

NFHR Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2026 Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM MST

Present: Aletha Carson, Margaret Crespo, Holly Durst, Cynthia Madden , Ardeth Obenauf, Solveig Pedersen, Kelly White. Executive Director, Jeanne Poirier. **Excused Absence:** Beth Beymer. **Unexcused Absence:** Rebecca Wilhite

Approval of Minutes: Margaret moved to approve January Board Meeting Minutes: Kelly moved to accept the January board minutes. **Second:** Solveig. Motion passed unanimously.

Face-to-Face Meeting Minutes: Cynthia moved to approve the Face-to-Face meeting minutes. Second: Aletha. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Meeting Minutes: Solveig moved to approve the membership meeting minutes. Second: Aletha. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director/Registrar Report: Presented by: Jeanne. Registration Activity: One full registration completed this year. Zero transfers currently in progress (significant drop-off from typical activity). Transfers have fallen off since the beginning of the year.

Financial Analysis: Jeanne reported on a Membership Renewal which is causing critical financial concerns. Current Membership Status: 162 members/have not renewed their membership or Herald subscription; numbers are significantly down from previous years; Farm Directory listings are down. 2026 Membership Numbers: Family, 25 (down 51%); Single 11 (down 34.1%)8, Youth 1, Subscriptions to Herald, 41; Life Single, 123, Life Family, 47.

Financial Status: 2025 Year End: Checking - \$6,657.63, Savings - \$18,349.54

Current financial position as of February 11, 2026: Recent Major Expenses Paid: Database annual fee QuickBooks annual fee, Insurance premiums, Various smaller bills. Upcoming Major Expenses: Executive Director salary (due in approximately 2 weeks), Spring Herald printing and distribution.

Financial Analysis: If the 162 non-renewed members had renewed, the organization would have approximately \$11,000 more in revenue. Typically at this time of year, the organization would have closer to \$20,000 in the checking account rather than \$6,000.

Proposed solutions: Remove free non-member access to NFHR data base. Rationale: The database was originally designed for member-only access . Other breed registries using the same database system charge for non-member pedigree access. Members need to be informed of the change before implementation. Communication should be transparent about the financial situation.

It was agreed that advance notice would sent to non-renewing members before restricting access. Information will be posted on the website and Facebook, Set a deadline (suggested February 1st or March 1st) when access will be restricted.

Jeanne noted that Life Membership fees were paid long ago and those funds have been spent. It was approved for Jeanne to compose a letter to non-renewing members. Context about financial situation, Statistics about non-renewals, explanations of upcoming pedigree database access

change, establish a deadline for renewal before access restriction. This concept was approved in discussion.

Herald

Report a lack of content for the Spring issue. It was decided to push back publication of the Herald until March to gather sufficient content. The forms Herald Layout/Design contractor, Angela Lease, has returned. Publication is delayed while Board finalizes strategic plan goals for presentation to members. Goal to be published out by April 1.

During the next 2-3 Months the Board will Strategic Planning to review funding strategy, review and potentially implement systematic membership renewal reminder system, evaluate Herald publication schedule and content requirements, Assess effectiveness of database access restriction on membership renewals.

Jeanne and Holly discussed 2026 budget spreadsheet available for review. Review and have comments ready for March. NFHR stuck to budget. 2026 budget to be reviewed at March meeting.

Due to the resignation of Ardeth Obenauf. Jeanne contacted Beth German, fourth in line in 2026 NFHR Board Member ballot, to see if she is available to fill the vacant slot.

Treasurer's Report: There is heavy reliance on annual membership dues with no active fundraising currently in place. The NFHR had large fixed expenses creating pressure on limited checking account balance. There are reserves in the savings account but concern about drawing it down. The causes for this situation are: a dramatic drop in renewals.

Communication Strategy to make member aware of this issue: transparent, proactive communication with membership; a awareness of competitive environment and need to maintain member goodwill; Recognition that abrupt changes could drive members to competing organization, pedigree database currently free to public despite being funded by member dues; need to articulate member benefits more clearly; Life members paid fees long ago but continue to receive benefits without ongoing contribution

Committee Reports

Evaluation Committee - met and are setting goals for Evaluation, a settling upon score sheets. They have received the application for a 2026 Evaluation from Bonnie Morris.

Breeders Committee – Solveig reported she has 5 volunteers and will start discussion on goals.

Election Committee – Jeanne has a meeting with organization that recently implemented electronic voting to discuss electronic voting.

Ardeth Obenauf has resigned for personal reasons. Beth German was fourth in votes in the 2026 Board Election. Cynthia moved to appoint Beth to fill Ardeth vacancy. Holly, seconded. Motion passed.

Discussed moving the Board Meetings to 2nd week of the month to ensure receiving previous month's financial reports. Margaret will poll board members to ascertain best date for month meeting.

Althea, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Cynthia seconded. Motion passed.

Submitted by
Cynthia Maddden, NFHR Secretary