

NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting

April 24, 2004

A Board of Directors 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 10:39 AM. With 11 officers present, a quorum was not established.

Present:

President George King

Executive V.P. Debbie Morano

Rec. Secretary Donna Russell

Capital Regional V.P. Marsha Himler

Central Regional V.P. Elissa Sawyer

Western Regional V.P. Robert Pfohl

Central Region Director Sara Chevako

Mid-Hudson Region Director Chip Watson

Southern Tier Region Director Betsy Jensen

Western Region Director Mary Ann Byers

Palisades Chapter Pres. Dale Robinson

Also:

Janet Pfohl, Western Region

Excused: Treasurer Marguerite Illing, President Emeritus Diane Jones, Capital Region Director Stephen Ropel, Finger Lakes Regional V.P. Susan Knauer, Finger Lakes Director Barbara Galbraith, Mid-Hudson Regional V.P. Harry Stokes Northern Regional V.P. Karen Lassell Southeast Region Dir. Cherryl Mitchell, Southern Tier Regional V.P. Daryl Jensen, Western Region Director Teri Parker and Western Chapter Pres. Susan Braen.

President King stated that no action could be taken without a quorum and preceded with the non-action items on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2004 --- *This matter was deferred until a quorum of officers is present.*

Treasurer's Report--- *This matter was deferred until a quorum of officers is present.*

Formal Induction and Presentation of New Chapter – *This matter was deferred until a quorum of officers is present.*

Legislative Initiatives – President King updated the Board and distributed information on current legislative initiatives including: a new slaughter bill is being introduced in the Assembly by Assemblyman Glick – the bill (10426) was read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture; a bill sponsored by Senator Hoffmann that exempts receipts from the sale of commercial horse boarding operation services and horseshoeing supplies and services from sales and use taxes – the bill (6530) was read twice, referred to the investigations and government operations; a bill (1630) exempting horseshoeing supplies and services from sales and use taxes, sponsored by Assemblyman Parment was referred to ways and means; Senator Hoffmann is again sponsoring the inherent risk legislation – the bill hasn't gained respect of the legislature due to the trial lawyers and the board discussed horse groups gathering for a lobby day in Albany.

SUNY Morrisville – President King updated the Board on SUNY Morrisville's plans for a new Thoroughbred facility. The SUNY is asking the NYSHC to support its request to Senator Hoffmann to add \$1.5 million to the Morrisville State Capital Bonding request to build an "equine racing and rehabilitation" facility adjacent to their equine complex.

MHM Program – MHM Chair Mary Ann Byers said she feels the program is doing a lot for the Horse Council but she there are still some problems she is working on. The program does not have any big sponsors and she suggested that every Board member make a donation of \$100 or more. She said that other locations are being considered other than the State Fair. The paperwork has been reduced and it has been made as easy as possible. The money is being given out at the State Fair and the high point award has been doubled. Discussion ensued relative to moving some of the events. Marsha Himler suggested moving the driving event to Walnut Hill this year. President King directed the Committee discuss the matter as a group and email its recommendation to him.

Ms. Byers introduced a coloring book program for consideration by the Board as a fundraiser to benefit the MHM program. Those present were interested in the prospect and further information would follow.

State Fair Horse Show Issues – President King indicated that he has been approached concerning horse show issues at the State Fair. Discussion included issues relative to the pleasure show judge and the facility itself. They are trying to do a first class show in a second-class facility. The fairgrounds are in need major cleanup and the biggest problem is with the condition of the horse stalls. Ms. Byers said she feels that they are making progress.

Lunch Recess – The group recessed for lunch from 12 PM to 1 PM.

Southern Tier Region Vacancy – Secretary Philippone introduced the prospective candidate for Southern Tier Region Director, Suzanne Etherington of Cortland, NY. Ms. Etherington is a Southern Tier Regional Field Officer for the NYS Education Department and a horse owner. She is a member of the Central NY Horse Club and her particular interests are disaster response and trail riding. She is a multi-use trail advocate. ***The matter was deferred until the next meeting or when a quorum of officers is present.***

USDA and ID Program – President King introduced guest speaker, Dr. Leslie Personett of the USDA to update the Board on the Animal Identification Plan. Dr. Personett explained that the US Animal Identification Plan is a system for standardizing ID for many kinds of animals. The ID tracking system will allow the rapid detection of who was exposed to quickly trace back to all animals that have come into contact with a diseased animal. She reviewed the steps taken to date. Dr. Personett noted that an ID plan for horses has not yet been developed, however, the AHC is working on the plan. he asked that any ideas or comments be emailed to her. President King said complete information regarding the USAID plan would be posted to the NYSHC website.

