

MINUTES
MIDWEST FJORD HORSE CLUB
Feb. 28th, 2004

President Karin Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM

President Karin Peterson thanked the Winter Meeting Committee headed by Sophie Fielder, with Patti Jo Walter, Sharon Falck and Wanda Hase helping.

Secretary Report was read as approved.

Treasurer's Report was read. We started with a beginning balance of \$2,347.35, total income of \$12,135.86, total expenses \$10,114.45 giving us an ending balance as of Feb. 24, 2004, of \$4,368.76

Pat Holland gave a show committee report. Pat said that not much was needed to be changed for the 2004 Blue Earth Show, as Nancy Hotovy, prior Show Committee chairperson, had done such a wonderful job over the years.

Pat H. handed out a show package and covered changes including the new meeting time with stating only the change to be made on this package, was the addition of registration, it will be at 10:30 am, and meeting to start promptly at 11 a.m. Youth showmanship classes will be split into 7 & under, 8-12 and 13-18, Costume class to be judged as one class with separate categories in the class, and an new class, in hand trail class was added due to the popularity in open shows with this class. Pat pointed out to note the time changes in regards to the start of the show, all in the show package. The show bill and information will get on the website as soon as possible. Pat encouraged everyone to invite others and share the show bill and their experiences with others about our wonderful Blue Earth Show, to encourage others to come. There will be another show bill package mailing in June. The show committee consists of Pat Holland, Howard Fielder, Mike Jelika and Linda Syverson-Kerr. A big thank you to our committee! We had the biggest show last year and our committee is committed to continuing to make it bigger and better.

Motion was made and seconded to have Avalon Photographer at our Blue Earth Show again this year, clarifying that she will be there all 3 days. Her rates for this year are \$100 travel expenses and \$95 per day for 2 days. Pat to find out if this means she will be there for 3 days but we only pay for 2 or if she will really only be there for 2. We want her there for all 3 days if possible.

Some discussion was had as to whether the club should continue to pay for the lunch at Blue Earth, put on by the 4-H. Motion was made and seconded to have each person pay \$5, with the club picking up the remainder of the balance.

President Karin Peterson encouraged everyone to help enforce the safety rules we have in place and to continue to help each other out. So, hopefully we can have a No Hospital Visit Year.

Brochure Committee- Therine Gudenecht with the help of Paula S. and Helen S. had some printing problems and were not able to show us the almost completed copy of the new brochure. They will have it at dinner tonight.

Newsletter Report-Martha Martin reported she has 4 newsletters under her belt and is still loving it. WE are loving it as well. Great job Martha! April 8th is the next deadline. Send her any articles or ads, as she needs our help with the newsletter to make it informative.

MWFHC Website report- DeeAnna Weed reported how she got the website up around the 1st week in Jan. It is a great resource for all, and she, along with the newsletter editor, needs current information to put on the site. If you have an questions/suggestions/comments see her. Future plans are to implement a Farm Directory on to the site. She also reported how we have gotten new members by having our own website already. A BIG THANK YOU to DeeAnna as well!

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Meeting will be held at Blue Earth along with our horse show. We will start our meeting promptly at 11 AM, on Monday July 26th, just a note to anyone who might not know, but our Blue Earth Show is sponsored by our club. We pay for it, we organized it and we're very proud of it. We want to continue to grow and grow and grow.

Patti Jo Walter reported some exciting Fjord news. The Ringling Brothers Circus commissioned her to find them 4 Fjord Stallions. They are currently in training and should be performing this summer.

Watch the Herald for articles and updates. She also told about the Manitowoc County (Wisconsin) 4H Fjord Raffle Horse. Arianna is her name and is a wonderful representative for our breed. She is being campaigned all over the state of WI. All profits to benefit the 4H Camp.

Phil Odden, Evaluation Co-Chair, gave a report. There is an evaluation in the works for La Crosse in August. They need 25-30 horses to break even. If you are interested in hosting an evaluation in your area, see Phil.

There will be an Evaluation training process March 2 telling who the new evaluators will be. The evaluation committee will also be studying the judging of young stock for 1 yr and making any changes after that time that would need to be made. They are also looking into writing a concise description of your horse that would be included in the record book. There will be a few changes in the Advance driving test. Remember to check the evaluation handbook for rules. Phil and the evaluation committee are very open to hear and take any input from our members.

NFHR-Al Merrill thanked Beth for coming, informed us how talented a trainer she is and has great knowledge on the Fjord Horse. Al told us how we have 5 Midwest members on the board, so we are very well represented. Neil Sorum will be the next President of the National Level.

There are 860 members with 4200 registered Fjord horses in the US as of 2003. We are growing! Last year we had 3 evaluations and we have 2 planned for sure as of today. Libby MT and Virginia are booked, with the Midwest in the planning stages. The versatility video is still in the works. New Record book is to be released soon. Color books are out and they are wonderful. New Owners manual is out as well. Neil Sorum is a strong advocate of getting or approving the NFHR Foundation which will help our donated dollars be tax deductible.

Sophie Fielder thanked Al Merrill for all his time served and he will be missed greatly when his term is over. He and his wife are also moving out of the Midwest.

Cathy Cook from the Stevens Point area addressed the group on the Wisconsin Horse Directory. She is the contact and lead person for this huge undertaking with all the profits going to Equine Research.

President Karin Peterson expressed a need for a committee to be formed for our club. This committee will be our Fund Raiser Committee. Dan, is the chairperson, with Chuck Kelly and Carlene Schwartz volunteering as well.

President Peterson discussed the Fiscal year of our club, currently running July to July. Discussion was had to move it to Jan. to Jan. It was decided to have the executive committee look into it and bring back a proposal. We are also to look into lifetime memberships.

Janne Mydral suggested the club use Ja (ya) and Nei instead of Yea and Nay when voting. Motion was made and seconded. We hope we can bring honor to the Norwegians!

Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM