

AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY – BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND ANNUAL MEETING – Laguna Beach, CA – Oct. 12 and 13, 2012

The meeting of the American Connemara Pony Society Board of Governors was called to order by president, Kathy Lucas, at 9:10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at the Inn at Laguna Beach, Laguna Beach, CA. The following were present, and represented a quorum: Pat Ashworth, Kate Denton, Sandy McShea, Deb Norman, Marilyn Cheek, Julie Keahey, Gloria LaCroix, Jill McNicol, Cathy Blackmon, Bonni Kelley, Joan Ervin, Sue Laidlaw, Marynell Eyles, with members Dianna Cooley, Darian Hall, Katherine Short, Liz Platais, Joanie Webster, Lee Webster, and guests from Canada, Penny Huggons, Jocelyn Davies, and Bridget Wingate.

The minutes of the Jan. 14, 2012 Board meeting were approved.

Membership Report, Debbie Busta – no report was available as Debbie Busta was a patient in the hospital with pneumonia, and was undergoing tests. Cathy Blackmon, treasurer, volunteered that the numbers in the budget reflected a lower number of members for 2012, and a discussion followed on how to attract more members, and keep the members who do join.

Treasurer's Report – Cathy Blackmon passed out her budget report, and noted that the Society should try to find ways to boost the magazine income, reminding members that the magazine is an important public relations tool. She noted that classified ads would help the pages of the magazine, and would also generate interest in finding the pony for sale, since people who pick up magazine are often looking for a pony. The discussion led to a suggestion that a Facebook page for the ACPS should be done, and Jill McNicol volunteered to check on, and generate, or regenerate, a page. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Report of the President – Kathy Lucas began her report with an apology for being ill throughout the time since the January board meeting, with a bacterial infection she contracted on a flight back home from that meeting. The infection traveled from her lungs to her muscles, to her heart, and while she is healing, she has been debilitated in her strength and breathing. She said the year had a “rough start” but that she was determined to recover. Her main goal for the ACPS was to return to the “friendly” feeling of some years past. She asked the members at the table to be friendly and positive with one another, to put their kinder foot forward, and encourage all to make the ACPS a “fun place to be.” She noted that email and the computer has not helped the attitude of inclusiveness and welcome, and that all should be very careful about the “tone” of their emails. She said promoting the Connemara is always one of the most important goals, and she thanked Megan Harris, Sally Eyles-Goldfarb, and Vanessa Morgan for their RFD-TV presentation, and suggested the TV program be made available to each region.

A Promotion Task Force, to concentrate on promoting the breed, was suggested.

In answer to those inquiries from people who THINK they have bought a Connemara, but it has no papers, or the papers have been lost, it was suggested that perhaps it was time to think about micro-chipping all foals, as is done in Ireland, and as the AKC – dog registry, requires. A fee could be added to the registration fee. It was also noted that in the US, there are several types of micro-chip readers, and

the need for a universal reader is important. Jill McNicol, a practicing veterinarian, will research the current state of micro-chip systems, and report to the Board in January.

Kathy Lucas also voiced her concern over the recent by-laws changes, and wondered if others agreed that the new system of revolving off the board has left holes in the Board make-up, that sometimes, the system seems to get rid of the best workers.

SueLaidlaw brought up the subject that had been discussed in the Regional Governors/chairman meeting, about the new structure for the regions in their governance, and that after trying it, many regions have found the system does not work. Sue Laidlaw requested, and the Board agreed, to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the recent changes to the By-Laws regarding the creation of Regional Governors. The committee members are Liz Platais, chair, Kate Denton, Bonni Kelley, Gloria LaCroix, and Deb Norman. They thoughtfully considered the dissatisfaction expressed by some of the members. While the committee was charged with seeking a solution regarding the mandates of the By-Laws, they proposed the following interim measures: So that every region is guaranteed a vote at every board meeting, the committee moved that 1. If a Regional Governor is not able to attend a Board meeting, a written proxy should be given to the Region Chair.

