

## **AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING – Lexington, KY**

Minutes of ACPS Board Meeting, Oct. 2014, passed with corrections and additions submitted by Sally Oxnard. Those changes are: change the wording re the HWSD testing to say “If the stallion is not tested for HWSD, the 2016 foal will need to be tested in order to be registered with the ACPS; Under the ACPS-F, add a comment that there were no applications for the Deb Busta Memorial Adult Amateur Eventing Scholarship; Under the Melanoma study, the next to last line should say “ponies who developed their melanomas under the age of 6.”

- Membership – Anne Moe’s report was sent before the meeting – The changes have been sent to Amy Plavin for the web site: Anne Moe has been responsible for saving the ACPS as much as \$10,000 in her work, by not taking a salary, and by moving to the email system instead of many snail mail processes: Questions from Board members included asking if there was some way to separate youth members out of the Family Memberships. The report was accepted.
- Treasurer – Cathy Blackmon provided the detailed financials, and announced that in the coming year that Stephanie Fenton-Hickey would take over the day-to-day accounting and check writing. Cathy Blackmon will still complete the tax returns and insurances. Susan McConnell remarked that the ACPS owed Cathy Blackmon much appreciation for her work, and for understanding how the Society works and is inter-connected. The Society and the Foundation were applauded for the work done to raise funds for WEG, and it was held as a great example of how a small organization can success. The USEF grant of \$1.00 per member was explained, and the Society also earned a \$1,500 grant for having a Youth Scholarship Applicant. Discussion on the Form 990 tax return was explained, and it has been taken care of each year by the Treasurer. Each region needs to submit their financials – which is part of that tax report. The Budget was presented and discussed and it was approved as presented.
- President’s Report – Deb Norman – Welcomed and thanked people for making the effort to be present at the meeting, and all agreed the previous day’s “open discussion” about issues and ideas had been very encouraging and productive.
- ICCPS – Susan McConnell – explained the current state of the somewhat unsettled group. The March Festival in Clifden is set for the last weekend in March.
- ACPS-Foundation – Susan McConnell – the balance in the Foundation is \$37,329, and has been kept in a simple checking account. One scholarship was paid in 2014, and the USDF Seldom Seen trophy produced by Jean Claggett will be paid out of the Foundation funds. Susan made the initial investment for the scarves and ties that have provided much of the fundraising money through sales. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. The funds have grown from the beginning \$1500 to the present balance, and Susan suggested it might be time to investigate some sort of Vanguard fund to earn more money with the current balances.
- Committee Reports
- Arbitration – Fonda Eigel said there were no formal grievances, but that she needs a better and clearer procedure for handling issues that might arise. Scott McGuffin suggested a Mediation process – or a “Can’t we all just get along” idea. He noted that with the many types of “Social Media” that the ACPS Board and its representatives have to be held to a higher standard. He

noted that it would take a minor change to the ByLaws to create a procedure. A motion was made and passed that a Procedure for Mediation would be written and would be attached to the Arbitration Policy. Discussion followed on adopting a Code of Ethics. **The consensus of the Board and those others in attendance was that a Code of Conduct was needed now**, Deborah Howell noted that other organizations of which she is a member, send reminders about code of conduct or ask for a statement to be signed annually. A suggestion was made to use the already in place, USEF Code of Ethics that judges and stewards and officials must sign annually. The wording will be examined, and the statement will be signed by all paid employees of the ACPS, by the Board of Governors, by Regional Governors and Chairs, and should be discussed at the time of accepting nominations for the Board. Fonda Eigel recommended that it be extended to all members – that each needs to sign a code of conduct, on the web site, or on hard copy. That statement will be written by Scott McGuffin, and will be approved by the Board, and will be implemented as soon as possible.

- **By-Laws – Scott McGuffin – explained the changes being proposed, the revisions in light of the recent events with social media comments, and after review by the Board, the By Law changes will go to the membership on the 2015 ballot.**
- Inspections – Gloria LaCroix – said the program has continued to be self-supporting. Gloria will be receiving the Inspection Nominations for 2015, and will do the planning for the Inspection sites. So far, there will be a site at the Midwest Show on Sunday, July 19 in Missouri, and on Sunday, June 8 at the Region IV show in Cleveland, TN. Region III will not have a site, but CA members would like to host one. Deb Clinch has been asked to help Gloria with the statistical reporting and organizational duties. The committee hopes to provide more educational clinics in 2015, and perhaps had a video and photos to enhance education for Connemara owners and breeders. An Illustrated Standard and a Power Point program has already been produced and will be sent to the Inspection Committee to build their program. Gloria is writing a new column for the American Connemara magazine – the Inspection Corner – to help members understand the program and its value. The List of Inspected ponies will be resent to the webmaster.
- Promotions – Heather Magnan and Melanie Trimper are the dynamic duo, and have accomplished much in 2014 with even bigger plans for 2015. They will work with the magazine to get more ad sales and more information on things like a list of stallions standing in the US. They have placed ads in national magazines in 2014, and will look for other avenues to promote the breed. Their full report will be in the official minutes
- Region Chair Liaison – Gloria LaCroix reported that she is working with Joan Ervin to keep all the Region folks involved and more interactive. Gloria noted that NOT attending the Board meetings causes a breakdown of the group, and people who do show up, suffer by lack of input. Much discussion followed on the value of a offering the region a proxy for a meeting --- with the idea that representation is better for communication and it gives each region a voice at the table.
- USEF Connemara Committee - Susan McConnell reported that the committee meeting was beneficial, and Chris Knox put forth a motion to drop the three hunter and jumper divisions from the ACPS National Awards since those same divisions are now included in the USEF Horse

