Illinois Lipizzan Symposium 2007

The Croatian Lipizzans in Serbia

LANA Annual Meeting

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Twelve years ago, representatives from the two Lipizzan registries (LANA and USLR) and the breeder’s commission (‘ALBA’3) met to discuss the formation of a unified Lipizzan organization in North America. The 2020 Committee was formed as a result of this initial meeting (so named because the Committee members thought it would take until the year 2020 to get everything together). Discussions continued on and off among 2020 Committee members for a number of years to no avail.

Unification discussions were revitalized when old and new representatives from LANA, USLR and ALBA met in Las Vegas in 2001. At this meeting the Lipizzan Federation of America (“LFA”) was formed and attorney/director John Gliege from LANA and attorney/president Al Saiz of USLR drafted and filed the articles of incorporation in Arizona. The LFA represents all three groups to the USDF and the Lipizzan International Federation. As it presently exists, the LFA is an umbrella organization - an organization of organizations. The LFA is formed from designated representatives from each of ALBA, LANA and USLR, and is not a membership organization. This will change in 2008.

All four 2007 annual meetings (LANA, USLR, ALBA, LFA) were held at Tempel Lipizzans in Wadsworth, Illinois. The 2007 LFA meeting was opened by Ingun Littorin, acting as moderator. At last year’s Lipizzan Symposium held in Oregon, the message from the joint memberships indicated that they wanted the multiple organizations to work towards one single organization. At that time, three committees were formed to tackle the most difficult issues first: Finance, Registration and Bylaws. There were two major sticking points identified – professional office management and the non-revocable Lipizzan Pedigree Trust.

The Finance Committee consisted of the treasurers of ALBA, LANA and USLR – Rennie Squier, Melody Hull and Lyn Scharff, respectively. Their primary goal was to ascertain whether a combined membership would be fiscally prudent. After comparing one year of financial information, it was determined that by combining the existing budgets there would be a proposed gross income of $62,349 and a proposed gross expense of $60,296, leaving a net of $2,043. Where possible, duplicate memberships should be then forwarded to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee data with a watermark “draft” and that any comments the organizations receive from their respective memberships should be then forwarded to the Finance Committee.

Among the comments following the presentation of the Finance Committee, several members indicated that they were not adverse to higher membership or registration fees because many belonged to both registries and were already paying duplicate fees. Other members spoke of the advantages of a combined advertising budget.

Ingun thanked the committee for its work and indicated that the next step was to have each organization circulate the Finance Committee data with a watermark “draft” and that any comments the organizations receive from their respective memberships should be then forwarded to the Finance Committee.

Following the first LFA session, the USLR held their annual meeting, followed by LANA’s annual meeting. Although not technically an LFA meeting, a majority of the LANA annual meeting consisted of a detailed question and answer period regarding the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust. For this reason, this segment of the LANA meeting will be presented here.

John Gliege explained that the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust is a separate legal entity. The Trust has a separate board of Trustees and is not owned by LANA, although there are several LANA directors who are also trustees of the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust (‘LPT’). The purpose of the Trust is to preserve and protect the records of registered Lipizzan horses. The Trust is an Irrevocable Trust, designed

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2 United States Lipizzan Association, estab. 1971, out of California.
to last into perpetuity, and was originally established because of problems that had occurred concerning ownership of Lipizzan records which resulted in litigation. The Trust provides protection so that no single individual can claim ownership of all the records pertaining to the Lipizzan horse that are in the possession of the Trust. John Gliege explained that the Trust is non-transferable and can exist independently of any other organization. Likewise, the purpose of the Trust was not to hide the data but rather secured it for everyone as indicated by the availability of the data on CDs which were also forwarded to the Lipizzan International Federation in Europe. There is no financial maintenance involved in the Trust.

A lengthy discussion of the Trust ensued during the LANA meeting, and once everyone in attendance was assured of its purpose and the fact that the Trust was merely a secondary protective device, someone in attendance equated it to a "filing cabinet wrapped in duck tape." Attendees came to realize that the Trust was just another vehicle to safeguard all the information for the Lipizzan community and that the Trust, as a separate entity, would work in conjunction with the LFA.

