

World Farriers Association

The 2014 Annual General Membership Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014. It will convene at 7:00 am in the Silver Baron Ballroom "D" of the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. 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, 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.

World Farriers Association ANNUAL MEETING

in the

Silver Baron Ballroom "D" of the Silver Legacy Resort Casino
Reno, Nevada
February 27, 2014
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order
Introductions
Minutes of 2013 Meeting
Reports
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)
 President
Association Updates
 All Countries Represented
Old Business
New Business
 Japan Farriers Association Proposal For The WFA Website
Adjourn

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting
World Farriers Association
Silver Legacy Resort Casino
Reno, Nevada
February 27, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:25 a.m., after those in attendance helped themselves to a Continental Breakfast hosted by WFA. Everyone self-identified and signed a sheet of paper with their name and home country. Attendance this year was slightly better than usual, but several European visitors who had agreed to attend the meeting did not make it. There was some conflict for attention and attendance with an event and breakfast sponsored by the Farrier Industry Association scheduled at the same time as the WFA meeting. Some foreign (to the USA) visitors opted to attend that function.

In attendance were Manuel Mora, Mexico; Jim Smith, USA; Bill Miller, USA; John Blombach, USA; Daryl Bean, USA; Lee Green, USA; David and Sara Frei, Switzerland; Dr. Tatsuya Mori, Japan; Dr. Ryo Kusunose, Japan; Walt Taylor, USA.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were circulated by email to all interested parties following last year's meeting. A printed copy of these Minutes was given to each person present at this meeting. There were no questions, comments, additions, or corrections received.

The Minutes stand approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	1/1/2013	\$21,371.54
-------------------	----------	-------------

INCOME

501 Organizational Dues	1,000.00
502 Individual Dues	150.00
Total Income	\$1,150.00

EXPENSES

725 Annual Meeting	250.00
727 International Reception	560.58
730 Website	227.52
Computer	1,133.99
Total Expenses	\$2,172.09

Overall Total Expenses over Income (-) \$1,022.09

The Treasurer's Report stands approved as submitted.

Vice President's Reports

European Vice President No Report. [Secretary's Note: The European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) had been asked by the President during 2013 to assist in identification and appointment of a European Vice President. This was not accomplished. However, the Secretary of EFFA reported by electronic correspondence that the EFFA had a busy year in 2013. It is

hoping to increase its membership by two or three more countries in 2014. During 2013, EFFE accredited France as meeting EFFE standards of training and examination.

The then-EFFE Secretary, Mr. Miles Williamson-Noble of Britain, is leaving the post. He is succeeded as Secretary by Chris Oomen of The Netherlands.

The President had asked the EFFE Secretary for information on the current status of the Farrier Training Scheme in Britain. Upon his recommendation, a link was found to the current information: www.warwickshire.ac.uk/farriery. Go to the "Note" at the bottom of the page and click on the "Read More" space at the end of the sentence to view the official document. {This information was not at hand for presentation at the meeting, but is included here as a matter of current interest.}

Oceania Vice President	No Report
Americas Vice President	No Report
Asian Vice President	Dr. Ryo Kusunose for Dr. Teruyukimahara, Japan Farriery Association

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Ryo Kusunose, Executive Director of the Japan Farriery Association (JFA). Today, I attend this meeting instead of our President Dr. Imahara.

I attended this meeting two years ago. It is my great honor and pleasure to be here and meet all the honorable delegates.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to update you about the current status of the Japanese horseshoeing and horse industry. I would like to report on the recent situation of the Asia region.

1) Japan

It is three years since a large earthquake hit the northeastern part of Japan. But the area has not recovered fully from the devastating earthquake.

JFA is subsidizing the expense of horse shoeing to the horse owners who keep the horses used in Soma-Nomaoi Festival, as our President Dr. Imahara told you last year. The festival is held in the area which was heavily damaged by the earthquake. Soma-Nomaoi is a festival that has been celebrated for 900 years in Japan. It imitates the battle of Samurai and 500 horses participate in the festival. Now, the festival is a tremendous emotional support to the earthquake victims. (Dr. Kusunose's report included a photograph of horses taking part in the festival, but it was not reproducible here.)

One more topic is that the 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Tokyo. As for the equestrian events, the hippodrome and cross-country course will be built in the Tokyo Bay area. Japanese farriers must play an important role in the Olympic equestrian events.

