



ACPS

Board of Governors Meeting

Reports - FINAL

February 5, 2022

Table of Contents

Meeting Agenda	Page 3		
Minutes	Page 4		
Reports			
Membership	Page 9	Youth Program	Page 22
President	Page 10	Digital Library	Page 22
Registrars	Page 11	Insurance	Page 23
ICCPS	Page 13	Succession Committee	Page 25
Arbitration	Page 13	USEF Connemara Committee	Page 25
Bylaws	Page 13	Regional Reports	Page 26
Awards	Page 14	Finance	Page 34
Susan McConnell Foundation	Page 16	Promotions	Page 34
Magazine	Page 17	History Project	
Nominating	Page 18	Page 35	
Region Chair Liaison	Page 19	Inspections	Page 35
Genetics	Page 20	Internet	Page 38
Breeding Committee	Page 21		

Revised ACPS Board Meeting Agenda - February 5, 2022

- ✦ Call to order
- ✦ Roll Call of the Board of Governors and Region Governors (Members of the BOG)
- ✦ Introductions of Committee Chairs
- ✦ Introductions of Region Chairs
- ✦ Introductions of additional ACPS Members present
- ✦ Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- ✦ **Consent Agenda:**
 - Report of the Membership Chair - Suzanne Phelps
 - Report of the President –
 - 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
 - Ad Hoc Committees and other Reports***
 - 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
- ✦ Promotions - Heather Magnan, Policies & Procedures
- ✦ History Project - Linda Haines
- ✦ Inspections - Kathy Sparks
- ✦ Internet - Sharon Jantzen
- ✦ Awards - Marilyn Cheek, Sally Oxnard
- ✦ Insurance - Becky Jordan
- ✦ **New Business**
 - USEF Membership
 - ACPS Code of Conduct

Minutes – American Connemara Pony Society Board and Annual Meetings

September 25, 2021

Meeting conducted via ZOOM conference

President of the ACPS, Linda Haines, called the meeting to order promptly at 11 a.m, Eastern time, with the following At-Large and Regional Governors present. The number constituted a quorum.

Catherine Blackmon, Kate Denton, Donna Duckworth, Fonda Eigel, Cynthia Holbrook, Deborah Howell, Karen Laden, Sarah McRae Thrasher, Heather Magnan, Suzanne Phelps, Bonnie Reid, Susan McLaughlin, Tracy Garland, and Robin Mercer, Kay Clements, Annie Balotti-Paleen, and Kim Gates. The three new candidates to the BOG also attended and they are Anne Drogula, Sharon Jantzen, and Kathy Nebel. Also attending were Kathy Lucas, Elizabeth Platais, Sally Oxnard, Christine Kelton, Joan Webster, Marilyn Cheek, Allyson Myers, Jill McNicol, Deb Norman, Julie Keahey, Katherine Short and Pam Liddell. Nicole Zerbee, our USEF Connemara Committee liaison also attended. Stephanie Fenton-Hickey sent her regrets from her stay in the hospital, and Donna Power did almost the same, as she left her rehab hospital.

The attendees followed the detailed agenda sent out by Linda Haines, and discussions were short and to the point.

No corrections or additions were noted for the Minutes from the previous ZOOM meeting, and the Minutes were approved.

In explaining the procedure for the meeting, the directions from the agenda directed: The following reports will not be reviewed at the meeting but will be part of the Consent Agenda that will be voted up or down by the BOG at the beginning of the meeting. Those reports included: Awards, Arbitration, Membership, President's Report, Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS, Registrar Reports for Purebred/Halfbred/Connemara Sport Horse, Internet, Nominating, Promotions, and Region Reports.

All were approved unanimously.

The Finance Committee Report and the Treasurer's Report were not part of the Consent Agenda, and were accepted as sent to the Board Members.

The Change to the ACPS By Laws, included on the 2021 Proxy, was also approved by the voting membership, and that was announced. The most western parts of North Carolina will be listed under Region IV, moving from their previous inclusion in Region III.

The following Committee reports were discussed and reports were given:

Inspection – Tracy Garland of Region IX explained the Pre Inspection Clinic held in her region, with Sarah McRae Thrasher as the clinician. It was a big success, she said, and 9 participants from various areas participated, with 7 ponies at an excellent facility. Tracy said, “The impact was many-fold, with a newly energized group in the region. Even non-ACPS members were excited to attend.” Tracy lauded Sarah Thrasher’s use of informational material, and her format for instructing.

The newest project for the Inspection Committee is an on-line learning program that included videos of interviews with breeders in the U.S. and Ireland. Some of the interviews have been completed, and Tracy said there were some wonderful pony stories included. Sarah Thrasher added

“It is exciting to gather information and put it together. We have a wonderful person helping with the video editing and all of us are enjoying it.” The on-line Learning Modules will be used for Inspector Candidate Training and continued education for all. There are three new Inspector Candidates but their names were not given.

Internet – Amy Plavin, longtime committee chair has stepped down and Sharon Jantzen has been asked to take the leadership role. Sharon has experience with Internet sites, and has her own Blog, and publishes an on-line equestrian newsletter for her area. Sharon explained she can help the Webmaster draw more traffic to the ACPS website. A discussion on the value of, or interest in, classified ads on the Website and magazine. A short discussion followed on the Breeders Map on the web site (free), and the Farm Directory in the magazine (a paid ad).

Heather Magnan, Chair of the Promotions committee, included in her reports a new Policy and Procedure for integration and inter-action of the magazine, the web site, and the promotions committee. She added, “Each is its own entity, and social media should draw attention to the web site. Should draw traffic to the web site.” She explained that the P & P she had written would include procedures for Social Media so all three entities would coordinate. BOG members were asked to review the draft Promotion Policies and Procedures and send comments to Heather and Linda for revision as necessary.

Sharon Jantzen explained the importance of being recognized by search engines, to direct traffic to the web site. The FEO (Front End Optimization – a process optimizing the delivery of website resources from the client side – to allow the browser to process a page quicker). In other words, the search engines “get to know” the ACPS.org as a source, and goes there first. Sharon explained key words need to be used, and often, headlines need to be rewritten (if taken from the magazine) to be acknowledged quickly on the internet.

Breeders Committee – Kate Denton, chair, said her committee members are Fonda Eigel, Kathy Sparks, Deb Norman, Chris Knox currently, and that Lisa Martin-Gerdes had asked to join. The mission for the committee is to expand the recognition of breeders of Connemaras especially in local shows and events. Kate suggested that in all show results, reports for publications, and announcing at shows should encourage the identification of the pony’s breeder as well as the

owner and rider. Some of the next steps are to encourage more breeding, to expand knowledge of breeding “lines”, a project being undertaken by Caroline Nesbitt. The aim is to provide information on the history and background of the breed, and how it impacts the current production of foals. The preservation of the breed is an important focus for the committee. An adjunct to the committee’s goals is the proposed on-line lending library of Pat Lyne books, now in the process of being digitized. The lending library will allow a reader access to an on-line book for one hour at a time. The process of digitizing is going very slowly.

New Business:

Succession Planning Committee for the office of the ACPS – chaired by Cathy Blackmon, moved to appoint Kathy Nebel as the Secretary to the Board of Governors. She will take minutes, conduct the process for the proxy voting for Board Members, and keep track of terms for serving members, for Committee chairs, and Governors. The appointment was approved unanimously. The Registrar will stay the same, at the address in Middlebrook.