Since there were an insufficient number of LPT trustees attending the meeting, it was reaffirmed that Rennie Squier, Melinda Suydam and Jeff Kelly would be added as trustees to the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust following a telephonic meeting of the Trustees which would occur, depending on schedules, within the next month.

By the end of the day on Saturday, it was the consensus that the newly reorganized LFA would have a professional management office as well as the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust safeguarding the pedigree records. The biggest stumbling blocks toward unification had been resolved.

On Sunday, the Registration Committee report was given. Consisting of Melinda Suydam, USLR; Tom Hull, LANA; Rennie Squier, ALBA and Jeff Kelly, the Registration Committee’s purpose was to look into the differences in registering horses and problem horses. An exchange of registration information has been shared between USLR and LANA for several years. This year USLR was delayed in submitting its information to LANA due to transfer of registry data to a new program; however the data transfer did take place during the Illinois meeting. The Registration Committee put together a report but indicated that if the general registration requirements of both organizations were compared word for word, they were surprised and pleased to discover that there were very few differences between the registries. The document prepared by the Registration Committee varies very little from each of the current registries’ Rules and Regulations. This report will also be circulated to the respective memberships, marked “draft.”

Next came the Articles & Bylaws Committee report (“ABC Committee”). The ABC Committee as set up in Oregon 2006, consisted of John Gliege and Carolyn Proeber from LANA; Ingun Littorin and June Boardman from ALBA; and Tim Foley and Muffin Smith from USLR. The ABC Committee met Sunday morning, and John Gliege spoke for the Committee and provided the following timeline for proceeding.

As explained above, the LFA, presently, is an organization of organizations. The LFA’s current Articles of Incorporation provide that its Board consists of representatives from LANA, ALBA, USLR. The first step is to amend the Articles so that the LFA will become a membership organization. Those amendments will be prepared and circulated among the Bylaws committee by October 15. Once approved by the ABC Committee, the Articles will be submitted to each of the respective Board members of USLR, LANA and ALBA. Again, there will be a 30-day approval period.

In addition to the Articles, the Bylaws will be drafted and circulated to the ABC Committee and the respective ALBA, LANA and USLR Boards by the middle of November. The proposed Bylaws will be submitted to the joint memberships by December 15 by mail. The membership will have 30 days to reply.

Once the Bylaws are approved by the existing the Board of the LFA – which will the current Boards of LANA, USLR, ALBA -- the transition plan will be started. Once the amended LFA Articles and Bylaws are filed with the State of Arizona, a new 501(c) will be set up for the LFA.

There are many details to be worked out on the transition plan since LANA and USLR have different fiscal years and the unification of memberships will affect membership, as well as advertising, newsletters, websites, merchandise, and so on. Continuity of people qualified to make the transition to a single entity as seamless as possible was discussed and more details will be provided in each organization’s magazines in the next year.

In closing, Ingun remarked that there is a lot of work to be done. While enthusiastic volunteers will be helpful and utilized as needed, the LFA, as it is transitioned into a professional organization, will require the services of professional people with the requisite skills and experience. These skills and experience will be necessary to help transform the LFA into a new organization that will not only register horses, but grow and promote the Lipizzan horse as a business.
The Croatian Lipizzaners in Serbia
By Ingun Littorin

During the month of August several stories were published among a large number of international newspaper, showing the deplorable condition of the Lipizzaners, originally from Croatia and now in Serbia. This is not the first time these types of pictures and stories are published, however this time the conditions of the horses is almost beyond comprehension. Since the brake-up of the former Yugoslavia, and the ensuing wars, we have heard not only the issues with the Lipik Lipizzaner but also of the problems at the National Stud Farm of Vucijak in Bosnia. In Vucijak, the situation has improved a lot and they are now under the protection of their Government. The Lipik stables were founded in 1843, and have been the home to Lipizzaners intermittently since then.