2. If the Region Chair is unable to attend the meeting, the written proxy should pass to a regional member, agreed upon by the Regional Governor, and the Region Chair.

It was further discussed that there is no real job description or attendance requirement for the Regional Governor to attend the ACPS meetings. The committee will bring a job description and policy and procedure to the January meeting.

ICCPS – Susan McConnell provided the minutes from the ICCPS meeting held Tues., Aug. 7, 2012. Two motions were passed to sponsor events – 1,000 Euros will be donated to the French Society for a stand at the International Europony 2012, and the second for 1000 Euros to be given to the British Society for a stand at Olympia in Dec. 2012. New officers of the ICCPS are Dermot Power, President (Ireland), Henry O’Toole, Vice Chair (Ireland); Vermund Lyngstad of Norway, Hon. Treasurer; Padraic Heanue, Treasure (Ireland)r; Sarah Hodgkins,, Honorary Secretary (Gr. Britain); Susan McConnell, Secretariat (US); Madeleine Beckman of Sweden and Karen Holloway of Australia, at large members. The ICCPS does not have a functioning pedigree database, and the CPBS has hired Eamonn MacLochlainn to design and maintain the pedigree database. Susan McConnell and Madeleine Beckman are conducting the research for the history of the ICCPS. The subject of a generic worldwide vet form for inspections was discussed, but no form was provided. Hoof Wall Separation Syndrome was discussed and the project ongoing at UC David, CA, was explained.

ACPS Foundation – Susan McConnell , chair, sent a report that the payments in 2012 were to Dr. Carrie Finno for the HWSS research project, to Jocelyn Davies for her expenses to talk about the HWSS at the meeting, and to Amy Plavin, adult scholarship winner. The names of the scholarship winners for 2012 were listed, and a total of \$350 is allotted for their awards. The account remaining balance is \$39,919.34

Discussion led by Cathy Blackmon on scholarships and payments. Julie Keahey suggested the scholarships should be increased in amounts, and Joan Webster asked if each of the applicants is thanked for applying. An application for Natalie Kupperman, for a junior scholarship seems never to have made it to Linda Haines, and the Board felt strongly that the application should be acknowledged (it was submitted), but never received. The Board voted also, to approve the scholarship for Natalie Kupperman based on the application present.

Cathy Blackmon asked what had happened to the leftover monies from the WEG fundraising, and how best to use it. She explained the present thinking was to earmark funds for promotion of the ponies, for instance through the National Pony Dressage program or other programs for pony breeds.

Standing Committee Reports:

Arbitration – Fonda Eigel, chair – was not present and no report was sent.

Awards – Marilyn Cheek – gave an overview of the last year's work, emphasizing civility in emails is important, so the intent is not mis-interpreted. When discussing changes to the program with people who are working on awards, Cathy Blackmon suggested a phone call, instead of an email, would be a better way to communicate. Kathy Lucas remarked that whenever possible, all important items should be discussed by personal calls, not just by email messages.

Sally Oxnard is now leader of the National Awards section of the ACPS awards program. Deb Clinch will still maintain the Achievement Awards points, but would be happy to turn over the job to anyone who would like to do it. Marilyn Cheek thanked Deb Norman, Kate Denton, and Deb Clinch, for their work in finding worthy award recipients for the 2012 awards program.

The Connemara of the Year award was discussed, and the Board's opinion was that the award should not be one for which to apply, but should be one that is selected on the basis of performance throughout the year. Many people in the competitive worlds would not bother to apply for the award, or might not even know about it. The committee will revisit the policy and procedure for that award.

Katherine Short explained the National Dressage Pony Club, held this year at the Kentucky Horse Park, and where a total of 30 ponies competed in a recognized USDF dressage show. Katherine felt the venue was a great place to sponsor a high point award for a Connemara.

Proposal for a policy change in the adult amateur scholarship was discussed, and a motion was made and unanimously approved, to remove the word "amateur" from the adult scholarship award. Will not be limited, but open to all adults.

