

# IALHA NATIONALS

## *An Experience*

by Erica Peet

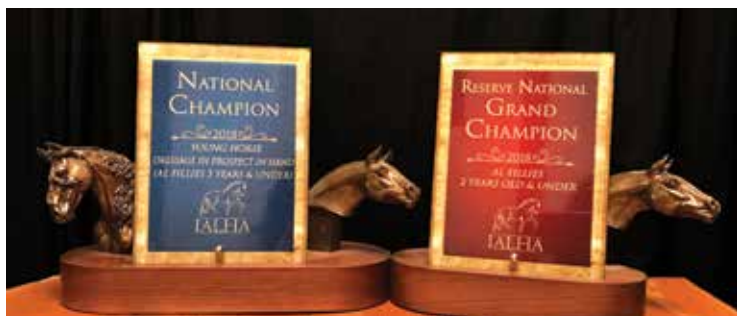
**T**he 2018 IALHA National Championship Horse Show was a smashing success. In more ways than one might expect. Yes, classes were run, and ribbons were won. But what you may not know, is that there was a lot more going on. This year, not only did we open our show to include other shows, but we worked to create experiences that brought people together so that all could enjoy the wonderful horses that we love.

The attendance of the show was up from last year. Over 64 owners came with their horses, with over 100 individual horses competing. Forty individual competitors went home with Championships from the 108 classes that were held. Our Champions and Reserve Champions received newly designed trophies. Michael Tapavica designed the horse busts. He is a skilled artist that has done sculpting work for Breyer, TSR Figures, and the Smithsonian. The

company, Trophies Unlimited, brought the complete vision of our trophy to life. The plaque is designed to be removable, so that one can showcase it without the base. It was a space saving idea that came about with the thought that not everyone may have room to display a large trophy. The APSL also handed out beautiful new trophies for the Lusitano classes. The talented Beatrice Bulteau created the trophies with her signature style.

Champions from each class were also placed into our new \$1000 National Championships Division Jackpots. There were 6 Divisions; Dressage, Driving, English Pleasure, Halter, Specialty and Western. The champions of each class were entered into the drawing for the specific division they competed in! This was open to Purebred and Half-Andalusians. Names were pulled out a hat after the last class of the show was completed. The winners of the 6 Divisions were; Dressage- Purebred, Dylan Casimoro owned by Andrea McNeal. Driving-Half-Andalusian, RHF Legada owned by Royal Horse Farms. English Pleasure- Purebred, Amadeo III owned by Twila Godinez. Halter and Specialty was won by the same horse- Purebred, Fresona ROY owned by Sleeping Willow Ranch. Western- Purebred, Diablo DC owned by Waller Farms.

DYLAN CASIMORO



**A**ndrea, who rode Dylan Casimoro had this to say about the Dressage Division Prize that they earned, "I was not sure what the Division prizes were, so you can guess my surprise when we won it. I would like to thank the generous sponsors of this prize, as well as my trainer Louisa Zai, my great team helping me, and of course Kristin Dennison for letting me ride her fantastic horse!"

This year the IALHA subcontracted out part of the facility to include 2 other shows. The Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse held their US Open Celebration Show, to offer classes for Pure Spanish Horses. The unique thing about their show was that they accepted all "S" papers. IALHA (S), ANCCE, PRE Mundial, UCCE, Cria Caballar, CCPREM, and AHAA (SO) registered horses were welcome to compete. It was a brilliant move, that no PRE show has ever done, and in the end their show brought in more horses than the Spanish section that was held last year did.

FOUNDATION FOR THE PURE SPANISH HORSE



IALHA was also happy to bring in the Southwest Classic Working Equitation Show, which had 23 horses competing in this exciting sport. The Dressage and Ease of Handling phases were held in one large auxiliary arena, but the Speed phase was held in the Main Arena on Friday night, as a featured event. Exhibitors and management were very happy with the success of its first year, and it appears that they may like to be a part of our show again next year.

**T**he other exciting event held Friday night was the Piaffe, Passage, Spanish Walk, Bailando competition. This competition was sponsored by the IALHA and the Foundation, whom together supplied the trophies

SOUTHWEST CLASSIC WORKING EQUITATION SHOW



and ribbons. Martin Perez, of Atlanta, judged the four classes and held the competition to a very high standard of professionalism. The classes were judged based on riding that showed finesse and correct training. Thanks to the help of Mario Contreras, of Chicago, who managed and DJed the event, it was a big hit. It was open to the public and it along with some additional entertainment, drew a great crowd. So much so that we are working to help them make it an actual show that they can be added to our list of National events available to our membership and competitors in the future.

"I think the event was very important for the community especially for Hispanic communities to be a part of such an important organization like the international Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association. Every class represented something different and



ENTERTAINMENT



away the responsibility of being in charge of all the pieces. The IALHA does not have the manpower to do it all. This approach of letting other shows run their own events worked. Each event managed itself with its own crews. The IALHA simply had to work with all groups to promote the entire program.

**T**his year, as a way of giving back to the community, the IALHA supported two charities. For the first charity, the Houston Food Bank, the public was asked to bring a canned food donation when they attended the Friday night events. It may be hard to believe, but Houston is still recovering from the hurricane and this was one way for the show to give back to the hosting city, to help those in need. The other charity was The Ronald McDonald House. Horses have been recognized for their therapeutic abilities, which can help heal emotional and spiritual wounds often caused by physical conditions. The IALHA Youth Program members wanted to share our beautiful horses with other youth. The Houston Ronald McDonald House brought over 25 children and their parents, who were hosted by the Youth at the show on Friday night. These special children enjoyed a pizza party, got to meet Breyer model Diablo DC, and watched the excitement of the Working Equita-

unique which brings out the best of each horse. It was great to see people from different backgrounds and disciplines participate, and I think this will bring great success to these classes in the future. This will also help educate people about proper training for these movements. I have heard for many years people complaining about improper training especially with caballos bailadores. But nothing was done about it except for endless post on social media. By bringing these new classes we are taking a huge step in the right direction and for the well-being of this beautiful partner we call our horse. In 2019 we are playing not only these classes again but also small clinics on proper training with the help of Mario A. Contreras. I would like to thank the organization for the opportunity and also Mario A. Contreras for his support.” – Martin Perez, Judge

The Show Committee is very happy over the success of these new events. The goal was to be able to offer something, in addition to our USEF rail classes, that would appeal to a wider group of our membership. It also allowed for the ability to take



DIABLO BREYER MODEL



Kathy Weir Photography

tion Speed phase. Each child went home with an IALHA horseshoe thanks to the donation of Farrier David Woods of Chicago, and a Diablo Breyer model thanks to the donation of Waller Farms.

"Being able to see the happiness radiate off those children's faces as they met Diablo, was extremely moving. It was a great privilege to be a part of such an event along with all the people that were willing to put in the time and effort to giving these kids a wonderful experience." -Kathleen Berger, Youth Representative of the IALHA Youth Program.

The IALHA is proud of its 2018 National Championship Horse Show. The last few years has seen the show grow and return to numbers of previous years. The IALHA is expanding the show not only in numbers but in the events and experiences offered.

The Show Committee has already set their goals for next year's shows. And the biggest surprise.... we are headed back to the Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Fort Worth, Texas!! We hope to see you there! ❖ TIH



Photo by Kellee Campbell