The current situation with the Lipik Lipizzaners occurred during the beginning of the conflict among the former Yugoslavia countries in 1991. The stud farm and the stables, in the village of Lipik in Central Croatia, were severely damage by bombs and artillery during the early stages of the war between Croatia and Serbia. At that time, a large number of horses were killed as well as some removed, “rescued”, from the area. A total of 91 horses were taken from Lipik in September 1991, first to Bosnia-Herzegovina and when the conflict broke out there and no food was available, the horses were again moved, this time in February 1992 to the military compoud of Karadjordjevo in Serbia, were they remained until February of 1995. The Serbian government made clear to Mr. Komasovic, who originally removed the horses that he had to return them to Croatian territory. These directions were not obeyed and the horses were moved again to an agricultural society ranch were they remained until early 1998. The horses again were moved to the custody of Mr. Todor Bukinac, in Novi Sad, and have remained there since. During the following year the conditions of the horses were very poor and many horses died from disease and low resistance.

As the legal position of these horses were not established, the international Lipizzaner breeding communities, united in the LIF, in 1997, agreed unanimously not to accept these horses or their offspring in their national studbooks/registries. The Serbian Stud Farm of Karadjordjevo and the National Lipizzaner Breeding Association of Serbia also agreed not to accept these horses into their registries. Both of these organizations are recent and current members of the LIF. Originally, the position of the Serbian Government was that this was a private issue between the farm and Croatia, however this has changed. During the ensuing time period, LIF under the leadership of Rudolf Leiner, mediated in several negotiations between the Serbian and Croatian authorities and after a meeting in Belgrade in 2003, it appeared to problem was close.
The Croatian Lipizzaners in Serbia (Con’t)

to a resolution. The final negotiations however broke down and there the horses remained in the custody of Mr. Bukinac. Dr. Milan Bozic, at that time Director of Lipica, visited the horses in 2002 (see photo) and although the conditions were poor, the horses appeared to be in reasonably good flesh.

During the 2007 Annual meeting of the LIF in Kelebija, Serbia, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture of Croatia, LIF re-affirmed the 1997 resolution not to accept the Lipik Lipizzaners and their off-spring in their registries. A letter was also forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture of Serbia, urgently requesting their involvement in the resolution of this issue. The Director of Lipica, Matjaz Pust, offered to go there and collect DNA-samples, so that identification of these horses may be possible – to date I do not believe they have been able to access the farm where the horses are kept. A request was also made that DNA samples be taken of all Lipik horses or their offspring, that may be in the possession of the private breeders in Serbia. Several of these “Serbian Lipizzaners” have been showing up with horse dealers and in riding stables around Europe, and they are now horses without status. This situation is getting critical as the original horses from Lipik are now old and if we not act soon, there is no resolution to the problem. If not, the Lipik horses around the world will be lost to the breed.

This brings us to beginning of August, when a video of the horses was shown on the Serbian TV and the story hit the news press. The Minister of Agriculture for Serbia, has visited the farm in early August accompanied by a veterinarian, and has, according to reports, provided 20 tons of hay for the horses. No recent pictures of the horses have been available. It is also known, that Mr. Bukinac has requested 300,000 Euros (approx. $410,000) from the Croatian Government for care and feeding of the horses during the period they have been in his care. This is not acceptable to the Croatian Government as the horses were removed without their permission. It is also currently not know how many horses are located at the Bukinac farm, numbers of anywhere between 40 and 120 have been mentioned. How many are original Lipik horses is uncertain, as the youngest would be 16 years, if foal in 1991. How many of these horses are offspring of the Lipik horses and how many other types of horses are there at the farm. It is currently also not known how many of these horses are included in the negotiations between the Governments. We have to remember, that these are negotiations between two sovereign and very proud nations that have recently been at war and nothing is as simple as it appears. Unfortunately, with the mix of private individuals, it takes longer than would be anticipated.

It has now been two months since the story about the horses plight came to the forefront, again. Let’s hope that after this exposure in the international press, a way has been found to provide better care for the horses and that their condition has improved.