Bylaws – Pam Liddell and Chris Knox – no report

Finance – Cathy Blackmon reported that revenue was lacking this year, and she had to make two cash transfers from the savings to cover ACPS bills. While the economy has hurt revenue, the ACPS needs to find ways to increase income and decrease expenses. She noted that the Society is always a good

steward of the funds, but membership, registration, and magazine revenue were all less than anticipated.

In trying to find ways to save, it was noted that the Green Book (the membership directory) costs the same to publish as an issue of the magazine, and that perhaps it was time to go digital with that publication. **A motion was made for a check-box to be included on the membership application form, to indicate if members wanted the directory on-line, or if requested in hard copy, that a \$10 fee would be charged. The motion passed unanimously.**

Inspections – Megan Harris, chair, report given by Kathy Sparks and Gloria LaCroix. The Board recommended that the committee try a revolving schedule of inspection sites now that the Inspection program had very little backlog of ponies. Perhaps schedules could be made some years in advance, with the inspections in the VT and VA regions alternating, and adding other sites as needed. There is a need for new Inspector Candidates, and Gloria LaCroix, head of the educational aspects of the program, asked if there were clinicians that people would like to have as speakers.

Internet – Pat Norton-White, chair, no report sent, but discussion took place on the difficulty of getting notices and articles posted on the ACPS web site. Kathy Lucas thought the web site could use a face lift, and that there are too many steps to getting notices posted on the web site as it is structured now. Members do not know who to contact if they have an update, as was noted, the usual practice for other web sites is to contact the web master, but the ACPS has a different structure. Joan Webster suggested that the simple solution was for the communication link (web master) to go to the gatekeeper which at the moment is Carolyn McEvitt. The Board felt a policy and procedure update was needed for the web site management, and Pat Ashworth will work on that P&P. **It was thought by the Board, that after reviewing the policy, and the number of people on the Internet committee, that the committee had too many members, and the job descriptions should be re-written. The recommendation was unanimously approved.**

Magazine – Marynell Eyles reported that the magazine was still much loved, but sadly losing money. The two digital issues had saved money, but since ad revenue was down, the projections for the break-even numbers were not reached. The Board encouraged people to use the magazine for ads, and reiterated that the publication is the best public relations and promotion vehicle the Society has.

Promotions – Janet Chayes, Karen McIntyre – Janet sent a report saying the committee had a very glowing year, and hoped more money would be allocated for more promotion ideas in 2013.

Region chair liaison – Joan Ervin and Sue Laidlaw – said the region chairs had many questions about the regional governors jobs, and the regions whose representatives could not get to the meeting had no representation. It was noted that the motion made earlier in the meeting should help the group. The

Youth Program – Fonda Eigel, Jill McNicol, who said it is hard to keep going, and perhaps encouraging the juniors in active regions to write something for the magazine or the web site, or put on Facebook, would encourage more activity.

USEF Connemara Committee – Chris Knox – no report

Ad Hoc Committee – Genetics and registration issues – Jill McNicol explained the EVA reports and the recommendation that stallion owners report annually to the secretary, whether their stallion has been EVA tested and/or inoculated.

Bookstore – Linda Foote – no report, but Marynell Eyles brought Tom MacLochlainn’s books to those who had purchased them at the last meeting, and Tom had kindly donated the costs of the book to the ACPS Foundation.

Old Business –

History Committee/book project – D.J. Moore sent a report which was read, and the Board also suggested that foundation breeders should be contacted and interviewed. The following list of breeders/interviewers was compiled – Cathy Blackmon, Arthur’s ponies; Joanie Webster, Peggy Whitfield; Kathy Sparks, May Medley and the Tullymor Connemaras; Concord River, Liz Platais; Bantry Bay – was thought to be done for the magazine already; Whitewood/Ohrstroms, Catherine Mack; Lynfields/Bailys has been done by Sally Oxnard, and Gilnocky/Sue Smith article is in the archives.

