



RACKING HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
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There was a speech given at general membership meeting 2.2.14 by President Chris P Walker as it relates to our yesterdays, our tomorrows, and to some disciplinary actions taken by the board. Though the actual speech given was not word for word, the following is the written version done in the hour before that meeting.

Welcome to the General Membership meeting at the 2014 Winter Meetings. Glad to have each of you here today.

The thing that draws us together and unites us is in fact the racking horse. Whether you enjoy the racking horse for trail riding or you enjoy the show horse, if the common denominator is taken out of the picture then you've taken out the ingredient that originally brought together about 99% of the relationships that we in the RHBA have with one another. As much a debt of gratitude that is owed to this great animal, the horse itself could not have created what we now enjoy, it took people. There is a whole history of people that worked hard, that spent time and money, expending blood sweat and tears, all in an effort to see this breed and organization continue. I'm not necessarily speaking of past presidents or board of directors, but I think of the many committees, the many associations, all made up by people. Think about the many trainers, the owned and trained folks, the owners, the exhibitors, and all the spectators that supported our organization over the many years by participating in some fashion. All these groups mentioned were made up by people and those people are greatly important to our today. In honor of them let's give them an applause.

Hindsight is always 20/20 and it's easy to see the need of these people. With that in mind, we know that to have great tomorrows, we will still need people that love, that work hard, that are willing to fight for good. Those people are you. We know there are many out there that contribute but couldn't make it here today but you represent those people. Instead of waiting 10 years to do so, lets stop now and say "thank you", give yourself an applause.

Let's talk about the "tomorrows". As with any industry and with any organization within any industry, there are cultures created by the people involved. Due to the changing of leadership from time to time and thus making it difficult to keep consistency, with a membership owned organization, to effect or to change that culture is years in the making if ever. A membership owned organization creates a ship too large to turn very quickly. By the time you get it turning, someone else gets involved and tries to turn it a different direction. There is always a tug and pull whereby the net result is that things continue as they are. However we are a membership owned organization and with that we do the best we can. Let me tell you the role of the president. A president should provide clarity for the moment and vision for the future. Leadership is nothing more than providing clarity. You will always be more reluctant to follow one that is on the fence, that gets tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, that appears confused. A president should provide clarity and should provide vision and hope for the future. In doing these things, he or she should set a certain tone. The board of directors also has a responsibility. They elect the president and with that they should decide if in fact that president is providing clarity and is providing a direction or

vision that sets a clear tone. If they decide that he or she is not doing either, then they should remove that individual from their position and select another one. If they decide that the individual is providing clarity and is providing vision, then they have to decide if they agree with the direction that the vision portrays. Once they decide that it is the right direction, and then it is their responsibility to take those positions of clarity, those directions provided by the president, and use them as a plum line or guideline to make every decision going forward. In other words that plum line, or that vision, becomes a measuring device that they use to measure everything else by. Once accomplished, the decisions of the board become to a small degree non emotional but instead they use the measuring device to gauge most every decision brought before them and the measuring device spits out the answers. It is this simple, the measuring device, the guiding principles, the vision provided, simply helps the board to know what to say "yes" to and what to say "no" to. As we walk this life, we all come to cross roads, to forks in the road. A vision, whether provided by God Himself, or by another, are for the purpose of being able to use that vision as a picture of a determined destination and then measure all things by it by asking the question, "does taking this road help me get to that end destination, to that place depicted by the vision?". The answer is usually very simply "yes" or "no". That's pretty clear.

Once the board has this type of information, it is also their job to infiltrate the membership with the vision, with the guidelines, with the principles that we plan to use to carry us forward. They do that verbally but they also do that by the decisions they make. This has been a weekend of decisions. The board had before it several situations that needed exploring and then determining if any action needed to be taken thereafter. I will share with you that it was decided in fact that disciplinary action was needed and justified. I know that folks want to know the details of the decisions but understand that I and the board have two responsibilities as it relates to representing the membership in these type matters. We have a responsibility to the membership as a whole wherein you are deserving of most bits of information. However, the second responsibilities are to you as individual members. These folks in reference are members and we have a responsibility to them. They have not yet received an official notice of disciplinary actions and some have not gone through the full process. With that in mind, it is easy to understand why it would not be right to publicly divulge information about what was or was not done in those respects. These things stated, I nor this board will be giving any more information at this time on these matters other than to say that action was taken on several things brought before the board and those actions will be made known at some time in the very near future.