

12-5-11 NFHR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Convened at 6: 10 p.m. MST

Members Present: Jeff Pedersen, Howard Fiedler, Teressa Kandianis, Beth German, Ardeth Obenauf, Kathleen Jesse, Bill Coli, Sue Plein, John Crawford. Also present: 2012 Member Wendy Bauwens, Executive Director Nancy Newport and Registrar Jeanne Poirier present. No Absences.

REPORTS

President's Report: Jeff introduced Wendy Bauwens, who will become a BoD member on January 1st, noted that this was the last meeting of 2011 and Howard Fiedler's last meeting as a member of the Board. Everyone expressed regrets over the expiration of Howard's term and welcomed Wendy to the Board.

Executive Director Report: Nancy reported that membership renewals have been mailed out and work is being done to prepare for the March general membership meeting and Educational Forum. She and Jeanne sent membership renewal forms to everyone on the membership lists from 2009 to present. The NFHR bank balances are: Bank of America CD \$15,465.74, US Bank Money Market Savings \$10,000.00 and US Bank Checking Account \$3,619.97. Nancy mentioned that she has not been able to reach Roger Cobic so he can assist with updating the NFHR contact and authorized signatory information with Bank of America. Jeff will try to reach Roger.

Registrar's Report: As of today's date, for 2011 there are 110 new NFHR members and 279 transfers have been recorded. Jeanne reported that she has been receiving lots of phone calls recently, many from people wanting to verify the fees they owe. She went over the membership, registration and transfer data that was distributed via email prior to the meeting. She explained that in October 2010, the NFHR started record keeping in Quick Books instead of Heavy Horse and that it is difficult to make exact comparisons with prior year's numbers for periods before October, 2010. For example, currently membership renewals for 2012 received in December, 2011 are recorded as a 2012 membership. Prior to October 2010, the data may have been reported as of the date received, not necessarily as of the period to which it relates.

Treasurer and Finance Committee's Report: Teressa reported that costs were reduced significantly in 2011. For example, this quarter last year the NFHR was \$16,000.00 in the hole, in comparison, at this time the NFHR has approximately \$4,000.00. Despite this positive change, Teressa cautioned that revenues are also down and again advised against exuberant spending.

Email Motions: None.

Elections Committee: Howard reported that because the number of candidates was not greater than the number of seats to fill, in accordance with NFHR Bylaws, no election was held. The website will be updated and the election results will be included in the Herald. Howard will be leaving the Board now that he has completed two terms. Wendy will begin a three year term on January 1st. Howard expects the Election Committee to be pretty quiet until August. He is willing to continue to serve on the Committee.

Evaluation Committee: Sue reported that the Committee approved the changes to the Family Fun Test requested by the Evaluators. Beth moved to accept the changes, Howard seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. There was some discussion of potential immigration issues relating to Evaluators coming from Canada. The Board reiterated the position that each Evaluator is responsible for complying with the law. Jeff reported that John Crawford and Jeanne Poirier are willing to serve as co-chairs of the Evaluation Committee. Teressa moved that they be appointed; Sue seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The co-chairs are in charge of the committee's composition and will report to the Board. Jeff thanked Dan Watanabe for his service this past year.

FHI Committee: The FHI has not yet approved the minutes of its annual meeting.

Herald: The Winter issue will be at the printer's by the first week of January. We received a certified letter from an attorney advising that the printing company has filed for reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code. Howard mentioned that he has spoken with ADS regarding their printer.

MOPE: Outreach - Ardeth reported that they are still working on the Display. Jeanne has been in touch with a graphic artist. Kathleen suggested using high quality copies of some of the Herald covers. Bill made a motion to authorize \$300.00 for a graphic artist. Howard seconded the motion, carried unanimously. Promotion and Membership- The BoD discussed having a Constant Contact message sent to all members, to explain the new driving award, introduce Wendy, advise of the Educational Forum and ask for membership renewals. Education - Jeanne is going to prepare an article on evaluations for the website, a condensed version will be included in the Herald. Ardeth will prepare an article about the Fjord Foundation.

Awards: Ardeth recommended that the NFHR offer a Driving Participation Award, and that to receive an Award, the participant would have to earn three Driving Participation Certificates in 3 different years. A Driving Participation Certificate will be issued when someone has participated in four organized driving competitions in one year. Beth moved that the Award be established pursuant to the criteria Ardeth recommended, John seconded the motion, carried unanimously. Ardeth will prepare a specific written explanation of the award criteria. Howard reported that Crandall is current with all awards. Howard will ask her to prepare an article for the Herald about the awards program.

Marketplace/Website/Facebook: Marketplace sales are up. There were 513 Facebook visits this week and 1,093 "likes"

Youth: Bill reported that the Youth Facebook page is being used but not hugely.

OLD BUSINESS: Educational Forum - Sue reported that the facility lease will be \$1,200.00 and box stalls for the whole weekend will be \$180/each. The hotel will charge \$83/night and will include a dinner theater. If at least 10 rooms are reserved for 3 nights, the hotel will not charge for use of the conference rooms. The BoD discussed payment of expenses for speakers and the possibility of a panel discussion. There will be a live auction, after forum expenses are paid, remaining proceeds will be split with the MWFHC. Sue will provide more details at the January meeting. Foundation-Howard explained the rejuvenation of the Fjord Foundation. He, Neil Sorum, Ardeth and Fred Brandt are the Directors. Executive Committee report: Jeff reported on a

recent Executive Committee meeting involving a member's registration request. Jeff said he would entertain a motion to take action on the member's request. No motion was made.

NEW BUSINESS: Bylaws- John recommended that we create a Bylaws committee to review our current Bylaws and make recommendations to the Board regarding changes to be recommended to the membership, he is willing to serve as chair and would like Beth and Nancy to be on it. John made a motion to create such a committee; Teressa seconded it, the motion carried unanimously. Next Meeting – January 9th 6:00 MST.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to HOWARD FIEDLER for the past six years of outstanding service to the NFHR. We can't thank you enough, Howard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. MST