

AMHA News

A Note to Our Readers

You will notice that your *Network* has once again arrived separately. Due to postal regulations, the *Network* can no longer be bound into copies of *The Morgan Horse*. But there is a bright side in this matter—you will be receiving your *Network*, filled with the latest AMHA and industry news, almost two weeks earlier! Look for it soon!

Morgan Judges Employment and Recognition Program

Faced with criticism from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Ethics, Integrity, Unity, and Sportsmanship charging that the AMHA Judging Standards are being flagrantly ignored by some of the leading Morgan judges, the AMHA Board directed the Judging Standards Committee to bring to the Board a plan to enforce adherence to the Judging Standards

by rated Morgan judges.

A task force comprised of Bob Brooks, Cindy Mugnier, and Harry Sebring was formed to research the problem. The commission survey indicated that disregard for the Judging Standards adopted by the AMHA was not limited to beginner and small "r" judges but, in fact, was often observed in the actions of our most seasoned judges.

The entire Judging Seminar program was re-evaluated and a two-part plan was put forth for approval by the Judging Standards Committee and later the Board of Directors.

In response to the Board's direction, the Judging Standards Committee presented the Judges Employment and Recognition program designed to (a) promote public awareness of the qualifications of individual judges, (b) improve the perception of fairness and integrity at Morgan Horse Shows, (c) provide a forum, elected by the judges, responsible to stimulate recognition for superior judging performance and to adjudicate grievances concerning individual judges or judging in general.

The program for Morgan Judges Employment and Recognition will be vigorously promoted by the AMHA. An intensive program to license Morgan Horse Shows by AMHA will be initiated. A prerequisite for becoming an AMHA Recognized Show will be to share Employment Performance references prepared by a representative of show management with other AMHA shows seeking to select and hire judges.

Regional Shows will be encouraged to become AMHA Recognized Shows during 1999 and only Recognized AMHA Shows will be considered for Regional status starting in the year 2000. All other Morgan Horse Shows are being urged to become Recognized AMHA Shows in 1999.

The AMHA Morgan Judges Employment and Recognition Program is comprised of three independent phases:

I. Judges information and background packet—A system to provide an information packet regarding the qualifications and background of judges for AMHA Member Horse Show committees to use when considering judges for their next show. In addition to the Judges' Employment Record and Background Resume, the packet will include a form prepared by the judge expressing his/her comfort level with each of the sections within the breed (e.g. Park, Reining, Carriage, Western, etc.).

II. Judges' Reference Service—A system to provide AMHA Member Horse Show committees valid Employment Performance References for judges from horse shows that have previously employed them.

III. Judges' Peer Review Board—A Judges' Review Board (JRB) elected by the judges, responsible to stimulate recognition for superior judging performance, oversee matters