

2015 USIHC Annual Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2015 Nokomis Room, Radisson Blu Hotel, Minneapolis, MN

The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by USIHC President, Sara Lyter.

Sara thanked all participants for attending and the Flugnir Club for co-hosting the meeting, followed by introductions of the remainder of the current USIHC Board of Directors:

Andrea Barber, USIHC Breeding Committee Chair
Juli Cole, USIHC Secretary, Promotion Committee Chair
Will Covert, USIHC Sport Committee Chair
Lori Cretney, USIHC Vice President
Anne Elwell (excused)
Kari Pietsch- Wangard, USIHC Treasurer
Katrin Sheehan
Doug Smith

To kick off the meeting, Barbara Frische gave a lecture about the Young Horse Evaluation Linear Form using three fictional horses to demonstrate how the process and form is used to help determine if the horse is ideal for show or leisure riding.

Following Barbara's presentation were summaries of the 2014 reports from the various USIHC committees, as presented by either the committee Chairs, or their BOD Liaison. Committee reports are attached to the minutes.

At the conclusion of the Breeding Report, Andrea Barber asked FEIF International Breeding Judge and member of the the Breeding Judges' Committee Barbara Frische to speak about the new procedure for selecting judges for breeding shows.

Andrea Barber gave a detailed background and explanation of the proposed Blood Profile Project which the USIHC is currently pursuing with the help of researchers from Cornell University.

Kari Pietsch-Wangard reviewed the 2014 Financial Report for USIHC, explaining all areas of USIHC income and expenses for that fiscal year.

Doug Smith reported on the status and trends of USIHC membership, including graph charts he developed that clearly demonstrated the numbers as he explained them.

Dave and Eve Loftness, members of the Flugnir Club, gave an interesting and entertaining presentation about American Competitive Trail Horse competitions, which are judged trail rides complete with obstacles that horses and riders navigate in a fun, yet competitive atmosphere.

Their presentation included demonstrations of some obstacles using two teams or “horses” and “riders”, balloons, hula-hoops, and even Icelandic chocolate bars.

Awards:

The 2014 National Ranking winners for FEIF Sport Competition were announced. They are as follows:

T1 – Asta Covert	V1 – Asta Covert
T2 – Anne-Marie Martin	V2 – Lucy Nold
T3 – Lucy Nold	V3 – Mitch Martin
T4 – Doug Smith	V5 – Alicia Flanigan
T5 – Mitch Martin	V6 – Emma Erickson
T6 – Olivia Rasmussen	F1 – Carrie Lyons Brandt
T7 – Kelly Blough and Tammy Martin	F2 – Kari Pietsch-Wangard
T8 – Julia Hasenauer	

USIHC has a very special award, the Sleipner Award, that is presented to a person who demonstrates going above and beyond for the benefit of the Icelandic Horse breed in this country, or for the USIHC. The USIHC BOD presents this award at those times a member has clearly demonstrated the spirit of the award.

Dawn Shaw was announced as a recipient of the Sleipner Award for her tremendous efforts assisting with the rehoming and registering of a very large number of Icelandic Horses over the past few years. Without her efforts of explaining to new owners why registration was so important, and the step by step assistance she gave them from start to finish of the registration process, it is possible that many of these horses would have remained unregistered and without any proof of their identity as purebred Icelandic Horses.

The winners of the 2014 Breed Ambassador Award were also named at the Annual Meeting, by way of a random drawing of all members who entered the contest. The Breed Ambassador Award acknowledges those members who participate in organized all-breed events with their Icelandic Horses with winners receiving a \$50 Visa gift card and an official USIHC Breed Ambassador shirt. The winners are as follows:

Jane Wasson – MDPFHA Judged Pleasure Trail Ride held June 28, 2014, in Somerset, PA
Gloria Verecchio, DVM – Blockhouse Steeplechase held April 26, 2014, in Tyron, NC
Grace Strausser – PPWHA Home Run Fun Show held June 28, 2014 in Dillsburg, PA
Alice Ryan – Extreme Obstacle Clinic, held March 29, 2014 in Newfane, VT
Dorothy Connors – May Day Gaited Classic Show held April 26, 2014, in Dillsburg, PA

Reeves International, manufacturers of the Breyer collectible horses, donated two limited edition Icelandic Horse models to be given away to USIHC members. The winners of the models were determined by a random drawing from all entries submitted. The winners are: Gerald Oliver and Leslie Chambers

The Flugnir Club generously donated a variety of equestrian themed door prizes that were given away to the attendees of the Annual Meeting via random drawing. A total of 12 beautiful prizes were given away to very lucky and very happy winners.

