

## **USIHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEEETING MINUTES of JANUARY 15, 2008**

**Members present** - Andrea Barber, Asta Covert, Anne Elwell, Ed Hilgaertner, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Katrin Sheehan, Sandie Weaver, Bernie Willis

**Regional Club Observers** - Dawn Shaw, Cascade Icelandic Horse Club, Alys Culhane, Alaska Icelandic Horse Association, Annette Coulon, Kraftur

**Secretary's Report** - Kari reported that all previous board meeting minutes have been to the website with the exception of those from August 21, 2007. The Board gave approval to these minutes and Kari will arrange to have them posted on the website.

**Treasurer's Report** - Ed Hilgaertner reported Dec. 1st beginning balance of \$3,814.91. The month ended with \$18,011.39. The total income for December was \$21,191.73, which mainly consisted of memberships and reimbursement from the Registry's checking account. The expenses were \$6,995.00 mainly for reimbursement to Registry account. Ed explained that during the year the two accounts sometimes pay for and receive payments for each other's accounts. Once a year, Ed and Caryn get together and work out the corrections with reimbursements.

Kari and Ed are working on the final 2007 Income/Expense report for the Membership account.

**Registrar's Report** – Ed reported that Caryn Cantella is in the process of completing the year-end financial statement.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Breeding Committee** - Katrin Sheehan reported that the Stallion Book Proposal is still in committee.

**Competition Committee** – From Heidi Kline:

#### **ITEM #1**

I HAVE RECEIVED ONE OF THE REGISTRATIONS FOR DILLSBURG. THE OTHER ENTRANT HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE RESULTS. ANNE HAS HAD NO LUCK CONTACTING HIM AND WE HAVE NO REGISTRATION # FOR THE HORSE OR ANY INFO PROVING HE IS A REGISTERED HORSE IN ANY FEIF COUNTRY.

WE HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM WITH A CANADIAN REGISTERED HORSE THAT COMPETED AT THE KY SHOW. HIS PAPERS HAVE NOT YET SURFACED SO THIS HORSE AND RIDER COMBINATION WAS ALSO REMOVED FROM THE RESULTS.

ALL SHOWS FOR 2007 HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED. I JUST NEED TO KNOW IF THEY HAVE ALL BEEN REIMBURSED. ALL CHECKS FOR NON-REGISTERED HORSES AND NON-MEMBERS WERE SENT TO ED HILGAERTNER EARLIER THIS MONTH.

*Ed said all the checks for reimbursement have been mailed.*

**ITEM #2**

NATIONAL RANKING RESULTS ARE IN. THEY HAVE BEEN POSTED BY DOUG SMITH TO BOTH THE BULLETIN BOARD AS WELL AS SHOW RESULTS PAGE. DAVID IS TAKING CARE OF THE TROPHIES WHICH SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS IN MARCH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. NANCY MARIE IS ALSO PUTTING THIS ITEM IN THE QUARTERLY.

**ITEM #3**

THE SPORT COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT ALL MEMBERS OF ITS COMMITTEE MUST TAKE THE 3-DAY JUDGING SEMINAR.

MAJORITY VOTE OF 10 MEMBERS WAS THAT THIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES OF FIPO, FIRO & JUDGES GUIDELINES ARE NECESSARY FOR THOSE MAKING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS REGARDING THE USIHC AND IT'S SANCTIONED SHOWS. SOME MEMBERS JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A 1-YEAR GRACE PERIOD FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET TAKEN THE SEMINAR. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING IN ANY WAY THAT THEY NEED TO TAKE OR PASS THE EXAM. WE DO FEEL THAT THE 3-DAY SEMINAR IS A GOOD BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR THIS COMMITTEE. MANY OF THE MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THIS. ONLY TWO MEMBERS WHO HADN'T WERE OPPOSED TO THE IDEA.

MINORITY OPINION OF 3 WAS THAT THERE MAY BE OTHER CRITERIA THAT WOULD ALSO BE SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY THE MEMBERS. ONE VOTE AGAINST WAS FROM SOMEONE WHO HAD TAKEN THE SEMINAR AND TWO WHO HADN'T.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 19 MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEE. ONE OF WHICH IS A BOARD MEMBER WHO JUST VIEWS THE E-MAILS TO STAY INFORMED (ED HILGAERTNER)

HERE ARE THE 18:

HEIDI KLINE  
DAVID KLINE  
SARA LYTER  
ANDREA BARBER  
BERNIE WILLIS  
KATRIN SHEEHAN  
KATHY LOVE  
WILL COVERT  
DAN RIVA  
ALEX PREGITZER

