

USIHC - BOD 4/15/08 MEETING MINUTES

Members present - Laura Benson, Anne Elwell, Ed Hilgaertner, Kathy Love, Karen Olson-Fields, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Katrin Sheehan, Bernie Willis

Regional Club Observers - Alys Culhane - Alaska Icelandic Horse Assn., Annette Coulon - Kraftur, Dawn Shaw - Cascade Iceland Horse Club

President Bernie brought the meeting to order at 8:10 PM CST.

Secretary's Report (Kari Pietsch-Wangard) The minutes from the 3/28/08 meeting have been approved and posted on the website.

Bernie asked Karen about the status of the minutes from the Annual Meeting in Madison, GA. Aside from the notes she took at the meeting, Karen hadn't done anything with them except send them to the Board. Since the Secretary (Kari) was not at the Annual Meeting, she can't do them. Bernie asked if Karen could follow up with the rest of the Board for corrections and get the minutes in the best form they can be and get them up on the website.

Treasurer's Report (Ed Hilgaertner)

3/1/08 Opening balance \$19,052.31

3/31/08 Closing balance \$15,216.22

About \$1,500.00 of Registry expenses has been paid out of the membership account.

Registrar's Report (Asta Covert)

3/1/08 Opening balance \$71,106.93

3/31/08 Closing balance \$ was not available at the time of meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Breeding Committee Report (Katrin Sheehan) No report submitted

Competition Committee Report (Heidi Kline, Asta Covert liaison) No report submitted

Education Committee Report (Alexandra Pregitzer, Bernie Willis liaison)

1. Riding Badge Program

- suggestion was brought up at annual meeting to provide a better/detailed scoring system
- Karen Olson mentioned confusion about name as the Pleasure Rider Program also gives out badges.

We should make sure to not get it mixed up

- committee ought to approach trainers and instructors to promote the riding badge program

2. Sports Judges Seminars

- will get in touch with Canadians to verify their system of certification to see if we should acknowledge their certificate or not
- some people suggested that the Canadians exam is not strict and there is no failing and thus maybe the level is different from the US

3. Breeding Seminars

- agreement that it may be too early to put in place a breeding judge seminar
- suggestion to offer more seminars on the topic first to educate people
- second step might be a seminar for those interested in becoming breeding judges next year
- after that offer ongoing seminars for those interested to become judges but have to have the prerequisite of attending the first ones to qualify for further ones
- Barbara Frische will come to the US in 2008 and offer more breeding seminars and also will be offering personal advice/counseling for breeders

4. New Sports Competition Seminar

- this seminar qualifies participants for the Sport Committee and is aimed for competition riders thriving to educate themselves. The emphasis is on FIPO incl. the classes but also basics about the judging guidelines.

enclosed is an outline for the concept (see attachment at end of agenda)

- first seminar in May in CA at Asta and Will's place
- I asked Asta to send in the calculation for board approval
- most likely second sports competition seminar in July in WI at Winterhorse Park

5. Other Seminars

- good ideas for the KY show were discussed. Gudmar is open minded to have us do another seminar in conjunction with his Nov show. Details are being discussed with Kathy Love and Gudmar before working out a concept. Possible topics suggested by this committee and very well received were horse health (vet lectures), shoeing (we are in touch with Heidi and David Kline to see if we can get Siggie Torfi), bits (I am in touch with Horst Klinghard), saddle fitting (Eileen).
- I am trying to find out more details and get it coordinated to see who is available at what rates and what is possible
- it was being discussed to host a USIHC education committee seminar that will offer advice on how to pick the right trainer. I am in touch with Helga Podlech of Wiesenhof to discuss ideas on a seminar like that. We are aiming for next winter. Details to follow

6. FEIF Trainer Seminars

- we discussed the recent FEIF seminar at Creek Side Farm which was very successful
- it was also discussed that the biggest issue with trainer seminars is the lack of English language material
- the USIHC conclusion at the meeting was that FEIF ought to provide access to the materials if they offer the certification
- I emailed the FEIF education chairman to ask for his thoughts and support. I also wanted to know if FEIF had previously discussed the topic and what they had concluded so far and if there were any plans to come up with the material
- Katrin has the German materials on CD and we have allowance to use them but a translation is very costly
- one member attending volunteered to translate materials from German into English and will get in touch with Katrin Sheehan
- I informed the member of similar unsuccessful projects in the past and thanked her for her generous offer, which we will accept gladly to start out with something
- This committee is discussing that future seminars that include a FEIF certifications should be hosted not privately but by the USIHC to have more influence of the congress on timing, materials, etc.... rather than just sanctioning the seminars as suggested at the annual meeting

Katrin (along with her German speaking crew) felt she would be able to have the materials translated into English in about 8 months. Deidre (last name?) has offered to help with translation as well.