The meeting turned to a general discussion forum between the attendees and the BOD. A wide variety of topics were discussed, many of which will be referred to the appropriate USIHC committee for further discussion and or development. The discussion was very interesting, and likely would have continued on into the evening if not for time constraints. Many excellent suggestions were made. Throughout the discussion, members were encouraged to join the committees that best represent their interests. Some of the key topics discussed were:

- 1) The benefits of being a USIHC and/or Regional Club member and what other types of benefits might be offered to members.
- 2) Increasing educational opportunities to members, especially leisure riders.
- 3) The preservation of trail riding areas for horses – how can USIHC and/or the Regional Clubs help in this effort?
- 4) Keeping the flow of communication going between the BOD, members and Regional Clubs

The final presentation of the meeting was on Equine Dentistry, given by Laurelyn Turbes, who enhanced her presentation with a slide show and a full size model of an equine skull. Basic dental care along with some common issues with the teeth and gums were covered, along with some advancements in equine dentistry.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00PM

Meeting minutes prepared by Juli Cole and Sara Lyter

2014 Secretary's Report

submitted by Doug Smith on February 15, 2015

General Duties

Most of the general duties of the Secretary are not particularly interesting to report. Agendas and minutes were prepared according to the normal time schedules for all Board teleconference calls. Routine updates were made to the website news and calendar pages as requested by the various committee chairs, board members, and the membership at large. All items posted to the news and calendar pages are automatically sent to the Congress Facebook page.

All the routine correspondence with our parent organization, FEIF, was completed in a timely manner.

The regularly scheduled farm and mailing lists were provided to the Quarterly committee to aid in the publication of the magazine.

Assistance was given to the Election Committee in preparing for the annual Board election. Once again, the election was canceled by the Board under the powers granted by the Constitution when no candidates were nominated to challenge the incumbent members.

Membership

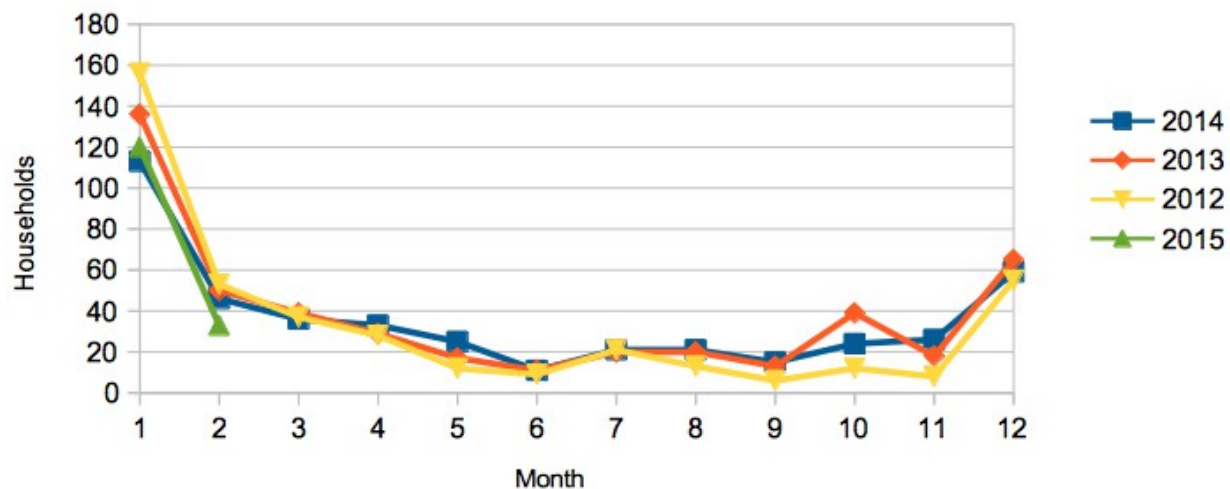
A much more interesting topic is the status of the Congress membership. The membership has been closely tracked in a database integrated into the web site since 2007/2008. From this time on, all membership records have been logged to give the Board a clear insight into the expansion and retention of the membership.

The membership trend in the Congress continues following the traditional pattern. As evident in the graph below, the overall pattern of membership is extremely closely tied to the historic January 1st expiration date.

There is a slight shifting of the curve between 2012 and 2014. Some of this shift can be attributed to the free youth memberships offered for 2014. There is also a slight shifting caused by late renewals.

