

Board of Governors Meeting, Ascutney Lodge, Ascutney, Vermont

Sept. 15-16, 2017

Amy Plavin, President of the American Connemara Pony Society, called the meeting of the Board of Governors to order with a question for each attendee to answer as names were called. As roll was called, each person answered, "Why a Connemara, and when did you discover the breed?" Responses from the group ranged from second generations in the room, to those who had only had one Connemara and for a relatively short time. All shared a love of the breed.

Minutes from the Board meeting in January, 2017, Lexington, KY, were approved as emailed.

Report of the Membership Secretary - Kate Denton was thanked for taking on the job. The task is acknowledged as an important and tedious one, and Kate was thanked also for fulfilling the duties without taking a salary. **ACPS Membership Report**
as of 10 September 2017

2015 members – 588 (plus 7 magazine subscription only)

2016 members – 583 (plus 7 magazine subscription only)

2017 members – 552 (plus 7 magazine subscription only)

Breakdown by Membership Category

	Junior	Associate	Senior	Family	Life
2015	64	169	212	27	116
2016	61	157	214	29	113
2017	64	131	218	26	113

Breakdown by Region

	Reg I	R II	R III	R IV	R V	R VI	R VII	R VIII	R IX	R X	Can/Ire
2015	104	57	135	71	62	13	35	21	29	57	3
2016	104	60	128	73	55	15	28	19	27	63	3
2017	96	51	132	62	47	15	38	18	36	60	4

Applications/renewals – 58% used paper application with a check and 42% used USEF on-line application with credit card. Paper ballots – requested by 28 members. Cost = printing, envelopes and mailing of ballots

Membership secretary expenses – reimbursement for computer help(especially for Directory) @ \$35/hour = \$660

Printed Directory (for 40 members) – Computer help (15 hours X \$35/hr = \$525 – included in the \$660) plus printing and mailing cost of \$202 = cost of \$727 or \$18.18 per Directory, less \$400 received in payments for Directory – net cost of \$327 for 40 Directories.

Seven non-members requested magazine subscriptions @ \$20 x 7 = \$140 received. Twenty-two donations to the ACPS Foundation totaling \$830. Life members donated an additional \$2,155

All renewals and new memberships confirmed by email with membership card as an attachment. If someone does not have an email address a note and card is sent by USPS. New memberships are cc'd to the Regional Chair and Junior/Family memberships are cc'd to the Youth Program. Donations to the ACPS Foundation are also acknowledged in the email.

Excel files with a complete listing of Region members are sent periodically to the Region Chairs, and also upon request.

Kate said the membership numbers were slowly creeping upwards again. After comparison with other breed societies, it was thought by the group that the dues for membership have not been raised in a very long time, and ***consensus was for a hike in membership fees. The rates are: \$25 for Juniors (no increase); \$40 for Associates; \$50 for Seniors: and \$100 for a Family membership. Life membership went to \$750 after much discussion when it was suggested that the fee go to \$1000. Joanie Webster moved the fee should be \$750, seconded by Kathy Lucas, and the change passed by a vote of 15 for and 2 against. No directory will come with the ACPS membership. Rather use of the on-line version is free, or the member may pay \$20 for a printed one.***

The cost of the Membership Directory was raised from \$10 to \$20 to offset the cost of printing and postage. Most people opt for the directory on the ACPS website, but others still prefer the printed booklet.

Amy Plavin moved that the 2017/18 membership stay with the current rates until March 1, when the new and higher rates will be charged.

A motion was also made and unanimously approved that the Society owed Kate Denton an expression of appreciation for taking on a difficult job, and that \$1000 be allotted for computer help with the Membership list management.

Treasurer's Report – The report from Stephanie Fenton-Hickey showed a “break-even” status. Susan McConnell moved to accept the report as submitted. The Board approved unanimously.

Report of the President – Amy Plavin – said she had no real report, but she had been amazed at the response to Connemara pony owners and friends when recent hurricane relief was needed. She said the ACPS is like extended family.