Bernie asked Katrin for clarification as to which organization is responsible for certifying the Level 1 trainers (like the recent course at Katrin's farm). Katrin explained that IPZV master trainer Walter Feldmann gave the seminar in English and another IPZV master trainer administered the testing. They used the German program outline as it is the only country that has an established program. Most other countries certifying trainers use the German program with a few modifications. In the US, for example, they did not cover German law and instead used American law regarding horse activities. Katrin discussed her program outline with FEIF Education Chair who gave his approval to call it a FEIF Level 1 Trainer seminar. Following the testing, those that pass would have the designation of FEIF Level 1 trainers, which is comparable to IPZV Trainer C in Germany. What needs to be done at this point is have USIHC come up with a system to certify those who take the seminar and pass the test. Katrin's seminar was a pilot program and it complied with the FEIF matrix for trainer certification.

The Board unanimously recognized the individuals who passed the first seminar in the US as Level 1 trainers. Once there is a US system in place to certify trainers (based upon the pilot program), these individuals will automatically be certified USIHC.

7. List of Certified Icelandic Horse Trainers in the US

The education committee suggests to put together a list of certified Icelandic horse trainers in the US and to publish that list on the USIHC web site. **We would like to know if the board approves that suggestion.**

The Board unanimously approved this plan as long as those who do not want their names published can opt out.

8. Quarterly articles

We brought up some topics that we felt would be making great articles for the Quarterly. Anne Elwell is putting together some ideas.

Alexandra Pregitzer
Chairman Education committee

Pleasure Riding Committee Report (Karen Olson-Fields) The following was sent by Andrea Barber:
The following prizes need to be decided on for the 2007 winners:

- Medals: In the past Amy got the medals from Iceland. The jeweler that she got them from has since sold his store and has retired, but the old jeweler's daughter has good relations with the new owners and said she could still get them. However, the soonest she could get them and bring them back is June which seems really late. I also have not been able to get a price – but Amy said in the past the prices were reasonable.

However, Asta told me about (another) site. This site would allow us to order medals with the USIHC logo. I think these would be very nice as they would really identify that the prize is coming from the USIHC. However, for these medals we would need to order in bulk, as you need to order 25 of any one kind. Still I think this is OK because then we would have the medals for years to come and wouldn't have to order them each and every year. The price per medal would be approximately \$13.00 plus shipping and since we would need three types of medals we would need to order 75. Then we would need to get them engraved locally annually. I am unsure of the cost of the engraving as I think I would need to take the

actual medal in and get a quote.

- Jackets: This is the jacket (Spring Cirrus Rider) I have selected from Mountain Horse for the adult 2007 winners. The price is normally \$115.00 each, but Mountain Horse gives us a 50% discount so the cost would be \$57.50 plus shipping. Our junior riders can either select the same jacket as the adults or (Winter Fjording Junior). The regular price of this jacket is \$74.95, which would be \$37.48 with our discount. We will need four adult jackets and three youth jackets.

In past years we have gotten the jackets embroidered with the USIHC logo. Last year Barb Riva handled this – she no longer wishes to do so. The problem is that we paid that embroider a \$200 set up fee last year and if we switch to a new one we'd have to pay another set up fee. I could still use the person Barb used, but then I would have to send all the jackets there and send them all back – that would mean lots in postage and lost time. So, my thought is actually to scrap the embroidering all together. If we get the new medals with the USIHC logo, I think that will be enough. Then I can just get the sizes, order the jackets, and have them sent directly to the winners.

- Vests: We have several 1,000 hour recipients this year who will need vests. Unfortunately, Mountain Horse totally changed their product line and they do not have any suitable vests. I have been looking at other suppliers and while I have found some nice vests at reasonable prices for women, the only men's vest I have found has been very expensive. I will continue to look and will try to come up with some final options in the next couple of weeks.

Andrea

This came later from Andrea:

The prizes for 2007 have been approved and are currently being ordered.

