

FROM THE CENTER OF THE RING

JUNE 9, 2011

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The Education and Clinic Committee, along with the Judges and Stewards Committee, in an effort to enhance our awareness of horses, general knowledge of our wonderful breed, and horses in general, including everything related to judging and stewarding, present this newsletter for your consideration. We cordially invite all PFHA Officials to submit and share your opinions, comments, articles, and any information that may benefit our Association. This, in our opinion, is the forum to enhance our general knowledge, by sharing information.

FROM DR. JOSE M. LARACUENTE CHAIR, PFHA EDUCATION AND CLINIC COMMITTEE



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INTERNATIONAL JUDGE'S WORKSHOP BY: BETSY MCHUGH

Upon approach to the San Juan International Airport, the enchanted island of Puerto Rico reveals itself as an extraordinary and vital place. Teaming with life, the colorful and passionate feeling seems to envelope the aircraft. The weekend of April 8th and 9th brought together Confepaso judges for the annual regional certification seminar, and proved the premonition correct.

An excellent slate of presenters provided a high level of learning and venue for lively discussion. Well known actress Johanna Rosaly began our session with her insights regarding effective communication.

Her style and ability to "act out" the characteristics of public speaking - both good and bad - was a very useful tool for the participants. Use of the microphone was explained and demonstrated as well and put many nervous judges at ease.

The Modalities of Trocha, Trocha y Galope and Trote y Galope were presented by Dr. Rolando Colon Nebot. The doctor's impressive and thorough examination laid to rest many disputed opinions surrounding equine locomotion. With his world-class level of expertise and his incredible visual aids - fact replaced opinion - an essential element in the world of judging.



JUDGES FROM THE CONFEPASO WORKSHOP IN PUERTO RICO

INTERNATIONAL JUDGE'S WORKSHOP (CONT'D)

Equitation was revisited by Raul Aponte and the rule book was examined. It was determined that some work was needed there. A committee to review the current text and attempt to make the scoring system more useable and accurate was formed.

The always stimulating and engaging Carmen Cepero educated the judges on the Paso Pleasure and Paso Performance divisions. With her background as a doctor of education, she was able to clearly establish usable guidelines for future use as judges new to these divisions embark at officiating said classes. Focusing on the specific attributes of

each type of animal gave participants concrete images to look for when judging.

“Lively discussion was an excellent teacher as all attendees absorbed and discussed the horses working.”

reasons why some characteristics are considered desirable or undesirable.

Willman Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Asociacion Puertorriquena de Criadores de Caballos de Paso Fino de America, Los Abiertos was our gracious host and work horse



as well as presenter of the Confepaso rule amendments and updates. A full day in the classroom was just the right thing to prepare everyone for the next day of live horse learning.

On Saturday, all assembled at the beautiful farm owned and operated by Los Abiertos. The lovely setting was only matched by the excellence of the grounds, stables and arena. Live horses were presented in Bella Forma, Troche, Trote, Galope as well as Pleasure, Performance and Equitation. Lively discussion was an excellent teacher as all attendees absorbed and discussed the horses working.

Willman Rodriguez provided a high level of learning and interaction that will enable the group of judges to excel in their duties as officials. The quality of the information delivered as well as the excellence of the participants and presenters is the reason Confepaso continues to grow. As we learn together - we grow together as horseman, colleagues and friends.

REMINDERS FOR JUDGES

Restriction on Judge's Presence. At back-to-back shows, that is, two or more shows occurring at the same time over the same set of contiguous days involving PFHA approved classes; a Judge may not be present on the show grounds at any time before the day he or she officiates.

Learner Judge or Steward. Certified Judges and Stewards having Learner Judges or Stewards working with them shall send their findings on the qualifications of the Learner Judge or Learner Steward to the Judges and Stewards Committee within 15 days after said show. **Failure to do so shall subject the Certified Judge or Steward to an appropriate fine.**

Payment of Dues. All the Judge and Steward annual renewal dues must be paid not later than September 30 each year. If the Judge or Steward does not pay the renewal dues by September 30, then the renewal will be permitted only if the Judge or Steward pays the renewal dues



and late fee by October 31 of that year. **A Judge or Steward that is delinquent in the payment of dues, after October 31 of any given year, will be removed from the list of approved Judges/Stewards and be required to reapply for inclusion to the list of approved Judges/Stewards under the current procedures for new applicants.**

Applicants Subject to Same Rules. All rules of conduct for Certified Judges and Stewards also shall apply to Applicant Judges and Stewards.