Membership Trends

Households by Start of Membership Year



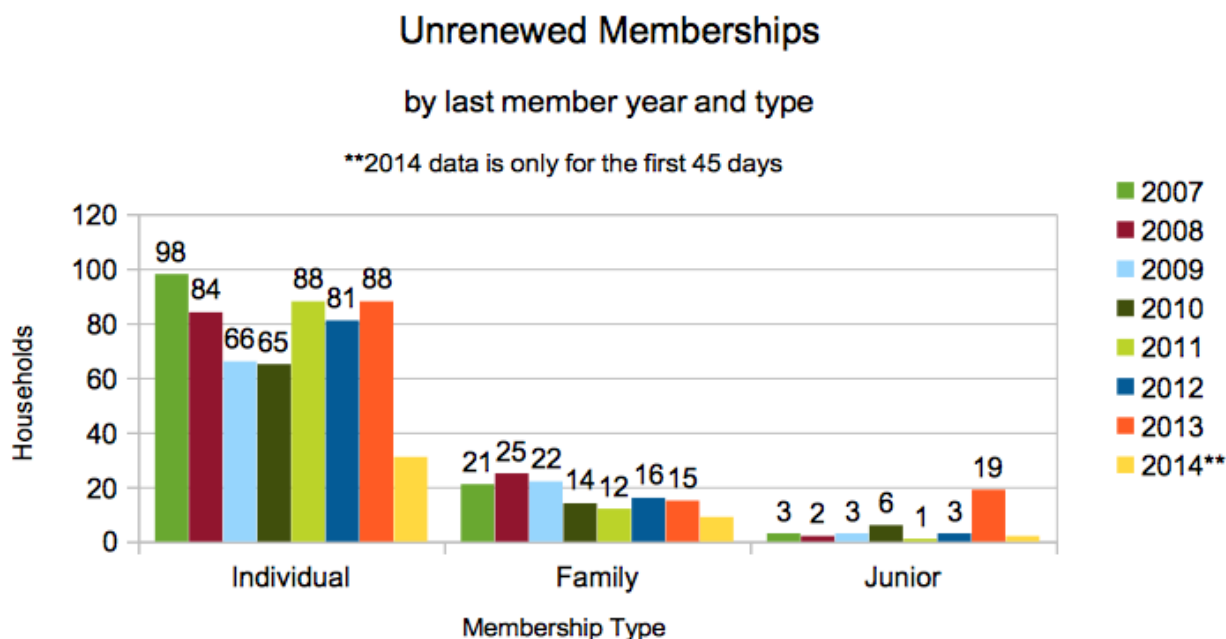
As seen in the previous chart, the overall status of the membership remains fairly constant over time. It is worth noting, however, there is a high amount of turnover from year to year. The following shows the number of memberships by year and type that have been allowed to lapse since they were created.

This proves to be a slightly difficult statistic to research. For the sake of simplicity, each column each column represents the memberships of a given type last active in the shown year. For example, in 2007 there were 98 individual memberships not renewed.

There is likely some degree of “false positive” cases where a youth or family membership ends because a child reaches majority and is forced to join as an individual. This is not a significant number.

There is also a “false positive” opportunity if a membership expires and is restarted as a new membership rather than a renewal. The design of the membership database attempts to minimize such cases by enforcing uniqueness of email addresses. Again, there is not likely to be a significant number of memberships that are replaced by new ones where it is truly the same person using a different email address.

One other note regarding the data. The extremely high number of unrenewed “Junior” memberships from 2013 reflects the program of offering free memberships for young people during the period from September 2013 to September 2014. Many of these memberships were for extremely young children or at addresses with normal, paid memberships. It is not surprising, therefore, many of these memberships were not continued once the free period expired.

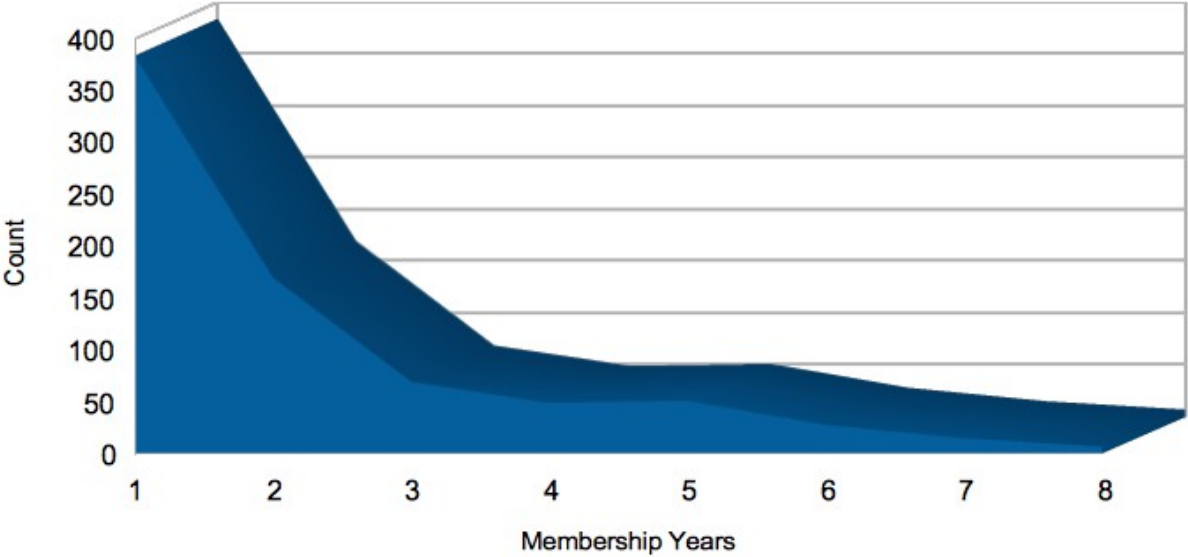


The clearest conclusion is there is a routine turnover in the membership that amounts to almost 25% of the normal household threshold in any given year. This observation indicates the challenge to the Congress is not as much growth as it is retention.

