

## **FHANA Member Council Minutes:** September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **Present:**

Lisa Baker – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East  
Carrie Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association  
Pam Groom - Florida 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 (Vice Chairman)  
Joe Michielli – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club  
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association  
Annette Carpenter - Central California Friesian Horse Club  
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club  
Janice VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club  
Erin Miley – FHANA Board Liaison  
Angie DePuydt – Administrator  
Mat Jenkins – FHANA AGM Committee (Guest)

### **Absent:**

Marq Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter (Chairman)  
Danielle Barrasso - Friesian Horse Association of New England  
Lori Brock – North Michigan Friesian Club  
Beatrice Whiteley – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California  
Anna Osinga – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association  
Beth Sharp – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club  
Klazien Sietsma - Alberta Friesian Horse Association  
Caron Osborn – Administrator

**1. Opening Remarks and Introduction of Guests.** Mr. Laude was unable to attend the meeting so the Vice Chair, Mr. Kelnhofer, called the meeting to order at 8:01pm EDT. Mr. Kelnhofer welcomed Mat Jenkins from the FHANA Board and AGM Committee to the meeting.

**2. Approval of June 2022 Meeting Minutes.** Ms. VerMerris made a motion to approve the June 2022 minutes. Ms. Veinotte seconded the motion. Mr. Vanderkooy pointed out an error on page two, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The minutes should state that 75% of members previously had to vote “no” to approve a bylaw change. Ms. VerMerris made a motion to approve the amended motion. Mr. Vanderkooy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. 2023 FHANA AGM Update.** Mr. Jenkins detailed the unique events which will take place at the 2023 FHANA AGM in Las Vegas, NV. He encouraged chapters representatives to encourage their members to attend the AGM as well as provide support to the event.

4. **FHANA Board Updates.** Ms. Miley reported FHANA membership numbers are trending up again. Fall Inspections are already underway. Upgrades to the FHANA website have been approved and are underway. These updates include an option to opt out of emails, donation buttons, and auto generation forms for foal registration.

Ms. Miley reported the board discussed the feedback from the FMC about the stallion testing process and recommendation to reinstate the Stallion Testing Committee. The board approved a new mentor position to guide owners of stallions recommended for further evaluation through the testing process and Lana Markey will serve as the mentor. Mr. Vanderkooy commented at least one stallion has already been recommended this year, so FHANA is going to be going through the process and many members have expressed complaints with the process. The FMC recommended to the FHANA Board that a Stallion Testing Committee be put in place to address the issues with this important process. Ms. Miley said the board discussed if a committee or mentor was more appropriate. Mr. Vanderkooy commented those are two different issues and some stallion owners could definitely use a mentor but the procedures and policies for stallion testing, both internally at FHANA and externally with the KFPS, are different matters. Mr. Kelnhofer asked why the board is averse to having a stallion testing committee. Ms. Miley replied that the board felt the potential tasks a stallion committee would undertake have already been done and information about the process is already on the FHANA website. The board felt there was more opportunity for a mentor to walk stallion owners through the process. Ms. DePuydt commented that it was frustrating to listen to the discussion on the board meeting recording about the FMC's recommendation to reinstate the Stallion Testing Committee. It almost seemed as if a majority of the board members had not read the FMC's minutes and the detailed background on the FMC's discussion which led to their recommendation to reinstate the Stallion Testing Committee. Mr. Vanderkooy asked where stallions will go for testing now. There are other options besides California that were not available in the past. FHANA needs to review the location for testing. Mr. Michelli commented he could not agree more with Mr. Vanderkooy and the FMC's recommendation to reinstate the Stallion Testing Committee should be taken back to the board. Ms. Carpenter asked if the structure of this committee needs to be adjusted from the previous structure. Mr. Kelnhofer commented the previous committee was only two people and appeared to be fairly unproductive. Ms. Jeffcoat commented a Stallion Testing Committee is very important. More members should be involved besides just board members and the more eyes on the process the better. She agreed it needs to be more than just a two person committee. **Mr. Vanderkooy made a motion to recommend the FHANA Board put a properly constituted Stallion Committee in place. Mr. Michelli seconded the motion.** Ms. Veinotte commented she feels the committee should be three people at a minimum and it needs to be very transparent. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. DePuydt asked if Ms. Miley could update the FMC on their recommendation to remove the additional registration fee for foals sired by a non-North American based stallions. Ms. Miley reported the board did not feel the fee affected breeding decisions and that it might be more beneficial for FHANA to support North American based stallions. North American foals on average have a lower kinship than the Netherlands. The board asked the Finance Committee to look at the financial impact of removing this fee and also ask the Breeding Committee if the fee was driving members to support NA based stallions. Any change would be considered for 2023, not 2022. Ms. DePuydt asked if the data used to determine NA based foals have lower kinship could be shared with the FMC. Ms. DePuydt asked if the data came from the KFPS, and Ms. Miley replied it came from the FHANA Breeding Committee.

