

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WORLD FARRIERS ASSOCIATION

Mobile Bay 1 Room

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama, USA

March 3, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:10 a.m. Those in attendance enjoyed a Continental Breakfast hosted by the WFA. Everyone self-identified themselves so that all would know each other. Dr. Koji Sato, DVM, Asian Vice President, was unable to attend. He was represented by Dr. Tatsuya Mori, DVM. Again this year, conflicting schedules prevented many foreign guests from attending the meeting. Attempts will be made to relocate the time of the meeting to allow broader participation, especially by vendors in the Tradeshow. The NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING and the AGENDA are included herewith.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**World Farriers Association**

The Annual General Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama, USA. The meeting will convene in the Mobile Bay 1 Room at 7:00 a.m. A Continental Breakfast will be available to members and delegates.

Matters for discussion that you want to be included in the Agenda for 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 that are represented at the meeting.

**AGENDA**

2016 Annual Meeting

Call to Order

Introductions

Minutes of 2015 Meeting

Reports

Secretary-Treasurer (Financial Report)

Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)

President

Association Updates

All Countries Represented

Old Business

WFA Website

WFA Facebook Page

“Correspondents”

Suspension of Rules

New Business

Officer Search

Rules and Conduct

Adjourn

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Secretary’s Report

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were circulated by email to all interested parties following last year’s meeting. Dr. Sato, WFA Asian Vice President, asked for extra time to review all

material and information since he was new to the organization. There were no questions, comments, additions, or corrections to the Minutes. The Minutes stand approved as submitted. In the interest of full disclosure, the Minutes are in the Documents/Reports section of the WFA website at [www.worldfarriersassoc.org](http://www.worldfarriersassoc.org).

Dr. C.M. MacGregor, Secretary

Report accepted as given

Treasurer's Report

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	1/1/2015	\$22,977.12
INCOME		
	501 Organizational Dues	1,000.00
	502 Individual Dues	100.00
	505 Donation (Jim Linzy Fund)	3,014.40
	Total Income	<b>\$4,114.40</b>
EXPENSES		
	701 Postage, Box Rent	122.00
	725 Annual Meeting	263.76
	727 International Reception	814.45
	730 Website	89.50
	745 Office Supplies	93.54
	Total Expenses	<b>\$1,383.24</b>
	<b>Overall Total Expenses over Income</b>	<b>(+) \$2,731.16</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	12/31/15	<b>\$25,708.28</b>

Report accepted as given

## 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. (Dr. Sato's Report was given by Dr. Tatsuya Mori, DVM.)

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen: I am Tatsuya Mori, Technical Adviser of the Japan Farriery Association (JFA). I attend this meeting instead of our President Mr. Koji Sato. It is my great honor and pleasure to be here and meet all the honorable delegates.

Now, I would like to report to you about the current situation of the farrier and horse industry in Japan, along with our activities in the Asian region.

1. Japan: On the whole, the JFA's activities last year did not differ greatly from past years. In October 2015, we successfully held the 68<sup>th</sup> Japan Farriers Competition with the participation of 32 contestants. At that time, we invited Mr. Josh Stanley, a renowned farrier from the United States to demonstration and hands-on clinic at western area in Japan for pleasure horse and race horse farriers. We obtained satisfactory results from his high skill and theory of horse shoeing and forging.

We also conduct a one-year education course each year to train and qualify farriers. This March, 12 students will be qualified as farriers. Five students will work on racing industry, two students will work on pleasure horse industry, and five students will work on breeding horse industry. One student who will be a farrier for breeding horses is a Veterinarian and he would like to use therapeutic horse shoeing as a Podiatrist. In April 2016, another 11 students will enter the course.

2. Asia: As you already know, we will hold Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. The stadium for the equestrian event will be built from next year and it will contribute to the development of horse riding.

In Korea, for the last two years, the Nation has been using a national license system for farriers as well as the trainers of racing horses and coaching staffs of riders. In the future, a person without the horse shoeing license cannot work as a farrier in Korea. The Korean government asked the JFA to send a Judge for the license examination. We sent a Japanese veteran farrier who is the Chief of our education center.

