

Fairfield Westchester PHA Chapter Minutes  
August 10, 2015

The meeting of the FWPHA Chapter was called to order at Coker Farm at 7:00 p.m. by President Ken Okken. There were 30 members in attendance.

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

Naomi Gauruder read the treasurer's report which included the May thru July transactions which was accepted as read.

Correspondent Secretary: Naomi read thank you notes from Ox Ridge Hunt Club regarding our donation to their June show, St. Peters Church in Cheshire, Ct regarding a donation in the memory of George Jensen (Cynthia Jensen's late husband) and from Pegasus Therapeutic Riding regarding our support for their program.

High Score Program: Ken read the following note regarding his views on the recent high score program possible changes. [Ken Okken High Score Program.pdf](#) (Please hold down Ctrl button and click on link to read)

Allen Magnotta was asked by Ken to explain how committees work, why they exist and how they make recommendations to bring back to the membership to be voted on.

Naomi was asked by Ken to come up with suggestions prior to the meeting to improve the high score program. The following suggestions from Naomi and others from the floor have been referred to members of the high score committee to consider implementing:

1. Since USEF have become unrealistic with their current show rating requirements, a suggestion was made to incorporate non-rated USEF shows back into the program to get smaller barns back into the program who have left or are wishing to join the program but can't due to USEF shows being non-consumer friendly.
2. Have show managers memberships and high score show affiliation form completed by October 1st for those participating in the high score program.
3. Make sure all secretaries for these show are in good standing with any PHA before these shows count in the program.
4. Have at least 3 divisions and 3 medal class's count per show.
5. Have USEF stewards or a PHA representative to act as a steward, hired for non-USEF rated shows. A list of acceptable PHA stewards would be formed by the committee.
6. Decide if the affiliation would be given out on a certain mile by mile rule or by county to county basis.
7. Have in place a penalty phase, where shows who don't hold up to the standards the committee comes up with i.e. not getting results submitted to the point keeper in time, not having memberships up to date by managers, etc....

8. Bring in new barns to run shows that haven't in the past to allow more opportunities to compete for points for the high score participants.
9. Go to a point multiplier system where if there is more than say 15 in a class the points would double or some type of system to that effect.
10. Finally, average the participant's top 10, 15, 20 or whatever amount of shows for points to make the participation in the program fair for all members.

Liz Tarter suggested tabling these good ideas to the committee to possibly start with the 2017 season.

**Aid to Members:** A question was made by the floor why Michael Clarke was given a loan prior to his membership being accepted. Mr. Clarke's membership will be voted on next meeting and a loan agreement between Mr. Clarke and the FWPHA was signed and laid out on his repayment of the loan.

Diane Hatt, a lifetime FWPHA member, has fallen into serious health issues and is in need of aid. Naomi spoke to Linda Mancini who is handling Diane's financial situation and Linda suggested that Diane who is in a rehab facility at this time is in need of having her house cleaned and installing a handicap shower stall to assist Diane when she gets home. A donation was approved by the membership and Lynn Peters suggested the National PHA also get involved with this issue as well.

**Charitable Donations:** Naomi stated Fairfield County Hunt Club was looking for a jump sponsorship for their upcoming Maclay Regional show. A sponsorship was approved by the membership.

**Membership:** Suzanne McGowan, Kelsey O'Hara and Keely O'Hara's membership were approved by the floor. New membership applications for Michael Clarke, a driver for WJ Barry Transportation, and Shelbi Siclari Heady a head trainer in New York were tabled until the next meeting. Both applicants did submit membership checks with the membership committee.

**Junior PHA Committee:** Christine Nastasi stated the Junior PHA will do the same this year for the high score banquet by having the photo booth and raffles at the dinner. There will be a small charge for the photo booth this year.

**Horse Show Committee:** Naomi states both the May and August FWPHA shows this year did make a profit.

**FWPHA Website:** Scott Tarter stated new webmail addresses for the committee members are all done and an overhaul of the website itself will be done in the near future. (See new email address for secretary when these minutes are sent out)

**High Score Banquet:** Christina Schauder stated a RSVP and the email list of members who might come to the dinner needs to be sent to Audrey Feldman soon as the date of the banquet has changed to an earlier date this year to October 30<sup>th</sup>. Christina also stated we should look into accepting credit cards as payment this year for the banquet. Gary stated the acceptance of credit cards as payment can be done at the door but a convenience fee would be charged to those who use a credit card.

A suggestion was made to have a group put together the ribbons for the banquet prior to the winners accepting those ribbons. Catherine McIntyre states she needs a projector to use for her power point presentation for the dinner. A call will be made to the Italian Center to see if they have one we could borrow. Richard Killian will supply the pictures for the website for the banquet again this year.

Jack Rockwell Award: A topic for the award was decided on which was "If you had to ask a horse any question, what would it be and why you would ask the horse that question". All applications must be submitted by September 15<sup>th</sup> by mail to Norman Bray or to the new email [JACKROCKWELLAWARD@FWPHA.com](mailto:JACKROCKWELLAWARD@FWPHA.com).

Greek Neff Award: Tabled

Frank Flynn Award: Any suggestions contact Judy Richter.

Walt Distler Award: For someone who supports the Junior and Associate membership of the FWPHA Contact Lisa Sherman.

Also Christine would like to have the bios on all of the named awards to be put in the banquet journals.

Art of Clinic: Tabled

Old Business: Tabled

New Business: Ann Greci stated of the national PHA scholarships given out this year, 5 of them were FWPHA member's children. Naomi made a motion for the FWPHA to match the scholarship given by the national for the scholarships awarded to the FWPHA recipients. Motion was approved by the floor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Meeting will be at Coker Farm on September 14th with dinner starting at 6:30 and the meeting to follow.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Gary Gauruder

Recording Secretary

[Secretary@FWPHA.com](mailto:Secretary@FWPHA.com)