Further analysis of the un-renewed memberships shows the vast majority of them are only one or two years old. Members who stay over two years tend to stay for the long haul. A very small number reach back to the start of the online membership database.

The following chart shows the complete breakdown.

Age of Unrenewed Memberships



04/20/15

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Balance Sheet Standard
 As of December 31, 2014

	<u>Dec 31, '14</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Associated Checking acct.	15,904.47
Associated Money Market Acct.	131,824.44
Total Checking/Savings	<u>147,728.91</u>
Other Current Assets	
CD ownd by USIHC matures 4/7/13	3,000.00
CDs for Judge Scholarship Fund	
CD-matures 10/5/17	3,069.67
CD-matures 10/5/15	3,036.18
CD-matures 9/29/16	1,003.51
Total CDs for Judge Scholarship ...	<u>7,109.36</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>10,109.36</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>157,838.27</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>157,838.27</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Unexpended Judge Schlshp. Fund	7,000.00
Unexpended World Champshp F...	2,225.83
Unexpended Youth Funds	4,956.32
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>14,182.15</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>14,182.15</u>
Total Liabilities	14,182.15
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	96,926.56
Retained Earnings	48,224.44
Net Income	-1,494.88
Total Equity	<u>143,656.12</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>157,838.27</u></u>

04/20/15

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.

Profit and Loss Standard

January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec '14
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Breeding Committee Income	
Breeding Evaluation Reimb.	0.00
Evaluation-FEIF fees	400.00
Total Breeding Committee Income	400.00
Competition Inc.	
Sanction Competition fee	475.00
Total Competition Inc.	475.00
FEIF Conference Reimbsmt.	875.30
Interest Income	274.75
Membership Related Income	
Farm Listing	
2015 Farm listing	964.48
2014 Farm Listing	2,838.53
Total Farm Listing	3,803.01
Membership Dues	
2015 Membership dues	
2015 Youth Membership	33.68
2015 Family mbshp	1,449.01
2015 Individual Mbshp	2,615.83
Total 2015 Membership dues	4,098.52
2014 Membership dues	
2014 Foreign Friend	135.97
2014 Youth membership	138.68
2014 Family Mbshp	5,317.65
2014 Individual Mbshp	11,925.30
Total 2014 Membership dues	17,517.60
Total Membership Dues	21,616.12
Quarterly Inc.	
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	5,036.06
Quarterly back issue sales	138.35
Total Quarterly Inc.	5,174.41
Website Inc.	
Stallion listing	9.71
Website Ad Inc.	813.62
Total Website Inc.	823.33
Total Membership Related Income	31,416.87
Other Income	
Booth Deposit/Refund	0.00
Total Other Income	0.00
Registry Income	
Duplicate Registration fees	484.85
Late Stallion Report fees	3,775.00
Registration fees	7,384.69
Transfer fees	3,122.52
Total Registry Income	14,767.06
USIHC Non-Member fees	688.20
Youth Committee Inc.	

04/20/15

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Profit and Loss Standard
 January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec '14
FEIF Youth Cup Reimbursement	2,583.55
Youth Cup Tryout Fees	750.00
Total Youth Committee Inc.	3,333.55
Total Income	52,230.73
Expense	
Breeding Committee Exp.	
Breeding Comm. Equipment Exp.	1,295.00
FEIF Evaluation fees	124.86
Elwell Breeding Award	81.30
Total Breeding Committee Exp.	1,501.16
Competition Comm. Expense	
FEIF World Ranking Comp. fee	340.54
National Ranking Award Expense	711.70
World Championship Expenses	
WC 2013 Berlin Expenses	409.73
Total World Championship Expe...	409.73
Total Competition Comm. Expense	1,461.97
FEIF Conference exp.	
FEIF Conf. exp. to be reimbrsed	902.06
FEIF 2014 Conference exp.	1,702.13
Total FEIF Conference exp.	2,604.19
Funding Programs	
Young Horse Eval. funding suppo	500.00
Grant Funding Expense	180.00
Flagship Funding exp.	
Flagship Event - Evaluation	1,000.00
Flagship Event - Sanction Show	6,000.00
Total Flagship Funding exp.	7,000.00
Total Funding Programs	7,680.00
Membership Related Expenses	
Administration	
Mbshp. Postage	550.36
Office/Supplies Exp.	103.22
Tax. Prep. Services	350.00
Total Administration	1,003.58
Annual Meeting Exp.	
2015 Annual Meeting exp.	250.00
2014 Annual Meeting expense	3,994.95
Total Annual Meeting Exp.	4,244.95
FEIF related expenses	
FEIF Mbshp fees	1,642.89
Total FEIF related expenses	1,642.89
Insurance	1,248.00
Quarterly Expenses	
Graphics	4,000.00
Postage for Quarterly	
postage for membership drive	390.35
Postage for Quarterly - Other	2,021.02

