

## **Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry (NFHR) 2026 Annual Membership Meeting**

**January 31, 2026 Time: 12:04 PM - 12:31 PM MST**

**Location: - NFHR Office, Berthoud, Colorado and via Zoom**

Board Members Present Margaret Crespo, President, Kelly White, Vice President,, Holly Durst, Treasurer, Cynthia Madden, Secretary, an Board Members Beth Beymer, Aletha Carson Member, Solveig Peterson, Board Member, Rebecca Wilhite, Board Member

NFHR Members Present (via Zoom) Andrew Hinrichs, Cherrie Nolden, Margaret Bogie, Wendy Bauwens, Bonnie Morris, Carol Cox, Denny Cox, Beth German, Jill Kosek, Lisa Otten

Call to Order Meeting called to order January 9th at 12:04 PM MST by Jeanne Poirier. Roll call completed with all board members present Jeanne explained the hybrid meeting format with board members meeting face-to-face at the NFHR office while members participated via Zoom.

Newly Elected Board Members (2026-2025 Term) Jeanne announced the results of the election from eight candidates. Margaret Crespo was appointed in November 2025, leaving seven candidates competing for three board positions.

2026 Elected Board Members: Aletha Carson, Solveig Pedersen Beth Beymer

Outgoing Board Members The organization thanked the following outgoing board members for their service: Kelsey Sayers, Lisa Otten, and Margaret Bogie

Board Officers (Elected January 7, 2026) The following officers were elected at the board meeting on January 7, 2026:

President: Margaret Crespo, Vice President: Kelly White, Treasurer: Holly Durst, Secretary: Cynthia Madden

**Treasurer's Report:** Holly provided a comprehensive financial report highlighting the organization's fiscal health:

Current Checking Account Balance: \$11,003.84, Savings Account Balance: \$18,348.57, Total Reserves: \$29,352.41

### **Key Accomplishments**

1. Budget Adherence: The Board and Executive Director worked diligently on the budget, reviewing it line by line. The organization stayed on budget throughout the entire year despite unavoidable increases in insurance and other costs.
2. Revenue Growth: The organization benefited from an increase in full registrations (record high) and an increase in transfer fees
3. Savings Preservation: The organization successfully completed the year without needing to access savings accounts, maintaining financial stability.
4. Transparency: Members received a line-item expenditure report showing all spending for the year.

The financial report was accepted with questions to be addressed in the FAQ document.

Organizational Vision and Commitment The board presented their commitment to the membership for the coming year:

Mission Statement: "Honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future."

Board Focus Areas for 2026: : Transparency, Sustainability, Member engagement, Shared responsibility for NFHR's future

## **Letter to the Membership**

The board read an official letter to the membership (to be published in the Spring Herald and posted on the website), which included:

### Acknowledgments

1. Gratitude: Sincere thanks to outgoing President Kelsey Sayers and Lisa Otten for their service and commitment to the organization.
2. Honesty About Challenges: The board candidly acknowledged that 2025 results and engagement levels did not meet member expectations: Committee participation declined; Several committees were inactive or never fully formed; Core functions lacked clear leadership and follow-through; Membership numbers continued a long downward trend; Award participation, education, youth engagement, and promotion efforts were below potential

## **Bright Spots in 2025**

Despite challenges, the board highlighted important successes including Full registrations reached a record high; Promotion committee provided several items to promote the breed; The Fjord Herald remains valued by members, Awards program sustained through Anne Crandall's extraordinary volunteer commitment

## **Commitments for 2026**

The Board united in committing to a year of rebuilding through: Trust and Engagement: Actively engaging membership in shaping a clear, realistic strategic plan; Committee Reestablishment: Reestablishing committees with defined purpose, leadership, and accountability; Measurable Progress: Setting benchmarks and deliverables with regular member updates; Program Reinvigoration: Reinvigorating education involvement, promotions, and awards participation; Transparency: Ensuring board transparency, timely reporting, and shared responsibility; Member-Driven Process: Creating a bottom-up rather than top-down approach to organizational planning

## **Strategic Planning Overview**

The Board reported on their day-and-a-half face-to-face strategic planning session held immediately prior to the membership meeting.

Planning Framework: Timeline: Three-year strategic plan with annual reviews; Review Process: Annual review with membership and board; Foundation: Grounded in member engagement and governance excellence

Strategic Priority Area 1: Member Engagement, Education, and Community

Why This Matters: A strong registry depends on engaged and informed members. Education and transparency are the foundation of long-term organizational success and shared stewardship of the Norwegian Fjord Horse.

### Goals

- 1.1 Grow, retain, and engage membership
- 1.2 Expand education and outreach about the breed
- 1.3 Strengthen communication

All goals connect directly to committee work and member involvement.