Karen pointed out that the awards approved did not include the vests. Karen has taken over finding 6 vest awards for the 1,000 hour recipients. She has a good connection with Ariat and feels she can purchase the vests and still stay within the budget of \$300. These items will not be embroidered. Once Karen has final costs for the vests, she will seek email Board approval.

Promotion Committee Report (Kathy Love) No report submitted

The booth is currently in Gudmar's storage shed following Equine Affair.

Regional Club Committee Report (Andrea Barber, Karen Olson-Fields liaison)

The Maine Icelandic Horse Association has been approved and is now our 14th regional club.

Quarterly Committee Report (Anne Elwell)

The Quarterly committee has enthusiastically approved offering an electronic Quarterly as an option with the representation from Doug Smith that a block (lock?) can be put in place so that a member will only be able to print one copy. To date a couple of members have not indicated approval but they did not voice objections when the idea was initially proposed so it is believed that their failure to indicate approval to date is probably the result of their not seeing the request for approval yet.

Nancy Brown has reported that she and the graphic person encountered no difficulty in setting this up so an anticipated extra set up cost is no longer a concern.

The possibility of being able to archive the Quarterly is extremely attractive but committee members had some different thoughts about how it should be set up, whether or not it should be free, etc. We would like to have some discussion with the website committee about the mechanics of this and all other aspect of an electronic Quarterly. This should continue as a mutual project of the two Committees.

The Board unanimously approved the offering of an electronic quarterly with the provisions stated above and the notification of this option to the membership via email. Katrin will contact Doug about

the email notification. The Website Committee and the Quarterly Committee will work out the mechanics. It was also suggested to place a notice in the next Quarterly regarding the electronic version option.

Web Site Committee Report (Doug Smith, Katrin Sheehan liaison) Web Committee Report For April

Completed

- Web site re-launch completed as announced at the annual meeting in Madison.
- Known data errors in membership list (e.g. "false positive" duplicates, names in all caps, etc) have been corrected.
- Gayle Smith has formally joined the committee.

In Progress

- Adding checks to prevent the creation of future "false positive" duplicate members.
- Adding map to horse registry index page showing distribution of horses similar to the map on the membership page.
- Stallion pages still being converted to new format.
- Events being moved from hand-coded HTML to the database so they can be included in the RSS feed.

Katrin explained that Doug is working on a template (fill in the blank) for the stallion owners to fill out which will automatically translate into the finished stallion's page.

Policy Question

The committee still is unclear on the procedure for changing information on pages which do not belong to a specific committee. For example, the information on the "colors" page is worded awkwardly and uses terms not normally associated with the colors of Icelandic horses. Who needs to approve that change? Does a formal proposal need to be sent to the Board for each such change? Should the Web Committee take its best guess at which committee "owns" the information and coordinate with them?

The Board unanimously agreed that the Web Committee coordinate changes directly with the committee chair regarding their website areas.

Youth Committee Report (Laura Benson)

Laura gave a quick update regarding Youth Cup Team Leader. The "pre-entry" contract for FEIF Youth Cup was due and it required the name of our Team Leader. Laura was unable to contact the forum in charge of the applications but she knew there was one for Team Leader and placed her name on the contract and it can be changed at a later date if need be. Bernie wanted to be sure that whoever is chosen for Team Leader or Country Leader, they realize that they will be going at their own expense.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Constitution Review Committee Report (Kari Pietsch-Wangard).

The revised Constitution with new amendments is ready for posting on the website. We have also changed the format to make it easier to navigate by adding spacing and bold fonts for titles. The committee would like permission to release it onto the website in place of the old version.

The Board unanimously approved the amended and reformatted Constitution.

Policy and Procedure Committee Report (Anne Elwell) No report submitted

Ed and Anne urged everyone that is there is a question regarding if there is a policy or procedure on any matter, please do not hesitate to ask Anne. Anne has tried to remember as many as she can and get it down on paper, however there are more, which are forgotten but still important.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Email votes:

A) Approve Maine Icelandic Horse Assn. as a Regional Club

Votes for: Anne, Asta, Bernie, Karen, Kari, Kathy

Votes against: None

B) Approve purchase of 4 Adult Jackets, 3 Kid's jackets and 75 medals for the Pleasure Rider Program awards. (See full proposal under PRP Committee).

