

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

September 25, 2004

A Board of Directors Meeting of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. was held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building in Binghamton, NY. NYSHC President George King called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM with a quorum of 21 officers and directors in attendance.

Present:

President George King	Capital Region Director Fiona Farrell
Executive Vice President Debra Morano	Capital Region Director Stephen Ropel
President Emeritus Diane Jones	Central Region Director Sara Chevako
Recording Secretary Donna Philippone	Mid-Hudson Region Director Chip Watson
Capital Regional V.P. Marsha Himler	Southern Tier Region Director Betsy Jensen
Finger Lakes Regional V.P. Susan Knauer	Southern Tier Region Director Suzanne Etherington
Mid-Hudson Regional V.P. Harry M. Stokes	Western Region Director Mary Ann Byers
Northern Regional V.P. Karen Lassell	Western Region Director Teri Parker
Southeast Regional V.P. Richard London	Cat-Chau Counties Chapter Pres. Kathy Calanni
Southern Tier Regional V.P. Daryel Jensen	Putnam County Chapter Pres. Jean Arledge
Western Regional V.P. Robert Pfohl	

Also:

Janet Pfohl, Seniors Chair	Catt-Chaut Chapter V.P. Jim Leising
Colleen Segarra, Humane Chair	Catt-Chaut Chapter Treasurer Leah Leising
Dru Malavese, Safety Chair	Gary Easton, MHM Draft Pony Chair
Heide King, Nominations Chair	Gail Nardozi, Membership Chair

Excused: Treasurer Marguerite Illing, Central Regional V.P. Elissa Sawyer, Finger Lakes Region Dir. Barbara Galbraith, Southeast Region Dir. Cherryl Mitchell, Western Chapter Pres. Susan Braen.

Approval of Minutes – Diane Jones moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2004 Board of Directors meeting and the unofficial meeting of April 24, 2004. Seconded by Robert Pfohl. Ayes all. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report – The Board reviewed Treasurer’s Report including the inflows and outflows of the General, Trail Grant and MHM accounts. Diane Jones moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report as follows:

Bank Accounts	General Fund	MHM	Trail Grant
Savings - Scholarships Acct.	3,084.10		
NYSHC Savings	7,483.59		
General Checking Jefferson Bank	15,905.15		
NY100 Mile	1,916.64		
Pleasure Trail CD	2,760.29		
MHM CD Builder		44,895.84	
MHM Checking Account		549.17	
MHM Savings HSBC Bank			
NYS Trail Grant			4,541.75
NYS Trail Grant Money Market			70,386.95
Totals	\$31,149.77	\$45,445.01	\$74,928.70

OVERALL TOTAL \$151,523.48
Seconded by Harry Stokes. Ayes all. Carried.

Legislative Update – President George King updated the Board on the inherent risk legislation noting that opposition is still being received from the trial lawyers, however pressure is being put on legislators from groups including the Farm Bureau and the Breeders Association. Central Region Director Sara Chevako reported that a bill introduced in the Senate relative to the collection of sales tax by boarding farms was not accepted in the Assembly and will be re-introduced.

Audit Report -- President King reported that receipt of the audit report has been extended to December. Diane Jones asked for clarification on the fee schedule noting that she was of the understanding that the later the audit is received, the less the cost would be. President King said there were some delays and discussion between Ms. Illing and the auditor due to incompatible programs used.

Requests for Donations – President King reported that correspondence was received from the American Association of Equine Practitioners requesting a donation for its Annual Foundation Auction. The consensus of the Board was to decline.

The AYHC has requested sponsorship from the Horse Council for its 2005 National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium which will be held on February 18 to 20, 2005 in State College, PA. The event will directly benefit youth that are accepting leadership roles in the industry. **Richard London moved to sponsor the event with a \$100 donation. Seconded by Diane Jones. Ayes all. Carried.**

A request from Margo Cullen of New York and member of the Ulster County Chapter of the NYSHC for sponsorship in the upcoming Morgan Nationals was declined by the Board for the reason that the Horse Council does not have the mechanism in place to support exhibitors wishing to compete in events.

