



WPCSA
2014 Convention
and
Annual
General Meeting



MINNEAPOLIS





MINNEAPOLIS



Welcome To The Welsh Pony And Cob Society Of America's 2014 Annual General Meeting!

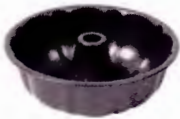
We are happy to have you join us and welcome you to beautiful (and cold) Minnesota! Minnesota is home to a great number of places including the famed Mayo Clinic, the first enclosed shopping mall, and the nation's largest urban sculpture garden. Many things were invented here, too: Post-It Notes, Scotch Tape, Aveda beauty products, Wheaties cereal, and the Bundt pan...just to name a few.

We're also the birthplace of Bob Dylan and Prince!

Please enjoy the samples and products included in your welcome bag, and we extend a big 'thank you' to those companies who donated items to the bags.

Again, welcome to the 2014 AGM and enjoy your time in Minnesota!

Allison Dahlin, Winter Hill Farm



Custom Printed Notes



Many Thanks To All Who Helped Put This Meeting Together!

Allison Dahlin - Long Distance Liason
Barb Anderson - Centerpieces
Mary Dahlin - Volunteering time
Nikki Braxmeier - Volunteering time
Harry & Jane Frank - Volunteering time AND raffle items
Reita & Jim Gelandar - Volunteering time AND raffle item
Donna Ley - Volunteering time
Tom & Christi Ahrndt - Volunteering time
Martha Stover & Marsha Himler - AGM Coordinators

AGM Sponsors

Platinum

John & Margaret Almond, Loafers Lodge
Shari Beecher, Heavenly Welsh Pony Farm
Allison Dahlin, Winter Hill Farm
Mary Dahlin, Winter Hill Farm
Martha Stover, Here-Be Dragons Farm
USEF



Gold

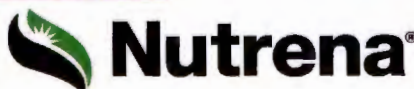
Tiz Benedict, Severn Oaks Farm
Pat Cochran, Lochinvar Farm
Brenda Heberling, B's Welsh Ponies
Kellie Hunter
Winona Myers, GreyGlyn Welsh Mountain Ponies, Imprint Farm

Silver

Lisa Brezina, Castleberry Welsh Cobs
Tammy Burgin, Farmore Farms Welsh Ponies

AGM Corporate Sponsors

Tizmar Equine out of Wind 'N Water Farm in Cannon Falls



Presidents Message - AGM 2014

Welcome to Minneapolis, Minnesota for the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America. Hope you and your ponies are surviving the "polar vortex" without too many problems. Since we know that you are probably tired of your winter clothes we have lots of indoor activities planned so you won't have to worry about the cold!

We encourage you to attend the committee meetings and open forum as well as the Board meetings on Thursday and Friday. We need your input as we plan the future of our Society. There is no substitute for face to face interaction especially in this day of email, Face Book, and Twitter. Exchanging ideas is an excellent way to start off the weekend with new and old friends in the pony/cob world.

You don't want to miss the always lively auction with our own Martha Stover as auctioneer on Friday evening. In conjunction with the auction we will honor our lifetime award winners. The Spotlight Luncheon on Saturday will feature our youngest riders as well as the year end high score winners in the open division. Year end award winners will be celebrated on Saturday evening. Congratulations to all of our 2013 award winners whose hard work and dedication have paid off! We wish you all Good Luck for the 2014 season!

I'm really excited to have Dr. Molly McCue and Dr. Elaine Norton from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine on Saturday afternoon to talk on New Insights into Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Laminitis. Their talk will include their research and the genetic studies specific to Welsh Ponies. So come Saturday afternoon to see the results of your donations to the WPCSA Foundation!

We finish off the weekend with an eagerly anticipated judges clinic given by Joanne Williams on Sunday morning. Her topic of "Linking breed type to movement, conformation, and soundness" promises to be of interest to everyone.

