

# WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 20, 2014

### PROPOSED AGENDA

- I. President's Report
  - II. Reading of the Minutes
  - III. Secretary's Report
  - IV. Treasurer's Report
  - V. Unfinished Business
  - VI. New Business
    - A. 2015 Annual Convention – Marsha Himler
    - B. Other
  - VII. Committee Reports
    - A. Finance – Jackie Verkuyl & Gail Thomson
    - 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 & Pat Cochran
    - H. By-Laws – Marsha Himler & Tiz Benedict
    - I. Nominations – Sabra Schiller
    - J. Convention & Annual Meeting – Martha Stover & Margaret Almond
    - K. International Ambassador – Gail Thomson
    - L. ADS Liaison – Deborah Branson
    - M. USEF Liaison – Sally Steinmetz
    - N. USDF Liaison – Cindy Miller
    - O. Pony Club Liaison – Louise Gill
    - P. Licensed Officials – Tiz Benedict & Marsha Himler
    - Q. Show Compliance – Sabra Schiller & Marsha Himler
    - R. Show Rules – Sally Steinmetz
    - T. Welsh of the Year and Hall of Fame – Jackie Verkuyl & Gail Thomson
    - U. Regional Representative Liaison – Margaret Almond
    - V. CLOSED SESSION:  
Resolutions, Qualifications, Ethics
  - VIII. Next Board Meeting
- Adjourn

# WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

## OPEN FORUM MEETING

Friday, February 21, 2014

Martha Stover discussed the advertising and cooperative marketing campaigns we have had in the past. It is no longer effective to ask for cooperatively funded print ads. She and her working group will be changing for the digital marketing world. Input and suggestions for sites to place banners are needed. Using the photo contest pictures to make a photo book was suggested.

The qualifications to become a Director were discussed. Currently, you must be a life member and either report two mares on a stallion service report each year or have registered over your lifetime 25 purebred foals.

Comments from the members included:

- Breeding two a year is not so difficult.
- Perhaps requiring someone to be a member five to seven years
- It was suggested that attending five to seven board meetings or AGMs should be required. It would be very difficult for someone to come in to run the organization if they had never attended a meeting.
- We need to protect the breed by having people dedicated to the breed and not the horse show world.
- Maybe we could have a certain percentage of people who are not active breeders.
- Requiring a life membership was discussed. We do allow you to pay for a life membership in a few installments.
- The historical input from directors who have some continuity is just as important as the fresh ideas of new people.

Travel and other expenses are not reimbursed and it is very expensive to be a Director. Many people who might want to be on the Board cannot afford to pay the expenses. However, that does not mean they cannot be active members and participate in the running of the Society. This economy has been hard on everyone.

It is very important that the communication to get back to the members that we are not trying to be exclusionary. We want more involvement from the membership. Maybe being a director isn't your thing, but you can pick a specific job and volunteer.

Pat Cochran who is unable to attend the Convention has asked that we do a membership drive for 2014. If you sell a pony, include the price of a membership for a year if the buyer isn't already a member.

Regional reps are really needed to help keep the communication going. This was the first year and things are a bit loose but we will be reminding the volunteer reps of their responsibilities. One area expressed concern that their regional reps were not answering communications.

The odds are really good for the USPC grant program right now. It is believed they have only received 500 requests and have 100 grants to give.

We are looking at way to increasing revenue. Some of the ideas submitted are:

- Accepting digital photos for an additional fee. This could make it easier to complete registrations and give us a small amount of revenue.

- Website banner ads are working again. We are reviewing the price structure. Perhaps we could have limited number available and offer them to the highest bidder.
- The e-news will be offering banner ads. Please remember if you unsubscribe from the e-news, you cannot get another email through that program.
- A membership upgrade package that would include bulk advertising specials.
- Another corporate sponsorship push.
- The stallion auction can be looked at again.

The American National show was discussed. Topics included:

- Some people wish we would go back to a rotating system.
- The Tulsa Fair Board's new policy of not allowing long distance haulers in early to rest is a problem.
- The lack of a warm up ring is a problem. A better schedule will be discussed with the Fair.
- One of the largest benefits of Tulsa is having over 1,000,000 attend the Fair – which is huge to corporate sponsorships.
- Last year there were over 200 ponies.
- The total prize money was in excess of \$10,000

Wynona Myers gave an overview of the expenses the OK-KS Welsh Club pays that are not reimbursed by the Fair. She detailed the fundraising options such as class sponsorship, donations to the regional baskets, program advertising and banners for the American National show.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **SHOW SANCTIONING WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**Friday, February 21, 2014**

Sally Steinmetz asked everyone to update their contact information.

She reviewed her report (filed herewith). Additional requirements for gold and silver shows were discussed. Many felt that the silver show prize money should not be increased. Adding a new higher platinum level was discussed. These ideas will be sent on to show management for input.