Votes for: Anne, Asta, Bernie, Ed, Karen, Kari, Kathy

Votes against: None

2) Increase FEIF Evaluation fee and billing Regional Clubs for FEIF Evaluation fees.

Because the Euro has gained in value against the dollar, it is hard to place a dollar value on the 15-euro FEIF evaluation fees. Last year's \$20/horse fully evaluated did not cover the cost by the time we were billed by FEIF in January 08. From this point forward the Board unanimously approved requiring any club who holds an evaluation charge the equivalent of 15 Euro (in dollars) and round up to the nearest \$5 increment. E.G. today the 1 Euro equals \$1.60, which would make the FEIF fee equal to \$24. The final FEIF fee the club would charge would be the next \$5 increment or \$25. The NEIHC will be charging \$25 at their May evaluation.

Anne brought up the fact the NEIHC has not paid USIHC for any of their 3 past evaluations. They were expecting an invoice, which was not related to Ed. Anne asked that Katrin review the last three NEIHC shows and give Ed the number of fully evaluated horses and charge \$20 per horse. Ed can then double check the numbers against what we were billed from FEIF and bill NEIHC for their fees.

Kari suggested that a form be created and added to the Evaluation Handbook that will ask how many fully evaluated horses were presented and what fees were collected for FEIF and non-member and non-registered horses. Once this form is filled out, a check for the total amount collected would be included and sent to the Breeding Chair who will check for accuracy and send it on to the Treasurer.

Anne also suggested that when the Treasurer gets the FEIF annual bill, a copy of the bill should be sent to the Breeding Committee Chair for approval. The Breeding Committee chair will know how many horses were evaluated and entered into WorldFengur.

3) Reimbursement from WC team and FEIF attendees for their charges paid by USIHC.

Ed needs to send a written letter to Heidi regarding the reimbursement problem for charges related to the Holland WC. Ed will send her copies of all of the billings and ask her to do some research and provide a written report outlining who owes what to Congress. If some items need further credits from FEIF/WC, she needs to document this as well.

Ed will also inform each participant who went to the FEIF conference in 2007 that they owe Congress for their charges. When we receive the 2009 annual FEIF invoice, ED will also need to give FEIF an itemized list of credits that we feel are owed to us. When Ed receives the invoice from FEIF for the 2008 conference, he will need to invoice participants for their charges.

The Board agreed that whenever the Treasurer gets an invoice from FEIF, we need to discuss it before it is paid. If it involves a committee chair, they need to see the invoice as well. If we do this, reimbursement invoices can be sent quickly and mistakes in billing can be identified and corrected.

Kari will work with Ed to document all of our credits with FEIF.

4) Other Old Business - None

NEW BUSINESS

1) Membership expiration/renewal date – grace period

I've come to realize there is a problem with the online database's membership expiration. A membership for 2008 should expire April 1, 2009 not January 1, 2009. Currently, I use the calendar year for membership. The April 1st bit is my new interpretation of the "members stay on the rolls until March 31st" language. The big snag there is the World Fingur renewal. Since that happens in February, we will give a new access code to a member who hasn't yet renewed for 2009. I think I need some direction from the Board on this one.

Help?!

--Doug

Since the Board felt this grace period does not belong in the Constitution, the Board unanimously approved removing the second sentence of Constitution Article III Membership, Section 6 "On March 31st of each year, all members who paid for the preceding calendar year, but who have not paid for the then current calendar year, shall be removed from the membership roll." Anne said we will need to hold a Special Meeting in order to amend the constitution this year rather than wait until the next year's Annual Meeting. We will need a quorum of 15 members and the notice needs to be sent to the membership 30 days in advance. A 2/3rds vote approval would be needed in order to pass the amendment.

2) Virtual Icelandic Horse Show notice on website.

A member sent a request to Doug to post information on the USIHC Events Calendar about a "Virtual" Icelandic Horse Show and gave Doug a link to use. The link sent you to another person's website which did include information about this virtual show. The current policy regarding posting items on the Events Calendar page is that only a Congress member can request events they are sponsoring (hosting). Since this member was not sponsoring this virtual show, the Board felt it was inappropriate to have it included on this page and should be removed.

The Board felt the policy needed to be amended. The Board unanimously agreed that only a contact name, phone number and email address (for further information) be allowed and links taking you to another website would no longer be allowed. The heading that appears at the top of the Events Calendar page will replace the word "sponsored" with "hosted". The current policy stating that only Congress members can post their hosted events on the Events Calendar shall also remain in force.

