USIHC Board Meeting

September 8, 2026 Minutes

In attendance: VL, EM, MS, AC, LN, JM, CC Absent: JR, SW

Report of Officers

President - Virginia Lauridsen

- Social media update - doubled followers online
- National Show sponsorship - we will lose money on this event, please ask for sponsors. Currently have three sponsors.
- Election update - Melinda, Caeli & Jeff are all willing to run again.
- Quarterly controversy -A photo from a breeding evaluation in the Quarterly was not appreciated by the owner of the horse and people in the photo. Many people had submitted the photo, the online version has been removed and the photo will be replaced. A photo of Virginia during a breeding evaluation may have concerned some readers which may also be replaced on the online version.

Vice President - Jeff Rose

Secretary - Janet Mulder

- 864 Members (189 Family, 5 Foreign Friends, 237 overdue) Down 4 members, up one foreign friend.

Treasurer - Shelby Walker

Report of Committees

Affiliated Clubs - Jeff Rose

Breeding Committee - Virginia Lauridsen

Education Committee - Caeli Cavanaugh

- Modules are nearly finished, and have one to review.

Leisure Committee - Melinda Studstill

- Discussion of app for 2027 S2SS, HorseDay Update should allow for the items that would allow us to use the app for the S2SS, not sure if it will be available in time. Shelby will still follow up with USIHC creating its own S2SS app.

- Ebba & Melinda will create a survey to see if the membership would like an in person Annual Meeting to celebrate our upcoming anniversary.
- After discussion with Mackenzie we decided that texts reminding riders to post their S2SS hours would be much more effective than an email. Mackenzie's initial research indicated that approx $500 per year could get us texting capabilities for up to 100 recipients, we will not implement this for the 2026 year.

Sport Committee - Asta Covert

- National Show update, expecting about 40 horses. Planning is coming along well and looking forward to a great event.

Youth Committee - Lucy Nold

- Caeli & Lucy working together to form a working group for the 2027 North American Youth Cup. Possible locations: Oregon or Colorado.

Promotion and Website - Ebba Meehan

- WEC Ocala, FL Promotion opportunity May 8-9, 2027 Gaited Horse exhibition & competition.

Quarterly Committee - Nancy Brown

Issue Three 2026 of the Quarterly is now in the mail. Issue Three 2026 of The Icelandic Horse Quarterly continues our User's Guide to WorldFengur and explores the state of domestic breeding, discusses the financial side of horse ownership, remembers Heleen Heyning of West Wind Farm, presents science on pasture quality and grazing, and shares stories about a first show, a ride in New Zealand, and trying out for the Youth Cup, as well as relaying news from the USIHC Affiliated Clubs, the Board of Directors, and our parent organization, FEIF.

The eQuarterly was released on September 1 and, following criticism of two photos that readers suggested could be misinterpreted (especially if shared out of context over social media), we worked with the people shown in the photos to find replacements for those two shots. The eQuarterly is currently being redesigned and a new version will be ready to be released later this week. We have revised our photo policy and will be circulating updated rules to the committee before the next deadline. We'd also like to remind all members that they need to get permission from the people shown in the photos before sending them into the Quarterly to be published.

We are now open for submissions for Issue Four 2026, to be mailed in December. Please send articles, photos, and advertisements to quarterly@icelandics.org. Board members and committee chairs, please let us know if you want us to save space for you in this issue. Remember that ads for USIHC-sponsored events are free, space permitting. If there will be an Annual Meeting, the December issue is a good place to advertise it.

Deadline for submissions for Issue Four 2026 (mailed in December) is October 1.

Nancy Marie Brown
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Old Business

- Discussion of awards for Spring Virtual Show, have not been sent to participants. Ebba will follow up with acquiring and disseminating awards.

New Business

- “Century Club” - Janet
    - I would like to introduce and offer the Century Rider Club at the National Championships and all future USIHC shows.
    - I propose a "Century Rider Club". Similar to the Dressage Foundation Century Club, the combined age of Horse & Rider must equal 100 years or greater. The rider and horse both must be USIHC members/US registered, the ride/test must be a FEIF recognized test, a National or International judge can be used.
    - If we have funds for a physical award I propose that we spend no more than $75 per award. If there are no funds available I will find sponsorship for an award. I would like a photo and short summary or horse/rider to be put into the Quarterly/website/socials to recognize this great achievement.
        - Motion made by VL, Second by CC, all in favor.
- After the discussion of Sabrina, wishing to have an hourly pay, I will gather her hours for the months of 2026. We were hesitant to make a change in the middle of a budget year.
- Packet for new horse owners importing into the US from Iceland with a registration form and join USIHC membership form. The introductory packets will be put together and sent to Christian Rakshys before the next import on October 15.

Next Meeting: October 13, 8 pm EDT