

CCFC Presidents log, October 8-11th 2009,

FHANA 25th Anniversary Convention Reno Nevada

By Melissa Fischbach

Wednesday October 7th My Friend Shea and I plus her three teen and pre-teen girls, arrived in Reno, Nevada late afternoon after a 7 hour drive from Mendocino County, California . Checking in at the hotel on Wednesday we were both curious when the desk person said “ wait right here I have something for each of you” we were surprised and thrilled to receive large totes with the FHANA convention logo, filled with candy, the Show programs, and other neat gifts sponsored by farms. Everyone who booked in the FHANA reserved room block got one, thank you!

Thursday October 8th we arose at 6:30 to attend the breakfast with the board at 7:00 am. This particular event was a bit hurried as most of the attendees wanted to get to the show grounds to watch or participate in the 8:00 am Kueling, consequently many left early after eating, but still some interesting questions were asked and answered. Jumping in the car we realized that we had no directions to the show grounds so we got to the fairgrounds by following a Truck with a Friesian farm logo on the doors. (We figured they knew where they were going.) In the Kueling exciting moments were when FHANA board member Mark Dileo’s crown mare made the prestigious Model status, when the Approved Stallion Feike was shown and when CCFC member Ruth Page received Champion Gelding, Champion Filly and Champion colt!.

Leaving the Kueling arena I went off to find the volunteer coordinator to volunteer my time to help for the remainder of the week. Much help was needed for this big of a Show. Other Club members who volunteered were, Ruth Page and her Husband (they also had 15 horses there) , Lesely-Ann and Tim Van Darren (they had 2 horses there) Jason and Tabitha Mouck and Shea Elledge when she could doing something where the girls could help. There were at almost all times two arena’s being used, Dressage classes in the coved arena and Undersaddle and Driving classes in the main events arena. I believe the final count on horses attending this event was 275 with around 700 different classes, that is allot of Friesians!. The venue was huge, and though the seats were not full the people there were enthusiastic FHANA members or just Friesian lovers.

Thursday early evening, I hurriedly went out to the parking lot to change into nicer clothes as a board member for each club was to participate in the opening ceremonies. Each club representative carried their club flag and rode in an antique carriage into the main events arena. I was in a carriage with the Arizona and Colorado Chapter members. The ‘flag’ was a rather large banner, zip tied onto an unwieldy PVC frame, they headed into the wind like a giant sail and made it difficult to hold onto, let alone let go with one hand to wave. Being in one of the taller Carriages our flags hit the overhang as we entered the main arena, I almost lost mine! All the carriages lined up in the middle after a few laps around the arena and all the chapter/ club members and the clubs were introduced. It was tons of fun, especially for me as it was my first ride in an antique carriage. After we debarked outside and ran back in to enjoy the thrilling Friesian Traditional trot races, which generated allot of audience participation in the form of yelling whooping, laughing, cheering, etc.

Friday October 9th , I again got up at 6:00 am to attend the Chapters/club representatives only breakfast at 6:30 . There was one member from each club (that had member at the event) in attendance and two FHANA Chapters Committee members, Will Bron, and Marc DiLeo. FHANA Director Jason Tice presented us with the new FHANA 'Chapter of the Year' plan. The plan is this, each chapter will receive points throughout the year that will go towards a chapter of the year award (a plaque plus \$500 in funds to be used for chapter events etc) .Points would be generated for the highest membership retainment. Plus club members can earn points for their club by volunteering at events in which FHANA horses are shown, (volunteers will receive one point per hour of volunteer work completed) club members showing their horses, riding their horses in expos, demonstrations, Parades, Benefits. Etc. will earn 1 point per horse shown.(For example when our 8 Friesian Drill team does a performance our club would get 8 points per event.) This new points system will go into effect January 2010. And will be reviewed each January by FHANA Chapters committee members. I have high hopes that this new program will help garner club participation and membership as well as help in the promotion of the Friesian Horse. We also all agreed to forward our club news to all the other chapters so we could help each other by discovering what works for each club, what each club is doing. We agreed to share information not be competitive with information. I will be posting more in-depth information about this program on our club website. www.cafriesianclub.com .