Strategic Priority Area 2: organizational and Governance Excellence

Why This Matters

- Strong governance ensures mission success
- Financial stewardship supports long-term stability
- Clear structures enable effective leadership

Goals

2.1 Ensure financial stability and transparency

2.2 Strengthen governance and policy frameworks

2.3 Build leadership and committee capacity

These goals focus on internal board operations, governance structures, and financial management with regular reporting to membership.

Committee Structure Overview

The board streamlined the committee system with the following principles: Education Integration: Education component embedded throughout all committees, Balanced Distribution: Maximum of five members per committee (excluding board liaisons), Clear Leadership: Each committee has designated chair(s)

2026 Committee Structure

The following committees were established:

1. Executive Board r
2. Evaluation Committee -
3. Promotions and Herald Committee
4. Membership and Awards Committee
5. Breeders Committee

How to Get Involved

Timeline:

- February 2, 2026: Deadline to complete Committee Interest Form (available on website)
- February 4, 2026: Board reviews all submissions
- February 7, 2026: Committee notifications sent to selected members

Selection: Five members will be selected for each committee in addition to board liaisons.

Accountability and Progress Tracking

To ensure committee effectiveness, the following monitoring systems will be implemented:

1. Monthly Committee Reports: Aligned to committee goals; Quarterly Strategic Check-ins: Progress assessment against strategic priorities; Annual Reflection: Review and plan adjustment

for following year; Board Integration: Committee activities integrated into board agenda and minutes

## 2. Member Reporting: Regular reporting to full membership

Member Inquiry Email: [member.inquiry@nfhr.com](mailto:member.inquiry@nfhr.com)

This new email address allows members to submit inquiries that will be responded to by board members. All emails received at this address will be forwarded to the entire board.

## Real-Time Member Engagement

Members were invited to use Zoom chat during the meeting to submit comments and questions. The board committed to:

1. Record Keeping: Maintaining a record of all chat correspondence
2. FAQ Development: Creating a Frequently Asked Questions document from member input
3. Timely Response: Posting FAQ on website within seven days of the meeting
4. Ongoing Dialogue: Continuing to honor board commitment to respond to member concerns

Member Questions and Responses: Several questions were addressed during the meeting chat:

### Financial Questions

Q (Margaret Bogie): Why is there negative net income shown?

A (Jeanne): The negative figure represents end-of-year payments extending into the new year. The organization never went into a negative balance and remained in the black throughout the year.

### Governance Questions

Q (Lisa Otten): When will November and December minutes be available?

A: Minutes were approved and will be posted shortly. The board appreciated patience during the transition of elected officials.

Q (Lisa Otten): Will there be electronic elections?

A: The board will address this question at their next official face-to-face planning meeting.

### Meeting Access

Q (Janice): Will upcoming meetings be open to all members?

A: The board plans both town halls and large membership meetings moving forward with public-facing communication and membership group connections.

### Budget vs. Financial Statement

Q (Margaret Bogie): Clarification on budget documents.

A: The document shared was a profit and loss statement, not the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget has not yet been completed.

### Other Questions

Q (Cherrie): Will the member inquiry email go to one person?

A: Emails will go to a single address but will be forwarded to all board members for every inquiry.

Q (Margaret Bogie): Attracting non-members to meetings.

A: As a private organization with membership fees, meetings are currently for members. However, the suggestion was noted for consideration.

Jeanne Poirier: We cannot emphasized the importance of the board's face-to-face meeting, noting that while bylaws were changed two years ago to remove the face-to-face requirement, much value is gained from in-person collaboration. Eight board members traveled at their own expense and on their own time to meet at the NFHR office in Berthoud, Colorado, for a full day and a half of strategic planning.

### Member Appreciation

Multiple members expressed gratitude and confidence in the new board direction through chat comments:

- Wendy: Expressed confidence in the board
  - Margaret: Thanked the board for the face-to-face meeting
  - Bonnie: Appreciated the direction and hopes it becomes permanent
  - Andrew: Tested the chat system and engaged with the process
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### Closing Remarks

Jeanne Poirier concluded the meeting by emphasizing that member involvement is what strengthens the Fjord community, and that together, the board and membership will steward the future of the beautiful Norwegian Fjord Horse breed.

She expressed excitement about the coming year and the progress made during the weekend strategic planning session.

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### Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Rebecca Wilhite

Second: Holly Durst

Vote: All in favor, none opposed

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM MST

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### Action Items and Next Steps

1. Committee Interest Forms: Available on website by February 1, 2026
  2. FAQ Document: To be posted within 7 days (by February 7, 2026)
  3. November/December Minutes: To be posted on website
  4. Letter to Membership: To be published in Spring Herald and posted on website
  5. Committee Notifications: February 7, 2026
  6. Electronic Elections: To be discussed at next board meeting
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Minutes prepared by: Cynthia Madden, Secretary

Minutes compiled from: Audio transcript of January 31, 2026 Annual Membership Meeting

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These minutes represent an accurate record of the 2026 Annual Membership Meeting of the Norwegian Fjord