

## **World Farriers Association**

The 2015 Annual General Membership Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015. It will convene at 7:00 am in the Pipes Executive Conference Room at the Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas. A Continental Breakfast will be served members and delegates.

Matters for discussion that you want to be included in the Agenda of the meeting should be forwarded to Dr. Tina MacGregor, Secretary-Treasurer, by return e-mail at [wfassoc@msn.com](mailto:wfassoc@msn.com), or brought to the attention of the President before the meeting is held.

Officer and Director Reports will be received, as well as informal reports from individuals and countries represented.

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World Farriers Association

ANNUAL MEETING

Pipes Executive Conference Room, Convention Center

Overland Park, Kansas

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. February 26, 2015

**AGENDA**

Call to Order

Introductions

Minutes of 2014 Meeting

Reports

Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)

President

Association Updates

All Countries Represented

Old Business

Completion of WFA Website & Facebook Activities

New Business

Officer Candidates for Future

President

Americas Vice President

Adjourn

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WORLD FARRIERS ASSOCIATION  
February 26, 2015  
Stocks Boardroom – Convention Center  
Overland Park, Kansas, USA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:14 a.m. while those in attendance served themselves a Continental Breakfast hosted by WFA. Attendees were made acquainted with each other. Attendance was low due to several conflicting activities that drew people away from the meeting. (This may always be a problem, no matter when this meeting is held.) Dr. Koji Sato, DVM, now President of the Japan Farriery Association (JFA) and now Asian Vice President of the WFA, as well, was introduced and welcomed warmly to the WFA. The long-time support of and dedication to the mission of the WFA by JFA was recognized.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Secretary’s Report:

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting were circulated by email to all interested parties following last year’s meeting. No questions, comments, additions, or corrections to the Minutes were received. The Minutes stand approved as submitted. The Minutes are in the Documents/Reports section of the WFA website at [www.worldfarriersassoc.org](http://www.worldfarriersassoc.org). (A copy of the 2014 Minutes, the President’s Report, and the proposed New Business was given to Dr. Sato on the evening of February 25 as a courtesy since he hadn’t had the opportunity to see them before this meeting.)

Dr. C.M. MacGregor, Secretary

Report accepted as given

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Treasurer’s Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	1/1/2014	\$20,349.45
INCOME		
501 Organizational Dues		1,000.00
502 Individual Dues		50.00
505 Donation (Jim Linzy Fund)		3,331.50
	Total Income	<b>\$4,381.50</b>

EXPENSES

725 Annual Meeting (2014)	294.61
727 International Reception	589.22
730 Website	870.00
Total Expenses	<b>\$1,753.83</b>
<b>Overall Total Expenses over Income</b>	<b>(+) \$2,627.67</b>
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2014	<b><u>\$22,977.12</u></b>

Dr. C.M. MacGregor, Treasurer

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Vice Presidents Reports

Americas Vice President: No Report. Position Vacant.

Oceania Vice President: No Report. Position Vacant.

European Vice President: No Report . Position Vacant.

Asian Vice President: Dr. Koji Sato, DVM, President of Japan Farriery Association.

My name is Koji Sato. I succeed to the Presidency of the Japan Farriery Association (JFA) following Dr. Teruyuki Imahara who retired in November, 2015. It is my great honor and pleasure to be here for the first time and to have the opportunity to speak this morning.

I began working on the veterinary staff of the Japan Racing Association (JRA) in 1972. I moved through several sections of JRA to become a Director and then the Executive Director of the JRA. I was elected Chairman of the Asian Racing Federation, and served as a Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs of the JRA. After retiring from the JRA, I became President of the Japan Farriery Association.

Dr. Imahara has briefed me about the history of the WFA and its various activities under the leadership of its President, Mr. Walt Taylor. I would like to express my deepest respect to everyone involved for your long-term contribution to the development of the farriery industry around the world.

