2015 ASHA AGM
Radisson Inn, Calgary, AB
April 18, 2015

President Norm Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm, with quorum reached.

Norm Kennedy stated Bill Andrew has offered to chair the meeting.

In attendance on board – Bill Andrew, Norm Kennedy, Rod Starkewski, Ryan Grundy, John Hind, Connie Kolthammer.

Bill Andrew announced that there are board members not available due to racing in BC. He also let everyone know about the change in office address for ASHA.

Approval of 2014 AGM Minutes

John Hind motioned the approval of the minutes from the 2014 AGM. Carl Archibald seconded the motion.

- MOTION CARRIED

Financial Report – John Hind, Secretary/Treasurer

John Hind reviewed the Audited Financial Statements ending December 31st 2014 and reported that we are $250 000.00 over spent but that was anticipated, when HRA cut grants we made a conscious decision to put $180,000 to balance off purses. $70,000 was further required to assist with the operations of Lacombe to complete the race meet. Due to some good budgeting from the past, we had the money to help us get through a tough year.
John moved for approval of the financial statement as presented. Cathy Coonfer seconded.

Question from Sam Johnson to explain the equity we have in UHA

A. John Hind: In 2003, we invested $200,000 in CREG, then they aided UHA and that went into shares, we are just sitting down and working the shares out. Out of 600 shares, ASHA has approx 240. The objective of the money was to get a racetrack and we got one, but we will have to resolve the exact detail of the shares.

In the final analysis, ASHA will have a (small) equity position
Bill Andrew asked for any further questions.

- MOTION CARRIED

President's Report- Bill Andrew for Norm Kennedy

Bill Andrew reported that last year we raced for 3.8 million dollars. Stake money was 1.7 million and bonus was 130,000. Projections should go up by 20%, and stakes up about 10% and AB bonus will go up as well. ASHA and other associations such as the quarter horse community and the thoroughbred have come forward with purse increases by approximately 20% year over year. We are also racing 106 days this year over 92 last year, on a per day bases we are over 20% increase. Completion of the projection happened before the machines started. HRA and AGLC are monitoring the situation and it is looking positive.

There are going to be some difficult discussions with AGLC and the provincial government as we are nearing the end of our agreement on the slots at racetracks with a racino model. With a new agreement, we are setting the stage for an exciting time in Western Canada. Century Downs has plans to expand the backstretch in the fall of 2016, or early 2017 to have a barn

area for training. Don Monkman and Century Downs are doing their best to get everything completed despite the changes in the weather. The first priority is the Casino, as that is where the money will come from. Two years ago, AGLC was worried about the amount of people that would be coming to the casino, now they are worried about having enough room for both casino patrons, and racing fans, but this is a good problem to have. As far as the money is concerned, we are a lot ahead of where we were two years ago and, a tremendous amount better from 3 years ago and leagues ahead of where we were when we raced Stampede.

HRA Breeders Report- Jim Rhodes

Jim Rhodes reported there is a new board happening at HRA. There will now be one representative from each racing group and the tracks, as well as independent directors.

On the breeding side is the reflection of the uncertainty in the industry, by severe reduction in the breeding stock for both Standardbreds and Thoroughbred, in both Canada and the USA. Quebec left the racing business. Ontario has had crippling issues. BC has had breeding issues, and we have all lived here trying to make ends meet over the last 9 – 10 years. As part of HRA and ASHA going forward, we need to look at how we keep our breeders in the game and bring on the next generation of breeders. We want more young breeders and we need to make the conditions right.

ASHA Breeders – Connie Kolthammer

Connie Kolthammer thanked all the breeders who have hung in the last 9-10 years since it has been a struggle. The breeders need to keep racing going. We need to promote breeders to stay, and we need new blood to go after the available dollars that are here.

We have stakes in place, with payments due May 15th. There is about $1,900,000.00 in stakes, so there is some incentive there. The (ASHA Yearling) sale is Sept 4th 2015 therefore; the deadline is now May 1st of this year to enter your yearlings for the sale.

Thanks again to everyone who has continued to breed. Good racing and move forward to bigger and better things.

Bill Andrew added information for the Stakes Nominations and the plan is by 2017 to have signature open stakes: two for Edmonton and two for Calgary.

