



# USIHC Board Meeting

April 7, 2026 Minutes

In attendance: VL, JM, MS, AC, EM, LN, (MD website development)

## Report of Officers

President - Virginia Lauridsen (added in Shelby's items from the agenda)

- Discussion that we should have someone outside of the BOD/employees look over the financials annually.
- Proposal to hire Elaine Ralieg, who helped us with the transition to clean up the filing issue and have her continue to look at the books monthly to quarterly to semi annually to annually. VL motions to hire Elaine Ralieg for up to 10 hours at \$35 an hour, budget of \$350. JM Second, Vote all in favor.
- Moved to US Bank since it's a national bank. We put 4% into a money market account at that time. Looking for a financial advisor who would help us invest approximately \$150,000

Vice President - Jeff Rose *not in attendance*

Secretary - Janet Mulder

- 861 Members (186 Family, 4 Foreign Friends, 193 overdue) Up 10 members.

Treasurer - Shelby Walker

- Financials
- Update on 2025 audit and next steps
- Engagement of additional support for general accounting matters
- Update on converting to a 501(c)(3)

## Report of Committees

Affiliated Clubs - Jeff Rose *not in attendance*

Breeding Committee - Virginia Lauridsen

- Breeding assessment next Month in Iowa May 12, 14

Education Committee - Caeli Cavanaugh *not in attendance*

- Proposals to be held until next meeting
- Equine Management module complete, will send to BOD for proof reading soon.

Leisure Committee - Melinda Studstill

- Registration for S2SS is open. I now have the ability to make changes and help manage this information on the backend of the website.
- Angie Calve is helping send out the prizes for 2025 S2SS winners. The prize is a \$100 gift certificate to spend at Flying C Tack Shop.

- I have received nine badges for the 2026 S2SS members.

#### Sport Committee - Asta Covert

- First show was held the weekend of March 28 & 29 in Oregon, it was a great success.
- National Rankings are not correct, Mackenzie will look into it.

#### Youth Committee - Lucy Nold

- Two riders turned down their spots, request for a an additional spot so we can send 4 riders. 3 from the reserve list.
- Carly Zayer is working on a Go Fund Me for the team.

#### Promotion and Website - Ebba Meehan

- How to reach US riders at riding centers in Iceland (Horses of Iceland or LH members) and encourage/educate about USIHC. What's in it for the centers? (a few I called asked)
  - Discussion if time, within the membership drive time frame

#### Quarterly Committee report

April 3, 2026

submitted by Nancy Brown

We are in the midst of editing and reviewing submissions for Quarterly Issue Two 2026, which will be mailed by June 1.

We've had a request to print 100 extra copies for the membership drive; I will review that number with Melissa before we go to press on April 30. If Affiliated Clubs or Promotion will need copies of the magazine between now and September, we'll need another increase in the print run, as we have no back issues on hand. Please let me know ASAP. I'm assuming the cost of printing the extra copies will be covered by the Board, as our 2026 budget is based on a run of 625/quarter, which only covers members and contributors.

We request that the Board review page 11 of the last issue(s) of the magazine, which states the USIHC Mission and information on "Why Join the USIHC." It appears that some of the information needs to be updated, as it is not the same as being presented in the membership drive materials. Please get those corrections to me by April 15.

Issue Two features a special insert on how to use WorldFengur. Inspired by the recent Virtual Education webinar, the insert is an update by Martina Gates of the famous how-to guide she first published in Tolt News and the Quarterly many years ago, and which has been used since then by FEIF. Other topics include a spotlight on Flying C, a detailed report on the Horses Inside Out webinar, an exploration of Feldenkrais, and the 2025 Spaeri Youth Essay Award winner.

#### Old Business

- Membership Drive
  - Membership drive is underway and Mackenzie will have the latest numbers to provide
  - Discussed with Nancy and Nicki the handling of sending out the new membership packets. Seems to align well with the next mailing of the quarterly. Nicki has handled this in the past. I just need to get the small items ordered and delivered to Nicki to be included with the mailing of the quarterly.
- Website
- Proposed Mission Statement
  - New:

Build a thriving Iceland horse presence and community within the United States through membership, education, promotions and in-person gatherings.