Our junior members led by Sally Ross Davis have their own schedule for the weekend with all kinds of fun and educational activities planned. We have some of the best junior members of any organization and are proud of their enthusiasm, friendliness, and camaraderie.

Thanks to all of our volunteers and sponsors who have worked on this AGM and also the volunteers who have given of their time, services and money over the year. The WPCSA couldn't function without our volunteers (including Board members) and staff especially our Executive Secretary Lisa Landis. We can't say thank you enough! To steal a quote from the US Pony Club Face Book page, "Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!"

As finances continue to be tight, we will need our volunteers even more. The world continues to change and it has definitely affected not only the WPCSA but all of the equine world. The WPCSA will need to adapt and be inventive in order to stay relevant and fiscally sound. There are a few bright spots but hard choices will have to be made while always keeping in mind our stated purpose of preserving and promoting our beloved Welsh ponies and cobs.

Dr. Ruth

WPCSA Annual Convention - Minneapolis, MN

Embassy Suites, Minneapolis Airport

February 20 - 23, 2014

Adult Schedule

Thursday, February 20

10:30 am Committee Meetings
12:00 pm Hospitality Suite Opens
1:00 pm Board of Directors meeting

Friday, February 21

9:00-12:00 pm Show Rules, Licensed Officials
and Regional Reps meeting
1:30-3:00 pm Open Forum
6:00-10:00 pm Reception
Life Time Awards
Silent and Live Auction

Saturday, February 22

9:00-11:00 am Annual General Meeting
12:00-2:00 pm Spotlight Awards Luncheon
Leadline, Walk Trot and
Open Awards
3:00-5:00 pm Equine Metabolic Syndrome -
Your Donations at Work
6:00-10:00 pm Year End Awards Banquet

Sunday, February 23

9:00-12:00 pm Judge's Clinic, Topic: Linking
Breed Type to Movement,
Conformation and Soundness
presented by Joanne Williams

Junior Schedule

Thursday, February 20

No Junior Activities Today

Friday, February 21

8:00-12:30 pm Free time for parents to take
youth to Mall of America
1:00-5:00 pm Junior Meet and Greet
6:00-9:30 pm Pizza and Swim

Saturday, February 22

9:00-11:00 am Junior Activity: Movie
12:00-2:00 pm Spotlight Awards Luncheon
Leadline, Walk Trot and
Open Awards
3:30-5:00 pm Just for Juniors Clinics, TBD
6:00-10:00 pm Year End Awards Banquet

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc.
Annual General Meeting

Saturday, February 22, 2014

Call to Order

- I. President's Report
 - II. Reading of the Minutes
 - III. Secretary's Report
 - IV. Treasurer's Report
 - V. Unfinished Business
 - VI. New Business
 - VII. Committee Reports
 - A. Financial - *Jackie Verkuyl*
 - B. American National - *Jackie Verkuyl & Martha Stover*
 - C. Marketing/Outside Advertising/Press Releases - *Martha Stover & Gretchen Aitken*
 - D. Stud Book - *Hetty Abeles & Tiz Benedict*
 - E. Journal/Review - *Margaret Almond*
 - F. Website - *Gretchen Aitken & Sally Steinmetz*
 - G. Youth - *Jackie Verkuyl & Patricia Cochran*
 - H. By-Laws - *Marsha Himler & Tiz Benedict*
 - I. Nominations - *Sabra Schiller*
 - J. Conventions & Annual Meeting - *Martha Stover & Margaret Almond*
 - K. International Ambassador - *Gail Thomson*
 - L. ADS Liaison - *Deborah Branson*
 - M. USEF Liasion - *Sally Steinmetz*
 - N. USDF Liasion - *Cindy Miller*
 - O. Pony Club Liasion - *Margaret Almond*
 - P. Licensed Officials Committee - *Tiz Benedict & Marsha Himler*
 - Q. Show Compliance - *Sabra Schiller & Marsha Himler*
 - R. Show Rules - *Sally Steinmetz*
 - S. Scholarship - *Sabra Schiller*
 - T. Welsh of the Year and Hall of Fame - *Jackie Verkuyl & Gail Thomson*
 - U. Inspectors' Committee / CPA Report
 - VIII. Next Annual Meeting
- Adjourn

