

**Charlotte Dumford Biography:**

In 1965, I had the great good fortune to be born into a farm family. Both my father and grandfather were cattlemen and horsemen, and my grandfather bought me my first horse, a typically naughty Shetland pony, when he found out my mother was pregnant with me. Little did he know – or perhaps he did! – that he would be responsible for creating me a lifelong passion for all things equine. Beginning with that Shetland pony, I took care of, rode, studied, and showed our family’s working cow horses, the hunter jumpers of my teen years, and finally as an adult, our amazing Friesian horses. Horses have been a constant in my life.

As for my professional career, after finishing a Master’s degree in English literature at Baylor University, I moved with my husband, John, to Shimonoseki, Japan to teach English language

and literature at a women's University. On returning to the United States, I continued teaching literature at various junior colleges in our area while John attended SMU School of Law.

In 1998, we purchased our current farm in Rockwall, Texas, just east of Dallas, and we started to develop our wedding venue. From the beginning of 2004 until the beginning of 2012, I served as chief wedding and event planner, coordinating catering, entertainment, decoration, staffing and service for hundreds of weddings and special events. While running the wedding and event business, I also continued my passion for horses by establishing Rose Hill Friesians. We purchased our first Friesian, a pregnant mare named Betsy, in 2001 and, like most of us, I quickly succumbed to "Friesian Fever." We started importing, first a gelding, and then two more foundation broodmares, the last 3 of which are still alive and well on our farm today!

We currently own eighteen Friesians of all ages, both Baroque style and the modern sport type. In the last few years, we have focused on developing the young horses we have bred as dressage horses, which culminated in Gryphon D winning the ISF Dressage IBOP Cup in 2015 followed by Tanwen D as Reserve IBOP Champ in 2016! Beyond showing in dressage, we also enjoy our versatile Friesians in parades, costume events, Expos, and trail riding. In addition to almost 20 years of hands-on experience at our farm, I have made it my mission to learn as much as possible about the Friesian horse through educational clinics, scientific research literature, and in-depth conversations with Friesian breeders, trainers, and reproduction specialists both here and in Holland. I would love the opportunity to use my personal life experience, my experience serving the last three years on the FHANA Board, and my past--and ongoing!-- education to continue benefiting FHANA members and their Friesian horses.

Board of Directors Election Questions 2021

Please describe your credentials which would help you to be an effective FHANA board member. Explain how these credentials have aided your past participation in FHANA and its related organizations (committees and chapters) and events.

My involvement and experience with FHANA and the KFPS has spanned many years. In 2005, my husband and I were some of the founding members of SCFHA. From 2006 to 2009, while still with this chapter, I was the coordinator of the Texas keuring. In 2009, I donated my event facility and, along with SCFHA members, planned and hosted the 2009 FHANA AGM. I acted as day-of coordinator on the days of this event and also planned the catered dinner and casino party. Later that year, my husband and I attended the FHANA 25th Anniversary celebration in Reno. We enjoyed not only the show and the banquet but also volunteering each day wherever needed – from selling tickets and working the door, to gatekeeping for the competitions, to calling the acts from the warm-up ring behind the scenes to the show. In 2010, we left the local chapter to focus on developing the young Friesians we have bred to promote the KFPS/FHANA Friesian in the dressage community. Even so, we continued our educational efforts by hosting clinics independently with other Friesian owners, covering subjects such as keuring preparation and breeding, as well as care, maintenance, and health. I also continued to attend various chapter events, including dressage and IBOP clinics, community events, and trail riding events.

To continue my education about FHANA and the KFPS, I have attended the KFPS Stallion Show in Holland every year since 2006. I attend the KFPS-sponsored educational clinics associated with the show to talk with and learn from some of the most experienced Friesian owners, breeders, and competitors in Holland. This enables me to keep current with the latest rules, policies, and breeding goals.

