

Minutes - ACPS Board of Governors Meeting - February 5, 2022

Linda Haines called the meeting to order at 11:05 and welcomed the participants. The BOG meeting was open to all members. The BOG were on mike, the general members were muted, but the chat function was open to all. Over 40 people attended.

Attendees:

	At Large Governors		Regional Governors		Region Chairs		Add'l Committee Chairs
A	Deborah Howell	X	Linda Haines - I	A	Tracy Roettiger - I	A	Stephanie Keen
X	Becky Jordan	A	Carol Kozlowski -II	X	Christine Kelton - II	A	Chris Knox
X	Donna Power	X	Suzanne Phelps - III	A	Kim Harrison - III	X	Deb Norman
X	Anne Wadlow Drogula	A	Megan Harris - IV	X	Kim Gates - IV	X	Heather Magnan
X	Donna Duckworth	X	Bonnie Reid - V	X	Kristen Sealey - IVa	X	Fonda Eigel
A	Cynthia Holbrook	X	Lisa Etzel - VI	A	Katherine Short - V	X	Kathy Sparks
A	Kate Denton	A	Laura Balding - VII	X	Kay Clements - VI	X	Marynell Eyles
X	Joanie Webster	X	Susan McLaughlin - VIII	X	Annie Balotti-Paleen - VII	A	Maureen Loughman-Abel
X	Catherine Blackmon	X	Tracy Garland - IX	A	Pattie Stalder - VIIa	X	Sally Oxnard
A	Karen Laden	X	Robin Mercer - X	X	Susan Dudasik - VIII	A	Scott McGuffin
X	Kathy Nebel			X	Kaarin Axelsen Forester - IX		
X	Kay Clements			X	Lee Webster Ramensky - X		
A	Lisa Rease					X	Nicole Zerbee USEF
A	Nancy Kilcrease						
A	Raelin Schenck						
X	Sharon Jantzen						
X	Stephanie Fenton-Hickey						

Additional members in attendance: Liz Platais, Pam Liddell, Lauren McKenzie, Allyson Myers, Sarah McRae Thrasher, Alex Piaget, Janet Johnson, Amy Plavin, Gloria LaCroix, Susan McLaughlin, Virginia Winkler and Katherine Forester.

No corrections or additions were submitted to the minutes of the September 25, 2021 BOG meeting. ***The meeting minutes were approved as printed.***

Linda thanked the committee chairs and Region Chairs for submitting their reports. She noted that these were some of the best, most informative reports she has seen. The following reports on the consent agenda were approved as submitted and put into the meeting record:

Report of the Membership Chair - Suzanne Phelps
Report of the President – Linda Haines
Report of the Registrars – Marynell Eyles and Megan Harris
ICCPS- Scott McGuffin
Arbitration - Fonda Eigel
Bylaws – Scott McGuffin
Awards – Marilyn Cheek, Sally Oxnard
Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS – Deb Norman, Stephanie Keen
Magazine - Marynell Eyles
Nominating – Joanie Webster
Region Chair Liaison – Sally Oxnard, Donna Power
Genetics – Melanoma report – Maureen Loughman-Abel
Breeding Committee – Kate Denton
Youth Program – Donna Power
Digital Library- Linda Haines
Succession Committee Cathy Blackmon
USEF Connemara Committee – Chris Knox, Cathy Blackmon, liaison to USEF governing committee
Regional Reports

Finance - Cathy Blackmon and Report of the Treasurer

The Finance reports were submitted and distributed before the meeting. Cathy said the association is in good health financially and investments have done well during the pandemic.

The Finance Committee and Treasurer report were approved.

Promotions - Heather Magnan, Policies & Procedures

Heather met with Marynell and Sharon and formulated a plan to best promote news items and awards using the website, internet and magazine. A system for promoting awards that will make Sally's life easier is planned requiring less duplicate work. The Promotions report will be put in the record. Policy and Procedures are still being edited.

History Project - Linda Haines

Linda thanked Sally for working on the history project. Sally and her aunt put together a book that covers 14 years of the ACPS. Still, there are a lot of years are not covered. We have resources in people and records. Members are needed take on a chapter, a decade, editorship, etc. to keep the project moving. We risk losing information from our senior members if the project falters. Documentation from 1956-1985 and after 1999 is needed. The book was introduced. With shipping it costs about \$13. A few copies are left and it may go into another print. Requests for copies should go to Sally Oxnard.

Inspections - Kathy Sparks

Kathy touched on the items in her report and addendum. She outlined the dilemma with inspections: registrations are increasing so there is a young population of ponies to inspect but there is not a large volume in the age that is appropriate for inspections. It is hard to find a location with the recommended 10 ponies for inspection.

The cost of travel has greatly increased and the reliability of travel has decreased. The Inspection Committee looked at the cost of inspections and the income produced. The last time the fees changed was in 2002. The committee made a recommendation to increase the fee per the schedule submitted to the BOG:

	Current	Recommendation
Mares.	\$100.	\$125
Stallions.	\$200.	\$250
Geldings.	\$ 75.	\$100
Premium.	\$100.	\$125

The motion to approve the new fees was approved. The nomination form with new fees will be in the next magazine.

