

# USIHC – Board Of Directors 08/19/14 MEETING MINUTES

## **Board Members:**

Present: Juli Cole, Ásta Covert, Anne Elwell, Lori Cretney, Doug Smith, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Andrea Barber, Katrin Sheehan

Excused: Sara Lyter

**Observers:** Steve Cole

**Called to order at 8:03PM (Eastern) [Lori Cretney]**

## **Secretary's Report (Doug Smith)**

Membership status as of August 15: 471 households – no change since July.

## **Treasurer's Report (Kari Pietsch-Wangard)**

The monthly financial statements now include a detailed breakdown of the cash owned by the Congress. The key figures from the breakdown are:

<u>Combined bank account balances as of 7/31/14:</u>	<u>\$158,449.80</u>
<u>Unrestricted funds as of 7/31/14:</u>	<u>\$145,493.15</u>
<u>Net increase (decrease) since 6/30/14:</u>	\$14.16

We received a very nice thank you letter from FIRC for the Flagship funding of their spring show. We also received a number of thank you notes from the parents of the Youth Cup team who appreciated the financial assistance from the Youth Fund.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

- Breeding Committee (Andrea Barber)

2014 Breeding Evaluations

May 10-11, 2014 at Swallowland Farm in Shelbyville, KY

The organizers were informed of the board's recent decision to provide a total of \$1,000 in funding for this event (\$250 additional over what they have already received). This was greatly appreciated by the event organizers! I believe Kari has already sent the funds to them? [Kari confirms the funds have been sent.]

September 23-24, 2014 hosted by the NEIHC at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY

The organizers were informed of the board's recent decision to provide \$1,000 in funding for this event – and that they will receive it after the event has been successfully completed. This was greatly appreciated by the event organizers!

Measuring stick

Total costs will be 945 Euro. Order has been placed but I have not received a bill yet.

2014 Young Horse Evaluations

July 28, 2014 - One evaluation was already held at Sand Meadow Farm in Mendon, NY. Unfortunately, due to a torrential downpour on that day only one horse was evaluated. So no funding request will be made for this event.

August 15, 2015 - Winterhorse Park Icelandics, Eagle, WI – The host has stated that she will not be asking for funding for this event.

September 24, 2014 – Thor Icelandics, Claverack, NY

There are also events being planned in PA and VT in October. Additional dates are still available. Please contact Andrea at [toltstar@yahoo.com](mailto:toltstar@yahoo.com) if you are interested in hosting an event.

### **Email Voting**

- None.

### **Old Business**

- Standard Blood Profile (Andrea Barber)  
Andrea informed Bettina Wagner of the board's decision. Bettina is currently spending part of her summer in Germany and will contact Andrea when she returns.

### **New Business**

- 2015 Member Meeting Reservation (Sara Lyter)

MOTION [Lori Cretney] The board authorizes Kari to sign the contract for the Annual Member's Meeting to be held at the Radisson in Minneapolis in 2015. Unanimously approved.

- Response to NEIHC Survey Proposal (Sara Lyter)

The board instructs Doug to format the text discussed on the board email list into a letter to the NEIHC board. *See attached.*

- Response to the NEIHC Equine Affaire Funding Request (Kari Pietsch-Wangard)

This year's support is limited to the \$450 approved in the budget with the additional possibility of the Regional Club matching funds as described in the published policy.

**Adjourned at 8:25PM (Eastern)**

**Next meeting: September 16, 2014 at 8PM (Eastern)**

## USIHC General Membership Funds

<u>6/30/14</u>		<u>7/31/14</u>
\$ 16,326.91	Checking	\$ 16,625.59
\$ 131,724.81	Money Market	\$ 131,741.59
\$ 10,082.62	CDs	\$ 10,082.62
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\$ 158,134.34	subtotal	\$ 158,449.80
\$ (4,012.56)	Youth Fund	\$ (4,168.21)
\$ (7,000.00)	Int. Judges Fund	\$ (7,000.00)
\$ (1,642.79)	World Champ. Team Fund	\$ (1,788.44)
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\$ 145,478.99	<b>USIHC General Membership Funds</b>	\$ 145,493.15

Net Increase (Decrease) from previous report  
**\$14.16**

08/15/14

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet Standard**  
As of July 31, 2014

