

**AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

Sept. 17, 2011

Sally Oxnard, President, called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA.

Following a roll call of the Board members, all were invited to introduce themselves. Board members attending: Cathy Blackmon, Marilyn Cheek, Fonda Eigel, Joan Ervin, Megan Harris, Gloria LaCroix, Sue Laidlaw, Pam Liddell, Susan McConnell, Donna Miller, Deb Norman, Sally Oxnard, Joan Webster, Virginia Winkler, Janet Chayes, Heather White, Sandy McShea, Julie Keahey, Kelsie Staeheli, Charlene O'Neil. Also attending as Region Chairs were Amy Plavin and Marian McEvelly.

A quorum was declared.

Minutes of the January, 2011 Board of Governors meeting, Lexington, KY, Jan 22, 2011 – Approved with the following corrections:

Under Registrar's report - Instead of an Excel file, insert - A PDF file of all inspected and approved Connemaras will be posted on the web site...

Under Awards – instead of Hall of Fame awards, change to national Award program. Donna Miller is the new chair.

Under Nominating Committee – announcement that the suggested (insert word) Nominating committee members...

Report of the Registrar: Marynell Eyles reported the purebred foal number is down to 53 for 2011, which is about half of the foal crop numbers from our high production year. There are probably some foal registrations not yet submitted. The Registry for 2010 and 2011 were passed around. A list of inspected and approved ponies for 2011 was also circulated and will be added to the Studbook of Approved Connemaras.

The farm prefix rules were discussed, and an example of the use of the word, Celtic, in names. Celtic is a registered farm prefix, and cannot be used as the first word in a name (farm prefix) but can be used as in Indian Summer's Celtic Belle.

The purebred TFC number is now at 5990 – meaning that is the total population of purebred Connemaras registered with the ACPS over the years. The mares' number system is now at 4026.

The Society's computer has a flaw in its system with the USB ports, and will need to be replaced. The Board approved that purchase in Jan. and the Registrar will talk with Candy Verhulst who was the consultant for the database. It was also suggested that the Drop Box program be investigated to use for backing up data, and perhaps for sharing files for the magazine and the history book project. Marynell Eyles will investigate.

Report of the Membership Chair – Debbie Busta – insert report here

Report of the Treasurer – Cathy Blackmon said the budget is on track for 2011. Sally Oxnard noted that more than \$900 had been realized from charging for the hot link on the ACPS web site to members' farm sites. Insurance premiums were discussed, and the fees are linked to the items listed on the activities calendars. More activities were listed than took place, so the Treas. will seek a rebate. What can the ACPS do to have better control

of activities covered. Cooperation is needed from the Region Chairs. A Region Chairs calendar will be created with place/date/time/organizer. D&O insurance is in place.

Report of the President – Sally Oxnard thanked the USEF for their donation of \$1000 for the ACPS meeting. Insert report here

ICCPS Report – Susan McConnell noted that Marynell Eyles had been designated as the representative to the ICCPS for 2011, but her flights had cancelled, and she did not make the meeting. A morning meeting was held with the CPBS to discuss problems encountered in countries implementing the CPBS Studbook Principles. Each section was read and discussed. Adjustments were made to the Principles. The BPS Principles for Registration are down to only four pages. There was discussion on a uniform number for all ponies internationally. Discussion also on the updates of forms including the Annual Society Form, and the Vet Inspection Form for both colts and fillies.

Promotion of the Connemara worldwide for 2012 included the 100th Anniversary of Michael O'Malley's ride and the promotion of the Connemara Pony coming from the west of Ireland, across the country, and eventually by boat, to Olympia in the UK.

Due to the Olympics in London, 2012, the RDS Show has moved to the third week in August 2012. It seems that the Clifden Show will stay with its same date.

Susan suggested the work of Dr. Alain Theon could be shared with 17 countries worldwide. The pedigree database is available on line to follow the genetics and provide data for the study on melanomas and environmental factors (nature/nuture).

ACPS Foundation – Susan McConnell – reported that the Foundation was established in 1992. The funds are to be used for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes by promoting interest in or greater understanding of the Connemara, regionally and nationally.

By the end of the year, monetary scholarships will be awarded to junior and senior members.

