



United States Icelandic Horse Congress Annual Officer & Committee Reports

The following reports are respectfully submitted to the Membership of the USIHC by the 2012 Officers and Committee Chairs.

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The Constitutional Review Committee was dissolved with gratitude for their service.

Members are invited and encouraged to join the committees working in their personal areas of interest. The bulk of the work supporting the Icelandic Horse in the United States comes from the dedicated efforts of the volunteers who lead and staff the various working groups of the USIHC.

2012 President's Report

Anne Elwell

From my particular point of view, which is primarily focused on the functioning of the organization, 2012 was a year of organizational experiment and improvement in efficiency.

We revised the definition of a membership year from the old calendar year approach to one which runs from the date of joining. In other words, if you became a member on May 1, 2012 your membership ends on April 30, 2013. We established an automatic renewal through Paypal for those who want the option of automatic renewal. The advantage to the members of the new definition of the membership year is obvious. The advantage to the organization is a tremendous savings in time and labor, always at a premium. There will undoubtedly be a few glitches but so far it has been remarkably effective in achieving goals of greater efficiency.

We experimented in 2012 with a new form of General Meetings, holding two in different parts of the country in conjunction with events that draw substantial participation by members who do not customarily attend the Annual Meeting when scheduled as a single event. What we hoped was that this would bring together portions of the membership who do not usually attend the Annual Meeting with Board members to broaden the discussion about what we had been doing in 2011 and planned to do going forward.

While attendance at the meetings was good, the lively exchange of ideas about past activities and future programs that we had anticipated did not occur. For a number of reasons it seems that the old structure, requiring time and travel though it does, provides a much more productive interaction than the experimental structure. It simply may be the case that while everyone can think of a number of things the Congress should be doing instead of what it is actually doing, those who are motivated to focus on its activities and growth are the ones willing to travel and have that dialogue over a couple of days. As a result we will be returning to the old Annual Meeting framework in the future.

The Board has been working on an extremely interesting proposal for funding creative projects furthering the mission statement of the Congress. Almost every activity within the Congress, from Equine Affair exhibitions to educational clinics to evaluations and sanctioned shows, to the Pleasure Riding Program was the idea of an individual member who got others sufficiently excited to develop the idea into an activity or program. To encourage such brainstorming and new program development on the part of the membership the Board is working on a program which will commit a percentage of income each year to fund ideas that meet criteria indicating reasonable prospects of success. The program will be brought to the membership at some point in 2013 and I encourage all individual members and Regional Clubs to start giving thought to areas of outreach benefitting the breed.

The Committee Reports on the website detail the advances made in the Committees in 2012 in numerous areas. All Committees except the Sport Committee (which has certain prerequisites), are open to any member interested in the topic. There is no better way to be involved in Congress activities than to join a Committee and add your thoughts and questions to the general dialogue. Every member is welcome and makes a significant contribution to our understanding of what is going on throughout the country and how best to meet the needs of the horses and their people.

2012 Secretary's Report

Doug Smith, USIHC Secretary

Membership

2012 was the first full year under the “anniversary” membership renewal model. In general, the model has been quite successful. We have had shorter lapses in membership than in the past. The primary motivation behind the change was to keep the number of *Quarterly* magazines delivered each issue more consistent. We have certainly met that goal.

There were some small issues that hadn't been completely considered before the new model was implemented. For example, there was nothing in the World Championships Tryout Rules regarding short lapses in membership under the new model. In the past, March was a key deadline for membership lapses. The tryout rules were updated to include a clear statement that a less than 30-day lapse is acceptable. All of the issues were of a similar caliber have been resolved.

The PayPal Subscription option is being used by nearly 10% of the membership. Other than an erroneous renewal reminder email message sent in late December, this option seems to working as intended. I will try to push this option more in 2013 as it solves many problems for the membership, the Secretary, and the Treasurer to have memberships renew on schedule with absolutely no action required from anyone.

Annual vs. General Meetings

In 2012 we tried an experiment by having two General Member Meetings instead of the traditional Annual Meeting. There were two key motivations behind the experiment: a reduced workload for the Secretary and a desire to reach a wider audience.

This experiment was a failure from the the Secretary's workload perspective. It proved to be a significant increase in workload at more inconvenient times of year to have the two meetings instead of a single-purpose meeting.