Owners Committee – Diane Bertrand (absent)

Bill Andrew - We have to get going on the owners committee with some initiatives to keep who we have and get new owners into the business; the same as the breeders committee. There are thoughts to have some barbeques or something for anyone that is interested in getting into the business, we need people like trainers etc. to get people from the front (grandstand) to the back to let people look at it all in order to really see what we're all about, and generate more interest.

Driver and Trainers Committee – Brandon Campbell (absent)

Norm Kennedy requested a little more professionalism by industry participants, by a clean and tidy appearance.

New Business/Question Period

Darcy Marler, president of UHS and Century Downs stated he is stepping down at the end of the month as his job was to get a new track in southern Alberta, Calgary and we are here. He thanked ASHA most notably Norm, Fred, and Bill, for all of their support over the past few years.

Paul Ryneveld then spoke of the progress of the building of the new racetrack, with surface/material and stabilizing components recently added. The barns are still under going construction, and plan for the Casino is to set up to accommodate 5000 people for the races on opening day. He was hopeful for a good day and hoping for great weather.

Darcy Marler added assurance for the racetrack to be what spectators would want for a first class "A " track facility.

Q. When racing starts, are we going to be able to ship in on Friday night and stay over to race our horses for the weekend? ANSWER: We will have to address that when we can

Q. What is the situation on the simulcast signal going out to other venues? ANSWER: We are pretty much into every facility in Canada. Dot Stein, of Rocky Mountain Turf, has been selling the signal while we have been working on getting the track done. HPI will have us on so there will be video streaming. A number of locations in the United States have also signed on to carry our signal. On opening day, 100 other venues should have our signal, additionally to the Alberta OTB locations. We have been at Tucson to advertise and promote Century, so that everyone is aware of who we are and who you are. So we've done some ground work to create awareness here, we have a lot more to do but I am very happy with the response to our signal since we don't even have it up here yet. Our production will be in HD video so that will be good as well. It will send out in HD, not everyone will have HD equipment to receive the HD, but the signal will be there. There is a lot of work yet, but it is a good start. The live feed should get up on the website, our IT department will get that figured out as soon as they can, but we have many other priorities right now.

Q. When will lights be installed on the track? ANSWER: 2017 is the target for on track lighting, but Bill's calendar might be right, it may be 2018, but we will start at 5:30 pm, for now, to take advantage of the daylight.

Q. Will that be contingent on demand? ANSWER: It is contingent on the business and demand. We see that there is obviously a demand for Wednesday and Friday nights. For now, we can only speculate how much the demand is, and we are not putting lights up right away as, again, there are other priorities right now.

Q. Will racing late in the fall be in the afternoons? ANSWER: Yes, if you look at the schedule that we will be going earlier, to 2 pm on Fridays to take advantage of the daylight, then the last week we go from 2 pm to 1 pm.

There were no further questions.

Fred Gillis brought forth additions from Diane Bertrand as Owners Chair, and as a representative for Standardbred Canada. She has been working diligently to have ASHA, HRA and Century Downs secure support to put a bid on a leg of the World Driving Championship. A bid will be put in for this venture.

Diane was seeking a hotel/motel for a special "horsemen's" type rate. Diane and Orianna have secured a rate at the new Motel 6. They offer horsemen a rate on a standard room (One queen bed) for $96.00 and a rate for 2 queen beds for $100.00.

There has also been some work done on offering horsemen additional (health) insurance that they can secured for themselves. On the ASHA website, there will (soon) be a link on the insurance box, and there will we extra insurance from Green Shield. There are six different price categories available offering: dental, vision care etc.

Darcy Marler added that as far as hotels, they are finalizing a contract for a 120 room hotel that should be completed in 2016 as well.

Q. On the Early Bird stake entries, we switched over from Eliminations and final to Divisions. ANSWER: They were meant to be eliminations and finals but we are squeezed for time due to the track conditions. We cannot stretch the back end of the stakes in the race meet, because we start running into finals, so the decision was made at the last board meeting to run the way we are now.
The purse structure is as follows:
For two divisions it will be $16,500; if it is three divisions it should be $11,000 but will attempt to make it $14,000. The Overnights will be very close to $55,000 a day, similar to the BC model.