04/20/15

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Profit and Loss Standard
 January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec '14
Total Postage for Quarterly	2,411.37
Quarterly Printing	
Copies for Membership drive	248.40
Quarterly Printing - Other	10,380.57
Total Quarterly Printing	10,628.97
Quarterly Expenses - Other	226.00
Total Quarterly Expenses	17,266.34
Service fees	
Bank Fees	3.00
Total Service fees	3.00
Toll Free line	155.40
Website	181.40
Total Membership Related Expens...	25,745.56
Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	
2013 PRP Award exp.	551.50
Total Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	551.50
Promotional Exp.	
Display booth shipping	116.69
Equine Affair Exp.	2,150.00
Other Booth rental Expense	350.00
Promotional postage expenses	562.76
RC Co-op promo exp.	200.00
Promotional Exp. - Other	2.12
Total Promotional Exp.	3,381.57
Registry Expenses	
Clerical for registry	3,830.00
Printing & reproduction-Regist.	627.62
Registry Office supplies	108.80
Registry Postage	416.35
Total Registry Expenses	4,982.77
Youth Committee Exp.	
Youth Cup Exp.	
2014 Youth Cup expense	5,816.89
Total Youth Cup Exp.	5,816.89
Total Youth Committee Exp.	5,816.89
Total Expense	53,725.61
Net Ordinary Income	-1,494.88
Net Income	-1,494.88

Annual Report: Icelandic Horses Registered for year 2014

	Domestic Bred Under 12 Months	Imported Under 12 Months	Domestic Bred	Imported from Iceland	Imported from Canada	Imported from other countries	Total Registered		Total Transfers
Mares	28	0	35	15	1	0	79		109
Stallions	23	0	9	2	1	0	35		15
Geldings	9	0	21	15	1	0	46		66
Total 2014	60	0	65	32	3	0	Total	160	190
Total 2013	42	0	25	22	4	1	Total	94	175
	18	0	40	10	-1	-1		66	15

2014: Total number of horses registered: 160
2014: Total number of horses transferred 190

Domestic Horses registered **3027**
 Imported Horses registered in Worldfengur **2583**
 Total number of Icelandic horses registered in WorldFengur 12/31/2013 **5610**

USIHC QUARTERLY COMMITTEE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Nancy Brown and Nicki Esdorn, co-chairs



2014 was a big year for *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*, marking our upgrade to a full-color magazine. Thanks to the USIHC Board for supporting our initiative, co-chair Nicki Esdorn for spearheading the redesign effort, co-chair Nancy Brown for dealing with the design & printing details, and our 15 committee members and up to 49 contributors per issue (more than 10% of the total USIHC membership!) who provided the exceptional content and editorial oversight that makes the *Quarterly* such an effective “face” of the USIHC.

As FEIF Leisure Riding Leader Lone Høgholt wrote upon receiving the March 2015 issue:
“This is an amazingly good magazine! Just spent half morning reading very good and qualified articles. WOW – well done!”

The goals of the Quarterly Committee are to educate and entertain the membership; to provide a communication channel for the Board, the Committees, and the members; and to promote the USIHC and the breed by showing the versatility of the Icelandic horse and focusing on its health and welfare in the U.S. In 2014, the committee renewed its commitment to presenting “best practices” in both text and photographs. We also stated a goal of featuring young and upcoming riders and trainers. Articles in the magazine covered all facets of the Icelandic horse world, including interviews with riders, trainers, and breeders; updates on research projects; reports from shows and evaluations; training tips; travel essays; youth essays; film and book reviews; members’ experiences and reflections; and news from the Regional Clubs, USIHC Committees, the USIHC Board of Directors, and FEIF. We also developed three pages to promote the USIHC and the Registry; these pages, “Why Join the USIHC” and “Why Register Your Icelandic Horse,” are now standard in the magazine and updated as necessary.

