**MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2019**

**ACPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

The meeting of the ACPS Board of Governors was called to order at 9 a.m. by Cathy Blackmon, president, with the following Board and general members in attendance: Tracy Garland, Kathy Lucas, Stephanie Fenton, Sarah Thrasher, Kate Denton, Chris Keim, Sally Oxnard, Fonda Eigel, Bonnie Reid, Suzanne Phelps, Marilyn Cheek, Deb Norman, Stephanie Keen, Darian Hall, Linda Haines, Wayne Quarles, Deb Howell, Denise Hill, Maureen Loughman Abel, Carol Kozlowski. A quorum was declared as the Secretary took the attendance.

Before business was discussed, Cathy Blackmon asked each person to make an introduction, including what “category” of member each was --- breeder/athlete/organizer/benchwarmer/etc. The group had fun listening and learning more about each other. The intro also included what committees and officers each had held. There was a wealth of talent and wide expanse of expertise in the room.

The minutes from the September 2018 Annual Meeting, recorded by Suzanne Phelps in Marynell Eyles’ absence, were approved as emailed.

**Report of Membership Chair** – Kate Denton said in a nutshell – there were 593 paid memberships as of Jan. 7, 2019. Linda Haines said she would like the breakdown of Junior members. A bullet-point list of membership perks should be prepared for the ACPS members and it should include the USEF perks as well. Marilyn Cheek suggested all should keep sending magazine subscriptions to new owners. A packet of magazine can be sent to Region Chairs – Darian Hall requested a box of 20 for her region and their show. Cathy Blackmon explained the new Fan membership to USEF – and how the ACPS could gain new members from those people who have an interest in equines, but are not sure what kind or what discipline. She also remarked on the requirements for the Board Members to have completed their Safe Sport Training. Marynell Eyles reminded people to make sure when signing up to join USEF, that “Connemara” is the first discipline to check --- that garners a $1 per member for the ACPS, and gives the USEF a better idea of how many ACPS people are also USEF members.

**Report of the President** – Cathy Blackmon explained what she had learned from the USEF Affiliates Round Table that had recently concluded. She noted that the Safe Sport requirements are set, and that ACPS Board Members must complete the on-line training. It is not difficult, and can be done in more than one session. The ACPS is one of the few Affiliates that has a signed contractual agreement. Many are still in the works, with multiple pages of legalese, but ours is a simple 3 pages document.

**Report of the Treasurer** – Stephanie Fenton said, “we are not losing money”. We are not in the business of making money, so we are right where we are supposed to be. Unfortunately, while our numbers on the sheets look good, in actual fact, the $5000 surplus is true, but there are also $5200 worth of checks that got “lost in the mail.” Work is being done to get checks re-written. None have been cashed, so the probable cause is a post office machine ate the contents of an envelope. One of the issues that did come up again this year, is Inspector’s expenses in travel. Some inspectors charge actual costs of driving to a site, some use other number, and we need to resolve reimbursements for those who drive to a site.

**A motion was made to update the reimbursement forms for inspectors, to include a line for payment at .23 cents per mile, and lines after that to indicate a contribution of that amount, or a line indicating payment to inspector of that amount. The motion was approved.**

It was also decided to send checks to the bank for now, only by registered or priority mail. Stephanie, Kate Denton, and Marynell Eyles are to decide if a mobile deposit app is a better way to process the checks.

While the finances and numbers were being discussed, it was decided to look at the Budget for 2019. The proposed budget was approved.

As a note – Kate Denton was heartily thanked by all for her work in picking up the Membership Job and handling it so well, and in showing an increase in membership numbers.

**Registrar’s report – Marynell Eyles** –

**25 Purebred foals registered for 2018 --- with another 7 in my pending (DNA) file. And 3 in my mail on Tuesday.**

In re-doing the application forms for the website – our profit margin for registration is very low so even though people complain, we are not gouging anyone. Adding the costs for Purebred which costs the breeder $85--- DNA – 25 + Chip – 5 + USEF – 25 + postage 3.50 = $58.50. That total doesn’t cover the cost of the paper for the certificate, printer ink, and my time. If there are no HWSD results, the breeder/owner pays $125 so the cost of the HWSD testing is covered.