Trail requirements are being looking at.

A show of hands for allowing both judges to be supreme champion of a Regional or American National show indicated more than half were in favor. However, this was not a very large sampling of exhibitors.

Entering the ridden Welsh at a walk or trot was discussed.

Twisted wire bits were discussed. It was suggested that the fact that they are prohibited needs to be put at the beginning of the general rules.

The rules for Western and Stock seat equitation need to be cleaned up, especially for clothing.

Holding three classes in a row was discussed. Having two classes instead of three was discussed. Maybe the judges need to be better educated for having tests.

Offering speed classes and fun classes was discussed. Ride-A-Buck is a fun and easy class to add.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **LICENSED OFFICIALS WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**Friday, February 21, 2014**

Tiz Benedict reported that the working group is working on the following:

- Revising the forms.
- Getting a media library together. We need lots of help as we would like to develop videos that can be put online for judges and exhibitor education.
- Revise the judge's clinic requirements. There is a nice article online from Donna Ley about holding a clinic. However, we need to revise the requirements for holding a clinic.
- Mentoring new judges through the application process. One of the references should be requested to follow the applicant judge to help them stay on track.
- Judges are required to complete an evaluation form. We need to set this up so that the judges can do this directly on-line. We can send them the form as well. Shows should not be fined and neither should the judge if the form is not received.
- The working group is responsible for holding the judges clinics at the Convention. Suggested topics are needed.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**

**Friday, February 21, 2014**

Margaret Almond led the meeting for the Regional Representatives.

Discussions included:

- Standardizing the duties of the regional reps.
- Submitting information on a regional basis for press releases.
- This is one way that people can be groomed to be future board members.
- Need feedback from all members.
- The southeast representatives sent out an email to all of the members in their area. They were received a great deal of positive feedback. All of the suggestions (many of which are already implemented) will be printed in the Welsh Review.
- Each region should be submitting news for the Welsh Review. Heather McKerregan coordinated a very nice coop spread of Northwest breeders to pay for their feature article in the Review.
- This is a volunteer position, but volunteers need to be responsive and not sign up if they are not going to follow through. It does not look good for the Society if the representatives do not respond to the members or submit reports for the Review.
- Regional reps could contact new people and host open farm tours to get them in touch with more people in their area.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Thursday, February 20, 2014**

The Board of Directors' meeting of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc. was called to order by the President, Dr. Ruth Wilburn, at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2014, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. With the exception of Mrs. Cochran, all Directors were in attendance as was Mrs. Landis, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

### **I. President's Report**

The President welcomed the Board and observers.

### **II. Reading of the Minutes**

Mrs. Verkuyl's motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes was unanimously adopted.

### **III. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report (filed herewith) was reviewed. Things are changing and we need to adapt to having fewer registrations.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

Mrs. Verkuyl reviewed the budget (filed herewith). There are many registrations in pending. We will look into the possibility of accepting digital photographs for a small fee. We need to focus on raising funds. Shingles and gutters on the office building need to be replaced, and this is not reflected in the current budget. The website is a good opportunity to increase revenue and the banners have been repaired. We can add banners to the e-newsletters. We need to see what other breeds offer. Giving the website data for a reduced rate to new members was discussed. Mrs. Steinmetz asked if we could ask for input regarding the buy up awards on facebook and in the e-newsletter.

### **V. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **VI. New Business**

Locations for the next two Conventions were discussed. Florida is at the top of the list for 2015 and San Diego for 2016.

### **VII. Committee Reports**

#### **AMERICAN NATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

The President reported that the OK-KS Association has been working hard to get sponsorships for next year. For 2013, they had a kids' booth and a very professional looking exhibitors' party. More work is needed from the Society in the corporate sponsorship area. Martha will update the flyers. We need more discussion with the local club on the division of sponsorship monies.

#### **MARKETING/OUTSIDE ADVERTISING WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Stover reported that she gave a last ditch effort to getting paper ads. People do not want to do paper advertisements. She and her working group will research ways to become more involved digitally on some larger websites. She feels it is best to put the focus of the cooperative marketing program to the electronic media. Press releases will still go to both digital and published venues.

#### **STUDBOOK WORKING GROUP**

The 1997-1999 stud book is in the works. We need to send out reminders of how to order them. Mrs. Abeles will visit the office in the near future to finalize the photographs for this edition.

#### **INTERNAL PUBLICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

Dr. Almond reported that getting people to send in their information is still a major concern. We need ideas of ways to economically get extra copies out in places where they will be used by potential new owners and members. Mrs. Aitken and Megan Burtness have volunteered to take over publication of the Journal.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Thursday, February 20, 2014**

### **WEBSITE WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Aitken asked for guidance as to what we need to do about the website. Mrs. Steinmetz will work with her. Perhaps a totally new space as the member's only site will be better than trying to add it to the existing framework of welshpony.org. It could be accessed directly and from links on the main website.

