

USIHC BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20TH, 2007

Regional Club Observers: Annette Coulon, Kraftur of Northern California, Alys Culhane, Alaska Icelandic Horse Association, Dawn Shaw, Cascade Club

Andrea Barber informed the Board that she had limited time for the meeting as did Anne Elwell.

Secretary's Report (Barb Riva): The 2007 Annual Meeting minutes have been transcribed and submitted to the Board for corrections and approval. July and August Board meeting minutes have been transcribed and submitted to the Board for corrections and approval.

Bernie informed the Board that Barb will be taking the August Board meeting minutes back to include the reports. Bernie had transcribed the October minutes to help with the secretary's backlog of work. He asked Barb to also include the reports to those minutes. Barb agreed.

Treasurer's Report (Ed Hilgaertner):

The October treasury report is as follows:

Opening balance....\$9020.84

Closing balance.....\$8683.26

Registrar's Report (Caryn Cantella): Registry Report 11-15-07

Beginning Balance as of 9-30-07 was \$66,957.05

Ending Balance as of 10-31-07 is \$67,224.05

Submitted by Asta Covert:

The WorldFengur Seminar held in London November 9th thru 11th.

The Worldfengur seminar for registrars was very successful. There were participants from 11 FEIF countries. There were 2 from Iceland, Switzerland, Denmark, France and one from Netherlands, Luxemburg, Canada, England, Sweden, Germany and USA. We identified 30 improvements to WF and these are currently being prioritized and a target date put on each.

The FEIF Registration Group met on Friday afternoon for a private meeting. Then we met the rest of the participants and we all got a chance to introduce ourselves and meet before heading to dinner.

On Saturday we discussed the agenda for the day and all agreed that we wanted to have available time for individual sessions with Hallveig Fróðadóttir (IS), Kristín Halldórsdóttir (DE) and Jón Baldur (IS).

The goal of WorldFengur is to be the only database for the FEIF countries in coming years and we discussed what is needed for each country to reach that goal.

Hallveig Fróðadóttir (IS) went over how to register more advance info into WorldFengur such as Stallion reports and DNA.

Kristín Halldórsdóttir (DE) went over the features when entering a Breeding show. And Denmark had a request to add a field for starting number to make it easier to print out a show program and that way minimize the data entry for breeding shows.

We talked a lot about problems registering some horses where the breeder does not live in the country where the horse was born, or does not wish to register the horse in the country of residence. In Europe they have this problem with so many countries in close proximity.

It was decided that FEIF should adopt a common sense and practical attitude, even if the answer is sometimes not technically correct.

It is important to note that if a breeder does not wish to play by these rules, for some personal advantage, we have the ability to allocate the prefix "NN" in the FEIF ID to discourage this behavior.

These rules were unanimously agreed and we ask that you try to apply them in your country. It is intended to place them before the FEIF DA and then into FIZO.

Iceland has offered the US to have Passports printed for US Born horses for a charge like they currently do for England.

Breeding Committee Report (Katrin Sheehan): Nothing to report this month.

Competition Committee Report (Katrin Sheehan):

ITEM #1

NATIONAL RANKING IS FINALLY UP. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR SOME THINGS FROM THE DILLSBURG SHOW TO ADD IT TO THE NR AND THEN KENTUCKY WILL BE THE LAST SHOW FOR THE YEAR. AFTER THAT WE CAN COME UP WITH THE LIST OF WINNERS FOR 2007. PRIZES SHOULD BE AWARDED AT THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING IN MARCH.

ITEM #2

A SUBCOMMITTEE WAS FORMED TO TAKE CONTRACTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (ICELAND, DENMARK AND GERMANY) AND COME UP WITH A CONTRACT BETWEEN USIHC AND RIDERS ATTENDING THE WC. THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONSISTS OF WILL COVERT, KATHY LOVE & ALICE PEAL.

ITEM #2

SHOW STATUS

DILLSBURG IS STILL AWAITING SANCTIONING BECAUSE OF PAPERWORK NOT YET RECEIVED. ANNE IS AWARE OF THIS AND SHOULD BE WORKING ON IT.

LOS ANGELES SHOW HAS FINALLY SUBMITTED THE LAST PAPERWORK AND THE CHECKS WERE FORWARDED TO ASTA. **STINA SIGURBJORNSSON IS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT OF \$1222.06**

SANTA YNEZ SHOW IS ALSO FINISHED. ALL PAPERWORK HAS BEEN RECEIVED. **ASTA COVERT IS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT OF \$1177.40**

Bernie asked Katrin's opinion on these requests for reimbursement for shows. Katrin asked if we are following the procedure that we agreed upon disallowing reimbursement for shows that are established. Bernie said that we have limited the reimbursement to two years and up to \$1,000 maximum reimbursement during that time. Bernie reminded everyone that the decision was recent and not available to these show organizers at the time of their show. Anne asked if we are following this rule as of the first two years of the show's existence or the first two years after this rule has been enacted. Katrin said this is correct and also added that it could be the first two years that the organizer had asked for reimbursement. She felt that this issue needed to be clarified. Bernie was assuming that this ruling was as of the first two years of the existence of the show. Katrin asked for verification of the Los Angeles and the Santa Ynez show and wondered if they had been in existence for more than two years. Caryn said

