

FHANA Member Council Minutes: 23 March 2022

Present:

Marq Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter (Chairperson)
Sharon Bechler - Central California Friesian Horse Club
Carrie Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association
Will Bron – Northwest Friesian Horse Club
Dan Dali Haber – New England Friesian Horse Club
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association
Scott Kelnhofer – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association
Joe Michielle – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club
Nina Miller – West Coast Friesian Horse Club
Anna Osinga – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association
Beth Sharp – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club
Klazien Sietsma - Alberta Friesian Horse Association
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club
Janice VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club
Beatrice Whiteley – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California
Erin Miley – FHANA Board Liaison
Angie DePuydt - Administrator
Caron Osborn – Administrator
Eric Smith – FHANA President (Guest)
Ted Vanderkooi – KFPS Member Council Representative (Guest)

Absent:

Lisa Baker – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East
Danielle Barrasso - Friesian Horse Association of New England
Lori Brock – North Michigan Friesian Club

1. **Opening Remarks, Approval of Agenda & Guests.** Mr. Laude called the meeting to order at 8:03pm EDT. Mr. Laude introduced two guests attending the meeting, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Vanderkooi.
2. **Approval of February 2022 Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Kelnhofer commented he did not believe Ruth Page attended the last meeting and she is listed as attending and listed in the voting that took place. Ms. Miller commented that Ms. Page arrived later in the meeting and did vote. Mr. Kelnhofer also commented he felt the total number of votes was sufficient information and by-name voting results did not need to be included in the minutes. Ms. DePuydt commented she understood Ms. Clough intended to only include the total votes and that this might have been an oversight. Ms. DePuydt agreed the administrators will remove the by-name voting results. Mr. Vanderkooy asked that his remarks regarding what constitutes a member not in good standing with FHANA be clarified to correctly reflect what he stated during the meeting. Ms. DePuydt agreed the administrators would clarify this language. **Mr. Kelnhofer made a motion to accept the amended minutes.** Ms. Sharp seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Remarks by FHANA President.** Mr. Smith thanked the FMC for allowing him to attend the meeting and thanked the representatives for participating in the FMC. Mr. Smith stated one of his goals as president was to encourage better relationships between FHANA and its members and through the FMC as well. Mr. Kelnhofer commented how pleased he felt the FMC was with Ms. Miley as their board liaison. Mr. Laude remarked the discussion between the FMC and the new FHANA board has been positive, and he looks forward to a cooperative relationship this year.
4. **FHANA Board Updates.** Ms. Miley provided a brief review of the 2022 AGM and thanked the members that volunteered and the host chapter. The 2023 AGM will be held in Las Vegas, NV. Committees are being finalized right now. The board would like to get more members involved. If chapters know of members who would be a good fit for a committee, they are encouraged to contact FHANA. FHANA will be conducting a quarterly meeting with all committee chairs to coordinate and share information. FHANA is still looking for several new mentors and interested members should contact FHANA. The board has amended the FHANA Volunteer Duties Commitment Letter based on the FMC's feedback and looks forward to the FMC's response on the changes. Chapter renewals are due no later than March 31st. Ms. Miley reminded everyone elections are in process for the two KFPS Member Council positions and encouraged everyone to be sure and vote. Registration papers from Spring inspections have been sent out and IBOP scores are still being processed. The FHANA board officers this year are Eric Smith (President), Allison Thomas (Vice President), Jo Clough (Secretary) and Erin Miley (Treasurer).

Ms. Sharp commented a member in her chapter has questioned the validity of some FHANA committee members that don't own horses. After the member inquired with Ms. Thomas about this issue, the member noticed language related to the requirements for participation in FHANA committees was changed on the FHANA website. Ms. Miley responded the FHANA board discussed the committee participation requirements at their last board meeting as it relates to Associate Member participation. Ms. Sharp will gather the information her chapter member sent and provide it to Ms. Miley.

