

The American Hanoverian Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors
January 18/19th, 2019

AHS President Edgar Schutte called the meeting of the Board to order at 7:30pm EST. Present: Nancy Connolly, Dr. Doug Langer, Kate Palmquist, Dr. Barbara Schmidt, Edgar Schutte, Anne Sparks, Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck, Volker Ehlers and Meg Williams, Attending via phone: Rachel Ehrlich and Rick Toering

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Board's January 10, 2019 teleconference call as presented.
Passed

President's Report:

Discussed and acknowledged Ms. Sandy's increased participation in the meeting preparation and follow up with Mr. Hugh Bellis-Jones transition, and his pending surgery Jan. 29th. Mr. Schutte notified the board of the efforts of Ms. Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz, Ms. Meg Williams, and Ms. Rachel Ehrlich on their work for a tribute to Mr. Gerd Zuther, AHS judge and significant presence in the AHS who recently passed away. Brief mention that the new Executive Director will come on full time April 1st, and is already beginning work on redesign of the website with Ms. Kate Palmquist, and beginning the planning of the 2019 inspection tour with the assistance of Natalie DiBerardinis. Also, that any further evaluation of new computer system needs would be postponed until the new ED is on board, as well as after we have a better understanding of all the capabilities of the VIT system. The new office staff will all have going forward new emails pointed directly to the AHS. Also, tabled until the summer meeting would be discussion of re-issuance of passports to currently registered horses vs papers. Volker Ehlers was recognized as the newly elected Chair of the Mare and Stallion committee

Election of BOD Officers held. Newly Elected BOD:

President: Edgar Schutte
Executive Vice President: Dr. Barbara Schmidt
Vice President- Meg Williams
Secretary: Nancy Connolly
Treasurer: Anne Sparks

Committees:

Slate of committee members was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. The slate stands with the following changes

Motion: To approve the slate of names for the committees as listed below. **Passed**

AHS COMMITTEES FOR 2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Edgar Schutte
Executive Vice President: Barb Schmidt

Vice President: Meg Williams
Treasurer: Anne Sparks
Secretary: Nancy Connolly

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2020

Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz
Sandy Lee
Don Kapper and Dee Kapper
Anne Sparks (Chair)
Kristina Andersen-Fontana

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Cathy Slaterbeck (Chair)
Shannon Langer
Rachel E. Ehrlich
Kim Ransdell(Cathy please verify)

CORPORATE REGULATIONS AND GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE (3+ Required):

Rick Toering (Chair)
Cathy Slaterbeck
Meg Williams

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Cheryl Johnson (Chair)
Terri Ralenkotter
Tamara Torti
Laurie Weiser

FINANCE COMMITTEE (4 Required: 1 Treasurer, 1 Exec Dir, 1 Elected, 1 Appoint):

Anne Sparks (Chair/Treasurer)
Natalie DiBerardinis (elected)
Vanessa Carlson
Cheryl Johnson

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Doug Langer (Chair)
Kristina Andersen-Fontana
Nancy Connolly

INSPECTION TOUR PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Shannon Langer
Meg Williams
Anne R Sparks

JUMPER BREEDING PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Mike Boyd (Chair)
Laurie Cameron
Ludwig Christmann
Volker Ehlers
Holly Kovach
Edgar Schutte
Anne Sparks
Rick Toering

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Nancy Connolly (Chair)
Kristina Andersen-Fontana
Paula Byrum
Dennis Moore
Terri Ralenkotter
Tamara Torti
Rachel Ehrlich

Holly Kovach (added per committee chair in general meeting)

MARE AND STALLION COMMITTEE (5+ Required):

Volker Ehlers (Chair)
Verne Batchelder
Vanessa Carlson
Judy Hedreen
Sandy Hunt (Learner)
Christine Kropf
Suzanne Quarles
Dorie VLatten Schmitz
George Walker III
Meg Williams
Karin Himmelmayer (Emeritus)
Barbara Richardson (Emeritus)

NOMINATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (5 Required - 3 Elected):

Rachel Ehrlich (Chair)
Robin Campagno (elected)
Cheryl Johnson (elected)
Don Kapper (elected)
Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck

YOUNG BREEDERS COMMITTEE:

Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz (Chair)
Rachel Ehrlich
Judy Hedreen
Don Kapper
Christine Kropf
Gina Leslie
Anne Sparks

AMERICAN RHINELAND STUDBOOK COMMITTEE:

Rick Toering (Chair)
Edgar Schutte
Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck
Tamara Torti
Meg Williams

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Kate Palmquist
Nancy Connolly
Samantha Kidd

Rick Toering
Laurie Weiser

HEALTH INSURANCE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD:

Barbara Schmidt (Chair)
Doug Langer
Edgar Schutte

AHS WEBSITE TASK FORCE:

Kate Palmquist (Chair)
Rachel Ehrlich
Cheryl DeRoche Johnson
Kristina Andersen-Fontana (added per committee chair after the meeting)

AHS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD:

Barbara Schmidt (Chair)
Nancy Connolly
Doug Langer
Anne Sparks

Ms Palmquist suggested and the board agreed to disband the mentorship program

Mare and Stallion Committee Report:
Mary Gibbons resigned as AHS judge

Branding discussed as branding banned in Germany. Discussion of which brand the AHS US would utilize going forward-Do we want to keep the "US" and or with the year number. Board recommended the "H" brand be utilized going forward. Mr. Ehlers will check with Germany and get back to the board. The AHS US will continue to recommend branding, and it will be optional to members.

Germany now has a "1B" Studbook where a stallion may be licensed by another registry, but be entered in the German 1B studbook. 1B requirements:

1. Pedigree Acceptable
2. Performance Record
3. Approved by recognized Breed associations

Intent for stallions that meet their registry performance standards to allow breeders the option. The Executive Director would have to call to see if stallions are in the 1B studbook. These stallions treated similar to the AHS where the foreign sire fee is utilized.

Gold Medal Foal Program-

New program begun by the Verband last year and well received. It is to recognize those foals that are the top foals across the country. Judges will internally score foals at the inspection to determine the top dressage foals and jumping foals. Dressage foals judged on type, conformation, trot and walk(overall 8.0 or better) Jumping foals judged on type, conformation, basic gaits, and pedigree(overall 7.75 or better) Recommend this program be done in the US. Recommend announcing this on the Website and Facebook prior to the tour. Foals must be inspected at an official inspection site, this will not be done at outreach brandings or private sites.

Motion: The AHS and ARS will implement the Gold Medal Foal Award Program implemented by Hanover International **Passed**

Currently have the Premium Mare awarded for AHS mares. Proposal to recognize AHS and ARS mares. Ludwig will follow up with Germany to see how currently handled.

Dr. Ludwig Christmann Report from Germany:

Currently ongoing discussion of judging dressage and jumping horses, should they be judged the same or by different criteria? Recommendation to judge the jumping horses with a different criterion, which would be more indicative of the actual quality of jumping. Germany testing this system.

Rick Toering Rhineland report:

11 mares accepted into the Rhineland studbook, 26 foals eligible for registry. Unknown how many registered. Need to continue to promote the ARS registry, and put it side by side with the AHS.

Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz Young Breeders Report:

Nine young breeders hope to compete in Austria national competition. Working on a fundraising goal of \$20,000. The 501-C-3 status accomplished and established. Currently \$2,000-\$3,000 in their account. Discussion of a section on their section of the webpage with a graphic of fund-raising progress. Ms. Anne Sparks was recognized as donating all the travel expenses for the young breeders to come to this year's annual meeting.

General Discussion:

With the implementation of VIT, do we want to issue Passports? This is favored by the Mare and Stallion Committee. Internationally passports would qualify for FEI competitions, but at a reduced fee. The passports would need the USEF number included, and the microchip number. Will need a high quality printer and the cost of this will be evaluated.

Motion: The AHS and ARS societies will produce passports for each registered foal beginning in 2019 after implementation of the VIT system. **Passed**

Reported the Hanoverian Reception at Tryon was a great success. Recognition of Maryanna Haymon's efforts for presenting such a great event along with the college.

Motion: For a plaque to be made and presented to Maryanna Haymon and the college in recognition of their efforts and success with the reception at Tryon **Passed**

Germany update by Dr. Christmann

Seeing an increase in the Dutch blood in dressage with a very popular move being the combining of the German and Dutch bloodlines as a popular cross.