that the Santa Ynez show that Asta and Will Covert organize is actually the second show at that location. In years past, Heidi and David had held shows in the same city but that had no affiliation with the present Santa Ynez show hosted by the Coverts. Caryn said there had been a show in Burbank that has been organized for years. Laura thought that this Los Angeles show was actually the Burbank show. Ed informed the Board that he has no request from Stina for that particular Los Angeles show but the Santa Ynez show has been reimbursed for the amount requested of \$1,177.40. Caryn informed Ed that these reimbursements now have to go through the Board for approval before being paid. Anne asked why this request went directly to Ed without the Board's approval. Ed said that the request was sent to him by Heidi, Competition Committee. Caryn said it was her guess that Heidi was told that we pay \$1,000 for the first two shows of the show existence. Anne said that it looks as though Heidi has approved the Santa Ynez show. Katrin felt that while we do have a reimbursement policy on records, it still needs to be approved by the Board before being paid. Anne agreed. Ed said again that the Santa Ynez show has been paid. Katrin reminded Ed that the Board approved that we only pay \$1,000 and yet Ed paid the full amount requested of \$1,177.40. Ed said that it was not clear to him when this reimbursement policy took effect. Laura thought that this policy would not start until the New Year 2008. Bernie agreed and also added that we cannot enforce this policy until it is posted on the web site. Barb verified that the shows that have been in existence for more than two years will now not be eligible for reimbursement after 2007. Caryn said that she felt we cannot enforce this rule until after 2007. The policy was voted on to help show organizers get started. There are a few shows that can be considered established but have been getting reimbursement for many years and she didn't feel that was right. Barb agreed that there have been shows that have been supported financially for many years and the new locations will only get the opportunity for help for two years. She agrees with Katrin as did Anne Elwell. Bernie verified the word "existence" in this new policy. He used the Santa Ynez show as an example. This particular show has been in existence for two years and it's organized by Will and Asta Covert. If they hold this show for two years and then discontinue it but someone else hosts a show in that location, it is the same show or a different show? Barb said that it would be considered different organizers. Barb felt that if the show had a different organizer at a different location, then those shows in Santa Ynez, or any other city, would be considered separate shows. Barb asked, however, about the situation when a regional club uses someone's facility to hold a show. This is a situation that we will have to decide on before making enforcing this policy. Bernie suggested that we pay these reimbursement requests for the 2007 shows and ask the sport committee to clear up these issues in the new 2008 reimbursement policy. Katrin agreed, however, wanted to be sure that even once the policy is in place, she thinks it's important for the Board to approve any reimbursement payment. Anne said that the organizer should send the request first to the chairman of the competition committee (Heidi Kline) where she would then give her recommendation and submit it to the Board for a final decision. Barb said that it will be up to Heidi to keep track of how long shows have been in existence. All agreed. Ed verified that the remaining 2007 shows should be paid. All agreed. Barb asked Katrin to let Heidi know that this policy should be completed before the end of this year. Ed asked about the possibility of the Dillsburg show applying for reimbursement. Anne said that location has never applied. Laura said that there may be a request from Gudmar for the show he organizes in Kentucky. Caryn asked about the pending sanctioning of the Dillsburg show. Anne informed the Board that the paperwork is now in. Barb wanted further clarification that since a show has never applied for reimbursement, will they be eligible for two years of support after 2008. Ed said that the reimbursement is to help shows get started and if after two years a show had not needed help, then they are considered established and will not be eligible for reimbursement. Barb agreed.

KENTUCKY IS COMING UP NOV 16TH – 8TH AND THIS IS THE LAST SHOW OF THE YEAR.

ITEM #3

PROPOSAL WAS SENT TO THE SPORT COMMITTEE BY SALI PETERSON. IT IS UP ON THE CONGRESS WEBSITE AND IS CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE.

UPDATE:

I AM WAITING FOR WORD FROM MARKO REGARDING UPCOMING JUDGES MEETING NEXT WEEK AND WHETHER OR NOT BITS & NOSEBAND COMBINATIONS ARE ON THE AGENDA. I BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE AND WILL HAVE BEARING ON THIS PROPOSAL.

I AM ALSO WAITING FOR A PASSWORD SO THAT I MAY UPDATE THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSAL ON LINE.

Katrin said that she thinks this issue has been handled. She was able to take care of one of the proposals but had trouble with another. She felt that it was just because the program was so new and she will continue to work at it. Caryn said that if she continues to have problems to contact Doug directly.

Constitution Review Committee Report (Andrea Barber): Andrea said Steve had e-mailed Bernie with the update. Bernie informed the Board that Steve Barber reports that they are dealing with the dates on the election process. He gave Bernie some new dates and the election process, if approved, would be December 15th. Bernie e-mailed Steve back regarding four other areas of concern in the Constitution that the committee might consider addressing. One of them is Article 4, section 1. regarding the individual membership vote clarification. We have family members which are considered two individual members voting. The Constitution does not say that specifically. In Article 8, section 2, the Constitution says the secretary must mail notices to the Board of Board meetings 21 days in advance. This is really outdated. In Article 9, the Constitution says we have to mail the Annual Reports to all of our members. Bernie said that this is unnecessary. Bernie also said that the election of officers is done at our first meeting following the Annual Meeting. He said this makes no sense if we are going to have the election of Board members by December 15th, and the Annual Meeting maybe in March or April. Ed asked why this didn't make sense. Bernie said that it mean if we have our officers do not get re-elected, we are without an officer until we have an Annual Meeting. Anne said that would make a three month gap between the election of the Board and the election of Officers. Katrin asked if it has been historically the case that the new officers just take over at the Annual Meeting. Bernie agreed but the election was announced on March 7th and the Annual Meeting is toward the end of March so the process works well enough. However, if you move the election of officers to the 15th of December, it would cause a three month gap where there would not be Officers. Caryn asked if the Constitution Committee is planning to move the election of officers up to December 15th. She has not seen a proposal. Laura agreed. Bernie said that he was hoping to be able to see a preliminary proposal so we could catch any inconsistencies. He had become aware of four but there may be more. Bernie said that Steve is aware of these and he hopes they will address them. Anne thought that this had gone to the Board at some point. Bernie said that it had not. Anne is on the Constitution Committee and she informed the Board that the committee approved a proposal that concludes all the voting by the end of December so that at the close of each year we know who will be the new Board members. In this way, we do not get into these awful overlaps of dues and such. This was decided some time ago, she thought back in September. Andrea said that the only thing that needs to be done now is that Steve needs to write it up and submit it to the Board. Anne said that there is little more that needs to be done before it can be a Constitutional Amendment. The requirements for submitting a Constitutional Amendment is that whoever is proposing them, an individual or committee, must then go through the entire Constitution and deal with any parts of it that become a problem as a result of the proposed change. Caryn asked how we will deal with the Annual Reports. If the Board is completely turned over to a new Board at the Annual Meeting, who will give the reports of the prior year. Anne said that at the Annual Meeting the reports pertain to the prior year so whoever was responsible for the information from the prior year will have to submit the reports. Ed said that they don't necessarily have to be at the Annual Meeting but they do have to submit the reports. Anne agreed and said that someone has to be designated to answer questions if any arise. Katrin suggested that we move the

Annual Meeting to a time closer to the start of the New Year. Bernie said that the Annual Meeting date is not specified in the Constitution but it has been the end of March by convenience. Katrin and Laura suggested the possibility of moving the Annual Meeting to January but Andrea reminded them that individuals living in Northern climates may have difficulty getting to the meeting during the winter months.

Education Committee Report (Bernie Willis):

Alexandra Pregitzer, Chairman Education Committee

alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de

1) Riding Badge Program

The Education Committee had suggested making some changes for the riding badge program. Enclosed is the introductory page with the changes I made for the board to check and approve. The following changes were made

1. Information that the program is for members only
2. Information for instructors and examiners to get in touch with the Education Committee for further details
2. Request for required paper work to be sent to the USIHC in order to keep track of the program and send out badges
3. Administrative fee to send out badges and handle paper work for the program. Suggested amount USD 20 per student.

The Education Committee is requesting that the Board prove the wording and approves changes for the web site accordingly.

