

President King stated that with Margueritte Illing's resignation, a volunteer has stepped forward to fill the vacancy in the position of Treasurer. **Fiona Farrell moved to appoint Stephen Ropel as Treasurer, for the remainder of the two-year term expiring December 31, 2006.** Seconded by Harry Stokes. Ayes all. Carried.

MHM Program – President King stated that Horse Council has to make a decision whether to continue the MHM Program and gave the floor the Committee Chairs, Marsha Himler and Mary Ann Byers.

Marsha Himler stated that with no program changes, the 2005 MHM program would run with a shortfall of \$22,860. She expressed concern that if the MHM Program closed in 2005 to regroup, the momentum would be lost and the program may die. However, with \$38,000 left in the program, changes would be needed in order to continue the MHM. She presented three options for the Board to review and additionally made several recommendations for the Board to consider including reducing the cost of producing the MHM Brochure by making it a photocopy able document. Ms. Himler proposed the following options and comparisons:

Assumptions - Options I and II:

- All NYSHC members will be eligible for the program as a part of their membership.
- \$10 of every paid membership will be designated to support the NYSHC year-end award program.
- Sponsorships will remain at the 2004 level less the \$1,100 from saddle seat.
- Assume 72 new memberships from previous non-member MHM participants.

Result: with 645 projected - total income for award program would be \$21,075.

Assumptions - Options I, II and III:

- Assume a decline in numbers by approximately 26%
- Assume number of participants estimated at 196 –200
- Assume drop in number of points paid by 25%

Result: 1586 points

Option I:

1586 points paid at \$3 per point	\$ 4,758
Ch Prize money 7 at \$1,500, 1 at \$3,000	13,500
High point at \$500 per division	4,000
Shared costs	6,500
Total costs	\$28,758
Less income	21,075
Shortfall	- 7,683
Shortfall without sponsorship money	- 16,008

Option II:

1586 points pad at \$3 per point	\$ 4,758
Ch Prize money 7 at \$1,000, 1 at \$1,500	8,500
High point trophy at \$150 each	1,200
Shared costs	6,500
Total costs	\$20,958
Less income	21,075
Profit	117

Shortfall without sponsorship money - 8,208

Option III:

Assume the 121 NYSHC 2004 member/participants will participate in 2005	
Assume 75 new HC members (50% of 2004 non-member participants)	
Total award program participants	196
196 x \$15 (per agreement that HC will contribute this amount for MHM participants) = 2940	
196 x \$10 nomination fee = 1960	
Income from participants	\$ 4,900
Plus income from shows	6,300
Plus sponsorship money	8,325
Total Income	19,525
Less costs per Option I	\$28,758
Shortfall	- 9,233
Shortfall without sponsorship	- 17,558
Less costs per Option II	\$20,958
Shortfall	- 1,433
Shortfall without sponsorship	- 9,758

Extensive discussion ensued. President King said the MHM Program has done a lot of good for the Horse Council. Some suggested changes to the program included: marketing the program, dropping less popular classes, removing the state resident requirement, actively obtaining donations from tack shops and veterinarians, changing the name of the program. Mary Ann Byers stated that the help of all Horse Council members is needed to make the MHM better. She suggested separate mailings asking for sponsors. Ms. Byers said re-working the MHM is better than closing it.

A motion was made by Kristen Tregar to adopt Option III with sponsorship (5 nays); with \$1,000, \$1,500 prize money and High Point Trophy (1 nay). Seconded by Jim Knauer. Carried.

Presentation – Side Saddle Riding – Judi Houghtaling presented an overview of the history of side saddle riding. She and her daughter, Staci Doty demonstrated the art of side saddle riding as well as the period costumes and the various saddle styles. Ms. Houghtaling noted that although side saddle riding had been forgotten for quite some time, there has been a resurgence since the early 1970's and she encouraged people to consider it.

Lifetime Achievement Award – The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Margueritte Illing. She will be presented the award at the Organizational Meeting in January.

Horse Person of the Year – The Horse Person of the Year was awarded to Anne Filley.

Lunch Break – The Board recessed for lunch at 12:05 PM and reconvened at 1:25 PM.

Presentation – West Point Facility Morgan Farm – Peter Cashman, manager of the West Point Facility Morgan Farm and coach to the Cadet Equestrian Team, presented an overview of West Point's equestrian programs and the development of the facility.

Elections/Affirmation of Nominations Slate – Nominations Chair Heide King reported that four responses were received and therefore, everyone on the nominations slate has been elected.

HHAP Program – President King reported that the New York State Horse Health Assurance Program (NYSHHAP) will be offering to its certified member farms a “Microchip Benefit” which would provide permanent identification for their animals. He said Dr. Lyda Denney of the NYS Department of Ag & Market has asked that the Horse Council help get the information out on the HHAP programs. Further, she has requested that the Horse Council consider furthering its support of the NYSHHAP by offering a free or discounted membership in the NYSHC to certified farms. Discussion ensued. Elissa Sawyer moved to authorize a one year membership to the NYSHC for the HHAP certified farms with the recommendation that the Horse Council Logo be put on the Certification Plaque. Seconded by Sue Knauer. Ayes all. Carried.

