

NOTICE OF THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WORLD FARRIERS ASSOCIATION

The 2008 Annual General Membership Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Friday, February 29, 2008. It will be held in the Atlanta Room, Hyatt Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. A Continental Breakfast will be served members and delegates.

If there are matters that you wish to be included in the Agenda of the meeting, please make this known to Dr. Tina MacGregor, Secretary-Treasurer, by e-mail at wfassoc@msn.com or by telephone at 1-505-345-6338.

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

World Farriers Association
ANNUAL MEETING
in the
Atlanta Room, Hyatt Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky
February 29, 2008
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call To Order
Introductions
Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting
Reports
 President
 Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)
 Secretary – Treasurer
Association Updates
 All Countries represented
Old Business
 WFA website update
 Sponsorships
New Business
 The Future of the WFA
 Matters Arising
Adjourn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
World Farriers Association – Annual General Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
February 29, 2008

Good morning to all of you! Thank you for caring about foot care and farriery, farriers, and matters that affect our profession all around the world. And thanks for taking the time to be here this morning. The early hour is not an easy one to meet! It is always a pleasure to be able to get together at an event like the American Farrier's Association convention for our yearly meeting. There is always so much going on around us that it makes it hard to see everything, attend all the learning opportunities, and seeing old friends and making new friends. But these are the things that make us better people, better farriers, better business operators and managers, and better able to help farriers, horses, and people who use and depend on horses, donkeys, and mules around the world. The year 2007 went by far too quickly and there is little hope that 2008 will not get away from us any less quickly. But we can look forward to better times, better years, and accomplishing more for our profession and farriers around the world. In every way, I hope that it was a good year for you and that this year will be even better.

This wish or hope extends to the WFA, as well. Since we began in 1985, we have tried to be responsive to farriers and farriery needs around the world. Some of you know that Tina and I spent about 10 years living and working in almost every part of the world, training farriers, veterinarians, and saddlers, as well as training and educating owners and users of horses, donkeys, and mules. We worked with equine-related International equine charities and rescue organizations, Ministries of governments, local governments, farrier associations and organizations, universities, and individuals from farmers to Royalty, in a concerted effort to improve and upgrade the practice of footcare and farriery all around the world. There have been spectacular successes, especially in the areas of education and the founding of farrier associations and organizations for the self-help and sharing opportunities for farriers everywhere. For the last 10 years or so, she and I have been less active in International travel, but have continued to consult with and help both individuals and organizations in all areas of the world. The need still exists. More time, more effort, more dedication is needed.

This is the heart of a decision that Tina and I have made together. Both of us will continue to serve the WFA in whatever way we can for the next year. However, at the 2009 Annual General Meeting, unless there is a significant improvement in participation by individual and organizational members, someone else must be prepared to assume the leadership roles that Tina and I have filled over the years. We cannot and will not serve beyond that time, as we have in the past. Every year we have asked for information and input from you. Every year we have asked your advice and counsel about what initiatives we should undertake, where we can help, how we can do more to help farriers around the world. The silence has been deafening, with very few exceptions. The Asian Vice President has fulfilled his responsibilities in an exemplary way, and we want to thank him for that. THANK YOU! If you do not participate in the next year, you must find new leadership, empower them with your support, and give of yourselves to the tasks still ahead. If you do not rise to the occasion, the WFA will cease to exist. If the WFA is

worthwhile (and I am **convinced** that it is) then it must have far more interest and fulfilled purpose than it has had in the last few years.

I don't have any doubt that some of you have a vision and a willingness to step up. But for whatever reason, you have chosen not to do that. She and I will work with you during the next year to define a proactive program for the WFA, and find the leadership that is needed to get things moving again. If you were to choose us to continue our leadership under different circumstances, so be it. We are willing and able to spend time with a new and vital program, and with new leadership, should you choose that avenue, to help move the WFA onward. More than that, both of us are committed to the concept and the fact of the WFA. We aren't going to disappear and not be supporters and workers. We have invested too much of ourselves in the WFA to just walk away. We will do whatever is humanly and humanely possible to ensure that the WFA lives on and prospers. We just can't and won't do it the way we have in the past. Now, it is more up to you than it is up to she and I. I think that most of you are as interested and dedicated as we are. I guess we shall see whether or not that is true. Now is the time that **YOU MUST STEP UP AND BE COUNTED**. If you don't, there may be no WFA after 2009. That would be a sad conclusion that none of us want to see or experience. I implore every one of you to examine yourselves and learn what you can do to carry on. **DON'T LET IT DIE!**

In 2007, we continued to hear from and about farriers with whom we worked and some that we trained in Mexico and Morocco. The son (a mere boy when we knew him in the early 1990's) of one of our staff farriers on the Moroccan Farrier Training Team has kept in touch with us. He has worked as a farrier in Morocco, after learning from his father. He worked for a while in Turkey, and was in England in late 2007, working with an established farrier there. He is excited about his career as a farrier, gratified that he has had a chance to learn more and share with farriers both in Morocco and in other countries. He intends to return to Morocco and continue to practice and train others that have not had his advantages. That may not mean very much to you, and I can understand why. But it is incredible progress for him and his peers. He is maturing as an individual and as a farrier through the learning/experience phases of his work, and realizes how important it is to have a support system available. Without the WFA, this success story would never have happened and his story would never have been told. He is only one of many.