THESE MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN THE SEMINAR

ALICE PEAL  
ANNE ELLWELL  
ASTA COVERT  
ANNE MARIE MARTIN  
SVERRIR BJARTMARZ  
SOPHIE KATAKOZINOS  
SARA CONKLIN  
MARTINA GATES

THESE HAVE NOT

*The Board discussed whether there might be other criteria to consider besides taking the Judging Seminar. Some thought it was unfair that this be the only committee that has requirement for membership. A number of Board members felt that if one is serious about being on the Sport/Competition Committee, they should take this seminar. Committee members need to know and understand the rules. Now that we have the Judging Seminars, the education is available.*

*A roll call vote was taken on the proposal to require that all members of the Sport Committee (with the exception of Board members) must have completed the Judging Seminar. Taking the test is not a requirement. There will be a one year grace period so the requirement would begin January 1, 2009. 5 Yes votes (Andrea Barber, Asta Covert, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Katrin Sheehan, Bernie Willis) 2 No votes (Anne Elwell, Ed Hilgaertner) 1 Abstention (Sandie Weaver)*

David Kline submitted the following:

1. Add the following to the National Ranking System newly in place:

- **In event of a tie**

In the event of tie in any discipline the National Ranking committee will determine the average based on as many scores as necessary to determine separate average scores. First the committee will use 3 scores and then move up one score as necessary.

*The Board approved the first sentence and felt the second sentence was not necessary and should not be included.*

2. Wording for rule change regarding dress code at sanctioned competitions.

*The Board had discussed this via email earlier. It was agreed that Anne Elwell's wording was to be added to the USIHC Competition Rules under the section titled "Rules of General Application". The wording is as follows:*

**Dress Requirements:**

All provisions in FIPO Section 3.3 shall apply. The dress requirements in all FIPO classes at USIHC sanctioned shows shall be those required at international sport competitions. The dress requirements in all non-FIPO classes shall be those allowed in Pace Race and Pace Tests.

**Constitution Review Committee – Steve Barber:**

Doug Smith offered to forward a proposal of his own to change the election process in the Constitution. So as to avoid redundancies, Steve Barber suggested he forward it to the Committee to see if the Committee's proposal could benefit from his ideas and or vice-versa. Then the final proposal shall be submitted before the February deadline.

Respectfully,  
Steve Barber

**Education Committee Report** – No report submitted

**Pleasure Riding Committee Report** - Andrea Barber reported: The 2007 PRP is wrapping up and all riding logs for 2007 should be sent in to me ASAP. It's also time to sign up for 2008. The application can be found on the USIHC website. Please encourage all to participate in this program.

**Policy and Procedures Committee Report** – Anne Elwell presented her draft of USIHC Policies. Please refer to attachment #1. Discussion included whether to put these policies on the website (no conclusion), and item 2, Votes in FEIF (if the USIHC Representative can vote on items that come up at FEIF meeting and conferences without time to get direction from the Board). The Board voted unanimously to accept the USIHC Policies as written and presented by Anne. Anne reminded the Board that these policies can and will be amended in the future as needed.

**Promotion Committee Report** – No report submitted.

**Quarterly Committee Report** - Anne Elwell – A proposal had been sent to the Board from Doug Smith regarding posting the Quarterly, both current and back issues, on our website, to be made available only to current members and accessible with a password. The Quarterly Committee had discussed this and although there was no formal vote taken, most of the committee members were not in favor of this proposal. It was felt that it would take about 50 members to opt for the online only version to save on the postage to break even. It might also result in a loss of membership as those members, whose main purpose for USIHC membership is receiving the Quarterly, could have another member print one out for free. No additional action by the Board on this issue. The Board felt it was best for this proposal to go to the Quarterly Committee for further review.

**Regional club Committee Report** - Andrea Barber reported that it is currently time for all Regional Clubs to renew for 2008. The renewal applications can be found on the USIHC website under Regional Clubs and are due by January 31, 2008.

**Website Committee Report** – Katrin Sheehan – See New Business item #2.

**Youth Committee Report** - Sandie Weaver reported: The deadline for Spaejari Youth Awards is January 31st, 2008. The young writer must be a USIHC member, and the horse being written about must be registered with the USIHC. Stories and photos must be sent to: Sandie Weaver, 28672 Paseo Bahia, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 or e-mailed to: weaverintl@aol.com.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Annual Meeting** - Katrin requested a list of awards (aside from the National Ranking, Pleasure Rider Program and Spaeri youth awards) that will be given at the Annual meeting. She is also looking for an agenda outline.

