

# North American Shagya Arabian Society

NASS Annual Members Meeting  
September 15, 2007 6:00 PM Pacific Time  
Via – Conference Call

Called to order by Gwyn Davis at 6:05 PM PDT.

## Roll Call:

### **Board/Members**

Gwyn Davis – Acting President/BOD Member  
Lori Baker – Acting Vice President/NW Region BOD Member  
Arlene Michaud – Treasurer/Membership/BOD Member  
Terry Hey – MW Region BOD Member/Assistant Registrar  
Carol Neubauer – Registrar  
Jamie Buck, Acting Secretary/Web Chair/Eastern Region BOD Member  
Kathy Richkind – RM Region BOD Member  
Adele Furby – ISG Liaison

### **Members**

Donna Coss  
Killian Dill  
Elaine Kerrigan  
Kathleen Warren  
Kathy Johnson  
Daniel Shaw

### **Members not announced at roll call (joined call later)**

Nancy Skakel  
Shannon Slessor

### **Non-Members not announced at roll call (joined call later)**

Mary Lehman

### **Absent**

Shelley Housh – SW Region BOD Member – was attending a Trakehner Inspection

Gwyn Davis stated this meeting is being recorded for accuracy in the meeting minutes. Jamie Buck is the “acting secretary and note taker for this meeting.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING:**

Gwyn stated that if anyone has not had the opportunity to vote for their Regional Director they may do so now. Kathleen Warren – Eastern Region member - stated she did not send in her vote but would like to do so now. Kathleen Warren understands that Jamie Buck is running for the Eastern Region and would like to vote for her. Gwyn asked if there are any other votes at this time. Voting closed for both Rocky Mountain & Eastern Regions. Gwyn stated that Jamie Buck is our new Eastern Regional Director & Kathy Richkind is our new Rocky Mountain Regional Director.

Gwyn stated that she has a very bad cold and not feeling well and Lori Baker was going to take over the meeting.

Lori stated NASS wanted to allow members one more chance to vote. NASS has one more vote for Eastern RD. Total tallied votes are: 6 votes for Jamie Buck Eastern RD and 5 votes for Kathy Richkind Rocky Mountain RD. Lori announced and the Board welcomed the new RD's.

Lori stated the NASS BOD had a brief Board Meeting before this conference call to go through some motions. The NASS President is nominated by the Members and appointed by the BOD. Lori was appointed acting President by Gwyn Davis with 4 votes which is not a quorum. Shelley Housh is out of town and will vote next week. Kathy Richkind asked if the new RD's can vote and Lori stated the new RD's are allowed to vote. Kathy Richkind voted yes, Jamie Buck voted yes totaling 6 votes for Lori Baker as NASS President for one year or until the next NASS Annual Elections can be held.

Lori stated one of the motions that were discussed in the Executive Meeting was the appointment of an ISG Liaison position, which should be a 3- year position. The BOD voted on the motion and it passed with a quorum. The BOD felt Adele Furby has a good solid working relationship and connections with ISG and Europe, and recommended that she be the ISG liaison. The BOD voted on this - Kathy Richkind was asked to vote and her response was – Yes. Passing with 5 votes. Shelley will be asked to vote when she returns from out of town.

Lori asked for Roll Call to include “all listeners” and reminded everyone that this is also a board meeting; members are free to listen, but please do not interrupt the progress of the meeting. If a member is specifically called upon to speak, he or she may do so. Towards the end of the meeting when we get to committees, events and questions we definitely want members to participate and provide feedback. If someone has a complex question or is uncomfortable asking a question, please email or call someone on the BOD directly.

Lori stated the meeting is now in session. Objective of this meeting is to move through the agenda and we will begin with the goals of NASS.

**Goals of the NASS BOD:**

To follow NASS Protocol and bylaws:

To work with NASS appointed attorney, Thad Huse, to revise Articles and Bylaws to meet requirements for the 501 c5 status

To move forward as a non-profit Member Services Organization in a positive and proactive manner

**Notes to all NASS Members:**

- All registration activity is viable and safe with NASS.
- No current NASS member needs to pay anything extra whatsoever regarding membership
- The Studbook is still on track for publication.
- NASS Committees will remain active. There are options to reorganize some committees and create new ones as needed. The goal is to promote more member involvement and complete projects that benefit all members.
- Regularly scheduled NASS BOD Meetings will remain open to all NASS members and other listeners.
- NASS continues to have full approval from ISG.
- NASS retains two ISG approved inspection judges and has established a learner judge program – we want to get more approved US judges.
- NASS has had excellent results promoting sale horses on the website. This list is especially popular to take with you to events.

NASS has worked with members to promote informational booths at trade shows and both regional and national endurance events and we want to expand this program. NASS is receiving a lot of good feedback from this.

**Conflict of Interest Clause:**

In the event that the NASS President, Vice President, Regional Director, BOD Member, Treasurer, Secretary, Liaisons, and/or Committee Chairs perform duties or is holding an office with an association/corporation which is in competition with NASS, this will disqualify that person

from becoming or continuing on with NASS as a Representative. A passive membership with an association/corporation which is in competition with NASS however does not disqualify.

