

REGION



Region 6 News



June 2006

WEB SITES: Region 6: <http://www.aharegion6.com> AHA: <http://ArabianHorses.org>

Since our last newsletter the Show Commission has been busy finalizing our Regional Show. As you know we are changing the Show arena this year and the stalling/work arena places. The city of Brookings is providing the tent for the warm up arena, and what will you guess, it won't even rain?! At this point it looks like we are down in numbers of horses. Region 8 was down 10%, and I am off to Region 10 wondering how their numbers are?

The first week of June Cheri and Claude Clark & Jean Fredrich met Keith and I in Rapid City during a Regional Quarter Horse Show to visit their new Event Center. We will have some figures for you at the meeting during our regional show. I have also enclosed some photos that I took while we were there, and guess who was announcing our friend Denny Oviatt.

On our agenda for the meeting this month is the Budget committee which consists of our Treasurer, Mary Bowden, Darlene Labelle, and our Show Manager Cheri Clark. We have been fortunate in the past several years to be able to allocate the profits of our show to our clubs, but it is important that we have volunteer help at the Regional show so there is a better profit margin. In the future the Region will be needing more money to support our new Public Relations Network person along with the other commitments that we have to AHA such as the sponsoring of the National Endurance Ride next year.

Kara Van Bockern has been selected as our Public Relations Representative. She is a resident in Pierre, SD and is President of The Arabian Horse Society of South Dakota. Kara is a young enthusiastic lover of Arabian horses, has competed from the 4-H show to the Nationals as a youth, and currently owns a part Arabian. Kara graduated from Carthage College in 2001 with a BS in Business Administration, and 2004 she obtained her Juris Doctor from Hamlin School of Law. She will be at our Regional Show to help set up early in the week I hope you all get a chance to talk with her and give her our support as she will represent AHA and help educate & pull our Region together.

See you all at the Show...*Deb McGuire*



Rapid City Facility



Denny

AHA President's Bulletin

May 22, 2006

I am pleased to report to you that the Arabian Horse Association now has a new Executive Vice President. Gary Zimmerman, 46, a resident of Denver, assumed his duties May 17. He held his first staff meeting and is busy learning about our Association. The hiring of Gary is a significant step forward for our Association as Gary exemplifies the qualities we have been seeking in an executive leader. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors offered him the position after intensive interviews May 11 and 12. I think it is important for you to know that the selection of Gary as our new Executive Vice President was unanimous by both the Executive Committee and the Board.

The Process: Choosing our New EVP

I want to recap for you the process we followed in this important search. We had over 120 candidates and that list was narrowed by our search firm, MRI Consultants, to three candidates. The Executive Committee interviewed those candidates May 10. We were extremely impressed by the quality of the three people we interviewed. Of the three, we chose Gary to bring forward to the Board of Directors. On May 11, the Board spent nearly 90 minutes asking intense, difficult questions of Gary. When he left the meeting, the Board was uniform in support of hiring him.

Making Our Selection: Qualifications

I want to share with you the qualifications that Gary brings to our Association. He has an MBA from Denver University with an emphasis on marketing. Over a span of 20 years, he has been an executive manager with exceptional results in division, regional and corporate environments. He has proven skills in leadership, technology, consultative services, strategic planning, sales and marketing management, financial analysis, budgeting and merger situations, all to support overall business performance. He has a track record of recruiting and developing high-performance team environments. We were impressed by the fact that he has history of building business plans and then successfully executing those plans.

Prior to his AHA employment, Gary was Vice President of Business Operations for the Denver office of 180 Connect, Inc. With 105 branches and 4,000 employees, 180 Connect, Inc. is North America's largest satellite/cable/security and home technology company. He was Vice President of Operations and was responsible for security installation and services nationwide and was in charge of the operating staff and field technicians coast to coast. He has been in senior management of firms with budgets from \$10 million to \$250 million. Gary is no stranger to horses and to the world of competition. He spent summers at his family's farm in Wisconsin, riding the many horses they had. An outdoors person who enjoys recreation riding, he has owned his own horses over the years. His primary competition has been in the tennis world where he was a highly ranked player. He has also coached disadvantaged youth in previous years. He and his wife have two children, a son and a daughter.