An application form is available on the ACPS web site for all potential recipients. Usually, ACPS sanctioned events, speakers, and scholarships are recipients of the Foundation distributions. The balance is \$4,510.84. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Action Item - Discussion was included here on the use of the National logo – and while the posted policy on the ACPS web site states the users must pay a 10% gross sales to the ACPS, it was thought that policy of 10/06 had been changed/updated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbitration – Fonda Eigel – no items to report.

Awards – Marilyn Cheek – Apologized for problems with the program this year. Donna Duckworth is the new co-chair of the committee. National Awards Chair is Donna Miller.

The awards forms are on the ACPS web site but need to be more visible. There were good candidates, and the committee was happy to see more Awards of Excellence in the Achievement Awards. Deb Clinch, Chair of the Achievement Awards program would like to get the Ach. Awards points updated regularly on the web site. To cut down on

paperwork, and to streamline the point-keeping for this program a motion was made that *–the Awards Committee accept in lieu of a signed paper from show management, printed records from any official results from National Equestrian Organizations or from any show that posts results on-line. The form may be submitted and affixed to the ACPS application form. The motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion again on cost of shipping large trophies. All agree winners like to have them.

Horse of the Year awards from USEF- those winners will be tracked by the USEF and questions should be addressed to Chris Knox.

Fonda Eigel asked if there was a possibility of applications for scholarships being taken twice a year. Should the deadlines be changed? The Awards committee needs some level of the committee to focus on juniors/youth activity, and their specific needs. Perhaps some revival of the Youth Committee.

Bylaws – Pam Liddell – noted the changes had passed and this was the first year of operating under the new bylaws system.

Promotion – Janice Meyer, chair, has resigned. Janet Chayes reported she had mailed the leftover WEG pamphlets and Irish brochures to be put in new member packets. A new chair for this committee will be appointed by the new president.

Finance – Cathy Blackmon led a discussion on the investment program and a bit of its history. She will investigate possible scenarios for earning more returns.

Internet – Pat Norton-White reported for chair, Lisa Etzel (who has resigned). Pat asked about posting ads for non-horse items on the ACPS web site (trinkets, horse blankets, etc) and she was asked to take the topic to her committee and come back in Jan. with a proposal. Some members worried that ads on the web site would indicate approval.

The Awards page lay out will be improved.

Discussion on-going on the stallion e-book.

Better software is enabling better monitoring of statistics. Suggestions followed to freshen the home page and perhaps make the digital magazine's icon bigger.

The policies and procedures forms should be updated – many are still obsolete. The new document controller is Margaret Sanford who will email each committee chair for updates on the P&P's.

Magazine – Marynell Eyles – passed around printed copies of the digital Sept/Oct 2011 issue which is posted on the ACPS web site. Pros and cons of this publication were heard. Cathy Blackmon shared her Nook for members to view the magazine.

A suggestion by Janet Chayes to update the look of the magazine cover brought discussion on its merit to stay the same, or to freshen it. The editor's view was one garnered from her years working for The Chronicle of the Horse, which has opted to keep its traditional "look". Most of the opinions of the Board echoed that, but the discussion is open.

Discussion on whether to do more digital issues, to do duplicate issues, or what path to take with the magazine provided good food for thought but no hard decisions.

Nominating - Anne Moe reported that the nominating committee had worked hard, and had followed the new bylaws to get the list of nominees. She noted that there was disagreement on how many nominees should be put forth - just enough for the slots to be filled, or more than that number. After much discussion, A motion was made by Sue Laidlaw to direct the Nominating Committee to seek at least 3 more candidates for the ballot than slots to be filled. That motion was withdrawn when it was decided the question was a procedural one. Pam Liddell will chair an ad hoc committee to bring recommendations back to the Board in January. Scott McGuffin will serve on that committee.

Youth - The committee has been chaired by Mary Yeager and Jill McNicol. It was determined to be a very important part of the ACPS's future. New committee members will be Fonda Eigel, Carolyn McEvitt, Kathy Lucas, and Joan Ervin.

USEF Connemara Committee – Chris Knox sent a schedule of the January 2012 USEF meeting times.

Ad Hoc committees and other reports:

History Committee – Kathy Sparks reported on the progress of the book, the History of the ACPS spearheaded by D.J. Moore, who also gave her update on the project. She read some of the first chapters' outline. Discussion on how to share files, how to assign and split up the years and chapters resulted in constructive plans and chapter headings. More will be reported in January.