**Meeting Minutes are posted on the NASS Website under the Membership Button.**

Executive Meeting Minutes, held on August 6, 2007, were originally posted at the request of NASS members. These minutes will be removed. Executive Meeting minutes will not usually be posted on the NASS website due to the sensitive content. However, they can be requested by members by email or mail. The annual meeting minutes, along with the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes are posted. The BOD minutes can be mailed or emailed if you do not have access to the NASS website.

**Unfinished Business**

Lori stated that that Gwyn Davis, Adele Furby, and Arlene Michaud were appointed by NASS BOD to work directly with NASS attorney, Thad Huse, and that Adele Furby will present the NASS Status Report.

Adele reported that at this point in time the necessary paperwork required to change NASS from a 501c3 to a 501c5 tax status is in order. It will next take a vote of the NASS Membership to approve this. The NASS BOD will send out an explanatory letter summarizing these changes along with copies of the actual <sup>3</sup>Restatement of the Articles of Incorporation<sup>2</sup>. Tonight the BOD wanted to explain what steps are involved. The letters will go out to ALL NASS members and Ballots will go out only to the voting members. A voting member is an Active, Founding or Lifetime Member with at least one horse registered with NASS. A brief summary of this process will be posted on the NASS website and also mailed to members. If people have specific questions, please contact a member of the BOD.

Lori stated that she is also researching the Montana Laws/Code and that information will also be posted on the website. The BOD is here to answer questions - if you have questions for the NASS attorney, these must go through the BOD and we will get those answers to you. The NASS attorney prefers to work directly with the designated people on the BOD in the interest of time management and good communication.

**Treasurers Report – Arlene Michaud**

First and most important thing on the list was that the discovery that the ISG Dues were not paid for the past two years - 2005 & 2006. It was very unfortunate that it was overlooked by the past two Presidents, and also overlooked by the audit that was done prior to the treasury materials being turned over to Arlene.

The ISG dues have now been paid for 2005 & 2006 – this was sent by wire transfer directly to ISG in the amount of \$1,667.96. There were 117 horses in 2005 & 115 in 2006; ISG dues are based on the number of breeding horses and are assessed at 5 Euro per head, thus equaling \$1,160.00 Euros. We are now completely current on ISG dues.

The Members list has been revised and updated and we now show 95 members and 73 voting members.

NASS Bank Balance as of 9-15-07 is \$4,537.66 and all bills are paid to date.

**NASS BOD News or Comments:** (Roundtable)

Kathy Richkind stated that she has been asked to represent NASS as the USDF Liaison. Kathy tried to check her mares'scores on the USDF site and could not find them for the All Breeds Award. She contacted USDF and discovered NASS had not signed up for USDF Awards this year. Kathy's understanding is that it is unfortunately too late for NASS to sign up for this year. Automatically when an organization participates in the USDF All Breed Awards, they sign up for open classes. They can elect to sign up for adult amateur and all the other various categories that they have. She would like to sign up for all categories and divisions available. NASS does not incur any additional cost until a horse is qualified as being in the top five - then it is \$18 for each

certificate that NASS sponsors. Kathy does not believe it would be that expensive for NASS at this time since we may only have three or four dressage riders in NASS that might qualify. Kathy would like to sign up for all divisions just in case we may have someone that can qualify and leave the door open no matter their level to do that. Gwyn asked if we can include USEF in that. Kathy stated that with USEF we just need to be a Member Organization and there is not a separate agreement for an All Breed Awards. Kathy stated that we are currently a Business Member with USDF which needs to be maintained in order to participate in the awards. The \$150 annual membership is due in April. Kathy will submit the paperwork she already has and process it in good time.

**MOTION:**

Motion for Kathy Richkind to sign NASS up for all categories and divisions available in USDF All Breeds Awards. Lori motions – yes, Gwyn – yes, Arlene – yes, Terry – yes, Jamie – yes, Kathy – yes. Motion carries and passed with quorum.

Terry Hey stated she has just submitted an article about “Shagyas” to the USDF Connection Magazine which is the official United States Dressage Federation. Terry received permission from Holly Beach and her photographer to use a picture of Holly and her Shagya, Blixten AF to go with the article. As far as Terry knows everything has been submitted to Rachel Ehrlich who is the editor for that particular feature. Terry has yet to hear back from the editor if there are any changes that need to be made. Terry has sent a follow up email a few days ago and as soon as she hears when the article will be out she will let us know.

Lori stated she was at the AERC Champion Ride which was a great event with many top horses present. She took some brochures and also printed out the “Shagyas for Sale” page off the website which was a big hit. It not only promoted the horses for sale but also the farms. The brochures went very quickly and she only took about 15 copies. The brochure provided Shagya history and she was able to tell people about the website as she handed out the brochures.

Kathy Richkind stated this is a great idea and that in December she is going to the USEA Eventing Annual Meeting and will print out the sale page to take as well.

**ISG News or Comments:**

Lori stated to Adele Furby that during the Executive Meeting the BOD appointed Adele as the ISG Liaison. Adele has been handling this in the interim and has been doing a great job and we appreciate her work. This is a 3 year position similar to all the other board positions. Lori stated Adele was asked beforehand to give an ISG update.

The main news in terms of NASS and ISG from Bulgaria has been reported in the newsletters; the meeting in Bulgaria has been pretty well written up and in the current NASS Newsletter it tells about the show and the Learner Judges course that Hallie Goetz participated in.