The performance against the second goal is less clear. There were certainly members present at the two meetings who would not have travelled to a dedicated event. It is not entirely clear that we reached members who would not have had contact with Board members or been able to express opinions and concerns directly to the Board without these meetings.

Board members should be present at as many member rich events as possible. The membership should also take some responsibility to elect local representation to the Board. As long as these happen, there is no clear advantage to having a traveling meeting attached to some other event.

There is a significant disadvantage to the experimental, multiple meeting model. There is never a dedicated time in the year when all of the Board members are able to meet fact-to-face. The Board will function more effectively if there can be at least one such meeting. This is especially true when there are new members on the Board who don't have the benefit of established relationships.

Moving forward, I believe it is in the best service of the Congress to resume a dedicated annual meeting.

Election

This year we had one vacant seat created by Cindy Wescott's resignation late in the year. The Board chose not to fill that seat since Cindy was in the last year of her term and the election was close at hand. The other incumbents, Anne and Sara, agreed to serve again. The membership nominated one candidate, Lori Cretney. All these factors combined to create a situation where the Board was able to suspend the election process before ballots were mailed. This was, once again, a significant savings of volunteer time and membership money.

United States Icelandic Horse Congress Inc.
Income & Expense Report
January through December 2012
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Income		Expense	
Breeding Committee Income		Breeding Committee Exp.	
Evaluation-FEIF fees	475.00	Evaluation Loss Prevention exp.	765.97
Total Breeding Committee Income	475.00	Total Breeding Committee Exp.	765.97
 Competition Inc.		 Competition Comm. Expense	
National Ranking Trophy Inc.	167.00	National Ranking Award Expense	938.85
Total Competition Inc.	167.00	Total Competition Comm. Expense	938.85
 Education Seminar Inc.			
Riding Badge Inc.	160.00	Elwell Breeding Award	50.89
Total Education Seminar Inc.	160.00		
 FEIF Conference Reimbsmt.	2,213.73	FEIF Conference exp.	2,213.73
Interest Income	391.71		
 Membership Related Income		 Membership Related Expenses	
Farm Listing		Administration	
2013 Farm Listing	754.05	Mbshp. Postage	444.89
2012 Farm Listing	3,013.01	Office/Supplies Exp.	50.30
Total Farm Listing	3,767.06	Tax. Prep. Services	325.00
Membership Dues		Total Administration	820.19
2013 Membership dues		FEIF related expenses	
2013 Youth membership	33.68	FEIF Mbshp fees	150.89
2013 Family Membership	946.53	Total FEIF related expenses	150.89
2013 Individual Mbshp	2,014.81		
Total 2013 Membership dues	2,995.02	General Meeting Expense	
2008 Membership dues		2012 Meeting Expenses	227.86
08 Individual Memberships	43.54	Total General Meeting Expense	227.86
Total 2008 Membership dues	43.54		
2012 membership dues		Insurance	715.00
2012 Family Membership	5,057.00		
2012 Individual Mbshp	11,197.78	Service fees	
2012 Youth Membership	239.72	Bank Fees	20.86
Total 2012 membership dues	16,494.50	Total Service fees	20.86
Total Membership Dues	19,533.06		
 Quarterly Inc.		 Quarterly Expenses	
Quarterly Adv. Inc.	3,270.39	Graphics	4,000.00
Quarterly back issue sales	138.24	postage for Quarterly	1,943.65
Total Quarterly Inc.	3,408.63	Quarterly Printing	4,944.55
		Quarterly Expenses - Other	226.00
		Total Quarterly Expenses	11,114.20

