

**FINAL DRAFT**

Pending Membership Approval

at 2014 Annual Meeting

NFHR Annual Membership Meeting

January 25, 2013

Denver Colorado

Meeting called to Order at 10:15 a.m. Approximately 35 members present, most listed on sign in sheet. BoD members present: President Teresa Kandianis, Vice President Ardeth Obenauf, Treasurer Gretchen Payne, Secretary Beth German, members Jeff Pedersen, Bill Coli, Margie Diaz, Bob Long and Kay Konove. Executive Director Nancy Newport and Registrar Jeanne Poirier also present.

Introductions: Teresa welcomed everyone to the annual meeting in Denver and introduced new members Bob Long and Kay Konove. Bob and Kay were recently appointed to the BoD to fill two seats vacated by members who resigned due to other commitments. The BoD was pleased to receive several very qualified applicants. Bob is from Wisconsin where he drives and competes in CDEs. Kay lives in Massachusetts where she drives. Teresa noted the NFHR was fortunate to have a BoD member from the Midwest and a second member from the Northeast, especially since next year's annual meeting will be in the Northeast. The other BoD members introduced themselves. Ardeth also provided some information about the Fjord Foundation, a 501©(3) nonprofit corporation, website fjordhorsefoundation.com. Ardeth Odenauf, past NFHR President Howard Fiedler, Teresa Kandianis and Fred Brandt are on the Foundation Board.

President's Report: Copies of the written report were distributed. Teresa reported that the registry's books are in much better shape, thanks to Nancy Newport. Teresa recognized Rocky Mountain Fjord Horse Club President Sarah Reidy and thanked Sarah for the RMFHC's efforts in hosting the hospitality booth at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) and for co-hosting today's lunch with the NFHR. Teresa also expressed sincere appreciation for the tremendous fjord performance choreographed and organized by Beth Beymer. Beth and the Starfire Farm Quadrille with ten riders: Beth Beymer on BDF Obelisk, Sami Poirier on BDF John Arthur (Sami also did Roman Riding on Hanne and HayLee (aka Trudie), Savanna Poirier on Tirra, Victoria Arlingon Green Briar Cezar, Sheri McCullum on Starfire Finley, Damon Crumpley on Starfire Arend, Christi Kipple on RJR Blakely Westy, Hannah Biddle on BDF Magnum, Sarah Reidy on Starfire Giotto, Margaret Crespo on WS Sukkertoy performed last night and the night before at the NWSS Evening of Dancing Horses, accompanied by the Denver Brass Orchestra. Beth also organized a driving demonstration for another part of the Evening of Dancing Horses.

She drove four white mares, Christi Kipple and Savannah Poirier each drove a pair. BDF John Arthur and BDF Magnum, and Savanna Poirier drove Hanne and Haley. It was a truly spectacular performance – as Bill Coli said, the word “promotion” isn’t good enough to describe the efforts of Beth and the other riders and drivers in showing off their fjords at a 5,000 person venue to live music! Beth said that having so many fjord folks in attendance reminded her of the wonderful NFHR family feeling in Winona at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Teressa then recognized Sandy North and Beth Beymer for their service as Fjord Herald Editors, noting that the Herald has been our best outreach tool for many years. Sandy has recently resigned to become a bicycle star. Teressa presented Beth and Sandy with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Teressa summarized her report by noting that the two most significant projects of the BoD in 2012 were to revise the Rules of Registration and to work on revisions to the By-laws. Most of the changes to the Rules of Registration were to make various sections consistent with other sections; the only substantive change was to the inbreeding rule. The new requirement is that there be unrelated horses in the past three generations of a horse’s pedigree, instead of in the past two generations. In accordance with the By-laws, after sending the proposed Rules of Registrations changes to the membership for comment, the Board adopted them. The BoD will continue to work on proposed changes to the By-laws at this weekend’s face to face (F2F) meeting. Anticipated changes are to clarify and make the provisions consistent with other provisions. NFHR members must vote to approve the By-law changes. A ballot will be mailed to the membership in February, along with confirmation of membership renewals to avoid duplicative mailing expense. Teressa also reported that, due to significant decreases in expenditures and Jeanne’s enforcement of the correct fee structure for memberships, transfers and registrations, the NFHR is solvent now, in comparison to four years ago when there was barely enough money in the checking account to pay the Registry’s bills. Nancy has created accurate bookkeeping records in Quick Books and all BoD members have access to review the records. Past Treasurer Cynthia Madden commented on how well the records were organized and maintained now, saying there was a 500% improvement in bookkeeping and communication compared to several years ago. Beth German mentioned that much of our current financial situation is a result of the generosity of Nancy Newport, Jeanne Poirier and Beth Beymer, each of whom are paid a pittance for the work they do as Executive Director, Registrar and Herald Editor. Teressa also encouraged people who were interested in serving on the BoD in the future to contact any of the current BoD members. BoD members serve for a three year term and are limited to two consecutive terms on the Board. Being a BoD member is a working, not an honorary position. The Board functions to conduct the business of the NFHR. The BoD meets by telephone conference about every 5 weeks and then gets together once a year in person for 2 ½ days of work. Most Board members are also on various committees. Teressa hopes that over the next couple of years the NFHR will be able to host evaluations, and mentioned that there will likely be evaluations in Virginia and the Northwest this year, also maybe one in the Midwest. The NFHR currently has only 5 evaluators and, as one of them said, they “aren’t getting any younger”, so it is important to continue evaluator training and to compile appropriate training

materials. She noted that there was going to be an informal meeting to discuss evaluation issues after lunch and encouraged anyone who was interested to attend.

