



**FMC Meeting  
April 14, 2021  
Zoom Meeting**

**In Attendance:**

Sharon Bechler- Central California Friesian Horse Club  
Carrie Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association  
Will Bron – Northwest Friesian Horse Club  
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association  
Anna Osinga – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association  
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association  
Janice DeBoer Vermerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Association  
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club  
Tiffany van der Kooi – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association  
Klazien Sietsma - Alberta Friesian Horse Association  
Beatrice Whiteley – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California  
Lisa Baker - FHANA Education Committee, FHAME Representative  
Nina Miller – West Coast Friesian Horse Club

Erin Miley – FHANA Board  
Jo Ann Clough– Administrator  
Kelly Twambly – Administrator

**Members Not Present:**

Lori Brock – North Michigan Friesian Club  
Greg Walsh – Sierra Nevada Friesian Horse Club  
Allison Sable – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter  
Mark McGowan - Lone Star Friesian Horse Club  
Danielle Barrasso - Friesian Horse Association of New England  
Danielle Piascik– North East Friesian Horse Club – West Coast Friesian Horse Club

1. **Call to Order-** The April 14, 2021 meeting was called to order by Ms. Bechler at 8:04 EDT.
2. **Approval of the March Minutes.** Ms. Bechler asked if there were any changes to the March minutes. Mr. Bron motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Veinotte seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Jeffcoat asked if the revised, finalized version of the February minutes could be uploaded to the website. Ms. Clough will follow up on this request.

## **New Business**

3. **FHANA Board Update.** Ms. Bechler welcomed Ms. Miley to the FMC.
  - a. Ms. Miley reported that the bylaw change to allow virtual voting was approved.
  - b. The FHANA officers elected are as follows:
    - Rosanne Palermo, President
    - Marq Laude, Vice President
    - Allison Thomas, Secretary
    - Eric Smith, Treasurer
  - c. Membership is up 12%
  - d. There have been two Inspection Webinars presented and a third is scheduled for 4/22/2021. Viewership has been low; she encouraged all to advertise the event to increase participation.
  - e. FHANA will be offering more youth awards beyond driving and dressage such as in-hand and the like. FHANA is focusing on this demographic to increase their involvement with our association.
  - f. A special edition of the FHANA magazine will be offered in the near future. This will include promotional, event, and general interest content.
  - g. The Mentoring program is reaching out to new members to welcome them and assist them with any of their breed-related needs. This is an important initiative to further promote the association.
  
4. **Round Table Discussion.**

Mr. Bron welcomed Ms. Miley to the FMC. Mr. Bron expressed concern about recent events with FHANA's assignments to the KFPS Member Council. Specifically, he indicated that the three current FHANA KFPS Member Council representatives were removed from their respective four-year assignments (each at different tenure lengths). The individuals removed included Mr. Will Bron, Mr. Ted Vanderkooi, and Mr. Gerben Steenbeek. Per Mr. Bron, the FHANA President selected Ms. Miley, Ms. Dumford, and herself to replace the three gentlemen. Mr. Bron indicated that the change in assignments were published before he was notified of this change, he finds this to be disturbing. He further stated that after the announcements were published, he received notice from Ms. Palermo via email that he and his peers would no longer represent FHANA at the KFPS Member Council. To follow up, Mr. Bron contacted the KFPS to determine what they knew of the change in representation, they, the KFPS, indicated that this was a matter between the former representatives and FHANA. Mr. Bron indicated that he was told by Ms. Palermo that FHANA is following the KFPS guidelines with these assignments. Mr. Bron further elaborated that the three former representatives are very disappointed and feel that FHANA has lost valuable assets in support of the KFPS Member Council. He expressed worry as to where we are now heading as an organization. He indicated that the president of FHANA, Rosanne Palermo, has stated before in the Friesian Magazine that all committees are now running more smoothly with a FHANA member as chairperson for the assigned committee. Previously a member of the FHANA BOD was the assigned chairperson of the particular committees, now each committee has a board liaison assigned to them. Why has the president from FHANA now replaced the current FHANA members on the KFPS membership council with 3

members of the board including herself? Ms. Vermerris expressed concern that we will no longer have a Dutch speaking member on the KFPS Council. Mr. Miley indicated that she would follow up with the BOD members next week on this issue to determine what happened with the process. Ms. Miley was asked about when she learned about her committee assignments and she indicated she was informed shortly after joining the BOD.

Mr. Vanderkooy indicated that he was alarmed by what had happened. He finds the recent turn of events strange. He did express that he felt it was not a necessity to have Dutch speaking representatives. Mr. Vanderkooy made a motion: **FMC will ask Ms. Palermo to attend the next FMC meeting May 2021 to explain why the three former FHANA representatives on the KFPS Member Council were removed and replaced by three FHANA Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Van der Kooi and it passed unanimously.** Ms. Osinga stated that this was huge and asked what the FHANA constitution states and indicated that an organization should not wipe out an entire committee, indicating there is a loss of continuity. Ms. Vermerris asked why the new representatives are FHANA Board members. It was asked how assignments are made e.g., are they assigned by the BOD or the President. It was also asked if the KFPS Member Council assignments made like other committees. Ms. Baker asked where the KFPS Member Council minutes were posted? Ms. Clough indicated there was one document posed on the Committee page of the FHANA website from 2018. It was not clear if these minutes are posted on the KFPS website.

Ms. Bechler indicated that is important that FMC members speak honestly, transparently, respectfully, and openly. With this approach we will be successful in our endeavors.

Ms. VerMerris asked about the outcome of stallion testing in North America. Ms. Bechler indicated that none of the three made it and that FHANA would post an update on their website. Mr. Bron expressed concern about the selection process and the different opinions on how this process was organized from the perspective of the KFPS and FHANA. Ms. Bechler indicated the FHANA Stallion Committee implemented logistics as directed by the KFPS. She further stated she has no role or direct communication with IDS, these channels are utilized by Mr. Tice and Ms. Palermo. Ms. Bechler indicated this was a difficult year in light of the pandemic, restrictions on travel, and use of videos. She indicated that they will be adding members to the Stallion Committee this year.

5. **Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, May 12, 2021
6. **Motion to Adjourn** – Mr. Vanderkooy motioned to adjourn, and Ms. van der Kooi seconded the motion.

Recorder – Jo Clough