Adele just heard back from Mrs. Ingrid Zeunert. She is the lady in Germany who is publishing the Handbook Stallion Book Number Two. She published one a few years ago with the German Stallions in it and is now publishing a book with international Shagya stallions. Many of you may recall about a year ago she contacted NASS and wanted to include all the NASS approved Stallions. We put together information and photos on all the stallions and sent it to her. - NASS was the only breed society that met the deadline for getting things to her. Adele heard from her this week that she now has the proofs of the pages and is faxing them so we can check out the proofs prior to publication. It sounds like it won't be too long before that book is published. Jamie asked how we go about purchasing a book and what the cost will be. Adele stated she was not sure of the cost but Mrs. Zeunert has a website located at [www.shagya-zeunert.de](http://www.shagya-zeunert.de) so we can list that info on the NASS website. She publishes the Shagya-Araber and you can order current and past issues from her website. When her info comes out she always posts it on her website.

**News from Committees & NASS Representatives:**

### **Breeding Committee: Adele Furby reporting for committee**

Lori stated that Adele will be reporting for this committee since it does not have a chair yet. The main activity the committee accomplished over the last 9 months has been a draft updating the Guidelines for Shagya Breeding Handbook. The committee worked quite a bit on it in the Fall and Winter and presented it to the BOD in early Spring. Adele's understanding is that the BOD did approve them at the May 2007 meeting. A lot of it was a matter of clarifying things and make it more understandable. There are two major changes,

- 1) we are now going to require DNA Typing for all Purebred Shagya foals and also for Part Shagya Arabian foals that have the eligibility in the future to be approved for Shagya breeding. Both parents will be required to have DNA on record as well as the foal. NASS used to only require DNA with transported semen foals. As of 2007, NASS decided to require DNA for all foals. This is now ISG's regulation as well.
- 2) we have split the Part Arabian book into two parts. Book A and Book B. The horses that have an approved Shagya father are in Book A. The horses that have an unapproved Shagya father are in Book B. This is to simplify easy access to records as to eligibility for breeding approval.

Adele asked Jamie if the Guidelines were on the website. Jamie responded not as of yet. Jamie was waiting for the one sentence that needed to be edited before she posted them to the web. Hopefully that can be taken care of in the next few days so it can be posted for members to view. Adele stated that if anyone has questions to please contact anyone on the Breeding Committee to clarify anything or if they see things that are not clear for re-wording later.

Kathy Richkind thought Adele may wish to comment on the Performance Requirements. Adele stated the ISG made it clear in Bulgaria that within a year or so they want to have all the ISG Member Countries to have Performance Testing Requirements for Stallions in place. This is on the breeding committee agenda. A couple years ago it was on the agenda, but had to be put aside because we got busy with so many of these other issues. This will be one main focus in the next twelve months. The other main focus is the NASS studbook. Adele just received the last finalized pages from Carol Neubauer for the studbook. Last year we published 4 draft copies of the studbook and since that time Carol has meticulously gone through it and re-edited everything for accuracy. Now we are looking for a publisher we can afford as it will be a pretty big book. This studbook will have all the background material we want to put in it. To give you an idea of the contents it will have all the 32 Shagya Stallions approved for breeding as of 2004 in alphabetical order, with at least one picture of each stallion, depending on which publisher we find. We would like to have one halter picture of each stallion as well as one other chosen by the owner. Then there will be a section for the Foreign Stallions approved for breeding in America, then Purebred Arabian stallions approved, then the mares. We have 91 Purebred Shagya breeding mares approved, listed in alphabetical order followed by 18 Part Shagya Arabian mares approved for Shagya breeding, then the 9 original foundation Arabian mares used in the breed, Purebred Shagya Sire lines, and Purebred Shagya Dam lines. Those lines will trace all the way back to the original foundation animals and all the descendents. An index of the Shagya Arabians ancestors, and an index of the Registered Purebred Arabian ancestors, Bibliography, References, list of breeders, list of owners, alphabetical index, registration number index, and index by foaling date will also be included. This will have a lot of foundation information that many people will want to have. This book will be about 530 pages. Carol stated all the named ancestors that show up on a registration certificate can be found in the index.

Lori asked what about including the horses which were inspected in 2006. Carol stated that all horses in the book are included up through 2004. Carol said she has just about everything ready to provide a decent copy for the horses that have been approved in 2006 and all the foals that were registered in 2005 & 2006 and their progeny and enough of the bloodline charts and indexing to bring it up to date. After the studbook through 2004 is published, she suggests publishing this material as a supplement. It will not be anywhere as big or take anywhere as long to produce. Carol suggested we should publish an update after each inspection year. We usually only have about 25-30 horse during that time to add. Lori stated when we get the 2004 book

published, then we can do a 2006 update and then thereafter following each inspection year. Carol is also making plans to organize a Part Shagya register.

Adele stated the challenge now is to get this printed in a good enough quality with photos involved. Carol has prepared these in camera ready pages and also has them on disk. Adele received a quote from Bruno Furrer, who is a publisher. The cost to print 100 copies was going to be \$170 per hard bound copy with color photos. We are going to continue to look around for the best quality possible with photos in this country and may have to do a subscription. We are just starting to research this. We do have two draft copies that Adele took over to Europe - she gave one to ISG President Al Samarraie and the other to Bruno Furrer so that the NASS horses could be added to the ISG Database. Also, Adele has one copy, and Carol has one copy. This will give us a draft that we can take to a printer to show them what it will look like. Carol has it laid out in two pages for each approved horse; one page has the pedigree and the other page all the basic info and space for one photo below that, plus a list of the horse's Shagya progeny. Then, if we can afford to, we will put a second photo of each stallion in another section in the book. A suggestion was made to publish the book in an electronic format (CD) and Adele will also look into that possibility. Adele does have an archive of all the inspection photos except for 2006 - when we get closer to publication of the book we will ask the owners if they have a photo with the horse standing in the correct "open position" that they would rather use. Otherwise the inspection photo will be used.