	<u>Jul 31, '14</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Associated Checking acct.	16,625.59
Associated Money Market Acct.	131,741.59
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>148,367.18</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
CD ownd by USIHC matures 4/7/13	3,000.00
CDs for Judge Scholarship Fund	
CD-matures 10/5/17	3,052.05
CD-matures 10/5/15	3,027.06
CD-matures 9/29/16	1,003.51
<b>Total CDs for Judge Scholarship ...</b>	<u>7,082.62</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>10,082.62</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>158,449.80</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>158,449.80</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Unexpended Judge Schlshp. Fund	7,000.00
Unexpended World Champshp F...	1,788.44
Unexpended Youth Funds	4,168.21
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>12,956.65</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>12,956.65</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	12,956.65
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	96,926.56
Retained Earnings	48,224.44
Net Income	342.15
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>145,493.15</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>158,449.80</u></b>

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.**  
**Income & Expense Report**  
**January through July 2014**  
**Page 1**

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expense</u>	
<b>Breeding Committee Income</b>		<b>Breeding Committee Exp.</b>	
Evaluation-FEIF fees	400.00	FEIF Evaluation fees	124.86
<b>Total Breeding Committee Income</b>	<u>400.00</u>	Elwell Breeding Award	81.30
		<b>Total Breeding Committee Exp.</b>	<u>206.16</u>
		<b>Competition Comm. Expense</b>	
<b>Competition Inc.</b>		FEIF World Ranking Comp. fee	340.54
Sanction Competition fee	100.00	National Ranking Award Expense	711.70
<b>Total Competition Inc.</b>	<u>100.00</u>	World Championship Expenses	
		WC 2013 Berlin Expenses	409.73
		<b>Total World Championship Expenses</b>	<u>409.73</u>
		<b>Total Competition Comm. Expense</b>	1,461.97
		<b>FEIF Conference exp.</b>	
<b>FEIF Conference Reimbsmt.</b>	875.30	FEIF Conf. exp. to be reimbrsed	902.06
<b>Interest Income</b>	155.40	FEIF 2014 Conference exp.	1,702.13
		<b>Total FEIF Conference exp.</b>	<u>2,604.19</u>
		<b>Flagship Event - Evaluation</b>	1,000.00
<b>Membership Related Income</b>		<b>Flagship Event - Sanction Show</b>	2,000.00
<b>Farm Listing</b>		<b>Membership Related Expenses</b>	
2014 Farm Listing	2,731.72	<b>Administration</b>	
<b>Total Farm Listing</b>	<u>2,731.72</u>	Mbshp. Postage	530.76
		Office/Supplies Exp.	103.22
<b>Membership Dues</b>		<b>Total Administration</b>	<u>633.98</u>
2014 Membership dues		<b>Annual Meeting Exp.</b>	
2014 Foreign Friend	65.97	2014 Annual Meeting expense	3,994.95
2014 Youth membership	35.00	<b>Total Annual Meeting Exp.</b>	<u>3,994.95</u>
2014 Family Mbshp	4,303.93	<b>FEIF related expenses</b>	
2014 Individual Mbshp	9,828.09	FEIF Mbshp fees	1,642.89
<b>Total 2014 Membership dues</b>	<u>14,232.99</u>	<b>Total FEIF related expenses</b>	<u>1,642.89</u>
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	14,232.99	<b>Insurance</b>	533.00
		<b>Quarterly Expenses</b>	
<b>Quarterly Inc.</b>		<b>Graphics</b>	2,000.00
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	3,777.70	postage for Quarterly	1,242.55
Quarterly back issue sales	128.35	<b>Quarterly Printing</b>	5,411.24
<b>Total Quarterly Inc.</b>	<u>3,906.05</u>	<b>Quarterly Expenses - Other</b>	226.00
		<b>Total Quarterly Expenses</b>	<u>8,879.79</u>
<b>Website Inc.</b>		<b>Toll Free line</b>	90.65
Stallion listing	9.71	<b>Website</b>	181.40
Website Ad Inc.	813.62	<b>Total Membership Related Expenses</b>	<u>15,956.66</u>
<b>Total Website Inc.</b>	<u>823.33</u>		
<b>Total Membership Related Income</b>	<u>21,694.09</u>		