Report of the Registrar – Marynell Eyles had compiled a list of the policies and procedures for registration. **THESE RULES ARE NOW IN PLACE -**

– **New Policy and Procedure for Hoof Wall Separation Disease was discussed and was voted upon and approved**

1. **Purpose** – To require owners and breeders of Connemara Ponies to determine whether their ponies possess the genetic characteristics of HWS, and to minimize the occurrence of affected ponies.
2. **Statement of Responsibilities** – All Connemara breeding stock (stallions, mares, and foals) purebred, halfbred and Connemara Sport Horses must be Hoof Wall Separation Disease tested and the results placed on file with the ACPS Secretary. If both parents of the animal have negative test results, the test is not required).
3. **Procedures**
 - a. **The HWS test must be completed before any Connemara purebred, halfbred, or Connemara Sport Horse is eligible for registration.**

- b. **In order to obtain a Certificate of Registration the test must be completed and the results on file with the ACPS Secretary unless both parents have been tested and have negative results.**
 - c. **All purebred, halfbred and Connemara Sport Horses presented for Inspection must possess a HWSO test report.**
 - d. **If breeding stock does not have the required HWSO results on file (as in the case of an imported or gelded stallion, or frozen semen of a deceased stallion) the resultant foal must be HWSO tested prior to being registered.**
- **Registration numbers** – Purebred foals – 21 purebred registrations applied for by September 8, 2017/10 are completed and 11 are pending.
 - **Purebred Stallions registered:**
 - 2 – Wildwych Shiver Me Timbers (*Glenormiston Flurry Knox x *Rudgeway Silver Filigree)
 - Irish Gates Sir Daeglan (JEF Sir Lancelot x Legacy’s Charming Jasmine) N/N
 - **Halfbred Stallions registered:** 0

With the registration of halfbred stallions, we have gone back to issuing HB TFC’s – for colts. If the breeder/owner sends a proof of gelding, I complete the permanent halfbred certificate.

Purebred Mares – 10

Purebred Geldings – 8

Halfbred Geldings – 11

Halfbred Mares – 8

TFC’s halfbreds (colts) – 3

Microchips – the microchips we had were a larger size, and those were sent back and switched for a smaller needle/size. An even swap, and better for the ponies.

It was proposed, and accepted, to microchip the halfbred foals of 2018.

It was also suggested that breeders should get a USEF registration for their foals. Chris Knox, Chair of the USEF/Connemara Committee, explained the USEF’s program of recording horses, and said she would be willing to talk to Ken Ball at the USEF, to see if all Connemara foals could be recorded with USEF as part of their ACPS registration. The fee is now \$30 per foal, but perhaps a reduced fee could be negotiated.

More information will be provided on that suggestion.

Much discussion followed on a Hardship Clause for registering “found” or just not registered, Connemaras. Some felt the ability to register a foal for which a business deal “gone wrong” which had resulted in not permitting a foal to be registered, should be given to the new owner. Others felt the stallion and/or mare owners were stripped of any dominion over their breeding practices – ie in the case of a stud fee never being paid, or an extra straw of semen being used for another mare without payment to the stallion owner. Many sides of the issue came to light, with the result being that the ***Policy to let Purebred and Halfbred Connemaras or Connemara Sport Horses (of any age), with registry questions, or in treatment of a Hardship Case, be handled on a case by case basis. The motion passed unanimously,*** and president, Amy Plavin, was relieved that a statement was now codified for pony owners to have as guidelines. In all cases, the owner of the pony involved in the case will be responsible for payment of DNA/parentage/other fees.

Report of the Connemara Sport Horse Registry – Megan Harris – 23 registered. Most are Thoroughbred or Irish Draught crosses, with a few Welsh. The registered horses are beginning to make their marks in show rings, doing hunters, and eventing mostly. The registry has an advocate in Denny Emerson and Mr. Micklem.

ICCPs – Susan McConnell – Officers are the same as 2016, and Susan is still the Secretariat of the group. Scott McGuffin was the ACPS delegate in August, 2017. He does an excellent job. The CPBS has finally accepted the status of the HWSD, and they are testing for it routinely. Karen Holloway of Australia did a Strategic Plan for the ICCPS. Susan will try to organize a trip to visit Ireland, and various breeders, to view Inspections in IRE, and see the Stallion parade if possible. March may work as a time, or later in the year.

ACPS Foundation – Susan McConnell reported the Foundation has a balance of \$40,535.10. In 2017 there was \$2100 in contributions from Life members; and Susan can transfer the leftover WEG funds to the ACPS treasury, whenever it's needed. The Foundation hosted and financed a clinic for prospective and current Connemara judges, Inspectors, and interested breeders, at the Virginia Horse Center. There were 33 participants. Each was given a notebook of information. The Foundation has also paid seven \$100 awards to Scholarship recipients. Susan has filed the "Statement of Continued Existence" with the IRS.

Standing Committee Reports

Arbitration – Fonda Eigel – no report.