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Secretary's Report

Transfers of Ownership								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Purebred	1136	1202	988	824	879	869	787	777
Half-Welsh	249	265	261	175	165	198	175	206
Part-Bred							4	2

Stud Book Entries								
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sec A	330	289	264	250	163	165	157	114
Sec B	363	370	347	374	276	256	220	170
Sec C	40	40	25	37	33	28	18	21
Sec D	64	86	68	68	36	57	35	24
Total	797	785	704	729	508	506	430	329

DNA Typings Due to White Markings							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Owners	2	1	1	1	2	3	1
Ponies	7	1	2	1	2	5	1

Half-Welsh Registrations							
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
342	422	333	281	227	268	156	145

Part-Bred Registrations						
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
12	6					

Artificial Insemination Permits		
	Permits Issued	Foals registered
Section A	142	47
Section B	218	191
Section C	17	31
Section D	82	101
Half-Welsh	1	559
Total	460	*929

Embryo Transfer		
	Permits Issued	Foals registered
Section A	6	
Section B	6	5
Section D	3	
Total	15	5

*47 registered during 2013, 26 of which are half-Welsh.

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc.

Income/Expense Statement - Budget

	2014 Budget	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	2010
REGISTRATIONS						
1001 Registrations	16,000	19,170	23,500	23,095	36,640	32,375
1002 Half-Welsh Registration	13,000	14,595	13,500	13,925	20,405	13,365
1017 Partbred Registration	3,000	4,010	1,850	1,500		
1003 Transfers of Ownership	22,500	22,645	22,600	23,285	28,820	23,750
1004 Half-Welsh Transfer	6,500	6,625	5,800	6,270	5,780	5,825
1018 Partbred Transfer	150	160	125	50		
1005 SS Reports	9,200	9,290	10,000	10,295	10,870	11,490
1006 DNA Typing	4,200	4,641	4,000	4,269	5,720	6,148
1007 Prefix Registration	1,500	2,400	1,000	1,125	1,500	1,875
1008 A.I./Frozen/ET Permits Income	1,400	1,645	1,200	1,355	3,575	1,715
1009 Duplicate Certificates	2,200	2,670	2,000	2,460	3,105	1,980
1010 Certificate Corrections	-	-	-	-	-	-
1011 Name Change	500	800	500	600	1,100	1,600
1012 Lease Agreements	600	590	500	595	850	775
1013 Extended Pedigrees	-	-	-	(18)	240	-
1014 Stud Book Sales	-	35	500	663	34	75
1015 Stud Book Photo Income	200	-	200	-	475	-
1016 Unprocessed paperwork	200	207	200	485	240	190
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Registration Income	81,150	89,484	87,475	89,954	119,354	101,163
2001 DNA Typing	2,700	2,970	2,800	2,985	4,114	4,457
2002 Stud Book	-	-	100	54	-	-
Registration Expense	2,700	2,970	2,900	3,039	4,114	4,457
Net Registration Contribution	78,450	86,514	84,575	86,916	115,240	96,706
MEMBERSHIP						
1201 Memberships	51,000	52,915	50,100	50,735	49,835	51,610
1202 Member-Breeder Directory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership Income	51,000	52,915	50,100	50,735	49,835	51,610
2201 Member-Breeder Directory	-	-	100	-	-	-
Membership/Education Expense	-	-	100	-	-	-
Net Membership Contribution	51,000	52,915	50,000	50,735	49,835	51,610
PUBLICATIONS						
1301 Newsletter Advertising & 1st Class Postage	16,000	11,850	25,000	25,619	26,317	25,009
1302 Journal Advertising		2,300	-	275	10,065	9,590
1303 Journal Sales		20	201	170	173	209
Publication Income	16,000	14,170	25,201	26,064	36,555	34,808
2301 Newsletter	16,000	13,926	25,000	15,378	32,239	15,921
2303 Journal	-	11,212	8,000	-	10,504	11,771
Publication Expense	16,000	25,138	33,000	15,378	42,743	27,692
Net Publication Contribution	-	(10,968)	(7,799)	10,686	(6,188)	7,116

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc.