(Editors Note: On September 20th, a news article appeared in several news sources, including B92, a popular Serbian website, that indicated that a veterinary team from Serbia and Croatia had begun examination of Lipizzans at the Bukinac studfarm. In part, the article reads:

Following the examination and a report, it will become clear just how many Lipizzaners there are at the stud farm, and concerns over their state of health will be resolved. Afterwards, dialogue will resume between the two Agriculture Ministries over their return to Croatia. In the next few days, the vets should be able to establish the condition of the horses at the farm, in addition to cataloguing them and taking DNA samples. On Thursday, the commission looked round the stud farm, and yesterday they started their examination, taking samples, and making an inventory. As early as the first day, it was clear that not all the horses were in optimum condition. “A few of the mares were worryingly undernourished, ten or so were in normal-to-bad condition, the others were fine,” said Andjelko Gašparević, head of Veterinary Inspection at the Croatian Veterinary Institute. However, Gašparević said that, given that these horses were used for breeding purposes, then not even the condition of those whose nourishment levels were rated as average, could be deemed satisfactory. The vets put their condition down to poor diet, above all. On completing their examination, and establishing which horses come from the lipizzaner stud farm, the team of vets will compile a joint report, which will be the basis for a decision by the two agriculture ministers as to the fate of the Lipizzaners, their return to Croatia, and financial reimbursement for their care over the last fifteen years.)
What a fulfilling experience this symposium was! All three national organizations met together for the third straight year, and the event was hosted by Tempel Lipizzans. Tempel Lipizzans is celebrating several milestones – a 50th anniversary of its first importation of Lipizzans in the late 1950s, the breeding activities at its Wadsworth, Illinois home, as well as twenty-five years of public performances. The mood was truly festive. Everyone in attendance admired Tempel’s beautiful horses and acknowledged the tremendous influence the Tempel breeding program has had on the American Lipizzan of today. There were many discussions revolving around Tempel sires and dams of the past and the relation of the present horses to those owned and/or bred by people in attendance.

None of this year’s successful event could have been possible without the gracious hospitality of the Tempel organization, their staff and officials, specifically Courtney Tripp, Linda Buonanno, and Jochen Hippensstiel. The symposium was held Friday, September 7, through Sunday, September 9, and while the temperature was a bit warm, nothing could deter the attendees from enjoying themselves at the picturesque facility: old world architecture, rolling grassy hills, wooded copses, white horses, dark foals, and even perfectly blue skies. Director of Training Jochen Hippensstiel began the festivities Friday morning in the performance arena by exhibiting some of the young Lipizzans just beginning training. Lunch was followed by Dr. Justin Hayna’s presentation on embryo transfer, and in the afternoon the American Lipizzan Breeders Association (ALBA) had its annual meeting. The first day ended with a tour of the performance and breeding stables, meeting with mares and foals in pasture, and a synopsis of the history of Tempel Lipizzans given by Courtney Tripp, the organizer for this year’s symposium.

Saturday’s meetings demonstrated the growth, cooperation, and future direction of the American Lipizzan community. For a number of years, representatives under the umbrella organization of the Lipizzan Federation of America (LFA) had been attempting to bring the three divergent Lipizzan groups together as one entity. (For a detailed report, see the minutes for these meetings presented elsewhere.) At this year’s symposium, the LFA was given two separate meetings so that more progress could be made toward unification. The first LFA session began with a report from the LFA’s Finance Committee composed of Lynn Schaeffer from the USRL, Melody Hull from LANA, and Rennie Squier from ALBA. The three treasurers had been assigned at last year’s symposium the task of seeing if a single organization which incorporated the desires and directives of all the present groups was financial feasible. This committee’s presentation set the tone for the other business meetings to follow. The ambiance was up-beat but not without controversy. Questions were asked, differing opinions presented, various approaches offered, information given, concerns expressed but all in an amicable, workman-like spirit. Lynn’s spreadsheets comparing and
combining the three groups’ financial data succinctly delivered the facts. Ultimately it was agreed that the financial picture was positive and certainly doable. Some attendees were even seen leaving the meeting with smiles on their faces.