The Malaysian Jockey Club also held an Asian Regional Farriery Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last year. They call on other Asian countries to participate in the Competitions, but contestants were only from Malaysia, without a Japanese farrier.

As you know, the Chinese economy is growing up and this situation makes the British style of riding become more popular. It seems like the horse industry in Asia will change a lot in the future. We, at JFA, would like to address these changes properly and work harder to contribute to the development of the horse shoeing industry in Asia.

Thank you for your attention.

After general questions were answered, the Report was accepted as given.

### President's Report

Good morning to each of you. Thanks for making the effort and taking the time from your busy day to meet with us here this morning. There is always more that we want to do at the AFA Convention than we can do, so setting aside time for this meeting and sharing is appreciated very much. I wish there could be another less early and less busy time to meet, but nothing seems to work for everybody. The truth is that we make time for those things that are important to us, regardless of the time or conflict. Again, THANK YOU! Please feel free to participate in discussions and contribute what you will to the common good. There are no strangers here – just unrealized friends that haven't had the opportunity to meet and share together. I am trying to be more active and involved on Facebook in the hope that people may be stimulated to become more active in the WFA and in helping others. When all is said and done, this is the ultimate value of an association or a brotherhood of like-minded individuals.

Getting involved and reaching out is not an easy thing to do, once we get beyond ourselves. I know that Facebook is a "social media" that gives people an opportunity to share a part of their own life with other people that they may seldom – if ever – see or meet face-to-face. It is easy to see ourselves at the center of the Universe, that we and our interests are more important than anyone or anything else. But once we get beyond our own self and our own interests, it is a completely different 'thing' to transfer thought and actions to others – letting their needs and interests be equal to or greater than our own. I suspect that, like all the social platitudes such as 'good morning, how are you today', much of our interest in others is superficial and fleeting. We have to get past that – as in "get over ourselves" – in order to be truly interested in and solicitous of other people and their needs. We are more anxious for others to see and admire us, and less interested in what each of us can do to ease someone else's burden. Having said that, I recognize that there are many, many people that have crossed that line into true service to others and their horses, donkeys, and mules. I can't and won't judge their motives, but will applaud their sense of service and willingness to give, and give, and give ....

You will notice the absence of Dr. Koji Sato, DVM, President of the Japan Farriery Association and WFA Asian Vice President. Dr. Sato is represented at our meeting by Dr. Tatsuya Mori, DVM. Dr. Mori has worked long and hard as an interpreter, translator, and facilitator of the Japanese delegation every year when they visit the AFA Convention and attends to WFA business throughout the year. I appreciate the hard work and thought that Dr. Sato has given to WFA business during his first year of service. He has given sound advice and guidance to me, especially in relation to suspending the rules of the WFA until administrative problems and situations can be resolved.

Most of you know that the Japan Farriers Association (JFA) was one of the three national associations that worked together to form the WFA in 1985. Since then, the support, interest, and enthusiasm that JFA has brought to the WFA is incredible. They have always “been there” for us, and for scores of farriers from all over the world that have visited Japan over the years. Dr. Osamu (Sammy) Aoki, D.V.M., has been part of our close international relationship for nearly 30 years. As a researcher, teacher, lecturer, advisor, and administrator, Sammy has given an incredible amount of time and talent to the farrier world – not just in Japan. For many years, he led the Japanese delegation to the American Farrier’s Association convention and WFA meetings, serving as translator, interpreter, and manager of those excursions. He was the bridge between our associations, and the link and continuity between the very able men that served as officers of the JFA. He is now the International Secretary of the Japan Farriery Association and works at administrative duties there. After encountering health problems, he has missed several international events in the last few years. Sadly for us (and happily for himself) Sammy will retire from his active career on March 31, 2016. After that, he may remain on the Board of Directors of JFA, serving as an *advisor emeritus* to the JFA and its President, Dr. Sato. I want to thank you, Sammy, for all that you have done for all of us over the years. You will be missed by your many, many friends around the world. Enjoy your (semi) retirement, and may your years of enjoyment of a good life be many!! I would urge Sammy’s many friends to contact him and thank him for what he has done for us.