The Equine Journal – President King reported that The Equine Journal has proposed a new Affiliation Agreement for 2005. The Journal is offering Horse Council members a subscription to The Equine Journal for \$7 per member/household per year. This agreement differs from past agreements in that rather than members opting for the Journal themselves and including the \$7 fee, the Journal is proposing that the Horse Council pay the \$7 for each member to receive the Journal. Discussion ensued. *The matter was held over for further review.*

Country Folks – Correspondence was received from Country Folks Farm Papers, a weekly regional agricultural newspaper offering the following: publish four issues per year containing a NYSHC section; within that section they will publish a feature story on one or more of the NYSHC’s members; send a six month Country Folks subscription to all Horse Council members, compliments of the NYSHC. Country Folks would like the Horse Council to: provide a list of members to receive a subscription to County Folks; provide editorial copy to fill at least one page in Country Folks; provide names of members who would be interested in being the subject for feature stories. President King noted that the Board of Directors must approve giving out the NYSHC membership mailing list.

Steve Ropel said Country Folks is one of the best rural newspapers in the State. The question was raised as to whether it could be tied into the Horse Council newsletter or the Directory. Discussion ensued. **Sara Chevako moved to approve an agreement with Country Folks and authorize release of the membership mailing list to Country Folks Farm Papers. Seconded by Steve Ropel. All ayes. Carried.**

Country Supply Program – President King reported that Country Supply has a program where an organization can create a code and every time you shop, Country Supply will donate up to 5% of your purchases to your organization. It was noted that in order for the Horse Council to get the donation, the purchaser must enter the Country Care Code. The consensus was that it would be a worthwhile venture.

NASS Report – Steve Ropel reported that the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) would be conducting its annual statistics program. He indicated that an equine survey will be done in 2006 and NASS will be collecting more information on the economic side of it. Comments regarding the survey are encouraged.

Brookfield Fall Pleasure Ride – Sue and Jim Knauer reported on the 36th annual Brookfield Fall Pleasure Ride held over Columbus Day weekend. Some of the highlights of the event included: a pacer was held on the Glen Bacon Trail; DEC Forester Robert Off was a speaker; in attendance were 52 non-HC members, 21 HC members and 9 non-riders; the 50/50 raffle netted \$156 which would be used toward new wheelbarrows for Brookfield; the auction and the ways and means earned \$1,200. Concern was raised during the event that the trails were muddy and didn’t appear to be well maintained. Although Barn 3 was completely cleaned up by the committee members and new boards

put up across the front to convert it into large stalls, there is still work to be done. The rides went well and it was a successful event that brought in \$1,601.45.

John Baruc suggested limiting the Fall Pleasure Ride to members only. Jim Knauer stated that the ride would not fill up if it were limited to members. He suggested that the Horse Council be promoted more actively and membership information be made available at all times during the event.

NY100/60 and Trail Ride Clinic – The 34th annual 100 Mile and the 3rd annual 60 Mile Competitive Trail Ride was held June 30, July 1, 2 and 3, 2004. There were approximately 36 entries for both rides and with the nationwide decline in competitive trail riding; it was considered to be a good turnout. The Ride, which requires about 34 volunteers, is equipped to have a maximum of 60 horses and hopes to break even this year. Appreciation was noted to all of the volunteers. The Competitive Trail Ride Clinic was a successful three-day educational event sponsored by the Horse Council at Otter Creek.

AHC/SHCAC Meeting Report – Robert and Janet Pfohl attended the American Horse Council Meeting and its State Horse Council Advisory Committee Meeting in Dayton, OH on November 4, 2004. Discussions consisted primarily on *Trails* – know the land, the land managers, the political people and the trail groups and acknowledge / promote the accomplishments; *Animal Welfare* – continue educating the public and offering help to animal control offices as most are not horsemen; *Animal ID* -- most likely will be micro chips possibly by the year 2010. Discussion by the Issues Subcommittee included research on large animal emergency rescue, efforts to improve and standardize the animal supplement industry, revising the position statement of equine dentistry, development of a standardized chip reader for NAIS, AAEP guidelines relative to horse rescue and abuse issues and the great need for education on animal rights issues.

Chapter Reports

- **Western Chapter** – Region Director Mary Ann Byers reported for the Western Chapter that there has been much trail work done. The Chapter held it's annual meeting in November with the speaker for the event being a law firm discussing horseowners rights.
- **Ulster County** – Chapter President Diane Long reported that the chapter will be manning the Horse Council Booth at "Equifest" 2005, which will be held in Kingston, NY in March. She also reported the chapter was busy hosting horse fellowships, trail rides and a dressage event.
- **Putnam County** – Chapter President Jean Arledge reported that there were two hunter paces held and the Chapter has been talking with the State Park Ranger about working on trails. A new park has opened and the Chapter is working on getting the trails opened for horses.
- **Orange County** – Mid-Hudson Region Director Chip Watson reported for Orange County: the Chapter is planning a fashion show to be held at the harness racing museum. She also reported that six tack auctions were held, a Rotary Charity show was held and profits were donated to the Horse Council and also used to purchase bleachers for the show grounds.
- **Palisades** – Chapter President Dale Robinson reported the new trail system at Sterling Forest was almost ready to open; Chapter members have been doing trail work on the Stewart Trails and the Chapter held some successful fund raising events including a spring fling, Chinese auctions and sponsored a classic western at the movie theatre to benefit the Make a Wish Foundation.
- **Safety Committee** – Safety Chair Drusilla Malavase encouraged everyone to provide support to the local efforts relative to the Safety Initiative Program.
- **Directory Committee** – Sue Knauer is chairing a committee to develop a directory. She is looking into prices and asked that everyone send her business cards.

License Plate Program – President King reported that the issue relative to trailer license plates is still not resolved. Everyone was encouraged again to sponsor the NYS Horse Council by buying a license plate.

Annual Meeting Hosts – Appreciation was noted to the Orange County and Palisades Chapters and Mid-Hudson Region Director Chip Watson for hosting the 2004 Annual Meeting of the New York State Horse Council.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the NYSHC adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Donna Philippon
Recording Secretary