

NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.  
Organizational Budget and Planning Meeting

January 24, 2004

The Organizational Meeting of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. was held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 840 Upper Front Street in Binghamton, NY. NYSHC President George King called the meeting to order at 10:42 AM. A quorum was declared with 17 officers and directors in attendance.

Present:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President George King                     | Capitol Region Director Stephen Ropel      |
| Treasurer Marguerite Illing               | Central Region Director Sara Chevako       |
| Rec. Secretary Donna Russell              | Mid-Hudson Region Director Chip Watson     |
| Capital Regional V.P. Marsha Himler       | Mid-Hudson Region Director Debbie Morano   |
| Central Regional V.P. Elissa Sawyer       | Southern Tier Region Director Betsy Jensen |
| Finger Lakes Regional V.P. Susan Knauer   | Western Region Director Mary Ann Byers     |
| Mid-Hudson Regional V.P. Harry Stokes     | Palisades Chapter Pres. Dale Robinson      |
| Northern Regional V.P. Karen Lassell      |  |
| Southern Tier Regional V.P. Daryel Jensen | <u>Also:</u>                               |
| Western Regional V.P. Robert Pfohl        | Teri Parker, Western Region                |
|   | Paula Leonard, Newsletter Chair            |
|   | Janet Pfohl, Western Region                |

Excused: President Emeritus Diane Jones, Central Region Dir. Naomi Blumenthal, Finger Lakes Director Barbara Galbraith, Southeast Region Dir. Cherryl Mitchell, and Western Chapter Pres. Susan Braen.

NYSHC Awards – President King reiterated the 2003 awards made at the Annual Meeting: Horsepersons of the Year were Jim and Sue Knauer, Carolyn Moore and Paula Leonard; Lifetime Achievement was Diane Jones. A plaque, hand painted by Betsy Jensen, was presented to last year's Lifetime Achievement award recipient, Debbie Morano.

2004 Meetings Established – President King reported that the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building in Binghamton has been reserved for the April 24 and September 25, 2004 meetings. Details for the Annual meeting have not yet been determined.

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Angeline Chudzinski, long-time member and friend of the New York State Horse Council. Robert Pfohl moved that the Horse Council make a donation (\$100) in recognition of Angie Chud and her accomplishments. Seconded by Marguerite Illing. All ayes. Carried.

Executive Vice President – Robert Pfohl moved to appoint Debbie Morano as Executive Vice President for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2005. Seconded by Karen Lassell. All ayes. Carried.

Approval of Minutes – Marguerite Illing moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2003 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Chip Watson. All ayes. Carried.

Mary Ann Byers moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2003 Board of Directors and Annual Membership meeting with the following correction: Page 1, MHM Report, Ms. Byers also noted that a ~~treasurer~~ **recorder** has been hired for the program... etc. Seconded by Marsha Himler. All ayes. Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Illing reported relative to the General Account cash flow to date as the total inflow in the amount of \$51,950 and total outflow in the amount of \$45,322, for an overall total of \$6,628. The Treasurer presented the Account Balance Report as follows:

| <b>Bank Accounts</b>              | <b>General Fund</b> | <b>MHM</b> | <b>Trail Grant</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Savings - Scholarships Acct.      | 3,066.17            |            |                    |
| NYSHC Savings                     | 7,470.55            |            |                    |
| Jefferson Bank – General Checking | 12,932.10           |            |                    |
| NY100 Mile                        | 1,916.64            |            |                    |
| Pleasure Trail Ride               |                     |            |                    |
| Continued...                      |                     |            |                    |

| (Bank Accounts)       | (General Fund)     | (MHM)              | (Trail Grant)      |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pleasure Trail CD     | 2,739.77           |                    |                    |
| Directory CD          |                    |                    |                    |
| MHM CD Builder        |                    | 55,179.72          |                    |
| MHM Checking Account  |                    | 381.46             |                    |
| MHM Savings HSBC Bank |                    |                    |                    |
| NYS Trail Grant       |                    |                    | 74,541.75          |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>\$28,125.23</b> | <b>\$55,561.18</b> | <b>\$74,541.75</b> |

**OVERALL TOTAL \$ 158,228.16**

Stephen Ropel moved to receive and file the treasurer's report. Seconded by Daryel Jensen. All ayes. Carried.