As usual, I could complain about what seemed to be slow progress for WFA initiatives during 2015. But I won’t dwell on that. What is done is done. We can’t rewrite history, no matter how we try or how badly we want to do that. It never works. The WFA didn’t make a lot of big waves during the last year, but it is alive and well, furthering its outreach to farriers everywhere. Behind the waves of the ocean is the pressure of vast areas of water. The pressure is inexorable – it is always there, no matter what else is happening. In the same way, the WFA is there for you.

The WFA Facebook page continues to be “liked” by a lot of people. Input to that page on my part was not great during 2015, and for that I apologize. My intent is to be more active in the future. Many ‘friends’ (and other people, as well) contribute material to my personal Facebook page. Much that is on my personal page could or should be seen on the WFA page, I think. I am trying to stimulate more input into the WFA page, rather than my own. Maybe that is academic: All that is really important is that there is a place to come together, socially and professionally, where we feel free and welcome to be part of the conversation, no matter where it is held. I would ask and encourage everyone that ‘gets the message’ to share something with everyone else. As long as you are not actively trying to sell something (goods or services) you are welcomed to post anything that is in contemporary good taste.

One thing that did not happen was that the AFA took no action to affiliate with the WFA. There had been much discussion in 2014 and early 2015 with different people in the AFA, and they asked for more information at last year’s convention. This was furnished them immediately, but not a further word has been heard from them. The same is true of efforts to enlist interest and support from the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA). Some fruit takes longer to ripen than others .....

Mr. Vincenzo Blasio of Pinerolo, Italy, has been a close friend and strong supporter of the WFA since its beginning. Mr. Blasio and his male ancestors have been farriers for more than a hundred years. Vincenzo retired a few years ago as the Headmaster of the Army Veterinary Corps School of Farriery that was located in Pinerolo. The school is now in Grosseto, Italy, under the tutelage of Prisco Martucci, Mr. Blasio's assistant for many years. Mr. Blasio has continued to be very active in farriery since his retirement. I have had the privilege of sharing his time and talents over many years as Judges of horseshoeing and blacksmithing events held at the Fieracavalli in Verona, Italy. In 2012, Mr. Blasio authored La Scuola Italiana nell'arte del Ferare (in Italian) from the viewpoint of the Italian practice or "school" of farriery. The book was revised in February 2016. It would be a good addition to your library even if you don't read Italian. He has opened a farrier school in Pinerolo, as well, that teaches the traditional Italian "way". Full details about the school and its programs can be found at [www.adipem.it](http://www.adipem.it). You will find contact information for Mr. Blasio there, as well.

During the last year, I spent quite a bit of time reflecting on my inclination to 'cut back' on my WFA work. This was mentioned in my Report to you last year. There were and are valid reasons for those feelings. The WFA needs to move ahead, innovate, grow, and prosper. Nobody wants that more than I do, I can assure you. After lots of thought, discussions with other caring people, and advice from peers and colleagues, I have changed my mind about the timeline I gave last year. That means that I have changed my mind about retiring from a leadership role in the WFA. That doesn't mean, however, that I will not continue to look for leaders of the WFA for the present and the future. I have talked with some people about the matter, and all have the opinion that somewhere there are people who are qualified and willing to lead this important work. We just haven't found them, yet. Let me challenge each of you: If you want to be a leader or officer of the WFA, let me hear from you. I can't tell you how you might enjoy, profit, or in what way you could contribute. I can tell you that it takes a lot of time, that there is no pay or perquisite attached or available, that you have to be selfless and motivated by other than self-aggrandizement. One of the most humbling aspects is the need to meet people and their problem situations on their level – not from the perspective of a privileged person that presumes to know all the answers. So, again, if you feel the need to serve, get in touch with me at your convenience. I think that I can promise you, that if you do get involved, you will come away a changed person.

