

USIHC - BOD 5/13/08 MEETING MINUTES

9:00 p.m. EDT/8:00 p.m. CDT/7:00 p.m. MDT/6:00 p.m. PDT/5:00 p.m. ADT

Board Members Present - Laura Benson, Asta Covert, Anne Elwell, Ed Hilgaertner, Kathy Love, Karen Olson-Fields, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Doug Smith, Bernie Willis

Regional Club Observers – Annette Coulon – Kraftur, Dawn Shaw - Cascade Icelandic Horse Club

President Bernie Willis called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 p.m. CDT

Secretary's Report (Kari Pietsch-Wangard) The minutes from the April meeting have been approved and posted onto the website. The minutes from the Annual Meeting still need to be transcribed, approved and posted. Bernie asked Kari if she had received the tape recording of the Annual Meeting from Katrin, which she has not.

Treasurer's Report (Ed Hilgaertner)

4/1/08 Opening balance \$15,216.22

4/30/08 Closing balance \$14,793.85

Ed presented an invoice from FEIF for the February 2008 meeting in Iceland. We were invoiced for Bernie Willis, Katrin Sheehan, Sandie Weaver, Heidi Kline and Susan Peters. Susan did not attend the meeting. Ed will email FEIF regarding a credit for Susan's fee as well as credits due from the 2007 meeting for Heidi Kline, Andrea Barber and Nicki Esdorn who were unable to attend. He will also request a long-standing credit from the 2004 Flugnir Evaluations for FEIF fees (540 Euro/USD\$694.99). Once he has established the credit amount with FEIF, it will be applied to the current invoice and paid. Once Ed has established the euro conversion rate, he will invoice the participants for their portion of the fees for reimbursement.

Registrar's Report (Asta Covert)

4/1/08 Opening balance \$71,996.37

4/30/08 Closing balance \$73,276.37

***Note: The Quickbooks reports were sent before the meeting.**

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Breeding Committee Report (Katrin Sheehan)

Anne Elwell was designated as the Board Liaison for the Breeding Committee.

I. Stallion Book:

1) I am proposing that we continue the stallion book listing - free of charge - to members only and to accept stallion listings for a \$100 fee to non-members.

· Yes: Martina, Bonnie, Sali, Stephenie, Anne, David: This is a benefit to the membership and non-members will be encouraged to become members

· No: Barb, Andrea, Asta, Katrin, Anne-Marie, Debbie, Dawn: They would like to see three categories: \$100 fee for non-members, \$50 for members without farm listings, \$0 for farm listing members

Conclusion: Farm listings free, other members \$50, non-members \$100 per stallion

The Board unanimously approved annual renewal of all stallion listings in the Stallion Book to USIHC members only. The annual stallion listing fee shall be \$10 for USIHC members and waived for USIHC

members who have Farm Listings. Listing fees shall be paid at the same time as their membership renewal. Anyone who previously paid the \$100 fee will receive 10 years of free listing as long as they maintain a current USIHC membership and update the Stallion's information annually. By making listings renewable, the information on each stallion can be corrected and updated annually.

2) The pre-requisite needs to be the stallion is registered [maybe add "in the country of current location" assuming we would allow a member in Canada to list their stallion or a stallion still in Iceland. Or do we require the stallion actually to be IN THE UNITED STATES?]

· Yes: Martina, Bonnie, Dawn, Sali, Stephenie, Anne, Barb, Andrea, Asta, Katrin, Debbie, David: the USIHC website is listing USIHC stallions

Conclusion: USIHC registration for ALL listed stallions.

The Board voted unanimously that all stallions listed in the Stallion Book must be USIHC registered. Anne will provide the expanded wording for the website Breeding page.

3) The stallion must be evaluated with a total score of 7.5 or higher

· Yes: Martina, Bonnie, Stephenie, Asta, Anne-Marie, Katrin, Debbie, David: 7.5 was seen as a minimum FEIF breeding standard

· No: Dawn, Barb, Sali, Anne, Andrea: scores will speak for themselves, every owner, who made the effort to evaluate his/her stallion, should have the opportunity to list him. Our emphasis should be on promoting evaluations and then make all evaluated stallions part of the stallion book, if their owners so choose. Katrin would like to list the stallions by evaluation scores instead of alphabetical, which will make the stallion book more competitive and hopefully has an educational effect as well.

Conclusion: A minimum score of 7.5 is required for evaluated stallions

The Board voted unanimously that all stallions listed in the Stallion Book must be evaluated but that there will be no minimum score required in order to be listed.

