

**Minutes of the AHS Board of Directors
Conference Call
May 6, 2020**

Present: Edgar Schutte (president), Barb Schmidt, Nancy Connolly, Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck, Meg Williams, Joanne Hodges (executive director), Rachel Erlich, Rick Toering, Volker Ehlers, and Kate Palmquist

Absent: Doug Langer

The President called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. EST.

Motion- To approve the minutes of 05/06/2020. Motion approved unanimously

President's report:

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to bring uncertain times and unprecedented changes. Currently it is difficult to plan ahead as these challenges have not been faced before. In Germany, they too remain uncertain. The German offices remain on an every-other-week schedule, with half the staff present and the rest working from home. The HV has cancelled this year's breeding course due to Covid. The AHS office continues to function well with staff splitting their time between working from home and in the office.

Planning continues for the 2020 AHS inspection tour, and the situation is evaluated weekly. It is very uncertain if German judges will be able to fly to the US for the Tour. The Mare and Stallion Committee will be meeting, and the Tour committee will work with judges to determine steps going forward and so that our membership can know what to expect. The question was raised during the report: Will we be able to use the available judges on the Tour to license stallions if presented? We will evaluate if it can be done. Taking more coordination and planning.

The summer Board Retreat will take place via phone or web meeting. There are too many Board members that are not able to travel in the present situation.

It was reported that Anne Sparks has resigned from the Board and all committees. A thank you note has been posted on the website and Facebook pages. Discussion will follow on steps to replace her.

Executive Director's Report

VIT: we have been assured our data is uploaded to their system, and that they are in the process of field-matching and updating.

Website: The major online forms have been completed and work continues on fine-tuning the shopping cart. Using an application to access the website is being considered. Editorial content continues to be created.

New QuickBooks platform: we have a new way to send bills/invoices and allows payments to be processed quicker.

Spring magazine: The office continues to work with the new graphics designer. Efforts are being made to shrink the publication and expenses by going from 88 pages to 66. The office

requires direction from the Board as to whether to publish in print or online. The office is currently waiting on a new print bid, as no outside bids have been solicited for a number of years. Additionally, the office is pricing the print version with new and less expensive paper without a sacrifice to quality. Certain costs remain whether done online or printed and mailed. Content still needs to be developed and designed. Once various scenarios have been priced, the publication method will be evaluated against the value to members.

Stallion Radiograph Evaluation: We are set up with Inside Information to review xrays, which can be sent by either the consulting vet or the AHS office. Final reports are sent to the ED. The trial process worked well. If members have any questions, disputed xrays can be sent to Germany for a final determination.

Summer Tour Dates: The inspection dates for July will be moved to September or later, pending updates on the pandemic. The Canadian tour is still going on. Maren is still coming to that tour. The Mare and Stallion Committee has discussed using one judge instead of two at certain sites.

Mare and Stallion Committee Report

Mare Inspections: Volker Ehlers spoke with Ludwig Christmann with the HV regarding their procedures for mare inspections this very unusual year. They have evaluated inspecting mares via video, however their rules require that mares be judged together, This is not the case with the AHS and Volker reported that we could do video evaluations here in the US. Video submitted to the office for mares and foals could be reviewed remotely by a judges or judges. Assessment for the Mare Performance Test via video would be more difficult. He cautioned that the ability to effectively evaluate video shot by the membership remains an open question, as there are many breeders who are not able to produce the quality of video necessary for a judge to evaluate.. The M & S Committee has agreed that if mares were inspected by video they would be awarded an overall score only, individual scores would not be given. One option for the Tour would be to put linear scoring on hold, send one judge instead of two to inspection sites, and use the old scoring system.

North American Stallion Test/Licensing: Ludwig is unable to commit to sending HV judges at this time. Currently, if you fly out of Germany, you have to be quarantined for 14 days upon return. Would skyping assist the American judges? The Committee is concerned about available bandwidth at the Test sites, and whether skyping speed with German judges would be possible. This issue is still under discussion with the Committee, updates to the Board will follow their next call meeting.

During discussion the question was raised: Would the M&S committee considered a one-year waiver for studbook inspection and allow a one-time registration for 2020 foals out of for a fully papered Hanoverian mare, with DNA on file, bred to an approved Hanoverian stallion? The Committee will consider a waiver in their next call.

New Business

The Inspection Tour committee will evaluate how to support site hosts with Covid-19 mitigation requirements/efforts, and what recommendations and standards will be.

Motion: The BOD endorses the recommendation from the inspection committee to move the July dates of the tour from the beginning of July to later in the year dates to be determined, Motion passed

Summer AHS BOD meeting planning: Recommendation Due to Covid-19 restrictions and concerns over flying to move the August summer Board meeting to a virtual platform via WebEx/Zoom. Discussion occurred especially with not all Board members having the internet capability to support virtual meetings. Will try a test run on July 1st call.

Equitana: Currently one space is being held for Equitana. Originally held one space inside the breeder's section for a 10x10 booth. Germany uncommitted to share cost as they may not be flying. The Board agreed to let the booth go, and we were refunded. We will wait and see how things plan out for travel/attendance etc. and approach cost cautiously.