Awards – Marilyn Cheek – Reported on all the successes of the program through the years. She said Deb Clinch wanted to pass along the Achievement Awards administration, and Toni Card has taken on that job. Donna Miller will be the Chair of the Competition Awards section of the ACPS Hall of Fame Awards. Megan Harris and Martha Slamer will be part of the committee.

The committee might add more disciplines to the Achievement Awards - including western dressage. They are working on the scoring scales.

The Adult Scholarships don't seem too popular – nominees are needed.

For the 2017 Hall of Fame Awards, no Broodmare Award was given, nor was the An Tostal awarded.

The USEA and the USDF and the USEF all track awards points, and take care of their own awards for ACPS registered Connemaras.

By Laws – Scott McGuffin announced that the By Laws amendments included on the 2017 proxy were passed. The changes will be made to the By Laws document. One of those changes allows a region to send a delegate to the annual meeting, in cases when the elected Regional Governor cannot attend.

Finance - Cathy Blackmon - The Vanguard Investments continue to do well in the current financial climate. All Federal and State external reporting is current and in compliance. This includes the 990EZ for the ACPS, ACPS-Foundation IRS reporting and State of Illinois reporting.

USEF Grant Updates: The ACPS applies for and has received two grants from the USEF over the last several years. We make application each Spring and report on the use of the grant monies in November each year. Below is an overview of each grant:

USEF Member Grant: Is usually \$1000.00 plus a stipend for each ACPS/USEF member on record with the USEF. So please when renewing or joining the USEF mark the box for "Connemara" first. The funds

from this grant have historically been dedicated to support the production of our magazine which is in compliance with the grant restrictions.

USEF Youth Sportsman Award Grant: This is a bit more complicated, the ACPS must submit a nominee to this USEF program annually. The submission is due Oct 15th. Based on the submission, the ACPS receives a \$1500 grant to be used for the youth program. Historically this has been used towards the ACPS Youth Scholarship program in compliance with the USEF grant restrictions. The funds are not received until the following Spring for this grant so there quite a delay in the process. But this has allowed the ACPS to really expand the Youth scholarships. And the youth are taking note. The past three years we have had only one application for the nominee and this year we started with three applications!

The ACPS General Liability and D&O Insurance policies come up for renewal in December for 2018. We have had coverage through Equisure by Lloyds of London. Each Region needs to submit their 2018 events to include the date, location and description to me by Nov 15th to accurately submit our request. There is confusion when events are added in the year and additional premiums then are due. Equisure quotes us based on the application made in December. Please use my email pooka7@sbcglobal.net

Inspections – Susan McConnell, overall chair, reported that she is working on organizing a tour in Ireland for Inspectors and judges. Gloria LaCroix, strategic operations chair, said the program has historically broken even, but this year was a year of higher travel expenses and fewer sites, with fewer ponies nominated so the program lost money. She said they are working on sites for 2018, and it is possible for farm owners to have “on site” inspections at their farms if enough ponies are nominated. Sarah McRae Thrasher is the On-site Secretary for the report forms, and she does the “on the ground” work. There are two new Inspector Candidates.

Internet – Amy Plavin – The web site work is going well. There is now a Paypal system for the classified section.

Magazine – Marynell Eyles – reported the new printers are doing a good job with the files, and voiced thank-you’s to all the members who sent articles and news. The four color pages are more demanding in photo quality, and more work must be done at her desk before the files go to the printers, but the cut in production costs has been substantial. She thanked especially, all the faithful advertisers who have helped pay for some of the printing costs.

Nominating Committee, chaired this year by Linda Haines, announced the newly elected Board Members whose term will be from 2017-2020. They are Catherine Blackmon, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Deborah Howell, Jill McNicols, Cynthia Holbrook, and Lisa Rease. The new chair for the Nominating Committee is Chris Knox. Linda Haines rotates off the committee, and Sally Oxnard remains.

The Board voted to make Joanie Webster an Emeritus member of the ACPS Board of Governors.

Promotions – Pat Norton White read Heather Magnan’s report with included the list of the four Facebook ACPS page administrators. They are Amy Plavin, Jill McNicol, Heather, and Melanie Trimper. The Board agreed to add a junior to the list – Meg McNicol will be the junior member administrator.

Chris Knox said she had thought a campaign for the Connemara promotion might be, “Remember when Riding Used to be Fun?! It still can be! Ride a Connemara!” She added the promotions should do a

“Throwback Thursday” when an accomplished rider who started up the ladder on a Connemara might be highlighted.

