

Hello Amateurs! 2009 is already well under way, and it's been great to see so many of you at the shows. As most of you know, there was a lot of concern about the level of amateur participation in recent years, but with the great turnout we had at the January meeting, it looks like we're on the right track. Keep it up!

Our major fundraiser is coming up very quickly—the Celebrating Kansas Amateur Benefit Show. This show funds our year-end awards so it is critical that we support this show by showing, volunteering, or just being there! Sue Nickel is working very hard to make this a great show for us, so be sure to tell her THANK YOU when you see her!

As with last year's show, we will be having a silent auction this year, and we ask that each amateur bring an item for the auction. This can be a fun event as well as a great fundraiser, so be sure to participate!

Who's ready to tailgate??? A new event at the 2009 show will be the Picnic In The Park. The Amateur Association will provide the meat and soda, and we need folks to bring side dishes, desserts, condiments, etc. Shannon Justice is heading up this event and you can contact her at [Shannon.Justice@jpmc.org](mailto:Shannon.Justice@jpmc.org) to volunteer. Tell your trainer, your barn buddies, and your friends about this event—we are looking forward to some relaxing time at the horse show!

At our last meeting, we also discussed other fundraisers for this year and beyond. Suggestions currently being researched are clinics and open shows. If you would like to help with these projects or have other ideas to suggest, contact any KAQHA board member (contact information is on the Web site), or contact me and I will pass along the information to the correct people.

See you all at the Celebrating Kansas show!

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