### **YOUTH WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Cochran's report is filed herewith.

### **BY-LAW WORKING GROUP**

Ms. Himler will start working on the proposed bylaw amendment from the Board that will ease the requirements of becoming a director. Ideas that need to be considered include: membership requirements, AGM attendance, and the possibility of opening one slot for people who are not breeding. We need to look long and hard at this and think of all of the long term ramifications. We need to start hashing out the details, and this would be a good topic of discussion for the area reps. Mrs. Steinmetz and Ms. Himler will update the research they did a few years ago. We need to ask the membership for input at the open forum.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

No report needed.

### **CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING WORKING GROUP**

The President thanked Mrs. Stover and Ms. Himler for a great job doing this one Convention. The hotel is a super choice.

### **INTERNATIONAL LIAISON**

Mrs. Thomson reported that Tom Best has written a new book about Section B's entitled *The History of the Welsh Pony*. It is very professional and well done. We will look to see if we can get a bulk discount from Medina Publishers.

### **ADS LIAISON**

No report received from Deborah Branson.

### **USEF LIASON**

Sally Steinmetz reported that the permanent card age after this year will change to eight years. The measurement card rule change came through the USHJA and went directly to the approval calendar. The USEF Welsh committee works to keep the USEF rules in sync with our rules. They have reorganized their Board of Directors structure. The smaller breeds and disciplines are now represented on the National Breeds and Disciplines Advisory Group. Dr. Wilburn was elected to represent that group on the National Breeds and Disciplines Council so we now have a stronger role within the organization.

### **USDF LIAISON**

No report received from Cindy Miller.

### **PONY CLUB LIAISON**

No report received from Louise Gill.

### **LICENSED OFFICIALS WORKING GROUP**

Dr. Benedict's report is filed herewith. The group is working on a mentoring program and a video library for judges. Megan Burtness is working on a video from the trail clinic and Arthur Thomson will video the clinic at this Convention. A set of standardized questions is needed for interviewing judge applicants. Perhaps we could use the UK video. The form for the requirements of judges' clinics will be redone. The working group is in charge of the doing the clinics at the AGM and needs to be working on the one for next year.

### **SHOW COMPLIANCE**

Mrs. Schiller's report is field herewith. She contacted all of the shows that we did not have a record of their insurance last year and found that they all had it but did not file the paperwork with us. The judges' letter will remind them to send in their evaluations of the shows. All of the show forms need to be updated.



# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Thursday, February 20, 2014**

### **WELSH OF THE YEAR & HALL OF FAME**

Mrs. Verkuyl reported that there were seven nominations for Welsh of the Year. The winner will be announced during the AGM. Mrs. Verkuyl and Mrs. Thomson will work on the Hall of Fame program for next year.

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Dr. Almond reported that in addition to their regular report for the Welsh of the Review the Regional Representatives will be searching for a youth to spotlight in the Welsh Review. This working group is a good place to start grooming future directors.

### **SHOW SANCTIONING**

Suggestions for the changing the requirements for gold shows were discussed and will be discussed again at the show rules working group meeting the next day.

The President recessed the meeting at 3:52 p.m. to be reconvened on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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Lisa L. Landis  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

# WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 22, 2014

### PROPOSED AGENDA

- I. President's Report
  - II. Reading of the Minutes
  - III. Secretary's Report
  - IV. Treasurer's Report
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  - VI. New Business
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    - A. Finance – Jackie Verkuyl & Gail Thomson
    - 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
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    - I. Nominations – Sabra Schiller
    - J. Convention & Annual Meeting – Martha Stover & Margaret Almond
    - K. International Ambassador – Gail Thomson
    - L. ADS Liaison – Deborah Branson
    - M. USEF Liaison – Sally Steinmetz
    - N. USDF Liaison – Cindy Miller
    - O. Pony Club Liaison – Louise Gill
    - P. Licensed Officials – 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.**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

The Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America, Inc. was called to order by the President, Dr. Ruth Wilburn, at 9:13 a.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### **I. President's Report**

The President introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The President read the purpose of the Society from the By-Laws which is as follows: The purpose of this Society is to maintain a Registry for the recording of pedigrees and transfers of Welsh ponies and cobs, to promote the breeding and use of the breed while striving to maintain its purity and trueness to type and to further its welfare in every way.

She asked each person to introduce themselves.

