

pertaining to the performance or perceived performance of judges, and perform an annual review of the Employment Performance of each judge.

This program also calls for special recognition of judges receiving superior annual reviews and presentation of a special pin for five year Judging Excellence.

The program requires each AMHA Recognized Show to have Employment Performance References prepared by a qualified Reference Provider who will represent the management, or a committee of qualified Reference Providers at least 70% of whom are not exhibitors at the show. Reference Providers will observe and report on the general judging decorum of the judges and specifically on the judges' compliance with the official AMHA Judging Standards.

A system for licensing properly qualified Judges' Employment Performance Reference Providers has been developed and details for becoming an official Judges' Employment Reference Provider for show management will be announced in the November *Network*.

### More to come on Morgan Judges Education and Employment in the November issue.

The November issue of the *Network* will carry details of the agenda topics to be emphasized at the Judges' School and the Judges' Seminar and full details of how to qualify as an official AMHA Judges Employment Performance Reference Provider. Also, you will learn how your 1999 horse show can become a Recognized AMHA Horse Show. The December issue of the *Network* will spell out the duties and authority of the AMHA Judges Review Board including procedures for handling exhibitor grievances.

### Morgan Judges Education to Undergo Major Changes

The Judging Seminar program and process for obtaining an AHSA Morgan division card was re-evaluated and a plan was put forth for approval by the Judging Standards Committee and, later, the Board of Directors at the AMHA August Board Meeting.

The plan calls for revamping the concept of an AMHA Judges School to be held in actual horse show conditions. The idea was first brought forth several years ago by Peggy Alder-

man and the AMHA Professional Committee and had received extensive consideration by the Board. The updated plan now approved by the Board of Directors calls for each large "R" judge to attend two days (four sessions) of a Judges School every five years and receive a passing grade on the exam in order to retain their license.

Small "r" judges must attend a complete five session Judges School and receive a passing grade on the exam before they are promoted and, while they carry a small "r" rating, must re-attend the Judges School every three years and receive a passing grade on the exam.

Each Judges School will consist of a full academic session to review the AMHA Judging Standards with particular emphasis on those areas considered as needing extra reinforcement (i.e., Judges' responsibility to police set or crooked tails; importance of calm attitude for Classic Pleasure horses; proper cadence in Western Pleasure classes; suitability of horse to rider in Walk/Trot and Jr. Exhibitor classes, etc.). This will be followed by an actual group learner judging session at a major horse show. Judges and applicants enrolled at the school will be required to observe actual classes in progress and mark individual cards. They will then be required to discuss their decisions with the group and the official Judges School staff.

The Judges Seminar, held annually at the AMHA Convention, maintains its role as an instrumental tool in the education of judges and membership alike. Beginning in the year 2000, however, only applicants shall be required to attend the Judges Seminar in addition to the Judges School. The Judges Seminar has always maintained an open door policy and anyone interested in sitting in on the seminar is both welcome and encouraged to do so.

The proposed Judges School program will go before the AHSA Licensed Officials Committee at their November 1998 meeting for approval and incorporation into the AHSA General Rule Book's Clinic Requirements within the Morgan division (Article 1028). Upon final approval at the 1999 AHSA Convention in January, the new clinic requirements would go into effect March 1, 1999. The AMHA will keep its judges and members apprised of the clinic requirements status as well as the date and location of the 1999 Judges School via the monthly *Network*.

### The Invention of the Convention: Horsepower '99

by Jessica Morris

When you set foot in the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan, next February and ask for your room with the American Morgan Horse Association 1999 Convention, everything will