Insurance questions – Becky Jordan has been managing the insurance policies for the ACPS shows and regional events. She found this year, that Equisure suggested insurance coverage for Inspectors and Show Managers. A discussion followed with no decision. The topic will be discussed again at the January 2022 meeting. Discussion on the Release Form was also discussed. Becky Jordan has the one we should use for all ACPS activities at this point. Cathy Blackmon agreed to follow up with Becky Jordan regarding our next steps. The question of “what do other breed societies do?” will be answered by ACPS member Allyson Myers who volunteered to conduct research and report about Inspector liability, how other Societies protect their inspectors, and how they are covered. She will report her findings in January 2022.

Allyson Myers also asked if the “other half” of a Connemara halfbred is DNA checked when halfbreds are registered. The answer, NO, was discussed as to the merits of checking parentage and/or DNA of the non-Connemara. Marynell Eyles will check with other pony registries to see how that process is handled. Discussion was included on how this change would affect the cost of registration, and the long held policy of trusting breeder’s to tell the truth.

Linda Haines accepted the motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 12:18 p.m, and opened the ACPS Annual Meeting. Bonnie Reid, Nominating Committee chair, announced the three new Board Members At-Large – and they are Anne Wadlow Drogula (OH), Sharon Jantzen (CA), and Kathy Nebel (NC) who will serve 2021 – 2024.

The slate of officers for 2022 was approved unanimously, and the slate is: Linda Haines, President; Suzanne Phelps, Vice President; Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Treasurer; and Kathy Nebel, Secretary.

The Election of the Nominating Committee was also approved unanimously, and those members are Bonnie Reid, Joan Webster, and Cathy Blackmon.

Discussion from the members included more discussion on registration of halfbreds and DNA sampling.

At present, only Hoof Wall status is tested for halfbred foals if the sire or dam are Hoof Wall carriers.

Some members reported they had difficulty printing the registration forms from the web site. People who used iPhones reported difficulty, but in the conversation, they were advised that downloading the file into the phone is a step that must be done, and the form will print. More FAQ's will be added to the ones already posted on the website.

Fonda Eigel asked if there could be a committee formed that would handle problems that were not officially Grievances (the previous name of the committee she chairs). She gave examples of Connemaras in bad physical circumstances, and how the Society might help. At present, the statement in the By Laws directs all "condition" complaints and problems to a local SPCA. Sometimes, the ponies are not at that level of neglect or abuse, and Fonda wondered if there was some other process. It was suggested that the Arbitration/Grievance committee could act as a "gate keeper" to send some issues to the Executive Board to discuss and find answers.

Fonda emphasized, "People need to be heard." Fonda will follow up with the Executive Committee to see if there are next steps that should be taken.

Nicole Zerbee of the USEF offered to share a feedback sheet she is used by the USEF for any grievances from a USEF show or event.

Cynthia Holbrook, who manages the database of ACPS members asked how the change in the Region III and Region IV should be handled on the information sent to Regions and Chairs. Kathy Nebel and Suzanne Phelps will work together to figure out how to manage those changes.

The meeting was concluded with the invitation, again, to Kentucky for the 2022 Annual Meeting.

A special tribute was bestowed upon longtime Secretary, Marynell Eyles, with "Admiration, Appreciation, and Affection" from the ACPS Board. The idea was hatched at the Annual meeting in Richmond, VA, where part of the Silent Auction was a needlepoint canvas with Sir Foxworthy, a Jack Russell Terrier in a MFH jacket. The ACPS Board Members had heard of Marynell's loss of a very beloved JRT, Ragdoll, who was near and dear to her heart. And they also recognized her interest in a long-time participation in foxhunting in Virginia. Fonda Eigel stepped forward quietly, the tribute says, to accept the responsibility for accomplishing this needlepoint challenge, and the result of her many hours of needlework are sensational.

To say Marynell Eyles was gobsmacked would be putting it too lightly. Her very sincere thank you will be published in the magazine, and sent to each of the Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m., and the Awards session of the ZOOM conference would begin at 2 p.m.

The first award presented was the Crestwood Award and it went to Maureen Loughman Abel.

The Broodmare Award went to Pam Liddell for her mare, Kynynmont's Arianna (*Canal Laurinston x Hideaway's Smitheranne)

The Tooreen Laddie Award went to Vanessa Morgan for her stallion, Balmullo's Beacon (Aladdin x Tullymor's April Fool)

The Camlin Award went to Gibby Jasper for her Prairie Delaney (Blue Ridge Jefferson x Dawn's Mary Kate)

The Tre Awain Halfbred Award went to Meg Pelligrini for her Ganymede (halfbred by Ballywhin An Luan)

The Connemara of the Year went to Cathy Blackmon's Hideaway's Special Delivery (Greystone Dallen McMor x Hideaway's Celebration.

Youth Scholarship Awards – the \$500 scholarship went to 10 year old Aidam Beaubien and his Minnie Mouse. Aiden was present and shared his admiration for his pony.

The \$200 scholarship went to Rose Vinson who owns and rides Denver's Nora Foley.

Another scholarship recipient present was Skylan Nelson who rides Elderglen's Eriel. Skylan also shared her love for Connemaras via the Zoom meeting.

There were 10 applicants in 2021, from 8 states. Our Junior membership continues to make us proud.

Respectfully submitted (for one last time!)

Marynell Eyles

Report of the Membership Chair - Suzanne Phelps

ACPS Membership Report to BOG

January 15, 2022

Below are the membership numbers for the past three years sorted several ways. The total memberships were down for 2021. Some of this may be due to members not realizing they had not renewed. Thanks to Cynthia Holbrook, we now have in place a very good system for tracking membership renewals and one of the goals for 2022 is to send out email notices to all 2021 members who have not renewed in early February. I plan on doing that directly, but any additional notices sent by the regions are also welcome.

Suzanne Phelps
Membership Secretary

Total Members by Year

Year	Active Members	Magazine Only
2019	571	4
2020	520	12
2021	512	11

2021 New Members

Online	Paper	Total
127	63	190

By Membership Type

Year	Junior	Associate	Senior	Family	Life
2019	49	176	204	22	117
2020	48	158	178	16	120
2021	58	141	189	14	119

By Region

Year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Non US
------	---	----	-----	----	---	----	-----	------	----	---	--------

2019	86	53	126	76	57	17	36	19	26	69	6
2020	85	48	109	73	51	21	36	22	28	43	4
2021	86	43	90	67	43	19	33	23	38	67	3

Report of the President

President’s Report February 2022

Our ACPS is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people working to support the work of the society in service to our Connemara ponies. Newly minted BOG members have stepped up to take on some big roles. Thank you, Kathy Nebel, for taking on the job of secretary for us. You are organized and efficient as you gather the pieces that encompass this position. Another huge task was taken on by Sharon Jantzen. Our internet committee is responsible for the ACPS website. Sharon, and our webmaster Cheryl Microusticos, are constantly tweaking and responding to concerns as they come up. They have come up with answers that we couldn’t easily articulate the questions for. You will learn more from Sharon in her report and in our meeting. You might want to look at the website before the meeting to see how it’s working for what you need. We will have a chance to hear from Sharon at the meeting.

As we are preparing for this meeting, the ACPS Stallion Auction is also getting underway. A fun way to see the stallions that are out there, available to bid on, and then breed to this spring. It has been a lovely showcase and dynamic fundraiser to help us meet some of our goals. Thanks, Megan Harris, for organizing and making it happen once again.

Once again, we prepare to meet virtually. I am so looking forward to seeing many of our members. It is one big advantage to the Zoom meeting; more people are able to meet. I like to see a big turnout. On the other hand, it’s just not the same as meeting over a few days with outside of meeting time to develop friendships and hash out solutions to problems or issues that come up. I hope that we will be in a healthy place to meet in Kentucky in October this year and that we can host record setting attendance.