Applicant Judge is Not Involved in Class Placements. An Applicant Judge shall not take action which could influence the Judge's decision on any entry being judged in a class. Discussion about horses, procedures and applying of the

rules may take place during the course of the class, but are encouraged to leave the majority of the conversation until the class has been pinned. **At the discretion of the Senior Certified Judge and under his/her supervision, the Applicant Judge may be required to call a class per Division.**

When Conversation Crosses The Line

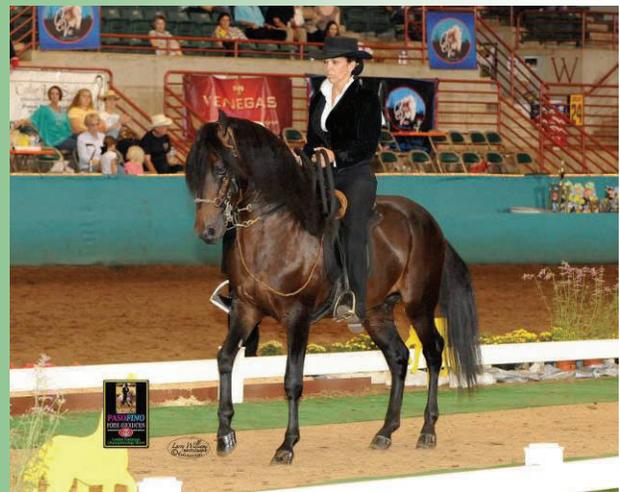
By Bill Moroney

If you have been around the horse business for any length of time, you have heard stories which call into question the integrity of our judges and exhibitors. We have all attended horse shows and seen for ourselves instances that make us ponder whether the interaction between a judge and an exhibitor seems "not quite right." You don't want to think the worst, but there is something about the situation that brings out our human nature and makes us wonder, "What if...?" In order to make a determination on when a situation crosses the line, we have to look into our sport and investigate and discuss its traditions and realities.

As members of the judging community, we would like to think that our faith in our judges is well placed and rarely compromised, and we believe this to be true in most instances. However, we do feel that there are situations that can give people pause and open the door to the insecurities of human nature and provide opportunity for that can give people pause and open the door to the insecurities of human nature and provide opportunity for members of our community to question the motives of both judges and exhibitors. Usually, if the onlooker was able to hear the exchange between the official and the exhibitor, that person would find that it is innocent and not even related to the event at hand or any of the competitors.

Since we cannot always be close enough to hear a conversation between two individuals without the use of the latest high-tech spyware, our community

must focus on perception. Perception is one of the most important elements of our entire community. The old adage "a picture is worth a thousand words" speaks volumes to our integrity. For many years, tradition included good manners towards the judges, and if you speak to the venerable members of our community, part of showing your good manners is to introduce yourself to the judges and make conversation. Over the years, as the sport has grown, our community realized that in order to avoid the perception that something nefarious was occurring, it was decided that any exchange between the judges and competi-



tors should be kept to a minimum and brief. What we are experiencing now is a clash of the old traditions and the new realities.

When Conversation Crosses The Line (cont)

Reality is that we participate in a sport, and regardless of how well you understand the sport and your level of involvement, there will always be others who would rather have an excuse for not winning prizes or accolades than to admit they just need to work harder or someone else was better that day.

So to reduce the opportunities for misperception to occur and integrity of all parties to excel, we have to remember to agree to comport ourselves with this in mind. As a community, we need to accept that it is okay to greet our judges, but we must limit our conversation to a greeting and maybe a couple of casual remarks not related in any way, even generally, to the competition, judging issues or topics, or our horses and riders. Conversation on competition, judging topics, or horses and riders is strictly off limits, and could cause the competitor to violate GR702.1e (forbidding "approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the show committee or steward/technical delegate..."). The amount of time spent in the presence of the judge should not exceed the time required to be mannerly and offer or return a greeting, which should rarely be more than several minutes. We should also consider the appropriate time and place for such limited greetings. For example, the chances for misperception increase significantly if the conversation takes place just before the judge enters the ring for a class that involves a horse or rider affiliated with the person doing the greeting.