Income/Expense Statement - Budget

	2014 Budget	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	2010
SHOWS						
1401 High Score/Show Sanctioning Income	25,000	29,735	25,000	25,658	22,641	27,048
1404 High Score Award Sales	5,000	7,972	4,400	5,560		
1402 Judges Licensing/Renewal Fee	1,500	1,895	1,500	1,575	1,800	-
1403 Judges clinics		-				
Show Income	31,500	39,602	30,900	32,793	24,441	27,048
2401 Show Sanctioning/High Score Expense (Awards)	7,000	6,641	7,200	7,166	7,850	6,572
2402 High Score Award Sales expense	8,000	-	2,400	2,757		
2403 Judges Clinic	-	-	-	-	200	-
Show Expense	15,000	6,641	9,600	9,923	8,050	6,572
Net Show Contribution	16,500	32,961	21,300	22,870	16,391	20,476
PROMOTION						
1502 Website Income	6,000	5,685	9,000	8,665	9,743	9,325
1503 Co-Op Advertising Income	-	-	-	-	1,847	5,815
1504 Promotional Items/Books	300	386	800	1,554	841	819
1505 Literature	100	109	100	355	64	115
1507 Open Show Program	500	510	800	670	-	
Promotion Income	6,900	6,690	10,700	11,244	12,494	16,074
2504 Co-Op/Advertising Expense	230	229	164	163	2,084	5,360
2505 Sponsorship of Awards		-	-	-	252	-
2506 Promotional Items		-	300	471	246	-
Promotion Expense	230	229	464	634	2,582	5,360
Net Promotion Contribution	6,670	6,460	10,236	10,610	9,912	10,714
PROGRAMS/AGM						
1501 AGM Registrations Income	10,000	14,420	15,750	17,930	17,465	20,835
Program Income	10,000	14,420	15,750	17,930	17,465	20,835
2501 AGM Expense	10,000	13,845	14,300	15,823	16,293	16,475
Program Expense	10,000	13,845	14,300	15,823	16,293	16,475
Net Program Contribution	-	575	1,450	2,107	1,172	4,360
FUNDRAISING						
1506 Stallion Service Auction	-	(275)	3,000	11,350		
1508 Raffle/Auction	3,000	3,242	5,000	2,055		
1601 Fundraising/Donations /Sponsorships	10,000	10,152	10,000	11,453	8,764	12,414
Fundraising Income	13,000	13,119	18,000	24,858	8,764	12,414

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc.