The annual meeting of the USLR was next, followed by a picnic style, boxed lunch eaten in the guest house, by the pool, in the tents, or on the manicured lawn. At LANA’s annual meeting in the afternoon, questions concerning the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust (LPT) were answered to everyone’s satisfaction, and LPT members present assured symposium participants of the addition to the Trust of Rennie Squier from ALBA, and Melinda Suydam and Jeff Kelly from the USLR. In the early afternoon, hors d’oeuvres were offered at the Tempel Farms’ guest house. Attendees were then given a special performance by the Tempel Lipizzans, complete with live music. That evening’s banquet featured roast beef with horse radish garnish, baked chicken in cream sauce, asparagus, and a brown rice with raisins, currents, and almonds that the author could go on and on about. (I beg the forgiveness of the Tempel staff in not being able to name the specific, wonderful dishes.) After dessert and coffee, the tables were cleared, and the now traditional benefit auction was held. Bidding was spirited and lively, but the sterling moment was when Linda Buonanno, daughter of original importer Tempel Smith, outbid Courtney Tripp, the symposium organizer, for a handmade, jewel-bedecked show brow band and then gave the brow band to Courtney as a gift for all her hard work on the symposium. Yes, there were a few moist eyes and not from just Courtney and Linda.

Sunday morning had just one meeting, the second concluding session of the LFA. The Registration Committee comprised of Tom Hull from LANA, Jeff Kelly from the USLR, and Rennie Squier from ALBA gave a very brief summary: data is being exchanged, registration requirements are essentially the same, and there are no major problems. People were now smiling during the meeting and not waiting until it was over.

The LFA Bylaws Committee, however, provided the one disappointing feature. The drive toward unification was so high and so close that some members wanted everything wrapped up during this weekend. Corporately and legally, this was an impossibility. The Bylaws Committee was comprised of John Gliege and Carolyn Proeber from LANA, Ingun Littorin and June Boardman from ALBA, and Tim Foley and Muffin Smith from USLR. John and Ingun explained the steps required that would transform the LFA—currently an organization of three organizations—into a membership organization with 501(c) status. The Bylaws Committee presented the timeline for transition of the LFA from an umbrella organization to that of a membership organization, and with
that, overwrought enthusiasm was curbed with cool logic. Recognizing more experienced minds in this regard, attendees resigned themselves to looking forward to the 2008 Lipizzan Symposium which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, in conjunction with the west coast tour of the Spanish Riding School—not, actually, a bad option—for this is when all legal aspects would be completed. When someone in attendance observed, as a final remark, that all the meetings were conducted without the necessity, as in the past, of a professional negotiator—so cooperative and amicable were the proceedings this year—participants could not help but leave with smiles on their faces, having just enjoyed a little chuckle at their own growth and development.

HORSES IN THE NEWS

Gary Lashinsky’s SRS/Piber stallion, Favory Rubina is on his way to Atlanta for regional competition with Michael Poulin. Rubina has qualified for Lipizzaner breed of the year with 3 wins and one-second with average scores of 69 or better winning against warmbloods. His last competition in Tampa was spectacular with 20 or more horses in his class and he took the win with a score of 70. Not bad for this 15.2 Lipizzaner Stallion.

Early Devon Horse show Results

Carolyn Blakeslee’s 4 year old stallion, Neapolitano Pepita (shown above), “Cinco” won Reserve at Devon. Carolyn said the young stallion was a perfect gentleman at the breed show. She was delighted that even surrounded by mares and stallions of all breeds, sizes, and colors, in a strange place, confined to a stall for 36 hours other than a couple of outings for lungeing—responded so well on a loose lead—and was happy for the company. (Editor’s Note: More Devon results will be posted in the next magazine issue.)

Attendees present: Susan Castle, John Gliege, Sandy Heaberlin, Tom Hull, Melody Hull; by telephone: Dr. Delphi Toth, Gary Lashinsky, Carolyn Blakeslee; Absent: John Iannuzzi

John Gliege acted as moderator for the meeting and welcomed both members and non-members in attendance.