I am enclosing two attachments -

- Request for changes to the program. Wording added to introductory page
- form for organizers/instructors to send in before/after seminar to get addresses to send out
- badges and for general information

Bernie read the attachments that were forwarded by Alex for our attention. (they are included with these minutes) There were no objections to these changes.

Alex also submitted a document showing the Intern Judges card. The Board felt that Alex, as Education Committee Chairman, should sign this card.

The proof of currency and the seminar information sheet Alex submitted was also approved.

B) Sports Judges Education Program

We will be hosting another judging seminar in combination with the Kentucky Show this November. The show will take place in Lexington at the Lexington Horse Park in the end of November and will be hosted by Gudmar Petursson.

Marlise Grimm, who has conducted the past intern judge seminars in the US is flying in to do the training and testing for this seminar.

The seminar will take place Wed, Thurs and Friday Nov 14 thru Nov 16 with all day training (class room style, videos and life horse judging). Participants can either take part only in this part of the seminar to further educate them selves or they can choose to take a test on Saturday and Sunday Nov 17 and Nov 18 to become US intern judges. The test consists of a practical part in which participants will judge the riders in the KY show and scores will get compared to a judge's score. Another part of the test is an oral exam. We have a good turn out with 11 participants so far.

For further information, contact alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de

The education committee has come up with two drafts for an ID card for the intern judges as well as a form for proof of currency (to fill in for intern ships etc...). Both forms are attached to this email.

The committee is requesting that the Board proves the wording and layout for both and allows us to put the proof of currency on the web site while the card will be made and mailed. Prices for making the cards will be requested but the costs should be minimal.

At the same time I have started a file for all intern judges to keep an overview on who is certified, if current on their intern ships etc...

This year's seminar was not advertised in the Quarterly or Toltnews for several reasons. It was concluded that we should try to plan longer ahead next year to reach out to more interested members.

C) General

For 2008 the Education Committee would like to start offering a wider variety of seminars and clinics which could be held in conjunction with shows and Icelandic horse events to attract more people for both and make it worth while the trip. Any input and ideas are welcome. The committee will come up with some suggestions.

Pleasure Riding Committee Report (Andrea Barber): Nothing to report this month.

Policy and Procedure Committee Report (Anne Elwell): Nothing to report this month

Promotion Committee Report (Laura Benson)

1: Just got done with the 2007 Equine Affaire in Massachusetts, it was a HUGE success. Our Icelandic performance team went better than ever and there seemed to be a larger than normal attendance rate throughout the entire show. I had a meeting with Debbie Putnam about the 2008 Equine Affaire's in both Ohio and Mass and contracts and plans are underway.

2: Received text from Andrea Barber regarding the Pleasure Rider Program for the new USIHC brochure. I will begin to add this into the existing text and work on getting the final draft done.

3: Horse Illustrated will be featuring the Icelandic Horse as their breed Profile in the January issue. Look for interviews with Katrin Sheehan and Laura Benson. This is a BIG spotlight for the Icelandic Horse in North America.

Laura said that we originally got the wrong information regarding the price of Congress placing an ad in this issue. The special price was only available to breeders. If Congress was still interested in placing an ad in this issue the cost would be \$3,000 or more.

Regional Club Committee Report (Andrea Barber): See proposal in new business submitted by Dawn Shaw

Bernie asked Andrea the name of the new club in the Pacific Northwest. It is named the Westcoast CanAmerican Icelandic Horse Club. Andrea said it is located in the area of the extreme Pacific Northwest and they also have members in Canada.

Quarterly Committee Report (Anne Elwell): Nothing to report this month.

Web Site Committee Report (Katrin Sheehan): The website committee has produced a draft of a new navigation menu for the website. It has more logical groupings of information, which we hope will make it easier for visitors to find what they're looking for. The new menu will appear on each page, replacing the old one. This is a near-term effort to address the common complaint about how hard it is to find things. It only addresses existing content and doesn't constrain us from introducing whole new categories of content. The committee will still take up issues of new design, layout, features and functionality.

The committee invites the Board to examine the draft of the menu on this sample page:

www.icelandics.org/navsample1.php

Note that the links in the sample don't actually work, so you can't click and go to a different page. It's only a demonstration of the idea. The committee would appreciate comments from the Board and authorization to implement the new menu on the website.

Bernie asked Katrin to review this sample to the Board. Katrin was asking the Board for its blessing on this change to the web site. She and Mark were wondering how much of these web site changes really need Board approval since none of the content is changing. The only thing that is changing is the layout of the site to make it easier to navigate. The text and photos all remain the same. Andrea said that she found there were some changes made and she had talked to Mark Peal about them. Andrea said that the Regional Club section had its own tab and in the new configuration that was no longer available. Andrea felt it was important for this section to have its own tab. Mark agreed to change it back but Andrea felt that was one of the reasons why it may be important for the Board to review these changes. Katrin agreed. Sandie said that she did not see a site map on the sample. Katrin asked why she felt it was needed. Bernie verified to Anne that a site map is where one will go if they are having trouble finding needed information on the site. Katrin will make sure a site map will be included in the web site changes. Laura said that the changes are fabulous and she feels that it's time to make these changes official. There were no objections to this sample with the noted changes.

Youth Committee Report (Sandie Weaver): The Annual Youth Letter has been mailed to all the Youth members, and has been e-mailed to all USIHC Regional club Youth Directors. Those letters are attached.

Bernie verified that these letters were mailed and e-mailed along with attachments. Sandie said that she went on the web site. She found one of the corrections but the other was not done. The one that was left off was the suggestion by Katrin to have the parent's cell phone numbers on the application. Sandie felt that this is easy to add once the riders have been chosen. The letters were also sent to Andrea to forward to the Regional Clubs.