One small housekeeping note: It has come to my attention that some scammer gremlins have used my name and the ACPS President title to seek gift cards from our region chairs and perhaps others. I have reported it to our NH Attorney General but no action will be taken. Just know that I would not ask anyone to send money or gift cards. If you are not sure if an email has come from me, please email, text, or call me.

Linda Haines

Report of the Registrars – Marynell Eyles and Megan Harris

Registrar for Purebred and Halfbred Stud Book – Report

Marynell Eyles

The slow increase over the last few years of foal births, and registration of the 2021 foal crop is reflected in a growing population. The TFC's for Purebreds numbered 45 in 2021, but only 36 of those are completed (hair pulled and Hoof Wall Status back from the lab). Usually I receive more in the months before the next foaling season, so there will probably be a few stragglers.

Purebred stallions registered:

- 1 *Kay's Moonlight (N/N) by Robe Earl, owned by Kenneth Campbell, Poulsbo, WA
2. MMF Black Isles Ponaith (N/N) by Blackwing Poker Face owned by Allyson Myers, Waverly Hall, GA
3. Sean-Nos Dancer (N/N) by Aluinn Bernie O'Brien owned by Tracy Hewlett, Benton, LA
4. Telesis Carraig Rua (N/N) by Redbuds Blue Moon, owned by Megan Gastel, Norco, CA
5. Hollymead Happy Accident (N/N) by Morning Glory's Ilyushin owned by Randall Carty, Danville, VA

The mail delays have made things more difficult but many of the problems are simply from breeders not pulling hair for a long time.

The Halfbred numbers also increased. 10 TFC's for halfbred colts with 6 waiting for Hoof Wall status, 21 fillies, and 6 geldings. Total: 43 Halfbreds.

One Halfbred stallion registered... *Devon Ridge Treasure Hunter by DRF Semar Flexibilis (ISH) owned by Megan Davis, Crown Point, IN

A new Lenovo laptop has been purchased, and Kim Martin of Northport Solutions, has installed a new version of our registration software, with searchable fields for microchip numbers, USEF recording numbers, and hoof wall status, as well as a field for Premium pony. We are still working through some of the kinks, as in the printing process since originally we used a certificate with titles/lines/border already printed on it. Now, we can use a blank bordered paper, so the template for printing is a work in progress. But, it should be up and running properly very soon.

The only bad part of the old computer crashing and necessitating this update, is the fact that none of the 2021 registration were saved for some reason, but the previous years were in the files (for the most part). I will spend the cold winter days re-typing/inputting the lost information. Overall a year of moving forward in an otherwise "stuck in pandemic mode" year.

Connemara Sport Horse Registry Report

Updated on 12/12/21 from the report submitted to the 2021 AGM Zoom Call.

The Connemara Sport Horse registry continues to chug along as we add both older sport horses and new foals each year. The foal crops are becoming slightly larger with 3-5 being registered the last several years.

2021 is our largest year since the registry's inception with ten already registered and a few others 'floating' out there. We've had six 2021 foals registered so far, one 2020 foal registered, and four older horses. Three of the registrants required a Halfbred parent to be registered – added bonus – now we have three more Halfbreds that were previously lost to the record books. We continue to gain new members through this little registry as the word spreads.

There are finally quite a few out there competing – Rivendell's Royal Sparrow, BRS Dauntless Sparrow, Brambleridge Flex Ability – all in recognized horse trials. HMF International Delight has seen success this year in the dressage ring, Picturesque Heartbreaker is still showing in the hunters and Rivendell's Olive Lucy is hunting in the Midwest. Two of this year's older horses are Nancy Hamill Winter's phenomenal eventers Crystal Crescent Moon & No May Moon. Crystal Crescent Moon has been a prolific winner this year at the Intermediate/** level with Allison Springer in the tack.

A number of purpose-bred Connemara Sport Horse mares are making their mark in the breeding shed – Black Points Merrigold and Brambleridge Avril Sparrow are both breeding in GA, Brambleridge Truth or Dare is part of a program in Canada and Samanthra – one of this year's registrants – is breeding hunter ponies in the Carolinas. All of these mares were registered at age two or older – a couple of them were already in their teens - and their owners find the 'Connemara' portion of the pedigree worth touting!

As of today, we have 46 individuals registered and quite a number of Halfbreds registered on their behalf.

(Megan also noted that we have two new HB stallions standing this year - Donna Miller's new one will be in the USA this month and there is one in the Midwest, Devon Ridge's Treasure Hunter, I expect these two boys will create a surge in CSH registrants. Both are in the auction.)

ICCPS- Scott McGuffin

ICCPS Report January 2022

The International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies (ICCPS) held a Zoom meeting on 10/17/2021. Madeleine Beckman conducted the meeting in English, her second language, with participants from 12 countries and maybe as many time zones! There were 21 participants at the meeting.

It was their first meeting since 2019 and much of it was housekeeping, deciding to keep officers the same and agreeing there would be no annual fees again this year. They hope to have a combined meeting in March 2022 that would be a combined in-person and virtual working meeting.

The O'Malley Award recipient for 2020 was Blanche Miller (England) and for 2021 was shared between Doris Jacobi and Jocelyn Davies (Canada).

Requests for International news for the An Capplian magazine should be submitted to Fiona Grimes.

The group discussed Linear Profiling. It is a method, one possible method of inspections leading to Classifications. They discussed over height ponies, always a popular discussion. There was also discussion about a new breeding program in Ireland. No details were available.

Linda Haines for Scott McGuffin

Arbitration - Fonda Eigel

Nothing to report.

Bylaws – Scott McGuffin

No changes to report.

Awards – Marilyn Cheek, Sally Oxnard

Awards Committee Report Jan 15, 2021

For awards this was a year of further transitions. We have new people settling into their positions. Jen Garutti offered to oversee the new Fun With Pony Award which was very successful with 23 entries who will all receive a certificate this year. Kay Clements is in her first full year of Achievement Awards including ordering and shipping medals and ribbons and notifying winners. Susan McLaughlin continues to round up the USEA winners and sort them out and send letter of congratulations and medals. Sally Oxnard is pursuing the HOTY winners who are hard to find if they are not members, as are the USEA winners. Kathy Sparks has generously offered to pay for several Crestwood keeper trays in memory of Susan McConnell.

In the last few weeks the Endurance and Competitive trail riders have been working with Karen Laden and me to get some better wording and better goals for achievement award medals for their discipline.

Katie Donurama who keeps the High Point Connemara in Open Competitions ribbons for us says we only awarded 10 or 15 in 2021 which is down from previous years.

We've also updated Achievement Awards forms so people can find them more easily and fill them out online.

At the virtual Hall of Fame awards celebration, all of the Hall of Fame trophies were awarded and the winners were delighted to receive their trophies and ribbons and keeper frames and posters in good time. They have been filling the pages of the magazine ever since and are happily situated on the awards page of the website which has its own spot in the top line of the home page of the website now!

The Promotions Committee has taken on the Pony Club awards and the Dressage Pony Cup as those awards are more promotions and visibility for the Connemara pony.

We had good participation in the USDF Allbreed awards again this year, and the HOTY awards except the breeding awards had no participants - Upperville and Warrenton were very light on Connemara participants.

The AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) has approached us to invite us to offer a Connemara Breed award at their National Conference in March. We can work out the qualifications between now and then and send them a ribbon. (This was approved by the Executive Committee so we are moving ahead with it.)

Motions from the Subcommittee on Endurance and Competitive trail.

