

AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING – JAN. 14, 2012

Kathy Lucas, president of the ACPS, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. Following a roll call, all were invited to introduce themselves. Board members attending were Kathy Lucas, Deb Norman, Cathy Blackmon, Fonda Eigel, Marilyn Cheek, Megan Harris, Gloria LaCroix, Sally Oxnard, Pam Liddell, Sandy McShea, Donna Miller, Kate Denton, Michael Busta, Jill McNicol, Pat Ashworth, Donna Duckworth, and ACPS members and regional chairs attending were: Mary Lightbody, Pat Lightbody, Karen McIntyre, Deb Busta, Marian McEvelly, Steph Burk, Martha Slamer, Pat Reichle, Janice Meyer, D.J. Moore, Joan Webster, Wayne Quarles, Chris Knox, Joan Ervin, and Lauren Fahey of the USEF. A quorum was declared.

The minutes from the Board of Governors meeting on Sept. 17, 2011, were accepted with a typo correction in the amount of funds in the ACPS-Foundation – from \$4,510.84 to \$40,510.84.

Report of the Registrar: The foal crop is at 68 foals for 2011. The office has a new computer, all the records and stud books are saved in the “Dropbox” storage-in-the-clouds. Transfers are creeping upwards. A slip is being included in the transfers to new owners, stating the certificate is a lifetime record.

Report of the Treasurer – Cathy Blackmon reported the ACPS bank balances as:

Checking-Private Bank \$1902.12
Checking-Fifth Third - 385.27
Vanguard Money Market 73,462.61
Vanguard Wellington 29,572.30
Vanguard Windsor 18,531.02

Report of the President – Kathy Lucas noted that the Society has changed a lot since the years she was absent from the table, with many more committees, and many more activities, but she felt it might not have stayed as friendly as it once was. One of her goals is to return that respect to the Society, and to move forward with the many projects and plans.

Membership - Deb Busta reported that she will send a letter and membership form with an enclosed envelope to reply and pay dues. The packet will be sent to those who have not renewed for 2012. She will ask Region chairs to remind their members to renew. March 1 is the deadline for renewals. The topic of mass mailings was discussed. A postcard will be sent to members asking if they would like to renew on-line, and not get letters. Directory on line? It would have to be password protected and the consensus was that people still like their green-covered hard copies. New member total for 2011 was 175, but in comparisons, 2011 was the lowest point in a 10-year period. The on-line renewals are a success.

The Region Chairs present agreed that the Regional email distributions could be used to remind current members to renew and to email a digital directory as well, noting that the Juniors whom the ACPS is trying to recruit live in the digital age verses the paper age

Should members of ACPS committees be members of the ACPS? Deb Busta will put together an ad-hoc committee to study the issue and poll members.

D.J. Moore reminded all to buy an ACPS membership for new pony owners. Kathy Lucas agreed, and added it was good to also buy a congratulatory ad in the magazine.

History Committee- D.J. Moore and Pat Lightbody – both were in attendance to get the ball rolling on the history book of the ACPS. D.J. Moore will be responsible for the early years of the Society’s history, followed by Pat Lightbody who will compile and write the “growth” years, and Caroline Nesbitt will provide pedigree information for the book. Mary Lightbody presented a power point program on the book, its structure, the years, the writers, and the topics of the chapters. The sections should be completed by April 1. Steph Burk will take on some of the writing duties for D.J. Moore

who will edit the section. An introduction has already been written, and approved at the meeting. Kathy Lucas thanked all for their hard work and dedication to the project.

ICCPS – Susan McConnell was absent. No report

ACPS Foundation – Susan McConnell sent a report to Cathy Blackmon. The scholarships for 2011 have been paid, as has the \$1000 the Society voted to donate to the work of Dr. Theon, whose research is on melanoma.

Arbitration – Fonda Eigel stated there were no arbitrations.

Awards – Donna Duckworth is co-chair with Marilyn Cheek. Donna Miller is leader of the National Awards. Kate Denton is handling the Hall of Farm Performance awards; Deb Norman and Sally Oxnard are leading the Hall of Fame Breeding awards. The awards budget and costs are up as there are more awards than ever to be presented.

Deb Clinch, Achievement Awards chair, would like data sent to her on who is a member. Deb Busta will send a file each quarter to let Deb Clinch know who is eligible. The awards information should be included in renewal notices to encourage people to renew.

Scholarship applicants and winners must be ACPS members at the time they apply.

A motion was made to increase the Adult Scholarship amount to \$300. The motion was passed.

A motion was made to define eligibility for the Hall of Fame An Tostal award – **a pony is eligible if age 16 and over (by actual foaling date) on the nomination deadline date of July 15. The motion passed.**

A motion was made, and approved, to define which ponies are eligible for the Hall of Fame Camlin award: **The owner of a stallion who has been gelded may apply for the award based on 15 years of competition results. That pony will not also be eligible for the Camlin award.**

By-laws – Pam Liddell reported that the number of nominees for slots on the Nominating Committee's ballot for Board members, must be more than the slots to be filled. There was discussion about the new by-laws as it affected the attendance at the meeting, and who could vote or not., and Sally Oxnard explained the Regional Governors and Regional Chairs' duties. She also explained why rotating off the board is a good thing.

