

May 4, 2006

## **April 2006 LAHSA E-News**

**Marnye Langer, President**

Welcome to another issue of the LAHSA E-News. E-mail allows LAHSA to provide regular, timely, cost effective information to its members. And speaking of members, LAHSA is growing! Despite the rainy weather these past few months, we have 697 members. This is higher than the same time last year. We ended 2005 with almost 800 members and are on target to meet or exceed that number. We are striving to make membership in LAHSA valuable to our members.

Among other things, membership in LAHSA allows you to earn points toward year end awards. Horses must also be registered with the association. If you are not the owner of the horse you are showing, make sure the horse's owner is a member as well. Additionally, LAHSA members can compete in our different medal classes: LAHSA Pony, LAHSA Horsemanship, Rosewood, LAHSA Dominion Saddlery Junior and LAHSA Dominion Saddlery Senior. The various LAHSA medal finals are among the most prestigious regional medal finals in the country. Often LAHSA "graduates" go on to top national honors. Randy Sherman and Katie Gardner are just two former LAHSA junior members who went on to national championships. Randy won the USEF (AHSA) Junior Medal Finals and Katie won the USET Talent Search - West Coast. I am sure there are many more LAHSA "Graduates" out there. If you know of one or more, e-mail us and we'll compile a list of these noteworthy champions.

LAHSA committees have been hard at work. Under David Ohringer's leadership, the Planning Committee (David, Michelle Pacyna and Larry Langer) has held numerous meetings. In May the Board of Directors will review significant Bylaws revisions and updates with the goal of keeping LAHSA a dynamic, responsive organization. I am excited about the ideas and energy coming out of the Planning Committee and applaud them for their hard work. Before final passage, members will have an opportunity to review proposed changes on the LAHSA website.

And speaking of our website, check out our new design! LAHSA Executive Director Charlotte Skinner has been diligently working with our website company, Impression Design, to provide LAHSA with an updated, informative website. Not only will members be able to access their points, but the new educational articles, these E-News reports, and other information will be available. We are still getting a few areas of the new website functional, but please go take a peak. I think you will agree with me that the new site looks terrific.

Awards sponsorship is a new area that LAHSA is adding. Under the leadership of Patty Manze, LAHSA is offering sponsorship opportunities for its year end awards categories. Year end champions will not only receive a beautiful keepsake award, but they will also now receive a perpetual trophy. Sponsors can have their name associated with a year end award division for one year, three years, or perpetuity. Interested? E-mail Patty Manze at: ([pmanze@aol.com](mailto:pmanze@aol.com)). All sponsors will be listed on the website and acknowledged in the monthly E-News. Sponsor a year end award in honor of your trainer, your favorite horse, or to commemorate last year's victory.

In our last newsletter we made a call for volunteers and we got a few responses. If there are more members who are still interested in volunteering, please e-mail me at: [marnyelanger@aol.com](mailto:marnyelanger@aol.com). Some of the areas where help is needed include:

- Any budding writers out there? There are lots of opportunities for writers.
- Does anyone have experience with Power Point or other slide show programs? We could use your talents.
- Do you like to put together scrapbooks and photo albums? LAHSA could use your talents.
- Special Projects - LAHSA has several special projects and we are looking for people to help with them.

Current points are posted to the website the first week of the month. Be sure to check your points and get any discrepancies (in writing) to the LAHSA office.

As a fun thing, let's find out what our members' favorite horse books are. E-mail me with your favorite horse story – short, novel, or non-fiction – and we'll see what our members like to read. To get you started I'll throw mine out there. When I was very little, I loved to go to the library and check out a wonderful picture book called "Polly's Oats." Walter Farley's "The Black Stallion" remains one of my all time favorite stories, and I delighted in the true exploits and adventures of Will James in his "Smoky the Cow Horse." Now I hope to hear from you!

Have fun showing and I hope to see and meet many of you. Remember that Mother's Day is in May. Don't forget all those wonderful moms out there who show, cheer us on while we show, and are always there for each and every one of us.

## END ##

Dominion Saddlery is proud to be a continuing sponsor of LAHSA and we know that looking your best is important for you and your horse. Therefore, Dominion is opening our own in-house Custom Shop. Here you can look through your favorite companies' catalogs and swatch books with guidance from one of our expert team members. Brands you know and trust, like E. Vogel boots, Grand Prix hunt coats, Blue Ribbon blankets, Triple Crown blankets, Tally Ho luggage and trunk covers, Phoenix West trunks, and more!

Please call us for an appointment (818-842-4300), e-mail us at [Dsaddlery@aol.com](mailto:Dsaddlery@aol.com), or visit us at [www.dominionsaddlery.com](http://www.dominionsaddlery.com).

### **Coming Soon on the new LAHSA website...**

#### **Excerpt from "Pacing Yourself" by Karen Briggs:**

Having a sense of pace is an important consideration whether you're competing in the jumper ring or in the small pony hunters. We asked successful rider and trainer, Gary Young, how you can learn to pace yourself.

We've all heard about exercise riders at the racetrack who have 'clocks in their heads'. Seems they can gallop a quarter-mile and estimate down to a fifth of a second how fast their horse has been going -- without ever looking at a watch. But having a sense of pace isn't just a useful skill on the backstretch. It's also an essential part of competing in any sport in which the clock is ticking... or the judge is watching. (Complete article will be available online at the LAHSA website.)