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 miles

Respectfully submitted: Sally Oxnard MD, Exeter NH

Awards (addendum)

Motions for the BOG re 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 (new February 2022)

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

Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS – Deb Norman, Stephanie Keen

ACPS-F Annual Report for 2021

For AGM on 2/5/22

Once again the Susan McConnell Foundation for the ACPS has had a good year. Thanks to our 2021 Stallion Auction, which was managed by Megan Buchanan, we made \$8,170.00. That enabled the Foundation to fund a wonderful clinic called “Connemara Type, Conformation and Movement” with guest clinician Sarah McRae Thrasher. The clinic was held at Elk Haven Equestrian Center in Elum, Washington. There were 9 participants and everyone enjoyed their time together and the valuable knowledge that they gained from Sarah’s vast experience. We are hopeful that other Regions will take advantage of the educational funds available to them for improvement of their members and ponies.

The ACPS-F also awarded ten well deserved scholarships to Junior members. They were Aiden Beaubien, Rose Vinson, Skylan Rayne Nelson, Alex Girard, Ava Hamlet, Katherine Foster, Sadie Vinson, Lydia McKenzie, Clara Beck and Rebecca Kate Coffee.

Our Foundation Account ended 2021 with a balance of \$54,069.25

We look forward to 2022 and the educational opportunities and pony adventures to come. Our Stallion Auction is close at hand so take a look and bid on the pony sire of your dreams.

Thank you,

Stephanie Keene and Deb Norman

Magazine - Marynell Eyles

American Connemara Magazine Report – 2021 (Jan. 2022)

Editor: Marynell Eyles

The last issue of the 2021 year, the Stallion Issue, was a packed 56 pages. We had more advertisers than in many of the recent years of the Stallion Issue. The breed has been discovered, and there are many buyers and prospective breeders “out there” looking for a good stallion. I have sent magazines to many of those people.

The Farm Directory has grown slowly, and many of the display ads are for 3 or 6 insertions, not just one-time ads, even though I did raise the price of the ads after many years of the same fees.

Our editorial content has pleased me and I hope pleased readers. We have several “series” articles, like Chris Kelton’s ongoing series about her young mare, Polly, and their adventures, discoveries, training, and veterinary issues too. The First Family series has been fun to read and I have Joanie Webster to thank for being the “inviter” and “prodger” when we near deadlines. I hope all of you have enjoyed learning a bit about the early years of breeding and owning and showing Connemara in the U.S. We have also highlighted new Region Chairs and Governors and their reports from their areas.

As always, pony owners have been very generous in sending their heartfelt articles. The Award Issue in 2021 was another packed-full-of-goodies one, and so too, was the Horse Show Issue. I hope we have as many contributions as in years past for the upcoming Awards Issue – deadline Feb. 10.

Even though the year 2021, was one of fewer shows and events to report than normal, we had excellent coverage of the activities, and good photos to share.

The Halfbred Issue is being mailed as I type this...Jan. 14 – and it is late, but the Christmas holidays played some havoc with timing in my personal office, and in the printer’s. Also, Covid at the presses was another issue with some staff out on sick leave. Mail is a continuing problem, for any and all types of items to be mailed. The stallion issue never made it at all, to some New England addresses. I have mailed personal copies to those who have contacted me.

In the past, I have sent a PDF of the magazine to the Website, for members to read, but that isn’t the preferred method now. Our new webmaster explained that to drive readers to the magazine articles on our own website, we have to re-write them, with keywords repeated in correct places, and that’s not a project I have taken on since I know very little about blogs, nor do I read any! All of the articles are in WORD documents or Google docs....so they can be shared, edited, re-written.

Thanks again to each and every one of you.

Nominating – Joanie Webster

Report from the ACPS Nominating Committee

January 15, 2022

Bonnie Reid, outgoing Chair of the ACPS Nominating Committee, left big shoes to fill. During her term as Chair, she kept very helpful records and introduced sound procedures and timelines for future chairpersons to follow—no “reinventing of the wheel” necessary! The 2022 Nominating Committee members are: Bonnie, for continuity as previous Chair, Joanie Webster as immediate incoming Chair and Cathy Blackmon, 2021 Nominating Committee member/ACPS Past President, continuing to serve on this committee for 2022.

On September 25, 2021, Bonnie initiated our first Nominating Committee conference call following my “rotating up” to replace her as the incoming 2022 Nominating Committee Chair.

November 13th, 2021, Cathy presented a spread sheet specifically for the use of the Nominating Committee indicating current BOG members and their terms of service, pointing out that there are five positions to fill in 2022 due to expiring terms of specific BOG members. Newly-elected BOG member, Kathy Nebel, incoming ACPS Recording Secretary, also provided a spread sheet of those currently on the Board, showing term limits for *both* At Large and Regional Governors.

Two Committee conference calls, November 21, 2021, and December 30, 2021, led to early January, 2022, phone calls, contacting the five BOG members whose terms are expiring as of the fall elections prior and/or during the Annual Meeting, 2022.

Our most recent conference call, to date, was January 12th, 2022, where we continued our discussions.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanie Webster
Nominating Committee Chair

Region Chair Liaison – Sally Oxnard, Donna Power

Region Chairs Cheerleader report

I am happy to report that we have all 10 Regions up and running with some newer chairs and some more experienced chairs. We have added a Region Chairs facebook page thanks to Susan Dudasik of Region 8. I have chatted with the chairs about communication tools, about insurance and inspections, and awards and funding available for educational clinics through the ACPSF. We have had one or two conference calls and have talked about having a ZOOM meeting. Many thanks to these cheerful volunteers as it is more work than you might think, and sometimes more work than they thought it would be.

Donna Power has been laid up with her back so the chairs have had to deal with me this year!

Respectfully submitted
Sally Oxnard MD
Exeter NH
1/15/2022

Ad Hoc Committees and other Reports

Genetics – Melanoma report – Maureen Loughman-Abel

MELANOMA RESEARCH UPDATE

Report to ACPS Board of Governors, February 2022

It has been ten years since the Melanoma Research using the Connemara Pony was conceived by Richard Cunningham and Dr. Alain Theon at UC Davis Center for Equine Studies, and later joined by Dr. Carrie Finno who led the HWSD research. It has been nine years since I took on the task of identifying candidates for the four needed categories. Progress has been slow but steady, and we are getting very close to the finishing line!

Dr. Finno reports that they just received the genotyping results of the next 26 ponies tested. However, it will take months before all of the data is analyzed. Dr. Finno describes this next phase of the research as follows:

The 26 ponies were genotyped for potential genetic variants in CAPN9 and a few other “candidate” genes identified through previous whole-genome sequencing of 8 early onset ponies and 8 controls. The new group were genotyped for possible genetic mutations at 60 candidate regions that had been identified from the first group.

Ponies tested:

13 "early onset" grey Connemara ponies

13 "no melanoma by 16 years of age" grey Connemara ponies

Stand by for the next update! This research would not have been possible without the support of the ACPS, its members and most importantly, our beloved Connemara Ponies.

For those who are not familiar with the WHY of the project, this is from the UC Davis CES “Research Review” from December 2020:

How Does This Research Benefit Horses?

Horses with greying hair coat have an 80% risk of developing melanoma. Greying ponies may develop melanoma late in life that is usually associated with a slow evolution and less likely to be life threatening. However, greying ponies that develop melanoma early in life are at high risk of dying of disease due to faster evolution and earlier metastatic spread. This represents a significant commercial loss for the industry. A susceptibility test for equine melanoma in greying horses would enable veterinarians to identify greying horses at high risk of early onset disease and monitor these individuals closely for tumor development. This genetic region will be further validated, with the intent of providing a genetic test in the future for increased melanoma susceptibility in grey horses and ponies.

Maureen Loughman Abel

Breeding Committee – Kate Denton

Breeders Committee (January 2022)

The Breeders Committee was formed to meet the needs of breeders (especially those new to the process), to provide education and a discussion format (possibly online or preferably in person at our next annual meeting). Topics such as how to choose a stallion for a varied group of mares, and focus on heritage or conservation breeding.