Introduction of Catt-Chaut Chapter – Western Regional VP Robert Pfohl introduced the officers of the newly formed Cattaraugus – Chautauqua Counties Chapter as follows: President Kathy Calanni, Vice-President Jim Leising and Treasurer Leah Leising.

Empire Farm Days -- Western Regional VP Robert Pfohl reported that the Empire Farm Days was an opportunity for the Horse Council to present itself to a statewide audience and it was very successful. He thanked Jim and Sue Knauer for their assistance throughout the event and noted that many membership forms were picked up. Discussion ensued regarding developing videos that could be played at events.

Syracuse Invitational Sport Horse Show Event – President King reported information was received regarding the Syracuse Invitational Sport Horse Show event being held at the On Center in Syracuse on November 3 through 7, 2004. He stated that if the Horse Council would like to have a booth at the event, volunteers would be needed to staff it. Southern Tier Region Director Suzanne Etherington and Central Region Director Sara Chevako volunteered to assist.

MHM Program – President King, referring to the grievance filed by Sue Coleman, reported that correspondence was received from Ms. Coleman indicating that she was pleased with the outcome and she hopes that all can work together to promote horse sport of all types and breeds without prejudice.

MHM Chair Mary Ann Byers reported that the Coloring Books have arrived and can be sold for \$8 to benefit the MHM Program. It was noted that as there was no quorum at the last meeting when the matter was discussed, a vote was taken via email on the following motion: that Mary Ann Byers be authorized to spend \$1,050 to purchase the initial ten boxes of coloring books as an MHM

Fund Raiser and that said books be sold for \$8 – \$10 each. There were 22 votes in favor and none opposed.

MHM Report was submitted by Chair Mary Ann Byers with a recommendation from the MHM Committee that the program continue. She reported that sponsorships have brought in \$8,900 and noted the coloring book fundraiser has the potential to bring in over \$3,000. Ms. Byers said some of the suggestions for the 2005 MHM include expanding exhibitors beyond the Chair's area, revising the point system and keep nominating fees and qualifying class entry fees at \$10 each. She said there are several positions that need to be filled in the Program including a Record Keeper. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of running the program. The Committee was asked to bring back a plan to keep the program running within a budget before November 1.

Lunch Break – The Board recessed for lunch at 12:10 PM and reconvened at 1:10 PM.

License Plate Program – Karen Lassell reported that 25 license plates have been sold and noted a total of 250 must be sold by April of 2006. Ms. Lassell noted that plates couldn't be purchased for trailers. It was suggested that the plates be advertised in the Equine Journal.

The Directory – President King reported that correspondence was received from USP indicated that it was terminating the agreement to publish and market advertising for the annual Horse Council Directory. Discussion ensued regarding possible alternatives. A committee consisting of Sue Knauer as Chair, Richard London, Fiona Farrell and Debbie Morano was established to research the matter and report its findings at the December meeting.

Humane Issues Status – President King distributed information regarding the Horse Welfare Coalition for Board discussion. There was extensive discussion regarding the need for the HC to develop constructive language with regard to the Sweeney slaughter bill. Capital Region Director Fiona Farrell would work with the Humane Chair on proposing language for the bill and re-look at the model prepared by George King. Central Region Director Sara Chevako reported she has been gathering information relative to illegal seizure and rescue and offered to assist Humane Chair Colleen Segarra in preparing a proposal for the HC to review.

Annual Meeting Program – President King distributed the Annual Meeting Announcement noting it will be held at West Point on December 4, 2004.

Malta Horse Park – Capital Regional VP Marsha Himler updated the Board on the Malta Horse Park stating that a presentation was made to the Malta Town Board and that the Saratoga County Fairgrounds are also looking at the property. She noted that presentation used was similar to the New Jersey Horse Park Plan. Ms. Himler said she would like to make a presentation to Senators Bruno and Hoffmann.