Kathy Richkind stated in terms of DNA Testing results we had one discrepant report from the University of Kentucky lab stating the Dam was not the Dam of the Foal. Kathy wrote the Director of the Lab stating that it is unusual but not impossible to find that the sire is not the proposed sire of the foal, but usually people get the dam correct (!) and could the lab have made a mistake in the data entry? Katherine Graves from the University lab is checking for a mistake and will get back to Kathy Richkind. Carol stated she did receive another DNA Report stating the Dam was accepted.

**Learner Judge/Education Committee: Kathy Richkind (Chair)**

Kathy reported that the committee has not done much since the last BOD meeting, however the committee did nominate three candidates to participate in the ISG Judges Course in Babolna and one did attend – Hallie Goetz. Hallie has passed the preliminary requirement after the course and has indicated her intention to pursue becoming an ISG Certified Judge. Hallie will need to go to three shows in Europe and act as a Learner Judge for each show and receive approval from the judges she has worked with. Kathy stated it is wonderful she is taking that step. Kathy assumes the Education Committee will resume their activities now that the activities of the summer, ISG Meeting, and ISG Show have gone by - we are looking for volunteers for the committee. We have done some really good work this past year and we hope individuals will continue on the committee.

**Website: Jamie Buck (Chair)**

Keeping up with website requests and did upload the Shagya brochure so that people can print color copies needed in a pinch when they go to shows, etc. Would like to start posting pictures of the For Sale Shagyas. This will come in handy for those who wish to print the sale flyer for shows to distribute. Lori suggested we keep posting Shagyas for Sale and their photos as a fee-less promotion for members. Jamie is also asking Dan to research info on starting an e-commerce site for promo items the committees wish to sell on the website. Kathy Richkind asked what the process is to get items posted.

**Awards: Becky McCarty (Chair)**

Becky is out on a trail – no report at this time.

**Registrar: Carol Neubauer/Terry Hey**

Carol would like some way for new owners to understand that transfers need to be executed. After discussion of how the transfer reports flowed, suggestions from Jamie and Lori were made and it was finally decided that when the President receives the Transfer report, the President will

forward the transfer information to the appropriate Regional Director for Membership follow up with a new member's packet. This packet will need to be created – membership form, promo items, NASS sticker, welcome kit etc. This will be a nice personal approach to get new members involved. This will be an outreach process from Carol and Terry to President each quarter.

**Newsletter: Hallie Goetz – Not present.**

Lori stated Hallie produced an excellent color newsletter. Hallie will be mailing this edition of the Newsletter to members and Shagya owners in black and white (approx 200 newsletters in all), and it was also emailed in color to members. It is posted on the website in color under the Membership Button where you can also print it out. The next Newsletter deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Information Officer: Gwyn Davis**

Gwyn will pursue creating a NASS Library and get membership input.

### **New Business**

1. The expansion of current committees and the formation of new committees. We are seeking volunteers to participate. Anyone that is here tonight that would like to volunteer is welcomed.

#### **Committees Include:**

- Bylaws Committee – BOD will be on this committee and is looking for couple of volunteers.
- Newsletter Committee – help with special additions - work on getting advertisers – Need Hallie's input.
- Stallion Auction Committee – timing is right - need stronger outreach -suggest Hunter Sport Horse magazine
- Marketing/Promotion/Events/Fundraising Committee – e-commerce on website, promote suggestions from members of what they would like to purchase.
- Awards Committee – Goal to expand and work on certain projects and help obtain donations for nicer awards.
- ISG Committee with BOD appointed Liaison. ISG Liaison will be the Primary Representative. NASS also needs members who are interested in supporting or representing NASS at international events. This is a great way to mentor and to build international relationships.
- Other committee participation opportunities Breeding Committee, Learner Judge/Education Committee and Website Committee.
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**Lori opened the floor to membership** and asked if anyone would like to volunteer for a committee to please speak up. If not, then how do we wish to promote these committees to get more support? Kathy Richkind, head of Judging Committee, will contact those who were on committee in the past. Jamie volunteered to sit on the marketing/promo committee and suggested the volunteers for a committee select their chair from their committee which is then approved by the BOD. Terry also volunteered for the marketing committee/promo.

Dan also suggested when the ballots go out; it would be good to add additional info about committees looking for volunteers and get this info out in several different formats such as member emails and website postings.

Kathy stated that there are a lot of people that may wish to be involved or at least those that may have a lot of complaints may wish to get involved and “put their money where their mouth is” to help make a difference.

There is also the Shagya forum which I have not been on and first signed up for when I first became an RD, but did not get in. It would be nice to have some of us on that forum to encourage the positive and move forward. We also talked about a NASS forum for members instead of getting emails sent to our email. We could use this to promote and encourage new members.

