

In the spring of 1992, several long-time Lipizzan enthusiasts traveled to Flagstaff, Arizona to attend a clinic which featured one of the Spanish Riding School riders. John Gliege, the clinic host, generously offered participants the opportunity to ride one of his Lipizzans. As most of John's horses were then showing in third level dressage competitions, it was a rare opportunity for attendees to have both the chance of riding a horse with training as well as work with someone from the Spanish Riding School. For once, there was no need to transport horses around the country and just as excitedly, people came from as far away as Connecticut, Ohio and Indiana.

At the Flagstaff clinic, there were quite a few former USLR directors and officers, including Melody Hull, Barbara Snyder (nee Van Dam), Sandy Heaberlin, Susan Castle, and, of course, John Gliege (who had been an officer of USLR prior to forming the LSNA). Melody, Barbara, Susan, Sandy and Lana Mayer had just finished a difficult year involving lawsuits and politics as officers and directors of USLR. After a membership election where Cathy Naugle, the founder of USLR, was replaced as registrar, she refused to release the records to either the new registrar or to the USLR Board. Despite repeated entreaties and requests, Cathy Naugle continued to refuse to turn over the records. With deep regret, the USLR Board initiated a lawsuit, in which it prevailed, in order to obtain the pedigree records. During the same time, the USLR was embroiled in the politics – both internationally and nationally – and was unsuccessful in its attempts to obtain international recognition and both the officers and financial resources of the organization were stretched thin by the end of their elected terms and fiscal year. It was nice just to be able to attend the clinic and enjoy the horses.

During that weekend, discussions occurred around why couldn't there be just one Lipizzan organization. In 1992, three different Lipizzan registries existed: 1) the Lipizzan

Association of America (LAA), formed by John N. Iannuzzi in 1969; 2) the United States Lipizzan Registry (USLR), formed by Cathy Naugle in 1971; and 3) the Lipizzan Society of North America (LSNA), formed by John G. Gliege in 1985. Ironically, the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF) only recognized one private registry in United States; even though there were European countries with both state and private registries which were both recognized by the LIF. Because the United States had no government registries, it was limited to one representative organization — the oldest organization — the LAA. Therefore, despite very determined efforts by the USLR, only the LAA, founded by attorney John Iannuzzi in New York, was recognized by the LIF.

John Gliege indicated that he had talked with John Iannuzzi who was open to working towards forming one Lipizzan organization. One New York telephone call later, Mr. Iannuzzi confirmed that he thought the formation of one organization would be beneficial to the breed.

Unification of the LAA and LSNA progressed in part because of the presence of Tom, his new laptop computer, and his love for his wife, Melody. One of the major difficulties in unifying the differing organizations was not the unwillingness of people of the LAA and LSNA to effectuate a merger, but rather the different databases. Tom sitting off to the side during discussions, made the mistake of saying that he couldn't understand the difficulty in merging the two registries' records as the pedigree information was "only" data. Tom literally didn't have a moment's peace after that statement. He was flooded with a veritable frenzy of suggestions by Lipizzan enthusiasts. Every time someone finished their clinic ride, they bounced back to the office to offer more suggestions. By the time Tom left Arizona, he had the nucleus of what would ultimately become the first computer pedigree program for the Lipizzan horse on this continent on the laptop.

With two of the three organizations on board, John Gliege and John Iannuzzi approached the USLR Board. Unfortunately, the USLR officers and Board wanted nothing to do with the LAA, LSNA or with any merged organization for that matter. Setting aside USLR's decision, LAA and LSNA went forward with forming what is now known as the Lipizzan Association of North America (or LANA). Thankfully, there was no politics, bickering or backbiting during the formation of LANA. The basic corporate Articles and Bylaws were simple and straight forward. With remarkable forethought, the organization would primarily run as a business. The main purpose of the organization was to register horses as well as preserve, protect and promote the breed. There would be no officers. LANA would be run by Directors who would perform all of the work of the organization – the only criteria for being a Director would be that he or she could not be averse to working for the benefit and endorsement of LANA

Owners of both purebred and partbreds were eligible to be Directors – as were those individuals who didn't own horses but brought skills and strength to the LANA Board. Board positions were (and still are) open to anyone, regardless of whether they own a horse or not, as long as they are willing to volunteer and work. LANA Board members include international Directors as well as individuals who bring business and legal ethics to the forefront. The original nucleus of Board members has expanded, more people added, some leaving for one reason or another, and the organization has prospered for 17 years. Each year LANA has asked its members if anyone would like to volunteer.

Because a number of key position volunteers did not succeed, volunteers are asked to prove themselves – over a period of six months to a year – before formally becoming a Director. The LANA Board worked, promoted the breed – nationally and internationally – registered

horses, along with creating a series of studbooks and CD studbook programs that has made the international community, sit up and take notice.

One of the most notable contributions by LANA has been the formation of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust. The pedigree data have been protected by its establishment. LANA's prime objective is to provide members with accessible, accurate, and verifiable pedigree information, not only from American breeders, but also from reputable overseas sources. To this end, the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust was established to research and maintain accurate pedigree records of purebred Lipizzans. The Trust operates under a separate Board of Trustees and functions as a historical repository and research center. Partbred Lipizzan horses are recorded in a separate division of the Trust.

In 2003, LANA was still the sole North American representation to the LIF through its foundation organization – the LAA. Despite of USLR's petitions to the contrary, eleven years after the formation of LANA, the USLR was still not recognized by the LIF. The LIF maintained that it would be up to the North American registries to sort themselves out because the LIF would only permit one private organization to be recognized. The LANA Board had numerous discussions and decided to make another attempt toward unification. A meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada – representatives of LANA, USLR as well as the American Lipizzan Breeders Association, ALBA, (founded by former USLR directors Leonard and June Boardman) attended.

At this October 2003 meeting, the umbrella organization, the Lipizzan Federation of America (LFA), was formed for the sole purpose of representing all North American Lipizzan organizations at the Lipizzan International Federation. The LFA was set up to be an organization of organizations – with no individual members – just 3 corporate members – LANA, USLR and ALBA. This move has been a success in regard to getting international recognition by the LIF. In

addition to international representation at the LIF, the LFA also presently sponsors the USDF All-Breeds awards program.

By forming the LFA and welcoming the USLR and ALBA to join LANA within this umbrella organization, LANA offered international representation to USLR and ALBA, a unification of its own kind.

LANA's current status and financial situation remain sound. The 2008/2009 year has had lows and highs. The death of Tom Hull, our beloved Registrar and friend, was the low point. The highlights include extensive updates to the LANA database program and the establishment of a scholarship fund in memory of Tom Hull's many contributions to both LANA and the Lipizzan community (See Vol. 17, Issue 2 for details).

In the fall of 2008, an interim LFA board was formed to work on transforming the LFA from an organization of organizations to an organization with members. LANA Directors John Gliege, John N. Iannuzzi and Gary Lashinsky are the LANA representatives to the interim LFA Board. John Iannuzzi is presently working with representatives from ALBA and USLR to complete a set of organizational Bylaws which will encompass the best parts of all three organizations – the establishment of a breeders commission for evaluations and clinics from ALBA; membership voting from USLR; and international recognition and directors, the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust and extensive database and pedigree program from LANA.

Until such time as the LFA evolves into an organization that can meet all the needs of the North American Lipizzan community, LANA plans to continue serving its membership and their Lipizzans and to continue as the premier Lipizzan registry in North America.