The inspection Committee has been working on a curriculum for the training of inspectors in the future. There is an online learning program that will eventually be accessible to everyone interested in Connemaras. A prototype of the website being developed was shared at the meeting.

The website will eventually be linked to the ACPS website. Modules include Type, Movement, Conformation, Temperament and Wonderful Pony Stories. Both American and Irish experts are used to present the lessons. There will be a core module and a quiz component which can be graded. The core module includes materials used to train inspectors and judges.

A prototype of the website being developed was shared at the meeting. A video with Caroline Nesbitt, which is part of the training, was aired for the group. The new curriculum was well received by meeting participants.

Insurance for Inspectors is being investigated to determine the best way to provide coverage. The liability waiver is being updated to add language that by signing, participants accept the results of inspections.

Internet - Sharon Jantzen

Sharon, Heather and Marynell met to talk about how to streamline touch points for people to get information. The website needs more of a “newbie” focus so terms are defined. The Facebook page needs a “blast.” More in-depth information will be in the magazine.

Sharon is working on a calendar for the year to determine what gets published where. Two stories from the magazine will be on the website, a month at a time, after the magazine is published.

A questionnaire for award winners is being developed to get their stories for publication. It was recommended that there be additional resources for viewers to look into conformation.

The biggest draws to the website, primarily by new visitors, are stallion ads, region information and the classifieds. The Internet Committee would like to grow the the classified advertisements. They are not a money maker, but they do draw people to the website.

Motion to make ACPS website Classified ads free to ACPS members for registered ponies.

Motion passed. Sharon will take this back to committee to implement. A classifieds manager will need to verify the owner is a member of ACPS and the pony is registered.

Sharon is working to streamline the main menu on the website. Currently there are 13 menu items at the top of the page. Three buckets are proposed:

- Get to know the Connemara pony
- Connemara ownership info
- Jump to quick access

Sharon will try some of these changes. Heather will provide a second set of eyes and others attending the meeting offered to help.

It was suggested that testimonials from well-know riders like Karen O'Connor, Lendon Gray and Jessica Springsteen, who got their starts on Connemaras be published.

The group discussed scrubbing the website of personal email addresses to avoid scams. Some of the Region Chairs are creating google email accounts for their regions that can move with the chair. Sharon and the region chairs can decide how to handle email contacts on the website. A switchboard operator may be needed.

Awards - Marilyn Cheek, Sally Oxnard

Awards presented motions for Distance awards and Working Equitation:

Distance Awards

- 1) In our AA program, Add ECTRA and SEDRA and any competitive trail association that has bylaws and a charter as recognized competitions
- 2) Points for placing remain the same, and best conditioned award the same
- 3) Points for finishing a ride will be:
 - 5 points for 10 to 19 miles
 - 10 points for 20 to 49
 - 20 points for 50 to 99
 - 30 points for 100
- 4) We will contact the AERC before Feb 1 to agree to work with them to offer a Breed Award to the best registered Connemara and Connemara halfbred of the year in their competitions. Qualifications will be developed by us using other breed awards as a reference (Morgan etc) Award may be a certificate or ribbon etc.

Working Equitation points

In addition to, or in the absence of, points earned for placing at USAWE recognized competitions:

- 5 points will be awarded for completing at Introductory
- 10 points will be awarded for completing at Novice
- 15 points will be awarded for completing at Intermediate

20 points will be awarded for completing at Master

In addition to points awarded for total final placing, points may be earned as follows:

Champion at Recognized Show: 12

Champion at Unrecognized Show: 6

Reserve Champion at Recognized Show: 10

Reserve Champion at Unrecognized Show: 5

Motion to accept the recommendations for Distance Awards and Working Equitation Points presented by the Awards Committee. Motion passed.

Insurance - Becky Jordan

Insurance coverage for clinicians was discussed.

Motion that Regions be required to have their events on the ACPS calendar by March 1 so that events are covered by ACPS insurance. Motion passed.

March 9 is the renewal date for insurance, so the calendar will run March 1 to April 31.

Motion that Regions be required to ensure their clinicians have professional liability coverage. Motion passed.

If a clinician is a member of ACPS, the clinician would be covered under our general liability policy. Clinicians can be covered for professional liability by the ACPS policy for \$115.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct was originally set up for all members to sign when they applied for membership.

Motion to require signature of the Code of Conduct by all members. Motion passed.

Suzanne, Linda, Becky and Sharon will figure out next steps. Becky will track signatures.

Safe Sport

Safe Sport is a USEF training program. Our insurance company wants to ensure we are in compliance. Board of Governors, Region Chairs and Inspectors should complete the course. Competing USEF members are already doing it.

The USEF Marketing team has passed along a process which will allow our non-USEF member Board of Governors, Region Chairs and Inspectors to take the course. Information will be sent to them.

In additional business, Sally reported that Pat Lightbody's library is available for loan through Mary Lightbody. Additionally, books are being scanned for the ACPS library. Linda is looking for copies of Shrouded in Mist and Out of the Mist by Pay Lyne for digitizing. The books would need to be donated as a hard copy needs to be retained for the digital library.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Nebel
ACPS Secretary