To help our officials, at National Championships and special events, we must sequester them from the exhibitors by providing areas that are secure from the event participants and escorts to get them to and from the ring without being compromised. Exhibitors need to do their part to understand and adhere to these policies, as well.

We also need to recognize that sometimes, our event sponsors would like to meet the judges and this requires their attendance at pre-event activities. In these situations, we must make sure the officials have a designated escort to help them navigate the crowd.

The integrity of our judging system is the responsibility of our entire equestrian community, officials and competitors alike. Our venerable horsemen will need to amend the traditions they learned as young horsemen and our young horsemen will need to learn to be better participants in our sport. Unfortunately, perception and human nature have taken away some of the very traditions that our sport was founded upon, but in their place, if everyone can take a minute to think about their actions, just maybe we can dispel the misperceptions regarding the integrity of our judging system.

“Perception is one of the most important elements of our entire community.”



What Does A Steward Do?

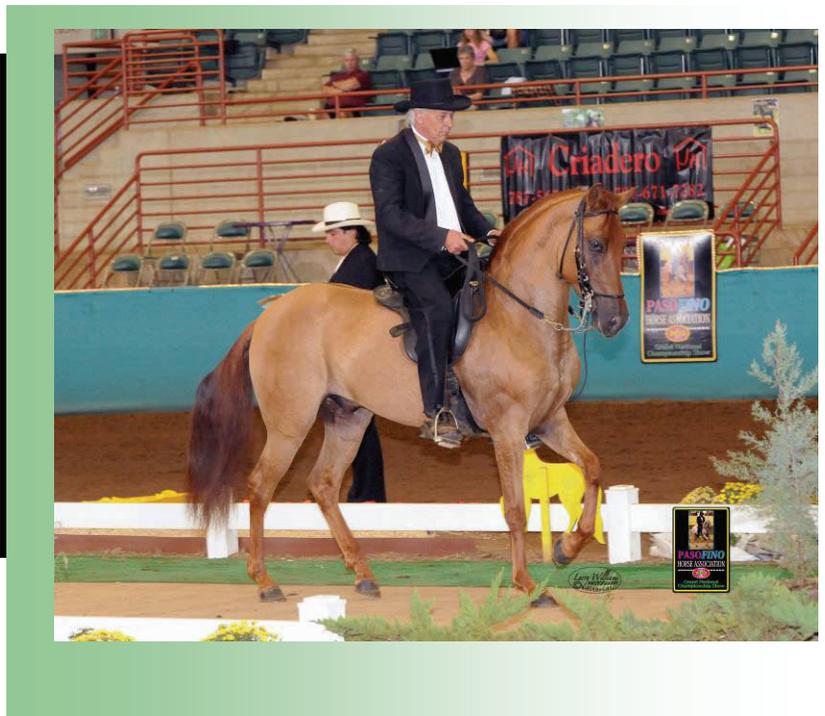
By Patti Blichmann

I was recently asked by a member to give a quick 101 on what Stewards do, I had to stop and think how to make it quick. I couldn't make it quick because there is quite a lot Stewards do that members don't see, so I will attempt to give as briefly as possible a 101 Steward Responsibility. First off we have to protect the interest of Exhibitors, Judges and Show Management. The main job of the Steward is to make sure everything runs according to the rules but we have responsibilities other than just checking tack and attire. A good Steward is diplomatic, has a good temperament for dealing with upset and irate people and able to multitask.

As a Steward I personally like to stay as much as possible at the In Gate to watch for tack or attire problems. If I can catch it early then I can have the exhibitor make changes. I also watch and listen to make sure class procedures are followed especially in Equitation and Specialty Classes. Exhibitors know if they have a question about the rules they can find me at the gate so they don't have to search for me and if the judges have a question in the ring I am close by and the show is not held up waiting on me to arrive. At the same time I try to help the gatekeeper and

paddock masters to keep the show moving as much as possible.