Awards revisited – Donna Miller discussed the USEA awards and explained how they are tracked. She said there were 330 Connemaras competing in Eventing, with 300 at training level and below. There were 140 at novice. She suggested that the large number of eventers needed another award, to be presented to the juniors at each level.

A motion was made by Donna Duckworth, and was passed. The motion - **To add junior awards at all the levels of eventing from beginner novice through training level, for junior riders in the National USEA/ACPS awards program.**

Internet Committee – Pat Norton-White sent a report, read by Donna Duckworth. The committee will continue to assist in drawing readers to the site with the News of the Week provided by Donna Duckworth. A new section, Farm of the Week, has been added. The web site should be updated for current information, dates of events, and show results. Items to be posted should be sent to Carolyn McEvitt or Pat Norton-White, not to the webmaster.

Sally Oxnard told committee chairs they need to check their section for current information and updating. The stallion ads are obsolete, and she reminded advertisers in the magazine that they get an ad on the web site as well.

Promotions – no chair, but Janet Chayes reported that she was the keeper of the brochures and other promotional items from the WEG. She said they used some at the Equine Affaire in Region 1. Committee members, and a chair, are sought, and a meeting was planned for later in the day. It was decided to include the green bracelets in the New Member packet sent out by Deb Busta.

After a lunch break, Jocelyn Davies of Canada, presented a talk on the research and the recent findings on Hoof Wall Separation Syndrome. Following her talk, the ACPS-Foundation committee members made **a motion to donate \$2500 to the research being conducted on HWSS by Cal Davis and Dr. Carrie Finne. The motion was approved.**

Jill McNicol will serve as the ACPS liaison with Cal Davis, and will keep the ACPS members informed of advances.

EVA regulations – Jill McNicol, DVM, discussed EVA regulations and the need to test stallions annually. Donna Miller provided a form to be completed annually and sent to the Secretary with the results of a stallion's testing. The forms will be filed in the ACPS office. The form will be on the web site, and also published two times a year, in the *American Connemara* magazine.

Magazine – Marynell Eyles reported that the Jan/Feb issue is on the ACPS web site, and that its debut there again was a bit of a struggle with an ailing old computer and a new one. She noted that the ad contracts for 2012 had not been sent since the computer was not working in early Dec.. when the task should have been done but the notices will go out soon. Pages were updated a bit in the new edition, and one-column pages should make reading on a computer easier. An illustrated standard can be found on the pages, and might be good for using as hand-outs. Plans for upcoming year include keeping the news as fresh as possible, different from the web pages, and hoping for more ads and support from members.

Inspection – Gloria LaCroix reported that sites for 2012 will be New York, Vermont, Virginia, Idaho, and Utah. In 2011 there were 27 ponies inspected at three sites. The program was thought to have lost money, but after consultation with the Treasurer, it was found to have broken even.

Finance – Cathy Blackmon, chair, presented the ACPS budget numbers for 2011 and 2012. She also shared information on changes in the investment plans noting that “In response to the current economy and investment market the Finance Committee will reinvest the Vanguard assets to earn higher yields and yet maintain a low risk for safe keeping of the assets.” Michael Busta voiced concern that the investments might not realize as much return and suggested there could be other avenues to consider.

Youth Program – Jill McNicol is the new chair and will work with her co-chair, Fonda Eigel, on attracting more junior members to the ACPS.

D.J. Moore suggested one method might be to advertise in local horse show programs. Others suggested taking a survey of juniors in each region. “Bring to attention the juniors who are out there”.

USEF Committee – Chris Knox reported and updated the information from the National Affiliates Working Group of which the ACPS is a part. Chris reminded all USEF members to declare that they are first Connemara competitors, and then dressage or hunter or whatever. The numbers of each affiliates' group is determined by this declaration.

She reported on the Breed retreats, and the directory of breeds, disciplines, locations, for trainers of young horses. With a USEF membership, there will be a breeders' page including Connemara breeders.

The USEF is working on a USEF Young Horse Championship slated for Sept. 9 – 15, 2013.

Regional Reports – Joan Ervin noted it was a great meeting and a great place to reconnect with the Board and the regional representatives. The Regional people will send their reports to the magazine.

Nominating committee – Anne Moe is the chair for 2012 and Sally Oxnard noted that there will be six vacancies for the 2012 ballot.

Book store – Linda Foote is managing it.

Document controller – Margaret Sanford is the person who is overseeing posting the updates. Each committee chair should check their part of the web site information and send updated documents to Margaret@margaretsanford.com

Promotions – after the luncheon meeting, it was announced that the committee would be co--chaired by Karen McIntyre and Janet Chayes. Committee members will be announced.

Gloria LaCroix announced that the Inspections committee was seeking new inspector candidates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Marynell Eyles