As part of the promotions discussion, Chris Knox explained to the group how the new USEF show designation, “Competition Lite” might benefit ACPS members. Region show managers will be able to offer a USEF recognition for the shows, for a \$50 fee, that allows points from the classes to accrue for Horse of the Year points. The Competition Lite points would amount to half of those from fully recognized shows, but would give many more Connemara owners and exhibitors, the opportunity to be a part of the program.

No Federation fees would be charged for drug testing, and no non-member fees would be charged. Judges may be USEF licensed, or one who is in training. No EMT would be required, and no vet or farrier would have to be on site. More details will be worked out between the USEF and the ACPS.

Region Chair Liaison – Gloria LaCroix – said the Region Chairs had met, and in their discussion it was emphasized that Regional Governors need to attend at least one meeting a year. The Governor needs to delegate if he/she cannot attend. Gloria asked for help with Inspections, from the Regional group, saying they were closer to the breeders and region members. They can help find ponies for inspection sites. She also said the Membership Chair was sending out quarterly regional reports of new members. Kate Denton said she would work on that.

Youth Program – Sally Eyles-Goldfarb – Ribbons were provided at the US Pony Club Championships for the highest scoring Connemaras.

USEF Connemara Committee – Chris Knox – explained the ACPS is a Breed Affiliate of the USEF. The Connemara Committee has done its work in 2017 via conference calls. She also explained the Competition Lite, talked about the possibility of recording with the USEF, all foals registered with the ACPS. The fee to be determined. There is talk of data sharing with the USEF to facilitate the determination of award winner’s registration status.

Strategic Planning – Kate Denton, said the group had a lot of great discussion, and have a list of ideas including: a Contest for Pony Ambassadors in each region; placing ads in non-Connemara magazines; a You-tube channel – Tracey Roettinger volunteered to work in that project; dropping the word “pony” in Connemara advertising; printing brochures; HWSD carriers, and the importance of keeping them in the gene pool; and encouraging Pony Jumper divisions in shows.

Halfbred Inspection Plan – Donna Miller came to the Board with a design for getting Halfbred Connemaras inspected. The program would not be based on Type, but on the same attributes judged by the Oldenburg Registry program, who will administer the inspections for the ACPS. The program was approved by the Board, and will be introduced in 2018. The statement of purpose for the program was: To Utilize the ISR Oldenburg Inspection process as an approval process, and if approved, be designated with a specially designed halfbred seal for the ACPS registration certificates. The program will be offered on an “as-needed” basis, and if there is another Breed Inspection, that may be utilized on a one-on-one basis.

Melanoma Research – Joan Webster for Maureen Loughman Abel – said the program is making great strides. A proposal for a grant to finish the research has been submitted by Dr. Theon, and the Center for Equine Studies donated \$28,000 for further research on the topic. The program has been on-going

for over four years, and the Connemaras who were volunteered, and the people who helped along the way, are much appreciated. Both Joan Webster and Maureen were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

New Business –

WEG proposal – Amy Plavin said Catherine Short’s inquiries and proposal sent to the organizers of WEG in August had no response. The conversations will be continued as more information about the site, the venue, the possibilities are known.

The decision to hear the Region Reports at the Annual Meeting, to be held immediately after adjourning the Board meeting, enabled the President to adjourn the Board meeting at 3:10 p.m.

American Connemara Annual Meeting – 3:30 p.m., September 16, 2017

Amy Plavin called the meeting to order, and the minutes of the September 2016 annual meeting were approved.

A review of the motions passed at the preceding Board meeting was read by Marynell Eyles.

Region Chair Reports were read from each region. The reports will appear in the [American Connemara magazine](#).

Election of the New Board – Linda Haines reported that the newly elected Board members for the term 2017 -2020 are: Catherine Blackmon, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Cynthia Holbrook, Deborah Howell, Jill McNicol, and Lisa Rease. Joan Webster will be added to the Honorary Advisers list with Winston Sheppard, D.J. Moore, and Joan Ervin.

New Business – Gloria LaCroix invited the ACPS members and Board to St. Louis, MO for the 2018 Annual Meeting. The group accepted the invitation with a caveat that the date overlapped with the World Equestrian Games and other championships, so Gloria will check on alternative dates.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Newly Elected Board of Governors – Meeting – was called to order immediately following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting in order to adopt the slate of officers for 2018.

The new ACPS officers for the upcoming year are Catherine Blackmon, President; Kate Denton, Vice-President; Scott McGuffin, Vice-President; Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, Treasurer. Chris Knox will be the chair of the 2018 Nominating Committee, with Deb Norman as the new member. Linda Haines rotates off that committee, and Sally Oxnard is the third member for 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Marynell Eyles, Secretary