Katrin asked about the letter from Kevin Draeger from Minnesota who received some wrong information on the web site with regard to the eligible age. (letter attached). Katrin felt that it would be appropriate for someone to write a letter to FEIF to see if it's possible to get an exception for him to participate regardless of his young age. Katrin felt he was an exceptional rider, very young, very talented and she felt the added exposure would be something that would be a great benefit. She said that his parents are very supportive and Kevin at age 12 rides really well. Katrin felt he would benefit by being there. Sandie said that the very first FEIF Youth Cup she attended, she was not clear with the ages and made a mistake notifying a rider that they were allowed to go only to find out that she was too old. Sandie said she had to literally get on her knees to beg Eva Marie over and over again to please let this rider attend. Katrin said that she doesn't have a problem writing this letter to FEIF and even traveling to Sweden to get down on her knees to beg. She felt it would be worth it for Kevin's future as a young rider. Sandie said that she is

not interested in pursuing this issue because Eva Marie said in this first instance, that this would be a "one time exception". Andrea agreed that we should not get involved with saying that this kid is particularly special and therefore we should make an exception. Katrin said that Kevin has nothing in comparison to the riders in Europe with regard to competition experience. Andrea said that its not that she doesn't feel for the kid, but we have a lot of people in our membership that are following the rules and may not be applying or asking for special exceptions. She feels it's not a good idea to make special exceptions to the rules. She said it seems to always cause a lot of problems in the long run. Ed agreed that we need to stick with the rules. Caryn said that he will only be better as he gets older. Katrin said that if he stays with competing, she is sure he will get better but she feels that we don't have enough trainers here to help a talented youth rider such as Kevin and with that fact; she feels his opportunities are very limited. Caryn suggested that they find a farm in Europe for him to intern at during his summer vacation. She said that Marlise offered her farm to have good young riders to stay and learn. Sandie asked if Kevin could also go to Gudmar's farm and intern. She felt that there are clinics in his area that he could take advantage of. Her father attends these clinics and she said that her Dad never tells her there are kids at clinics. Sandie's father goes to clinics in Minnesota and Wisconsin and that most attendees are older women. Katrin said that Kevin doesn't need to learn how to tolt. Barb informed Sandie that Kevin does attend clinics at Winterhorse in Wisconsin. He also attends every youth event offers in the Midwest. He also attended the Youth Camp offered in New York and he interns with the trainers at Winterhorse Park every summer and he attends all schooling shows and competitions at Winterhorse and Kentucky. Sandie told another incident where another youth rider who's birthday was the 29th or 30th of December. She was one or two days too old to qualify and Congress said no to her request to attend. Andrea again stated that this is the problem that arises when we bend the rules for one individual. She feels that it's not fair to Kevin and it's not fair to the other youth in the country. Andrea said that these are FEIF rules. If they were regulations set forth by Congress, we may consider changing them but this is not the case. Barb agreed. She felt that by bending the rules we end up with a problem in years to come. Barb felt that she needed to inform the Board that Kevin is extremely active in educational events such as the Pleasure Riding Program, Youth Camps and clinics, schooling and sanctioned show despite what Sandie's father had reported to her regarding events in the Midwest. He attends just about every Congress sanctioned event he can possibly participate in. Barb said that when he found that the information he received regarding the age for Youth Cup was incorrect, he accepted it very graciously. Caryn said that it's great that Katrin wants to try to give Kevin added opportunities and there may be other things that he can participate in that may help him just as well. Bernie said he would have more favor if he was too old rather than too young. If he has this to look forward to, he isn't too concerned about it. Barb agreed and also indicated that he would really like the opportunity to go to Europe or to go to Iceland and work for a month or so with Icelandic Horses.

OLD BUSINESS

Katrin Sheehan: 2008 Annual Meeting. Katrin reports that she has a plan to structure the Annual Meeting by offering a clinic Thursday and Friday before the meeting, reserving Saturday for the actual Annual Meeting. Her plan includes time scheduled for committees to meet on Saturday morning with a lunch break that will also include horse activities. The afternoon would be reserved for the general assembly of the Annual Meeting with a possible report from each committee. The Annual Meeting would adjourn for an evening activity. Additional interesting seminar and lectures would be planned for Sunday. This would give members the opportunity to participate for additional days of activities and events if they would choose. These events are optional so members would have the option to attend only portions of the weekend event that they are interested in. The horse activities that that are planned around the meeting will not interfere with the Annual Meeting schedule and the meeting is split into two parts. Caryn didn't think we would be able to get through the meeting in a half day. It usually takes one full day. Bernie said that the last time we discussed this we decided that the Annual Reports would be made available on paper so people could take and read them if they wanted and in this way we would not take up so much time actually presenting them at the Annual Meeting saving a lot of time. Anne felt that every committee officer has to stand to answer any questions with regard to the reports that are made available.

Caryn said that she didn't think we should take a chance in cutting the meeting short. Katrin would like to pull those questions into the committee meetings because that gives a broader chance of really discussing issues and then individuals do not have to sit through questions that some people might not have interest in. Katrin is trying to make the meeting more effective with the use of time. She said that we may run the risk of some people wanting to attend meetings that are scheduled at the same time. However, we could work a schedule to make it as convenient as possible. Anne still has the same reservations about the Annual Meeting as Caryn does. She doesn't think that we plan a four day event reducing the Annual Meeting to a half day. She does not feel comfortable with shortening the Annual Meeting time. Anne said that while she feels the Annual Meeting not necessarily something that she really looks forward to, she appreciates the importance of the information that is given at the full day event. Katrin said that with the implementation of the committee meetings, she feels that with her plan, members can actually discuss things directly to those with specific information. Bernie said that it seems that the total time is the same or even more, but allocated differently. Barb said that when these committee meetings are set aside for interested individuals, the opportunity for input and ideas and the exchange between people will be easier. Katrin felt the the exchange of questions will motivate people to further discussion. Anne said that she is very much in favor of the committee meetings but she is not comfortable with reducing the Annual Meeting to a couple of hours. Bernie said that last year we had a presentation by Jon Baldur about World Fengur and the year before we had the Ambassador for the Icelandic Horse give a presentation. Each of which took some time. Andrea remembers a meeting where we didn't have a speaker and that meeting took the entire day. Caryn remembers talking to Jon and asking his opinion of the meeting and he felt it should have gone another day so the members could have more discussions. Katrin agreed but the discussions cannot happen if it's not allowed and with the current structure she said it is not allowed. She said she would love to plan the meeting for two days where one day is completely set aside for the type of meetings we have done in the past and the other day planned for committee meetings. However, that was not in the Board's favor either. Ed said that an idea would be to answer the following questions but do it in a couple of pages. Ed suggested Katrin write a plan as to how the annual meeting going to work differently from in the past. Then she can describe it as follows: If you go to the Annual Meeting, this is what you will expect and then write out what will happen on the first day and so on. Ed's point was if Katrin could outline the plan with a little more detail on a page or two where we could see it and agree or disagree, the same information could then go on the web site as an attraction. She could inform members that the format was going to be more education and exciting than those in the past. Katrin asked if Ed was expecting to get a favorable reaction from the members before making a permanent plan for the Annual Meeting. Ed felt that was not feasible. He thinks we should decide the schedule before putting it on the web site but, if she would be able to write up an outline of the schedule and publish it on the web site, the membership might see that. He felt there were going to be a certain amount of members that will attend no matter what is planned, usually about 30 or 40 participating. But by spelling out what will be different this year might attract a few more rather than spring it on the membership at the last moment. Katrin said that is why she is presenting this to the Board so we can approve a plan and then get it advertised so people know the plan before the end of the year and hopefully make travel arrangements early. Sandie said that the FEIF annual meeting is different than our Annual Meeting. The FEIF Annual Meeting is more structured in who attends. The Board members from each of the FEIF countries are invited to come and so the people who are in that congregation there are all people who are actively involved with their own countries. So the committee meetings and such are all people who are very very involved within the structure of FEIF on a volunteer basis already. But if you are going to take that structure and use it for our Annual Meeting where anybody is welcome to come, you can get some people who are brand new to the breed, possibly only members for a couple of weeks, and want to give their input but don't have enough knowledge of the breed and would take up a lot of time. Sandie was worried about this scenario. Bernie understood Sandie's concern but felt that it would work better if the committees were separated so that the novice person did not take up the time of 40 people but only took the time of 10 people. Sandie said that the proposal we have in front of the Board leads us to believe that the people who attend have to be serious about their concerns in order to present them in advance. In this way they think about it, write about it and send them to the Board in advance for the Board to respond. Katrin understands this concern and she feels that it would be great if a lot of new-comers in a breeding committee for example. Because it is very easy for her to explain things right then and there and there would be copies of all educational materials available such as FIZO and FIRO. Katrin feels it is very easy to explain things to people things