Back at the show classes started at 8am, we arrived in the afternoon after taking an early morning swim at the hotel (the workers in the spa thought we were crazy!) I left Shea and her girls and went out to my volunteer job for that day which was the warm-up arena steward. It was hot in the sun but I had ample time between checking riders in to take photos outside in good light. The highlight of Friday at the show was the costume classes and demonstrations, performed by the approved stallions: Feike, Sibald and Mintse. Early that evening, the horse auction started at about 5pm. Highest sellers were; Two crown mares that were presented together, 3 & 4 year olds, the buyer of one also had the option of buying the other for the same price. They were both sold to one buyer for \$97,000 each! Also two young stallions that had already passed X-rays and semen testing and had been accepted to the Stallion testing in 2009, sold for \$ 90,000 and \$45,000 with an additional \$150,000 due to the seller if the horse gets approved. One of our club members Brian Ness bid on and won a two year old Wander X Wicher Stud colt. He was very excited.

We left the auction early as it was overlapped by the Hall of Fame Inductee Dinner, which started at 6:00pm. We rushed back to the hotel along with a whole slew of other FHANA member and we all changed into evening clothes. Now I just have to interject something here, for the duration of the show everyone was affixed with a silver plastic wrist band...So it was funny to see people in formal wear with nice jewelry also sporting a by now tatty plastic wrist band..!

The tables were all laid out and each seating had a little memento, a plastic pocket container with the convention logo that was full of candies. Shea and I shared a table with fellow chapter member Linda young and a lady and her mother who were new to the breed. (I apologize that I do not remember your names) The event commenced with opening statements, a lovely slide show of all the Hall of Fame Inductees made by Cally Matherly (this can be found on youtube for those of you who would like to see it) then various FHANA board members , family member and or friends, gave an introduction to each

Hall of Fame inductee. Inductees were; Frank Leyendekker, Harry Witteveen, Fred Hekstra, Fred DeBoer, Arlene De Boer, Bob De Boer, John Mellott, Anita Mellott, and Pier Van der hoek. All people Instrumental in importing and or promoting the first Friesian in North America. Some gave a quick acceptance speech and some were really quite verbose. It was really a lovely evening.

Saturday October 10th, yeah I did not have to get up at 6am! Sleeping in until 8 am, I had a leisurely breakfast at the buffet where I chatted with long time FHANA member and owner of the late stallion Sander; Mary Kenny we had a nice breakfast and some good discussions. Then it was back to the show for us all, and back to the warm up ring steward job for me as the people that had signed up for that day were a no show, not a problem, it was a pleasant job. I got off late afternoon in time to cheer on our club/chapter rider Janna Goldmen riding her stallion Ate for the Chapters only competition class. Each chapter was allowed to have one representative in each of two classes Undersaddle and Driving. Janna and Ate won the ridden Class for CCFC..Yeah!! Her husband Ron Goldmen gave a valiant effort in the Driven class for us, coming in a respectable third. There was then a break after the classes to prep the arena for the evening show. Shea and I and her girls went off the work the front door selling tickets for the evening performance. We were happy to be able to meet the KPFS representatives as they came to purchase sodas at the nearby snack bar and then took the time to introduce themselves. It then got really busy with numerous people arriving all at once. One of the event coordinators come over and asked if I would be accepting the award for CCFC for our win in the Chapters Class. Of course I would. So after closing up the tickets table, we rushed over to the side gate of the main arena and I entered the arena with CCFC member and FHANA president Beth Sharp as she presented CCFC with the Award, which I accepted on the clubs behalf... it's a lovely marble plaque. (Photos of which will be posted on our site, and I will bring it to any Chapter/ Club events) After other various awards were presented the evening show began with many acts from costumed quadrilles, to carriage driving, to liberty acts. In the middle, the chapter basket raffle winners were announced, the highest selling basket was I believe the Ohio Valley Club as it has a stallion breeding in it. It sold for \$3,000. Other baskets went for \$175 on up to \$1,500 ours sold for around \$300. But I was not able to make it back to that side of the ring to get the exact final prices. The highlight of the evening event was I think the chariot races; all audience members were given a small paper flag in red or yellow and were able to cheer for that color of the careening chariots. Yellow was in my opinion WAAAYYY faster... but red was declared the winner, winning the hand of the fair roman princess. Tired and dusty we all stumbled back to the hotel late and fell into a stupor.

Sunday October 11th We had plans to go back to the show but Shea and her children had the opportunity to visit their Great Grandmother whom they had not seen for 7 years. So instead we had a lovely breakfast with her and Shea's Aunt. Then forewarned of a pending storm we decided to head home early.

I must say the show was a blast. Thank you to all who spend months organizing it. For me there we many people that I had worked with for years selling, finding horses for, facebook friends, tack customers, Friesian people I had spoken with on the phone, that I had never met in person and was able to do so at this event. So it really was a wonderful venue not only for the horses but for everyone to make friendly connections with fellow Friesian lovers from around the globe.