Gary's quick and direct answers to the Board proved to be the deciding factor for all of us. He said he admired our mission that has an emphasis on enjoying our horses. Using his talents to see that we meet our mission's objectives provides a welcome challenge he told the directors. He also told our Board that he is not intimidated by situations where mergers have taken place, where there is a need for improved performance and delivery of services. We were also impressed by the fact that he recently led his former company in an Information Technology revamping. After reviewing Gary's credentials and listening to his confident explanation of what he can bring to the Arabian Horse Association, the Board and Executive Committee felt he was the best "match" for our Association. We are fortunate that Gary was available for immediate employment. His firm was re-organizing, sending its top management to New York. Gary and his family preferred to remain in Denver. While he had several offers from other companies, Gary chose to become the Executive Vice President of AHA. We're pleased that he felt the "fit" with us was good as well.

What's Next? Our Future

The hiring of a new Executive Vice President is an important step in assuring that we operate AHA more as a business with measurement tools and a sound plan of action geared to making our Association the best that it can be. Ultimately, you, as members, will reap the benefits of our efforts. We've recently gone through a re-organization at AHA. There are now four Senior Directors and departments. We have our Business Deployment Plan that was updated at the Board meeting. We know where we are going and how we are going to get there. Now we have an administrative leader to guide us in becoming the best breed association in the equine world.

Your Support is Appreciated

The past six months have been extremely busy for our Association and for me personally. As you know, I have been a "full-time" President and in the absence of an executive leader our staff has performed at a high level as we have moved toward reaching our goals, and I very much appreciate that. I want to thank Janet Holloway, a long-time staff member of AHA, for assuming the day-to-day management leadership of our Association. Indeed, we are at an important crossroad. We have accomplished something in the past six months that we have long needed, a whole new fresh approach to running our organization. When you voted for others and me on the Executive Committee, you gave us the green light to move forward with change. We've done that. I appreciate the hard work of the Board and Executive Committee. We could not have done it without your encouragement and support. You have my personal thanks for this. I also believe I speak for the Executive Committee and the Board when I say how much we appreciate your faith in our actions.

2006 Region 6 events...

SD SPRING SHOW I	7984	27-APR-06 to 28-APR-06	12-JAN-06	
SD SPRING SHOW II	7985	29-APR-06 to 30-APR-06	12-JAN-06	
ROUNDUP RONDEZVOUS I END RIDE	8162	13-MAY-06 to 13-MAY-06	12-MAY-06	Distance: 50
ROUNDUP RONDEZVOUS II END RIDE	8163	14-MAY-06 to 14-MAY-06	12-MAY-06	Distance: 50
DOUBLE THE FUN ARAB SHOW	7887	19-MAY-06 to 20-MAY-06	27-DEC-05	
MONTANA ARABIAN HORSE SHOW	7918	27-MAY-06 to 28-MAY-06	01-DEC-05	
WYOMING ARABIAN	7871	02-JUN-06 to 04-JUN-06	26-OCT-05	
ICEBREAKER I	8085	02-JUN-06 to 03-JUN-06	09-MAR-06	
FORT HOWES I ENDURANCE	8171	10-JUN-06 to 10-JUN-06	08-MAY-06	Distance: 55
REGION 6 100 MILE ENDURANCE CHAMP	8158	11-JUN-06 to 11-JUN-06	02-MAY-06	Distance: 100
FORT HOWES II ENDURANCE	8172	11-JUN-06 to 11-JUN-06	08-MAY-06	Distance: 55
REGION 6 PRE SHOW	7926	21-JUN-06 to 21-JUN-06	01-DEC-05	
REGION 6 CHAMPIONSHIP	7927	22-JUN-06 to 25-JUN-06	06-DEC-05	
SUMMER CLASSIC SPORT HORSE SHOW	8054	05-AUG-06 to 05-AUG-06	05-MAR-06	
REGION 6 SPORT HORSE OFFSITE CHAMP	8055	06-AUG-06 to 06-AUG-06	05-MAR-06	
SIOUX EMPIRE FAIR	8150	08-AUG-06 to 08-AUG-06	20-APR-06	
WYOMING STATE FAIR	8110	17-AUG-06 to 19-AUG-06	23-MAR-06	
DAKOTA FALL CLASSIC	7888	01-SEP-06 to 03-SEP-06	08-NOV-05	
COLORADO FALL CHARITY	8092	08-SEP-06 to 10-SEP-06	13-MAR-06	
SDAHA/DDE ALL ARAB SPORT HORSE SHOW	8017	01-OCT-06 to 01-OCT-06	26-JAN-06	

*Please send me news or photos from
your Club and Local events!*

AHA National Events:

Youth Nationals July 22-29 - Albuquerque, NM

Canadian Nationals August 21-26 - Regina, SK

US Nationals Oct 21-26, Louisville, KY

2006 AHA Annual Convention November 15-19, Louisville, KY

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