

MINUTES – Midwest Fjord Horse Club

Spring Meeting – April 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Heike Lewandowski. The Board members present were Kay Van Natta, Kristin Lee and Sarah Weyker. Past President Chuck Kelly was not present.

President Heike began the meeting by thanking Tish Pasqual for organizing the event at the Best Western Bandana Square Hotel in St. Paul, MN. The officers introduced themselves. Janie Johnston, the new membership chair, was also introduced.

Heike gave special thank-you's to the Lusty's and the Odden's for their extra efforts in promoting the breed.

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

Old Business and Committee Reports

Website and Tidbits – Heike reported that Lisa Lovett and DeeAnna Weed continue to do an excellent job on the Website and the Tidbits.

Membership – Janie Johnston is working hard to clean up and make the membership list current. She brought a poster-size spread sheet of the current list. She announced that the Board has decided to change the membership renewal date to January 1st and that anyone signing up for membership from last July through January will receive free membership through 2015.

Show Report – Monie Redfield began by announcing that the upcoming show will be at the LaCrosse Fairgrounds in West Salem, WI. The show committee consists of Monie, Sarah Weyker and Julie Cramer. Monie shared that she felt it was a nice facility with an indoor and outdoor arena, metal stalls, large wash area and camping facilities. A draft of the showbill was given out to the group to look at. Special events may be added to the show such as Color Day and Norwegian Heritage Day.

The committee was thanked for their work on the upcoming show so and for the wonderful job they did last year.

Evaluation – Bob Long reported that he and Monie have been working closely with each other and with the LaCrosse facility. Bob complimented the Fair staff and said they have been great to work with so far.

Bob announced that Melissa Boyd had been secured as the judge. Melissa is in training to become an evaluator and will be shadowing the evaluators on Wednesday and Thursday and has agreed to stay on and judge the show.

Bob stated that Phil Odden's clinics at the MN Expo were a great way to get ready for the Evaluations. Bob also encouraged people to sign up and said that the Evaluators were there to help if you have any limitations. Deadline for signing up for the Evaluations in LaCrosse is June 1st.

Heike gave out a handout listing all the shows in the area where Fjords would be showing this summer.

NFHR – Bob Long also gave a report for the NFHR. He said that the current board has several good, young people on it. The membership and breeding is down. Evaluations are dropping off but the NFHR is trying to change that. The Family Fjord Program has been approved and all tests can be downloaded from the website.

Bob also said that there is not formal relationship with the NFHR and the Midwest Club but the NFHR Board wants to work together so we are all on the same page.

Brochure – There was discussion about continuing to provide a club brochure and it was agreed on to work on a new, update version. Kristin Lee and Therine Gudnecht agreed to look in to printing a new one.

New Business

President Heike asked the group to brainstorm about the future of the club and the winter/spring meeting.

Some ideas/comments were: “want to have fun,” “have special clinics,” “geographic limitations,” “sensitivity to draft people and the history of the fjord horse in the United State but we need a ‘big tent’ to include the versatility of the breed,” “need to value our membership,” “go back to a Spring/Winter meeting format,” and “using Facebook.”

Longtime member, Allan May, made a resolution to distribute a Membership Directory listing name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of our current membership. Jaine Johnston agreed to work on it. Janie will also work on getting permission from the membership to list their information. The group voted unanimously to move forward with the Directory.

The meeting was adjourned at a 8:55 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Kristin Lee

Secretary