Kathy stated that the Quarterly meetings are a good place to discuss things and promote NASS. Should we participate in the other Forum and say this is where we are, this is what we need, and can you help us?

Dan stated that we certainly can create our own forum under Shagya.net - there is an option with our hosting company for a forum and we can post the link on the site. Adele mentioned having a page for each Committee who is on the committees, and committee notes, conference call info and meeting dates so people can help or make suggestions. It was suggested to have this info listed on the website and a link to the forum for each committee. Jamie asked Dan what the time frame would be on something like this and what the cost might be. Dan will check into this for us. Dan suggested guidelines/rules be setup prior to a forum going online. Dan suggested we discuss this further in a separate website committee.

Lori stated for now we should just put the information out regarding committees and organize the Stallion Auction. Lori feels this is going to be a priority along with Marketing/Promos/Events. Also the Bylaws will be a priority for BOD and this committee. Any Bylaw Amendments will go out for member comment and member votes. Adele stated that any changes to the Bylaws will require a vote from the membership and inevitably member feedback will be part of that process. The BOD will be on this committee and we would like a few members to also participate on this committee, as well as input from the membership. The Bylaw Amendments will be reviewed by the NASS Attorney then go out to the membership for feedback, comments, and then finally a vote.

As necessary, NASS Committees can be formed to take care of specific projects. The NASS President can call a meeting of committees.

1. Seeking volunteer for NASS Secretary: Please send your request to be appointed for this highly respected and needed NASS Officer position in to the NASS President and BOD. We can put this info on the website and in our next mailing as well.
2. Goal is to expand the BOD to full potential and to have NASS voting members elect all BOD members. The RD's are elected by members in their Region, and the Board Members will be elected by all members. After we accomplish the work to be done on Articles and Bylaws and 501c5 status, NASS will have another election to accommodate these bylaw changes - this will probably occur before the next annual election but we will have to see how everything goes. The goal is to get more Board Members on the Board and to have them all elected.
3. Seeking Nominations/Volunteers for **Liaison** positions: USDF & USEF volunteer = Kathy Richkind. We still are looking for volunteers for: AERC, USEA, NATRAC, Active Regional Endurance organizations, Regional Dressage organizations, Arabian Sporthorse Shows, Hungarian Horse Association... This list can certainly expand if you have organizations in your area etc. Many members are involved in Endurance too. We can also post this info on the website. We can also work on sponsoring awards. Lori suggested going to the websites of these organizations, check into them, see if you can get involved and take it from there.
4. Kathy Richkind stated that USDF has the All Breed Awards so every breed association can nominate, sponsor awards for members of a particular breed. Elaine Kerrigan stated she is involved in Endurance and Dressage and can be liaison for AERC. AERC at this time only recognizes their weight divisions and national divisions of no specific breed. Kathy asked is there a possibility to write to these organizations and state we would like to honor highest scoring Shagya Arabian of the year at a special Awards. Elaine Kerrigan will ask AERC since she has to call them Monday on another matter and see what we can do. Lori stated that we could have someone there to present the award at the event.

For the Marketing Committee: Dan stated he has collected around 150 plus email addresses for Southern California and about another 400-500 he still needs to collect for Dressage camps. It would be wise for others to just "Google" these sites to build up our database for promoting Shagyas. He has had a few responses to remove recipients from his email list and he complied with their request. It would be wise to collect this data while you are searching your area so we can build a database for our Marketing campaign and promote events that are happening in our areas. Lori states we need to get the Regional Liaisons to do an Outreach locally just like Dan has done.

Kathy states that we really need someone to Liaison with the AHA. We have talked about this for years and years. It would be wonderful if our horses could compete as half Arabians at AHA. Lori stated that if no one else would like to spearhead this, she would since she has half Arabians and competes. Elaine Kerrigan also would like to work with AHA. Lori Baker and Elaine Kerrigan will work on this together. If members could participate in half Arabian shows this would be beneficial for our breed. Adele gave a little history on the AHA. Years ago, when it was the IAHA, Adele, Carolyn Tucker and number of others approached them. The politics of these things change every few years and now it is a totally different organization. Adele is aware at one point about 6-8 years ago IAHA allowed Anglo Arabians from Canada to compete as half Arabians at IAHA shows. They created a type of passport so those horses were allowed in the competition here, but they did not have to be registered in the IAHA. So that may be an approach someone could look into. IAHA said that one parent had to be a Purebred Arabian to qualify as a half Arabian, whereas these Anglo Arabians out of Canada did not necessarily meet that requirement. They have a separate Registry. So the precedent is there for AHA doing this, and we can ask them about this. The other approach would be that the European shows (WAHO) recognize Shagyas so why can't AHA do it here? This may be good timing since the National Sporthorse Events are real important to them.

### **Upcoming Events**

**North American Events Calendar:** post on the web. Each RD needs to provide an events list for their region so it can be posted on the website and email their membership.

**International Events Calendar** – Adele will work on a list and get that info as early as she can so those who are interested can make travel arrangements far in advance. Others can contribute to calendar as well.

**Committee Calendars** – once committees set dates this can be posted on the website.

**2008 Stallion Auction** - need outreach to get volunteers for this committee – need to pick a date. If anyone has any info of Auctions that did work well in the past (since last years did not), Lori is open to ideas. Lori may also put out questionnaire to breeders to see how best to benefit both the breeder and NASS.