In the last year, the business activity of the Japan Farriery Association remained basically unchanged from the year before last. We train some students to be farriers every year. This March, 11 students will be qualified as farriers. There is only one woman student. She will be a farrier specialized in riding horses. In April, another 16 students will enter the course. One of them is a powerful woman like Hilary Clinton.

In October of last year, we successfully held the 65th Japan Farriers Contests. We invited Mr. Ben Mangan, a renowned farrier from the United States, to the event. We obtained satisfactory results from an educational point of view by his excellent technical demonstrations.

2) Asia

Regarding the Asia region, in Korea the nation was just beginning to promise Certification to farriers last year. The Korean government promises certification to the trainers of racing horses and coaching staffs of riders as farriers. In the future, a person without the horse shoeing license cannot work as a farrier. The Korean government asked JFA to send a judge, so we sent a Japanese veteran farrier.

In October last year, we ran a booth at the horse-show in Shanghai, Chin, and introduced the activity of JFA to Chinese horsemen. Japanese farriers demonstrated how to make horseshoes there.

As you know, the Chinese economy is growing rapidly. With the development in economy, horse racing without betting has been held in various regions of China. In the near future, the Chinese government may allow them to hold racing with betting. The British style of riding became popular in China, too. But in China, the veterinary art and farrier technique which support horse sports are poor. We are willing to send experienced Japanese farriers to China to improve their technique, if Chinese horsemen wish to receive them.

The situation in Asia, including Japan, will probably change in the year ahead. We, at JFA, would like to address these changes properly and to work harder to contribute to the development of the horse shoeing industry.

Thank you for your attention.

President's Report

Good Morning!

It is always a pleasure to be able to attend the Annual General Meeting of the WFA, and to welcome you to the meeting! As usual, there are far too few people here. That being the case, I honestly believe that it isn't an overall disinterest in what is happening around the world, but more a reflection of the time, money, and effort that must be spent in order to be able to attend. None of us can set priorities in anyone else's life, so we have to be content with the decisions that they make. After all, we are responsible for what WE do – or don't do. No matter how much we might wish or want someone to do something, we can never make it happen. It is the responsibility of that person.

In general terms, 2013 was a rather unproductive year for the WFA. It started well with our general meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, last year. With the approval of the initiative proposed by the Japan Farriery Association to redevelop our website and open new communication channels, I was excited about the possibilities ahead of us. I forewarned you that electronic "things" were not within my area of expertise, and that outside help would be needed to fulfill the decision that was made. It didn't take long to disabuse me of the idea that a fix would be quick, easy, and painless. Had I been more literate in this area, some problem situations might have been avoided.

As is the case in many undertakings, what is known, understood, and agreed to by parties to a transaction may vary considerably with the numbers and motivations of the people that are involved. To make a long and frustrating story short, we are now on our fourth person/company to implement last year's decision. Finally, I have confidence that this one is going to work out. We have a draft or dummy format of the website, and are developing material for inclusion in the site. Like too many things, it is all easier talked about than done. Given a worse-case scenario, the new site should be available within 60 days. I don't know, yet, how we will let the world know of its existence to get the cycle of communication started, but that should be the easier part.

The website will NOT be focused on the WFA as an entity. You – individuals and farrier organizations – will be the players. This will be the place where each and every one of you can put in your “two cent’s worth” on any matter relevant to footcare and farriery. If you choose not to be involved, it won’t work.

Another source of frustration in 2013 was the effort to find a functional European Vice President. An offer was made to the European Federation of Farrier Associations to suggest a candidate for appointment to the post. So far, nothing has come of the overture. Time and money seem to be at the root of decision-making. It has to be said that, for the 28 years of the WFA’s life, time and money have not been limiting factors. All who serve the WFA do so without remuneration or thought to time taken to do the job at hand. In my view, it is a privilege to be able to give back and pay forward to our profession that has done so much for each one of us. I will keep working on this, and on finding an Oceania and Americas Vice President, as well. Should anyone know of someone interested and willing to work in either of these posts, please share that information with me.