Empire Farm Days – The annual Empire Farm Days would be held on August 10, 11 and 12, 2004 in Seneca Falls, NY. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

License Plate Program – President King reported the NYSHC license plate program is underway and encouraged everyone to purchase their license plates. He noted the initial cost for a plate is \$68 with an annual renewal cost of \$25 and the \$25 renewal fee goes to the Horse Council.

Horse Council 2004 Directory – President King reported that the directory was put out for publication by him with no input and referred to his request to officers in December and January that information was needed for the Horse Council pages of the Directory.

Horse Council Newsletter – President King reported a proposal has been discussed with Dr. Terry Martin of the Cattaraugus County Planning and Development Office relative to producing the Newsletter. They would produce the newsletter for the NYSHC and in return would be allowed to include a special feature or insert on its countywide Equestrian Initiative in support of the equestrian lifestyle in the region. The NYSHC would have the finished newsletter product to print and distribute. Information for the newsletter would be emailed to the department in Little Valley where it would be compiled into a final electronic file. Discussion ensued relative to the content of the newsletter and the possibility of sending it out electronically to members. ***President King asked officers email him with their comments.***

Humane Issues – President King updated the group on standardizing large animal seizures and indicated that Maryland has a workable program. He stated that Sara Chevako is gathering information from Pennsylvania and together they will be compiling information. The President noted that the Farm Bureau is also working on a document. He indicated that an education is needed that not only trains people in what to look for, but how to conduct a seizure and what to do with the horse after a seizure.

Annual Meeting – President King reported that Executive VP Debbie Morano is planning the annual meeting with the site to be in the Palisades or Saratoga region. ***He deferred discussion to the September meeting relative to a proposal to change the annual meeting from December to April.***

Nominations – Nominations Chair Heide King distributed a Statement of Intent to those holding an office that is up for re-election.

New Chapters – ***President King reported that new chapters are being formed that would be deferred to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum:*** Erie / Niagara Counties and Cattaraugus / Chautauqua Counties.

Milton and Malta Trails – Capital Region Director Fiona Farrell updated the group on the process of the towns of Malta and Milton to develop their trail systems to include horses. Milton has done an equine survey, a petition was signed and

signs will be posted at the trailhead stating no entrance without permission. They would like to connect to the State trails. Malta is having more difficulty, as the Town Recreation Superintendent is not in favor of horses on the trails. ***Suggestions and input is requested on developing/convertng to multi-use trails.***

AHC Meeting on Trails – President King reported on the AHC meeting as relative trails that there will be monies allocated this year through the DOT for trails development and groups can apply for a grant based on certain criteria. Further information will be posted on the Horse Council website.

Malta Horse Park – Information was distributed and Capital Regional VP Marsh Himler updated the group on a proposal/plan for the development of the Malta horse farm for use as an Equine Center.

Reports and Other Issues

- Trail Rider's Comment Cards – Information was distributed on obtaining trail rider's comment cards. ***The information will be emailed to the Board.***
- Club Memberships – Question was raised if a club member receives the NYSHC discount on events such as the Fall Pleasure Ride. ***Chip Watson will draft a position on the matter.***
- Weekend Trail Ride – The NYSHC Finger Lakes Region is sponsoring a Weekend Trail Ride at the Wyomoco 4-H Camp in Varysburg, NY on August 27 – 29, 2004.
- 2003 Annual Meeting – Appreciation noted to the Western Chapter and Carol Schmelz for hosting the 2003 Annual Meeting in December.
- Email Messages – The President will continue forwarding emails to the Board members.
- Banners—Still needed.

Adjournment – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4 PM.

Donna Philipponne
Recording Secretary

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