**United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.  
Income & Expense Report  
January through July 2014  
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Income		Expense	
		Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	
		2013 PRP Award exp.	551.50
		<b>Total Pleasure Rider Program Exp.</b>	<b>551.50</b>
		Promotional Exp.	
		Display booth shipping	116.69
		Equine Affair Exp.	1,700.00
		Other Booth rental Expense	350.00
		Promotional postage expenses	432.21
		Promotional Exp. - Other	2.12
		<b>Total Promotional Exp.</b>	<b>2,601.02</b>
<b>Registry Income</b>		<b>Registry Expenses</b>	
Duplicate Registration fees	193.60	Clerical for registry	2,412.00
Late Stallion Report fees	3,184.00	Printing & reproduction-Regist.	379.88
Registration fees	4,125.48	Registry Office supplies	64.23
Transfer fees	1,824.13	Registry Postage	242.35
<b>Total Registry Income</b>	<b>9,327.21</b>	<b>Total Registry Expenses</b>	<b>3,098.46</b>
<b>USIHC Non-Member fees</b>	270.16	<b>Youth Committee Exp.</b>	
<b>Youth Committee Inc.</b>		Youth Cup Exp.	
FEIF Youth Cup Reimbursement	2,066.84	2014 Youth Cup expense	5,816.89
Youth Cup Tryout Fees	750.00	<b>Total Youth Cup Exp.</b>	<b>5,816.89</b>
<b>Total Youth Committee Inc.</b>	<b>2,816.84</b>	<b>Total Youth Committee Exp.</b>	<b>5,816.89</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>35,639.00</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>35,296.85</b>

**Net Income: 342.15**

**USIHC**  
**Income & Expense Report**  
**July 2014**

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expense</u>	
Interest Income	19.02	Flagship Event - Evaluation	250.00
		Flagship Event - Sanction Show	2,000.00
<b>Membership Related Income</b>		<b>Membership Related Expenses</b>	
<b>Farm Listing</b>		<b>Administration</b>	
2014 Farm Listing	106.81	Mbshp. Postage	156.57
<b>Total Farm Listing</b>	<u>106.81</u>	Office/Supplies Exp.	<u>46.69</u>
<b>Membership Dues</b>		<b>Total Administration</b>	<u>203.26</u>
2014 Membership dues			
2014 Family Mbshp	188.43		
2014 Individual Mbshp	<u>914.41</u>		
<b>Total 2014 Membership dues</b>	<u>1,102.84</u>		
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	1,102.84		
<b>Quarterly Inc.</b>			
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	67.36	Toll Free line	12.95
Quarterly back issue sales	<u>10.00</u>	Website	<u>181.40</u>
<b>Total Quarterly Inc.</b>	<u>77.36</u>	<b>Total Membership Related Expenses</b>	<u>397.61</u>
<b>Website Inc.</b>		<b>Promotional Exp.</b>	
Website Ad Inc.	186.13	Promotional postage expenses	<u>43.14</u>
<b>Total Website Inc.</b>	<u>186.13</u>	<b>Total Promotional Exp.</b>	<u>43.14</u>
<b>Total Membership Related Income</b>	1,473.14		
<b>Registry Income</b>		<b>Registry Expenses</b>	
Late Stallion Report fees	2,200.00	Clerical for registry	<u>846.00</u>
Registration fees	1,097.94	<b>Total Registry Expenses</b>	<u>846.00</u>
Transfer fees	<u>219.82</u>		
<b>Total Registry Income</b>	<u>3,517.76</u>	<b>Youth Committee Exp.</b>	
<b>USIHC Non-Member fees</b>	24.28	Youth Cup Exp.	
<b>Youth Committee Inc.</b>		2014 Youth Cup expense	<u>2,000.00</u>
FEIF Youth Cup Reimbursement	516.71	<b>Total Youth Cup Exp.</b>	<u>2,000.00</u>
<b>Total Youth Committee Inc.</b>	<u>516.71</u>	<b>Total Youth Committee Exp.</b>	<u>2,000.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	5,550.91	<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>5,536.75</u>

**Net Income: 14.16**

August 20, 2014



Dear NEIHC Board of Directors,

The USIHC Board has discussed your survey and accompanying proposal addressed to the “Icelandic Horse Enthusiasts” in the United States. The most expedient approach is to intersperse our replies into the text of your proposal. The italicized text below is from your proposal.