Now, I would like to report to you about the current situation of the farriery and horse industries in Japan, along with our activities in the Asian Region. It has been four years since a large earthquake hit northeastern Japan. Restoration of the area from that devastating situation has been done slowly, step-by-step. Restoration work has not been completed in many areas. In some other areas, little progress has been made to return to pre-earthquake conditions. A large and

traditional festival is held every year. It is called Soma-Nomaoui, and includes the use of 500 horses. (A few pictures of the festival follow my report.) The festival has been held for 900 years and imitates the battle of Samurai. The festival of Soma-Nomaoui is a tremendous emotional support for the earthquake victims. Since last year, the JFA has provided free footcare and farriery to the horses used in the festival. The JFA subsidizes local farriers who do the work on these horses. In addition, the JFA has planned and carried out several footcare seminars for horse owners in the area of the festival. Our intent is to educate owners in better horse management skills.

On the whole, JFA's activities last year did not differ greatly from past years. We held the 67<sup>th</sup> Japan Farriery Competition in October, 2014. Thirty one contestants participated in the competition. At the same time, we invited Mr. Chris Gregory of the United States to give demonstrations and hands-on training for Japanese farriers. We obtained satisfactory results from his considerable skills in forging and horseshoeing. His teaching methods made good impressions on us.

We conduct a one-year education course each year to train and qualify farriers. On this March 5<sup>th</sup>, 16 students, including a lady veterinarian, will graduate from our school and be qualified as farriers. The lady veterinarian wants to be an equine podiatrist, making good use of therapeutic horseshoeing. In April, a new class of 12 students will begin the course.

During 2014, we updated the web-site of the JFA. We invite you to visit the site at <http://www.sosakutei.jrao.ne.jp/about> or through the link on the WFA website.

Now let me report on the Asian area of the WFA. Korea has been holding a national licensing system examination for farriers, race horse trainers, and instructors of equitation. This has been done for the last two years. The Korean government has asked the JFA to send an Examiner from Japan to assist Korean authorities in the licensing examination. A Director of the JFA's Education Center went to Korea to promote and assist in the license examination. In the near future, a person who has not successfully completed the license examination cannot work as a farrier in Korea.

We don't have any new information about the horse industry in China. However, as you know, the Chinese economy is growing. The situation has encouraged the British style of recreational riding, and it has become very popular. As far as we know, the many different riding clubs invite farriers from foreign countries to provide footcare services that are needed. We don't know of any Chinese farrier training programs.

As you already know, the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Tokyo in 2020. The JFA will work with Olympic authorities regarding the farriery aspect of the Games.

The many political and economic factors and situations in Asia, including Japan, will probably change in the year ahead. We, at the JFA, would like to address these changes properly and to work harder to contribute to the development of the horseshoeing industry.

Thank you for your attention.



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Dr. Sato responded to general questions. He said that there are three students present at the AFA Convention this year; there is one Japanese farrier currently in training at the Kentucky Horseshoeing School in Kentucky. He was asked how a foreign farrier could practice in Japan. Dr. Sato said that any non-Japanese farrier who is certified in an approved country (including AFA's Certified Farrier, Certified Tradesman Farrier, and Certified Journeyman Farrier) can take written and practical tests (in English language) conducted by the Japan Farriery Association. If the candidate passes both tests the person will be certified by the JFA to practice in Japan.

Dr. Sato's Report was received as given

### President's Report

Good Morning! It is my pleasure to welcome you to this 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the World Farriers Association. I can say honestly that it seems like no more than ten years rather than 30! On the other hand, sometimes it feels like 60 instead of 30 ..... Be that as it may, your taking the time and making the effort to be here is rewarding to me, and is indicative of the fact that you share in the mission and work of the WFA. I hope that everyone will feel free to participate and contribute to discussions of the business at hand. I always lament the fact that too few people seem to be interested enough to do as you have done and either come to this meeting or to support the WFA in other ways. You would think that I would have learned by now, and have more realistic expectations in this regard. Every day I try to be thankful for and capitalize on the many positives - both in the WFA and my personal life - rather than to dwell on the things that aren't part of these two lives. Maybe in another 50 years I will have a handle on this dilemma and will have learned to live with more realistic expectations. Let's hope so. On the other hand, I dread the thought of being complacent, predictable, and without the 'fire in the belly' that comes with commitment to a good cause. I find it hard to accept a *laissez faire* attitude in colleagues about our obligation to be of service to our profession and to those less fortunate than we are. But, as I said in my report last year, we are responsible only for ourselves, and can't set goals or objectives for anyone else.