Melody Hull gave the treasurer’s report. The LANA fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30. Notable expenses in 2006/07 included: merchandise ($2,000), evaluation expense ($2,550), copyright and trademark expense ($1,010), printing ($5,368) and promotion in various magazines ($1,360). Income was generated by advertising, co-op ads and directory ($5,417); membership ($8,525), and registrations/transfers/pedigree CDs ($3,106). Many of the expenses were a one-time expense. Presently, LANA is in the black over $1,500. In 2006/07, LANA brought in $19,586 and spent $20,014.

Sandy explained that LANA has both trademarks and copyrights, for a variety of books, brochures, logos, typical corporate work. Mel indicated that LANA now had professionals updating the website so that there is a whole new website in place.

Melody pointed out that the figures from the LFA meeting were different between the figures presented because the LFA figures were for the prior calendar year (2005/06).

Tom Hull gave the Registrar’s Report. There are 4,388 horses in the database, including 892 horses registered with LANA, 250 horses imported into the US, 1,880 horses either born or imported into the US that have been proven for 5 generations. Additionally, the database contains 2,557 horses proven 5 generations with an additional 1,825 horses that are included for historical data which are not proven 5 generations. Since July 1, 2006, 38 horses were registered, 20 horses were transferred. The previous calendar year was 47 registrations, 20 transfers.

Tom indicated that he had been doing a lot of updating to the database which consists of several different tables which work together and are linked so that we have separate databases for members, the purebred and partbred horses, DNA and so on. The databases are linked together to build a pedigree and can function separately to provide reports -- for example you can look up a person and see all the horses registered or owned by that person, provided the office is notified when horses are transferred.

The LANA database can “talk” to the USLR database. Tom indicated that he had just been given the USLR information to update the database. As of last year both organizations were to have a common database but USLR had been unable to figure out how to send the information as they were in the process of changing systems.

There were numerous questions from both LANA and non-LANA members, including the how the differences in names were being worked out. Tom indicated that at the present time LANA keeps to the name in its data base and USLR keeps the name in its data base. If a horse is transferred from one organization to another, he uses the name that the horse is already registered. Differences are indicated in the database by AKA.

Tom also showed the group several variations of the current pedigree using both different colors and scripts. He suggested that for research purposes, the different colors might work very well to make it easier to check different generations.

Delphi gave the website and merchandise reports. In December 2006, the website was updated by Cygnet Graphics which increased sales from $50 per month to $500 per month. The site was again redesigned in August to include an elegant black background which showcases the gray Lipizzans very well. The search engines have ensured that we get orders from all over the world from people who are not necessarily Lipizzan owners or enthusiasts. The new site moves very quickly and there has been a noticeable increase in the number of items ordered per order. In the past month merchandise sales have tripled again, from $500 a month to $1500 a month.

Gross income for 2006/07 merchandise sales was $11,392. Expenses, i.e., buying the items that we sold as merchandise, production costs, shipping, credit card and bank fees, was $9,058, leaving a positive difference of $1,434. There is $4,050 in merchandise inventory and the bank account balance is $1,507. Between the inventory and actual money in the bank the total is $5,557. There is an average of 25 or so sales per month and Delphi is currently absorbing various costs, such as the long distance charges, fax charges, travel for going to the post office almost daily, PO Box rental, computer paper and cartridges, etc.

Sandy Heaberlin gave the advertising and Haute École magazine report. Advertising in the Haute École magazine for the 2006/07 fiscal year generated $2,918 in income as compared to $1,887 in 2005/06. Likewise, in 2006/07, the Breeder’s Corner brought in $375 as compared to $1,200 generated so far for 2007/08. The Breeder’s Corner provides $300 in advertising for each issue of the magazine before the first ad is solicited.

The high cost of printing was a serious concern last year. Fortunately an equitable solution was found which will enable the magazine to continue to be printed in full color. Additionally, the increase in participation of the Breeder’s Corner will permit the addition of more articles and pictures.