4) Or has a total BLUP of over 110 [and be five years or younger] if it has not been evaluated

· Yes: Martina, Bonnie, Dawn, Stephenie, Anne, Debbie, Katrin: young horses with potential should be allowed to be presented. At 5 years it will show if the stallion lives up to his expectations or will be removed from the list, if not fully evaluated

· No: Barb, Sali, Andrea, Asta, Anne-Marie, David: Barb felt, that there should not be any such requirements but wants BLUP scores included with all stallions shown, the others only want to see evaluated stallions

Conclusion: Stallions under 5 with a BLUP of over 110 are allowed, they will be eliminated from the book, if not fully evaluated during the year they turn five, scoring higher than 7.5 overall

The Board voted unanimously to not include BLUP scores in the Stallion Book. A horse's BLUP score is not the probability predictor for horses that do not have offspring in Iceland and therefore is often misleading here. An evaluation score is a definite number directly tied to the horse's evaluation

performance.

5) Horses judged for conformation only should not be considered fully evaluated and fall into the BLUP category

· Yes: Martina, Bonnie, Dawn, Stephenie, Anne, Barb, Sali, Andrea, Debbie, Katrin: The horse owner is encouraged to have his stallion evaluated for conformation and fully ridden evaluation by the age of five. If not fully evaluated by the age of 5, the stallion will be removed from the book. Bonnie would like to see the age moved up to 6 because of the few evaluations being held in the US.

· No: Asta, Anne-Marie, David: They want only fully evaluated stallions listed.

Conclusion: Stallions under 5 with conformation judgment only are allowed, they will be eliminated from the book, if not fully evaluated during the year they turn five, scoring higher than 7.5 overall and BLUP should be included with ALL listings.

The Board unanimously voted that only fully evaluated stallions would be listed in the Stallion Book. BLUP scores will not be included. The feeling was that all information from evaluations is useful. We do not want to place too many limits on members who want their stallions listed and the scores will speak for themselves.

The board also felt that it was very important to provide additional information on the breeding evaluation system and judging guidelines as an education tool. This can be accomplished by providing direct links to the FIZO sources on the Breeding section of the USIHC website.

II. Domestic Bred Icelandic Horse Names:

All American bred horses will be entered into WF with the correct Icelandic spelling of their (first) names.

Horse owners/breeders have the choice of registering their horses with the USIHC registry in either Icelandic or English spelling. In both cases the correct Icelandic spelling of the name will be the first to appear on the registry papers, the English spelling of the name will appear on the same line in brackets (.....). The search option on the USIHC webpage should be adjusted, so it will find both English and Icelandic spelled horse names.

This way we fulfill our educational responsibility, respect all owners/breeders wishes and do not hurt the heritage of our horses.

In cases of confusion or misspelling: I would like to have Asta contact an owner, if the name is not clear or misspelled to avoid any changes later.

If voted in favor of this or any other new rule, it should be a rule from now on forward not including any horses registered before the change. If horse owners want to change their horse's names in retrospect, they need to pay a fee, which needs to be established.

Yes: Martina, Sali, Ásta, Katrin, Dawn, Bonnie: for all the above written reasons. According to Ásta and Doug the search option on the webpage can be adjusted, so that horses can be found with English and Icelandic spelling

No: Stephenie, Barb, David: These committee members felt, that American bred horses should be entered in WF in English spelling. It was discussed not to put more workload on the registrar, caused by the additional name.

The board unanimously voted in agreement with this proposal for both spellings. Doug assured us that there will be no problem with the use of Icelandic or English spelling when searching for horses on our website. Anne and Asta will work together for the correct wording regarding the use of both Icelandic and English spellings in the USIHC Registry Rules on the website.

Laura Benson joined in on the call at this portion of the meeting.

Competition Committee Report (Heidi Kline, Asta Covert liaison)

Heidi Kline will be taking a leave of absence as Chairperson of the Competition/Sport Committee. Asta will act as Chairperson until Heidi can resume.

I would like to send the item of the housing of the judges back to the board.

The committee feels that it should be allowed for an organizer or a show participant to house the judge during a sanctioned competition.

Reasons for:

1. It is normal in other countries
2. We should be using our FEIF Int'l Judge and currently he is limited
3. If family is allowed to judge family why should the housing matter?
4. Where the judge sleeps makes really no difference. If the judge feels obligated, he will whether he stays with the organizer or not.

People for:

Heidi - yes
David - yes
Anne Marie - yes
Sverrir - yes
Sara - yes
Alex - yes
Kathy – yes
Asta – yes
Will - yes

Reasons against:

1. Some feel the judge may feel obligated to those housing to judge in their favor.
2. Some felt it gave unfair access to the judge for certain parties.