Breyer Horse model: They have asked the AHS to recommend a specific Hanoverian horse to model. They requested that the recommendation be a horse that has made a big contribution to the breed. Concern-is there a cost to us? ED will follow up and find out if there is a cost.

Possible Addition to the AHS Stallion Judge Roster: Volker Ehlers reported that the M&S committee has recommended that Judy Hedreen be approved as a stallion judge. During discussion, the requirements to fulfil the stallion judge process remain unclear. If the Board approves the appt as a stallion judge would she need to go to Germany? Differing messages from the HV were noted. Volker will follow up with Ludwig and have him put in writing again the requirements if Judy approved.

Financial update:

Month of March only:

Revenue: 2020 \$14,266.00 2019 \$30,277

Expenses: 2020 \$105,511 2019 \$43,630

YTD:

Revenue : 2020 \$\$157,323 2019 \$148,338

Expenses: 2020 \$105,511 2019 \$134,313

Operating Income: 2020 \$51,812 2019 \$14,024

Last year expenses higher as the old ED still on the payroll, and last year's annual meeting expenses plus a decrease in stallion service auction proceeds.

Should the AHS apply for a loan with new small business loans available through the stimulus package? The ED did apply. PPP did not open until April 3rd. It said the loan went through, but no confirmation number was supplied.

The North American Stallion Sport Test, LLC is now on financially sound footing with a balance of \$22,300 in the bank. NASST Committee member Natalie DiBerardinis has suggested that the time is right to request a return of the AHS' initial investment of \$5000. The AHS investment of \$5000.00 will be returned.

Vacant Board seat: Rules say we can appoint someone to fill the remainder of their term, in this case another 3-4yrs. The other option is to deviate from the exact language and appoint someone until fall 2020, and then turn around and have the seat filled by an election in the fall vote. Discussion will continue next week

Adopting a Stud Book II: Germany has a lower book for Hanoverian stallions. The international Hanoverian community does not support the adoption of a Stud Book II for daughter and Affiliate organizations. The position of the AHS is that we do not wish to adopt a lower stallion book, and that stallion approval requirements should remain the same. Ludwig Christmann will share our position with his board. Ludwig reported that Germany has moved their elections and meetings due to the pandemic.

Meeting adjourned.

Updates to this meeting via email correspondence:

1. Judy Hedreen did not receive a majority vote for stallion judge approval
2. **The Board voted to approve the updated AHS committee Roster below:**

AHS COMMITTEES FOR 2020 – 6 May 2020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Edgar Schutte
Executive Vice President: Barb Schmidt
Vice President: Meg Williams Treasurer: TBD
Secretary: Nancy Connolly

ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2020

Barbara Schmidt, Chair
Doug Langer
Don Capper
Dava Peterson
Cindy Kidd
Caryn Vesperman

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Cathy Slaterbeck (Chair)
Shannon Langer
Rachel Ehrlich
Kimberly Ransdell

CORPORATE REGULATIONS AND GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE (3+ Required):

Rick Toering (Chair)
Cathy Slaterbeck
Meg Williams

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Cheryl Johnson (Chair)
Tamara Torti
Laurie Weiser

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

AHS Treasurer (Chair)
Natalie DiBerardinis (elected)
Joanne Hodges
Cheryl Johnson

INSPECTION TOUR PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Joanne Hodges (Chair)
Judy Hedreen
Natalie DiBarardinis
Shannon Langer
Meg Williams

JUMPER BREEDING PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Rick Toering (Chair)
Laurie Cameron
Ludwig Christmann (VhW)
Volker Ehlers
Marjorie Haus (CHS)
Holly Kovach
Mary O'Connor
Edgar Schutte
George von Platen (CHS)

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Laura Serkes (Chair)
Holly Kovach
Dennis Moore

MARE AND STALLION COMMITTEE (5+ Required):

Volker Ehlers (Chair)
Vanessa Carlson
Judy Hedreen
Anna v. Holten-Jungheit (VhW, non-voting)
Sandy Hunt
Christine Kropf (Probation)
Suzanne Quarles
Dorie VLatten Schmitz
Cathy Slaterbeck (Learner)
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)
Anke Otte

AMERICAN RHINELAND STUDBOOK COMMITTEE:

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

YOUNG BREEDERS COMMITTEE:

Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz (Co-Chair)
Rachel Ehrlich (Co-Chair)
Judy Hedreen
Shea Johnson
Gina Leslie

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Nancy Connolly (Chair) Paula Byrum
Kate Palmquist Laurie Weiser

AHS WEBSITE TASK FORCE:

Kate Palmquist (Chair)
Cheryl Johnson

AHS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Barbara Schmidt (Chair)
Nancy Connolly
Doug Langer

3. The Rules and Grievances committee recommends that we should fill the Board vacancy as follows:
 - A. Board appoints someone to fill the vacancy now
 - B. At the upcoming election this fall, membership elects someone to fill the vacancy but only for the remainder of Anne Sparks' original term, so three years. (All other members elected this fall will have 4 year terms (if the bylaws change is passed) or 6 year terms (if the bylaws change is not passed))
4. The Rules and Grievance Committee submitted the attached By-Laws change proposal for later discussion regarding BOD term lengths.
5. AHS Spring magazine: many weighed in on production and mailing of the spring magazine vs. online. Majority of the board were in favor of the option to go ahead and print and mail.