Of course everyone knows that the Stewards must know the rules, usually both PFHA and USEF. (USEF Category "C" Steward must also take a test on all the other breeds included in the USEF rulebook except Hunter/Jumper related divisions). The Steward's job actually begins before the show and continues until after the show ends. All paperwork for USEF needs to be ordered ahead of time so we have it with us when we arrive at the



show.

The Judges cards both PFHA and USEF need to be current and are usually checked

What Does A Steward Do? (cont'd)

beforehand online, if a problem with a Judge's card or if a Guest card is needed it can be found early and usually be resolved before the show.

USEF sends to the Steward a Prize List Comments; we have to check to see what problems were found by USEF and if necessary get it changed by the Show Management before the show or when we arrive check to make sure the changes were made by Show Management.

In the morning before the show starts the Stewards walk the barns to make sure the stalls are suitable, check that warm up arenas and other training areas are adequate for footing and lighting. We also check for Sharps containers in the barns. The show arena is checked for footing problems, sounding board is checked for safety, any banners hanging around that may need to be tied down or any other safety issue resolved before the first class begins.

If there are allegations of rule violations or abuse the Steward must investigate and report to Show Management and when necessary file Protests and Charges. Also Warning Cards can be given for lesser offenses that do not require a Protest or Charge.

We check entry forms for signatures or misrepresented horses or members, to make sure memberships are current.

If an accident with a horse or rider happens we fill out an Accident Report with the Medical Personnel. If a concussion happens we have to make sure there is a Doctors release before the exhibitors can show again.

After the show finishes the PFHA and USEF Steward reports have to be completed and sent, accident reports and medication reports sent and then we can relax until the next show. So if you want to become a Stew



ard remember it is more than just checking tack and attire.

PROFESSIONALISM Part 2

I Hate To Beat a Good Horse With Poor Presentation

By Wayne Hipsley

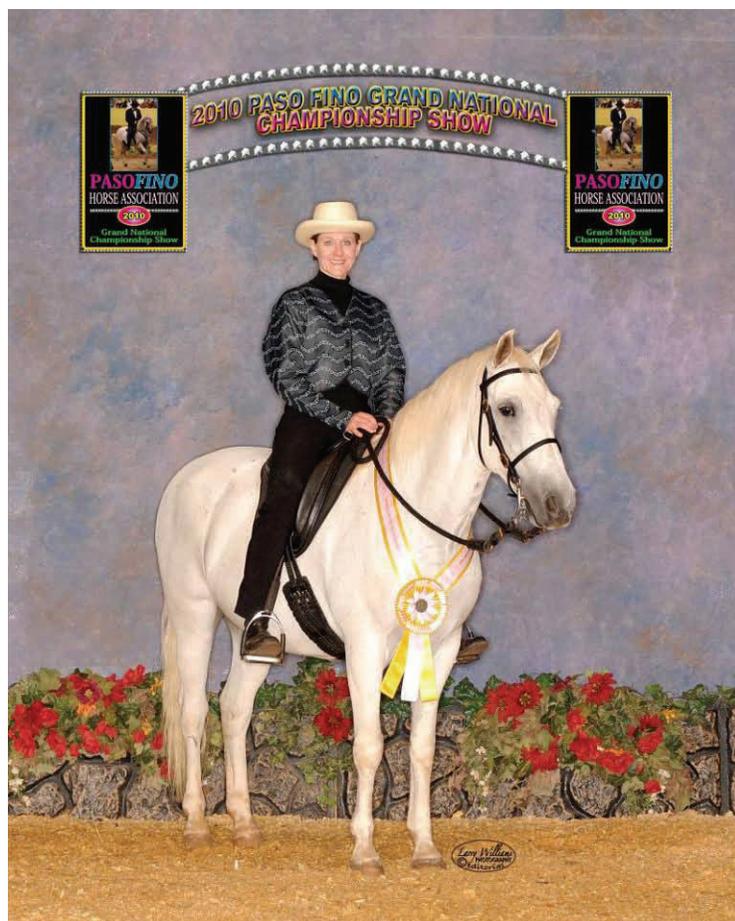
Showing in the in-hand breed divisions of horse shows means presenting the best possible image and movement for a horse. Time is short as judges only spend 25 to 45 seconds actually viewing each entry in a halter class. Do the math, if they took longer, the judging of the halter would take all day.