In the past the first notice for the Annual Meeting was included with the election mailing. This notice included instructions on how to bring proposals and Amendment changes to the Board for discussion at the Annual Meeting. As the election mailing has been sent, it was decided that a notice be placed on the website's bulletin board with this information.

The final mailed notice of the Annual Meeting will have to include any proposals from the membership and proposed Amendment changes which is anticipated from the Constitution Review Committee. According to our constitution, the Secretary must receive proposed Amendment changes no later than 40 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Notice of the meeting must be mailed no later than 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting. Bernie, Kari and Katrin will work together on this mailing. Katrin will give the dates of the Annual Meeting and location to Doug for posting on the website.

**2) Financial Overview** - Kari Pietsch-Wangard is in the process of reviewing past financial reports of both the Registry account and the Membership account. She thanked Ed and Caryn for their help and full cooperation. Kari is in the process of making a side-by-side comparison report of the two accounts for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The same will be done for 2007 as soon as the reports are complete.

**3) Judge for 2008 Youth Cup Applicants-** Sandie Weaver reported that Will Covert has agreed to judge the videos.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1) Registry Account Treasurer** – Ed Hilgaertner read a letter from Caryn Cantella, which reads as follows:

After the December 2007 Board meeting where there had been conversation on how the USIHC finances were kept and how many times a year the registry account and the treasury account should submit the same kind of detailed report that is submitted annually as the year end reports, Bernie Willis (President) said that he received several emails and phone calls from members that had been listening on the conference call or had heard from someone that had been listening on the conference call, with concerns about how the finances were kept. One statement Bernie Willis made which was supposed to have come from these emails and or the phone calls was, "If they don't want to discuss the finances then maybe there is something to hide." Ed and I both have never refused to discuss the finances and feel that our reputation is at stake here. I for one do not want to leave after all these years with anyone having concerns over the registry finances which I had taken care of since 1989. Five members of the board Caryn, Ed, Andrea, Anne, and Sandie requested that the emails be forwarded to the board so that we as a board could deal with these concerns first hand, not just Bernie's interpretations of them. Katrin and Laura had no comment other than they did not like the tone of the board emails and Barb was no longer on the board. Bernie has refused to forward the emails after several requests and has now refused to answer any of my emails concerning this issue. Although he has now said that it was two people that had concerns not several. However for me, these are two too many. I am very sad that I was not given the opportunity to address these concerns personally before I retired. Even though I was not given the chance to respond to those with concerns, the board has unanimously agreed that

they are no problems with the finances or how they are kept. I have asked that this statement be posted so that members would know that I made every attempt to answer any question or concerns that members might have before I retired, but because the lack of cooperation by Bernie, I have been unable to do so. Even though I am no longer on the board I would be happy to answer any questions if anyone wishes to contact me directly. My email address is [hiddenlakeranch@earthlink.net](mailto:hiddenlakeranch@earthlink.net)

Best regards to all of the USIHC members,  
Caryn Cantella

The Board of Directors of the USIHC unanimously agree that they have found no problems with the finances and record keeping for the Registry and for the Treasury through December 31, 2007.

Ed suggested that Asta Covert take over the Registry Account as she is the new Registrar. Caryn is currently the signer on the Registry account. She and Ed are working on getting the signature card changed.

Asta wondered how she should handle payment to herself for Registry work. It was agreed that she submit a bill to Ed who will pay her from the Membership account and then get reimbursement from the Registry account. It was agreed by the Board that Asta will take over the Registry Account as soon as the signature card paperwork can be completed.

**2) Website – Authority to make minor changes** – See attachment #2 presented by Doug Smith.

Andrea Barber felt that the Webmaster and the web committee couldn't make any changes without the affected committee's OK. The recently approved USIHC Policy addresses website content under item #8. Some examples given by Doug appear to be in violation of this policy. Katrin will share this policy with Doug.

Discussion continued whether it would be acceptable to send notices, approved by the Board, to the membership via email. Some Board members thought this might exclude some members who do not have email but it would be OK for reminders.

**3) U.S. Representatives of the Delegates Committee** – We need to appoint a delegate for the Delegates Assembly during the FEIF Conference to be held February 15<sup>th</sup> in Iceland. Susan Peters will be in Iceland during the conference and offered to be our delegate. It was agreed by unanimous vote that she could be our delegate but that she cannot vote unless instructed by the Board. She is to report back to the Board after the conference.

**4) Corrections of Certificate of Ownership** – Katrin wanted to make semantics correction. At the October 23, 2007 meeting, the Board voted to accept a proposal that the "Certificate of Origin" be required as proof of ownership for U.S. registration of horses imported from Iceland after 2002. It should have been "Certificate of Ownership". The Board agreed with this correction.

