

Hello FHANA members! Some of you may recognise me from the education and marketing committees or some Keurings in the Northeast region, but for most of you who have met me, I am the scary lady with the binder who you didn't want marching towards you at the East Coast Fall festivities. For those who haven't met me, I am a housewife to an amazing man, Josh, who has made my dreams of not only owning a Friesian but also breeding them possible. I have been mapping out my fantasy ranch since I was four years old. Of course the Friesian was a huge part of that plan, even though I couldn't spell the word, I just had horses. But all my drawings were Friesians. I have no idea where this obsession came from or when it began. I can't remember a time when I wasn't laser focused on the breed, my mom even has stories that I have no memory of that revolve around my obsession. For all I know it stems from a single picture in The World Book Encyclopedia set my parents still have to this day.

Before starting our farm we were stationed in Germany and were able to visit the Netherlands a few times and see some of the big breeding farms there. When the Army called us back to the States, we began shopping for two mares to start our breeding herd. But Josh thought since there are three spots in a crate we should just get three mares. Needless to say he didn't have to twist my arm to buy another mare. Ironically the third mare was bought from an American breeder. We had the start of our breeding program. We moved back to the states and welcomed our first crop of foals in 2018. So began Warrior Ethos Farm. In addition to Friesians, we breed working line German Shepherds, of course we brought some back from Germany, maintain a small commercial laying flock to supply local grocery stores and restaurants with fresh eggs, and raise Irish Dexter cows for ourselves and the local community. We also maintain a few rental cabins for a local baseball summer program.

For those voting, I won't be able to impress any of you with my resume, there are no degrees, no large scale business deals in my background. I always knew that I wanted to be a wife, mother and to have a ranch. The first two in that list being the most important and key to being able to handle a ranch. In my mind the best way to tackle those goals was in an apprenticeship of sorts, so I became a nanny. What better way to learn how to take care of children and a household than by doing exactly that. Shortly after Josh and I were married we moved to Germany, where legally I was not allowed to work, but by that time I was expecting our first child. As our time in Germany wound down, I had to PCS first, without Josh. I started working the farm, welcomed a new baby and kept everyone and everything alive through the Winter, which happened to break records for both the coldest temperatures as well as the most snowfall this area had ever seen. But what I lack on paper, I more than make up for in my ability to work harder than anyone else, my perseverance, and my inability to leave work unfinished as I proven over and over again, both on our farm but also in volunteering and working on committees.

Fast forward to today, we now have four little troublemakers that we homeschool, a herd of six Friesians along with the token mini, too many dogs, too many chickens, too many ducks, and somehow both too many and not enough cows. Farming has a steep learning curve and we quickly had to adapt to the area and learn what worked on our farm and what didn't. Thankfully growing up as a Navy brat, being a middle child in a large family and then marrying a military man has perfectly equipped me to roll with the punches, quickly recover and form a new plan, and adapt, all traits that enabled me to act as barn manager and work the front desk at the East Coast 5th Circuit. It was after that week that I realised I was ready to run for the board and I hope you agree and vote for me this January.

### **2023 Board of Directors Election Questions:**

**• 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 knowledge of the breed and FHANA itself. I keep up to date with all the news both in the Netherlands and here... and abroad. I have read every BOD meeting minutes available, every committee minutes, the bylaws, the rules and regulations, the history. I recently found out that I am one of only 6-8 people who listen to the bod recordings each month. As soon as information comes out I am pouring over it. When the KFPS printed Judging the Friesian horse, I bought it as soon as it became available. I studied it, and then when the opportunity came I took the judging course. I know the breed and the registry, and not as someone who has just been a long time member but as someone who has studied it academically. This has helped me while serving on the education committee as well as the marketing committee. Knowing the breed and the registry is paramount, how can you represent and serve what you do not know?

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

I would like to see family memberships brought back, membership extended to two parents of the household and youth memberships to all the children 18yrs or younger living in the household.

Petition the KFPS for temporary Foal Book stallion permits to be allowed in remote locations. As much as we'd like to hold to KFPS standards, due to the diluted population of Friesians in North America, shortage of vets and difficulties in gaining access to viable semen we have to adapt.

Expand on the success of the 5th circuit and build in a breed show, allow people to show off their black pearls in the show arena. Start with the 5th circuit and expand into more shows. Aside from IFSHA there are only a handful of Friesian specific classes, let alone shows where

we can participate that are specifically geared towards Friesians. Make a US/CA talent cup, the same as the KFPS.

**• What could be improved to make FHANA more attractive to past members, existing members, or new members? How would you encourage members to be more involved in the association?**

I think it's the little things that count. A simple card expressing condolences when your horse crosses the rainbow bridge. A thank you for volunteering gift, simple things that aren't difficult to do but show that FHANA cares about you and your herd. If members don't feel that they have a relationship with the association they aren't going to treat it like a relationship. Making each member feel valued and like a person rather than a number in the membership. It's not much but it can help brighten someone's day and make them feel valued. And when people feel valued they are much more likely to become more involved. Encouraging ideas from our membership, and pushing more member involvement. I know many people would like to volunteer for committees but are intimidated or feel unqualified and don't reach out. The association/board/committee chairmen need to take the first step and invite individuals.

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

I believe that FHANA has a strong foundation in our bylaws. Most of the issues FHANA currently faces could have been avoided entirely by following our bylaws without bias. Blanket treatment, no favourites, no letting things slide. Clear cut rules that apply to everyone. I admit that sometimes it is uncomfortable but when rules are clear and you trust the BOD to follow those rules it doesn't come as a shock when the hammer comes down. Nip problems in the bud before they fester and become uncontrollable.