LANA expanded its advertising in 2006/07. LANA is running regular classified ads in Dressage Today. Despite numerous requests to advertise in PrimeMedia (EQUUS, Dressage Today, Practical Horseman, Horse Illustrated), the cost of advertising is almost prohibitive. Depending on the number of insertions, EQUUS, full page B&W, $4,730-$5,736; EQUUS, full page color, $7,570-$9,165. Dressage Today full page B&W, $1,595-$1,935; Dressage Today, full page color, $2,555-$3,100. At these prices, and putting no more than 10 farms on a full page ad, the cost per farm for a 7-line listing for color would cost between $750-$917 in EQUUS and $256-$310 in Dressage Today. These are last year’s prices, and rates are scheduled to increase in September. Circulation: EQUUS; 147,721; Dressage Today, 42,135. Co-op ads were placed in Horse of Kings which promotes the baroque horse. In HOK, the rates are: full page B&W, $425; full page color, $595 (2 page spread $1,080). Also several quarter page ads were placed in the Equine Journal.

Gary Lashinsky gave an outline of the SRS 2008 tour. The SRS will arrive in Los Angeles at the end of October, beginning of November, where they will clear quarantine. As a side note, all of the horses of the SRS have been cleared of CEM, with the exception of 2 stallions which are now housed in a different area. All of the horses scheduled to come to the US are clean and have no problem at all.

Thirty horses will be brought over, in two planes of 15 horses each, along with 10 riders, 10 grooms plus equipment. There will be 15 performances over 5 weeks, with 3 performances each week. At each location, the performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. The initial engagement will be in the new Citizens Bank Arena in Ontario, which is the LA area, on November 5-9. From there, the SRS will be in downtown Phoenix on November 14, 15, and 16. Then on to San Jose/San Francisco Bay area (November 21, 22, 23), Portland Oregon at the Rose Garden (November 28, 29, 30) and in the Seattle area (December 5, 6, 7).

(Continued pg. 12)
The Holidays are coming soon

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John Gliege took the opportunity to explain the Lipizzan Pedigree Trust (“LPT”). The LPT is a separate legal entity and has a separate board of Trustees. The LPT is not owned by LANA, although there are several LANA directors who are trustees of the LPT. The LPT is an Irrevocable Trust, designed to last into perpetuity, and its purpose is to preserve and protect the records of registered Lipizzan horses. The LPT was originally established because of problems that had occurred concerning ownership of Lipizzan records which resulted in litigation and ensures that no single individual can claim ownership of the records pertaining to the Lipizzan horse that are in the possession of the LPT. John Gliege explained that the LPT is non-transferable and can exist independently of any other organization. Likewise, the purpose of the LPT was not to hide the data but rather secure it for everyone as indicated by the availability of the data on CDs which were also forwarded to the Lipizzan International Federation in Europe. There is no financial maintenance involved in the Trust.

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In August 2007, the directors circulated a ballot among the entire membership. There were 68 responses which indicated that the membership wanted a single Lipizzan organization in North America. Secondly, the membership -- which also included a substantial number of people belonging to USLR and ALBA -- indicated a desire to maintain the LPT as a repository for pedigree answers. Third, those responding indicated a preference to have any new organization operated by volunteers so as not to spend the resources of the organization on the engagement of private or professional services to manage the organization.

There were questions from the floor as to the nature of the questions and why the ballots were numbered. Delphi responded that the surveys were printed and mailed out by another director, the completed ballots were mailed to her and she tallied them. They were printed on a vibrant colored paper and numbered to verify that a ballot was valid. She had nothing to identify who had completed any particular ballot and only one individual clipped the number off the ballot, invalidating the ballot.

As to the nature of the questions, Susan explained that she had been fairly critical about phrasing appropriate questions. Several drafts of the ballot questions had been circulated and when a number of very precise questions were set out, the questionnaire was so long that it was felt that the odds of getting responses back would decrease. In the interest of determining a general consensus, compromises were made to attempt to get as much input from the membership as possible. The important questions were answered: members wanted unification, believed in the concept of a Trust and few wanted an increase in dues or rates. The ballot was a success in that the LANA Board heard from its members, many of whom could not attend the meeting in Chicago.