Each of the four 2014 issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly* was 52 pages long, in full color with a heavier cover stock, and featured a total of 31 feature articles and numerous news items written and illustrated by committee members and other USIHC members. Advertising pages were increased, with advertising placement now available in both the front and the back of the magazine (thanks to Quarterly committee member and Promotion chair Juli Cole for that suggestion!). Advertising income for the year was \$4,425. The Committee continues to offer free advertising to Regional Clubs or individual members

to promote USIHC-sanctioned events and programs, such as shows, evaluations, clinics, or special offers (i.e., the Youth Membership Drive).

Total Quarterly expenses, for design, printing, and mailing, were \$15,934, according to treasurer Kari Pietsch-Wangard, who has been vital in helping us keep our bills, as well as our advertising, on track. The issues were released electronically as PDF files and posted by USIHC webmaster Doug Smith on www.icelandics.org on approximately Feb. 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15; they were mailed approximately two weeks later. As they are mailed at the most economical bulk rate, copies were received by all members by approximately March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15.

This year, following a revision of the Quarterly Copies Policy in the USIHC Policies & Procedures manual, Nicki Esdorn made a concentrated effort to reach out to all contributors and make sure they each received two free contributors' copies. Contributors are encouraged to share their free copies with potential new members or otherwise use them to promote the USIHC and the breed.

The number of copies in 2014 varied issue to issue:

- March: 1300 copies (446 USIHC members, 580 for membership drive, 221 for Promotion, remainder for contributors and welcome packets)
- June: 650 copies (450 USIHC members, 30 Promotion, remainder for contributors and welcome packets)
- September: 600 copies (476 USIHC members, 50 Promotion, remainder for contributors and welcome packets)
- December: 600 copies (436 USIHC members, 50 Promotion, remainder for contributors and welcome packets)

As of November 2014, we had only 11 copies of the March issue left (out of 1300 printed), 37 copies of June (out of 650), and 2 copies of September (out of 600), meeting our goal of having all copies distributed to interested readers within 6-9 months of their issue date.

For our March 2014 membership drive, we shared 580 copies of the magazine with potential new USIHC members; these were distributed with the help of 29 trainers and breeders who each reached out to 20 potential members. Although the success of the drive is hard to assess--given that, overall, USIHC members in December 2014 was similar to that of March 2014--the trainers and breeders involved were enthusiastic. We felt it was a cheap and easy way to generate good will, to introduce new Icelandic horse riders/owners to the USIHC, and eventually, we hope, to increase our membership numbers. Everyone on our list was very happy and appreciative—and thankful!—to receive free copies to give to their clients. As reported in the March 2015 issue, here's what they told us:

- They were **great handouts** for people interested in the breed and the Icelandic Horse Scene.
- It is such **an excellent promotional tool**; not only is the magazine beautifully designed and informative, it also shows people who are new to the breed **what a fun community the Icelandic horse world in America is!**
- Countless people pick them up and read them, even those who are not horse people. **They really help with encouraging interest in the breed.**
- I have many newbies who are not sure it's worth joining the USIHC as **they don't know what they will get from the membership**, especially if they don't own a horse. I think getting an issue of the *Quarterly* would sway them for sure!
- It's a **great good will gesture that builds interest and excitement** about the breed.

- With every horse and every lesson package we sell, we include a copy of the *Quarterly*. We would love to continue to do this and **encourage people to become members**.

In conjunction with the membership drive, Quarterly co-chair Nicki Esdorn volunteered to take over the job of sending out Welcome Packets to new USIHC members. From March to November 2014, she sent out 65 Welcome Packets.

In addition to producing four spectacular issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*, our committee projects for 2015 include:

- surveying our readers,
- generating more advertising,
- providing more coverage of Icelandic-horse related content found on the web,
- preparing an index (or table of contents) of our web archive of back issues,
- posting more *Quarterly* content as individual stories on the USIHC website,
- working with the Registrar to ensure that each new Icelandic horse owner receives a complimentary copy of the *Quarterly*,
- working with the Education Committee to post our trainer profile series on the website,
- working with the Youth Committee to develop a Youth Essay Contest,
- working with the Leisure Riding Committee to develop a profile series,
- working with the Regional Club Committee to see that all clubs are represented in our Regional Club Updates section,
- working with the Promotion Committee to expand the use of the *Quarterly* as a promotion and membership-recruitment tool by offering free copies (while supplies last) to any USIHC member who requests them (as well as to trainers, breeders, and Regional Clubs).

Committee membership for 2014 averaged 15 members, still all women—we again hope to recruit some male USIHC members to contribute their insights. More women are always welcome on the committee too. We hope you'll join us.