that they don't know yet and so much nicer if they have a forum where they can actually go and ask these questions then sitting through an Annual Meeting and going away with questions that still have not been answered. Barb said that she didn't think that Katrin expects proposals to be voted on at any of these meetings. Katrin said that people will not attend to make proposals but rather to get some information as to why things are done they way they are or what does one see for the future and where people should go to gain more information. Katrin feels that the opportunities to learn specifics about the breed are missing from the previous Annual Meetings. She feels that this opportunity to get involved with Congress and have access to all knowledgeable people should attract a lot of members. Caryn asked why each committee's meeting has to be done separately and not at the meeting of the general assembly. Katrin said that in the general assembly meeting there is no space allotted for on the spot questions or offer opinions. Anne doesn't like the fact that there are only a couple of hours set aside for the general assembly. Anne loves the idea of having committee meetings but wondered if she could schedule that on Saturday morning and start the Annual Meeting Saturday afternoon and if necessary, finish the general assembly on Sunday morning. That leaves Sunday afternoon open for more educational opportunities. Anne felt that if we divide the general assembly into two parts, it will allow us more time if needed. Caryn said that a lot of people would like to go home on Sunday. Anne said that they would not go home on Sunday because they would not want to miss the entire event. Bernie said that this plan responds to the ideas that members have given us after the last Annual Meeting. They wanted to make the Annual Meeting more fun and valuable. Again Ed said he would like to see an outline on paper stating the events and the approximate times it will take. Katrin said that should not be a problem. Katrin said that she does not feel comfortable splitting the Annual Meeting into two different days. She said she would rather move the committee meetings the day before. Barb said that by having the second half of the general assembly on Sunday, we might find people leaving early without finishing the meeting. Caryn suggest that we start the general assembly meeting on Saturday morning until it's finished and then follow it with the committee meetings. Katrin said that will take away the chance to bring ideas out of committees into the meeting. Bernie explained that the exchange of information at the specific committee meetings can be outlined in their report at the general assembly meeting. Anne felt that that would make the general assembly meeting much too large to complete in one day. Bernie said that with that in mind it might be better to have the general assembly meeting split into two days. Caryn was concerned for the Board members who have to get to work on Monday. Katrin said that it would be best then to hold the committee meetings on Friday afternoon and start the general assembly meeting on Saturday morning with a lunch break and continuation in the afternoon if need be. Katrin feels that the committees should not be allowed to submit proposals at these meetings and that they should always be presented in written form to the Board for approval but it will be a good exchange of information toward proposals. Caryn said that we had committee meetings at last years Annual Meeting the night before and asked if it was successful. Barb said that it was not successful because there was not a plan or structure to committee meetings. There were just rooms available if someone wanted to take advantage of it for their committee. Bernie asked if Katrin could come up with some options in writing during the next three days and we could then discuss this via the internet and come up with a plan to start advertising as soon as possible. Katrin agreed and the Board agreed. Katrin feels it is important to structure this years meeting taking membership's suggestions into consideration.

Laura Benson: Congress Promotional Brochures. This information is in the report. Katrin asked if Anne had ever contacted Hulda Girsdottir. Anne said she had forgotten and will try to get that done soon.

Caryn Cantella: Congress costs for Paypal. Bernie noted that in our Constitution under fees: ~Fees shall be established by the Board of Directors and ratified at the next Annual Meeting. Membership fees shall be due January 1st of each year.~

So whatever we decide, it doesn't go into effect until March 29th. Caryn said that she is concerned with the amount of changes and expenses that go with those changes. Paypal now will cost us about \$1,000 additional per year along with the cost of the WF membership and the increase in competitions throughout the country, she is a little concerned that we continue to add items and services and not take into consideration how much we are depleting our income. Bernie said that this is the reason it would be a better idea of what our actual cash flow is. The Board really needs to start seeing what is coming in and what is going out. When you tell a member that we need \$5 more from you to join the organization,