As judges see the ranks of amateurs and youth grow, the numbers of inexperienced handlers increase as they attempt to present their horses. Some are quite good, professional all the way, whereas others lack the competency for presenting their horses.

Frequently, judges encounter a class where the competition is keen, and the differences in the final placing is a very narrow marginal. Yet, the gap widens considerably when horses are presented poorly. Judges will see everything from poor setup with cocked legs to behavioral issues of not standing. And remember "If they don't care enough to present the best, than how can a judge be expected to present the horse with the best ribbon". And the other one which we see from time to time, "Its hard to judge a moving target."

Depending upon the show, the judge might mention to the exhibitor, "Had the horse been shown more correctly, it would have placed higher." But, we are reminded of the same old issues in the US of not talking to the exhibitors. In the rest of the world, tips/pointers are welcomed as the judge presents the ribbons. Either way, pick your show and situation to make these comments.

Good horses can be beat by poor showmanship/presentation.



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH Part 2

Adjustment to Multiple Judged Shows

By Wayne Hipsley

Many judges find judging multiple judged shows the rule and no longer the exception. The day of the single day, one judge show is almost history in many parts of the US for many breeds and disciplines. Yet, there are many non-sanctioned open shows that still employ a single judge on the day. And from those ranks come many new judges, new to the multiple judge environment.

So, when teams of judges are hired by shows, little regard is made to the levels of experience and the group chemistry. Very few judges will turn down shows where there are personal conflicts or there is no feeling of mutual respect. It is about the "gig" and tolerance will be keynote for operations.

Consider this example of lack of chemistry and intimidation:

A major national breed show held in Ft Worth has 6 judges on its panel. One of the judges is very prominent, and considered an authority on many different elements of the breed and show disciplines. He is the call judge for a working cow horse class. It is a big class, with lots of individual works.

“Very few judges will turn down shows where there are personal conflicts or there is no feeling of mutual respect. It is about the "gig" and tolerance will be keynote for operations.”



A rider comes in, performs the required reining pattern, the call judge "calls" the rider off pattern. He states this aloud for all the other judges to hear, without questioning this prominent judge, all the others follow suit, zero score. The class is protested, and the video tape is used to review the performance. And upon review, the rider is found to have performed the pattern correctly. The judges had to re-score the pattern based upon the video of performance, because the judges failed to continue to score the horse when the call judge stated aloud the horse was off course.

Think for yourself...Think independently
Question when situations occur and the results are not as you perceived them. Never let perception to become reality.

OTHER PASO MODALITIES

QUALIFYING GAITS: **Trocha** is the typical way of movement, considered a gait, for some horses which is measured in a rhythmical and harmonious tempo but in four uneven beats, identified by the four beats when the sequence of the cycle is performed. Its sound follows a 1-1-1-1 rhythm. **Galope** or canter is a movement of forward diagonal propulsion in three beats: the first stage begins with the striking of one hind leg; the second stage is taken by the opposite hind leg and the foreleg diagonal to it; then the third stage is completed when the last foreleg hits the ground. The beat makes a 1-2-3, 1-2-3 sound. **Trote** is the movement described by successive and alternating diagonally paired leg positions or bipeds executed in two beats, which produces a striking sound when making contact with the ground. It sounds like a 1-2, 1-2 sound.

PROCEDURES: Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse. Horses must work both directions. In the case of horses that execute two gaits (Trote and Galope or Trocha and Galope) they will perform both gaits at the request of the judges. The change of direction will be made toward the center of the ring in an area that does not exceed ten feet, returning to the rail in the opposite direction. In the case of the Galope gait, as they execute the gait and change direction, they must do so in the correct lead. Failure to take the correct lead, loss of cadence, turning on the front legs or pivoting with the hind legs will be penalized. Horses may be asked to travel the sounding board.



After the lineup, horses will be asked to perform individual tests; Figure of eight, Back and traveling the Sounding board in both directions. Failure to follow the order of the tests will be penalized.

PERCENTAGES: 75% Execution and Naturalness of the Gait 15% Appearance and way of Going, 10% Manners

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