

FHANA Member Council Minutes: December 13th, 2024

Present:

Scott Kelnhofer – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East (Vice Chairperson)
Henk Sytsma – Central California Friesian Horse Club
Carrie Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association
Fernando Horwitz – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association
Joe Michielli – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club
Anna Osinga-Bouma – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association
Mark McGowan – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club
Klazien Sietzema – Alberta Friesian Horse Association
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association
Janice VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club
Marc DiLeo – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California
Robin Spaeth – Friesian Horse Association of Oklahoma
Beverly McGowan – North American Spanish Friesian Horse Association
Will Bron – Erin Miley
Angie DePuydt – Administrator
Caron Osborn – Administrator

Absent:

Marq Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter (Chairperson)
Lori Brock – Northern Michigan Friesian Club
Jaime Caesar – Northeast Friesian Horse Club
Lauren McDonald – Pacific Friesian Horse Club
Pam Groom – Florida Friesian Horse Club

Please refer to the meeting recording for complete/detailed comments: [FMC Meeting Recording – 13 DEC 23](#).

1. Opening Remarks & Announcement of Guests. Mr. Kelnhofer called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM EDT. He welcomed new representatives Fernando Horwitz (GLFHA) and Beverly McGowan (NASFHA).

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Mr. Michielli motioned to approve the November meeting minutes, and Mr. DiLeo seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstain (Mr. Horwitz).

3. FHANA Board Updates. Ms. Miley reported the FHANA Board approved the FMC's recommendation to approve the North American Spanish Friesian Horse Association's chapter affiliation application. The Rules and Regulations Committee has created a penalty chart for violations of FHANA's Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Conduct. The chart can be found under the rules and regulations tab on the FHANA website. Tjaarda 483 Sport Elite has been recommended for FHANA's Lifetime Achievement Award, and voting is open to members until December 31st. The AGM will take place February 23 – 24 in

Lexington, KY. The FHANA Town Hall will take place on December 14th, and the candidates are Fernando Horwitz, Beverly McGowan, Erin Miley, and Katie Wenger. Circuit 5 had 149 total entries and was very successful. Four stallions have been recommended for testing and will advance to the next stage of the selection process.

4. FHANA Committee Appointments. Ms. Osinga-Bouma inquired if FHANA may need better guidelines for its committees. She noted that several committees are not very active; some have more than one board member participating on them, some FHANA members are on as many as three committees, and there appear to be no guidelines regarding conflict of interest for committee members. Her concern is that this may lead to certain members having too much influence, and it does not leave room for other volunteers who may wish to be involved in committees. After considerable discussion, the council agreed to form a sub-committee to develop recommendations for FHANA regarding committees. Mr. Michielli, Ms. Blaire, Ms. McGowan, and Ms. Osinga-Bouma volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

5. Chapter Financials. Mr. Horwitz motioned that During the annual Chapter renewals, each Chapter must also submit its financial statements for the previous year. These financials must be signed off by each of the board members of the submitting Chapter. Mr. Horwitz feels this requirement is necessary because the Chapters operate with minimal oversight, and the majority of their members are FHANA members. Since the Chapters represent FHANA, it is important to protect the members from any potential misconduct. The motion failed to gain a second.

6. 2024 FHANA Budget. Mr. Kelnhofer discussed the 2024 FHANA budget and expressed concern about some items that were cut from the budget. He noted the Research Grant was cut from the 2024 budget even though “being a leader in genetic research and equine wellness” is the number one item on FHANA’s strategic plan, as requested by the members. He also noted that despite a projected decrease in 2024 memberships, the Marketing Committee budget was cut, which could hinder FHANA’s ability to attract new or renewing members. Ms. Miley explained why difficult decisions had to be made to create a balanced budget for 2024 without raising membership fees. A substantial discussion about the 2024 budget took place with some ideas on how to look at the budget with a more strategic, long-term vision vs. year to year.

7. Runners for Inspections. Mr. Horwitz discussed the expense of hiring Dutch runners for inspection. He found that the Dutch runners are charging other countries considerably less expensive running fees, but the cost of their hotels, rentals, cars, and meals are being covered in those other countries. He suggested that the FMC help organize runners amongst site hosts. Discussion occurred, reiterating that runners who come into the United States illegally on a tourist visa are not following U.S. immigration laws and that anyone who assists in this activity is also implicated.

8. Roundtable Discussion. Ms. Spaeth inquired about FMC representatives of chapters living outside of a chapter's typical geographical areas. There are no geographical boundaries for chapters; therefore, a chapter may appoint any members to represent them on the council. The council discussed the timing of Chair and Vicechair election dates to accommodate any replacements of council members who are also candidates for the FHANA Board of Directors. Mr. Kelnhofer will draft a bylaw amendment to address this and present it at the next meeting. Ms. Jeffcoat inquired when the members would receive the biographies of the candidates running for the FHANA Board of Directors. She felt it was unusual that members would only receive them after the Town Hall. Ms. Spaeth let the council know that Ms. Horsch, her Chapter’s new President, would replace her in January and thanked the council for the opportunity to participate.

6. **Next Meeting Date.** The next FMC meeting will occur on Wednesday, January 17th, 2023, at 8 PM EDT.

7. **Motion to Adjourn.** Mr. Kelnhofer motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. McGowan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM EDT.

Minutes presented by Angie DePuydt