Horse Council Meeting Schedule – Mid-Hudson Region Director Chip Watson proposed to the Board that the annual meeting be changed to September rather than December. It was noted that such an action would require a By-Laws change. Discussion ensued relative to the options of holding quarterly meetings, conference call meetings. **Richard London moved that routine decisions may be made via conference calls when needed. Seconded by Suzanne Etherington. Ayes all. Carried. President King suggested that a proposal be brought to the next meeting.**

It was noted that the January Organizational meeting would be held in Binghamton on January 22, 2005.

Formal Vote of the Board – President King stated that a formal vote of the Board on two items that were proposed to members via email. It was suggested that a procedure is needed to vote or concur on matters through email, however, a by-laws change would be required.

On the motion emailed to the Board to approve funding in the amount of \$2,500 for the Brookfield Stall Gate project, the vote was as follows: 22 ayes; 0 nays and no response from eight members. Carried.

On the motion emailed to the Board to approve funding in the amount of \$1,050 for the MHM “Big Coloring Book” Fund Raiser project, the vote was as follows: 23 ayes; 0 nays and no response from seven members. Carried.

Fall Pleasure Ride – Finger Lakes Regional VP Sue Knauer updated the Board on the Fall Pleasure Ride in Brookfield on Columbus Day weekend. She noted that 80 people have registered and the box stalls have been filled.

Volunteer Situation – President King indicated that a Treasurer is needed and noted the person would not be involved with the MHM financials as intensively as in the past.

Newsletter – President King reported that he would be compiling the newsletter and needs input from the Chapters.

Trail Subjects – Regarding the Cazenovia Trail Grant, Central Region Director Sara Chevako undated the Board regarding the status of the project. She indicated that problems regarding easements and the DEC have delayed the project. Ms. Chevako noted that the DEC wants the easements to be permanent and also for multi use trails. A draft document has been drafted that is being reviewed.

There was discussion regarding development of a support CD for use by clubs and members to use as a resource and information would be posted on the website.

Janet Pfohl reported the western region is working on a brochure similar to the “Leave No Trace” brochure from Pennsylvania.

Reports and Other Issues – Mid Hudson Region Director Chip Watson reported that a local soil and water conservation survey is being conducted relative to manure management and once the information is compiled, grant funding would be available to assist with implementation.

Zoning Support Information – Mid-Hudson Regional VP Harry Stokes reported on the zoning support information CD being developed that would contain a general outline of articles with steps, definitions, strategies and checklist. Information would include articles on animal husbandry, space requirements, environmental concerns, composting, sample guidelines from other jurisdictions and a resource list.

AHC Meeting – President King asked if anyone would want to attend the AHC SHCC meeting in Ohio in November. Several members were interested in attending.

Boulder Brook Stables – Moral support is needed to save an historic horse stable in Scarsdale, NY. The Board concurred to have the President send a letter. It was noted the stable has been recommended for placement on the Historic Register.

Job Descriptions – President King reported that a member of the Board has suggested that job descriptions need to be written for all board members. Several members spoke in support of the suggestion. It was recommended that each group get together to determine what their duties are. Chairs for each group were appointed as follows: Karen Lassell to regional vice presidents, Suzanne Etherington to directors, Chip Watson to chapter presidents.

Assessment Sheets – President King reported that the Agriculture Environment Management Horse Farm Assessment Sheets were sent out for the Board to review. It was noted that it is a good guide, however concern was raised that it could become requirements. President King suggested the Board get their comments in to him and he would convey them to the Farm Bureau.

Club Discount – President King reported that he received an email from someone asking if club members were entitled to receive discounts to Horse Council activities similar to regular members. It was clarified that club members do not receive membership privileges and that such is stated on the membership form.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the NYSHC adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Donna Philippone
Recording Secretary