One of the main concerns of our breed is the narrowness of our gene pool (although we are much better than some of the other societies). As a first step in addressing this concern Lisa Martin Gerdes has written an article on Coefficients of Inbreeding (COI) which will be in the next issue of The American Connemara (just in time for the spring breeding season).

Lisa has had several inquiries related to breeding. One inquiry was from a person in Nevada who is trying to start a new breeding program starting with 2-3 purebred mares – she is looking for help in selecting them. Another inquiry came from a new stallion owner who wants to learn the ins and outs of stallion management.

Lisa is also working on an article entitled “The Master Breeder” which will hopefully appear in The American Connemara.

We plan to send a survey out to all members to see what breeding questions and concerns they have. In the meanwhile questions can be directed to any member of the Committee. Members are: Deb Norman, Kate DeLaVega, Chris Knox, Kathy Sparks, Fonda Eigel, Caroline Nesbitt, Lisa Martin Gerdes and Kate Denton.

Youth Program – Donna Power

Organization of Regional Junior Committees

Proposed by Donna Power

Rational for the new committee: The ACPS is rich in history, organization, breeding and achievement awards across many disciplines. It is important that each member be diligent and participate in building a junior membership that will expose each junior to the history and longevity of their particular region. They need exposure to all avenues of competition and to the ins and outs of building successful bloodlines and most importantly loving the Connemara breed.

First Step: Donna Power will work with Suzanne Phelps and the new software that will identify juniors in each of the 10 regions whether they are members or riding other members' ponies.

An invitational letter will be sent to each junior inviting them to join this new committee and to complete a survey letter that will ask for personal identification (age, address, level of riding experience, show experience), knowledge of Connemaras, and interest in attending summer camps and educational workshops. All correspondence will be sent and received virtually.

Second Steps: Share the results of the surveys with all juniors identified within each region. Donna and Sally Oxnard will share the juniors's responses with the Region Chairs and brainstorm how to create the next step in the action plan.

Third Steps: Begin to organize a directory of USEA, USEF and USHJA and their planned clinics across regions that junior riders could investigate and work towards. Using virtual means, educational seminars could help our riders across all ages. Invite older juniors to showcase Connemara Stallions that are showing the big time and inspire all junior riders to participate in a quarterly newsletter. As an association, hold seminars that address Inspection Requirements and why it is important in producing quality movers and jumping athletes.

Regional Steps: Sally and Donna work with Region Chairs to gather their ideas on how to move forward.

Digital Library- Linda Haines

The first two books have been posted to the website.

Insurance Report- Becky Jordan

ACPS Annual Insurance Report, 2022

Directors and Officers Professional liability, Equisure/Philadelphia Insurance Co. PHSD1666431
12/30/21 to 12/30/22

Annual renewal premium for year, \$976.00/paid.

Provides board members liability coverage for their decisions, errors and omissions.

ACPS General Liability liability, Equine Club Liability, Equisure/underwritten by Lloyd's, London
Policy # B123062045A20-AMERC-1
Expires 3/9/2022

Limits of liability: \$1million Occurrence, and \$2million Aggregate,
Reapplication process underway with regions, and will request credit on premium for canceled
2021 Annual Meeting.

Considerations:

1.Liability requirements for clinicians who teach ACPS sponsored activities: As an organization, does ACPS want to require clinicians to have PL coverage? Individual clinicians can carry their own PL, or the region can add the clinician to the general ACPS policy for PL coverage for the duration of the clinic. Cost of adding clinician to General policy incurred by region hosting clinic.

2.General Policy Renewal date-change to after the first of the year when regions are looking at their calendar, after the busy time of the holidays, and considering that most regions don't have activities until @ St. Patrick's Day.

Terms:

Professional Liability: Covers negligence, misrepresentation, inaccurate advice- errors and omissions in performing professional services. Most of the time these losses are economic or financial losses suffered by a third party.

General Liability: Covers bodily injury or property damage, reputational harm, and medical costs. This insurance policy includes bodily injury liability coverage, so it can help pay for medical bills, and covers costs for Third-party property damage:

Certificate of Insurance: Proof of Insurance or Additional Insured:

Proof of Insurance is appropriate to request when another party wishes to verify that ACPS has its own liability coverage. We provide a certificate that shows we are insured. The certificate holder is the party asking for proof. ACPS is the insured.

Additional Insured certificate is appropriate to request when a venue or property owner or sponsoring organization wishes to have our liability coverage extended to them. They are included/added to our policy for liability coverage during the stated dates/times of the activity. The certificate holder is the facility/property owner/organization requesting Additional Insured.

ACPS is the insured. ACPS covers the first AI for each region, and the region is responsible for subsequent Additional Insured certificates. As of 2021, Equisure sold AI's in blocks of four, at \$25 each certificate, or \$100 for the block of four.

Code of Conduct forms-All BOG members are required to have read, signed and submitted a Code of Conduct form. These forms will be held by the ACPS Insurance person, and can be submitted either electronically or hard copy by snail mail: currently to Becky Jordan @ jordanbecky9@gmail.com, or 5153 Carlson Dairy Road, Summerfield, NC 27358. Currently, these members have submitted a form:

Laura Balding Bridget Barton Cathy T. Blackmon Kay Clements Kate Denton Donna Duckworth Susan Dudasik Fonda Eigel

Tracy Garland Kimberly Gates Linda Haines Cynthia Holbrook Deborah Howell Becky Jordan Karen Laden Heather Magnan Susan McLaughlin Suzanne Phelps Donna Power Bonnie Reid

Tracy Roettiger Katherine Short Joan Webster

USEF Safe Sport trained:

ACPS is affiliated with USEF and BOG members are required to complete the safe sport training. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Jordan,

jordanbecky9@gmail.com 1/18/22

Succession Committee Cathy Blackmon

Strategic Planning Committee
Report to the BOG

January 2022

Committee members are Marynell Eyles, Kay Clements, Donna Power, and Cathy Blackmon, Chair

Our committee focus currently is long term succession planning and these conversations will continue appropriately. Kathy Nebel graciously and aptly has assumed the Secretary position.

We will keep the BOG informed as progress is made.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Blackmon

USEF Connemara Committee – Chris Knox, Cathy Blackmon, liaison to USEF governing committee

The USEF and ACPS Annual meeting was held by Zoom in January with Chris Knox leading 38 attendees through the relationship and benefits resulting from our affiliation with USEF. The meeting was recorded and should be available on the USEF website.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Region I

Region 1 Chair's Report by Tracy Roettiger

In a slightly more normal 2021, Region 1 was able to have a bit of fun! The virtual tea in March was attended by a few members, proving that bravery can be shown not just by tackling that first spring ride but also by navigating Zoom. In June we gathered in person at Gap Mountain Cross Country in Troy NH for our annual Field Day, which this year was a cross country clinic with Lila Gendal, with much enthusiasm from spectators, riders, and ponies alike. The ACPS Region 1 Breed Show was held in July in a modified 1 day format at the Green Mountain Horse Association in South Woodstock Vermont, and what a joyous occasion it was with perfect weather and smiling faces. The in person events were wrapped up in August with a working Equitation Clinic with Kat Walters - what better way to showcase the versatility of the Connemara Pony? The icing on the cake (or the apples in the bran mash) was the addition of new members and their ponies.

JANUARY 7, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: CHRISTINE KELTON

ACPS Region 2 Annual Report

I'm still getting it together. Just you wait.



Summary

Yes, it seems like a slow start to Region 2. Thanks to Sally Oxnard for cracking her lunge whip a few times. I'm contacting members both through our Region 2 Facebook group as well as via direct email. I've found that if I need something done, a general group call to arms does not produce results; rather, direct contact with individuals is key.