Bernie - did not vote
Anne - undecided
Andrea – no
Dan – no

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Heidi Kline
USIHC Sport Committee Chairperson

Before making a final decision, the board agreed that any decision or vote made regarding approval of this proposal should be made based upon how it would apply to any judge. A number of reasons "for", listed above, are based on the European and Icelandic situations, which most often hire more than one judge. Hiring more than one judge in the U. S. would be extremely difficult financially. The perception of fairness is very important to the growth of competition in the U. S. A few of the Board members felt that reason "for" #3 is an issue, but is not directly related to the proposal being made. Everyone agreed that what is most important is that the judge be accessible to everyone regardless of their relationship with the competition organizer or competitors. The cost of getting one judge from Iceland, and sometimes Europe, to the U. S. is making these events too expensive to put on if they also have to house a judge at a hotel.

The vote on allowing a judge to stay with the competition organizer or competitor during the event was as follows:

Votes for: Asta, Bernie, Doug, Ed, Laura, Karen, and Kathy. Kari voted for the proposal as long as it did not infer acceptance of anything else listed under "reasons for".

Anne abstained from the vote, as she was undecided.

This will need to be added to the Sanctioned Show Rules. Anne will update this as well as our Competition rules to match with the new FIPO rules.

Education Committee Report (Alexandra Pregitzer, Bernie Willis liaison)

1. Sports Judges Seminars

- I am in touch with Erhard and will get in touch with Otmar, sports leader, now to verify Canadian system of certification. Seems to be much like ours but different currencies apply. Will see if they would be willing to accept our currencies and vice versa.

2. 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

- first seminar in May in CA at Asta and Wills place took place in the beginning of May and was well received.

- Uschi Heller Voigt did a great job teaching.

- requested Will if he was interested in teaching this seminar in 2009.

- I would like to know if this seminar will be a USIHC education committee seminar in the future.

3. Other Seminars

- ideas for the KY show (USIHC education committee seminars) are being worked on by this committee and Kathy Love.

- more details soon.

- would like to know if that seminar can be a USIHC education committee seminar if we have it approved once it is worked out.

Basically, I would like to somehow see discussed if a seminar that this committee designs will be a **USIHC seminar or not**. Which means it will be either

1. offered at cost by the USIHC or

2. be offered by anybody at their own risk BUT OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY OR AT LEAST AT A MUCH LOWER PRICE.

I strongly feel that if members of the education committee take time to design such a seminar and get it approved by the board, it should be a USIHC sanctioned seminar (so far called by me education committee seminar) and I see it as a benefit for members to offer it at our own cost (as far as possible).

I feel any seminar that has some sort of certification should be offered thru the USIHC. I also feel that even if somebody hosted it and agreed to take the financial risk, it should still somehow be sanctioned by the USIHC and open to members only or a much lower price for members only.

There also should be clear that such a seminar has to follow an approved outline.

Alex

The Board felt that any seminar that leads to certification would need to be approved by the Congress Board and the Education Committee. Further discussion was tabled until next month when Anne can present wording for policy on seminars.

Pleasure Riding Committee Report (Karen Olson-Fields) No report submitted

Promotion Committee Report (Kathy Love)

1. I have contacted all of the members of my committee and have asked them to think about the mission statement and vision/goals for our committee for 2008.
2. I plan to establish what horse magazines have the biggest circulation and contact their sales people re: submitting articles (I have found that editorial staff don't answer) and possibly placing small ads in their publications as incentive.
3. I have asked Carrie Lyons-Brandt to write an article on the Youth Cup for Young Rider magazine, which has Icelandics on their list of featured breeds in their Sept issue.
4. I am in contact with Deb Putnam and Brian Puntin regarding the November MA Equine Affaire. I have the booth here in KY.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Love, Chair

Regional Club Committee Report (Andrea Barber, Karen Olson-Fields liaison) No report submitted

Quarterly Committee Report (Anne Elwell) No report submitted

Web Site Committee Report (Doug Smith) No report submitted

Youth Committee Report (Laura Benson) No report submitted from Laura but the following came from Asta.

The Youth Cup sub committee would like to get approval from the Board to send Jasmine Ho as a Team Leader to the Youth Cup and Susan Peters as a Country Leader.

The Sub committee is me, Annette and Amelie.

The board unanimously approved Jasmine Ho and Susan Peters as Team Leader and Country Leader at the FEIF Youth Cup this summer. We are still waiting to hear if there are extra slots available to the other applicants. Information regarding horses for lease has been forwarded to the parents of the three riders.