Katrin will work with Doug to create an internal link that will take you to a Congress page that would have forms for sanctioned shows and evaluations to download for events. It would be similar to a template that Doug is creating for the Stallion Page. The organizer of the event would fill in the blanks and the information would appear as the finished form to download.

3) Other New Business:

A. Anne wanted to update the Board on her conversations with the owner of Fagri –Blakkur regarding his registration status. His owner was very pleased to know that she can continue to work on researching his ancestry to prove his ancestor's connection to Iceland and she can reapply for his registration once this connection has been established.

B. Katrin's resignation from the Board was formally presented. She would like to remain as the Chair of the Breeding Committee. She recommended we consider Doug Smith as her replacement. His involvement with the website and many other areas in Congress make him a very strong candidate. As much as she thought Doug would be an excellent addition to the Board, Anne reminded the Board that it is not the resigning Board member's job to find their replacement. She also felt it was important that we also consider spreading the Board representation geographically if possible. Taking all of this into consideration, Doug Smith was unanimously approved to take over Katrin's Board position and fulfill the rest of her term.

C. Laura brought up the current status of the New Member Welcome Packet. Gayle Smith has been sending out these packets since Sara Conklin stepped down from this job. Gayle has run out of material and needs to know what we want in future packets. The Board decided to authorize Gayle to acquire the following for future packet mailings:

1. A welcome letter from the President (Bernie will send this to Gayle)
2. A copy of our Constitution
3. A past (current) copy of the Quarterly (from Judy or a copy of the electronic version)
4. The new Congress Brochure and the Icelandic Horse brochure (from Laura)
5. The magnet with the Congress address

There being no further business on the agenda to discuss, the Board adjourned at 10:05 PM CDT. The next meeting will take place on May 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Pietsch-Wangard

USIHC Secretary

USIHC Education Committee Sports competition seminars 2008



Goal

The goal of these seminars is to cover a variety of topics that will allow competition riders and those interested in competing to educate themselves about competition riding and to help them gain a better understanding of FIPO and Judging Guidelines.

The seminar is a class room style seminar and it does not only aim for a better general understanding of competitions and but should also address details of how to ride classes in order to help participants improve their performance. Competitors will learn how to ride the classes they enter the best they can and will also be able to make better choices as to which classes may be best suited for their horses and riding abilities.

The Seminar should also cover some basics of judging for the participants to better understand what the judges are looking for.

There will be no exam for participants.

Duration

This is a 2-day seminar. The hours per day depend on the clinicians individual way of teaching.

Clinician

The seminar is being taught by a FEIF International Sports Judge.

Location

The seminar can take place at any suitable location, preferably in conjunction with a sanctioned show or schooling show.

Concept

The following topics should be covered by the clinician

FIPO:

- ✓ Welfare of the horse
- ✓ Code of conduct – fair play
- ✓ Prohibited bits
- ✓ Tack (bits, saddle, bridles, other equipment)
- ✓ Shoeing
- ✓ Protective equipment
- ✓ Eligible riders
- ✓ Dress code and equipment riders
- ✓ Eligible horses
- ✓ Track
- ✓ Judges
- ✓ Starting orders
- ✓ Left and right rein groups
- ✓ Marks
- ✓ Class descriptions of FIPO classes (T1, T2, T3, T5, T6, T7, T8, V1, V2, V3, V4, V5, V6, F1, F3, P1, P2, PP1, FS1 and others, also fun classes like Trail etc...)
- ✓ Preliminaries
- ✓ Finals
- ✓ Rough riding
- ✓ Inspections
- ✓ Disqualifications
- ✓ Music

OTHER:

- ✓ how to ride the classes (e.g. T1 where exactly to speed up and slow down etc...)
- ✓ the meaning of the different speeds in the classes (how slow is slow trot? How slow/fast is the trot in F1? How fast is a fast trot?)

JUDGING GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Discuss Basics of Judging
- ✓ System of judging
 - correctness/performance
 - rhythm & gait / beat
 - movement & quality
 - form/carriage
 - expressiveness
 - rider/horse harmony and riding skills
- ✓ Scoring
 - Faulty section
 - transition to average section
 - average section
 - transition to good section
 - good section
 - deductions