

March 2008

To the MPHE Membership:

This year has been one of excitement as we sit on the edge of historic changes within the PHBA. As some of you are aware, our General Manager for the past 22 years retired in October. Immediately, the search for a new GM began. I was very pleased to be named to the GM Search Committee so I can tell you first hand that we had a number of excellent candidates apply for this position. Mr. Brent Harnish was ultimately selected, in part because of his strong ties to the equine community, to his passion for the palomino breed, and for the vision he brought to the table. His enthusiasm is contagious. I hope you have the opportunity to meet this gentleman in the near future and to welcome him to our PHBA family.

The PHBA membership drive continues to bring in new members and ones who have not renewed their dues for a few years back to this association. There are great rewards associated with this drive for both the APAs and individuals.

The registration and transfer reduced fee period are in effect through the month of March. Please take advantage this wonderful opportunity to save money while you register your older horses.

I have heard from people across the country who shared their support of or disappointment in the point scale change. When we, the Executive Board, listened to the recommendations of the Show Task Force, we understood that this fairly large group of people who were selected or volunteered at the 2007 Convention was a cross-section of the PHBA membership, with representation across the USA, from show people, to trainers, etc. had thoroughly explored their charge and we were confident that their recommendations were based on thoughtful consideration. Although individually we may not have supported the recommended point system, we did not wish to go against the recommendation of the Task Force as they had spent 6 months exploring the issue. After the volatile response of our membership (both for and against this action), we voted to postpone implementation of the revised point scale until 2009. We have asked the Show Rules Committee to look at the point structure in terms of the ROMs, Superior awards, etc., to explore how the point system will affect them, as well. At this time, the point system will take affect in 2009. If you wish to discuss this (or any other issue) further with me, feel free to contact me via email at rherrmann@mayo.edu.

Sincerely,

Rebekah R. Herrmann