

## AJC Race Committee

meeting March 13, 2010

Houston, Texas

**Members present:** Hamp Johnston, Sue Meyer, Kathy Smoke, Paul Husband, Deb Mihaloff, Dick Reed, Leslie Smith, Michele Youngdale, AJC Special Projects member present: Leslie Gicewicz

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM

Paul Husband moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, Leslie Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, accepted

### **Treasurers Report:**

Hamp Johnston will send a hard copy of report to Kathy Smoke with the figures, for inclusion in AJC files. There is just over \$60 thousand in the bank. Leslie Smith moved to accept the report, Paul Husband seconded for audit.

### **Old Business:**

**ARC Update** - Deb Mihaloff ARC Steward provided the ARC Update. An announcement to expand the voting academy for the Darley award will be forthcoming. The Darley will again be held in Houston in 2011 with the tentative weekend being that of February 25 and 26. It was also reported that there would be some minor technical rule changes forthcoming.

The ARC would like to do some advertising in the way of banner ads and would like to work jointly with AJC and its website which is/will be offering banner advertising.

ARC will continue funding the regional race championships @ \$1500 per race 1 each for fillies and colts for all states racing. EARA of Delaware has elected to not take advantage of this. Visit the ARC website via the AJC link ([www.arabianracing.org](http://www.arabianracing.org)) or visit [arabianracingcup.com](http://arabianracingcup.com) to read up on all news relating to ARC.

**DNA** Kathy Smoke reported that Leslie G spoke with UC Davis laboratory and was informed that a 2nd DNA test prior to racing could detect a difference from the registration DNA of a foal. However it would be costly to perform this again due to establishing a procedure that would require the services of a "veterinarian" or an official "tattoo" person from the track as well as the paperwork required from the AHA. ***UC Davis stated that any "ringer" that might run would NEVER be able to have offspring DNA'd as that subsequent generation DNA would not match up.***

It is the consensus of the AJC that the costs of a 2nd DNA to obtain a racing certificate outweigh the possible or continual occurrence of an initial DNA "ringer". The state of the economy is such that those breeding more than one or two foals per year would find the extra race certificate DNA a costly burden at this time. Until such time as "markers" are identified regarding "purity of blood" the current procedures will remain in place. Leslie G has volunteered to continue following this .

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Kathy also reported that Debbie Fuentes, Registrar AHA, stated the cost of placing the DNA on file encompasses all the overhead incurred at the offices in Aurora, Colorado. It was noted by Hamp Johnston that he recalled the reasoning behind placing AHA DNA business with a company in Canada rather than a USA company, was a matter of who "kept" the records. The AHA wanted to be able to be the "owner" of the DNA records and this was an option presented by the current testing lab.

**Track Records** Michele Y reported, Leslie Smith (CA), Deb Mihaloff (De), Leslie G (TX), Valerie Lynn (CO) and (a yet to be determined person from MI) are the contacts for each of the state affiliates. Their role is to take the record file emailed from Michele to their tracks, obtain confirmation and acceptance of the records, review the card caller process for entry into the Equibase system and return written confirmation to AJC that either 1) the records are accepted and will be input or 2) more investigation needs to be done as there is a discrepancy in the track records provided. This all needs to be done ASAP to begin the race year accurately going forward. Michele Y will follow up with this project.

**Arabian Horse Galleries** Sue Meyer reported that the building is done with the exception of some minor issues, the actual exhibits are in the process of being built in New York City and will be shipped and set up in Lexington. She stated the quality of the work is amazing. The depiction of the journey through the centuries of the Arabian horse is wonderful. The official opening date is June 12, 2010. For information on attending the opening please visit, [www.arabianhorsegalleries.com](http://www.arabianhorsegalleries.com)

**AJC Marketing Budget** Sue Meyer noted that only \$15K had been approved through April of 2011, the budget year being March of 2010 through April 2011. 4 times per year AJC advertises in the MAH magazine, we have banner ads on Equibase Virtual Stable for 6 mos, and AJC as always covers the Track Master contract. (this being the PP's that appear in all race programs and all reports via Equibase) The Arabian Horse Galleries Museum has been the focus of the MDP (marketing, development and promotions) committee who outline and approve the budget. **It is imperative that the AJC begin to earn, via the Banner Advertising and the Classified section (that will soon be rolled out), money for continued promotion and education of Arabian racing in the US.**

Deb Mihaloff reported that the KY tourism guide back cover will showcase the Arabian Horse Galleries. Corliss Hazard (who has been hired by the AJC) is working on advertising on the AJC website.