5. **Nominations & Election of FMC Vice Chairperson.** Mr. Laude called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Mr. Bron nominated Mr. Kelnhofer and Mr. Kelnhofer accepted the nomination. Ms. Osinga nominated Mr. Vanderkooy. Mr. Vanderkooy thanked Ms. Osinga for the nomination but stated he felt the FMC would be in good hands with Mr. Laude and Mr. Kelnhofer and declined to accept the nomination. As there were no other candidates, Mr. Kelnhofer accepted the position of Vice Chairperson.
6. **FMC Proposed Bylaw Revision.** Mr. Kelnhofer summarized the proposed bylaw change regarding FMC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson voting. Ms. Bechler commented she felt it was important for the Chairperson to be neutral, remain unbiased and only vote in the case of a tie vote. **Mr. Kelnhofer made the motion to amend the FMC bylaws regarding Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to "Whoever is chairing the meeting, Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, will only vote in the case of a tie".** **Mr. Vanderkooy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.** After discussion, the consensus of council was that the chairperson's primary role is to facilitate a smooth meeting and their secondary role is to represent their chapter in debate and discussion. However, the chairperson should not dominate discussion.

Mr. Kelnhofer made the motion the language regarding term limits be struck from the FMC bylaws.
Ms. Sharp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **CCFHC Stallion Discussion Points.** Ms. Bechler summarized the Central California Friesian Horse Club's concerns regarding the continued approval of stallions who are carriers of genetic disease, despite the number of stallions that are seen for consideration. Her chapter feels it is time for the KFPS to start eliminating stallions that are carriers. Her chapter would like to gauge if there is support from the members on this topic to determine if there is interest for the FHANA board to approach the KFPS about this issue. Mr. Vanderkooy commented he did not believe this approach is in our best interest. There are positive traits in carrier stallions that we should retain for the breeding population. He felt if breeders continue to test their mares and use that information to make careful breeding selections, carriers will eventually be eliminated. Ms. Miley commented the inbreeding and kinship issues will increase if we eliminate carrier stallions. Ms. VerMerris felt the KFPS has been looking at this issue in detail for a long time and we need to trust their judgement. Ms. Sharp stated members need to test their mares, pay attention to the results, and not base their decisions solely on who they think is the best stallion. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that reducing the genetic population further does not make sense. Ms. Bechler commented the spirit of the question was more aimed towards improving the health and vitality of the Friesian horse and the role stallion selection plays in that goal, not on how to test and correctly use carrier stallions. Ms. VerMerris felt perhaps the KFPS Member Council is a better forum for these concerns.

Ms. Bechler also asked the council to consider a topic for the next meeting: "How do we increase the opportunities to approve new stallions in North America?" Mr. Laude asked the council to discuss this issue with their chapter members and provide their suggestions in writing to Ms. Bechler.

8. **KFPS Member Council Duties.** Mr. Bron discussed the differences between the FMC and the KFPS Member Council, the authority and scope of the KFPS Member Council, the terms of the current FHANA representatives to the KFPS Member Council and the changes that have occurred within the KFPS structure. Mr. Vanderkooi discussed the challenges of the position in the last few years. Mr. Laude closed the topic with information on where to find the biographies and how to vote.
9. **Updated FHANA Volunteer Duties Commitment Letter.** Ms. Miley presented the revised version of the document. Mr. Kelnhofer commented he felt the document is fine except for the last two paragraphs and the signature requirement. Mr. Kelnhofer also stated the signature and deadline requirements are unrealistic given the number of members who would be expected to sign the document annually. Mr. Vanderkooy agreed with Mr. Kelnhofer and stated he would be happy with the document except the last three paragraphs. He suggested each committee chair be required to share this document with their committee members at the beginning of each year and the signature requirement be removed. **Mr. Kelnhofer made the motion the FMC recommend the FHANA Board remove the last three paragraphs and the signature requirement of the FHANA Volunteer Duties Commitment Letter. Ms. Sharp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
10. **FMC Description.** Mr. Laude introduced the FMC Description Document. Mr. Kelnhofer asked a committee consisting of himself, Mr. Vanderkooy, Mr. Laude, Ms. DePuydt be established to revise the document. Mr. Laude agreed and set a deadline for the May FMC meeting to complete the revision.
11. **Roundtable Discussion.** Mr. Bron commented the Northwest Friesian Horse Club is closing and he will not be able to participate in the FMC going forward. He commented how pleased he is that the FMC has evolved and come so far in its relationship with the FHANA board.
12. **Next Meeting Date.** The next FMC meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 27th at 7pm EDT.

13. Motion to Adjourn. Mr. Kelnhofer made a motion to adjourn. Ms. VerMerris seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm EDT.

FMC Minutes submitted by Angie DePuydt