One of the ancillary issues associated with the creation of the WFA website and Facebook page was the plan to organize a network of people around the world that would be regular contributors to the WFA Facebook page. These people would gather news and information related to footcare and farriery in their geographical area and pass it on to the rest of us on that page. I have talked to some people about serving in this role. Some have agreed, others felt they are unable to do this, for whatever reason. I am continuing to work on this, and hope to have a well-distributed group identified in the near future.

Here is another area where YOU can get involved and be of service to others. Be willing and able to take a bit of time to spread your news – good or bad. Pictures of specimen or contest shoes (with some explanation of why, where, and how), problem feet, or horses with particular or general problems, horseshoeing contests, and of educational events help everyone to understand and profit from other people's experiences and situations. Instead of sharing your work and interests on my Facebook page, make an extra click to go to the WFA Facebook page and share it there. I am sure that you have a lot of

family and personal friends on Facebook that don't have a great interest in or are not related to our work. You can eliminate a lot of what they consider to be 'unimportant' by putting footcare- and farriery-related material on the WFA page. That shouldn't be too complicated or convoluted to channel things a better way. If you don't want to or can't separate, don't give up and not send. Everything has value to someone, so we can share forward if need be.

Let me reinforce my invitation to you to become involved, in some way, with the WFA. Your being here at our meeting, or reading the Minutes of the meeting, indicate that you have an interest in helping others. There are many other ways, some more tangible than others. Consider the things that you want to do, then consider the things you can do. Get in touch with us and let us help you find that avenue of service. You won't be sorry!

This concludes my Report to you. I appreciate your support of the WFA's work, and I am privileged to be able to work with you on behalf of the WFA. Thank you for all you have done, for your patience, and for your forbearance. Things always seem to take too long, too little is accomplished, and there is always more to do than we get done. But as long as we are moving ahead, things are "good". I look forward to the next year, and to seeing you here again next year.

Walt Taylor, President

The Report was accepted as given.

#### ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Sweden: Both Zeta Laing and Michael Knap represented the Swedish Farriers Association. They attended the WFA meeting and the AFA convention in Reno, Nevada, and were happy to be able to attend again this year. Sweden's farrier association is doing well and is active in the EFFA. EFFA is effective in representing farriers in Europe and is still holding two major educational events a year – one focused on lecture and demonstration and the other on competition. Both are interested in the concept of learning from others through sharing of ideas and farrier practices.

American Farrier's Association: President Tom Dubois and Treasurer Bruce Worman were present. This was President Dubois' second meeting. (This is most appreciated within the WFA.) Mr Dubois apologized for the fact that the AFA had not responded to WFA's overtures last year to develop a working relationship between the two groups. (This was in response to the reference to the matter in the President's Report.

#### OLD BUSINESS

WFA Website: Work continues to keep it updated and relevant. There is a modicum of "traffic" of people who visit the site.

WFA Facebook Page: The page and site seem to suffer a bit from being overlooked, and I don't know how to resolve the matter. My personal FB page gets a lot of material that should or could be on the WFA site. I suppose it doesn't matter, as long as people see the information. I encourage everyone to post on the WFA site, or make the WFA a "friend" so that it shows up there, too.

Correspondents: One of the initiatives to broaden knowledge about the WFA, suggested by the Asian Vice President last year, was to select people in different parts of the world that would be an official contributor from that area to the WFA FB page. It is more difficult to do than it would first seem to be. I have been looking for these over the last year, and have found a very few that are willing to do that for the WFA. I will keep at it, and should have a cadre identified in the near future. They will be posted on the FB page as well as put on the website [www.worldfarriersassoc.org](http://www.worldfarriersassoc.org).

Suspension of Rules: There is nothing to report on here, except for everyone to realize that we are operating this way, for now.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Officer Search: I have not been successful in finding candidates for the vacancies that we have. The search will continue.

Rules and Conduct: This item was missed at the meeting. I apologize for that. That being the case, discussion will be deferred until the 2017 Annual Meeting that will be held in Arlington, Texas, USA. If anyone has thoughts to contribute in the meantime, please forward them to us.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct or matters for further discussion from attendees, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 a. m.

Dr. C. M. MacGregor, Secretary