of the Year point accounting/awards. The motion passed. Chris also noted that in the USEF committee meetings that the ACPS supported micro-chipping.

- Registrar Report – Marynell Eyles – the discussion centered around the need to raise the fees to register Connemaras since micro-chipping was mandated, and that takes another \$6 per animal from the registration fee – which already has the \$24 deduction for DNA testing. A motion to change the registration fees for each purebred was set at \$60 up to 6 months of age and \$75 after 6 months. The discussion on the recent problem with foals born by a stallion not yet registered, and whether to change the rules or opt for the one-time exemption, or use DNA parentage to prove registration, was tabled until more research on what other registries do, and to look at Best Practices policies. It was suggested that reminders of the rules of registration should be sent to stallion owners.
- Partbred Registry --- Megan Harris, chair, was present by telephone – and in her absence had missed much of the open discussion on the topic held the day previous. Wayne Quarles noted he thought the name of the Registry should reflect its make up – the Connemara Sport Horse Registry. That name was agreed upon by the Board. (The structure of the current purebred and halfbred stud book will remain the same, with the new registry only taking the partbred Connemara Sport Horse candidates). Megan Harris asked for approval for the \$500 for Kim Martin, the Microsoft technician who built the ACPS database program and that request was approved. The adult halfbred stallions, whose owners had already gotten their halfbred TFC's, would be eligible for Halfbred Stallion Permanent Registration at \$250 per stallion, which includes a DNA sample and micro-chipping. The registry would be built on produce from breeding a halfbred stallion to a halfbred mare, or a halfbred stallion to a Non-Connemara mare. No less-than-1/4-bred Connemara would be eligible. No ¼-bred stallions would be registered, as the registry is an “end product” or a performance registry rather than a breed registry. Each applicant will be put into the new database as they apply for registration – thereby building the database, with no “grandfathering” any of the entrants into the new Registry. The concern was to keep the Sport Horse Registry under the ACPS umbrella and not to set it apart. Susan McConnell moved that the address for the Connemara Sport Horse Registry be the same as the other Society registration addresses – which is PO Box 100, Middlebrook, VA 24459, thereby simplifying what people have to remember when sending their paperwork. That motion passed. The applications will be opened at the Middlebrook office, and copies made (if information is needed for the database, that will be added by Marynell Eyles as well), and sent either by snail mail or email to Megan Harris who will do the data processing, produce the new registration certificates and send the certificates to the owners.
- Melanoma Research – Maureen Loughman Abel is chair and sent a report – but in her absence, Joan Webster read the report, and asked the Board to give Maureen a big applause for her hard work. With some new discoveries in the research, it's more important than ever for fund and finding the ponies for each category.
- Annual Meeting planning – Deb Norman suggested each Fall meeting should be the fun and family event, and that the January meetings should be the “work sessions”. She noted that the most recent AGM at Penmeryl Farm had offered more “pony friendly” options, and that should

be the focus. She noted the policies for moving the meeting around the country can still be upheld, and that choosing sites for the meetings could be put in the hands of the AGM committee. Lisa Rease said she felt each region should have the opportunity to host a meeting, because many regions can raise funds at the same time. It was noted though, that regions with small populations, have a lot of trouble getting the job done.

- Fleur Bryan, President of the US Irish Draught Society, attended the meeting, and she asked if the Irish Draught breed could be included in some of the Regional Connemara shows. She noted that Sept. 11 – 13 is their show at Logan Township, NJ.
- New Business – registering Blue Eyed Cream stallions – Discussion on how the ACPS had funded and produced the research for learning about the genetics of the BEC gene – or dilute gene – and that the ICCPS was still a bit behind on acceptance. While the idea in the US and Canada can be discussed from the research side, the Board agreed that getting the Connemara Sport Horse Registry up and running was probably the priority, and that the stallion topic could be revisited at the next meeting.
- There being no more new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Marynell Eyles

ACPS Secretary