

July 31, 2006

LAHSA July E-News
President's Message by Marnye Langer

I can't believe August is upon us! Summer is not a leisurely time for those of us involved with horse sports. If we aren't out showing, we are riding, practicing, and hopefully enjoying our horses. The incredibly hot weather we've had the past few weeks has meant very early mornings for me as I try to beat the heat. And while everyone has been busy horsing around, enjoying family activities, or some other such activity, your LAHSA Board of Directors has been quite busy these past few months developing, organizing, and planning a whole host of special activities for our members.

Medal Finals

The season for medal finals is rapidly approaching. If you are an equitation rider, now is the time to make sure you are qualified and eligible for whatever finals in which you plan to compete. LAHSA hosts five different medal classes and finals, and we kick off the season with the LAHSA Horsemanship Finals and the Rosewood Finals. These finals are held during the Gold Coast 6/ LAHSA Benefit Show (Aug. 31 - Sept. 3). Even if you aren't competing, come watch. You can learn a lot from watching a finals.

LAHSA Benefit Show

For the past seven years, Langer Equestrian Group and the Los Angeles Equestrian Center have made a significant donation to LAHSA to support the association with its programs. In fact, this donation has represented approximately 25% of our annual operating budget. Once again, LEG and LAEC have pledged to make a donation to LAHSA. Last year's donation totaled \$25,000 and no other individual or show has supported LAHSA to the degree that Larry Langer and George Chatigny have with their two companies. Please come show your support at the Gold Coast 6/ Benefit Show.

What can you do to help? When you aren't competing, peruse the silent auction and bid on some of the many great items. This year's silent auction will help fund the inaugural LAHSA Horsemastership Scholarship competition. All members received a silent auction donation form in the mail. Be sure to have your items to our Silent Auction Coordinator, Ruth Frazier, by August 15. E-mail her at: ruth_frazier@sbcglobal.net.

Championship Shows

Every year, LAHSA designates an "A" Championship Show and a "B" Championship Show. The goal of the Championship Show format is to provide achievement awards that do not require riders to attend multiple shows as is required for year-end awards. The highest scoring LAHSA member in the LAHSA divisions and sections will be awarded a championship award. This year's committee has been working to make members more aware of these awards.

The "A" Championship Show is Gold Coast 6, which is also LAHSA's benefit show. This show

also serves as the tie-breaker show for year end awards. This means that if two riders are tied at the end of the year, the rider who earned the most points at Gold Coast 6 will win the tie. As you can see, this is a very important show for our association for many reasons.

The “B” Championship Show is Gold Coast 7 (October 20-23) and riders in LAHSA’s “B” divisions and sections will compete for championship honors at this show. This show also features several special events and activities. All participants in the LAHSA Horsemastership Competition will take their Hands-on and Written tests during this show. The show is also host to the CPHA Regional Medal Finals for Child/Adult and Horsemanship qualifiers. Many LAHSA riders have qualified for and compete in these finals, as a result LAHSA is excited to have these finals involved with one of our special shows.

LAHSA Horsemastership Scholarship Competition

I hope all of you juniors have been studying! The LAHSA Education Committee has been posting practice questions on the website, and we hope you have been reviewing the US Pony Club B Manual. Complete information and registration forms will be available later in August. While horsemanship competitions have been cropping up around the country, I don’t know of any other offering such a substantial college scholarship – \$5,000 awarded to the top three finishers. The competition should be fun and challenging.

Website Article

The third in our series of informational and educational articles is available on the LAHSA website. Read Karen Briggs’ fun and informative article about Bling. She gives you the low down on what is hot and what is not in the show ring and while cruising around the show grounds. Several LAHSA trainers and tack store managers are featured in the article.

I continue to meet LAHSA members while at shows and through e-mail. I enjoy hearing your stories, comments and ideas. As always, please feel free to e-mail me at marnyelanger@aol.com or talk to any of the board members if you see one of us at a show.

I hope to see all of you at the Gold Coast 6/ LAHSA Benefit Show!

END