they then remind us that we have \$70,000 in the bank. What do we say next? Caryn said that is where people get confused because that money is not income from membership. That money is income from registrations and that money has always been kept separate. It isn't money that we're working with from member's money. It doesn't have anything to do with putting out the Quarterly and running the office. Barb stated that it is still member's money. Bernie said that it is from those registration fees that we are paying for judge transportations and such along with special projects. Sandie reminded the Board that one does not have to be a member to register their horse. Caryn said that membership fees, in her opinion, should cover things members get such as World Fengur, the Quarterly and so forth. Katrin asked what the money in the registry is supposed to cover. Anne said it is reserved for special projects. Barb asked what those special projects are. Caryn said the judge's reimbursement is taken from the registry account. Anne added that putting the registration on line for people to use. She stated that the purchase of the Congress booth should have come out of the Registry account but it actually was paid for with membership money but was actually a special project. Anne said that registry money is reserved for one-time expense or out of the ordinary expense. Caryn said that it is also available for the reimbursement to Regional clubs to pay for judge's expenses who have a loss on breeding evaluations. Caryn said that we have purchased computer programs in the past. Caryn said that she is not saying some of this money cannot be used to benefit the members. Caryn reminded the Board that the money in the registry account is there because of the years of voluntary work she had given as registry. That is now a paid position. This position is new and it will take a full year to see how that the salary of the registrar will affect the registry account. Caryn had researched at one point how much of the membership fee is paying for the Quarterly and other membership expenses and it was about \$27 per Quarterly to be sent to each member. That did not include WF and the money that we will pay for the Paypal service. She is trying to make everyone aware of these expenses. Bernie said that Caryn had described to him better than what had been explained to him before the difference between the funds that come in from registry purposes and funds that come in from membership purposes. Katrin agreed. Bernie asked if Caryn had a proposal to increase the membership fee. Doug Smith felt that if someone mailed in a membership fee, they should be charged an office fee to those that are not paid by Paypal. Doug's reasoning on this was that if people joined on line, it will be less office work to process the payment. Katrin said that is the purpose to go on line with the dues so we can reduce the work of the volunteer. Barb said that those people who do not have a computer and send their membership in by mail are going to be punished with an additional fee. Caryn agreed. Bernie did not like this idea as the majority of the rest of the Board. Katrin said that if we do it the other way around, then no one will use Paypal. Caryn said that the cost for a family membership with a farm listing which comes to \$170. The cost to Congress to process this payment through Paypal is \$5.23. For an individual membership with a farm listing coming out to \$150, the cost to Congress is \$4.65. If it's a Junior Membership with a farm listing, the cost to Congress is \$4.51. So it looks as though the farm listings are what have the most cost to Congress. If the membership fee is \$40 the cost to Congress to process the payment through Paypal is \$1.50. Laura suggested that we raise each membership fee by \$5. Bernie said that amount would be justified with just the subscription included for WF to each membership. \$5 gives members the WF subscription which would normally cost \$50 or \$60. Laura said that she would send out a notification stating the Paypal option along with the additional WF benefit and the raise in the membership fees is minimal when you take into consideration what benefits received. Ed proposed that we raise the membership fees by \$5 across the board to cover the additional costs of Paypal and the World Fengur subscriptions. Bernie doesn't think that it's necessary to raise each fee. Katrin would like to keep the Youth Membership fee as it is and think about raise the farm fee a little more. Bernie said that if we raise the membership fee of individual and family memberships by \$5, it would cover everything. Bernie stated that there is no farm listing without the membership so if you raise the farm listing fee also, those people are getting double charged. The proposal was changed. Ed moved that we increase the Individual and Family Membership Fees by \$5 per year. It should be announced on the web site as a wonderful benefit based on the ability to pay these fees conveniently on line with Paypal and the inclusion of a WF subscription with each membership. Bernie reminded the Board that if we agree with this it has to be ratified at the Annual Meeting and we have to be sure it gets on that agenda. Caryn said that since this will not go into effect until after the annual meeting, it is basically a change for 2009. There were not objections to this proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer for Registry Account (Caryn Cantella): I would like to discuss who will take over the accounting for the registry. I plan to stay on until March, but think that at the first of the year the accounting should be taken over by someone else.

Caryn said that since we have voted to appoint individuals for the two openings from the resignations, this probably won't be an issue. Bernie said that he is currently looking for Articles of Incorporation so that Ed can get his signature on the registry account as well. Katrin felt that it was important to make sure all the financials were not in one hand. Caryn said that we can discuss this at the next meeting. Bernie asked Caryn to e-mail the Board an expansion of what she had said with regard to the purpose of the registry account versus the membership account. Anne suggested that she take care of that as part of a policy statement that she is working on over Thanksgiving. Caryn agreed.

Election Notice: Doug Smith has prepared the attached election notice and three sample renewal messages to be mailed together.

Anne noticed that the meeting that Doug sent out was a revision of the notice that we all approved. It wasn't much of a revision but there were revisions in it. Anne said she has tremendous concern is that he had never sent her the documents he intends to use. She does not want to be in a situation where he revises other things and they are now different than what we approved. He did not send them yet so Anne asked Bernie if he could ask Doug to send them to Anne again. Anne said she forwarded all the documents to Martina all the documents that we as a Board approved. She was going to revise them and send them to Doug. Instead she sent him the revisions and told him to make them. Anne thinks that some of the details got lost in that process. Anne feels it's important to see the proposed documents before they are sent to be sure they are approved. Bernie will take care of that request.

2008 Election (Ed Hilgaertner): The BOD needs to discuss the "who" is up for election and/or selection at our board meeting prior to the mailing.

Bernie said that there are three Board members up for re-election. Those members are Andrea Barber, Sandie Weaver and himself. We then have two members who are resigning before the end of their term as of the end of this election. Those members are Caryn Cantella and Barb Riva. The Constitution states that the Board has the ability to appoint replacements of resigning members so we can elect three and appoint two or, it has been suggested that since the resignations coincide with the election period, we should fill the positions with the election process. Bernie thought the second option might be going against the Constitution. Anne said that it does not. The Constitution states that we may fill it but we can also make the choice to let the election process fill these additional openings. Ed did not think it was carved in stone that the three members who are up for re-election are automatically up for re-election. Anne said that the Board made that decision. Ed agreed but there is nothing stopping us from changing that. Bernie and Anne disagreed. Ed said there is nothing in the Constitution that says that Sandie has to be up for re-election this year or Bernie has to be up for re-election this year. It is something that the Board decided. He felt that the Board can decide to do it differently this year which give the membership an opportunity to participate. Caryn said that this change throws off the entire three year term. Anne said the people are now elected for three year terms and the Board can't decide to change that. Anne said that the change to a three year term required a Constitutional Amendment. Ed didn't read that in the Constitution. Anne said that there was a Constitutional amendment that said that three Board officers would be elected each time and the only thing the Board had to decide at that time, since they had all been elected for a two year term prior, was three members would come up for their re-election first and who would be the second and third grouping of three to follow. Only that was the Board decision. Ed said the decision was to change at least three Board members every year. The decision wasn't to limit one person to a minimum or a maximum of three years. Anne said that nobody has a maximum term of three years, but it is a three year term. If they run again and they have a six year term, unless they choose to leave earlier, their term is always three years. Bernie read from the Constitution: Article 7, Section 2. At least three directors will be elected at each Annual Meeting and will serve for a term of three years until a successor is elected. Bernie said that as far as the Constitution is concerned, we are limited to three years unless we are re-elected. Ed then agreed. Anne stated that the three sitting Board