The President noted that we would like to remember those who have passed during the year. Mrs. Abeles gave a short talk about two of these people, Jean Shemilt and Gary Baker, who both had been very instrumental in the Welsh pony world. Mrs. Shemilt was internationally recognized as she bred ponies in both the UK and here. She was a very valuable communicator for the WPCSA when she was on the Board. Mr. Baker was a great friend of our breed. He was a recipient of the USEF Pegasus Medal of Honor, a member of the Virginia Horse Show Association national Hall of Fame, and he sat on both the Pony Breeders Task Force and the Chairs Council. He worked very hard to keep the conformation in the performance. The President noted the recent passing of Shirley Hoffecker, the mother of Board member Margaret Almond, who was always a friendly face at the shows and had taken in the Wilburns. Other members remembered included Max Herstine, Daryn Johnson, Douglas Stetson, Gordon Gaskill, James McLean and George Fischer.

The President said that she would break with tradition and read the results of the election. Chavez, Baker & Associates reported that 379 ballots were received. Of those, seven were not valid for the following reasons: 1 Not an official ballot form; 1 Did not follow voting guidelines; 4 Member signatures not on the ballot envelope; 1 Voter not listed on voter sheet.

The results of the 372 valid ballots resulted in the following votes: Tiz Benedict – 277; Megan Burtness – 183; Sally Steinmetz – 267; Martha Stover – 245; Jackie Verkuyl – 295. The results of the 330 valid bylaw amendment votes resulted in 116 (35%) votes for the amendment and 214 (65%) against the amendment.

The President welcomed the returning Directors and thanked Mrs. Burtness for running. She noted that there seems to be a perceived problem of stagnation on the Board. However, we do need some long-term Directors to provide historical background for continuity. Term limits sound good and work in large organizations. However, it is much more difficult in smaller organizations. Just because someone meets the eligibility requirements does not mean they will make a good Director. We need people who will think about what is best for the breed now and in the future if we are to maintain the registry. Change for the sake of change is not always good. The board is looking for ways to expand the eligibility requirements of Directors. One idea is to groom area reps to be on the board. We are looking at other things like lowering the number of foals required or dropping the lifetime membership. In looking at the results, 65 percent of those members who voted felt that there was no change needed. The Directors take all of this very seriously. Just because they have not jumped in and taken immediate action, does not mean they are not paying attention. You must look at all sides of the picture. Bylaws are not changed lightly.

The President thanked all of the volunteers who have worked so hard this year. She reminded those present that the Directors do not get paid for anything, whether it is time, energy or money. If a person does not meet the current requirements to be on the Board, they can still do a lot for the Society. They can provide very valuable services. If you would like to volunteer, just pick an area you are interested in to see if there is a niche where you can help.

The Minnesota group has put on a wonderful convention, and we won't hold the weather against them. There are a lot of other people who have helped and we greatly appreciate each of them.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

Times are still hard but things are looking up. We only have seven more years on the mortgage. We still need to think outside the box to be relevant, fiscally sound and to bring in new members. She thanked everyone for attending and asked them to please remember that the Directors are not ogres. If you have a suggestion or concern, please let us know or go to your area reps. However, just because immediate action isn't taken doesn't mean that we are not listening.

### **II. Reading of the Minutes**

The President asked for the reading of the minutes of the previous annual meeting. The motion by Sally Ross Davis that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with was seconded.

### **III. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was printed in the program given to each member. It was noted that we all need to encourage new members.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

The budget was printed in the program given to each member. Mrs. Verkuyl reviewed the report. Last year, income was \$20,000 over expenses. However, for 2014, expenses are planned to be higher than income. Our two main sources of revenue are registrations and memberships. While we are not encouraging indiscriminate breeding, we would encourage breeders to see that all of those who are born get registered. We have fewer members as people who are breeding less do not renew. When you sell a pony, please buy the new owner a membership. We want to get more people involved and to increase the membership revenue. The Welsh Review is now paying for itself. The show program in 2013 had an increase in the number of shows so the revenue was significantly higher than budgeted. However, we do have some additional expenses due to an invoice that was received late. There will be fewer shows sanctioned this year. Therefore, we project less income. The website has the potential to generate a lot of revenue at little cost. We are working on ways to improve the use of the website and the services that can be offered on-line. The classified ads, breeders and stallion listings are the place new people go to first. Banner issues have been resolved and new pricing will be released shortly. We will be contacting the Minnesota group for ideas to take their corporate sponsorship ideas on to the national level. Salaries have increased only because we have hired an additional part-time person. We now have two full time employees and two part-time employees.

### **V. Committee Reports**

#### **AMERICAN NATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

Denise Dougherty reported that they are trying to make improvements each year and are open to suggestions. They are trying to make it special and are talking about posting up-to-date results on-line throughout the show. Last year there were 210 total entries. They have added roadster for this year. Sponsorship information is available in the hospitality room. All of the money received by the club goes into the show for prizes and show improvements.