**2008 NASS Annual Membership Meeting** – get membership input – do we want to organize a committee for this event? One idea is to hold this with another big equine event. This would be a good topic to put on a forum and talk about it. Also would the Regions want to hold a meeting or something associated with a show in their area?

**Questions from NASS Membership:** If you cannot attend the meeting and/or your questions are complex, please email the questions in to the BOD.

Donna Coss wanted a clarification – when you're sending out the Articles of Incorporation that Membership needs to vote upon, what Bylaws are being sent with these. Are any Bylaws being sent with these, the old ones the new ones? Or will it be incorporated under the old Bylaws for your 501c5?

Adele stated two different things are happening: The first is a Restatement of the Articles, which is separate from any changes in the Bylaws. NASS Attorney has recommended just one first amendment to the Bylaws which provide a legally binding process for which a member may be Terminated, Expelled, or Suspended by the Board of Directors and explained the steps which according to Montana Statutes must be followed. The NASS Attorney recommended obtaining

the 501c5 status first; then he will make recommendations to the Board regarding improvements that can be made with the rest of the Bylaws. The current Bylaws for NASS are on the website so anyone can reference them right off the website.

Donna Coss stated she understands that under the current Bylaws, any time members advise the President or Board on anything, the Board does not have to act on these.

Adele stated that according to the attorney this process to change tax status must be followed by all Montana Non Profit Corporations - any changes to either the Restated Articles or any Amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by the voting membership. Any changes to the Bylaws will be put out to the membership and the membership will vote on them. Lori stated the mailing going out will have the information on the Restatement of the Articles and the first Amendment to the Bylaws. Adele states this amendment is in addition to what is already on the Bylaws. The Restatement of Articles has two articles that will be restated: the first article states the Corporation intends to be 501c5 instead of 501c3. The other article will restate in the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Corporation, it will be need to be distributed among 501c5's instead of 501c3's. The Articles of Incorporation will not change much - just restating NASS will be a C5 instead of C3. The attorney recommends that we update and improve NASS Bylaws and there will be changes made; however he recommends that NASS get the 501c5 first.

Kathy asked that, after the attorney makes recommendations for changes to the Bylaws, will the membership also be able to make suggestions for changes in the Bylaws. Adele stated yes. Any changes to the Bylaws will have to be approved by the voting members of NASS. A mechanism will be in place for the attorney to suggest changes and a mechanism for members also to suggest changes will be made available. The NASS BOD felt it would be simpler to send the information in a written form along with a ballot for voting to be mailed back and tabulated in writing.

Donna Coss asked does this have to be a majority of members - what happens if the members vote no? Adele stated that the changes will not be accepted if the members vote no. Then neither the Bylaws nor Articles of Incorporation could be changed.

Dan Shaw restated what Adele summarized regarding the proposed changes to the articles and bylaws. Dan cannot imagine members would want to continue operating if NASS is not within the correct status of a 501c5. Dan assumes it would pass with flying colors with all the members moving NASS over appropriately from a 501c3 to a 501c5, then addressing amendments or changes in the Bylaws, vote, and move on accordingly.

Adele stated the process will include suggestions from the attorney and suggestions from the members, and all the suggestions will go to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will vote on what is to be proposed to the membership. The membership will then vote.

Lori stated that the Board of Directors will also be on the Bylaws Committee and this committee is open to other members. Lori would like to have a couple more members involved on this committee who have good experience to help get the Bylaw changes to reflect what members want. We're following the NASS attorneys' recommendations first, which he will provide in the near future. Now we will be focusing on the first step start, which is the Restatement of the Articles.

Shannon Slessor asked if the original NASS Board voted to setup a 501c5. If this is the case, and they did and everyone agreed to it, why are we going through the process again?

Lori state we are going through this process again because we did not have some information that was vital. When we first started the only goal was to take NASS from a 501c3 to a 501c5 to bring us in compliance with the tax code. In this initial attempt we were informed we would have to change our name, relocate to Kentucky, and set up a whole new board through a caretaker board. When the BOD started to ask questions as to why we had to do all this for a simple

change in tax status, we found out that we did not have to go through all those steps. It was simpler to keep the original North American Shagya Arabian Society name and to stay in Montana - we could go through some minor article changes and then go step by step through the bylaws and not lose the NASS name, infrastructure or history. We have started twice because we did not have all the information we needed initially; we are now well informed and moving forward.

Adele stated that the one thing you should note is that the membership should have voted on this last fall prior to any further action to pursue 501c5 status, and the membership never did. The Board decided to pursue the 501c5 but the membership did not vote on this and, according to the Montana statute that should have been done. We did not know this until more recently. There were a lot of things we did not have information for or correct information for and we were going about the process wrong

Donna Coss stated that NASS did not let the caretaker board finish their job. Kathy Richkind stated it was a situation where the Board of Directors asked for information in writing from the Kentucky lawyer of the new corporation and the BOD was told they could not receive it. Then the BOD was asked to pay the bill for the Lawyer and then told they could not talk to him. Then the Board of Directors asked to see the Articles of Incorporation of the new corporation and were told they could not have access to them. So at that point they began to think, "Why are we paying this lawyer that we cannot talk to or get information from, and that we cannot see? Is this good representation for our membership?" The crux of the situation is that the BOD decided that they could not support the new organization unless they could get communication with the lawyer and have open and transparent access to the proceedings that were occurring. Kathy Richkind stated that she was not on the Board then but she listened to all the meetings.