Mr. Kelnhofer asked if music was played at the inspections that have occurred this fall. Mr. Vanderkooy and Ms. Veinotte replied they had music at their inspections. Ms. Veinotte commented the quality of the ribbons this year was extremely poor, and they all had to be reglued or repaired.

**5. Interest in Future Winter/Spring Inspections.** Ms. Miley reported the board is gauging interest in Winter/Spring inspections and listed several reasons why they might be beneficial for members. Interested chapters/sites are encouraged to submit an application if they would like to host a Winter/Spring inspection. Ms. VerMerris commented there are several large training barns in their region which would appreciate additional inspection opportunities. However, if the inspections are not in the Spring, they should not be called that because Spring begins in April, not in February. Mr. Vanderkooy commented they are introducing Fall inspections in the Netherlands to primarily accommodate mares who have had a foal earlier in the year so they can be properly trained and inspected. The main question for sites is if we have additional inspections, will that dilute the numbers for our regular inspections? Some sites may have difficulty meeting their numbers. Ms. Miley felt these additional inspections would be limited and not all sites would take advantage of the opportunity due to weather and other logistics. Ms. Baker commented the weather isn't a concern for her region and it's a good opportunity to get a linear score sheet on a mare that you wish to breed that coming Spring. Ms. Miley requested that any interested sites submit an application so the Inspection Committee can move this initiative forward if there is enough interest.

**6. FMC's Role in the FHANA Bylaws.** Ms. Miley reported the Bylaw Committee is working this year on several updates to the FHANA Bylaws. The board would like to inquire how the FMC would like to be viewed, either as a committee or a stand-alone organization, so the Bylaw Committee can ensure the relationship between the FMC and FHANA is captured correctly in the FHANA Bylaws. Mr. Vanderkooy commented he felt the FMC's bylaws clearly detail the relationship between the FMC and FHANA and that the FMC is simply a voice and nothing more. Mr. Kelnhofer commented it was always the goal for the FMC to be a voice for the chapters and the members. He has listened to the recent board meeting recording about this topic, and he was discouraged that some board members seem to have a lack of understanding regarding what the FMC is and what they do. The FMC bylaws are very clear and although they were submitted to FHANA, it is clear the majority of the board has not read the FMC's bylaws. There has been some concern from the board about the FMC submitting motions because the FMC is not a committee. Mr. Kelnhofer stated the FMC's motions are simply a recommendation and the FMC does not fit into the same structure as a committee. Ms. Miley asked if the FMC needs to be explained in the FHANA bylaws. Ms. DePuydt commented when she listed to the board meeting recording some of the board members seemed fearful about the FMC being independent and not a typical committee, but she encourages the board to see that as a strength and not a weakness. The FMC is simply designed to provide member feedback and has no legislative authority. The fact the FMC has no authority prohibits them from interfering with FHANA policy and procedure. The recommendations they make to FHANA are just that, recommendations. If it would make the board more comfortable, the FMC can begin naming their motions as recommendations. Mr. Michelli asked if there is nothing in the FHANA bylaws about the FMC, does it raise concerns if the board does adopt a recommendation by the FMC? Ms. Miley replied this was part of the concern the board has, and she felt that calling the FMC's ideas a recommendation vs. a motion addresses that issue. Mr. Vanderkooy recommended we adopt the practice of noting in the verbiage of all the FMC's motions specifically that they are recommendations. Ms. Jeffcoat agreed with Mr. Vanderkooy's suggestion.

**7. B Book Horse Registrations.** Due to Ms. Bechler's absence, this item has been moved to the October FMC meeting agenda.

**8. Round Table Discussion.** There was no roundtable discussion.

**9. Next Meeting Date.** Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**10. Motion to Adjourn.** Ms. Groom made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Michelli. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Minutes presented by Angie DePuydt