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Income		Expense	
		Toll Free line	155.40
Website Inc.			
Website Ad Inc.	750.54		
Total Website Inc.	750.54	Website Expense	761.37
		WorldFengur Exp.	581.79
Total Membership Related Income	27,459.29	Total Membership Related Expenses	14,547.56
Pleasure Rider Program Inc.		Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	
2012 PRP program Inc.		2011 PRP Award exp.	526.14
2012 PRP Adult fee	-208.15	Total Pleasure Rider Program Exp.	526.14
2012 PRP Youth fee	-12.00		
Total 2012 PRP program Inc.	-220.15	Promotional Exp.	
Total Pleasure Rider Program Inc.	-220.15	Display booth shipping	914.79
		Equine Affair Exp.	1,145.00
		Promotional postage expenses	246.96
		Promotion Material Printing exp	1,213.05
		Promotional Advertising	325.00
		RC Co-op promo exp.	572.50
		Promotional Exp. - Other	1,303.12
		Total Promotional Exp.	5,720.42
Registry Income		Registry Acct. Expense	
Duplicate Registration fees	144.15	Clerical for registry	3,930.00
Late Stallion Report fees	1,972.40	Printing & reproduction-Regist.	491.22
Registration fees	4,983.02	Reg. Office supplies	88.33
Transfer fees	2,666.40	Reg. WorldFengur Sbscrptn exp.	114.29
Total Registry Income	9,765.97	Registry Postage	414.96
		Total Registry Acct. Expense	5,038.80
USIHC Non-Member fees	1,192.18	Youth Committee Exp.	
USIHC Non-registration fees	150.00	Youth Cup Exp.	
		2012 Youth Cup Exp.	4,353.68
Youth Committee Inc.		Total Youth Cup Exp.	4,353.68
FEIF Youth Cup Reimbursement	2,521.92	Total Youth Committee Exp.	4,353.68
Total Youth Committee Inc.	2,521.92	Total Expense	34,156.04
Total Income	44,276.65		

Net Income: 10,120.61

Annual Report: Icelandic Horses Registered for year 2012

	Domestic Bred Under 12 Months	Imported Under 12 Months	Domestic Bred	Imported from Iceland	Imported from Canada	Imported from other countries	Total Registered		Total Transfers
Mares	42	0	29	27	0	1	99		91
Stallions	16	0	5	2	0	0	23		11
Geldings	9	0	8	9	5	0	31		77
Total 2012	67	0	42	38	5	1	Total	153	179
Total 2011	53	0	78	32	11	8	Total	196	189
	14	0	-36	6	-6	-7		-43	-10

2012: Total number of horses registered: 153

2012: Total number of horses transferred 179

Domestic Horses registered **2821**

Imported Horses registered **1790**

Total number of Icelandic horses registered with the USIHC 12/31/2012 **4611**

Recorded for 2012

Number of Mares Bred in 2011 254

Foals born in 2012 already registered 26

Microchips registered into WorldFengur 34

2012 Breeding Committee Report

Barbara Frische, Breeding Committee Chair

One International FEIF breeding evaluation was held in the United States in 2012. The event, hosted by Kristjan Kristjansson, took place in August at Thor Icelandics in Claverack, NY.

The Anne Elwell Award for the highest evaluated US bred horse went to Sprettur from Destiny Farms, breeder Pamela Merlow. Sprettur received scores of 8.13 (conformation) and 8.07 (ridden abilities) for an overall score of 8.09.

There was also a 5-year-old mare, Revia from Vinland (breeder: Martina Gates), shown without pace very successfully receiving scores of 7.98 (conformation) and 7.84 (ridden ability) for an overall score of 7.90. Revia has much more potential and expected to be shown again in Winterhorse Park at the breeding qualification event for the 2013 World Championships. Generally, we will have the chance in 2013 for the first time in many years to present breeding horses at the World Championships representing the American breeding.

The conformation and gaits clinics went well this year and were able to cover all costs without the need for financial assistance from the Congress.

The foal shows were also successful in 2012. The schedule did not allow for as many of these events as in the past. The planning is underway for 2013 in hopes of being able to reach more locations. The top five results from the 2012 foal evaluations are as follows:

1. **Balthasar from Creekside Farm (83.54) (C: 79.95 S: 85 G: 85.10)**
Creekside Farm, Georgia. Breeder/Owner: Katrin Sheehan
S: Tangó frá Strandarhöfði
D: Lára vom Neuenfelde
2. **Mist from Hanging Valley (83.27) (C: 78.80 S: 85 G: 82.86)**
Hanging Valley Ranch, Colorado. Breeder/Owner: Garry and Sharon Snook
S: Stígandi frá Leysingjastöðum II
Helena Fagra frá Ragnheiðarstöðum
3. **Skáti from Hanging Valley (83.04) (C: 82.20 S: 87.67 G: 81.70)**
Hanging Valley Ranch, Colorado. Breeder/Owner: Garry and Sharon Snook
S: Veigar frá Lækjamóti
D: Gunnhildur frá Kollaleiru
4. **Maidis from Hanging Valley (81.82) (C: 78.38 S: 79 G: 85.01)**
Hanging Valley Ranch, Colorado. Breeder/Owner: Garry and Sharon Snook
S: Lykill frá Blesastöðum 1A
D: Gunnhildur frá Kollaleiru
5. **Zophonías from Vinland (81.48) (C: 81.03 S: 85 G: 80.34)**
Thor Icelandics, New York. Breeder/owner: Martina Gates
S: Stígandi frá Leysingjastöðum II
D: Gnótt frá Holtsmúla I

