

## **FHANA Member Council Minutes: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Present:**

Marq Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter (Chairperson)  
Scott Kelnhofer – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East (Vice Chairperson)  
Mat Jenkins – Central California Friesian Horse Club  
Carrier Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association  
Lori Brock – North Michigan Friesian Club  
Jaime Caesar – New England Friesian Horse Club  
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association  
Heidi Smith – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association  
Joe Michielli – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club  
Anna Osinga – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association  
Mark McGowan – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club  
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association  
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club  
Pam Groom – Florida Friesian Horse Club  
Robin Spaeth – Friesian Horse Association of Oklahoma  
Erin Miley – FHANA Board Liaison  
Angie DePuydt – Administrator  
Caron Osborn – Administrator

### **Absent:**

Klazien Sietzema – Alberta Friesian Horse Association  
Janice VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club  
Beatrice Whiteley – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California

**1. Opening Remarks.** Mr. Laude called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm EST.

**2. Approval of January 2023 Minutes.** Mr. Vanderkooy made a motion to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Veinotte seconded the motion. Ms. DePuydt commented that she accidentally left Carrie Blair off the attendance list and would like to correct that. The amended motion passed unanimously.

**3. FHANA Board Updates.** Ms. Miley provided an update from the FHANA Board. The 2024 AGM will be held in Lexington, KY. Voting for the open KFPS Member Council seat is open until March 30<sup>th</sup>. There were no changes to the FHANA board officer positions. Mr. Vanderkooy requested confirmation that the FHANA board had initiated a voicemail service for B Book II questions. Ms. Miley confirmed this was correct, and these calls will be routed to FHANA Mentors or the office staff.

**4. Chapter Renewals.** Ms. DePuydt reminded chapters that if they have not renewed their chapter affiliation, they have until March 31<sup>st</sup>. There still are a few chapters that are working through their renewal process.

**5. Nominations for FMC Chair and Vice Chair.** Ms. DePuydt reported that there was only one nomination received for the position of Chairperson, which was for Mr. Laude, and he has accepted the nomination. There was only one nomination received for the position of Vice-Chairperson, which was for Mr. Kelnhofer, and he has accepted the nomination. An election is unnecessary because there is only one candidate for each position. Mr. Laude and Mr. Kelnhofer's terms will expire on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**6. Proposed Bylaw Change to Accommodate the Attendance of Guests.** Mr. Vanderkooy made a motion to approve the proposed bylaw change. Mr. Kelnhofer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. B-Book II Committee Progress and Report.** Mr. Kelnhofer asked for an update on the B-Book II committee's progress. Ms. Miley reported that the committee is diligently working through the process to bring the right recommendations to the FHANA board. Mr. Vanderkooy asked if it was correct that the committee was instructed not to meet for the next three months. Ms. Miley did not believe this was correct, and Mr. Laude was unaware of such a decision. Mr. Vanderkooy commented that he read the minutes of the first B Book II committee meeting and saw the recommendation to the board that due to the complaints from the office staff about spending too much time answering B Book II calls, the committee recommended that those calls be placed in a different category. Mr. Vanderkooy felt this creates two classes of FHANA members, B Book II horse owners, and everyone else. He feels this is offensive and open discrimination. He encourages the board to reconsider this action. Ms. Miley commented that it was not the board's intention for this to be discriminatory, and she will take this feedback to the board. Mr. Vanderkooy commented that many B Book II horse owners are minorities, and they are required to join FHANA to register their horses with the KFPS. By his estimation, the income from dues paid by FHANA members who own B Book II horses is approximately \$12,000 annually. For this amount of money, these FHANA members deserve the same level of service that all other FHANA members receive. Mr. Kelnhofer agreed with Mr. Vanderkooy that this policy is discriminatory and that discrimination is not a label that FHANA should want to receive. Ms. Brock commented that she often doesn't reach anyone when she calls the FHANA office and may not receive a returned phone call for a day or two. She feels the office is not attempting to be discriminatory. Ms. Osinga commented that in the B Book II Committee minutes, it's mentioned that if this voicemail service for B Book II phone calls doesn't work, FHANA may charge additional fees to FHANA members for the service to answer B Book II questions. She feels this would be further discrimination. Mr. Jenkins commented that the B Book II committee was never asked to discuss registering or inspecting B Book II horses. The primary purpose of the committee was to address the issues the FHANA office is experiencing with providing customer service. He feels a clear conflict exists between the FHANA rules and FHANA bylaw 3.1, which states that FHANA shall register all eligible Friesian horses in North America. Any B Book II horse is eligible for registration and inspection, so FHANA's rules on how they handle B Book II directly contradict the bylaws. Mr. Laude commented that the committee's scope had been shared with the FMC; however, after some discussion, it appears the document was never provided to the FMC. Mr. Vanderkooy commented that it might be correct, regarding the initial scope of the B Book II committee not including registration or inspection; however, members are aware that the KFPS has sent a letter to the board requesting that FHANA change its position regarding B Book II registration and inspections. Mr. Vanderkooy was also asked by members of the FHANA board to send a copy of his letter regarding B Book II registration and inspection to the FHANA B Book II committee, so he would like to know who will decide when the topic of B Book II registration and inspection is put on the agenda of the committee. Mr. Laude deferred the answer to this question to Ms. Miley who did not have an answer. Ms. Osinga commented that Mr. Smith is on the B Book II committee, and she believes he is

approving or disapproving agenda items. She has asked twice for a meeting and confirmed Mr. Vanderkooy's letter was sent to the committee, but so far, there has been no ability for the committee to discuss it.

**8. FMC Newsletter.** Mr. Kelnhofer proposed that he produce a newsletter with highlights from each of the FMC's meetings along with the approved minutes. This would allow chapter representatives to distribute this newsletter to their chapter members and invite chapter members to engage with their representatives on issues they may wish to have presented at the FMC's meetings. The FMC agreed that this was an excellent idea.

**9. Roundtable Discussion.** Ms. DePuydt asked the FMC not to forward the meeting link to anyone. All guests must have their names submitted by their chapter representatives to the administrators, so their FHANA membership can be verified before the meeting.

**10. Next Meeting Date.** The next FMC meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8 pm. EST

**11. Motion to Adjourn.** Mr. Kelnhofer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Minutes presented by Angie DePuydt