members who are due to run again, we must select two other people on the Board to serve out the one year remaining on Caryn and Barbs term. How we do that is up to us. We can say, rather than appoint, since they are deciding to only serve the two years of their three year term; the timing is such that the membership could elect five people. Three to serve a three year term and two to serve one year terms. We can choose to fill it that way. Bernie asked that if we decide to do it that way, how it will mechanically work. People would have to nominate someone for a three year term and others for a one year term. Anne feels that gets too complicated. She said we would be better off to hold the regular election and then if we chose to pick the person with the fourth and fifth large amount of votes to fill in the openings, that is our choice. Anne does not think we should establish a president of electing more than three Board members. She likes the idea of picking the member with the fourth and fifth amount of votes but she can see reasons why a Board may not want to do that at some particular point in history. They may feel that someone is needed on the Board because of special skills or it was chance to give an opportunity for a part of the country that was growing to have a voice on the Board. We might have different reasons at different times and she thinks we should preserve that right to the Board. That is what the Constitution specifies and the only reason it specifies that is because it is on other organizational Constitutions. Caryn said that when she resigned, she was not thinking of the three year term issue but rather that the election time would work out the best. She likes the idea of choosing someone who is running for the position because they are showing an interest but she does not like the idea of setting precedence to do this when this situation comes up again. Caryn said that one of her concerns is five people on the Board agreeing to choose people and then choose people they like or people they think will vote their way. She sees the Board as being members that the membership has elected. Caryn didn't want to see a padding of the board to be able to get votes in one particular direction. She said that it is the Board's responsibility to replace those positions but it is not the Board's responsibility to make up the Board. That is the job of the membership. Bernie asked the Board to consider a worse case scenario. The five Board members selected the other four Board members. One term is only a year. Caryn said that a lot can be done in a year's time. In taking the pros and cons of this issue into consideration, Caryn thinks the cons of just individually selecting people who have not run for the Board is that you could just choose people you like to vote your way. Anne said that one would still have to get everyone on the Board to agree with the decision. Caryn said that actually you would only need the majority of the Board which would be five. Katrin said that the people on the Board are already put into their positions by the membership. They actually voted for us because they felt we have the means to do the right thing. Anne said that while it sounds great in a theoretical sense that people who run for the Board have shown interest, I could without great difficulty, name about three people who I couldn't identify what their motivation was to run and the membership did not vote them on to the Board. Katrin said that is somewhat of her issue. She said that there may be some people who run for the Board who are not voted for by the membership. The fact that these members did not make the top three positions in the election proves that the majority of voters did not want them on the Board but there was no one else running. Ed stated that if we decide that we need to abide directly by the Constitution, he is o.k. with that. However, what do we do about the timing of the selection of the replacements? Anne said that was an interesting question and stated the question of does the present Board elect people to fill these positions of the two who will not serve out their term, or does the new Board have a say in that decision? Ed felt it should be the current Board's decision and Katrin agreed. Ed said that we need to make those selections prior to the election process. Katrin said that there are times we could choose people who might have a talent that is needed on the Board. A year's term for that type of individual might be beneficial. These people may not have any intentions to run for the Board but if they felt it was only for a year might consider volunteering their time. Sandie feels that the members need to make this decision. She said that the three individuals running who get the majority vote should take the three year terms and the next two would get the one year terms. Laura asked what we would do if only four members ran. Sandie said that then we would have to find someone to fill in for a year. Barb said that when we discussed this via e-mail she also was in favor of letting the members would be able to make this decision through their voting process. However, now that we have found a few glitches that might not make this process work, she is wondering if these resignations should be made earlier so this decision could be made easier. Bernie said that if the resignations were made effective the end of December, we would then know who was running for election and then we could make the decision to appoint to fill the vacancies and perhaps from people who were not running. That would eliminate the problem of the issue that Katrin suggested, and that is we are electing people who the membership did not vote in. Katrin favored that idea because we would know who is running and if

that looks good then we can let the votes decide. However, it gives us an option. Katrin is worried about setting precedence and she would like to be able to decide after we see the list of nominees. Katrin feels that if we do anything other, it lets too much emotion into the decision. Sandie agreed. Bernie said that we should determine who these appointees are before the people are even nominated. Katrin said that maybe we will be lucky and all these appointees may run for the positions anyway. Bernie said that if they were appointed then they would not have to run. Ed said that some of us may have candidate in mind already. Ed said that he hadn't talked to this person yet, but supposed since Asta is doing the registry we could convince her to run for the election or appoint her for a year. Anne said that is a very good idea. In looking at the Constitution, it states that the members must be notified of the election by December 1 and accept nominations by January 1st. If this timing issue that Ed brought to our attention is critical that means we have to appoint two people at our December meeting. Sandie asked for verification. Bernie said that we need to appoint two people for the two vacancies before the nominations are made public. Sandie is opposed to that because she feels the membership should make that decision. She said the membership should vote in the first three positions and the Board should appoint the remaining openings from the next two vote getters for the two one year terms. Anne reminded her the Constitution does not provide that. The Constitution provides that we appoint someone to fill these positions. Anne was not in agreement with this plan. She said that suppose we had five people running and the first three got 257 votes apiece and number four got 7 votes and number five got 3. Katrin agreed and said there is a reason why some people are not voted in at elections. What we would do in this case scenario is vote against what the membership wanted and she strongly feels that she hasn't been put on the Board to do this. Sandie said that we discussed this via e-mail and the point has been brought up that at least these people have stepped forward and said they are willing to be on the Board. Why turn around and appoint someone who doesn't even have the desire to be on the Board. Anne said we wouldn't appoint someone who didn't want to be on the Board. They would have to be willing to accept the appointment. Sandie said that if they are not willing to declare a candidacy, then why would be appoint them. Katrin said that if one declares a candidacy, they are running for a three year positions. Sandie felt that if the membership knew up front that there were five positions open and the top three voted in got the three year terms and the next two would get the one year positions, they would know that up front. Bernie said that we could do it if we change the Constitution but that would not be in effect until after the Annual Meeting. Sandie said that if the Board decides to do it this way, we wouldn't have to change the Constitution. Anne felt it was too complicated and she didn't feel it would work. Caryn said that the Board would choose to appoint those forth and fifth place vote getters. Caryn explained that we would not run five positions for the Board, but we would make our choice once the election from the people who ran for election. Laura again asked what happens if only three or four people run. Sandie said then at that time we would have to go out and find someone for the opening. Ed made a motion that we as the Board need to do select two people that we think can do the job for at least one year. Then proceed with the election as always. Katrin second the motion. The votes were as follows:

No votes: Sandie, Caryn

Yes votes: Laura, Barb, Katrin, Anne, Bernie, Ed

Ed's motion passes.

Ed said by the next meeting we all have to come up with the candidates we want to select and why we want to select them. All agreed

Regional Club Proposal by Dawn Shaw (Andrea Barber) Below is a proposal that Dawn Shaw presented to the Regional Club committee. The response from the committee was unanimous among those that responded:

Dawn Shaw

Andrea Barber

Judy Strehler

Kelly Pierce

Annette Coulon

Brian Puntin

Barb Riva
Kari Pietsch-Wangard
Deb Cook
Rich Moore
Kristin Forbregd Houser

Board Meeting Attendance Proposal:

I propose that USIHC Board meetings be opened up for any USIHC Regional Club member who desires to listen in, thus allowing more than one member per club to attend the phone meetings. Anyone interested in this process should be allowed and indeed encouraged to sit in providing they or their club are willing to cover the cost of additional attendees. It would stand that those listening in would not be allowed to participate in the meeting.