2012 Meeting Minutes were distributed and approved following a motion by Cynthia Madden and a second by Nancy Newport.

Executive Director's Report: Nancy distributed a written report and noted that the registry is on the upswing. Jeanne receives calls and emails every day, lots of foals have been registered, and we are getting new members through the gift membership program whereby a seller can purchase a gift membership, at a reduced cost, for a fjord buyer. Nancy explained that the NFHR bookkeeping used to be done on the same program as the horse registrations but she has now transferred all of the records to Quick Books. (Of course, before that, there weren't any kinds of computerized programs!) Both Nancy and Jeanne run their offices out of their homes. She said the best way to reach her is through email: [nancy@nfhr.com](mailto:nancy@nfhr.com)

Registrar's Report: Jeanne confirmed that the office is busy every day. She said that the revised rules of Registration have helped clarify the paperwork needed and makes it easier for her to process registrations and transfers more quickly. She has made the DNA test kits available online, thereby greatly improving the turnaround time from when a person submits an application for registration until the date the registration certificate is issued. Her current record is a 7 day turnaround! She said there has been an uptick in transfers. Teresa mentioned that Jeanne is also the website manager.

Treasurer's Report: Teresa, as past Treasurer, provided the 2012 Treasurer's report. Copies of the written report were distributed. She also referred to the comments included in the President's report regarding the positive changes in our records and financial situation. Beth Beymer mentioned that the process to return the registry to solvency began when Howard Fielder was President and said that it is a pleasure to look forward to working with a sound registry.

Education Committee: Ardeth explained that the Education Committee is available to fact check and prepares the Constant Contact messages to members. She has a couple of Herald articles in the works and hopes to prepare another video to follow the one on body clipping. Please let her know if you have any ideas for a video. Kay mentioned the possibility of conducting a webinar. Ardeth said NFHR is an ADS breed partner so ADS webinars are available to NFHR members. There was discussion about evaluator training and participation as a possible webinar topic. The idea will be added to the F2F agenda.

Elections Committee: Teresa referred to the prior introduction of the new BoD members. Three positions will be open at the end of 2013; Jeff Pedersen will be term limited from running again for now.

Fjord Herald Committee: Nancy is helping Beth Beymer with the Herald, but said Beth does all the work. Beth encouraged people to send articles and photographs. She is available to help with editing articles. Linda Yutzy, in Texas prepares the design and layout of each issue and deserves the credit for the magazines' great look. Nancy mentioned that the printer has changed hands and that there have been a few glitches in the mailings by the printer recently, particularly to our Canadian subscribers. Please let her know if you don't receive your Herald.

Outreach and Promotion Committee: Bill explained the NFHR display and the process that went into creating it. Gretchen remarked that it's beautiful. It was up at the National Western Stock Show and has been shown in Minnesota and California. It is available for regional clubs and events. The last user will ship it to the next user at the last user's expense. Bill said shipping is \$80-\$90.00.

Recognition and Awards: Anne Crandall keeps the records for and sends out awards. Some of the awards have included beautiful hard carved Norwegian plates made by Phil Odden; others are personalized items from the NFHR marketplace. Jeanne explained that when a horse earns an Award of Excellence, an "E" is added to their registration numbers; when a horse earns the versatility award, a "V" is added. The group discussed ways to provide information on what the various letters mean. This will also be added to the F2F agenda, along with a question about the application of a Family Fjord Test Bronze Medallion to the Hall of Fame Award.

FHI: Last year the NFHR withdrew from the FHI due to a lot of disorganization and disputes within FHI. The Canadians and Danes also withdrew. Teresa said that we would be pleased to join again once the FHI house is in order. Beth Beymer mentioned the importance of having a presence in the world wide organization. Kathleen Jesse also expressed support for being part of the international organization. Jeff mentioned that the new President of FHI, Nils Ivar Dolvik, had said that he had been tasked with resolving the issues with the US and Canadian groups. In past years, NFHR paid the FHI dues of about \$600.00 per year. Beth Beymer has gone to meetings as the NFHR delegate, however, NFHR has not paid her travel or other expenses. Other NFHR members have also gone at their own expense.

Marketplace Committee: Nancy said the marketplace is awesome. There are lots of sales right after each Constant Contact message mentions new products.

Youth Committee: Bill advised that the youth are the future of the organization and we need them. Sami Poirier created a youth NFHR facebook page about two years ago. Gretchen has lots of ideas for promoting fjords among youth, including a youth membership that provides some kind of trinket, maybe a silicon bracelet and a youth page in the Herald.

New business:

Beth Beymer asked for input from members about their experience at the NWSS and the Evening with Dancing Horses.

Sarah Reidy noted the lack of a central location for information about fjords for sale. Gretchen suggested including a classifieds section on the website. This will also be added to the F2F agenda.

New member Julie Feiler from Wyoming asked those present from the Midwest to introduce themselves.

Cynthia Madden noted that the traffic on the Fjord list was down. The list is not NFHR sponsored or monitored, it is privately owned by Steve McIlree. Teresa explained that the BoD has a policy of not addressing on the list issues raised there, but that many members enjoy the list and said that Steve does a great job of moderating it. There is a link for the list on the NFHR website.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately Noon following a motion by Beth Beymer and a second by Cynthia Madden. (The Secretary apologizes for not noting the exact time.)