*Recently the NEIHC board of directors went through the demanding grant process established by congress to help cover costs for upcoming events. Unfortunately all three of our grant requests were rejected for the following reason: “Not an innovative idea so not in the spirit of the grant program.” This prompted us to discuss in depth what the Icelandic horse community in the USA needs to accomplish in order to compete with other FEIF nations in a five-year plan. However, we can only succeed with the strong support and leadership of the USIHC Board of Directors.*

There is no need to compete with other FEIF nations. FEIF's goal is the global growth of the Icelandic horse. We all succeed together.

*Here is our proposal: Divide the United States into 5 regions: northwest, northeast, southwest, southeast and midwest. Alaska could be considered a possible 6th region.*

We have a system of regional clubs in place that is locally driven by the desires of the community. It is not practical to mandate geographical regions as there is no way to provide the staffing to do the work necessary to support such organizations. The drive must come from the local community in order to succeed.

- *Each region of the United States should be encouraged to host at least one sanctioned show each year, giving competitors national ranking opportunity.*

This falls under the regional clubs committee. There is nothing stopping any regional club or interested individual from hosting shows. As of July there is \$1,000 of funding for each of the first fifteen sanctioned competitions and/or breeding evaluations in the US. This provides adequate incentive to host a show. Again, the success comes from the passion in the local community.

- *Each region, or at the very least, each coast, should be encouraged to have a world ranking event once every two years, giving competitors world ranking opportunity.*

The issue with World Ranking shows is the need to have adequate tracks that are acceptable under the demands of FIPO. Until acceptable tracks are built there are limited options. Funding exists for World Ranking shows under the program approved by the Board in July.

- *Each region should be encouraged to have a breed evaluation at least once every five years on a rotation so there is one in a different region every year to ensure that we are meeting or improving breed standards.*

This, again, must be a local initiative undertaken by local breeders. We cannot force this from the national level. As mentioned, there is financial support available to help in 2014 and 2015. If a region does not have enough breeders with sufficient passion to organize a breeding evaluation, there is little point in spending the necessary money to build tracks and import judges. We can help but, again, this has to have local support before anything can start.

- *Each region should be encouraged to schedule a youth camp or other youth focused event every year to encourage our current youth and welcome newcomers.*

There is nothing stopping each region from doing just this. Again, the local community knows what it needs. The only way the passion for the Icelandic horse will spread is from local passion. There is no practical way for a national level "intervention" to create local passion. It is either in the community or it isn't. The NEIHC is one of the largest (if not the largest) clubs so it should be a trailblazer for this type of passion and be a model for other clubs.

- *Trainer certification and judging seminars should be funded and provided by the USIHC to increase the numbers of certified trainers and judges in the US.*

Again, we need the local community to identify candidates for such training. If we have blanket seminars they are not likely to turn into new licensed judges and trainers. Without a doubt, the only way to receive adequate, practical training as a judge is to travel to Europe. If an individual is not willing or able to do so for long enough to see a range of horses and apprentice under the top International Sport Judges, there is simply no way to become even a nationally licensed judge. This is an unfortunate fact but it is a proven fact.

- *Over the past decade the USIHC has not seen any appreciable growth in its membership, Icelandic horse registrations, or FEIF events. Very limited financial support from our non-profit parent organization has led to frustrations for the members and regional clubs struggling to hold events. The USIHC should set aside substantial funds: we propose \$20,000/year for 5 years, to support and provide a stop-loss. Every effort should be made by the organizers to run the event in a financially responsible manner.*

It is unclear what the NEIHC means by a "FEIF event." There are only three such things: the World Championships, the Youth Cup and the Youth Camp. We have hosted the Youth Camp fairly recently given the two-year rotation.

The Board has been very financially responsible since the founding of the USIHC. That is one reason we have as much money in the bank as we do. We could easily spend all of these accumulated funds in the next few years. The Board has approved \$15,000 of funding per year for the next two years with a commitment to review the progress and decide how to extend this support. If the financial support does not lead to success in the organization, the Board may change directions again. To be clear this \$15,000 funding is for the flagship sport and breeding events and is in addition to the \$8000 approved for grants to support innovative programs and the longer standing programs for helping Regional Clubs with advertising their events. There is national money available but the local community needs to come together to take advantage of the support.

The USIHC Board hopes this explains our position and that the NEIHC, as one of the most influential regional clubs, will take an active leadership role in implementing some of your suggestions.

Regards,

*The USIHC Board of Directors*