USIHC Sport Committee 2014

Sanctioned Shows in 2014

Location	Date	FEIF International Judge(s)
Santa Ynez, CA	April 26-27	Thorgeir Gudlaugsson
Reston, VA	May 17-18	Will Covert
Eagle, WI	August 16-17	Will Covert
Claverack, NY	Sept 20-21	Hulda G. Geirsdottir
Santa Ynez, CA	Oct 4-5	Nicolai Thye
Prospect, KY	Oct 11-12	Pétur Jökull Hákonarson, Nicolai Thye, Will Covert

2014 There were a total of 6 Sanctioned shows vs. 11 in 2013

Year End National Ranking 2013			Year End National Ranking 2014		
Award Winners			Award Winners		
Discipline	Rider		Discipline	Rider	
Average			Average		
T1	Asta Covert	8.80	T1	Asta Covert	8.60
T2	Asta Covert	7.40	T2	Anne-Marie Martin	7.07
T3	Dominic Ng	6.50	T3	Lucy Nold	6.48
T4	Doug Smith		T4	Doug Smith	
6.65			6.00		
T5	Mitch Martin	5.67	T5	Mitch Martin	5.90
T6	Willy Ma	4.80	T6	Olivia Rasmussen	5.40
T7	Colleen Monsef	5.95	T7	Kelly Blough & Tammy Martin	
T8	Elizabeth Robertson	7.00			
V1	Asta Covert	8.03	5.55		
V2	Rachel Ng	6.45	T8	Julia Hasenauer	6.60
V3	Laurie Prestine	6.05	V1	Asta Covert	8.02
V5	Colleen Monsef	6.09	V2	Lucy Nold	6.25
V6	Elizabeth Robertson	6.35	V3	Mitch Martin	5.85
F1	Carrie Lyons Brandt	6.90	V5	Alicia Flanigan	5.65
F2	Kari Pietsch-Wangard		V6	Emma Erickson	6.25
6.00			F1	Carrie Lyons Brandt	6.90
			F2	Kari Pietsch-Wangard	
			6.00		

2014 Promotion Committee Report

The Promotion Committee developed an exciting new program in 2014 titled the Breed Ambassador Award, the purpose of which is to recognize those members who take their Icelandic Horses to organized all-breed events.

The program was open to all USIHC members in good standing, provided that they were current members both at the time of the event used for entry and at the time the winners were announced at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Entries were made by submitting photos either to the USIHC Facebook page, or emailing them directly to the Promotion Committee Chair. Five winners were selected by random drawing at the 2015 Annual Meeting and each winner receives a \$50.00 Visa Gift Card and an official USIHC Breed Ambassador Award T-shirt.

Participation was good for the initial year, with a total of 27 entries. The program will continue for 2015 and it is anticipated that participation will increase.

2014 Annual Breeding Report

Submitted by Andrea Barber

2014 Breeding Evaluations

A breeding evaluation was held May 10-11, 2014 judged by International Breeding Judges Marlise Grimm (DE) and Elisabeth Jansen (IS). It was held at the new facilities at Léttleiki Icelandics in Shelbyville, KY. Chief Judge Marlise Grimm was very complimentary about the event saying the “organization was close to perfect” and track was “super” - holding up really well even after some rain.

It was a successful and well received event with a total of 14 horses were evaluated – 10 for full evaluation and four for conformation only.

The highest evaluated US bred horse and winner of the [Anne Elwell Award](#) was Piltur from Winterhorse Park (US2008103864) with a total score of 7.83. Piltur is bred and owned by Barb and Dan Riva of Winterhorse Park.

Looking ahead to 2015:

- A spring breeding evaluation to be held in KY is in the planning stages
- As this is a World Championship year we hope to have some US bred horses qualify for the event either here in the US or in Europe

2014 Young Horse and Foal Assessments

2014 saw three Young Horse and Foal Assessments where a total of 17 horses were assessed – all by FEIF International Breeding Judge Barbara Frische. The three organizers were:

- Winterhorse Park - Eagle, WI (5)
- Sand Meadow Farm – Mendon, NY (1)
- Ohio Valley Icelandic Horse Club – Simmons, OH (11)

Only one of the organizers took advantage of the incentive funding for 2014 (the others turned it down). So the full \$500 went to the Ohio Valley Icelandic Horse Club.

The highest assessed horse of the year and the winner of the new [Caryn Cantella Award](#) was Pipar from Winterhorse Park (US2014104926) bred and owned by Barb and Dan Riva of

Winterhorse Park. More information on the award, the winner, and a list of the top 10 horses from 2014 can be found on the [USIHC website](#).

Looking ahead to 2015:

- A new sanctioning process (currently in discussion in the Breeding Committee)
- [Increased funding for 2015](#)
- One event is already being planned in WI in May

Equipment

The old USIHC owned measuring stick used to measure horses at breeding evaluations was found to be in poor repair and in need of replacement. The board approved replacing it with a new version. The new stick was purchased from Europe at a cost of 945 Euros. It is a custom-made high quality stick engraved with “USIHC” that should last many years.

