

(www.hoofcare.com 21 August 2005)

Additional Comments from Bob Smith, AFEC spokesperson:



Bob Smith, as seen on www.farrierschool.com

Bob Smith owns the Pacific Coast Horseshoeing School in Sacramento, California and is vice president of the American Farriers Education Council, formed in August 2005.

About the AFEC meeting in Oklahoma:

This meeting was one of the most powerful meetings I have ever had the privilege of attending. In that room there was a gathering of dynamic men and women who have dedicated their lives to helping others. These were just plain good people.

All were upbeat, positive and had infectious enthusiasm about farrier education. This positive enthusiasm was so different from any AFA meeting I have ever attended.

The many heartwarming and amusing stories about the "extra mile" that school owners have gone for students kept the room in smiles.

In fact the meeting room was filled with much more laughter than anger.

About the relationship between AFEC and the AFA:

Every state has a government organization that regulates the private postsecondary and vocational education sector. These government agencies

approve the physical sites of schools, approve their curriculum and certify their instructors. They conduct regular onsite inspections and monitor student complaints. They oversee advertising, refunds, number of students, financial solvency and a multitude of "shall-nots" for schools.

These state regulatory bodies have the authority of law enforcement agencies to prosecute any and all schools that violate state law. Schools can be fined, closed and in some cases, the owners imprisoned for violations of existing state laws that regulate the private vocational school sector.

If the American Farrier's Association has any evidence of fraud or wrong doing by a school then they should file a complaint with the appropriate state licensing agency, provide the evidence and participate in legal action against that school. Since they have not it can only be assumed that there is no evidence to support their claims of " under-trained beginners, incompetent hacks and unscrupulous scam artists".

AFEC's position is that winning contests or simply shoeing horses for many years does not qualify anyone as an expert in farrier education. A belt buckle from the American Farriers Association is not a resume that would entitle anyone to usurp the authority of state government vocational education licensing boards on farrier school regulation.

The AFA's suggestions on educating farriers are welcome. The AFA's desire to control and/or regulate schools is not.

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