USIHC Sport Committee 2012

Will Covert, Sport Leader

Sanctioned Shows in 2012

Location	FEIF International Judge(s)
*Santa Ynez, CA May 11	Florian Schneider, Nicolai Thye, Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, Rune Svendsen, Will Covert
*Santa Ynez, CA May 12	Florian Schneider, Nicolai Thye, Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, Rune Svendsen, Will Covert
*Santa Ynez, CA May 13	Florian Schneider, Nicolai Thye, Þorgeir Guðlaugsson, Rune Svendsen, Will Covert
Reston, VA May 19-20	Florian Schneider, Will Covert
Wattsonville, CA 8-9	Halldór Victorsson
Santa Ynez, CA Oct. 13-14	Nicolai Thye
Kentucky October 20-21	Pétur Jökull Hákonarson, Halldór Victorsson, Nicolai Thye

*FEIF World Ranking competitions

2012 There were a total of 7 Sanctioned shows vs. 12 in 2011

Year End National Ranking 2011			Year End National Ranking 2012		
Award Winners			Award Winners		
Discipline	Rider	Average	Discipline	Rider	Average
T1	Asta Covert	8.89	T1	Asta Covert	8.80
T2	Anne-Marie Martin	7.42	T2	Anne-Marie Martin	7.50
T3	Lucy Nold	7.20	T3	Dominic Ng	6.19
T4	Morgan Venable	5.90	T4	Doug Smith	6.55
T5	Dominic Ng	6.22	T5	Dominic Ng	6.22
T6	Kari Pietsch-Wangard	5.33	T6	Willy Ma	4.47
T7	Laurie Pristine	5.20	T7	Colleen Monsef	5.95
T8	Rachel Ng	6.90	T8	Elizabeth Monsef	6.15
V1	Asta Covert	7.97	V1	Asta Covert	8.02
V2	Lucy Nold	6.70	V2	Lucy Nold	6.19
V3	Dominic Ng	6.20	V3	Dominic Ng	6.27
V5	Ellen Reidy	5.40	V5	Colleen Monsef	6.09
V6	Rachel Ng	7.15	V6	Jessica Blough	6.15
F1	Gudmar Petursson	7.03	F1	Gudmar Petursson	6.70
F2	Anne-Marie Martin	5.95	F2	Barbara Chilton	3.59

FEIF World Ranking

There were 3 FEIF World Ranking events in 2012 and six US riders ranked on the FEIF list in 2012

To view the complete FEIF World Ranking List: <http://www.feif.org/WorldRanking/tabid/188/Default.aspx>

2013 World Championships

The 2013 World Championships will take place in Berlin, Germany. These championships will be the first time a championships event has been held in a large city. For more information, visit the official website, www.berlin2013.de

2013 US Tryouts for the World Championships

Tryout locations will be announced as soon as possible. In-person tryouts will take place between May 25th and June 2nd. The Tryout Applications will be due by May 14th.

2012 Education Committee Report

Katrin Sheehan, Committee Chair

The following members have passed the USIHC Riding badge level 1:

1. Rose Terami
2. Margot Frost
3. Sierra Mac Donald
4. Thea Penner
5. Scotlyn Davis
6. Jenna Watts
7. Zoe Johnson

The following members have passed the USIHC Riding badge level 2:

1. Biven Chapman

The German version of the Trainer C educational material is still in translation process. It is our goal to have the complete material translated until the end of April 2013.

2012 Pleasure Rider Program Report

Ellen Wilson, PRP Chairperson

For 2012 the board waived the fee for participating in the PRP. The natural assumption would have been that there would be an increase in participants, however the number of members who actually sent in logs during any part of the year was 35, compared to 33 in 2011. During the first half of the year many of the members were unaware of the change and either continued to send in checks, or sent in their logs for the old midsummer period. By the end of 2012 most of the participants had gotten up to speed and with very few exceptions did send their year end logs in by the correct due date.

In regards to the 2012 results, besides the three regional competitions, only two Allstars participated and a single youth. The regional club award was a three way tie with three clubs having equal numbers of participants.