Looking ahead to 2015:

- A full inventory of all USIHC owned breeding equipment will be completed
- A written agreement for the use of USIHC owned breeding equipment will be created
- Lower cost shipping methods for breeding equipment will be explored

2014 Annual Breeding Report

Submitted by Andrea Barber

2014 Breeding Evaluations

A breeding evaluation was held May 10-11, 2014 judged by International Breeding Judges Marlise Grimm (DE) and Elisabeth Jansen (IS). It was held at the new facilities at Léttleiki Icelandics in Shelbyville, KY. Chief Judge Marlise Grimm was very complimentary about the event saying the “organization was close to perfect” and track was “super” - holding up really well even after some rain.

It was a successful and well received event with a total of 14 horses were evaluated – 10 for full evaluation and four for conformation only.

The highest evaluated US bred horse and winner of the [Anne Elwell Award](#) was Piltur from Winterhorse Park (US2008103864) with a total score of 7.83. Piltur is bred and owned by Barb and Dan Riva of Winterhorse Park.

Looking ahead to 2015:

- A spring breeding evaluation to be held in KY is in the planning stages
- As this is a World Championship year we hope to have some US bred horses qualify for the event either here in the US or in Europe

2014 Young Horse and Foal Assessments

2014 saw three Young Horse and Foal Assessments where a total of 17 horses were assessed – all by FEIF International Breeding Judge Barbara Frische. The three organizers were:

- Winterhorse Park - Eagle, WI (5)
- Sand Meadow Farm – Mendon, NY (1)
- Ohio Valley Icelandic Horse Club – Simmons, OH (11)

Only one of the organizers took advantage of the incentive funding for 2014 (the others turned it down). So the full \$500 went to the Ohio Valley Icelandic Horse Club.

The highest assessed horse of the year and the winner of the new [Caryn Cantella Award](#) was Pipar from Winterhorse Park (US2014104926) bred and owned by Barb and Dan Riva of

Winterhorse Park. More information on the award, the winner, and a list of the top 10 horses from 2014 can be found on the [USIHC website](#).

Looking ahead to 2015:

- A new sanctioning process (currently in discussion in the Breeding Committee)
- [Increased funding for 2015](#)
- One event is already being planned in WI in May

Equipment

The old USIHC owned measuring stick used to measure horses at breeding evaluations was found to be in poor repair and in need of replacement. The board approved replacing it with a new version. The new stick was purchased from Europe at a cost of 945 Euros. It is a custom-made high quality stick engraved with "USIHC" that should last many years.

Looking ahead to 2015:

- A full inventory of all USIHC owned breeding equipment will be completed
- A written agreement for the use of USIHC owned breeding equipment will be created
- Lower cost shipping methods for breeding equipment will be explored

2014 Annual Report - Standard Blood Profile Project

Submitted by Andrea Barber

For many years the USIHC has pursued getting a Standard Blood Profile for the Icelandic breed. The USIHC regularly gets contacted by both owners and veterinarians with sick Icelandic horses questioning the blood test results they are getting – not sure if deviations from normal values are due to illness, or from breed characteristics. Having a Standard Blood Profile for the breed would be extremely helpful to allow veterinarians to have normal values for the Icelandic breed to compare to when analyzing data from their own testing. Unfortunately, to date completion of this project has proved elusive mostly due to the necessity of having a large number of Icelandic horses in a single place for testing.

However, the fact that Cornell University has a herd of Icelandic horses on site revived interest in this project. The researcher in charge of the study involving the Icelandic horses (also a USIHC member) – [Bettina Wagner, DVM, Dr. med. vet. habil.](#) – was contacted and she was extremely willing to help with regard to this new project. She conducted some preliminary sampling at her own expense (which showed good promise) and then brought in clinical pathologist [Tracy Stokol, DVM, Phd.](#) (also from Cornell University) to consult further.

The USIHC board then held a conference call to discuss the project with both professionals. Many questions were answered, and shortly thereafter the board decided to move forward with the project (pending negotiation of a contract with Cornell University as to the details of the project, which is currently in progress) – as it seemed to provide the potential for great benefit to the breed both here in the US and around the world.

However, completion of this complex project will involve a Herculean effort on the part of the USIHC's entire membership. Over 120 horses will need to be sampled under strict parameters set by the researchers. These samples will then need to be tested by Cornell's lab at a cost of approximately \$14,000 – which the USIHC has agreed to pay for, but which we hope will be offset, at least in part, by USIHC member contributions. The results of those tests will then need to be analyzed by the research team and then put into two formats – one that is easily accessible by the layman for owner use and the other suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal for veterinary use. Though of course we will all be eager for the results, we must be patient as good, sound science takes time.

We hope that all USIHC members will support this important project in 2015 and beyond!