

ACPS Region IV Meeting – June 5, 2010
Minutes by Rachel Blalock

Region Finances:

Region finances are in good condition, though each successive year's horse show has come in slightly over budget, and has been chipping away at the reserve created by the region shows held in Tennessee several years previously. A full financial report for the Region IV 2010 show held at Pine Top Farm in Thomson, Ga, will be completed and emailed during the first two weeks of June by Treasurer Stephanie Fenton-Hickey.

National ACPS 2010 Meeting:

Meghan Buchanan-Harris is in the contact person for the National ACPS meeting on October 23, 2010, with hotel rooms and a banquet hall reserved in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriot.

The national meeting is scheduled to have two speakers, with topics including: sanctioned shows and an equine reproduction lecture. This year's meeting is not being held in conjunction with any inspections.

National Meeting Silent Auction and Region IV Basket:

An email will be going out from Mary Carole with information about silent auction items to be donated to this year's National Meeting. She is the contact person for shipment/receipt of items.

Another item to be considered along this line is the Region IV basket, as there is an award for the Best Basket compiled by regions at the National Meeting. Obviously, we want region IV to win. Each basket is themed (ours is hunting) and it'd be great to get some higher end/really unique items donated if possible.

2011 Region IV show:

General issues:

The official deadline for ideas to be sent in to the regional committee for time/date/cost/location of shows venues for next year is August 15th, 2010, with organized vote/poll to be emailed from the committee to follow by October 1st, 2010. At the October date, the venue and official show date will be set, and the remaining issues of USEF sanctioning/rating can be discussed further.

Show options suggested at the regional meeting:

- ~ Turning Point Warmbloods, Rogersville, TN Farm: Offered to donate the venue, charging stalls only, but the farm only has twenty stalls, so not big enough for the Region show, but a possibility for clinics?
- ~ Poplar Place Farm
- ~ new South Carolina Equine Park
- ~ Chickapee
- ~ Tri-State Exhibition Center, Cleveland, Tn (At this venue, if more driving classes were offered, I would think that the MTCC would be more than willing to come out and help fill out these classes and help make the show a bit more money. Also, I may know of

someone who could help with these classes if no-one else was interested/able to organize them. ~ Rachel Blalock)

Other show considerations to be included in any suggestions sent to the committee:

We definitely want to have the show in June, so that narrows down possible dates

Cost, including: stabling, jumps, ring(s), dressage supplies, etc.

Location: specific locations

Exact date in June

All Region IV 2011 show suggestions should be sent to Vanessa Morgan or Carole Moss.

Sanctioned shows: This has been a topic of discussion this year, and several difficulties and options have been discussed.

Topics include:

~ possibly only a portion of the show to be sanctioned, with only those classes being governed by the sanctioned bylaws and procedures

~ cost is a major concern, as sanctioned shows are considerably more expensive, though there is also the belief that a sanctioned show would draw a much larger number of ponies, thus offsetting the higher cost.

~ difficulties for show management, including penalties for time and procedural issues (Ca had a sanctioned show this year and ran into these problems) if the show is not run as per the USEF guidelines.

~ The 2010 Reg. IV show's in-hand classes were run this year as per USEF guidelines in an attempt to get a feel for what to expect from a fully sanctioned show, a sort of dress rehearsal for what might come up in the future.

Surveys:

Surveys were mailed to region members about events and the show, and only a very small number were returned. In order for the region to make a decision about these matters, these surveys must be filled out and returned. Without feedback the region committee cannot act in the interests of the region.

WEG, an ACPS presence in the "Irish Village", and Fundraising:

The ACPS national committee voted and approved the set up of a booth in the Irish Village at WEG this summer. The booth is likely to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, and the ACPS is asking that all regions make an effort to help with fundraising to offset this cost. Fundraising options already in effect or suggested at the meeting include:

~ "Ride to WEG", a virtual ride wherein "riders" obtain sponsors to raise money for the booth. More information on this program can be obtained through the link at the ACPS homepage, or by contacting Boots Plyler for more information.

~ Donations can be made individually or can be pooled and delivered region-wide

~ All donations are tax deductible, so be sure to keep receipts for tax purposes

~ Another option discussed was the selling of advertising space at the booth, wherein product information/business cards/flyers/etc would be placed at the ACPS booth, and could be charged for accordingly.

~ A raffle, wherein X number of stallion breedings are donated, passers-by are encouraged to purchase a raffle ticket from the booth at a dollar a piece, and whoever wins the raffle can then choose which stallion breeding they would like to use, with the breeding being good for anytime within a calendar year.

Contact Susan McConnell with any suggestions or questions about advertising space or other booth-related WEG queries.

General Notes:

Also, there is a push to match emails to names of region members in order to clarify who's who on the region email list.

Meghan Buchanan-Harris is creating a facebook page/group for our Region, if you have any suggestions, content, photos, etc, contact Meaghan for details.

Professional Photographer photos from the Region IV 2010 show are being posted to the existing facebook page specifically for the show itself. Look for "ACPS Region IV 2010 Show" or contact Carole Moss for details.