**5) Annual Meeting Notice** – Katrin offered to print the meeting notice and related materials if she has access to our letterhead, logo and mailing list. It was suggested that she contact Doug for the current mailing list.

**6) FEIF Conference Chairman’s Report-** The theme of the FEIF Conference next month is “Humanitarian Issues Regarding our Horse”. Bernie reported that the Chairman of FEIF is looking to each country to support the goals of FEIF, specifically, the welfare of the horse. They want to know how we, in our organization, are going to support these goals in areas such as not riding in an inhumane way, stopping the use of equipment and bits improperly, etc.

The Board felt we do not have the same level of problems in the U.S. as they have in Europe, however it is important to address this before it becomes a problem. By educating our members, hopefully we can assure the well-being of the Icelandic horse in the U.S. This could be done with articles in the Quarterly. Katrin suggested that the Board needs to make a formal statement that we promote the well-being and welfare of the Icelandic horse. Anne remembered a letter that used to be given to judges at U.S. competitions. The letter urged them to make us aware, in a friendly way, of any rough riding or questionable tack or use of tack (including bits). Anne will send a copy of this letter to the Education Committee.

**7) Equine Affair Contracts** – This was not discussed as Laura was not present.

**8) Add Competition Reimbursement Policy to Official USIHC Policy** – Kari suggested that this be added to the Official USIHC Policy. As this policy is covered in the USIHC Sanctioned Shows document on the website, it was not necessary.

**9) Letter from Michael Edwards, Chairman FEIF Registration Group** – See attachment #3. Asta reported that the mare Hetja (and offspring) have been proven to be purebred and have been entered into WorldFengur. This was not the case for the mare Litla. The result is that Litla and her offspring (one mare and one gelding) are not considered purebred. This poses a problem they are currently in our registry and our registry only allows for purebred Icelandics. Ed suggested that these three horses be removed from our registry and placed in a pending file. It would then be up to the owners to prove that Litla is purebred. Asta was instructed to write a letter to the affected owners regarding this situation and their pending status. The Board will approve the letter via email.

*Following the meeting, Anne Elwell informed the Board that there is a procedure to be followed as outline in Section 18 of the Registry Rules. This procedure will be followed.*

There being no further business on the agenda to discuss, the Board adjourned at 10:10 CST. The next meeting will take place on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Pietsch-Wangard

Secretary

## **ATTACHMENT #1**

USIHC Policies 1/1/2008 – Anne Elwell

### 1. Commercial involvement.

It was determined by the Board many years ago that it would not be involved in any commercial disputes. This was a pragmatic decision resulting from an excruciating and fruitless effort to resolve one. We decided that commercial disputes are best left to courts, which have powers and abilities to compel evidence that we do not.

In succeeding years this has expanded into a policy of avoiding commercial endeavors almost entirely. We do provide some commercial opportunities for members. For example, we provide a forum for members (and others) to advertise in the Quarterly. We send the Congress booth to events such as Equine Affaire and offer members the opportunity to display brochures and other written material there. Members may belong to the Farm List. But the organization itself does not engage in marketing or commercial endeavors.

### 2. Votes in FEIF.

Congress members attending FEIF meetings do not vote on matters which come up for vote, either in Committees or the Delegates Meeting, except as directed by the Board.

### 3. Document storage.

Each officer and committee chair is responsible for storage of documents pertaining to his/her office or committee. In the event two persons have an interest in documents (i.e., the Breeding Committee Chair and the Registrar each have an interest in the evaluation score sheets), these persons shall decide where the documents will be stored. The person not storing the documents shall be entitled to a copy of them if he/she wishes.

### 4. Reimbursement of Travel and Related Expenses.

All travel and related expenses of Board members, Committee Chairs, or members conducting business for the organization are borne by the individual and are not reimbursed by the organization. Decisions to amend this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### 5. Financial allotment to Youth Committee.

The Youth Committee will be provided with \$500 per year to be spent on the promotion of youth activities, as the Committee Chair shall decide.

### 6. Notices to the membership.

All notices to the membership shall be in writing and mailed to all members.

## 7. Autonomy of Regional Clubs.

Regional Clubs shall be autonomous units except for such requirements as are contained in the Rules Governing Regional Clubs and the requirement that each club designate someone as a Youth Contact. The latter is for the purpose of naming someone from whom young riders in the area covered by the Regional Club can obtain information about various opportunities and activities for youth.

