline Hahn asked for a Vice Chair because of the amount of work involved for the RAC. Cindy Lemke was voted in by acclamation.

9 – RAC Policy Manual Report: Jim Alexander gave an extensive report for the Policy Committee. It was determined that the Policy and Procedure Manual, dated 2/27/009, was outdated and needed to be reworked with a more marketing perspective in mind to meet the current needs of the RAC and to emphasis what the RAC does for the general membership and the Board of Directors. Everyone thanked Jim for his years of creating this detailed publication for the RAC.

It was felt by several participants that the Board of Directors must respond to the RAC more effectively. The NAPHA bylaws do not allow for RAC authority or decision making powers, yet the RAC seats the regional representatives and club presidents as an important feedback from the membership.

It was decided by the group that a more up-to-date manual or marketing publication should be presented to the NAPHA Board of Directors within 60 days which would outline the RAC duties. It would be more of a Business Plan for the RAC.

Kathleen Morrison took on the task of helping Jim Alexander to reorganize the manual to be presented to the Board of Directors. Annette Kart agreed to help with this effort to give the publication a little pizzazz and glamorization. It was proposed that the total committee would consist of Kathleen Morrison, Annette Kart, Jim Alexander, Cindy Lemke, and Sharon La Pierre.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.