#### **MARKETING/OUTSIDE ADVERTISING/PRESS RELEASE WORKING GROUP**

The e-newsletters will have banner advisements. While we would like to pursue print ads, suggestions for going digital are most appreciated. The photo contest is a result of the original idea of branding with great photos and simple words. It would be great to transfer this into a new media. More of the past examples will be made available. We may be able to develop them into posters that we offer for sale.

#### **STUD BOOK WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Abeles reported that it is now really easy to print the last studbook on Lulu. You can call yourself a breeder only if you own and study the studbook. It is fascinating to research pedigrees.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

### **REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

Dr. Almond reported that we are working really hard to get the Review to stay on track. We need articles and more input from regional reps. The spotlight in the next issue will be show hopefuls as we look forward to the show season. We rely on the members for the submissions. She is learning as we go but will do her best. We encourage people to write articles and will help in any way we can. Articles are needed from breeders about bloodlines, newer bloodlines as well as the older ones. If your animal is doing well in an outside discipline, please write it up and send it in. It is very hard to get articles from people. It was suggested that we write an article about what kind of articles we want and need. Susie Koos Acker of the American Driving Society volunteered to share driving articles with us. Arthur Thomson will send some action photos from the Royal Welsh. An article about new breeders is in the works and we need suggestions for the author to interview.

### **JOURNAL WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Aitken and Megan Burtness will be working on 2011-2012-2013 edition. July 1st is their deadline. They are working on show articles and are ready to move forward with a September printing goal. Newer members need an explanation of what we are looking for as they are not familiar with the Journal. Members who have already submitted will be contacted. We need to keep the deadlines so we can get back on track.

### **WEBSITE WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Steinmetz reported that we have a lot of good ideas for improving the website. There is opportunity to generate income to offset the new programming needed. We need ideas for what you would like to have in the new website. Mrs. Aitken will be taking the lead on the website.

### **YOUTH WORKING GROUP**

Sally Ross Davis and the Heim family were thanked for doing once again taking care of the youth program at the AGM. Pat Cochran, who could not attend the meeting due to illness, will be the new Youth Committee Chairman.

### **BY-LAWS WORKING GROUP**

Ms. Himler thanked all of the members who worked on the by-law amendment for the ballot. For this coming year, we will be looking at ways to relax the guidelines to open up possibilities for ways to be on the board. Volunteers are needed to help.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

The president thanked Sabra Schiller for her work this year as the Nominating Committee Chairman and asked for volunteers for the coming year.

### **INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR**

Mrs. Thomson reported that Tom Best in Britain has written a wonderful book on the Section B's entitled *The History of the Welsh Pony*. We are trying to obtain a bulk discount on the book. The trend of looking like British Riding Ponies seems to have gone away.

### **ADS LIAISON**

Susie Koos Acker from the ADS spoke about the breed partnership program. It is a way to work cooperatively with other organizations as we all face the same marketing and growth issues.

### **USEF LIAISON**

The permanent card age after this year will change to eight years. The measurement card rule change came through the USHJA and went directly to the approval calendar. The USEF Welsh committee works to keep the USEF rules in sync with our rules. They have reorganized their Board of Directors structure. The smaller breeds and disciplines are now represented on the National Breeds and Disciplines Advisory Group. Dr. Wilburn was elected to represent that group on the National Breeds and Disciplines Council so we now have a stronger role within the organization.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

The President was asked to explain her role on behalf of Welsh at the USEF Pony Hunter Finals. About 10 years ago, she began going to the finals to give high score awards out for the ponies to encourage owners to register them and so that they can be recognized as Welsh. She has worked cooperatively with other members to provide the labor to track the scores and to give the prizes. Currently, the children receive neck ribbons made by Shawn Bigley, halters from Just for Ponies, and a \$250 check for each division. Sally Steinmetz did a printed program identifying the Welsh.

One benefit is getting the true identity of some of the ponies known. If you know someone not showing under the proper information, we can help to get that corrected in the USEF data base.

### **USDF LIAISON**

Kellie Hunter has offered to be our new dressage liaison. She works with many different breeds and riders but is very excited about Welsh and wants to help promote the breed. She will be campaigning her Section D at Devon and wants to recognize our breed there. She would like to propose that the WPCSA sponsor the class for Welsh ponies. Entries in the class would need to be approved by the WPCSA to make sure the pony qualifies. She will write up an article for the Welsh Review and solicit donations for this. She has applied for the Triple Crown grant and if she is a recipient of one of the \$1,000 grants she will use \$500 for the class sponsorship and also take an ad in the program. The deadline is end of April. If she does not get the grant, Gerald Verkuyl offered \$200 and Lisa Brezina matched it.

### **PONY CLUB LIAISON**

Louise Gill reported that the biggest USPC news is the grants they have partnered with Triple Crown to offer. They are expanding as best as they can to try to keep members.

