

Hello New York State National Pinto Members and PtHA of NYS members:

I recently returned from the PtHA Convention in Oklahoma City. It was an interesting and informative meeting. Unfortunately for me, I was sick the entire time I was out there, so I wasn't able to interact with other state club members and socialize as much as I usually do and attend some of the meetings that I usually do. I did, however, attend all of the Directors' meetings, the meeting for the committee I serve on, and the Registration Seminar. My socializing mainly consisted of going out to lunch and dinner a couple of times with friends.

I would like to fill you in on a few things that were discussed and/or decided at the Convention.

First, I would like to congratulate Kathleen Gallagher on being inducted as Pinto's new president. Please give her your support. Enjoy your year as President, Kathy!!!

Below are a couple of things you should know:

1. There were only a handful of rule change proposals in the packet for the committees, Breed Council, and the Board of Directors to act on. None of these proposals made it to the Board of Directors for a final vote. This year the proposals in the packet dealt with points for Walk/Trot classes. Most were defeated mainly due to incorrect or incomplete wording. **NOTE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SUBMIT A RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE CONVENTIONS:** They must be typed (not hand-written). The exact wording and meaning must be in the proposal. They cannot be "tweaked" at Convention. Don't add more than you have to or leave anything important out. It might be a good idea to have someone familiar with the rule change proposal process look over your rule change proposal before submitting it to be sure it is clear to anyone reading it.
2. There were three rule change proposals tabled at the 2016 Convention that were discussed and also defeated. These had to do with equipment for riding and driving classes and attire for saddle seat equitation classes.
3. Pinto's Utility Division – The association is now accepting all draft horse breeds for this division. The Utility types for this division are now: Drums/Draft and Gypsy Cob/Vanner.
4. The International Committee is working hard to get Pinto charters established around the World. There is a charter already in Sweden; and of course our existing charters to our north in Canada. The Director from Sweden, Marty Hedgren, and his wife, Jill, attended the Convention. Marty and Jill learned a lot from those present and also filled us in on Pinto activity and life in Sweden.
5. Effective immediately there will be a \$35 Return Credit Card fee if a credit card is rejected at point of sale. For more details, please contact the Pinto office.
6. There will be no bank credit card fees passed on to people paying Pinto business with a credit card. The Executive Board decided that PtHA will absorb these charges.
7. The new Paint "RG" rule effective 05/01/17 regarding Solid Paints being registered in the Paint color registry was discussed. The Pinto requirements for these horses will remain the same as is now. They must meet the cumulative 4 square inches of eligible white in the qualifying zone as stated in the current rulebook. APHA horses registered under the RG-070-E rule will be considered on an individual basis by the Pinto Office. For any questions, please contact the Pinto Office.
8. World Show: Starting in 2018, the Versatility Classes will no longer be held. The saddles awarded in the classes will be reassigned to 2018 PtHA Year-End Awards for two Walk/Trot divisions and the Open Solid Registry division.
9. Zone Invitational invitations went out this year to the Top 4 in each zone per division. Last year it was only the Top 2 who received invitations. Hopefully, this will inspire more to attend the World Show and compete in this program. If you received an invitation, please be sure to send it back to the National Office as to whether you will participate or not.
10. SOAR: Beginning January 2017, the newly created SOAR's program combines the OCAP program (Open Competitive Activities Program) and On-the-Trail Program. This program will award PtHA members for their time spent with their Pintos in ALL activities. You may earn credits by showing at local non-PtHA shows such as Open, Schooling, and Fun shows, trail riding, lessons, driving, parades and much more. Credits will accumulate and prizes will be awarded. You must enroll in this program. For

more information on this, go to the Pinto website (www.Pinto.org). Look under “events” in the drop-down bar, then go to “SOAR Events”. This program is sponsored by Kensington Protective Products.

11. Last year, Pinto gave our members an opportunity to shop at Amazon.com and contribute to Pinto in an easy way. Most of us have purchased from Amazon. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to “smile.amazon.com” from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Pinto Heritage Foundation. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select Pinto Heritage Foundation as the non-profit you want to donate to. Then shop the same as you always did on Amazon.com. There is no cost to join and no added costs to use it.

For more information on any of the above or for additional information on the Convention that I may have not included, please go to the national Pinto’s website at www.Pinto.org.

The committee that I serve on, the Membership/Charter/Marketing Committee, had a few suggestions to help promote Pinto:

- It was emphasized that we must all become more “user friendly” and welcoming at our shows and other Pinto activities, especially to new people.
- Respect for ALL members (new and old) is essential. If someone is treated in a disrespectful way, word does travel. Treat people as you would like to be treated.
- Use your local newspapers to announce your National and State awards. Submit a picture of you and your horse, if possible.
- Use social media to promote your club and members.
- Possibly add a “Volunteer of the Year” and/or a “Pinto Promoter” award to your year-end awards.
- John Kile, the Chairman of this committee said something worth repeating: “The mind is much like an umbrella. It works best when open.”
- In order for a charter to grow, you must market it in order to get members.

That’s about it for now. And as Ellen DeGeneres says “Be Kind To One Another”. THINK PINTO!!

Kathy McCullough
PtHA Director
Representing New York State