Income/Expense Statement - Budget

	2014 Budget	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	2010
OTHER						
1602 Rush	1,200	1,190	1,200	1,175	1,780	2,230
1603 Interest Income	500	495	1,500	1,580	2,845	3,047
1604 Forms	10	34	10	51	123	116
1605 Transfer lists	300	280	300	280	340	340
1607 Information/Reports	50	50	50	50	75	215
1608 Postage/Shipping	350	367	500	578	269	203
1606 Miscellaneous Income	200	195	200	319	2,590	415
1611 Transfer from Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
1609 Appropriation of retained earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	2,610	2,610	3,760	4,032	8,022	6,566
2601 Cash Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-
2602 Transfer to Foundation	3,000	3,242	2,000	2,055	4,185	-
2606 Miscellaneous Expense	2,000	2,200	500	560	1,057	10,136
Other Expense	5,000	5,442	2,500	2,615	5,242	10,136
Net Other Contribution	(2,390)	(2,833)	1,260	1,418	2,780	(3,570)
Total Income	212,160	233,008	241,886	257,610	276,930	270,518
Total Net Contributions	163,230	178,742	179,022	210,199	197,905	199,826
Operating Expenses						
2701 Building Maintenance & Upgrades	1,500	670	1,163	451	313	-
2707 Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
2702 Equipment & Furniture	3,500	300	500	-	-	-
2703 Rent/Mortgage	17,120	14,910	25,680	25,741	25,921	24,070
2704 Rental Equipment	-	-	-	-	913	779
2705 Repairs & Maint. - Equipment	500	434	500	150	739	170
2706 Utilities	2,500	2,438	2,500	2,498	2,450	2,553
Building & Equipment	25,120	18,753	30,343	28,839	30,336	27,572
2801 Computer Programming	500	-	500	-	-	-
2802 Dues & Subscriptions	350	350	350	350	350	325
2803 Insurance	2,700	2,688	2,900	2,821	2,684	3,109
2805 Legal & Accounting	1,400	735	2,000	1,023	760	1,687
2807 Bank Charges	5,000	5,377	5,000	5,217	5,059	-
2806 Licenses & Taxes	1,000	966	1,000	884	1,793	1,847
Professional Fees	10,950	10,116	11,750	10,294	10,645	6,968
2810 Office Supplies	2,500	2,705	2,000	1,999	4,739	2,874
2811 Postage	4,500	4,295	5,200	5,188	5,266	7,511
2812 Printing	1,000	777	1,000	506	2,789	904
2813 Telephone	2,150	2,151	1,980	1,770	1,706	1,689
2814 Internet	2,200	2,042	2,245	2,701	1,712	1,688
Office Supplies/Communication	12,350	11,970	12,425	12,163	16,212	14,666
2901 Salaries	117,000	105,220	112,000	112,184	139,190	156,637
2902 Taxes - Payroll	9,600	9,867	10,000	10,111	11,696	13,803
2903 Employee Benefits	-	1,048	-	6,853	8,800	8,553
2904 Travel	2,400	1,224	2,400	1,407	2,089	1,007
Salaries & Benefits	129,000	117,360	124,400	130,554	161,774	180,000
Total Operating Expenses	177,420	158,199	178,918	181,851	218,967	229,206
Net Income (Loss)	(14,190)	20,543	104	28,348	(21,062)	(29,380)
Total Income	212,160	233,008	241,886	257,610	276,930	270,518
Total Expense	226,350	212,464	241,782	229,262	297,992	299,898
Net Income (Loss)	(14,190)	20,543	104	28,348	(21,062)	(29,380)

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc.

Committee Reports

Licensed Officials Working Group Report

Submitted by Tiz Benedict and Marsha Himler

The major purpose of this working group is to develop guidelines and maintain programs for the development, training, and monitoring of WPCSA judges and technical delegates. Tasks include interviewing judge applicants, facilitating learner judging experiences as well as clinics and monitoring judge performance.

This past year, we have added several judges to our provisional and/or approved rosters. Judge applicants were interviewed at the 2013 AGM in Oregon, at shows in Maryland in June, and in November at the time of the excellent clinic in California among other places. The process for becoming a Welsh judge is multi-faceted and mentoring ideas for new applicants are needed.

We are in the process of establishing a library of educational materials. For example, through Lisa's hard work the WPCSA is now able to upload long videos to You Tube. This will allow us to develop a video library that can be accessed by our judges, exhibitors, etc. The Ridden Cob Video is the first to be uploaded. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io8OpNFIIvM&feature=plcp>

We are looking for other videos that would provide training opportunities for our judges and exhibitors and would appreciate hearing about any suggestions or videos that you (the membership) might have or know about.

On the web site, there are two good articles related to judges. One provides suggestions about what should be in contracts between judges and shows; and the second is an article about how to put on a judges clinic. Both are accessed on the web site by clicking first on show info and then show forms. For a paper copy of either of these articles or a list of good books about judging (in construction) contact Tiz by phone 410-518-9928 or email: mbenedic65@aol.com

Show Rules

Submitted by Sally Steinmetz

The latest Show Rules (effective December 1, 2013) are on the web site with the changes in red since the last time it was 'published'. The current Class Specifications are on the web site in two versions – one with changes in red to see the changes and a black and white version to copy on to Prize List and Judges Cards.

Below is a summary of the major changes. Please read the new rule book as this is not a complete list of changes.