Kathy would like to establish an on-line Stallion and Farm Guide containing both national and international Stallions and Farms. This could be another source for generating advertising and promotional income for the AJC. Currently there is no "race" related, on-line international stallion register for racing Arabians that we are aware of.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**RMTC Drug Testing Protocol** Deb Mihaloff shared that Thoroughbred racing GSC removed grading from 3 stakes races in PA after reviewing that those races did not follow the RMTC testing recommendations.(article in The Blood-Horse magazine) Paul Husband made a motion that AJC Race Committee recommend to the AJC Board that AJC Graded Stakes rules be modified so that all graded stakes races run must adhere to the RMTC

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drug testing protocol, Leslie Smith seconded and this was unanimously approved. Kathy, the AJC Race Committee Chair will pursue this.

**Graded Stakes Committee** Leslie Smith, Chair, will correspond with Sam Vasquez regarding ongoing participation on the graded stakes committee. Leslie will work with the GSC to write committee protocol for GSC participation. This will be forwarded to the AJC BOD for approval into the AJC Graded Stakes Protocol guidelines.

It was mentioned that Dr. Allred of Los Alamitos Race track in California stated that the name, "The Drinkers of the Wind and Daughters of the Desert "stakes races could not be used by the AJC/ARC at any other race venue other than Los Alamitos. At such time as the Arabian Triple Crown race is reinstated, it would be important that one of the 3 races use these titles. Paul Husband volunteered to "look into this matter". It was his opinion, unless legal review showed otherwise, that we could use the names and that these names were not "owned" by Los Alamitos Race track.

**Global Festival Stakes Race**\_ Kathy Smoke shared information regarding the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Arabian Cup G3. This is one of 7 worldwide stakes races run under the sponsorship of the Global Festival of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for Arabian Flat horse racing. This Festival honors Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan (1918 - 2004) as the creator of Abu Dhabi and all that he had done for his country and citizens, its heritage and the Arabian horse breed.

This invitation to the US to participate in this series of worldwide races is the first time the US has been included in this festival.

Conditions given by the Festival director ,were met, by the AJC, by placing this race at Delaware Park for 2010. EARA will continue to handle the track promotion in conjunction with Del Park officials from this point forward. AJC will handle promotion on a national and international level. The race will be a 4 yr old and up (open) going 1 and 1/16 mile on the dirt for a purse of \$40,000 USD. **Conditions for the race will be stated by the Delaware Park racing secretary in their condition book and as soon as written notice will be sent to all state affiliates, placed on the AJC website as well as in the Finish Line magazine.** The condition book for Delaware Park may be viewed on line at [www.delawarepark.com](http://www.delawarepark.com) It was noted that representation from all state racing affiliates was important to ensure the highest quality of horses [ currently racing in the USA] be available to participate in this important race.

A good showing will help ensure that the USA receives an invitation from the Festival to participate in this series in 2011. This race is eligible to travel to other venues that meet the criteria established by the Abu Dhabi Global Festival Director.

**Premier Breeders Sweepstakes** Dick Reed reports that the Breeders Sweepstakes Program has revised this AHA program in an effort to encompass all AHA disciplines. The commission looked for an opportunity to boost the basic program by adding to it... The Premiere Program. People who buy in can designate where the money (\$) goes for payout. Stallion nomination of basic Sweeps Program is \$1500 until June of 2010 (for perpetuity). There will be a stallion auction in 4 designations, 1/2 Arabian, Purebred, halter and performance. The purchased breeding (from this auction) will then be designated in a performance division to a sub-category. The payout designation/distinction is made at 2 yrs of age. The resultant foal from the auction breeding sale is eligible for the Premiere Program and its payout.

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Any mare owner can purchase mare nominations for \$300 for the progeny, plus \$400 for foal nomination to one of the 4 categories.

The Sweepstakes committee is requesting input from the RACING committee as to the manner of payout for those designated as racing entrants. Dick postulated the payout scenario as, "*paying the top ten earnings of 3 yr olds racing throughout the USA*" money not paid out in one year would roll over to the next year. NOTE: top ten earners that were not part of the program would not receive payout and payout for those places would be rolled over until a horse in that top ten position was a nominated runner.

Upon more discussion it was thought that payout should possibly be paid to the 4 yr old year considering that many 3 year olds did not race enough races to earn top ten placement and in fact a number of 3 yr olds were held off until their 4 yr old year prior to starting their race career.

The race committee will work on this via email to come to a decision on payout through the Premiere Breeder Sweepstakes. A reminder from Dick that race horses entered into the Original (basic) Breeders Sweepstakes Program were eligible for payout in other disciplines such as endurance and any other show discipline that they may find as a 2nd career beyond racing. All information pertaining to the Breeders Sweepstakes Program can be found in the AHA handbook.

**Motion to adjourn brought by Leslie Smith, seconded by Michele Youngdale. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Smoke, Chairperson  
Arabian Race Committee  
President, Arabian Jockey Club BOD