

ARAB, Inc. Fall Meeting November 3, 2013

The ARAB, Inc. fall meeting was held November 3, 2013 at 1:00 pm at Centrum Café in Springfield, IL. Members in attendance: Sonya and Heather Voyles, Sue Schultz, Mary Skittino, Janet Corallis, Alice Martin, John Simpson, Kayla and Carolyn Reimer, Susie and Chelsea Wesson, Laurie Kern, and Katie Keim.

There were no minutes to adopt from the 2013 Banquet; last minutes recorded were from the 2012 fall meeting.

Committee and Chair Reports

Springfest – Last year the show was changed from a 4 day format to a 3 day format, this change had a positive effect on the show. It was a very successful show, the club made \$3000.00. This year the show is being held April 4-6, 2014; ARAB, Inc.'s workday is Saturday April 5th, three volunteers are needed and ARAB, Inc. has offered to provide lodging for those volunteers (if they wish/need) for Friday night, April 4th.

June Show – The 2013 June show was another very successful show for the club this year. Janet brought up a potential hunter/jumper (h/j) coordinator for the 2014 show. It is under the assumption this would be a paid position, there was a suggestion of creating a sport horse sponsorship to help off set this expense. There was much discussion on how to best schedule the h/j division in the show. It was suggested to hold the h/j classes over two days in the evening in the coliseum. This coordinator is willing to take on the entire h/j division, tasks including but not limited to: supplying the jumps, getting them to the show grounds, and setting and dismantling the course. The 2014 show dates are May 28th – June 1st, 2014.

Budget Committee – We are ahead of budget.

Treasurer's Report – A copy of the Treasurer's report was distributed to the club; Katie reported we have approximately \$13,500 in ARAB, Inc.'s checking account, \$23,000 in the money market account, and net income of \$6,200. Revenue from the ARAB, Inc./Illinois show was \$7,500.

Membership Report – Chelsea reported we have 48 adult members and 4 youth.

Newsletter – Laurie reported all ARAB, Inc. members have working emails. The club no longer provides print copies. John and Nancy Simpson have graciously volunteered to print and mail copies of the ARAB, Inc. newsletter to members who prefer to receive printed mail. Information for the newsletter is diminishing, in years past the club newsletters were used as the means of spreading AHA news to its members, today AHA sends out its own newsletters, in the form of emails; thus leaving only the club president's letter, the editor's letter, the members list and a few other odds and ends for the club's newsletter. Alice suggested posting show results; this is currently being done via Facebook as they become available. As a follow up suggestion, post them on the

website, work with the official show photographer to acquire pictures and the rights to web publish those pictures of club members.

Youth – No Report

Scholarship – No scholarship applications have been received. There is no age cap on the scholarship, any ARAB, Inc. member is eligible to apply.

High Point – No official report. Laurie suggested making the awards program free to all members. There would be a change in the format, participants would not be required to “pre-enter” their horse(s) in the program in the beginning/first half of the show season; all they would have to do now is send in their nominations and results at the end of the season. That way all horses and riders, not just those who remembered to nominate their horse(s) would be eligible for year end awards. A committee will need to be established to create this concept and a vote from the club and/or just its officials will be required.

Awards Banquet – Laurie opened the floor to any program ideas for this year’s awards banquet. Sonya suggested making it a celebration of the horse. Awards invitations will be mailed out this year, Alice suggested including a self addressed return envelope as a convenience for those who would rather RSVP by mail. Alice suggested a new venue for the banquet, Carol Fraase’s on South Farmingdale Rd. approximately a half mile north of StarWest. Projected date January 11th.

Convention Resolutions – A couple resolutions were discussed; #6 Leveling the Playing Field, it was encouraged the delegates vote yes. In a nut shell this resolution would offer a second class at Nationals for amateur riders. It is an adaptation of the current Select division, leveling is basically adding levels within the Select division based on National achievement points. The second resolution concerned the scoring of sport horse in hand, and how those scores were assessed and used in class placing.

Horse Fair – Kayla and Carolyn reported that turn out was poor, the schedule was confusing, the schedule kept changing, it was basically an unfocused, poorly planned event this year. That being said, the presentation venue was a great improvement; it was held in the coliseum for 2013 and is expected to be in the coliseum again for 2014. The stall side “booth” attracted many visitors interested in the Arabian. As far as promoting the breed, Horse Fair was a success; it was agreed to participate in the same fashion for 2014.

Direction of the Club – Laurie opened the discussion on the direction of the club; a lot of clubs are having similar issues as ARAB, Inc., it seems like the social significance of belonging to a club is diminishing, especially with the older clubs. Social media may be a factor. People also seem to be busier nowadays and just don’t have to time to commit to club events where the focus is on fun get together activities, instead of showing. There is also a lack of youth, even the local county 4-H, FFA, and Pony Clubs are feeling the pinch. Sue suggested the possibility of having an ARAB, Inc. open barn

days. There was also much discussion on the status of volunteers and how to encourage more to volunteer. Chelsea suggested a volunteer lottery, where for every time, hour, session (thought process still developing!) the volunteer gets a ticket to throw into the lottery and at the end of the day a ticket is drawn and the winning volunteer gets a prize, perhaps a free stall for the show. Other incentives were also suggested such as, a discounted stall, gas cards, or other gift cards for volunteering.

Election of Officers – President – Laurie Kern
Vice President – John Simpson
Secretary – Heather Voyles
Treasurer – Katie Keim
Membership – Susie Wesson
Youth and High Point – Marilyn Weber
Scholarship – Alice Martin
Newsletter and Website – Chelsea Wesson

Election of Delegates – Voting for the 2014 delegates will take place at the Awards Banquet, all interested members are encouraged to email Chelsea and a ballot will be created for voting.

Motion to Adjourn – Susie 1st
Alice 2nd
Passed