Again, I want to publicly thank the Japan Farriery Association and its President Dr. Imahara for their long and stalwart support of the WFA. They have always “been there” for the WFA. This year, Dr. Ryo Kusunose is here to represent the JFA on behalf of Dr. Imahara. We welcome you Dr. Kusunose, and hope that your trip here to participate in this meeting and the AFA Convention program will be very rewarding.

It is sometimes easy to be discouraged by what doesn’t happen, or that doesn’t happen according to our timetable. That is one of my life’s biggest and ongoing battles. I am not patient enough; I expect or demand too much; my expectations are not realistic. To all these I plead guilty. But they are only rough spots in the road. They don’t limit or delimit my interest and enthusiasm for the WFA and all that it stands for. I look forward to the year ahead of us, with the belief and hope that the plans we have made will be fulfilled, that the influence of the WFA will spread, and that the good of the WFA will be magnified many times over during 2014.

I look forward to sharing it with you! Again, THANK YOU for being part of the WFA and its work.

Walt Taylor
President

There were no questions and the Report was received as given.

Association Updates

Mexico: Manuel Mora represents ‘deacero’, a manufacturer of horseshoe nails in Monterrey. This is a large, multi-products company with production plants for various products around Mexico. He did not have recent or first-hand knowledge of a horseshoers’ association in Mexico, but knows several people with whom WFA has worked in the past. Lee Green of The Shoein’ Shop in California visited Mexico during the summer, holding a skills-learning clinic in Mexico City, sponsored by Delta-Mustad. He reported the clinic as very well organized and well attended, with a lot of interest and participation by Mexican farriers. Apparently the Mexican Farriers Association, as constituted 10 years ago, has fallen into disrepair.

Switzerland: David Frei reported that Swiss farriers are part of the EFFA, and are eager to learn and share with others. He is very pleased to be able to attend the AFA Convention and to be invited to the WFA meeting. He believes that sharing knowledge and skills around the world is very important to the farrier industry and individual farriers.

United States: Mr. John Blombach, President of the AFA and active several years ago in the WFA, asked how the WFA and AFA could work together; what the WFA wanted or needed from the AFA. He and the WFA President agreed to have discussions outside this meeting to explore ways the two organizations could work more closely together.

OLD BUSINESS

WFA Website: As reported by the President earlier, work is underway on developing the new site. A contractor in Colorado was located, with whom we have been able to develop a relationship to get and keep this project moving. Her estimate is that we should be functional in about 60 days. Of course, her progress is contingent on our furnishing the material needed to go into the site. We are collecting and forwarding this to her as rapidly as possible

(Secretary's Note: Good quality pictures of 'worldly' farrier activities are needed on the website. PLEASE send by email any picture of WFA activities or other training/sharing occasions that you think could be a positive part of the new site. They could be pictures of group activities or of artifacts, techniques, or occasions of special interest to a world-wide audience. Don't try to judge the value of your pictures. Let the site developer make a decision based on the context of the particular presentation. If you use or send someone else's picture, you must obtain permission from and give credit to the owner of the picture.)

NEW BUSINESS

The Japan Farriery Association (through Dr. Teruyukilmahara, President, and WFA Asian Vice President) proposed building up the network on the internet between National Farriers Organizations (NFO) belonging to the WFA:

Task of WFA in this project:

1. WFA collects the information about web-sites of NFO related to WFA.
2. WFA distributes the information to all members linked to each other.
3. WFA build new web site or blog to be a center of the network.

Obligations of WFA members in this project:

1. Each WFA member sends their URL to WFA.
2. All WFA members link to web-site or blog of WFA.

By this system, any visitor can make contact with the web-site or blog of the WFA and/or NFO if they want to get information through the network about subjects of their interest.

The proposal was accepted as presented and this will be integrated into the new web-site and provisions made for data gathering and dissemination.

ADJOURN

There being no further matters of business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 a.m.

(AFTERNOTE: The International Reception sponsored by the WFA on Tuesday evening, February 26th, was attended by about 50 people from Mexico, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Japan, Sweden, and the United States. A large group from Sweden, on a farrier/blacksmith 'tour' of parts of the western United States, swelled the numbers considerably. An excellent time of getting acquainted with each other and sharing socially was enjoyed by all. Many visitors to the Convention from Europe and the United Kingdom did not get there. Efforts will be increased, in conjunction with the AFA, to try to include ALL foreign visitors in the reception.)

#####