In many ways, 2014 was a very productive year for the WFA:

1. Noteworthy was the unveiling of our new WFA website. If you haven't seen it, go take a look as soon as you can. It can be found at [www.worldfarriersassoc.org](http://www.worldfarriersassoc.org). There is a wealth of information there, including links that can put you in touch with footcare-related people around the world. They may not all be farriers or be solely farriery-related, but they are players that help make it all work. It was a little later coming on-line than we anticipated but that hasn't been a problem that we know of. As is always the case, both with something new and with so much information in flow, there are things that must be changed now. The process has been started, and will continue until the Minutes of this 2015 meeting are included in the appropriate section. At the same time the website went on-line, a Facebook page was started. Two hundred thirteen people have registered a "like" for the page and postings. A third component of this conversation thread is by email, where messages have been sent directly to people or organizations. The feedback to our communications has not been as I had hoped it to be. Perhaps this is the result, yet again, of unrealistic expectations on my part. I'm optimistic

that the communications and interchanges on these media will grow to be a significant and rewarding part of our efforts to be of help to footcare and farriery, worldwide.

2. We lost the leadership, dedication, and wisdom of Dr. Teruyuki Imahara, our Asian Vice President for the last five years. Terry was always in the forefront of innovation and total support of the WFA and farrier education and activities in Japan and the Asiatic Region. He served as President of the Japan Farriery Association during those same years. I cannot thank him enough for his help and steadfastness during this time. Although we 'lost' one good man through Dr. Imahara's retirement, we gained a new friend. Dr. Koji Sato, DVM, is now the President of the Japan Farriery Association, and has agreed to serve the WFA as Asian Vice President. I am confident that he will continue the long tradition of his predecessors in providing excellent leadership and support to the WFA. We welcome you warmly, Dr. Sato, and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with you and the Japan Farriery Association.

3. We continue to be frustrated in searching for willing and dedicated people to fill both the European and Americas Vice President chairs. As I reported last year, an overture was made to the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) for their assistance and support. The EFFA's former Secretary (at that time leaving his post) responded that the matter would be deferred to their Executive Committee for consideration. Nothing has been heard from them, one way or another. I find this difficult to understand, but I cannot pass judgment on their inactivity or indifference to the proposal. A similar approach was made to the American Farrier's Association (AFA) for their affiliation with the WFA. Mr. John Blombach, AFA's immediate Past President (and a long-time supporter of the WFA) was asked to lead the AFA's exploration of the subject. He and the Executive Committee asked for a briefing from the WFA that outlined the 'pro' and 'con' factors that might be involved in a working relationship. The initial phase of that briefing was my being part of a conference telephone call with the Executive Committee to give an overview of the WFA and the benefits to be gained from a closer working relationship. The result of the first discussion was that I was asked to write an article to be published in the *Professional Farrier*. The intent, as far as the AFA was concerned, was to try to determine how their membership looked upon such an arrangement. We developed the article and it was published in the magazine, **Issue 6 2014**. We have had no direct feedback as a result of the piece from the AFA or any individual. You can make of that what you will. I am expecting to have some discourse with President Lee at this convention, and will let you know if anything changes. Obviously, I am in no position to know AFA's business and persuasion. But I fail to see any drawback to a close, full, and cooperative effort to support more fully footcare and farriery world-wide.

4. For the benefit of full disclosure, I want to share a decision that I have reached in my nearly life-long association with the AFA and the WFA. The journey began in 1948 when I was drawn into the world of the horseshoer. Not much changed until 1969 when I was challenged by circumstances that made me realize how parochial, hide-bound, and "closed" that world was to those that wanted to make this work theirs for life. The AFA was the child of that challenge. It was chartered in 1971, and has grown to be the most influential and respected association of footcare and farriery



practitioners in the world. The positive changes in footcare and farriery practice as a result of the AFA are, in a word, unbelievable.

But the AFA couldn't and didn't meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of people that practice equine footcare in other countries that are less developed or affluent. The WFA was formed to help that 'forgotten' cadre of people that do the same work we do, under extreme hardship and handicap in most places. The WFA has succeeded, to a limited extent, in resolving some of the needs and problems. Through the equine charity known as Working Together For Equines, the WFA conducted equine care-giver training courses over the span of 12 years in developing countries around the world. But the majority of farriers of the world still 'do without' the benefits that organizations bring to their members and to all other segments of society that are related to the use and enjoyment of equines. There is still much work to be done, and there is a great need for people and resources to do that work through the channels of the WFA.

