

# Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry

## 2014 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 20, 2014 10:00am  
Amherst, Massachusetts

NFHR Board of Directors (BoD) present: President Teresa Kandianis, Vice President Ardeth Obenauf, Treasurer Gretchen Payne, Secretary Beth German, Members Andrea Eppley, Margie Diaz, Bill Long, Bill Coli and Kay Konove, Executive Director Nancy Newport, Jeanne Poirier. NFHR members present as noted on sign in sheet.

### **Old Business:**

President's Report: Teresa reported that 2013 turned out to be a great year. The NFHR hosted lots of events, including two evaluations and the Rose Parade. The mission of the NFHR is to support and promote the Fjord breed. During the 2012 Face to Face, at Margie Diaz' suggestion, the BoD deciding to explore the possibility of being in the parade and to submit an application. Participating in the parade took a huge amount of work, all done by volunteers. Nancy, Jeanne, Beth Beymer [Secretary's note: and Teresa] and a lot of other people put a fantastic amount of work into it. NFHR website hits tripled right after the parade. Several breeders have reported receiving lots of inquires as well. The recent release of the Disney Movie "Frozen" featuring Fjords is also helping exposure. On February 3, 2014, RFD TV, Pam Minnick, will host a Gentle Giants program that will include Fjords. Other Fjord events in 2013 included the Denver Stock Show Evening of Dancing Horses and Equestfest at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center the days before the parade. On the financial front, \$20,000.00 was raised for the Rose Parade participation. Not all bills have been paid yet. The priorities for reimbursement of outstanding expenses are: cost of fuel to get there, stall rental at LAEC, shavings for LAEC stalls, flowers (roses for the parade) and creating of the DVD to sell. Feed and shoes are being paid by each horse owner. NFHR still has a grant application pending with the Sons of Norway. The crown worn by Shari MacCallum Clark was rented from the Vesterheim Museum. The next issue of the Fjord Herald will be devoted to the parade. If there is any extra money left from the parade donations after bills are paid, the funds will go into the budget for promotions. Teresa apologized for the fact that the fall Herald did not come out before the parade and assured the membership that it and the winter issue will be out ASAP. There will be a DVD of the Fjords at the Rose Parade for sale through the NFHR marketplace. The NFHR has been invited to participate in the parade in Kentucky during Derby week. It is too soon for the NFHR to participate in 2014 but the NFHR will look into participating in 2015. If any regional clubs are interested in participating this year, Jeanne will send them the information. Teresa explained that if the NFHR sponsors an event, it will oversee it. If local groups sponsor an event, the local group is in charge of oversight. NFHR sponsorship allows the event to be covered by the NFHR's insurance. The BoD members were introduced, including new Director Andrea Eppley. Andrea lives in Indiana where she breeds, trains and shows Fjords in dressage.

Approval of 2013 meeting minutes: Hilary Harty made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2013 NFHR annual membership meeting, held in Denver, Colorado. Bob Long seconded the motion. Unanimous vote to approve.

Executive Director Report: Written report distributed. Nancy thanked Bill and Kay for putting together the tremendous forum program. Since the beginning of the year, people are coming out of woodwork to join the NFHR, including people who have been active in the past but who had not continued to renew their membership.

Registrar's Report: Written report distributed. The report does not include new registrations for which DNA analysis is pending, including several amnesty registrations received just before the end of the year. These include registrations for 6 white duns and 1 horse in New Zealand. Ardeth mentioned the new gift membership program for sellers to give memberships to new Fjord owners.

Promotion Committee: Ardeth reported the committee's use of Constant Contact to keep the membership informed, that in the past she had prepared a video on Fjord mane trimming/clipping; and is preparing a video for new Fjord owners and another on how to take a Fjord to a show, explaining the different types of shows and turnout (country v. formal.)

Election Committee: Teresa reported that there were three seats open and only three applicants so no election was required. Jeff Pederson completed two three year terms so he was not able to run again. Margie and Kay both just finished the last year of a term started by someone else and were just elected to a three year term. Bob and Gretchen's terms expire at the end of 2014 and Teresa, Ardeth and Beth will complete their second three year terms at the end of 2015. Teresa encouraged everyone present to consider serving on the BoD and to be thinking of people who might be willing to run in this year's elections. The BoD needs creative thinkers. It is a working position, not just an honorary position, but BoD is able to conduct a lot of business by email, and phone meetings are much shorter than they used to be.

Evaluation Committee: Bob thanked Jeanne for all her work on the two 2013 evaluations. The Family Fjord Riding and Driving test proved to be very successful at both Libby and Herndon. Extra Herndon evaluation income went to help the Libby evaluation break even. The committee is working on a Technical Delegate (TD) manual. Teresa thanked Bob for getting the Evaluation Committee back on track and also mentioned that the Evaluation Committee has enjoyed a really good relationship with the Canadian Fjord Horse Association. Carol Boehm will be stepping down as President of the CHFA. The NFHR has really enjoyed working with her.

Herald Committee: Nancy explained some of the reasons for the delay with the fall issue, including that there have been issues with the editor, printer and the person who does the layout was hospitalized. The Herald needs to have hard deadlines and the BoD needs to get actively involved in the Herald. We just learned that the printer did not send the last issue to the Canadian subscribers, which has been rectified. She encouraged all members to submit articles and photographs.

Awards: Anne Crandall continues to do a great job with the awards program.

Youth: Gretchen explained the youth membership and said she has lots of ideas for youth involvement.

NFHR Foundation: Ardeth referred to the prior report on the Foundation.

### **New Business:**

Forum: Various members present discussed how much they enjoyed the 2014 forum program, especially the talk given by Peter Bravmann and the veterinary and nutritional talks. Many thanks to Bill and Kay.

Auction: The silent auction raised \$495.00.

Ardeth moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill second, motion carried unanimously. The Secretary regrets that she did not write down the times the meeting convened and adjourned. The BoD will convene at Bill and Norma Coli's.