Jumping: Very competitive more new studbooks being involved and focusing on jumping bloodlines with more competition. Very high inheritability in jumping pedigrees with the dressage lines being more complex.

Hannoverian International registered 600 foals with approximately 1200 foals worldwide. The breeder orientation program continues to be popular with 30 attendees at this year's program

Marketing Committee asked board for a bit of direction with the low budget, and question of efficacy of print ads in this more digital era. How do others see utilization of resources. Discussion of Terri Ralenkotter success in posting facebook tour results which was successful and to continue with this possibly this year. Mr. Schutte to find the exact amount paid to Ms. Ralenkotter for this contract. Board requested Marketing committee put together a proposal and a plan to submit to the board in July.

Discussion of staff payroll and performances. Recommendation Ms. Sandy Lee be recognized for her extra effort in the last year and during transition and the annual meeting.

Motion: Ms. Sandy Lee to be awarded bonus of \$xxx effective immediately. **Passed**

Review of part time staff hours and salaries. Costs for review: \$7000 credit card fee, Dr. Doug Langer reported cheaper systems available and will get back to board and look into cheaper system Next year's annual meeting discussed

Motion: Meeting to be held in Wellington, Fl. Feb. 7, 8,9. **Passed**

Discussion of Mr. Edgar Schutte re: the process involved in the decision and rationale to hire Ms. Anna Von Holten-Jungheit to be partnered with an American AHS approved judge at the inspection sites of the 2019 tour and have one consistent judge across the country

Motion: The Board ratifies the President's hiring of Ms. Von Holten-Jungheit's hiring. **Passed**

Board agreed to continue every other month conference calling the first Wed. of the month at 3pm EST. Agenda items and issues will be submitted in writing prior to the call.

General Meeting to the membership conducted. Dr. Ludwig Christmann presented his updates from Germany as presented earlier to the board with additional presentation of the most successful horses

in international competition, ban on branding in Germany, the Gold Medal Foal program, joint Hanoverian reception at Tryon.

Report given on the North American Stallion testing. 13 stallions presented, 7 stallions passed. Rhinelander bred, Solo Mio, was presented as the winner of the stallion testing. Four-year-old Jethro Tull, the Dutch bred stallion won as the top awarded jumping stallion.

The membership informed the AHS/ARS logos will be presented side by side in all pieces going forward.

Presentation of the Pilot Project being conducted for evaluation according to disciplines of horses in Germany vs the current system.

Mr. Schutte presented his report to the membership, including the database change over to VIT to occur this spring, banning of branding in Germany, and discussion of what brand the AHS should use.

Mr. Hugh Bellis-Jones presented his farewell address and report to the membership, outlining his many years of valuable service to the AHS

2019 AHS Treasurer's Report

Welcome and recognition of Ann Sparks as the newly elected Treasurer for the AHS. Natalie DiBerardinis is the newly elected member of the finance committee. After several years of economic downturn the AHS Society has again ended on a positive financial note. The AHS currently has \$126,763 in checking/savings and \$132,265 in a John Hancock Annuity. Although our December Financial Statement has not been completed at the time of this meeting we do expect a small net profit again for 2018. The stallion service auction in 2018 brought in approximately \$23,207 which was up slightly from the prior year. The silent auction in 2019 brought in \$8,750 with 20% going to the Young Breeders Group. In 2019 the AHS will be implementing a new computer system that will streamline functions.

Budget streamlining discussed including evaluation of credit card fees total \$7500/year and this expense is recouped with the 3% charge with credit card usage -Options will be looked at for reducing the fee AHS is charged for credit card processing. Eliminating the 3% fee to membership which will further encourage the use of the streamlined services being implemented. We anticipate a net loss for 2019 which is reflected in the current budget with the implantation of VIT and some uncertainty to final costs. We will make every effort to minimize that loss.

General discussion and presentation of the 2019 budget.

Motion: To approve the budget as approved. **Passed**

Mare and Stallion committee report presented to the membership, including the issuing of foal papers as passports, and the Gold Medal Foal award program.

General Membership Meeting adjourned at noon, Jan 20,2019