On the positive side, this allows any interested party the opportunity to sit in, which could inspire involvement on committees or interest in running for the board. The more open the inner workings of the organization, the less excluded people feel. There is so much going on that many people don't even realize and this could really help increase awareness. This would also increase the amount of information filtering back to the Clubs. Also, since more than one person from a single club would be allowed to attend, no one would be excluded due to geography, especially considering the lack of participation by the majority of Regional Clubs.

On the negative side, there is potential for the attendance of meetings to get very large. Someone would have to take responsibility to contact individuals who plan to attend and be sure they are aware of the rules. A policy of non-participation would need to be set for violators of these rules and someone would have to be responsible for enforcing it. There is also the potential for misinformation to get out, and of course Board members may feel less candid if there are a lot of people listening in. However, this may be a non-issue unless large numbers suddenly take interest. So far they haven't.

Andrea explained that our current policy allows only one Regional Club member to observe the monthly Board meetings. Dawn would like to open it up to an unlimited amount of observers. Seeing that we have not had a huge stampede to observe these meetings, she felt it would be good to open this up now. Andrea felt that the only drawback was that at some point we might have too many people but we could then revisit this policy when and if it reaches that point. The Regional Club Committee was unanimously in favor of this proposal. Anne asked what it does to the cost of the monthly Board Meetings. There would be no additional cost because either the regional club or the individual is responsible for the cost of their addition to the teleconferenced call. Andrea said that it doesn't affect the cost to the Board, only the cost to the person observing. Caryn explained that now, different from when these calls were conducted years ago, when someone calls in to be added to the meeting, the charges go directly to the person dialing in. Anne said that as long as there was no additional cost to the Board, she felt it was an excellent idea. Andrea said that this isn't correct. Congress should be getting a bill for the teleconferenced calls and the more people who attend, the more expensive the meeting becomes. Ed said that he hasn't gotten any additional bills. Andrea said that the Regional Clubs should be getting billed for their participation. So when we get our bill from the company who handles the teleconferencing for us, all the Board members have their participation paid but those from the regional clubs should be getting billed for their portion of participation. Ed said that this has not happened since we changed to the new teleconferencing service. Ed said that he does not get an itemized bill for this service. Andrea said that we should be getting that from them. Caryn felt that it would not be feasible for Ed to bill this call to what

can become a large number of observers. Andrea said there is a very slim chance that we would ever get 40 observers. Andrea said that the largest number of observer was from the Flugnir Regional Club when Barb was really trying to rouse people and with the Cascade club with two individuals. Anne asked if this opportunity is only open to members of regional clubs. Both Bernie and Andrea said yes. Ed remembers when we were conducting the meetings with the previous company, it was extremely expensive. The bill for the monthly Board meetings now is about \$180 where previously it was close to \$600. Caryn said that even so, the more people added, the more it will cost Congress. Andrea stated that our current policy is the Regional Clubs must be financially responsible for anyone they have on the call and if that's not happening, we need to figure out how to make that happen. Bernie asked what everyone felt about charging a flat fee. The way it stands with the nine board members the cost is \$20 per person. Anne said that it looks as though the cost factor will be easy to rectify. The work time for billing and sending these bills does not sit well with her. Anne suggested that the conference call bill be sent to Andrea and she can bill the regional club whose members observe. Andrea agreed. Katrin asked why we do not choose a teleconference service that is free. Bernie said that might be a good idea. Katrin said she would research it for the next Board Meeting. Andrea confirmed that at this time our policy says each Regional Club can have an observer listen in on the Monthly Board Meetings. It does not say that the observer needs to be a member of the Congress. She felt that any observer should be a Congress member. Dawn disagreed stating that if we allowed non-members to listen in, they might be motivated to become members. Bernie said that it would be difficult to enforce if there were a few non-members listening in at the location of a member. Barb agreed that we have not control over this but we still can enforce the rule that the phone location must be that of a Congress member. Andrea said that it would be easy to regulate because she gets the names of individuals from the Regional Clubs and she would be able to see if those individual are members. At this time the only person who does not verify her participation to observe is Alice Peal who had informed Bernie of her intent. Bernie said that Nancy Marie Brown asked if Alice could sit in on the meeting as a reporter for the Quarterly. Andrea said that is would be rare that a non-regional club member would be observing without Andrea's knowledge. Bernie stated that the only changes to the proposal are that Andrea will handle the billing for the observers and that anyone observing had to be a Congress Member. There were no objections.

Additional issue (Bernie Willis): Bernie informed the Board that our Congress display booth is in the possession of Brian Puntin. Bernie received an e-mail asking if the Board wanted him to store the booth until it needs to go the next location. Sarah Conklin had always done this in the past and Bernie felt he should check with the Board before making that change. Brian said that Sarah no longer wants to store the booth. Bernie asked if anyone had heard from Sarah regarding this issue. Caryn received a bill from Sarah saying she had to ship the booth second day air because they cut the time so close to the show. Caryn felt that might have been something that caused her to decide to discontinue handling the booth. Caryn said the cost of shipping second day air was \$140. Laura asked what it normally costs to ship the booth and Caryn did not know. Ed said that he thought it was usually around \$100 to ship the booth. Laura said she spoke to Sarah giving her Brian's address for the show in Massachusetts and she indicated that she doesn't understand why she still has the booth. Brian is also planning to attend the Equine Affair in Ohio which is the next breed demo after Massachusetts so it's convenient for him to keep it for the Ohio show. Bernie will confirm that with Sarah before making this decision. Laura said that if Brian wants to keep it for the next show in Ohio that would be fine but we need to appoint someone who will be able to handle shipping the booth on a regular basis. Bernie suggested that the booth go from one location to another. Anne said that it still needs to be checked for damage in between use. Caryn said that this responsibility usually stays with the head of the promotion committee. Laura said that would be fine since she attends almost all the breed demonstrations throughout the country. Anne reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting will be before EA in Ohio. Sandie then added that after Ohio it should go to the EA in Pomona, California. Laura asked who was going to handle the booth in Pomona and Sandie did not know. Laura said that she didn't think the booth will be going to the Pomona show, unless someone else decided to take it over. Laura said she cut ties with that show because it was too difficult to plan with the events she had to handle for the Northern California group. It's possible that Steinar and Stina might handle the booth at the Pomona show but she couldn't be sure. The last time she talked to Debbie Putnam, she hadn't been able to get a hold of Steinar or Stina so she has not confirmation for anyone to man the booth at the EA in Pomona.

Next Meeting Schedule for December 18th, 2007.