2004 Budget – Treasurer Illing presented a proposed 2004 budget based on the breakdown of the 2003 budget and after review and some discussion, several changes were made. **Stephen Ropel moved to accept the 2004 NYSHC General Account and MHM budgets as follows. Seconded by Daryel Jensen. All ayes. Carried.**

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT BUDGET

| Income                        |                 | Expenses                     |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ads                           | 0               | Advertising (license plates) | 5,004           |
| Contributions                 | 0               | AHC                          | 1,248           |
| Directory (-3,000)            | 7,656           | Association Dues             | 360             |
| Dues                          |                 | Awards                       | 120             |
| General                       | 4,068           | Bank Charges                 |                 |
| Insurance Payment             | 7,872           | Contingency                  | 456             |
| OCHC                          | 1,248           | CPA - Audit Review           | 408             |
| Palisades                     | 1,596           | Goodwill                     |                 |
| Putnam                        | 1,884           | Insurance Expense            | 13,776          |
| Ulster                        | 1,224           | Meeting Expense              | 576             |
| Westchester                   | 2,052           | Membership                   | 4,764           |
| Western                       | 3,996           | Newsletter                   | 3,204           |
| Dues – Other                  | 0.00            | Pleasure Ride                | 8,160           |
| Fontana Trail Fund (one time) | 924             | Postage                      | 12              |
| HC Ways & Means               | 2,460           | President Expense            | 1,356           |
| Interest Received             | 180             | Executive V.P                |                 |
| Meetings                      | 240             | Recording Secretary          |                 |
| Pleasure Ride Trail Ride      | 7,920           | Regional V.P. (150 each)     | 108             |
| Reimbursement                 | 252             | Safety Committee             |                 |
| Restricted                    | 0               | Scholarship Fund             |                 |
| Stormy Fund                   | 0               | Supplies                     |                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>           | <b>\$43,572</b> | Trail Grant                  |                 |
|                               |                 | Trails                       | 276             |
|                               |                 | Treasurer                    |                 |
|                               |                 | Ways & Means                 | 504             |
|                               |                 | Web Page                     | 432             |
|                               |                 | <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>\$40,764</b> |

Horse Council Directory – President King stressed the need for ads for the Horse Council Directory and noted that a theme is still needed for this year's directory. Several suggestions were made for a theme including MHM and Trails. President King said information is also needed for the Horse Council pages of the Directory and asked that officers email him the information soon as possible as the Directory will be published in April.

Fontana Trail Fund – President King reported that previously grant funds were received from Cold River Ranch in memory of Joe Fontana lawsuit and provisionally designated for use in a trail project. He suggested that these funds be added to the scholarship fund and the Horse Council concurred. It was noted that the application for a scholarship is on the website and is available to Horse Council members and family attending a NYS school with an equine related field of study.

Stormy Fund – Stormy was stolen from owner Kathy Kennedy, January 2003, in Henrietta, NY. He was found cinched tight to a tree and deliberately shot to death a few weeks ago. He had been well cared for during the past ten months and was in perfect health per autopsy by Cornell.

As many horse folks and friends have inquired, Kathy and her family requested that the New York State Horse Council set up a restricted "Stormy Reward Fund" leading to the arrest of person or person (s) responsible. If not used for this purpose, the funds will be donated to [www.netposse.com](http://www.netposse.com) for their assistance and also the Hunter that found Stormy.

Correspondence – Southern Tier Regional VP (Acting) Daryl Jensen read correspondence from a group called the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. The group, based in Elizabeth, Illinois, is requesting support for a nationwide initiative dedicated to bringing equestrians together to address the need to protect and preserve land. Discussion ensued and questions were raised about the organization. Central Region Director Sara Chevako indicated that the group is well connected nationally, however, she would research the subject further and make a report at the April meeting. *The matter was deferred to the April meeting.*

MHM Program – Mary Ann Byers updated the Council on the MHM Program. She had copies of the prize list with her and suggested that anyone wishing to may take some with them. Mrs. Byers indicated that the MHM would be self-supporting this year and hoped that everyone present would make a pledge before leaving today. She stated that there are some problems with the State Fairgrounds and asked if anyone could suggest an alternate location to run the classes and the show. Marguerite Illing said she believed that the intent of the program when conceived by Senator Bruno was to hold the events at the State Fair. The consensus of the group was to document the problems and present a statement of the problem and need. Marsha Himler and Mary Ann Byers would develop a summary of the problems and needs for President King to present to the State Fair Board.