I sent reports to the *English Chronicle* – with our award winners, and foal stats, etc., for their annual publication. I replied to two different ICCPS/CPBS questionnaires – asking about the adherence to the CPBS rules for registration. We do not have the same system, which was “okayed” by the CPBS when our Society was allowed membership in the ICCPS.

I gifted the database entries to Maureen Loughman Abel for her work on the Melanoma studies. She has bought, through the years, a complete set of stud books, and from practice, I know it’s easier to use an alphabetized list of the ponies than go through each year’s listings. She very kindly donated $200 towards a new computer.

**Four stallions were registered in 2018**

**\*Doonhill Dancer** – an import from IRE. By Currachmore Cashel out of April Dawn Lady by Laerken’s Cascade Dawn. The stallion is owned by Michael Keane of FL.

**Farkelberry’s Smokey Lad – N/N** a stallion by \*Gun Smoke out of Marshwoods’ Summer Keavey by Kerrymor Madison. The stallion is owned by Nancy Kilcrease.

**Kynynmont Cameron – N/N** – a stallion by Kynynmont Cooper O’Grady out of Kynynmont Arianna by \*Canal Laurinston, owned by Pam Liddell.

**Duet Farms One Love** - a stallion by \*Kippure Cara (Fredericksminde Hazy Match) out of Tre Awain Maeve by Tre Awain DeValera, owned by Chris and Annie Balotti-Paleen.

**Halfbreds- 4 halfbred tfc’s for colts 15 Halfbred mares** of 2018

**1 Halfbred stallion** - \*Dolphins Law – by Glencarrig Dolphin out of Folklaw, owned by Donna Miller

**13 Halfbred geldings** of 2018

For a 2018 foal crop - total of **32 halfbreds registered** (More permanently registered in 2018, but not foaled in 2018).

1. Questions for the Board – do you want ponies to be “double” registered – in the Halfbred book and the CSH? I have one waiting….she wants both. THE consensus ANSWER WAS “YES”. *Addenda: Since the meeting, the ramifications of the decision have made more discussion and thoughtful considerations important. The Executive Decision was made to bring this concept back to the table at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors.*
2. We have an imported pony from IRE – with the prefix “Hillside” --- Anne Hindman owns that prefix in the ACPS. Any ideas? THE ANSWER WAS – THERE WILL BE AN ASTERISK BEFORE THE NAME – SO GO AHEAD AND REGISTER HIM.

Fonda Eigel had worked on proofing and/or reading the registration application forms “like a beginner” to see how we could make them clearer. More forms need updating**. A Motion was made to form a new Ad-Hoc committee - the Registration Committee, to work on issues related to updating forms, procedures, etc. Fonda Eigel will be the Chair.**

**Formation of the committee was approved.**

ICCPS – Susan McConnell was not able to attend the meeting but sent very complete reports – Wayne Quarles read her ICCPS report.

ACPS Foundation- Susan McConnell – it was noted here that with the appointment of the two new administrators of the ACPS Foundation, it takes at least two people to fill Susan’s shoes. The two people who will administer the Foundation will be Stephanie Rinehart Keen and Deb Norman.

**ACPS ~ Foundation** January 12, 2019

Information for the Board of Governors January 2019 Meeting in Palm Beach, FL

Account Bank Statement Balance as January 1, 2018: $38,050.64

**Payments** in 2018:

1/4/18 Award Committee Scholarships (Linda Haines, Chair)

Scholarship Winner of $100 = Finley Peterson (VT) (2017 check not cleared)

Scholarship Total = -$100.00

1/20/18 ACPS – reimburse Judy Wardrope flight fee - 826.36

9/25/18 Dr. Walsh (Animal Health Fdn), AGM speaker - 200.00

-$1,126.36

**Deposits** in 2018:

1/25/18 Donations in response to McGuffin letter +865.00

2017 Scarves & Ties +375.00

+$1,240.00

Account Bank Statement Balance as of December 31, 2018: $38,164.28

Original amount for “Promotional Use” from WEG: $6,263.30

2014 $888.26

2015 500.00

2016 420.00

Net WEG Funds remaining $4,455.04

**AVAILABLE “General Funds” in ACPS Foundation Account $33,709.24**

During the year, please remember to shop for Scarves ($75.00) and Ties ($40.00) (free gift wrapping, shipping and handling, too). Your purchases will support the ACPS Foundation. All the money goes directly into the ACPS Foundation account.