- Changes to Low Hunter: Show management now has the choice of offering the division at 18" only (as it has been) or to offer it with a choice (not dependent on the animal's height) of jumping 18" or 2'. No animal may jump both 18" and 2' in this division at the same show. *See Article 112.8*
- Minor wording changes in Short Stirrup Hunter, *See Article 112.6*, and Long Stirrup Hunter, *See Article 112.7*
- Leadline rules and class specs make a reference to the attachment of the lead and specifically disallow chain leads. *See Article 115.4J*

Show Rules, cont'd

- A new safety statement for pairs, tandems, unicorns and four-in-hands. *See Article 106*
- An expanded Exhibitor Violation statement. *See Article 108.2*
- Additional way to divide Mare Breed classes. *See chart on Page 13.*
- More information on some Hunter Courses. *See Article 112.5.2 and Appendix B*
- Clarification to rules in Pleasure Driving, *See Article 113.1.1*, Carriage Driving, *See Article 113.2* and Draft Driving, *See Article 113.3*
- Only one learner judge is allowed in the ring at a time regardless of the number of judges. *See Article 126*
- No judge may adjudicate for the same show management at the same show for two consecutive years, or at two consecutive shows, or at two shows within the same show year. *See Article 130.*
- Additional changes to Judges Qualifications & Responsibilities, *See Articles 122 - 130*
- There are also changes to the rules in show compliance. Sabra Schiller is chairman of the Show Compliance working group and starting with the 2014 show year, these rules will be enforced.
- Expanded Show Application rules. *See Article 117*
- Insurance certificates must be received within 30 days of show. *See Article 117*
- New fines and clearer explanation of prize list compilation and distribution. *See Article 118.2*
- Requirement for ringmaster/ring steward capable of rendering assistance. *See Article 119*
- No more than two shows back to back. *See Article 121*
- The maximum fine for failure to report show results has been increased from \$200 to \$500. *See Article 118.7*

The results of the shows will now go directly to the office and be processed there as received from the show secretaries. For the past few years, we have been running the results through a program written by David Maurer to cleanse the data before uploading. We thank him for his expertise and his huge commitment of time in running this program and getting everyone up to speed on how the results should be sent in.

Possible Rule Changes that are in various stages of discussion are listed below. Please remember that it usually takes some period of time to get rules changed. On the first page of the Rule Book, it states the minimum time frame for the process: All suggested rule changes must be submitted to the Show Rules Chairman by October 1 for consideration by the Board at the next Board of Directors meeting. All approved changes will go into effect December 1 of the following calendar year.

1. Points/ Shows

The following ideas have been discussed extensively for the past year. Most people agree that we should probably try just one major rule change in this area. The first topic, eliminating the number of animals required for a show rating, seems to have the most support. It's been looked upon favorably by most people in all areas of the country especially since many shows are having trouble meeting the number of animals requirement. Most agree that we would want to increase the requirements for gold and silver shows if this were passed.

- a) **Eliminating the number of ponies for a show rating**
If the number of animals requirement was dropped, also change the gold and silver show requirements and the application fees.
- b) **Points based on number of ponies beaten**
The idea behind this is to give ponies that win in large classes more points. Our computer program could be modified to track this for a nominal fee.
- c) **Double performance**
Although there are many people in all areas of the country that like the idea of having two judges to judge performance classes at the same time like we do in breed classes, there are many against it. Double sets of points would be awarded. USEF does not point any other breeds that offer double performance
- d) **More points for National and Regional Shows**
This has been requested for many years. The most popular solution is for national and regional shows to get quadruple points
- e) **American and Regional winner's recognition equally under both breed judges.** (i.e. two American National Champions, Grand Champions, Supremes, etc) *Article 117.2*

2. Trail

It was recommended that we expand upon our trail rules and this task was given to a sub-committee. We don't have any recommendations at this time.