New Chapter – Western Regional VP Robert Pfohl reported a new chapter is being formed in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties. He indicated that the "Cattchau" group is ambitiously getting memberships and is already planning activities. Mr. Pfohl said they are looking into several activities and riding events that would tie into the rails and trails project including a new trail concept called "Leave No Trace" being developed to leave the trail better than when entered.

Western Region Vacancy – Discussion was held regarding the vacancy left when Robert Pfohl was elected Regional VP in the Western Region. Marguerite Illing moved to appoint Teri Parker as Western Region Director for the remainder of a two-year term expiring December 31, 2004. Seconded by Daryl Jensen. Ayes all. Carried.

Lunch Recess -- The Horse Council recessed for lunch at 12 PM and reconvened at 1:10 PM.

License Plate Program – Karen Lassell reported the NYSHC license plates would be available within two to three weeks and the Horse Council has three years to sell 200 plates in order to recoup the funds. She noted that the initial cost for a plate is \$68 with an annual renewal cost of \$25.

Equine Seminar – Northern Regional VP Karen Lassell reported that Minor Institute is hosting an equine seminar on March 20. It was also noted that Horses 2004 would be held in Vermont the weekend of April 24.

Booths – Discussion ensued regarding plans for the NYSHC booths for the year and comments/suggestions included: *Empire Farms Days was very successful last year, however, more volunteers are needed; putting on seminars with Morrisville and Cornell Colleges; send in your videos to be pasted together into one.*

Chip Watson reported she is involved in a Saturday morning (7am – 8 am) live radio program on WTBQ Radio called “Horse Talk” which includes discussions, guests and question and answer time.

Volunteer Situation – *President King indicated that the vacant positions on the Horse Council must be filled and asked everyone with vacancies begin recruiting officers.*

Annual Meeting – *President King noted that a location is needed for the Annual meeting and there will be discussion regarding the matter at the April meeting. It was noted that the Capital Region was organizing the lunch for the April meeting.*

Legislative Update – *President King presented the list of proposed legislative bills for the year and asked that anyone wishing to take a position should bring it to him at the April meeting. Discussion ensued.*

Humane -- *President King summarized several Humane issues: regarding the slaughter bill, the HC has not changed its stance – it neither supports nor condemns it; relative to abuse laws, the Ag & Market Law is very vague on seizures and it usually becomes a local matter – a developed procedure is needed. President King and Central Region Director Chevako will develop a draft bill and asked that ideas and comments be emailed to them. Discussion would continue at the April meeting.*

#### Reports and Other Issues

- **Western Region** – Regional VP Pfohl reported: as he stated earlier, a new chapter is being formed, ground has been broken on the Rails to Trails project and local clubs are very busy working with the DEC and State Parks.
- **Palisades Chapter** – President Robinson reported the region is very busy with some new ideas including a “ride-a-thon” for Make a Wish Foundation, a fund raising calendar, a “spring fling” and some ongoing projects including trail events at Sterling Forest and the “adopt a highway” program. He noted the annual membership drive was very successful and he believes the insurance program has helped generate new members.
- **Orange County** – Chip Watson reported for Orange County: the Chapter is planning a fashion show, trails expansion. She also reported that there was concern about the Highland Park, Eagle Coalition and a possible education and hunting preserve.
- **Mid-Hudson** – Regional VP Harry Stokes reported that a new chapter may be forming in Dutchess County near Redhook.
- **Chapters** – *President King suggested that each Chapter submit a summary of activities for the newsletter and a list of their events for the website.*
- **State/Trail Grant** – Daryel Jensen reported that he is still looking for direction regarding the trail grant noting that easement language is still unresolved and now the DEC has suggested multiple use trails. Discussion ensued. There was concurrence that when members attend meetings, when the expense sheet is submitted it should include a report that can be published in the newsletter. Marguerite asked, regarding the trail grant monies, if it could be transferred into an interest bearing account for about three months. It was agreed that the transfer of the monies for three and six month certificates would not deter the project.

New Business – Extensive discussion ensued regarding the US Animal Identification Program (USAIP) and it was agreed that the Horse Council would work with the Farm Bureau and the Ag & Markets. Information would be posted on the Horse Council website.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

*Donna Philippono*  
Recording Secretary

\*\* *Follow-up items in italic.*