Q. What was the purse structure based on? ANSWER (Shirley McLellan) It is based on projections; we based purse structure on slot revenue being 10 dollars per hour and some thought we were too high.

Q- What is the process if in 6 months from now that revenue changes? Are we looking at adjusting if we are up still? ANSWER (Shirley McLellan) I would say no. Like any company, we should have a financial cushion. I want to see a cushion built up so that in the event of something negative happening, we have it there for you. For 2016 and 2017, I am sure we will have higher revenue from the slot machines. This year, we only have 9 months of the casino to base the figures, instead of the usual 12 months.

There was further discussion on purse increases and strengthening the industry.

Amendment to by-laws

Bill Andrew brought up that ASHA talked to Century Downs in about October or November on the best way to handle liability insurance at the racetracks. Racetracks do not want the expense of carrying liability insurance. Fred went out and talked to a few insurance carriers as well as whom Century is using for their other insurance needs. What we are proposing is that in order to race at Century Downs, and they will enforce this, if you are a participant, trainer, driver, groom, owner, breeder, who goes to the backstretch or uses the facility, you must have liability insurance. The best way to do this is to go through ASHA. We can offer more for less that you could on your own.
The proposed rule change is as follows:

Proposed change to the By Laws of the
Alberta Standardbred Horse Association.

Currently, under membership 3. b) I. states the following:

Full Membership - an applicant is eligible for full membership if that applicant or that applicant's spouse is a registered owner or lessee of a registered Standardbred horse or a trainer or driver currently licensed by the Alberta Racing Corporation.

The following is *the proposed* change:

Full Membership – an applicant is eligible for full membership if that applicant, or that applicant's spouse, is a registered owner, or lessee, or a trainer, driver, grooms or breeder of a registered Standardbred horse currently licensed by Horse Racing Alberta. Full membership is also available to Veterinarians, Farriers, and Trades people licensed by Horse Racing Alberta, associated with Standardbred racing.

We have created an umbrella policy to cover as many people as possible, for as financially reasonable as possible for everyone.

Motion made to approve the amendment to the by-laws by Sam Johnson Motion seconded by Al Goertzen.

Blair Corbeil asked if you are required to be a full member of ASHA to race [at Century Downs]. ANSWER- No you can carry your own 5 million dollar liability.

Peter Morris asked if there is a card to show to make sure you are valid. ANSWER: We are working on that.

Blair stated that many people were not aware of this recent change and Fred Gillis replied there was a meeting at Northlands and tried to tell everyone. Additionally it is posted on the website.

Q – How much is the liability for each person? ANSWER: Fred Gillis– $8200 based on membership. More members more cost. Group insurance cannot be as financially reasonable, so we did it as a group for everyone. We thought this would be most beneficial to the members. There is no requirement if you have your own insurance of liability for 5 million dollars.
No further questions asked.

- MOTION CARRIED

ELECTIONS
Vice President (Two-Year Term)
Bill Andrew – acclaimed

Secretary/ Treasurer (Two-Year Term)
John Hind – acclaimed

Breeders Chair (Two-Year Term)
Connie Kolthammer – acclaimed

Director (Two-Year Term)
Nominated: Rod Starkewski
Karen Bannister
Harold Haining

Elected- Rod Starkewski

Director (Two-Year Term)
Nominated: Sam Johnson
Ryan Grundy
Harold Haining
Karen Bannister
Elected – Sam Johnson

Director (Two-Year Term)
Nominated: Ryan Grundy
Blair Corbeil
Harold Haining
Karen Bannister
Elected – Ryan Grundy

Elevtion of Three Members of the Breeder's Committee (Three-Year Term)
Nominated: GG Van Ostrand
Harold Haining
Terry McIsaac
Cathy Coonifer
Gordon Empey
Blair Corbeil

Elected – ***Terry McIsaac***
Blair Corbeil
Cathy Coonifer

Motion to destroy the ballots – John Hind – Second Karen Bannister – Carried

Any more questions – No questions.

Motion to adjourn – Al Goertzen Second Colleen Haining

Meeting Adjourned.