



Fairfield Westchester PHA Chapter Minutes

February 23, 2015

The meeting of the FWPHA Chapter was called to order at Coker Farm by President Ken Okken at 7:05pm. There were 17 members in attendance

Gary Gauruder read the minutes from the January meeting which were accepted as read.

Naomi Gauruder read the treasurer's report which included the prior month's transactions which was accepted as read.

Correspondent Secretary: None at this time.

Aid to members: Alan Magnotta stated he received no request at this time. Naomi Gauruder stated she will be sending a get well basket to Tony Catalano as he is recovering from serious injuries sustained from a recent car accident. Lisa Sherman stated Joan Healy recently had heart surgery and her husband passed away. A gift basket was sent to Joan for her speedy recovery from surgery. Update from Lynn Peters that Bill Prout was doing well and that Alan Magnotta mentioned Ron Carroll also is doing well and back to work.

Charitable Donations: Ox Ridge sent a letter requesting a donation for their upcoming June Charity Show to sponsor a class. President Ken Okken stated he spoke to Flavia Callari and Michele Schmerzler of Ox Ridge regarding their request and advised them that the board had concerns about their recent non-participation in the FWPHA. There were concerns made what the FWPHA would benefit out of this donation and would Ox Ridge be willing to hang FWPHA banners at the show, put up the FWPHA Jump, etc. to promote the FWPHA. Ken stated he would get back in touch with Flavia over the FWPHA's members concerns. Naomi Gauruder requested a donation for the Shallowbrook Charity Show also held in June and the members voted to except that request.

New Membership: Chris Dwyer stated two new membership applications were received by her. Both membership applications were signed by Vice President Scott Tarter and Amanda Ek. The applications were for Kirsten Cowan and Lana Ciaramella who work at Twin Lakes Farm as trainers. Their applications will be voted on at next meeting. Gary Gauruder stated the current membership list including lifetime members are now online on the FWPHA website. Naomi Gauruder spoke of horse show managers who are currently not members and need to be in order for their show's FWPHA High Score points to count for the year end awards. Naomi also stated the FWPHA needs to enforce the rule that horse show managers need to fill out high score affiliation forms in the beginning of the FWPHA High Score Program Year and pay their yearly membership at the same time so that the exhibitor's points at those shows will count. President Ken Okken states he will contact those Horse Show managers who are not current members to have them bring their membership status up to date.

Junior PHA: Lisa Sherman states the program has taken a life of its own and members of it are doing great job raising money and promoting it. Christine Nastasi stated the Junior PHA was exploring the idea of having a contest for the High Score Dinner Program designing the cover of the program. Also Lisa stated the Junior PHA members are working on having clinics, new promotional ideas at the FWPHA June Show such as having a sportsmanship award, best child rider award and adding a handy hunter class all to benefit the Junior PHA. Lisa also stated she would like to see a portion of the Junior/Associate PHA dues be put in the Junior PHA budget to fund the program. Naomi Gauruder said she will work on that with Lisa and suggested the Junior/Associates Dues for next year be raised to add more funding to the program.



High Score Program: Vice President Scott Tarter said all current memberships to the program are updated and online. Scott stated if your name is not on the list than you are not a current member to the program.

Horse Show Committee: Lynn Peters stated the June Horse Show will actually take place on May 30th and 31st at Fairfield County Hunt Club. Lynn stated the committee met prior to this meeting and the committee is working on hiring the staff for the shows and that the July 4th Show will be inactive this year. Also Lynn will contact Chase Meadow Farms to see if they are willing to hold the August 1st and 2nd show for us. Our September Finals Show will be held on the 5th and Gardnertown Farm will be contacted to see if they would host our show on that date. Naomi will contact the appropriate organizations regarding in Connecticut that the August show will not be held in Connecticut this year. A suggestion was made that in the June Horse Show prize list that the Junior PHA be mentioned in it.

FWPHA Website: President Ken Okken stated that the website will be reevaluated and it is a work in progress.

High Score Banquet: Lisa Sherman suggested a committee should be formed for the banquet to organize it better.

Jack Rockwell, Frank Flynn, Greek Neff and Walter Distler Awards: Tabled.

Art of Clinic: Chris Dwyer states she was still looking for a clinic topic. A suggestion from the floor was to have a clinic to talk about Conformation. The membership agreed that the topic was a great idea and will focus on how to stand and how to show at a conformation class. Chris stated Eric Hasbrouck has volunteered his place again to hold the clinic there. Chris will work on getting the presenters at the clinic and flyers on the Art of Conformation Clinic. The location and date of the clinic will be announced shortly.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Chris Dwyer reminded the members about the educational lecture being held at New England Equine Practice in Patterson, NY on March 3rd at 7 P.M. A flyer regarding lecture has been sent out to the membership emails. Amanda Ek stated many people in the horse show business that she has talked to believe the FWPHA is all about the High Score Program and has a misconception of what the FWPHA stands for. Amanda states we need to promote the FWPHA differently so people would know that the FWPHA does many more things to help their members. Lynn Peters said she will work on re-writing our mission statement to clarify what were all about. Naomi Gauruder believes more advertising at shows and in magazines might help grow our membership population. A suggestion was made to form a committee on promoting the FWPHA program and Catherine McIntyre volunteered to help in marketing the program.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Next Meeting will be at Riverdale Stables (in the Riverdale section of Bronx, NY.) on March 23rd with dinner starting at 6:30 P.M. and meeting to follow. Directions on the website: www.RiverdaleStables.com

Respectfully Submitted by:

Gary Gauruder

Recording Secretary