I have a goal to get more juniors involved. There aren't many, but they can expect personal contact from me, parental permission first being given, of course. I'd like them to have their own "Juniors Corner" section of the newsletter where they can report on what they're doing with their ponies or write up an educational article on some aspect of pony care, diseases, training issues...

Future Plans

Working Equitation Clinic

with Susanne Marshall was canceled in November due to various pony injuries and illness. It will be rescheduled, date TBD.



Region 2 Tea

The plan is to do this in March, but I want to see what happens with COVID numbers. If we follow the same graph as other parts of the world, the numbers should be dropping. I'd like to have it in person, with a ZOOM component for those who live too far to attend.



KAHOOT!!! Quiz Night

I would like to start a bi-monthly "Connemara Quiz Night" using the online Kahoot! Quiz game via ZOOM.



1

NEWSLETTER

Ashley Mount

Ashley will collect articles, format, and distribute. Quarterly goal to start.



TREASURER

Heather Magnan

Account Balance:
\$1828.21

3

WELCOME WAGON

Elisabeth Ervin

Not sure what this will look like yet, but Betsy has some ideas.

Monthly Pony Spotlight

To stay in touch with membership, somebody will be called upon to send me a pic of their pony and give a brief summary of what they're up to. I'll make a little flier and distribute.

Region III

ACPS Region III Report 2021

2021 saw our region still unable to have our usual in person get-together for March, but we did have a small “zoom” meeting. We also had our region show in July with a good turnout of ponies and even our now traditional exhibitors dinner. We also had inspections at our show. In June and early July there were also exhibitors at the two rated horse shows in Virginia that have Connemara divisions, the Upperville Colt and Horse Show, and the Warrenton Pony Show. Attendance was not great, but we appreciate those that worked hard, cleaned the ponies and got dressed up to impress the audience at these two prestigious shows.

In December a small number of members met together for a small holiday lunch and to visit the resident Connemaras at Merle-Smith Sporthorses in Louisa, Virginia. We have some big decisions to make concerning the venue for our region show in the future, so hopefully we will be able to meet more in person in 2022.

Respectfully , Kim Harrison

Region IV

The 2021 Region 4 Show was held at Foxboro Farm in Thomson Georgia on Sept 11 and 12th. The Region partnered with Bay of Plenty Stables who hosted us for the ridden classes. The highlight of the day was definitely the groups and pairs over the outside course. Some had so much fun they did the course more than once! Saturday evening we had a dinner and meeting. Martin Gates made Lasagna for everyone and others contributed salad, bread and even some good red wine! MFH Epp Wilson recited his favorite poem on Fox Hunting before dinner. On Sunday we did the breed in hand classes and Maureen Loughman was our judge. Sunday afternoon Judith Wilson did a tour of the kennels and we watched the hounds be exercised. What a lively bunch! We had several new members come and it was great to get to know them.

The last weekend in October the inspection crew came to two farms and inspected lots of ponies! Thank you to the hosts Fade to Grey Farm and Foothills Connemaras for hosting us. Inspections are a great learning experience for breeders and owners!

On December 16th our new co-Chair, Kristen Sealy, organized a virtual Christmas Party. She sent out little goodie bags with hot chocolate and sweets to the members and we played some fun games. We of course talked about ponies! A good time was had by all!

We are now starting to plan our activities for next year.

Kim Gates

Region V

The Report of Inspection for Region V 2021

Region V had its first inspection in 10+ years. The inspection site was held at Riverfront Farm in Cynthiana, Ky. The inspectors were Kathy Sparks, Laura Balding and Gloria LaCroix. The owners and Ponies (most importantly) arrived on Friday, Sept 25th. The inspection was held on Sunday, the 26th. It was a beautiful day. Attendees: Fiona Cheever from TN assisted by her friend Noni from Missouri brought Arbor Lane's Bailey & Stoney Creek Nuala, Martha Slammer had her three mares Blue Rock Molly, Prairie Nuala and WCR Brianne Sequin. Lauren McKenzie assisted by her talented and up and coming daughter, Lydia, from Athens, Ohio brought Idlewild's Never Have I Ever & foal. Fonda Eigel presented *Corha's Dream & RFF The One Eye Love. Great presentation and a diverse group of mares (and lovely foals at mares side). Three mares took Premium.

Region VI

Region 6 can now report that we have three Connemara Pony breeding farms.

The first is Dayton Ridge Farm. Janet Johnson reports that numerous get of her stallions are competing in the USA. Here are a few. Triton's Rauri was featured in the Chronicle of the Horse October issue. "Amateur rider Gretje Witt teamed up to bring along TBF Triton's Rauri together. The pair recently won the adult amateur fourth level championship at the GAIA/USDF Region 6 Championships, held Sept 23-26, in Portland, Oregon." Owner/Rider Gretje Witt TBF Triton's Rauri 2012 Conn/WB~Skyview's Triton xBecchea (Canadian Warmblood)
Owner/Rider Vera Stock is competing her 2nd generation homebred (Dominion EA) in the local Pony Club HorseMasters program. Vera and Dominion are riding USEF 1st and 2nd level training test with scores in the high 60's and low 70's, earning the Racine County Pony Club Highpoint Dressage Championship. ~Dominion EA Conn/WB (Danny Boy xFinale EA)
Aluinn Wyatt is doing well with owner/Rider Barb Williams Sullivan in Working Equitation. Aluinn Wyatt (HK's Danny Boy xAladdin's Star Song)
Castlebar Gaelic was awarded the 2021 Foundation Broodmare Award by the CCPS. (Skyview's Triton x Starlights Desert Rose) Bred by Lorre Garland, Owned by elsie and Don Priddy.

Next: Inland Connemaras. Lisa Ezel writes: It was a busy year for us. We had our first foal crop: 2 fillies and a colt. After some ups and downs with 1 getting sick, we've decided to pull back from the breeding aspect. Casper will be standing at Blackwing Connemaras with Raelin Schenck. I also managed to break my hip in August. We have 2 foals coming in 2022. 1 purebred and 1 Appendix QH cross. We will be very excited to see these foals.

Last: Silver Pony Farm. Amanda Smiley reports she has 3 mares and has sold one filly by DRF Dannyboy. Her mares are a Shetland pony, a halfbred Andalusian out of DRF Lulubelle, and halfbred Shetland by Dannyboy.

Tammy Lisi from Anamosa, IA reports her Tali was 4th in the standings for dressage HOY. He attended one recognized show, the National Pony Cup in St. Louis. He placed 4th in Training level with a JR/YR. He attended a schooling shows, and placed first in every class there. (Training and First Level).

We have four new members in our region. Due to distance between members, have not had any ACPS events this year.

Kay Clements, Region 6 Chair

Region VII

The Midwest Connemara Breeders Show is the highlight of activity in Region VII for 2022. It will be held at Xanadu Farm in Washington, MO [on July 30](#) and 31st with classes including Dressage, Hunter, Jumper and In-hand. Plans are in the works for an inspection on Sunday.

Pattie Stalder

Region VIII

American Connemara Pony Society Region VIII ~ Report

Covering: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana & Southern Idaho

Region VIII Representatives:

Susan McLaughlin from Colorado is the Region VIII Governor.

Karen Laden from Colorado, is the achievement awards points secretary & Board of Governors - Governors-At-Large

Chris Knox from Chesterfield, ID is on the USEF Connemara Committee & Breeders Committee.

Susan Dudasik, from Salmon, Idaho is the newsletter editor and Region VIII Chair

Region VIII Connemaras shine in various events:

JUMPERS: Junior rider, Ryder Richardson from Parker, CO and his pony, RR Cool Play (Becks), continues to shine in the Jumper events.