My decision is that after 2016, I won't continue as President of the WFA. I want to continue to be an active participant and helper/advisor to whomever is selected as leader. After 46 years, I'm going to retire from association work. I'm not going to retire from doing the work I love, God willing, but somebody else has to step up and fill the gap in the WFA. If nobody does, then the WFA will die. I would grieve that death. So, I think, would the rest of the world. The world would be denied, farriers would continue to suffer, and the millions of people that depend on horses, donkeys, and mules for their livelihood would continue to suffer from poor footcare and farriery.

I will share some thoughts with you later in this meeting under the section of NEW BUSINESS, about how I suggest we proceed over the next year and into 2017. As is always the case, your input is needed. Your input and thoughts are coveted, actually. Nothing is gained in outreach work by standing mute or being uninvolved in matters other than of your own concerns.

This concludes my report to you this morning. If you have any questions or comments about any of it right now, I would be happy to engage you. The door is always open where I live. You are welcome to contact me at any time.

Walt Taylor, President

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Given the language differences that exist, Dr. Sato asked that he be given the opportunity to have enough time to translate, study, and understand the President's Report before accepting the Report as presented. This was agreed to, but with a suggested time limit of 30-45 days to be completed.

## ASSOCIATION UPDATES

South African Associations: A recent inquiry to the WFA from a farrier in South Africa about testing processes resulted in a casual interchange of emails that covered matters of mutual interest. While not able or willing to speak officially for any of the associations in the Republic of South Africa, he reported quite a lot of positive activity in the area of Johannesburg, mostly having to do with preparing for different levels of proficiency testing and credentialing. Testing has been ongoing for the last 4-5 years. He observes less activity in the south of the Republic around Cape Town. (NOTE: The WFA hasn't had any substantive interchange with farriers and/or associations in South Africa recently, but we want to begin information exchange this year.)

British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association: Mr. Huw Dyer a Past President of this organization extended his apology to me for his not being able to attend the WFA meeting. He assured me that the BFBA is doing well in spite of sometimes limiting circumstances. BFBA is an active member of the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA). BFBA hosts the headquarters office and provides administrative service to and for the EFFA. Mr. Dyer did not have a report of specific activities of EFFA, but said that the group continues to be very positive in its educational program around Europe. (NOTE: The WFA has not had direct contact from or with EFFA since last year. A WFA initiative this year will be to try to establish a closer working relationship between EFFA and WFA in order to identify a European Vice President for WFA .)

American Farriers Association: Tom Dubois, President-Elect of the AFA, spoke briefly to the point of a closer working relationship between AFA and WFA. He said that the final decision is still to be made, and will be dealt with through a regular Executive Committee telephone conference call in the near future. He foresees that there will be little problem in bringing the two groups together. He said the new President-Elect Jon Johnson will assume the lead role for the AFA. (NOTE: To keep Mr. Johnson fully informed, on Friday he was given a copy of the WFA Annual General Meeting Minutes, as well as a copy of the 2014 Treasurer's Report, the 2014 Presidents Report, and the NEW BUSINESS that was discussed at the 2014 meeting. No date has been set for the AFA's conference call.)

## OLD BUSINESS

The President reported that the new WFA website was completed and functional in June, 2014. A WFA Facebook Page was established at the same time. Moderate traffic has been associated with both sites. The website is being updated to be current as the date of the Annual General Meeting. Comments and contributions to both the website and Facebook Page are solicited.

## NEW BUSINESS Proposed by the President

1. Suspend the Rules. The existing Constitution of the World Farriers Association gives exact and precise rules for conduct of the business of the WFA. For many and obvious reasons, the rules have been breached or ignored at times for the sake of expediency. This has happened almost since the beginning of the WFA. We have needed to get on with things. The rules were written before reality was identified or realized. "Things" have changed and

matured to the point that the enabling documents must be revised and updated. To undertake that job now would result in more problems than it would solve, given our current situation. I propose, therefore, that we suspend our Rules for a period of no less than two (2) years so that we will have the freedom to structure and restructure the organization and our operating procedures, as needed. We do not have an Internal Revenue Service status in New Mexico or the United States, so there is no legal entity that requires our operation in any particular way or forbids our operation in any particular way.

