



**New York State
Horse Council**

NYSHC Annual Meeting September 11, 2010

Meeting called to order at 10:15 by George King.

Mark Gisselbrecht gave a brief introduction of the day's activities and thanked the Harness Racing Hall of Fame for their hospitality. He also recognized all the people who helped organize and run the activities for the weekend.

George thanked Mark for the wonderful job he did in setting up this year's annual meeting. All members in attendance introduced themselves.

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting was made by Cheryl Mitchell and seconded by Debbie Botbyl. The motion passed.

Steve Ropel handed out copies of the treasurer's report and gave an overview of the financial activities. Our spending has been pretty consistent but our membership numbers are down. Steve reiterated the need for finding income producing projects so we can continue to expand our activities.

Steve will be sending out postcards this year for membership renewals and he anticipates sending them out sometime in October. He will send them to current members and those that were members in recent years. Carol Fitzpatrick volunteered to go through old membership lists to get email addresses of people who did not join in 2009 or before and email them instead of sending postcards. There was discussion on the merits of using postcards this year. Mark Gisselbrecht moved to accept the treasurer's report and Shannon Budnik seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sara Chevako gave her final trail grant report!! There is one parking lot left that has not had the signs placed yet but they will be done soon. The check will be sent when this is completed. A copy of the final trail grant report is in the handout George King passed out at the beginning of the meeting. Sharon Young Slate moved to accept the trail grant report and Shannon Budnik seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Leah Leising gave a report on the Ride and Drive program. There are 38 members participating to date and many have logged over 100 hours. Leah has already gotten the cooler embroidered for the most hours and has promises of donations for the oldest rider from the Pfohls and for the family logging the most hours from Carol Fitzpatrick.

This is the last meeting with Steve Ropel as Treasurer. He will continue to be in charge of membership for this coming year. As discussed last meeting, Sara Chevako has formally placed her name on the slate for Treasurer. Lynndee Kemmet made a motion to elect Sara Chevako as the new treasurer of the NYSHC and Kathy Pratt seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steve and Sara will work together over the next few months during the transition period.

This year the State Horse Council meeting is being held in Michigan. Bob Pfohl has been our representative in years past for this meeting and he is happy to do it again this year. Colleen Segarra made a motion to send Bob Pfohl to this year's State Horse Council meeting and Mark Gisselbrecht seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chapters gave updates on their activities since our last meeting:

Leah Leising reported that Cattaraugus had obtained a \$32,000.00 federal grant for trails and they were starting with the addition of a parking area at the south end of the trails. Bob Pfohl reported on work being done on the trail system in Chautauqua county as well as educational seminars given to teach horsemen about trail maintenance. Dana Delfino from the NYC chapter talked about their efforts to increase membership and the Prospect Park alliance's impact on the riding paths and the discussions on footing etc for the new paths. Mark Gisselbrecht reported on the Orange county chapter. They have had 4 trail rides this season and established a scholarship program for high school students that will be implemented in 2011. Lynne Garfinkel gave the report for Palisades chapter. They have been working on raffles to benefit Therapeutic riding and Horse rescues and have also been working on educating both firefighters and horsemen about fire safety in the barn. Jean Rhuda gave the report for Putnam chapter. The hunter paces went well this year. Membership participation needs to be improved. Sullivan chapter started in April with approximately 17 members. Theresa Uciechowski is acting president and they have already had a clinic "fix" your horse. Carol Fitzpatrick gave the Ulster chapter report. They had a wine dinner fundraiser to provide equipment for fire fighters, halters etc. They sponsored the Ulster County 4H show and had a round pen demonstration at the Ulster county fairground. George King introduced Cherryl Mitchell. She briefly explained the history of the difficulties the private rental horse, lesson horse and boarding/lesson stables in NYC have been experiencing with the present way that care standards are judged and administrated. She has encouraged a senator and assemblyman to put forth a bill (in packet) to have the standards determined by agencies that include members of the NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets and the ASPCA rather than the City of NY and its agencies (NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene). The senator and bill number are Andrew Lanza S8068 and the assemblyman and bill number are Michael Cusick A11699. The Farm bureau supports the bill. A motion to adjourn the board meeting was made by Shannon Budnik, seconded by Colleen Segarra. Motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm. During lunch George King announced that the Horse Person of the Year is Shannon Budnik and that the Lifetime Achievement award is awarded to Cherryl Mitchell. After lunch there were several speakers and a harness horse demonstration. Walter Varcoe spoke about mortality composting and brought a skeleton that he reconstructed and is taking to the World Equestrian Games. Josh Nelson gave a talk about manure composting.

In attendance: George King, Teresa Passaretti, Deb Morano, Charles Sawicki, Bob Pfohl, Janet Pfohl, Jim Leising, Leah Leising, Steve Ropel, Heide King, Maura McGuckin, Dana Delfino, Cherryl Mitchell, Autumn Fitzpatrick, Carol Fitzpatrick, Colleen Segarra, Debbie Shecter, Dolores Schaub, Lynne Garfinkel, Gail Nardozzi, Barry Mignone, Klaus Selmayer, John D. Barne, Sara Chevako, Kathy Pratt, Jean Arledge, Jean Rhuda, Lynndee Kemmet, Sharon Young Slate, Gary Slate, Mark Gisselbrecht, Debbie Botbyl, Shannon Budnik, Theresa Uciechowski, Chip Watson, Annette Doerr, Carol Laskos.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Passaretti.