Be committed to the well-being of the Icelandic horse.

Highlight the purpose of the Icelandic horse as an equine partner in multiple ways inspired by Icelandic horsemanship.

Maintain a registry of purebred Icelandic horses in the U.S. imported and domestically bred.

Make World Fengur easily accessible to members.

Foster and support communication among our membership and represent the United States within FEIF.

- Old:

To promote the knowledge of the Icelandic Horse within the United States and its correct use as a competition and riding horse;

To keep a Registry of purebred Icelandic Horses in the United States;

To facilitate communication among all USIHC members, and;

To represent the United States in FEIF.

*Discussion still on hold, can we use the word "ambassador" instead of "correct"?*

- Proposal from CIHF

- [Amended Proposal for Subscription for CIHF Members to the USIHC.pdf](#)

- MS motions to accept the proposal omitting the "trial period" option.

AC seconds, all in favor.

### New Business

- Western Dressage Alliance email

*My name is Becci Loomer and I am with the Western Dressage Assoc of America and we promote Western Dressage for non trotters as well as trotters!*

*I am excited to tell you we have a few Icelandic horses that show in our gaited division. I love this breed. We also have two Icelandic horses that show in Western Dressage at our world show.*

*As you well know Icelandic Horses are very versatile and amazing in every discipline we put them in. WDAA is looking to expand our gaited division and would love to have you on board. What this means is we would love to add you as a breed alliance partner. What this entails is...*

*Designated Alliances Partners are made up of breed organizations for the purpose of sharing educational opportunities and furthering the growth and pursuit of Western Dressage for riders and horses from all backgrounds. Alliance Partnerships work to educate equestrians to the value of using Dressage principles and progression in the development and utilization of the working Western horse. These Alliances share vital information and can offer unique funding and educational opportunities in conjunction with the WDAA 501(c)(3) nonprofit mission. For more information or details how you can become an Alliance Partner, [Contact Us Now!](#)*

*This is free for you and we have 4 gaited breed associations already on board. We could promote each other so to speak. Basically we would like to affirm that all gaited horses are welcome and encouraged in all aspects of the sport of Western Dressage test at all levels.*

*We also have Rail Classes, Horsemanship classes, and equitation classes. Physical benefits of Western Dressage is it improves balance, strength, and coordination. Helps develop correct posture and self carriage, and last but not least it gives longevity, and soundness using the WDAA Training Wheel available on our website [wdaa.org](http://wdaa.org).*

*We would love to increase our education and awareness in the Gaited Horse World and encourage education for judges, trainers, riders and show management. Mainly we would love to serve as a liaison between WDAA and the gaited horse owners and breed associations. Encourage cross-discipline participation and shared educational opportunities. Most of all build relationships that broaden awareness of Western Dressage within the gaited horse community.*

*WDAA is currently working on a webinar to feature the gaited horse and if you partner with us we will add your association on the powerpoint.*

*Looking forward to hearing back from you. Thank you and if you have any more questions please feel free to contact me. Leave a message please as my phone will not ring to numbers it does not recognize. That way I don't have to worry about all the car insurance spam calls!!!!!! :)*

*Becci Loomer*

*859-612-7334*

*[becciloomer@gmail.com](mailto:becciloomer@gmail.com)*

- *Will follow up with Becci, concerns specifically about the Western Tack often not fitting Icelandic Horses unless custom made.*
- Adding a Youth representative to the BODs (as a voting member or observer) - discussion that we would like Youth members on Committees where appropriate.
- Quarterly Continuity - Finding someone who can help learn how the quarterly is published, Ebba would like to join the Quarterly committee.
- Credit Cards - will look into accepting them via the website, Mackenzie will work with the bank.
- Membership Drive Welcome Packs, best in line to send them the June 1 Quarterly issue. Melinda will purchase a couple of items from Zazzle and send to members separately from the Quarterly.
  - New members since March 15 to April 7: 43, 23 have answered the question about new memberships.

Next Meeting May 5 at 8 pm EDT