More recently, I served on the Central Mare Show planning Committee from its beginning on the East Coast through 2018. I served as secretary for the committee and then as Board Liaison to the Committee.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I have 3 years of experience serving on the FHANA Board of Directors (2018, 2019, through the present, and perhaps most challenging year, 2020). I held the office of FHANA Secretary during 2018 and 2019, producing the Minutes of our BOD meetings to keep our members informed. During those years, I also served on various committees, including Education, Breeding, Sport, and AGM Planning, both as a liaison and occasionally as committee chair. During the year 2020, I have served as Board liaison for Sport Committee, facilitating the expansion of our FHANA awards programs to include more disciplines to attract more member participation. I have also served as Board liaison on the Editorial Committee, involving my other committees by soliciting and co-creating articles on a variety of topics for The Friesian magazine. I am very proud of the hard work I've seen our members do on these committees, and I would love to continue helping them create even greater benefits for all FHANA members.

Other relevant credentials to consider:

As an experienced small breeder, amateur competitor, and all-round Friesian horse enthusiast, I believe I have a broad-based perspective that will allow me to effectively represent the interests of all FHANA members, from the large breeders and stallion owners to those who focus on competition, to those who own a single gelding and simply enjoy the pleasures of life with a Friesian horse.

I believe one of the most important qualities to be effective in the FHANA Board environment is the ability to listen objectively to all sides of any issue and make an unbiased decision based on what will produce the greatest good for the greatest number of FHANA members. If I have questions or concerns, I feel confident interfacing with any board member or member of the office staff.

Describe three initiatives you would like to see FHANA accomplish during your term? Describe how you would recommend they be accomplished?

First, let me express my belief that all of our most important initiatives should and have come from the MEMBERS!

Like most Friesian horse owners, I have great concerns about the health and longevity of the breed. Since the Strategic Planning Session at the 2020 AGM, we've begun to develop an infrastructure for these initiatives, and I'd like to continue with input from members who have

shown overwhelming enthusiasm for these initiatives. I'm totally committed to improving Friesian health through cooperation with and funding for our own Education Committee AND outside research organizations such as Fenway and relevant university research programs.

Second, I'd like quick implementation of the FHANA Mentorship program. Again, the members spoke loudly when given the opportunity to give their input during Strategic planning. Membership Committee has done an incredible amount of thoughtful work on this program since the 2020 AGM, and the current BOD has given the green light to go forward. I'd like to see this program actively working in the next year with the measurable goal of retaining new members by the end of each year.

Third, I want members receive greater and more specific assistance with breeding and sport questions/concerns/participation/use of resources and forms. This is a huge, but very important part of our work at FHANA, and an area that needs more refinement and solid implementation. I think our mentorship program can certainly help with new members, but as these members go forward with FHANA membership, their questions become more complex and require greater time and more targeted responses. In some cases, especially for higher Sport goals, I think FHANA could produce better resources. To further these goals, I'd like to continue to work with the dedicated members of the Breeding Committee and Sports Committee.

What current membership benefits do you feel need to be improved, and what could be added to make FHANA more attractive to past members, existing members, or new members?

I would strive for greater sharing of the knowledge we gain with all members with the end goal of promoting better health in our Friesian horses. I would also like to foster greater involvement of all FHANA members. In order for any organization to thrive and grow, members must feel a greater sense of belonging or "ownership." They must feel that the organization has something for everyone, that their voices are heard, and that their membership has relevance. As a board member, I would encourage any member to contact us with the confidence that their concerns will be heard and acted on. Furthermore, I believe we need to ensure that FHANA members who do not have access to online resources, or who do not share our most common language, are still served with educational and news materials through platforms and language they can readily and comfortably access. I see Editorial Committee, Education Committee, and Membership Committees in leadership roles for those resources.

In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing FHANA going forward, and how would you address these issues as a Board member?

In the near term, navigating the unprecedented situation with Covid while serving the needs of FHANA members takes a front row seat. We need to maintain essential services such as administration of all paperwork, producing the magazine, keeping a balanced budget, etc, and perhaps most importantly, ensuring the next years' inspections can take place as planned as safely as possible. As for long term issues, I believe member retention, which comes through better service and creating a sense of belonging, plus contributing to all funding and research

into Friesian health concerns, will continue to be top issues, and I have probably best addressed my thoughts on these things in my answers above!

Thank you to all members who have given me their input and continued this dialogue!