## 8. Website content.

Committee Chairs and persons responsible for website content may make such changes as are necessary to keep the website current but there shall be no changes to the content of any existing document on the website without the approval of the Board.

## 9. Fund-raising.

Fund-raising activities for various Congress-related events and programs is encouraged. Any fund-raising endeavor seeking the approval of the Board, however, must benefit all participants in the activity or program equally.

## 10. Committee Chairs.

For many years it was required that Committee Chairs be members of the Board. In 2006 it was determined that Committee Chairs may be persons outside the Board. In that event, however, the Board will designate a Board member to be a liaison to the Board from that Committee. The purpose of establishing a liaison is to insure that the Board will be kept informed of any matters within the Committee of which it should be aware and so that the Board will be able to communicate any requests it might have of the Committee. The liaison has no responsibility for the work of the Committee and functions simply to facilitate communication.

In the event a Committee Chair wishes to resign he/she may designate a successor. Final approval is in the discretion of the Board.

## 11. Standing Committees.

The membership in such committees shall be open to any member of the Congress. In the event a Committee member is inactive for a period of at least six months, the Committee Chair may remove him/her on thirty days notice.

The two financial accounts of the Congress.

- A. The Congress account for which the Treasurer is responsible. Into this account are deposited membership fees, Quarterly advertising, farm listing fees, World Championship and Youth Cup Tryout fees, and any other fees payable to the organization except those related to the registration of horses and those fees collected

from non-members of Congress (or for non-USIHC registered horses) at certain Congress events.

From this account are paid all of the ongoing operational expenses of the organization, including but not limited to FEIF dues, telephone, office supplies, postage, World Championship and Youth Cup Tryout expenses, and all costs of publishing and mailing the Quarterly.

- B. The Registry account for which the Registrar is responsible. Into this account are deposited all of the fees related to the registration of horses and fees collected from non-members of Congress (or for non-USIHC registered horses) at certain Congress events.

From this account are paid all the expenses of the Registry. All funds not necessary for the operation of the Registry are accumulated for the purpose of funding projects that are deemed necessary for the advancement of the breed and the development of the organization as set forth in the preamble to the Constitution. Such projects have included the purchase of the Congress booth, the payment of the travel expenses of International Sports Judges for Sanctioned Shows, losses incurred in the first three evaluations sponsored by the Congress, the development of software necessary to put the Registry online, Riding Badge program patches, Breeding Evaluation Certificates, USIHC brochures, Awards for retiring Board Members and other significant contributors to the Congress, various trophies for World Championship and Youth Cup competitions, and stalls for the American Team horses at the World Championships.

## **ATTACHMENT #2 - From Doug Smith**

- Web Site.
  - Committees should be authorized to instruct the webmaster to update their pages as needed to facilitate timely dissemination of information to the membership.
  - The webmaster should not be required to determine the validity of a request from a committee.
  - The web committee and webmaster should have the authority to undertake any project to make the web site a better vehicle for communication with the membership and guests as long as such projects do not alter the policies and procedures of the Congress. Examples include:
    - Automating renewal of PRP enrollment with membership renewal.
    - Creating an online vehicle to deliver and archive the Quarterly to interested members.

- Restructuring site navigation (new menus)
- Any project which streamlines site maintenance with no discernible change to the casual user (e.g.: automating calendar and bulletin board updates.)

**ATTACHMENT #3** - From Asta Covert

Letter from Michael Edwards, Chairman FEIF Registration Group:

The FEIF registration group (including Asta Covert met in London and discussed individual problems that had could not be resolved in the country of location. We considered two horse problems presented from USA, both being horses born in Germany.

Hetja (born 1987) F: Hrafn IS1967187055 M: Loni-Branka DE384847015671

The Registration Group considered the fifth generation mare "Lotte". Whilst it could not be proven that this ancestor was born in Iceland, around 1956, the Registration Group considered there was sufficient evidence to believe this to be the case.

In consequence, the horse HETJA (and any offspring) may be recorded as pure-bred.

Litla (born 1985) F: Leiftri DE1974144822 M: Bleika DE343442150279

The Registration Group considered the parentage of the mother Bleika. There was no evidence presented to prove that Bleika is a pure-bred Icelandic. There was no circumstantial evidence presented, other than general appearance. In consequence, the horse LITLA (and any offspring) cannot be regarded as pure-bred Icelandics.

USIHC is requested to take appropriate action to exclude such horses from the main studbook.

Should further evidence be forthcoming the Registration Group will consider the case again.

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Hetja has already been entered into WorldFengur along with offspring.

We need to discuss and decide what to do with Litla and her offspring since she cannot be entered into WorldFengur and is in our registry along with offspring.