***Susan McConnell,*** ACPS Foundation Trustee

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**ARBITRATION** – Fonda Eigel – No hardship cases or cases in arbitration at this moment. The committee has a new process by which Hardship cases in registration for a Connemara will be handled, and Fonda explained the forms and the process. The process with begin with a form, and a $100 fee, to start the part to register a “rescued” or “unknown” pony.

**AWARDS** – Marilyn Cheek – explained there are some “changes in the works’. Sally Oxnard has updated the Awards policies, and there will now be term limits for those who serve as Awards Committee Chairs. Marilyn reiterated how to record and send in Achievement Award results. It is up to the pony owner to provide those records, not to the ACPS administrator of the program. The Awards Committee overall needs more volunteers to help manage the huge job. The Broodmare Award seems to be one of those awards that does not always get presented, but Maureen Loughman Abel said that each award did not have to be given each year if there were not worthy recipients.

The Connemara of the Year is another award that needs volunteers to track the ponies in competition or doing good work somewhere.

**Melanoma Study** – Maureen Loughman Abel – said she was more than delighted with the “matching funds” challenge that netted $5275 for the study. More Group 1 ponies have been found for the study, but more are needed. At this time, only blood samples are needed from each pony, not all the invasive work that was required previously. Dr. Carrie Fino, who worked on the HWSD study is now working on the melanoma study also.

**Bylaws** – Scott McGuffin – No action required.

**Finance** – Cathy Blackmon – the Budget for 2019 was approved. The Investments made on behalf of the ACPS have done well, recovering from the 2008 downturn.

**Inspections** – Gloria LaCroix – There will be no Inspections for 2019. The Chair reported that most regions have been “caught up” and with the diminished foal crops, there are fewer ponies to be inspected. Sites will be chosen for 2020..

**Magazine** – Marynell Eyles- thanked the advertisers for their ongoing support. The monies for the ad spaces are used to pay for printing the magazine, but the amount is far below the printers’ costs, but every little bit helps. Keep sending articles and photos and good news.

**Nominating** – Sally Oxnard – reported that the ACPS probably will need three new candidates to run for the Board

**Promotions** – Melanie Trimper and Heather Magnan – placed an ad in *Horse Illustrated* since an article on the Connemara breed will be in the upcoming issue.

**Region Chair Liaison** – Sally Oxnard has taken over the task from Gloria LaCroix. Sally reminded all that there can be no “co-chairs” but it is permissible to have “assistant” chairs. Patti Stalder is assistant chair in her region. The Board agreed that the information about Region Chairs and regions should be moved to the pull -down menu – About Us.

**USEF Connemara Committee** – there are no longer on-site meetings, but the business is done via conference calls throughout the year. Mostly, the calls concern general and specific to ACPS rule changes. It was declared by the USEF that the Competition Lite show designation would be continued.

**Strategic Plan** – Chris Keim chaired the committee of Donna Miller, Jill McNicol, Scott McGuffin, Kate Denton. She called herself the “Media Coordinator” and she condensed the reams of information gathered from the SurveyMonkey questions to a chart with three sections short term goals, Medium Term, to Long Term.

Even though the projector used to display the committee’s work was less than perfect, the charts and the numbers revealed many interesting facts to the Board about membership and their interests, pony owners and their values, and in general knowledge of the breed and breeders. Chris took the group through the report from page one to page 12.

Linda Haines suggested that the 10 sections of the plan could be studied – and that one person should be put in charge of each section to try to achieve the immediate goals by studying the plan and preparing action steps.

The sections were split as follows:

Awards- Kathy Lucas

Breeders concerns – Deb Norman

Media Promotions – Linda Haines

Membership – Kate Denton

Inclusivity- Sarah Thrasher

Volunteer Support- Wayne Quarles

Miscellaneous – Suzanne Phelps

Annual Meeting – Cathy Blackmon

Wayne Quarles, Deb Norman, and Linda Haines asked that conference calls be organized during the near future.

**2019 Annual Meeting Invitation** – Deb Norman invited the ACPS to Virginia (Region III) from October 3 to 6, in Richmond, Virginia. An invitation for the 2020 meeting was extended by Region V- to meet in Kentucky.

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

Respectfully submitted

Marynell Eyles