Gary pointed out that it is extremely important that the North American organizations be unified and have one organization where the pedigrees are protected. Everyone has a lot of money invested in every horse, every breeding that is done and these assets must be protected. He believes that as far as Europe is concerned, especially the SRS, North America needs to get its act together and be recognized as one unified organization for Lipizzaners here in North America as a quarter of the Lipizzaners in the world are right here in North America.

By the end of the meeting, several non-LANA members indicated that they had a much better understanding of how the Trust operates and no longer had a problem with it. Likewise, a concern was expressed that an all volunteer organization would probably only have ten workers with the other five hundred members doing nothing. John Gliege pointed out that for over 15 years, LANA had functioned, corporately and ethically, with the exclusive use of volunteers, as to whether it was devotion of the individuals involved or luck, it worked successfully. Additionally, until the past several years, USLR functioned exclusively by utilizing volunteers.

As it came down to the single remaining unresolved issue – operation by professional management or volunteer office – a compromise was finally reached – and again this was an issue that really was not strictly a LANA annual meeting agenda item. Any professional management service can be evaluated at key periods during the calendar year. For example, NELA is the professional management company utilized by the USLR. NELA’s contract is reviewed quarterly to determine if both customer and vendor are satisfied. Therefore, not only can the use of a professional management company be re-evaluated but bids from other management companies can be entertained to keep the cost and benefits of the service in-line with the income.

Discussions rose regarding how USLR, USLR and ALBA would dissolve or merge to form the LFA. John explained that first thing to be done was reform the LFA from an organization of 3 organizations to a membership organization. Likewise LANA, ALBA and USLR needed to adhere to their corporate guidelines. If the assets and expenses of both organizations were co-mingled, one set of legal processes are in place. A different set of processes are used if the organizations were dissolved. Additionally, every factor needs to be analyzed including fiscal years, members, merchandise, credit for payments made, in-process registrations and transfers. There is an exhaustive list of things to be done.

The commingling of assets and expenses into a new entity is one of the most complex types of unifications and the most expensive from a legal standpoint for each organization. Comfort letters from LANA, USLR and ALBA’s legal counsel will be required to indicate that the respective Boards have done all steps necessary to do whatever transactions they were doing. There is tax planning, corporate planning, details involving the IRS – so that when an entity is formed, it will have a legal form and function and not be subject to attack by someone in the future. John indicated that the devil is in the details, something he said a year ago. Much of the details will be discussed at the Articles and Bylaws Committee group meeting Sunday morning before the final LFA session.

At this point, John reminded the people that this session was an LANA meeting, not an LFA meeting. With no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned.
EVENTS

28-30 September: A Classical Dressage Clinic with Dominique Barbier stressing lightness and self-carriage at Plum Lake Dressage in Sayner, WI. Phone 715-542-3742, www.plumlakedressage.com, or plumlakedressage@aol.com

12-14 October: A Classical Dressage Clinic with Fred Kappler stressing the basics and building upon them at Plum Lake Dressage in Sayner, WI. The clinic will include with a Quadrille Performance Sunday afternoon. Phone 715-542-3742, www.plumlakedressage.com, or plumlakedressage@aol.com for further information.

12-13 October: LIF Lipizzaner Judging course and seminar in Piber, Austria. Contact Secretary, LIF. lipizzan@tiscali.nl Fax (+31_ 84 8350 916; Cell (+31) 6 28 61 7947

Sept. 26-Oct. 1: Dressage At Devon, Devon, PA. Breed Show, Tues-Thurs; International Dressage Show, Fri-Sun. Thursday: 9-27 Lipizzan Breeding Class sponsored by MALA and LFA. For more information contact “mikepunch@djeazzd.com” or Judy Honey.


November 2008: Annual meeting of LFA to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in conjunction with the Spanish Riding School tour.

CLASSIFIEDS

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