### **LICENSED OFFICIALS WORKING GROUP**

Dr. Benedict reported that we need more videos to add to our library on you-tube. She is also looking for recommended reading materials to pass on to the judges. There are articles on the website about contracts with judges and how to put on a clinic. We will be interviewing judges today and tomorrow and asked the members of the working group to get in touch with her. The working group is trying hard to get judges educated. Joann Williams will be doing the clinic the next day. Lisa Brezina suggested articles from the judges explaining why they picked their supreme champion.

### **SHOW COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Schiller reported that she is trying to help shows follow the rules. She reminded them to please pay attention to the time line to avoid penalties.

### **SHOW SANCTIONING WORKING GROUP**

Mrs. Steinmetz' report was in the program given to members. It details the new show rules for this year and highlights topics that are being further researched.

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Schiller reported that out of fifteen entries, the committee voted to award scholarships to Emily and Meg Gill for 2014. Their mother, Louise Gill, accepted their scholarships on their behalf.

### **WELSH OF THE YEAR**

Mrs. Verkuyl noted that this is the second year that we have awarded the Welsh of the Year. This year, seven excellent nominees were received. The nomination deadline is in November and any type of activity that your Welsh pony or cob excels in will be considered – from therapy pony to top of the line dressage. She announced that North Forks Brenin Cardi is the 2013 Welsh of the Year.

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

### **CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING WORKING GROUP**

The President thanked Mrs. Stover for her wonderful job as auctioneer. We raised \$4,400 through our generous members. She thanked all of the bidders and those that made donations. We are looking at Florida for next year.

There being no further business, Sally Ross Davis' motion to adjourn was unanimously adopted. The President adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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Lisa L. Landis  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

# **WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014**

The second Board of Directors' meeting of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America, Inc. was called to order by the President, Dr. Ruth Wilburn, at 1:42 p.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. With the exception of Dr. Almond, Mrs. Cochran, and Mrs. Stover, all Directors were in attendance as was Mrs. Landis, Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The President asked for nominations for officers. Dr. Benedict moved that the current officers be nominated for reelection. The motion was seconded. Mrs. Aitken asked if anyone wanted to discuss mixing it up. Mrs. Steinmetz felt that we have discussed this in the past. Dr. Wilburn is the best person to represent our organization as President at this time. There is no other person offering to take this position on. Mrs. Thomson called for the question. The motion was unanimously adopted. It is duly noted that the Board has discussed the possibility of having different officers and has chosen not to.

Mrs. Schiller's motion that junior handler classes be added to the list of classes a UK judge can officiate was unanimously adopted.

The date and location of the next meeting were discussed. This was tentatively set for the weekend of May 31-June 1 near the Dulles airport in Virginia.

Ms. Himler's motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously adopted. The President adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

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Lisa L. Landis  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

February 22, 2014

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.

Membership Totals								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Life	530	527	518	499	502	487	485	473
Family/Firm	415	398	371	316	266	255	248	217
Annual	933	814	883	799	747	675	711	660
Annual Associate	76	53	69	63	37	38	47	42
Junior	159	131	134	111	89	95	123	126
Total	2113	1923	1975	1788	1641	1550	1614	1518

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## 2014 Budget Submitted by Jackie Verkuyl, Finance Working Group

See separate file.

## WPCSA Show Rules Working Group

### Show Rules – Summary of New Rules:

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'. If you offer this division, please read the rule carefully and decide which Low Hunter division your show will offer. 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 115.4.1
- 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.
- 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

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

commitment of time in running this program and getting everyone up to speed on how the results should be sent in.

## Show Rules - Topics for Discussion:

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. I think everyone was in agreement 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 have trouble meeting the number of animals requirement. Most agree that we would want to increase the requirements for a gold show if this were passed.

#### a) Eliminating the number of ponies for a show rating

If the number of animals requirement was dropped, **possibly** change the gold show requirements as follows:

##### Article 121.1 Gold Standard Show

~~1. A minimum of 75 purebred Welsh and/or Half-Welsh/Part Bred in classes specifically limited to them.~~

1. ~~\$100~~ \$55.00 fee for Provisional Gold sanctioning (~~\$200~~ \$110.00 for double-judged gold rating).

2. Minimum of ~~\$800.00~~ \$400.00 prize money offered **uniformly** across at least ~~ten~~ three divisions.

3. Minimum of a two-day show **with over-night stabling available**

4. **Minimum of 10** ~~Six~~ Welsh performance divisions, 12.2. & Under, Over 12.2 but not to exceed 14.2, C & D or Half-Welsh/Part Bred. Each division must contain the three point classes as described in the specifications section of this book and a Championship based on points. Additional **pointed and/or non-pointed** classes may be added at the discretion of show management.

