

MINUTES – Midwest Fjord Horse Club

General Meeting– March 14, 2015

Vice President Kay Van Natta called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. The Board members present were Kay Van Natta, Kristin Lee, Sarah Weyker and Chuck Kelly.

Kay began the meeting by thanking several people for their contributions to the club beginning with Phil and Else (Vesterheim Museum facilitators), Dawn Schlickman (merchandise chair), Chuck Kelly (past President), Kristin Lee (spring meeting organizer) and Jaine Johnston (silent auction).

The minutes from the summer meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously. The treasurer's report was also approved unanimously.

Old Business and Committee Reports

Website and Tidbits – Chuck Kelly reported that as of July 1, DeeAnna will be stepping down. DeeAnna has spent many years working on the website, Tidbits and membership and the club appreciates all her hard work.

Membership – Janie Johnston reported that she has worked hard to contact members (past and current) to establish a thorough, up-to-date membership list. We currently have 100 + members.

Evaluation – Bob Long reported that the NFHR is trying to figure out what they can do for the regional clubs across the country. They want to build partnerships with the clubs to promote the fjord horse and to try to keep breeding numbers up. They would like to see local clinics focusing on education. Bob shared how Chet Thomas and the Dairyland Driving club have recently put on smaller clinics and how successful they have been.

The NFHR would like to see a 2016 Evaluation in the Midwest in conjunction the show again. They would like to see “pre-clinics” to help people prepare for the Evaluations.

Bob said we all need to look at how to promote the Fjord breed with events like the MN Horse Expo, Madison Horse Fair, Kentucky Derby, etc. He also talked about the recent NFHR meeting in Norfolk, California. Their Board currently has two people from the Midwest on it and he would like to see more representation. Elections are coming up this year.

Chuck Kelly made a motion to increase the sponsorship money for the MN Expo and Madison Fair (and any other largely attended event) from \$100 - \$200. It was unanimously approved.

The show in Blue Earth will be held July 21st and 22nd and will be the show's 30th anniversary. It will probably be Blue Earth's last Fjord show.

Show Report – Monie Redfield and Sarah Weyker gave an update on the plans for July’s show in West Salem, WI. The committee has consolidated the classes to run a 2-day show rather than a 3-day show. Classes with small or no participants have been eliminated. Monie said that class sponsorship is very important for the show. The judge will be Bonnie Peterson from northern Minnesota. Bonnie was recommended by Lita Hottel (judge from 2013). Rob McKenzie asked if the show will have a minimum attendance count and if the show will be cancelled if the pre-registered numbers are low. It was suggested that lower than 20 horses should be the point of cancellation. There also was discussion/suggestion that in the future, other breeds could be invited...especially for the driving classes.

Brochure – Kristin Lee and Therine Gudnecht reported that the brochure is in its final stages. We will be ordering through Vistaprint, which gives us the option of easily changing pictures and content with a minimum order. Kristin will send brochures to Karen Hanson for the Madison Horse Fair.

New Business

2014 is an officer election year. We are looking for candidates for the vice-president and secretary position. Kristin Lee will step down as secretary after 3 years of service. Short bios need to be sent to Kristin by April 30th to be included in the ballot mailing.

Kay Van Natta asked the membership to be thinking about the future of the club and what direction we would like it to go. Chuck Kelly suggested an overnight trail ride. Kristin described Hidden Valley in Avaco, Wisconsin as a location that may work very well for us. It was suggested that friends with other breeds be welcome as well.

Jaine Johnston reported that the Silent Auction raised \$548.00. A signed Breyer “Hershey” horse as donated by Sophie and Howard Fiedler and raised \$100.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Kristin Lee

Secretary