This year Doug also created an online administration form for me to enter the log numbers into. This has been a HUGE improvement in being able to maintain the numbers and easily sort them to see the rankings on the scoreboard. Several PRP members have requested that they be able to access the form themselves to enter their numbers online. Doug offered a quote for doing the work but the funds were not approved.

Tolt Tack was listed as a sponsor for the stirrups, bridles, and t-shirts prizes, but I was unable to make contact with Linda Templeton and have since gotten special pricing from Eileen and Asta. The purchase of these items and the remainder of the jackets is currently on hold pending budget approval.

Several members have raised a question regarding the PRP requirement to conduct the riding on a registered horse. But since there is no longer a registration fee, no one has been sending in a copy of the horse registration papers. This is something that the board might want to address in the future, or at least we should notify the members that this is still required.

2012 Promotion Committee Report

Juli Cole, Chair

In 2012, the Promotion Committee brought one major project to conclusion & has a second major project well underway to completion.

A second USIHC display booth was purchased for use by Regional Clubs and members of USIHC to help promote the breed and the organization at various events across the country. The booth was beautifully designed by Martina Gates with the input and suggestions of the Promotion Committee members and by utilizing photos submitted by USIHC members that illustrated the beauty and versatility of our wonderful breed.

In addition to the new display booth, a small sub-committee of talented volunteers and Chaired by Promotion Committee and BOD member, Kathy Lockerbie, began the daunting task of designing a new promotional brochure.

The photos being used for the brochure were again supplied by various USIHC members and the text was created in such a way as to best promote the Icelandic Horse to the United States. This brochure will belong to USIHC, which allows for any future changes to be made as needed or deemed appropriate. The brochure is in the final designing phase and should be sent to the printer and available for distribution in 2013.

2012 Quarterly Committee Report

Judy Strehler and Nancy Marie Brown, co-chairs

The Quarterly Committee produced four issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*. Each issue was 52 pages long, with a color cover and a total of 41 feature articles and numerous news items written and illustrated by committee members and other USIHC members.

The four 2012 issues were released electronically as PDF files and posted by the USIHC webmaster on www.icelandics.org on approximately Feb. 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15, and mailed approximately two weeks later. Design costs of \$1000 per issue included both the electronic (full color) and the print (black-and-white with color cover) editions. Costs for printing were just over \$1200 per issue for 500 copies; of these up to 426 were mailed directly to members and contributors, 30 were given to the Membership Director for Welcome Packets for new members, and the remainder given to the Promotion Committee for promotional use. Postage (by the most economical bulk mail method) and handling totalled roughly \$500 per issue. Copies to our FEIF colleagues were sent electronically.

The committee continued its efforts to present “best practices” in both text and photographs. Topics covered all facets of the Icelandic horse world, including: clinics and seminars, training and riding techniques and resources, competition, pleasure riding, breeding, youth activities, USIHC and FEIF announcements, book reviews, and members’ experiences. In addition to its ongoing commitments to focus on the versatility of the Icelandic horse and to emphasize the welfare of the horse, the committee focused this year on including more how-to articles, youth essays, examples of promotional activities, and news from the Breeding Leader.

2012 Web Committee Report

Doug Smith, Chair

This year was a relatively quiet year for the web site. The key projects accomplished in 2012 were:

- Changes in support of the “anniversary” renewal model. Most of this work was done in 2011 before the new model was rolled out. There were, however, some small changes necessary to make other parts of the website work in cooperation with the new model.
- Better integration between the website calendar and news pages and Facebook. All new postings on the website are shadowed on Facebook within an hour. This has dramatically increased our outreach to the membership.
- An internal tool was created to support the management of the Pleasure Rider Program.
- The idea of supporting the Education Committee by hosting educational videos was explored. The Web Committee has a framework available if the Education Committee produces videos in the future.

There are no specific projects planned for 2013.

2012 USIHC Youth Committee Annual Report

Laurie Prestine, Youth Leader

International

The United States sent three youth riders and one Country Leader to Verden, Germany for the FEIF Youth Cup. For a full report on this event, please see the Congress minutes from August, 2012.

National

The youth committee worked with the Quarterly and many young riders submitted articles for publication.

Regional

Record numbers of youth riders participating in sanctioned shows. Youth camps profiled in many regional club updates. Youth fundraising at some regional events.