Strategic Planning Committee – long range planning, last report was looked at and it’s time to look again at the future of the Society. It was decided to table the work of the committee until the results of the 2012 Board elections were known as there may be some fresh eyes for the committee’s work.

New Business – The Irish Report – Robbie Fallon of Cashelbay Connemaras in Ireland, gave a talk on the CPBS, and their appreciation of the ACPS with regard to promotion of the pony. Robbie noted that the Irish know how huge America is, and that the work done in the US is more difficult than in the small area of Ireland. This new feature will be a “regular” at future ACPS annual meetings.

Kathy Sparks noted that the British Connemara Chronicle was seeking a report for their publication. Marynell Eyles will write an overview of the awards for 2012.

In closing the meeting, Joan Ervin announced that “The Society is back – people are working together again.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general membership meeting of the American Connemara Pony Society was called to order at 9 a.m., Sat., Oct. 13, at the Inn at Laguna Beach, Laguna Beach, CA. President, Kathy Lucas, called the meeting to order and welcomed all. The minutes of the 2011 General Membership meeting were approved.

A review of the motions passed by the ACPS Board of Governors included the following: An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to write a by-laws change concerning the present Regional Governors and

Region Chairs section. It was stated and agreed by all that the new system was tried, but was not working well. There was consensus on a lack of a clear job description for the Regional Governor and there is no requirement for attendance at the Board meetings. The committee will also discuss the additional language for a proxy vote. Committee members are Liz Platais, chair; Kate Denton, Bonni Kelley, Gloria LaCroix, and Deb Norman.

Unanimous vote to change the wording for the Adult Amateur Scholarship to Adult Scholarship

Membership – In an effort to further control expenses, a motion was unanimously approved to add a box on the membership form to indicate whether a member would like that membership directory in hard copy, or digital. The hard copy would be priced at \$10, thus covering printing and mailing expenses.

It was also discussed and recommended that the Directory include cell phone numbers and email addresses.

Kathy Lucas will take on the many layers of the Internet Committee structure to streamline the process of posting items there. She will start by calling Pat Norton-White to get the background information and work on solutions. Pat Ashworth will help work on the committee's policies and procedures.

Awards - Marilyn Cheek reported that Sally Oxnard will be the national awards leader, and that work is being done on the USEF Horse of the Year structure.

Promotions – Janet Chayes' report lauded the TV show on RFD-TV, the need for updated brochures, and the upcoming Equine Affaire. A motion was made and passed to provide DVD's of the RFD-TV program to anyone who wants one, for \$10 each.

Vanessa Morgan requested brochures like the ones previously used, and those are reported to be in the works. The leftover brochures from WEG were discussed.

Region Chairs reports were given and will be published in the American Connemara Magazine.

The Irish Connection – Robbie Fallon is the new liaison with the Irish Society, and he noted that the CPBS Council has not been very Connemara-performance-oriented until just recently. At most of the shows previously, only in-hand classes were offered, but after Tom MacLochlainn instituted performance classes, even in Clifden, with major successes, it's been a very pleasant surprise that now ponies need to be performers. There were two Connemaras on the Irish Show Jumping team, and many young people are now looking for more performances arenas, and people are even looking for more performance-oriented stallions for their mares. Bloodlines that have been lost through the years are coming back to Ireland from other countries, and that is a good thing. It was noted by Kathy Lucas, that Robbie Fallon was awarded the 2012 Breeder of the Year Award in Ireland.

Results of the Election for Board of Governors:

2012 – 2015 – Fonda Eigel, Sue Laidlaw, Susan McConnell, Scott McGuffin, Wayne Quarles, and Melanie Trimper.

Following the motion to adjourn, the Board was reconvened for election of officers – Kathy Lucas, President, Deb Norman, vice president, Cathy Blackmon, treasurer. Marynell Eyles will continue as secretary.

The new Board was welcomed, the meeting was adjourned, and Richard Cunningham gave an update on Melanoma research.

Respectfully submitted, Marynell Eyles