5. Minimum of ~~12~~ 10 breeding classes must be offered. All four sections and Half-Welsh/Part Bred must be included.

6. Minimum of WPCSA Approved judge.

7. **Must have Steward or Technical Delegate recognized by USEF or another organization or a WPCSA Technical Delegate.**

8. **Must have a Ringmaster**

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## Article 121.2 Silver Standard Show

1. ~~Minimum of 40 Purebred Welsh and/or Half-Welsh/Part-Bred shown in classes specifically limited to them.~~
1. \$45.00 fee for Provisional Silver Sanctioning ( \$90.00 for double-judged silver rating).
2. Minimum of \$200.00 prize money offered across at least two divisions.
3. Three Welsh performance divisions, 12.2 & Under, Over 12.2 but not to exceed 14.2, C & D or Half-Welsh/Part Bred. Each division must contain the three point classes as described in the specifications section of this book and a championship based on points. Additional non-point classes may be added at the discretion of show management.
4. Minimum of six breeding classes must be offered.
5. Minimum of WPCSA Approved Judge.

## Article 120 FEES

GOLD SANCTIONING (PER JUDGE)	<del>\$55.00</del> \$100
SILVER SANCTIONING (PER JUDGE)	\$45.00
BRONZE SANCTIONING	\$35.00
PER ANIMAL, PER JUDGE, RECORDING FEE	\$5.00
PROTEST FEE	\$50.00
NON-MEMBER MEASUREMENT FEE	\$5.00

\*SHOW SANCTIONING FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE

### 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

There have been 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. 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

Again, this has been requested for many years. For national and regional shows, quadruple points would be given.

### 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.

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## 3. Rule Change Suggestions submitted by Joann Williams:

- In performance: **NO twisted wire bits** of any kind are allowed. Use of a twisted wire is cause for elimination.  
Wire bits: it is very disheartening to go down the lineup asking for the reinback, and to see every pony gape his mouth, and inside is a twisted wire snaffle, on THREE year olds, with adult riders. Poor ponies !!!! And usually during the class, there is a whole lot of yanking going on. To put it really bluntly, if they feel they need a twisted wire bit to ride a PONY ! they need more lessons, or a new trainer. Strong opinion, but the ponies deserve our protection. You can lay down a 1300 lb warmblood in a regular snaffle !  
**(See end of document for current bit rules)**
- 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  
Any bit with shanks is a curb: I had to disqualify a nice Cob and rider for riding with 2 hands in a shanked bit. They thought that because it had a snaffle mouthpiece, that it was a snaffle. The Western community tends to name their bits by mouthpiece, not by shanks.  
**(See end of document for current bit rules)**
- 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.  
I've been seeing Dressage whips in Ridden and in English Pleasure. They don't belong there, and some of the riders don't have enough control over one to be carrying it. A short crop is appropriate, especially for pleasure and Eq.
- 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.

### Rule Book:

#### Article 115.7 WPCSA RIDDEN WELSH CLASSIC

(Open to Section A and B and Section C and D)

...

Article 115.7.2 Ring procedure **Enter the ring, clockwise, individually at the trot...**

#### Article 115.7.5 Specifications for the Ridden Welsh Classic Champion Class

To be judged 50% on conformation and 50% on ridden performance. Open to the first and second place winners from the Ridden Welsh A/B Classic and the Ridden Welsh C/D Classic classes. There is no entry fee for this class. Places will be awarded for Best Ridden Welsh Classic and Reserve Best Ridden. Any animal in the class is eligible to be named the Best Ridden. **Entries shall enter the arena at the walk in a clockwise direction**

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## **Class Specification:**

### **WPCSA RIDDEN WELSH CLASSIC SEC. A&B (Article 115.7)**

This class is for registered Welsh Ponies, Section A & B, 4 year of age and over. To be judged 50% on conformation and 50% on performance. **Entries shall enter the arena at the walk** in a clockwise direction. To be shown on both reins as a group at the walk, trot, and canter with animation.

#### **4. Rule Change Suggestion submitted by Brenda Heberling:**

### **Article 114.5 \*WPCSA Stock Seat Equitation\***

#### **Article 114.5.2 Position**

Basic Position.

The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes, **with a slight bend in the knee and calf close to horse.** ~~Body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible.~~ Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on ball of the foot **with feet flat on stirrup.** Consideration, however, should be given to the width of the stirrups, which vary on Western saddles. If stirrups are wide, the foot may have the appearance of being "home" when, in reality, the weight is being properly carried on the ball of the foot.

Body should always appear comfortable, relaxed, and flexible. Arms are in a straight line **and close** with body, **the hand holding reins - bent at elbow.** Only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand to be around reins. When split reins are used and ends of split reins fall on the same side as reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. **When using a romal the riders hand shall be closed around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top.** The position of the hand not being used for reining is optional but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner with **the elbows close to the body and rider's body straight** at all times. Rider can hold romal or end of split reins to keep from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held with at least 16 inches from the reining hand. Reins are to be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. Bracing against horn or coiled reata is penalized. **When riding in a snaffle bit or hackamore two hands may be used with arms in a straight line with the body, bent at the elbow at approximately 90 degree angle with hands 6-16 inches apart.**

Position in Motion. Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, rider should be close to saddle. All movements of **horse/pony** should be governed by the use of **subtle** aids and the shifting of rider's weight is not desirable.

