

MINUTES
MIDWEST FJORD HORSE CLUB
March 29,2003, Richland Center WI

President Tom Hans called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM

President Tom Hans thanked Wayne Hipsley for being our clinician and having such wonderful information to share with us. President Hans also thanked Sharon for setting it all up with the hotel; everything has been great, food, accommodations, and great job!

President Tom Hans was happy to report that 3 members from the Board of Directors were present at our meeting, Al Merril, Sharon Falck and Neil Sorum. All 3 are members of the MWFHC, it's great to be well represented at the national level. The fourth Board of Directors member Mark McGinley was unable to attend due to a funeral.

Secretary's report was approved as read.

Treasurer, Sharon Falck, reported a beginning balance of \$7,401.68, total income of \$16,437.33, total expenses \$13,995.56 giving us a net profit of \$2,441.77 and an ending balance as of March 27, 2003 \$9,843.45. Sharon handed out the financial statement of the club showing all the expenses and income itemized. Also the Financial report of the Blue Earth Show was handed out. Total income was \$3,575.00, total expenses \$4,738.42 giving us a net loss \$1,163.42 for the show.

Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Karin Peterson handed out the By-Laws with the italicized portion showing removed wording and anything underlined was added. Karen explained how this will be sent out with the next voting ballot and must be returned by the Blue Earth show where it will be accepted or rejected. There were no questions regarding our by-law changes.

Nancy Hotovy gave the Horse Show Report and handed out the show bill. This must be finalized in approximately 2 weeks. Minor changes were; adding an adult showmanship class. Nancy talked about looking into getting a professional photographer on the grounds and that Karen Maas is our judge and Karen is bringing Catherine Lasessen along as our ring steward.

Catherine is paying her own way, Nancy thought it would be a good idea to give her a small token of appreciation. Executive Committee will decide if we want to give her any amount of money or not for working as ring steward. Nancy will look into the photographer for the show.

Nancy said there would be a sign up sheet handed out during our Monday morning meeting in Blue Earth. No questions regarding the show at this time.

President Hans reported that he was contacted by Brian Jensen who asked MWFHC to consider adopting the ADS rule for the Carriage classes of our show. Some discussion was given on this matter. Some were worried some of the classes would not be allowed, others feared it would keep others away, thinking they would have to have too expensive equipment to show. It was also suggested to have 2 or 3 classes with ADS rules in place to give those who would like to see the rules a place to show. It was stated that Libby has adopted ADS for this year's show. President Hans proposed that a show committee be formed of 3,4 or 5 people to look into this suggestion from all angles and report back. Also suggested we watch Libby and see how it goes for them.

Rich Hotovy suggested that if no one volunteered, appointments would be made. He encouraged everyone to be a volunteer! Lynda Syverson-Kerr and Pat Holland volunteered to be on the show committee as Nancy Hotovy is for sure stepping down after this year 2003. President Hans would like the show committee to look into the ADS rules and the Blue Earth show.

It was brought to our attention that we have only approximately 500 brochures left, and they will be used

up soon with the horse fairs right around the corner. Therine Gudknecht is the chairperson for this committee, Paula Steinmetz volunteered to help along with Helen Schadler. President Hans told the membership to send pictures for the brochure to these ladies and to let us know else we can help. President Hans would like to see a draft by the summer meeting if possible.

Mike Sadlon gave a report for the election committee, we need nominations. Patti Walter is running for Secretary, Sharon Falck for Treasurer, Mike will make some phone calls to see if others will serve, anyone here tonight can tell any of the officers if they are interested in a position.

Al Merrill gave a report on the NFHR. Al being the president of the national

level and a member of the MWFHC gave a full report of what is going on.

Al first told us of the 3 new board members, Mark McGinley, Sharon Falck, Neil Sorum. Al told us how happy he is to be a Board member and how they are all movers and shakers. He is very excited to be a part of it. Al filled us in on all the new BOD. He also reported on the face to face meeting they had in Ohio, and how they accomplished quite a lot. Al gave us the statistics for the Fjords in 2002, they registered 350 new horses, which brings us to 3781 registered Horses in our registry. Membership is up 10%, we are growing and our 25th anniversary is fast approaching in 3 yrs.

There will be 3 evaluations this year, Ohio, Oregon and Wisconsin. Sophie Fiedler is the head of the evaluation committee, Al thanked her for doing such a great job. He also reported on the new video that is out on "how to groom your fjord horse", we are around the break even point financially with this project, anyone interested in obtaining one, contact Mike May. The coloring book for kids is almost complete.

The NFHR and the NFA (National Fjord Association) is about 2 wks away from combining. He feels this time, it will take place. Also on May 3rd the FHI and NFHR will sign to have a common goal of evaluating Fjords and operate under the same basic system. Wayne Hipsley has put a lot of effort into making this happen and we are all grateful.

Al Merrill presented a trophy to Tom Hans for his 3 yrs of dedication as a member of the NFHR Board of Directors. No glory or money, but a trophy is a symbol of thanks for all your hard work, talent and effort. Tom Hans said everyone should volunteer.

The MWFHC newsletter was brought up or lack thereof. Brenda Simonson was contacted, but little to no contact was heard from her. We are in need of a replacement as we very much want this newsletter to get out quarterly. Martha Martin volunteered to be our newsletter editor. All pictures, articles, etc. are to be sent to her.

MWFHC website -- slight discussion was had, was suggested we might be able to get a page with the NFHR, Paula Steinmetz will look into and be the website chairperson.

Phil Odden told us about the projected date for an evaluation in LaCrosse, August 2/3. They still need a few more horses before it will be a definite. Phil has forms for anyone interested. Sophie Fiedler has a couple of record books if anyone is interested in purchasing them.

Horse Progress days in Ohio, July 4/5 was announced, see Rich Hotovy.

Dairyland Safety Clinic, May 2nd, at Hickory Knoll near Madison. See Sharon Makurat

Neil Sorum announced the date of the evaluation to be held in Ohio, Sept. 27/28.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM
Respectfully submitted Patti Jo Walter