3. Other Rule Suggestions

- In performance: No twisted wire bits of any kind are allowed. Use of a twisted wire is cause for elimination.
- In Western *112.4.4* Clarification of curb bit: Any bit with shanks is considered to be a curb bit regardless of the type of mouthpiece
- In English Pleasure and Ridden Welsh and Hunter EQ, *112.3.1, 114.3.2 and 115.7.3*: maximum length of whip, if carried, shall be 30 inches.
- For Ridden Welsh preliminary class, the rule book says enter at trot, but the Judges card specs say to enter at walk. The Championship class for both says enter at walk, so those match.
- In all pleasure divisions come up with a different set of classes for the division rather than having three classes almost exactly the same in a row.

Web Site

Submitted by Sally Steinmetz & Gretchen Aitken

The Society's web site, along with email newsletters and social media, is one of the most important ways to communicate with the membership and those interested in the Welsh breed. We are striving to improve both the look and functionality of the site.

This year we updated many of the forms, improved on keeping data current and continued to update our lifetime winners. The site has had some compatibility issues with newer versions of some browsers and we are in the process of having that fixed.

Some improvements we'd like to make include:

- Larger thumbnails and easier to place classified/stallion ads
- News page that's more user friendly
We are also in the planning phase of creating a 'members only' area of the site where members can sign in with a username and password. The following is a list of some of the features being considered:
- Have sign in link on home page (use membership # or email as username)
- Ability to handle forgotten usernames/passwords
- Member information (name, address, email, phone) & capability to update it
- Membership type and expiration if applicable
- Ability to renew membership
- List of currently owned animals with links to pony information and points
- Access to information such as:
 - Expanded financial information
 - .pdf files of Welsh Review
 - Educational and feature articles
 - Member-Breeder directory
- Ability to fill out and/or submit:
 - Stallion Service reports
 - Registrations including photos
 - Show applications
 - Year-End and Lifetime winners photos with releases for WPCSA to use them

Nominations

Submitted by Sabra Schiller

The Nominating Committee for 2013, composed of Sabra Schiller, Chairman, Christi Ahrndt, Margaret Almond, Carol Maurer and Mary Alice Williams reported the following slate: Tiz Benedict, Sally Steinmetz, Martha Stover and Jackie Verkuyl. Also on the ballot will be Megan Burtness.

Show Compliance

Submitted by Sabra Schiller

This new committee was created to insure that the rules and regulations of the WPCSA are followed for all of our shows. The committee will oversee the approval of the prize lists, the running of your show, your responsibilities before and after said show and the points for your winnings. Our goal is to keep your show from being fined.

Our aim is to approve the prize list and get it back to you as soon as possible. We have new rules, therefore new specs, so you need to check the WPCSA website for them. A check list for compiling your prize list is also there.

Most members understand the running of the show before and after. We do have forms (found on website) that MUST be filled out and returned to the WPCSA. Please don't just check everything, be honest about how it went. We will be auditing your show's files every week and let you know what we have yet to receive.

We do have someone on our committee that can help you with you points if you wish. This committee is here to help you put on a great show with as little trouble as possible.

Marketing & Press Releases

Submitted by Martha Stover

Thank goodness the AGM generates a flurry of excitement and reminds us that Spring "might" be around the corner. We always have a number of press releases to issue following the AGM; our Welsh of the Year, scholarship recipients, election and auction results and of course our year end award winners. Following recent AGMs it has been mighty difficult to gather and release news the old fashioned way when social media has become the marketing method of choice. While much of our membership has evolved to posts and tweets, the reality is we need to have a balance in terms of our news as there will always be those from both traditional and digital audiences. We need to amp up our participation in digital versions of branding, advertising and communication. I am hopeful that this meeting will generate ideas on how to effectively get our message across while maintaining the integrity of the Society's news.

Youth

Submitted by Patricia Cochran

I am pleased to serve as the new Chair of the Youth Committee. I've been a committee member for over 20 years and believe fervently in the Society's work with, and for, its young people. In the months ahead, I plan to implement a Youth Advisory Board that can work, with the committee, to expand our Society's connection with all our junior members.

The Junior Merit Program has seen good success and is proud to present awards to six of its members. A special thanks, as always, to Sally Ross and Elizabeth Lemke, for their continued work on behalf of the Youth Committee and our juniors.