Region Chair Liaison – Joan Ervin and Sue Laidlaw said their goal was to help region chairs implement the new bylaw procedures. The Region Chair group had met before the Board meeting and it was deemed the best turn-out ever with 8 of the 10 regions represented. Gloria LaCroix talked to the group about Inspections, Marynell Eyles talked about registration and the studbook/registry.

Strategic Planning – Liz Platais, chair, who had left the meeting to make sure all was in order to the next session, left her report from 2006 to be read. Many, if not most, of those goals have been met.

Old Business:

New Document Controller for Web Site – Margaret Sanford

EVA report – Jill McNicol sent a report that stallions should be vaccinated and that the records of vaccination should be sent to the registrar. *A motion was made that the ACPS recommends a yearly filing of EVA test results or vaccination record for breeding stallions.* The motion passed. Donna Miller will create a form to be used.

New Business:

Hoof Wall Separation Syndrome – Jill McNicol has been in touch with the vet at Cal Davis who has seen the filly in CA with the hoof problem. With no hard evidence in the form of pathology reports, the Board agreed to keep in touch with the Davis vet through Jill McNicol to keep abreast of any new research,

Registration Discussions with the Canadian Pony Breeders Society – Marynell Eyles was instructed not to register any Canadian-born/bred foals; but Canadian ponies with US papers should be transferred to new Canadian owners through the ACPS office. No intra-Canadian transfers will be handled through the ACPS office.

Board Member Orientation – Sally Oxnard noted there were notebooks, but they had gone by the wayside. Sally and Susan McConnell will reconstruct those guidebooks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
BOXBOROUGH, MAS
SEPT. 17, 2011**

Sally Oxnard, president, called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. Minutes of the August 2010 and Jan 2011 General Membership Meeting were approved.

Motions reviewed:

–the Awards Committee accept in lieu of a signed paper from show management, printed records from any official results from National Equestrian Organizations or from any show that posts results on-line. The form may be submitted and affixed to the ACPS application form. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made that the ACPS recommends a yearly filing of EVA test results or vaccination record for breeding stallions. The motion passed. Donna Miller will create a form to be used.

Region Chair reports were given from each region. Amy Plavin reported for Region I< Heather White for Region II, Marian McEvilly for Region III, Megan Harris for Region IV, Fonda Eigel for Region V, Lisa Etzel's written report was read for Region VI, Sue Laidlaw for Region VII, Julie Keahey for Region VIII, Keslie Staeheli and Fran O'Reilly for Region IX, and Meggan Lepper sent a report for Region X. All will be printed in the magazine.

Election of the new Board of Governors – Anne Moe, chair of the Nominating Committee for 2010, explained the process for election for 2011/12. The six new or re-elected members of the Board of Governors to serve the 2011 to 2014 terms are Pat Ashworth, Stephanie Burk, DVM, Kathy Lucas, Jill McNicol DVM, and Deb Norman. Sally Oxnard will serve a two year term, 2011 to 2013.

New Business: A donation to Dr. Theon who had presented his melanoma research was discussed. Susan McConnell noted the forms for using the Foundation funds were available, but it was the feeling of the Board that *a motion to give \$1000 to UC Davis Melanoma Reseach Program should be done immediately. That motion was seconded and passed unanimously.* Fonda Eigel suggested a matching funds program which will be further investigated, and an article on the melanoma research will be published in the

magazine. It was also suggested, and put in the form of *a motion, to give Cunningham/Doyle a life membership to the ACPS since it was through their funding, that the melanoma research program has been undertaken.*

Julie Keahey asked on behalf of her constituents in her region. That the agenda for future meetings include items that might be discussed. She asked if there was a way people could know what will come up at meetings? The agenda is sent to each Board member, but it was thought by the group that knowing exactly what was to be discussed is difficult to ascertain.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS SEPT. 2011

Sally Oxnard called the first meeting of the newly elected ACPS Board of Governors to order at 4:05 p.m. Anne Moe presented the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee: Kathy Lucas, President, Deb Norman and Megan Harris, Vice presidents, and Cathy Blackmon, Treasurer. The slate was elected by unanimous vote.

Mary Yeager revolved off the Nominating Committee, and its members for 2012 are Laura Balding, Deb Clinch, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, and Anne Moe.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Marynell Eyles
Secretary
ACPS