EVENTING: We have two junior riders competing in eventing. Bridget Kelly from Roswell, NM and her half-bred Connemara, Chai (Windover Tarragon) have been successfully competing in the Beginner Novice divisions.

Emma Sletten from Larkspur, CO and her pony, Frodo, (New Song's Freedom), are members of the Hunter Hill Pony Club and of the Pendragon Eventing team. They are currently competing at Novice and hope to move up to Training in 2022.

ENDURANCE RIDING: Cindi Weist, of Big Sky Connemaras in Choteau, MT, has been competing with her Connemara mare and winning in various AERC rides in Idaho and Utah.

WORKING EQUATATION: Susan Dudasik and her halfbred Connemara Pony, VSH Devine Alexandra, of Misfit Farm in Salmon, Idaho, won the Introductory division as well as the High Score of the Day in the EOH. At the WE Under the Big Sky show in Missoula, MT. They also placed 4th in dressage and 2nd in the EOH to finish 3rd in their division at the USAWE Region One Championship show.

Misfit Farm will again sponsor a Connemara High Point award for the USAWE national high point breed award. There is also a WE Connemaras facebook page.

Membership: From the membership list sent in September, 2021, it looks like we have 26 members. By state, we have, Colorado- 14, Southern Idaho- 4, Montana- 2, New Mexico-1, Utah- 4 and Wyoming -1, ***Land wise Region VIII is larger then regions 1, 2 & 3 combined. We run from Mexico to Canada.***

Region Newsletter: Due to a lack of input, I changed from doing a bi-monthly newsletter to a quarterly one that comes out in January, April, July and October.

Facebook: We do have a public Facebook page which can be found at: American Connemara Pony Society - Region 8 that everyone can post to. It currently has 542 followers from across the country. This is up from 279 followers last year at this time. I also started the WE Connemaras FB group for those interested in Working Equitation (WE). That page has 108 followers. I try to repost everything sent out from the main ACPS page to both pages.

The Event" at Rebecca Farm: "The Event" is the biggest eventing competition in Montana and is held each July in Kallespell, MT, which is in ACPS Region VIII. There were ten full and halfbred Connemaras competing, though none were Region VIII members. Many were in the novice divisions and being ridden by young riders attending "The Event" for the first time. All the riders did an awesome job turning out their ponies and by the end of the competition, folks knew the Connemaras were there. On Saturday, we hosted a Connemara Enthusiasts Meet & Greet and had about a dozen folks attend. It was great meeting folks from other areas, many

were from Washington, which is Region 9. We also handed out several brochures that were graciously sent by Linda Trimper. All the competitors are planning to return next year.

Issues: Region VIII covers a very large, remote area. The nearest member to me is about 2 ½ hours away. With only two or three members in most states, it is hard to try planning a get together or event. Our largest contingent of members is in Colorado.

A few suggestions for 2022 include:

Having more ideas for folks that ask: I don't compete at any shows, so why should I join ACPS?

Find ways to help promote the Connemara pony, ACPS and Region VIII

Reach out to non-competitive Connemara owners through other Connemara fb pages

Reach out to more youth riders

Submitted by :

Susan Dudasik - Region VIII Chair

Region IX

I recently assumed the role of Chair of our Region and have contacted all of our Region's active members via email and Facebook to introduce myself. I am working with Tracy Garland on roles that I will play as Chair. Early planning is underway for an educational event that will build on the success we had in 2021 to be held in June, 2022 in Cle Elum, Washington. I am also open to encouraging local activities among members who live in sub-areas of our Region. I am excited to help build closer links among ACPS Members in Region 9!!

Kaarin Axelsen Forester

Region Chair

ACPS Region 9

Region X

My name is Lee Webster Ramensky. My husband, Victor, and I live in Penngrove, California, about 45 minutes north of San Francisco. I am the recently elected ACPS Region X Chair. My passion has always been horses, and I have been fortunate to make a living in the horse world. I have been a trainer and coach in dressage and eventing, and am a USDF Certified Instructor and Trainer, and have been a member with colors of Los Altos Hounds. Because Los Altos Hounds disbanded, I have joined the Santa Ynez Valley Hounds. I have competed actively in dressage, eventing, jumpers, breed shows (Connemara, Morgan and Arabian), driving, and cutting. For over thirty years I helped my mother raise, train and show purebred and partbred Connemaras. I trained and showed two imported Irish Connemara stallions, and also collected and shipped transported semen for our (now discontinued) small breeding program, Stonybrook Connemaras. I have two Connemara geldings at home, one is our last Stonybrook homebred, Stonybrook Belmont (age 18), and "Finn", Brambleridge Finn Sparrow (age 5), bred by Megan Buchanan Lichty. This is my second time being Region X Chair, and I am looking forward to a busy 2022. Our region hopes to hold inspections this summer and also are hard at work planning the West Coast Connemara Show, July 29-31, 2022 in Watsonville, CA.

Finance - Cathy Blackmon and Report of the Treasurer

ACPS Finance Committee Report

January 2022

Annual Meeting of BOG

Stephanie Fenton Hickey continues to expertly process the daily operations of the ACPS. We all owe her a round of applause for her diligent and steadfast work. Thank You, Stephanie!

The annual tax filings for both the ACPS and the Foundation have been filed for tax year 2020.

The Vanguard Funds continue to do well in this economic climate of uncertainty. The historical rate of return of the original investment is 9.5%. The last twelve-month rate of return is 17.9%. We have not had to swipe dollars from our investments to cover operating costs in the last year.

The USEF Youth Sportsmans Award Grant money will be applied for once USEF has released the application process. The USEF historically has offered an Affiliate Membership Grant, but due to the down turn as a result of the reduced number of USEF events and entry fees, that grant has been suspended indefinitely.

The ACPS continues to be good stewards of the treasury.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Blackmon
Chair

Financial reports were sent in a separate document

Promotions - Heather Magnan

Submitted by Heather Magnan, Committee Chair
January 25, 2022

2021 ACPS awards winners and USEF awards winners are being shared on the ACPS website and social media. The ACPS Stallion auction is also being heavily promoted at this time.

Goals for 2022:

- Policies and Procedures: Heather is working on updating policies based on feedback.
- Website: The promotions team would like to drive more traffic to the site. This can be accomplished by uploading content from the magazine (and other sources) to the site and sharing on social media. Heather, Marynell and Sharon will begin meeting to coordinate this collaboration and develop a plan moving forward.

- ACPS Brochures: The ACPS general brochure has been redesigned and final PDFs will be sent to the Webmaster for posting on the site. Additional brochures will be designed but will require collaboration from Marynell and others for information.
- Advertising: Increase appropriate advertising as budget allows.
- Show Sponsorship: Sponsor High Point Awards at National Level competitions in collaboration with the Awards Committee as budget allows.
- Promotional Banners and items: Heather is working with Melanie Trimper to develop appropriate promotional items for members. Currently we have stall banners and can make notepads, decals, stickers etc. Higher priced items like saddle pads will need to be discussed with the treasurer.

History Project - Linda Haines

(Linda will present the History Project at the meeting.)

Inspections – Kathy Sparks

Inspections Committee Report - January 2022

The Inspections Committee provided Inspections in 3 Regions this year at the following locations:

Region 3, Show VA, 7 ponies, including one Premium mare

Region 5, Cynthiana KY, 8 ponies, including 2 Premium mares

Region 4, GA and TN, 13 ponies, including 1 Premium stallion and 1 mare

for a total of 28 ponies.

The ACPS has purchased a Microchip reader to be used by the Inspections Committee, and verification of a pony's ID via Microchip is now part of the Inspection Process. We encourage ALL members to 1) have their pony's Microchips installed in their pony and 2) if you have older ponies that have not been inspected but are considering having them inspected, to please have them Microchipped.

The Inspections Committee, consisting of Tracy Garland, Elizabeth Platais, Wayne Quarles, Sarah M. Thrasher and Chair Kathy Sparks began to reevaluate the Inspector Training Program. With several new Inspector Candidates ready to begin training, it was felt that our Educational program needed to move into the 21st Century and look at alternate learning modes, ones that

could be accessible remotely. That being said, the Committee is developing a Curriculum consisting of stages and a variety of learning opportunities.

I would like to thank the Inspections Committee members for their dedication and their support of the Inspection Program.

One area that we are very excited to share with the BOG is the On Line Learning Program. We will be presenting a preview of this Program at the upcoming BOG meeting. Tracy Garland, Educational SubCommittee Chair, provided the following information regarding the Program:

“The Education Subcommittee (of Inspection Committee) has developed a plan to enable learning about the Connemara Pony Breed Standard (Conformation, Movement, Type and Temperament) by way of video interviews of American and Irish experts. Each education module will include a quiz to assess the learner’s grasp of Key Learnings. The Program is designed for use in the development and certification of ACPS Inspectors. It will also be a resource for Connemara Pony enthusiasts and the public at large to learn about what makes a Connemara special and attractive.

There are currently Three Phases to this plan.

Phase I (2021)

- Obtain support for overall concept from ACPS Inspection Committee and BOG.
- Complete and finalize interviews with three experts; edit into modules (6); add photos and videos to enhance the narrative; identify key learnings
- Start process of partnering with organizations that can provide Learning Management System (LMS) to track success of learners and the Program and instructional design expertise for quizzes.
- Create prototype website to demonstrate access to learning modules and quizzes
- Start discussions about use of tool by ACPS Inspection Committee for certifying Inspector Candidates and continuing education of Inspectors

Phase II (2022)

- Develop 6 complete training modules incorporating existing training materials; use to train ACPS Inspectors and Inspector Candidates.
- Develop schedule, scope and budget for Phases II and III; identify funding sources and seek funding
- Start remote discussion groups for Inspector candidates and Inspectors using “active” modules. Gather feedback on Program; revise as necessary.
- Partner with an organization that has a LMS and assessment tools; add quiz function to all “active” modules (6)

Phase III (2022/2023)

- Complete interviews with 6 additional American and Irish experts; edit into modules; develop quizzes.
- Go "live" with ACPS Online Learning Program including modules, quizzes and tracking of results
- Report to ACPS Inspection Committee and BOG. "

One area of concern that impacts the Inspections Committee is the increasing travel costs and the potential health risks to our Inspection Teams with the pandemic. The Committee, at this time, is looking at several different factors in an effort to maintain the health of our Inspectors and provide this service to our ACPS membership.

On the upside, the ACPS Inspection Program has, since 1995 traveled from coast to coast, and into Canada to inspect ponies. The "List of Inspected and Approved Ponies", the listing of the ponies Inspected to date and includes Premium Stallions and Mares, can be found on the ACPS Website. It is because of the Inspection Program, the ACPS is a member of the ICCPS. It is exciting to see the ponies produced by our ACPS membership and Nominated for Inspection. We should be proud of our Connemara Ponies, know they reflect the Breed Standard and are enjoyed by their owners and riders, both young and old.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sparks ACPS Inspections Committee Chair

Inspections (addendum)

2022 Inspection sites are tentatively REGION 7 - St. Louis and REGION 10 - California. Dates to be announced based on feedback from interested pony owners but may be scheduled in conjunction with another Regional activity such as a show.

The Inspections Committee is excited to share with the BOG and ACPS membership the new On Line Learning Program. This program will be a means by which Inspector Candidates and others interested in the Connemara Pony breed will be able to learn remotely. A short premier will take place during the upcoming BOG meeting.

The Inspections Committee has taken a serious look at expenses. The last time Nomination Fees were adjusted were in 2002. With the increase in travel expenses associated with inspections, The Inspections Committee makes the following recommendation for the Nomination fees

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

Kathy Sparks
Chair, Inspections Committee

Internet – Sharon Jantzen

ACPS Internet Chair Committee Report 1/10/2022

Committee Chair: Sharon Jantzen (voted onto BOG September 2021)

Committee members: Christine Chatham **Need: More members**

What I do:

- 1) Interact with the webmaster, Cheryl Microusticos, regarding changes, updates and materials to add to the ACPS website. She does a fantastic job of fulfilling requests in a very timely manner.
- 2) Direct inquires coming in through the webmaster e-mail contact from the website. The majority of these go to Marynell regarding registration.
- 3) Review website for ways to streamline to improve communication. **Proposed:** Manage classified ads. See *Website plans in the works* section below.
- 4) Educate members regarding website use and the importance of providing information for membership at-large.
- 5) **Proposed:** reformat stories from The American Connemara to post to the website with a focus on Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to attract more visitor traffic.

Summary of what has been done since September:

1) Website updates:

1. Forms – All the forms are now located in one place. Now every button that sends a visitor to a form takes that person to the Google doc gallery of forms. This was necessary to ensure the most up-to-date version of the form is the one each visitor gets. All updated forms are kept in the same location so the author or person who updates the form does not have to go to all the locations where the form was found. **Proposed:** Committee member organizes each category folder and develops a summary page to direct viewers to the form they are needed from each category folder.
2. Awards Menu – This new menu item was pulled from a drop-down menu to the top main menu for ease of finding.

3. Each top main menu section - now has a submenu and form buttons in each sub section. ie: Top main menu section: Awards. Awards submenu lists each award which can take visitor directly to award. Each award has a description and a form button.

2) Education for writing content for Search Engine Optimization. A checklist has been developed which explains what SEO is and outlines what components a story needs to have to increase the SEO of the website. **The checklist needs feedback** from committee before putting it out to membership at large. It may be a tool used only within the committee for reformatting stories from The American Connemara magazine.

Website plans in the works:

1) Classified ads. Currently there are only three ads. Each ad brought in \$25 for a total of \$75. Much discussion has swirled around this topic. Cheryl and I have discussed and feel the best step going forward is to offer the ads free to members. A link for the ad should then be posted on the ACPS Social Media sites, especially on platforms that have banned selling animals. The work around is using the link back to the ad on the ACPS site which will have all the info, including the banned price, about the horse for sale.

Proposed: Committee member approves ad, making sure the owner is an ACPS member and that the pony/horse is truly a Connemara. This person could also look for possible candidates to offer advertising space to. Non-members would pay \$25 for a classified ad on the ACPS website and have that go on the ACPS Social Media platforms.

2) Proposed: Streamline the Main Menu Options There are really too many top menu items on the ACPS home page. So, Cheryl and I discussed placing main menu items into “buckets” to streamline use:

Here are the Proposed “buckets”

1. Get to Know Connemaras

News

Events

Breeder Map & Farm Directory

Regions

Stallions

Classifieds

Contact

2. Connemara Ownership Information

Inspections
Awards
Registration
News
Events
Forms
Members
Regions
Contact

3. Jump to – Quick Access

Inspections
Awards
Forms
Regions
Members
Contact
About

3) Digital Library

This website menu item is in the works. Currently, there are three books which have been converted to appear in the digital library. Each book is checked out for an hour through and Internet Archive platform. The ACPS website will provide a summary of each book and a link to it on the Internet Archive site.

4) Inspection Page

This page needs to be streamlined into Steps to getting your Connemara Inspected. **Proposed:** Committee member takes on the task of streamlining this page.

5) Photo release

All photos appearing on the website should have a release from the photographer. I will create one to place on the website for the membership to use when submitting photos with articles.