Donna Coss asked if ISG has ever been paid for any of the horses that have been NASS registered in the past. Kathy stated that was announced at the beginning of the meeting. Donna wanted to know if ISG dues were paid in the last 20 years before the 2005 & 2006 dues that were recently paid. Adele stated, "Yes. We have always kept up with our ISG dues. For a number of years NASS had an arrangement with ISG which was really nice for us. NASS traded advertising for ISG in our publications and that was really towards our benefit in the early years because we did not have to send them a lot of money. We have always kept current with our dues with ISG. There was a brief time when the ISG President previous to Mr. Al Samarraie had a problem that invoices were not sent out, but other than that everything was always done very clearly. You can check with Beverly Thompson because she was the Treasurer for many years. We were always current with ISG dues. Every member country pays the number of horses, mares and stallions that are "in the breed" which means approved for breeding. You do not pay for geldings or partbreds that aren't used in the Shagya breed. The dues we pay are based on the breeding horses we have each year and that is also the number of votes we have at the delegate conferences."

Shannon Slessor asked what will become of the other 501c5 now. Does NASS now have two 501c5's now? Dan Shaw stated that the original arrangement in the beginning of this effort was to change the 501c3 to a 501c5, move the books over and continue as normal. It has been done in the past many times by other organizations. For an organization that has existed for over 20 years. There was no reason to go into creating a whole new organization. Whoever determined to go into another organization at that time was not doing their homework. Shannon stated she understood that but her question was that the original Board voted to go ahead with the new 501c5- whether right or wrong what happens to that entity? Lori stated that at this point NASS does not know the answer to this - it will be addressed to the NASS attorney and we will get back to her on this.

Kathy Johnson stated it was her understanding that the President did not have very many votes. Lori stated that the President is nominated (which need a minimum of three votes) by the

membership and elected by the Board. Kathy Johnson asked if they will be public with information for the membership. Lori stated yes. Kathy stated she is one that did not participate in voting because of some of the things that have been going on. Kathy has been a member and a Shagya owner for two years and there have been four presidents in those two years. That concerns her and she has seen some real character assassinations going on. Kathy's question to the Board of Directors and to the people elected - What are you going to do to be proactive and get things back to where they need to be, because for two years I have seen everything until last August when everyone was fired? People are working their heart out for the breed and now we are back to square one again. Kathy has seen things written from people that are Shagya owners that do not want anything to do with the current changes in NASS, and has some real concerns about that.

Lori stated that she has some concerns about that too. The main thing is to try to get those people with concerns involved to help and address those concerns so we can help resolve those issues and work through it. Lori states she has been a Shagya owner for a little over two years too. When Lori was elected as an RD initially, she only received the 3 vote minimum and already noticed not many people were involved in the voting although they had opportunity to do so. Communication was really bad and it would have been easy to just walk away. Lori has heard lots of stories but her goal is to work towards the membership receiving benefits from this organization. Other organizations have problems too but we need to focus on just what we can fix, what we can do, try to move forward and stay positive and TRY our hardest. Lori states it is everyone's responsibility to have respectful communication. That is the key.

Kathy Johnson stated that that has not happened in the past - she said that some people listening on the phone have been involved in that. Kathy Johnson is not a competitor - she is a horse owner for over 30 years. She loves her Shagyas and loves her Arabians. But she felt like this is like one dysfunctional family with power and control issue, and that is where we need to start making changes.

Kathy Richkind stated that is a good point. We would all like to work on that, we would all like input; we would like participation from members such Kathy Johnson on the committees, especially the Bylaws committees, - please run for office, run for RD. Kathy agreed to run for RD because of the membership distribution and the creation of a Rocky Mountain Regional Director. She stated she also is very busy but if no one else ran for the position she would step up. Announcement went out and no other nominations were received, so Kathy agreed to run. Kathy agreed with Kathy Johnson because she loves her horses and wants this breed to move forward. Kathy wants to have a transparent and open Society, she wants member input and would like people to be involved instead of sending personal libelous emails slandering other people. Act and move on from this and become involved, give member input on the Bylaws Committee, member input running for office – do all these things to get the Society to go in the direction the members want. The members just have to step up and move forward.

Kathy Johnson stated that she took her mare to the last inspection and met so many wonderful people there. After the inspection everyone got on these committees and worked hard and now you want people to come back after they have been destroyed. Kathy Johnson does not think people will want to help with committees again. What is NASS going to do to get them to come back? Kathy Richkind asked Kathy Johnson which committees will she volunteer to be on or what office will she run for? Kathy Richkind stated that obviously Kathy Johnson has very strong feelings that are very valid and she thinks it would be very helpful for the Society if Kathy Johnson would step up. Kathy Johnson felt that right now for her it's a trust issue. Lori stated it is a trust issue for her as well. Lori got involved right away, she was attacked right away, and she responded and tried to keep everything positive. She experienced the whole thing; trust, betrayal but is willing to try it again and that's all we can do. She does not feel what we did as a NASS Board was wrong. She feels what we did as a Board was right or she would not be here. She believes it was the right thing for Shagyas. Starting over again is a hard thing to do; here are trust issues, people are angry, angry with Lori and she understands. All Lori can do is try herself and

try to get others to try again. It seems dysfunctional, but we have a great horse, there is a great group of people out there and even the angry people out there are great people.

