

June 30, 2006

JUNE 2006 LAHSA E-NEWS

Marnye Langer - President

I am composing this month's LAHSA E-News from Spruce Meadows! My husband, Larry, was asked to be Foreign Judge for the international classes. "Foreign Judge" is an international designation used by the Federation Equestrian International (FEI). I jumped at the opportunity to accompany him to Spruce Meadows, located just outside the city of Calgary (Canada). What a fabulous facility that has been developed by the Southern family for the past 31 years.

Much to my delight I have seen a number of Californians and even some LAHSA members. Junior riders Allison Van Sickle and Brittney Allyn have had a great time riding in 1.10 meter and 1.20 meter classes. A number of our top professionals, like Richard Spooner, Francie Steinwedell-Carvin, Susan Artes, and Hap Hansen, are all here showing.

As special as Spruce Meadows is, we should never discount our local shows. Our riders cut their teeth and gain valuable experience at the shows sanctioned by LAHSA. With the strong foundation these horses and riders receive, they are able to head to places like Spruce Meadows and earn their share of awards and accolades. This is a key we should never forget and work to preserve.

And now, on to more LAHSA news and information:

Website & Information

Thanks to technology, I can sit here in Spruce Meadows and communicate with all of you, or at least all of you who provided your e-mail address on your membership form. Recognizing the importance of technology and the speedy flow of information these days, LAHSA has focused on its website. We view the website as the focal point of communication, information, and resources. I urge you to make the LAHSA website (www.lahsa.com) the place to stay abreast of news and information.

\$5,000 College Scholarship

Did that get your attention? It should! There aren't many opportunities for junior riders to combine their horse knowledge with academic skills to earn a college scholarship. However, your LAHSA Board of Directors acknowledges the importance and value of higher education and has gotten squarely behind this activity.

Riders compete in the LAHSA Horsemanship Competition to determine the scholarship recipients. This three phase competition tests juniors' riding skills, their hands-on practical skills, and their knowledge of horsemanship related topics. Check out the website for information about the contest, as well as some sample questions to help with studying. Every few weeks we will add new questions. In July we will have complete details about the contest as well as a registration form.

Championship Shows

LAHSA offers two Championship shows. These shows are designed to encourage and reward those riders who do not necessarily compete for year end awards. Based on placings at a designated show, LAHSA presents special awards to the show champions in the LAHSA sanctioned divisions and sections.

Championships for the LAHSA "A" divisions and sections are awarded at the Gold Coast 6/ LAHSA Benefit Show held over Labor Day. Championships for the LAHSA "B" divisions and sections are awarded at the Gold Coast 7 show held October 20-23. Once again, more information about these events is on the LAHSA website.

Silent Auction

Remember that \$5,000 college scholarship you just read about it? Well now I am going to talk about how we fund it. Our silent auction helps provide the funds for the college scholarship. In July you will receive information and a pledge form in the mail. Please take a moment to read this important mail and consider donating something to the silent auction. This is a chance for you to support your organization. For more information on the silent auction, contact Auction Coordinator Ruth Frazier (ruth_frazier@sbcglobal.net).

LAHSA Benefit Show

Every year the LAHSA Benefit Show hosts the Rosewood and LAHSA Horsemanship Finals. Did you also know that this show is the major fundraiser for LAHSA? Every year the Los Angeles Equestrian Center and Langer Equestrian Group donate a significant amount of money to LAHSA to use for its programs and activities. Without this annual donation, LAHSA would not be able to offer its excellent awards and many different programs.

Please show your support for this generous donation by attending the LAHSA Benefit Show. We will also be holding the silent auction during this event. This is your chance to show your support for LAHSA and its programs.

In the meantime, have a great summer! I enjoyed walking around the Gold Coast 4 show in June talking to many of you. I was touched by the enthusiasm, support and ideas many of you shared with me. As summer progresses I hope to meet more LAHSA members and always please feel free to e-mail me with your comments, ideas and thoughts! (marnyelanger@aol.com)

Safe travels to all our LAHSA members heading home from Spruce Meadows.

Happy 4th of July to everyone! Take a moment to think about how fortunate all of us are to live in this great country.

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