Laura also reported that a fundraiser held at Flying C Ranch's May competition netted \$951 for the kids going to the Youth Cup. She would like to see more fundraisers to help these kids.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Constitution Review Committee Report (Kari Pietsch-Wangard) No report submitted

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

Anne is working on additional policies. She submitted her current additions to be discussed next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Email votes:

A) Approve the change ownership of the USIHC Board Yahoo Group from Andrea Barber to Doug Smith.

Votes for: Anne, Asta, Bernie, Doug, Ed, Karen, Kari, Laura

Votes against: None

B) Approve purchase of 6 Vests for the PRP 1000 hour awards @\$35 plus shipping to recipients. Karen will be reimbursed as she will be buying and mailing these items directly.

Votes for: Asta, Bernie, Doug, Ed, Karen, Kari, Kathy, Laura

Votes against: None

C) Approve Judging Seminar fee at Flying C in May

Votes for \$300/participant: Anne, Kari, Kathy

Votes for \$250/participant: Asta, Doug, Ed, Karen, Kari (excluding lunch), Laura

2) Liability issue for potential USIHC trainers – Bernie

Anne relayed a conversation she had with Beth Yingling regarding our Articles of Incorporation. These Articles were drafted as required by the state of New Jersey and gave us maximum protection for New Jersey but not necessarily for every state in the country. There is nothing that can keep someone from suing us over the actions of a USIHC certified trainer. Beth suggested that we could require every USIHC certified trainer to carry liability insurance with the Congress listed as additional insured. In this case certification would have to be renewed on an annual basis. Beth also said that it is very difficult for someone to sue a non-profit organization. Most states have “charitable immunity” laws that would protect us. Bernie will research how other organizations handle certification of trainers and instructors.

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

Ed has submitted reimbursement requests for the earlier 2007 FEIF meeting and received one check. Andrea responded that she does not think she owes anything since she was not able to attend the meeting. Heidi has not responded regarding the WC reimbursements. Until we have more details on the costs from the Holland WC, we cannot figure out what everyone owes.

4) Quote for printing the Icelandic Farmers Brochure (See attachment #1)

Overall, the board thought this price was quite high for something we would be handing out. If we do decide to have it printed, it would be given out sparingly. Doug offered to get another quote from a source he uses.

5) Web page updates & links / sharing Congress documents – Doug

Doug Kane has offered a way for the Board to have access to documents, forms, spreadsheets etc. from anywhere at any time via our website. An example would be to have all of the Pleasure Rider Program’s forms, which would be readily accessible to the new chair without having to rely on the old chair to forward via mail. Doug Smith will check into how easy this would be for the Board members to use and report at the next meeting.

6) Choose date and location for General Meeting

The purpose of the General Meeting is to vote on amending the USIHC Constitution Article XI, Section 6. The board unanimously approved the date of July 26, 2008 for the General Meeting to be held at Winterhorse Park in Eagle, WI. We will need a minimum of 15 members present for the meeting to be valid. Anne will run the General Meeting in Bernie's absence. The notice will need to be mailed 30 days before the meeting.

7) Other Old Business

The Board agreed to hold a separate meeting dedicated to the issue of finances. This meeting will be held on June 19th and the agenda will be organized by committee. Kari will provide any financial information from 2007 relating to each committee as a guideline.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th. The meeting was brought to a close at approximately 10:10 CDT.

ATTACHMENT #1

Attached is the quote I received on the Icelandic Horse brochure. The price seems very competitive. One additional thing they mentioned to me is because their process is different (more advanced), the books will not have the cracking that is happening on the spine on the sample that I have.

As to the photo issue he talks about I did not have him run that sample for me because I don't want to waste his time if the board is not interested in pursuing getting this printed.

Andrea

From: John Meyer
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2008 1:33 PM
To: Andrea Barber
Cc: Sandra DeCarlo
Subject: "The Icelandic Horse" book quote

Andrea

Here is the quote for the Icelandic Horse book:

Pages:	24 - 20 text + 4 page cover	
Color:	Digital 4/C printed two sides	
Size:	7 7/8 X 7 7/8	
Stock:	80# silk Cover and 80# silk Text	
Finish:	Saddle Stitched	
Quantity:	250	\$1094.00
	500	\$1738.00
	1000	\$2266.00
	1500	\$2604.00

All the above prices would be plus tax and shipping.

The sample book has a spot varnish added to the pictures and color blocks. We would not do that when printing using digital equipment. If you are concerned about the appearance, I would be happy to print out a sample to show you exactly how the book will look so you can compare the two before you accept our bid. Let me know if you want to see what I'm referring to.

John

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Estimates are based on your original file submission. Any changes or revisions needing to be made to your original file will incur additional charges. Thank you for the opportunity to quote on your job. This quote is good for 30 days.