Donna Coss asked why wasn't the caretaker board approached differently, asking them to step back and take another look. Lori stated that she had backed Kathy Voyer all the way. Lori had asked questions and requested lots of information about the Caretaker Board. We were told we were not allowed to have certain information. We were cut off from communication so we decided to get a second opinion from another lawyer to see if we were on the right track - if so, great then we would move forward because we were all working so hard to be on the right track. We found out otherwise from the second lawyer.

Donna Coss stated that it would have been helpful if the Caretaker Board had realized about the Articles of Incorporation and the mutual benefits of the association being in Montana, and the BOD should have informed them of this because Donna believes this was known from the beginning and it was setup for failure. Dan Shaw stated that was not true. He mentioned that from the beginning that the only thing we needed to do was change the 501c3 to c5. There was not need to change the name of the association. The hard work that went into moving forward does not have to be dismissed at all. What has to be understood is there was no reason to change the name, dissolve the organization, and create a new one - now we need to take that energy and just move forward. Lori stated as a Board member she was told by the NASS president that we had to change the name, and Dan stated that most people had been told that. Lori stated that then when Board members or other people raised questions they were cut off. The communication between the BOD and the president, attorney and new caretaker board bottomed out way before the other members heard what was going on. There are many organizations out there that tax wise need to do the same thing we are doing. All NASS needed to do was change to the correct tax designation and move forward. Dan stated that he has been in this for a year already and he is still here and plans to move forward.

Nancy Skakel stated she was recording secretary since last November, and if emails were going around regarding questions to the Caretaker Board outside of meetings she was not aware of it. She also stated that she was very upset that Dan Shaw had sent a letter to a NASS members' employer and felt it was uncalled for. Nancy asked to be removed from the lifetime membership and all of her horses taken out of the NASS Registry. Kathy Richkind stated if that is what Nancy wants then she needs to put it in writing and that will happen. Kathy Richkind felt she could not add anything more to this conversation because it had degenerated into personal issues which she cannot address - if anyone has any Society issues, not personal issues, she will be glad to speak to them about it. Nancy hung up before giving Dan Shaw had a chance to respond to her accusations. Dan Shaw stated later via email that if anyone wants to know what his response is, they can contact him directly either by email or phone, as he does not feel it is right to use NASS BOD meetings as a question/answer forum for personal accusations.

Kathy Johnson stated her issue was not personal. Kathy wants to know what we are going to do to get now to bring back the people, including her. Lori stated we are going to try to do the things we talked about - i.e. get back to being a member services organization. We will do this with our committees. The person out there with a Shagya needs to have benefits to being a member. We can use their horse associations as an example - focus on our awards programs keep our newsletter going, acknowledge good work and try to move past this, acknowledging it is hard for people not to be emotional.

Shannon Slessor stated she thinks the hard thing is going to be getting past the slander that has been going back and forth - that anyBODY that was motivated before will be reluctant to participate again with that potentiality in the back of their mind. Lori stated that she understood that feeling - she had wanted to resign but she is back now and hope other people can try again too. Shannon agreed it is hard and she feels the same as Lori. You want to be there for the horses - you don't want to be there for the people. It is going to take a lot of time.

*Non Member* Mary Lehman states she has one comment and one question: Her comment was that Adele stated again and again that the Articles were asked for so the NASS BOD could look at them. She would like to say we gave the Articles to the BOD.

Adele stated that she did not say anything to that effect but that maybe someBODY else did- - perhaps it was Lori? Lori recalls that Gwyn had requested the Articles directly from Kathy Voyer and we did not see them for a long time (until after they were already filed). Lori stated she was communicating with Kathy Voyer as a NASS Board Member; Kathy Voyer stated that the NASS BOD should communicate through her to the caretaker board, not directly to the caretaker board as that was not "legal". So there was no communication directly to the caretaker board from the BOD. Initially the caretaker meetings were closed and the NASS BOD was not allowed to know what went on in those.

Non Member Mary Lehman commented that Dan had made the comment that whoever was on the 501 committee did not do their homework, and that Dan and Arlene Michaud were on that committee. Dan commented that he did mention several times during this entire beginning of the process that all we needed to change was the tax status of NASS and move forward. Other people wanted to change the name and this idea was reinforced by the directive from the Kentucky lawyer. Mary Lehman stated it was not about changing the name - it was about creating a 501c5. There were benefits to putting it in Kentucky and when you open a new business in a new state you need a different name.

Lori stated we understand Mary's point. However, this originally was presented to the BOD as their only option. That is where the communication went downhill, and miscommunication, whether intentional or not, followed. Mary Lehman asked why the BOD acted instead of communicating directly with the caretaker board. Lori again stated we were instructed to communicate only through Kathy Voyer; this was presented as a legal requirement and Lori stated she has lots of Board emails to back that up.

Lori stated again that NASS is staying NASS and we are going to move forward. We will try to get people motivated again. We are on the right track. Any other questions can come to the board in an email and they need to be constructive; we need to stay away from slander.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Gwyn, Jamie seconds, Terry yes, Arlene yes, Lori yes.

Contacting NASS: <http://www.shagya.net/contactingnass.htm>

**Next BOD conference call meeting**

Call in #1-913-227-1219 Guest code 416290

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jamie Buck, NASS Acting Secretary