

LAHJA E-News **January/ February 2009**

Welcome to the first LAHJA E-News of 2009! The LAHJA Communication Committee hopes to bring you regular, informative news every month via your e-mail. We will also post the e-news on the LAHJA website (www.lahja.org). As always we welcome your feedback. Let us know what you like about the current E-News and what you'd like to see.

2009 Board of Directors

Last fall a few new directors joined the LAHJA Board of Directors. The board meets about eight times a year and oversees the administration of LAHJA. The Board is supported by a large and active group of committees. Serving on a committee is a great way to get involved and help your association. Below is the 2009 Board of Directors:

Marnye Langer - President		Kay Altheuser - Vice President
David Ohringer - Treasurer		Carolyn Biava - Secretary
Sterling Champ	Raizy Goffman	James Hagman
Stephanie Haney	Larry Langer	Karen Lucian
Karen Perlow	Shelly Postel	Sandrine Seifert
Lisa Winn	Betsy Woods	

Charlotte Skinner - Executive Director

E-mail addresses for all of the above are listed on the LAHJA website.

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for all our winners at the year-end banquet. A great big "Hurrah!" to David Ohringer and his Banquet Committee for organizing a great evening. Another "Hurrah!" to Lisa Winn and her Awards Committee for the fabulous array of awards and ribbons.

Bella Peyser took photos at the banquet, and if you are interested in ordering keepsake photos, visit: www.bpeyserphoto.com.

All year-end champions are listed on the LAHJA website: <http://www.lahja.org/points.php>

Congratulations to Laura Ware our 2008 LAHJA Horsemastership Scholarship winner. Laura was presented with a \$2,500 scholarship she will use toward her schooling at UCLA. Look for Laura this year in the Amateur ring! Ali Ohringer, the 2007 winner, finished as reserve champion and added another \$1,500 to her college fund. Complete results will be listed on the LAHJA website.

President's Message - Marnye Langer

Our 2009 show season has gotten off to a bit of a tough start. The LAEC Opener was greeted with sunshine, warm weather, and lots of entries. Verdugo Hills 1 had to be cancelled because of weather, and then Gold Coast 1 was fairly small due to all the doom and gloom weather reports

leading up to the show. However, those who showed had a great time.

Camelot February is up next followed by Verdugo Hills 2. Let's hope that both of those shows are successful. For a complete list of all shows: <http://www.lahja.org/pdf/2009%20Calendar.pdf>

Lots of people are nervous about the economy and fortunately LAHJA offers people an opportunity to show on a bit more of a budget than showing primarily on the A circuit. Many LAHJA shows have classes for groups of exhibitors on one day, and the multiple day shows allow most people to sleep at home, thus saving on hotel and other travel expenses. However, LAHJA shows are not lacking in quality. Each person must make decisions based on his or her particular circumstances, but I am proud to know that LAHJA provides affordable showing opportunities while maintaining very high standards. I hope each of you is able to reasonably pursue your riding goals this year.

What is the judge thinking?

Have you ever wondered what the judge is thinking, or how judges feel about certain things? We took the liberty of asking some USEF judges questions about their judging and things they look for in the performance of a horse and rider. In the next few issues of the LAHJA E-News we are going to share their comments with you. We hope you will find these comments from judges both interesting and instructive.

First up, braiding. With people looking carefully at their expenditures, the question of braiding often arises. So, to help you make the decision of "to braid or not to braid?" we asked the following question of some judges:

Question: Since braiding is not required in the USEF rules, what is your opinion about braiding or not?

"I think braiding is WAY over rated. When do braids make a horse jump better? I do think they should be braided for finals and rated sections." Sue Ashe

"I like the tidiness and the formality, but I don't penalize someone for not braiding. I braided my own, so that was a way to save money. (We used to walk barefoot through the snow too!)" Gardner Powell

Since there are no rules about braiding in the rule book, braiding is more about the tradition of the show ring.....tradition is not legislated, but it is an important part of the horse show world. Right now, I feel that it's okay not to braid at all even at the "AA" shows and Medal Finals, because of the present economy. The most important thing to remember is if a horse is unbraided, the mane and tail MUST be neat and trim and well-groomed." Penny Carpenter

"I think the myth that judges penalize you for not braiding is unfounded. I do expect that a horse be turned out to the nines and have a neatly pulled mane." Marnye Langer

"It is fine to not braid for unrated classes. However, at a hunter-type medal finals, appropriate

presentation of the horse demands braiding.” Mike Nielsen

“I think horses should be braided for all medal finals. It goes along with the well turned out workmanlike appearance. It's okay not to braid for unrated classes, but it ALWAYS looks better if the mane is done at least. Should I judge in jeans because I'm trying to save money? If you are worried about the expense, learn to braid. After all it is a HORSE SHOW, not a schooling session.”
Debbie Sands

“Turn out is important, and I would probably want to know why a horse wasn't braided for an important class, but the best performance wins. Therefore braiding may become a tie breaker.”
Katie Young

“Since braiding is not required, it should not be penalized. As tradition has it, however, the rated sections have always had horses show braided. For major events such as medal finals, or for certain sections like the conformation classes, it is still generally expected that horses will be braided as part of being "well turned out" for that event. But, if one is not I do not let that affect my judging because you never know what might have happened behind the scenes that day. The braider may have become ill, the groom misread the list, a trailer broke down, who knows? My only comment is that it does take a little bit away from the overall impression of being properly turned out for the class, and that could become a tie breaker.” Chrystine Tauber

Afterthoughts

The LAHJA Communication Committee is charged with overseeing communications about LAHJA topics and issues. This involves communicating with both LAHJA members and appropriate magazines. Please let a member of the Communication Committee know of any ideas or feedback you may have. They are:

Marnye Langer - Chairman (marnyelanger@aol.com)

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Karen Perlow (kperlow41@gmail.com)

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Thank you to LA Saddlery, sponsor of the LAHJA Junior and Senior Medal Finals. Be sure to stop by and tell Renee or Tabitha “Thanks for the support!”. <http://www.lasaddlery.com/>

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