Associations and organizations for farriers are essential to the survival of individual farriers and the industry everywhere, especially in less advantaged places. If you represent one of those associations or organizations or live in a country or place where farriers struggle for legitimacy, redouble your efforts in education and training to help every farrier no matter his skill level. We can't help make him a better farrier if we don't make an effort. If there are not any farrier associations or organizations where you live, give yourselves and your interest and expertise to help a support system that they need.

Every year we talk about the WFA website and the need to revise and update it. Last year we asked you to go through the site and give us ideas and suggestions as to how it could be made better, more interesting, more current. The silence was deafening. We received NOTHING from anyone. As a result, the website is the same as it was last year. It needs be upgraded desperately, but without input and interest from you there is no

conclusion. We asked repeatedly that take the time to go to the site, read it, visit the links, and give us some back-talk. Corrections, additions, a calendar of events, breaking news, and matters of general interest should be there. But they have to come from YOU. There is a lot of material on the web-site, and on those sites with whom it is linked. In addition, several other people and groups want to link in, all in the spirit of cooperation and betterment of our profession. Our mutual interests would be stronger, and we could have a better outreach in fulfilling our world-wide mission.

The WFA could not exist without each one of you. Dr. Yuzo Sato, the President of the Japan Farriers Association (as well as his predecessors and colleagues) has been steadfast in his support of the WFA. The JFA has accepted the challenges of providing leadership in education, research, and outreach all across Asia. I want to say THANK YOU, Dr. Sato!

The Fieracavalli in Verona, Italy, continues to give the WFA strong support and recognition. Since 1990, a WFA representative has been the guest of Fieracavalli as a member of the Jury at International shoeing and forging contests at one of the largest equine events in Europe. This will continue, most likely, as long as the WFA exists. Another member of the Jury is either the President or a delegate of the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA). Formation of the EFFA was with help and guidance of the WFA in the mid-1990's. They have come a long way since then, and are doing exemplary work in farrier education and organizational tasks all across Europe. I applaud current and past leaders of the EFFA for all that you have done in spite of formidable obstacles and problems that were in front of you. EFFA President, Mr. Matts Persson has been with us in the past as have other officers of the organization. This is proof that the WFA does have a mission in helping to meet these kinds of needs around the world.

Let me come back, briefly, to the need for you and the WFA to look ahead to life after 2009. There is no reason why the organization has to be headquartered or located in the United States. There is no reason why the WFA has to remain as it is now organized. This is an opportunity to review who we are, what we are, and what we are or should be doing. I think I could say, safely, that if we don't pick up and do what needs to be done, someone else will. While that might not be all bad, it isn't necessary and little would be gained from that happening. Don't let this leave your mind, or ignore it. You hold the future in your hands. You can do with it as you will. Be assured that Tina and I will help anyone, anytime to help insure that the WFA lives on and prospers.

Thank you for being here. I look forward to a good year in 2008 and to helping find what we need to assure the continued prosperity of the World Farriers Association.

Walt Taylor, President

ATTENDEES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
World Farriers Association
Sierra Vista Room, Hyatt Hotel
Albuquerque, NM
March 3, 2007

Tina MacGregor	USA	wfassoc@msn.com
Marcela Alcantara	Mexico	herramex@infosel.net.mx
Jack Milman	USA	jmmcjf@crocker.com
Mats Persson	Sweden	mats.elfviken@telia.com
Moriharu Yamada	Japan	
Tatsuya Mori	Japan	mori@farriers.or.jp
Mitsuo Matsumae	Japan	
Lee Green	USA	shoeinshop@aol.com
Steve Eastman	USA	seastman.horseshoer@yahoo.com
Yoshifumi Honjo	Japan	
Carolyn Gibbins	UK	caro@gibbins.co.uk
John Gibbins	UK	john@gibbins.co.uk
Grant Moon	UK	gdmoon@ottglobal.net
Carl Bettison	UK	carl@stromsholm.co.uk
Walt Taylor	USA	wfassoc@msn.com