If this step is not taken, the next three proposals are invalidated thereby.

2. Identify an individual or individuals to assume Presidency of the WFA in 2016. There is no way of my knowing whether or not anybody but we faithful few believe that the WFA has a legitimate purpose or a valid reason to exist. My thought is “how can anyone NOT believe in the need for the WFA”. But I can’t answer for anybody else. There is no way of my knowing whether or not anybody in the world wants this job. I would hope so, but I have seen little evidence of that so far. If the WFA is going to live on and succeed, we have to answer that question. And, we have to answer the question rather quickly. We (the WFA) were part of the World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) in its beginning many, many years ago. Few then realized the value of WEVA, and few supported its vision. Now it is a force to be reckoned with in equine affairs around the world. Their success hinged on commitment, leadership, and a service that was and is still needed. We need to learn a lesson from them and give them all the support we can in their work. More importantly, we need to examine and understand the role of the WFA in the context of world farriery issues. If we would do that, I believe we would conclude that the WFA needs and depends on our unrestricted support.

Where will I look for a potential President? Anywhere there is a person with great commitment to our profession, a passion for helping needy people, a willingness and ability to provide leadership without limit, and an example of professionalism that goes above and beyond the average. If anyone who reads this would like to propose consideration of a particular person, please don’t hesitate to do so.

3. Find and appoint an Americas Vice President. For whatever reason, this post has not been filled productively since the WFA was started. Maybe it has been because I am in the Americas so all thought it would be redundant to have another active person in this area. I hope that isn’t the case. Think about it: North America includes Canada, the United States, and Mexico; Central America is made up of the countries between North America and South America; South America and the Caribbean area all are the responsibility of the Americas Vice President. That is much broader than most people think. Too many think, parochially, that America is the USA. Not true. That’s why we need to think larger and get outside ourselves. I would like to have the freedom to evaluate, very carefully, individuals within the **AMERICAS** to find a person that can and will accept the responsibility of representing the WFA over this large and busy area of the world. To begin with, the person can come from any of the Americas. The search would not be limited, necessarily, to the USA.

The person must have the desire and the qualifications to undertake the job. We shouldn’t be interested in people who are self-centered, personal- gain oriented, or who

expects to be wined and dined as a celebrity. We should be looking for a “lifer” who has a sense of obligation to the farrier profession and a desire to be of service to others less fortunate or more needy than most of us are. There are many organizations of farriers within this area. I would contact all of these and consider individuals proposed or suggested by each. Other people outside these organizations would be considered on their merits. If anyone who reads this would like to propose consideration of a particular person, please don’t hesitate to do so. Should a suitable person be found, I would make a public notice on our Facebook page as to the identity and qualification of the person. Should there be no substantial objection, I would appoint that person to the position. The tenure of the appointment would be subject to evaluation of all pertinent circumstances.

4. Using the same criteria and processes, *find and appoint a European Vice President*. There may be something ‘moving’ here, but I’m not sure. Again, if anyone wishes to propose an individual for consideration, please don’t hesitate to do so.
5. Identify and develop tangible ways that the WFA can be of immediate and tangible assistance to individuals and organizations that want to be involved in outreach activities. Specifically, these two areas of opportunity come to mind. There may be others that are equally simple and needed:
  - A. Several opportunities exist and others may come into being for farriers to ‘visit’ foreign countries as part of an educational outreach. For instance, the AAEP encourages their members to participate in “aid” missions that provide help to needy people and their animals. A farrier is often invited to accompany and participate in these activities. The farrier usually hasn’t a clue about what is expected and that is possible to be done under those circumstances. We should help to develop written material and provide training to those individuals so that the value of the opportunity is maximized for the farrier and the people with whom the farrier works.
  - B. Develop a program to help local farrier associations and organizations provide tools to farriers in need. One possible way would be to pay freight shipment costs of collected donated tools to a foreign destination. There are many factors to be considered in something like this, but it could all be systemized and made workable.

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*(NOTE) Due to the many complexities and contingencies of the proposals, Dr. Sato asked that he be given a reasonable time to translate and digest the proposed changes before making a final decision. It was agreed and no final decisions will be made for at least 60 days.*



ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Dr. C.M. MacGregor

Secretary