~~The knuckles of the reining hand should be vertical with the ground and the reining hand should always be held directly over the right knee and in no way forward of this knee.~~

The upper portion of the inactive arm should be vertical with the body and the elbow of this arm should not protrude to the rear of the upper body. When using closed reins, the inactive hand should be closed around the free ends of the reins and the lower portion of this arm held at about a 45 degree angle in a natural position.

#### **Article 114.5.6 Judging Criteria**

Hands – Change Elimination to Major: Two hands handling reins, finger between romal reins; more than one finger between split reins.

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## 5. Discussion: Is there an alternative to doing three almost identical pleasure classes in a row?

- Divisions affected: English Pleasure and Western Pleasure (Junior and Adult, all sections and Half Welsh/Part Breds)
- In the past, when shows didn't have as many divisions, classes in a division weren't always held in a row. Now, for time constraints and the need to avoid tack changes, most shows have all three classes of a pleasure division in a row.
- This has been discussed many times previously but ideas put forward never have fit into our crowded show days. (i.e. Space classes in a division out, Perform individual tests, etc)
- Three in a row is boring for the riders, the animals and the judges. Also, many have said it's not good for training young, green animals.
- Ideas???? This is a good topic for the open forum

## Current Rules on Bits (For reference)

### WPCSA

#### Article 112.3 \*WPCSA WELSH ENGLISH PLEASURE\*

**Article 112.3.1 General** Regulation snaffles, pelhams, or full bridles all with cavesson nosebands are required. Martingales are not permitted. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. Attire to correspond to type of saddle used.

#### Article 112.4 \*WPCSA WELSH WESTERN PLEASURE\*

**Article 112.4.4 Bits/Bridles** Entries may use any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8-1/2 inches. The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 3/8" to 3/4" varying from the straight bar to a full spade. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted.

Entries may use a standard snaffle bit only if animals are five years old and under. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 3/8" to 3/4" in diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap or chain is used, it must be attached below the reins. Also, it must lie flat, be at least 1/2" in width and have no other wire, rawhide, or other substance used with it.

#### 112.4.6 Prohibited Bits/Equipment:

Roping bits with both reins connected to a single rein at center of cross bar

Snaffle bits on any pony aged six or older

Hackamores on any pony aged six or older

Slip bits

Gag bits

Rigid donut mouthpiece bits

Flat polo mouthpiece bits

Hackamore bits

Bosals on any pony aged six or older

Cavesson type nosebands

Martingales

Tie downs

Bandages or boots of any type

#### Article 112.5 \*WPCSA HUNTER\*

**Article 112.5.4 Tack** Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands are recommended. A judge must penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands.

#### Article 113 THE DRIVING DIVISIONS

**Article 113.1.4 Bits** Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather.

#### Article 114.3 \*WPCSA HUNTER SEAT EQUITATION\*

**Article 114.3.2 Appointments**

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

**Tack.** Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands, are recommended. A judge at his own discretion can penalize an animal with nonconventional types of bits or nose bands.

## **Article 114.4 \*WPCSA SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION\***

### **Article 114.4.2 Appointments**

Entries shall be shown in full bridles (curb and snaffle). Pelham bits are permitted in saddle seat equitation.

## **Article 114.5 \*WPCSA STOCK SEAT EQUITATION\***

### **Article 114.5.3 Appointments**

**Tack.** Hackamores, all snaffle bits, tie-downs, running martingales, draw reins, bosals and cavesson-type nosebands are prohibited except when riding

## **USEF**

### **SUBCHAPTER HU-4 ATTIRE, TACK AND EQUIPMENT**

#### **HU125 Tack**

1. Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands, are recommended. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands.

#### **HU186 Hunter Breeding**

2. Class Specifications.
  - b. Foals in Breeding classes may wear leather halters. All animals of yearling status and older must be shown in a bridle. Only a snaffle or straight bar bit may be used. A properly fitted in hand leather lead and chain, such as a new market or "V" shank type may be substituted for reins. A properly fitted in hand leather lead may also be substituted for reins. A properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse from getting it in his/her mouth and should never be placed over the nose or tightly under the chin.

#### **HU187 Pony Hunter Breeding**

4. Class Specifications.
  - b. All entries may either be shown in a bridle or a leather halter.

## **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



# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## 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.

# REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014 SEE MINUTES FOR RULE CHANGES AND ACTIONS TAKEN

## **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.