



***AGENDA: Annual General Meeting***

*September 15, 2018 ~ H.I.T.S. @ Saugerties, NY*

Call of meeting to order: President Steve Ropel

Determination of quorum:

Proof of notice of meeting:

Approval of minutes of the previous meeting: September 23, 2017 (see attached)

President's message: Steve Ropel

Vote for incoming officers: Nomination Committee Chair

Membership update:

Reports of officers: -see submitted reports

Reports of Committees: -see submitted reports

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Adjournment of meeting:

Next Meeting: November 3, 2018 at the SPOT Restaurant, Binghamton, NY

**New York State Horse Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**September 23, 2017**  
**The Knox Mansion, East Aurora, Binghamton, NY**

**Call to order:** 9:42 a.m. by President Steve Ropel

**Determination of Quorum:** A Quorum was established

**Proof of Notice of Meeting:** Posted on the website and printed in the two previous Newsletters

**Motion** by Peter Tarnawskyj to approve the Minutes of 4/1/2017. Seconded by Barbara Cunningham. Motion voted on and carried.

**President's Message:** A look at where we've been, where we are and where we're going. We have already accomplished a great deal and we're getting ready for the Legislative season. Thanks to all who have written and called regarding the Inherent Risk legislation. All of us must do our part to pass this critical Bill. We're counting on everyone to write or call. Become a member of your county Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau has lobbyists to deal with agricultural issues. These lobbyists are key in getting Inherent Risk passed. The NYS Horse Council's visit to Albany was critical. Legislators needed to hear from Horse Council and Farm Bureau members. Please use e-letters. The Inherent Risk Bill has gotten through the Legislature, but it is now on the Governor's desk. Send letters to the Governor's office to ask him to sign this Bill. This Bill does a lot for farms, stables and agricultural endeavors, but not much for the average horse owner. The Governor's office will look at the volume of letters For or Against this issue. Once the Bill is passed, we can then improve upon it. The Horse Council would like 25 to 50 people to go to Albany on Legislative Day. We don't know as yet what's coming up for the Legislature, but there are always horse welfare issues. The Horse Council will keep members informed and ask for member support. The Legislative year ends 12/31/17. The Governor has ten days after calling for the Bill to Approve or Veto it. He has until the end of January 2018 to do so. If he has not approved it by then, it is an automatic Veto. Please send a letter to your Legislator.

The New York State Horse Council website is undergoing an update and upgrade. Jeannette and Brad are working on this. Paula Pratt is unable to attend today's AGM. Paula has done a wonderful job getting the membership process automated and updated. PayPal brings in money for the Horse Council, streamlines the process and is working well.

The position of Treasurer is being moved to a professional bookkeeping/financial services company. The Executive Board solicited and received three price quotes/estimates for the hired job of Paid Bookkeeping. ELN Finances Company was the lowest bid and also had the most knowledge about NYSHC and horses in general. We are just starting this process and are not quite sure how to transition. We will require more automation. Missy will stay on during the transition. This should relieve 80% of the work for the Treasurer. We are asking all Horse Council members to do their part. Shannon Budnik has five PayPal swipes which process credit cards. One-third of the money Horse Council receives comes in through PayPal.

**Events:** The Gary Lane Clinic did not work out in 2017. Gary wants to come back in 2018 and do a benefit clinic. Tina Wolcott's clinic filled fast. We are looking at a possible driving clinic. We want to give Horse Council members opportunities and fun things to do. Please give all ideas and suggestions to your Board members. If you have expertise, please let us know. It would be nice to have an event in each Region.

**Jillian Keding**, Youth Representative, is a great ambassador for Horse Council. Jillian presented ribbons at the Walnut Hill Driving Competition in August. We need youth to replace us with their new and better

ideas. We need to encourage youth.

**Membership** is increasing. We now have over 800 members, an increase of 7 or 8% in the last few years. The insurance is an attraction. We would like to get 1,000 members.

The Horse Council gets telephone calls asking what the Horse Council's opinion is on various matters. We collaborate with Parks & Recs and Ag & Markets to get information out to horse owners. Our support of the NYC Carriage Horses carried weight. The Farm Bureau waited to see what the NYS Horse Council's position was before taking a position. How many horses does the NYS Horse Council represent? We would like that number.

**What is the Future?** Automation, events and trying to help our Equine buddies. If you can't say it's going to help the equine industry, then why are you doing it? We're focused on the welfare of the animals. If you have issues with the NYS Horse Council's positions, there are vacancies on the Board! Customer service is Number One. You will get a prompt response from Steve on any questions or issues. Where are you when we need you?

**Questions from the Floor:**

**Trails:** Does the NYS Horse Council have a presence on the Statewide Trails Committee? Yes. We have two members, Dan Gruen (trail member 21 years) and Carol Smeltz (Chair). Cattaraugus County is working on trails. How do we keep horse trails for horses only? Trail meetings are with State Parks, DEC, Federal Highway, Snowmobiles, Kayaks, ATV's, Hikers, Bikers and Walkers. Horses generate income for counties at approximately \$5,000 per horse. The American Horse Council Survey will be posted in October and New York is a breakout State. All trail users have their say to the heads of State departments at these meetings and they make a difference, such as stopping the black-topping of some trails. Pine Hill/South Valley in Cattaraugus County has adopted a trail and is responsible for trail maintenance. Maybe other areas could do this. What influences the DEC to put trails in certain places? It's political. The Horse Council has built relationships with the DEC and the State before there is a problem. These organizations know they can come to the Horse Council for help. Horse groups must contact their Regional DEC and get on the mailing list to know about public-comment meetings and attend these meetings. Hikers go to Washington, DC and lobby regarding Single-Use, Motorized and Non-Motorized trails. All trail questions can go to Steve, Mark, Dan or Carol. There is a Trail Council meeting on 10/14/17.

**Events:** What did the NYS Horse Council gain by hosting events? Exposure to non-members and a give-back to members and educational clinics. Steve would like to host a one-day symposium on equine issues (Politics, Biosecurity, Environment, Equine Welfare) and get action items on these. We need funding and sponsors for the venue and speakers. The Horse Council will host, probably in the Syracuse or central New York area. We may need national speakers with fees (meals, hotel, mileage, speaker fees). This would be great exposure, generate great information and be a wonderful event.

**Nomination Committee:** Gary and Sharon Young Slate are not present as they are attending a Technical Large Animal Rescue Training for their County.

**Motion** by Missy Whittington for the Secretary to cast one Ballot. Seconded by Butch George. Motion voted on and carried.

We will review the nominations and take nominations from the Floor.

Nominations from the Floor for Treasurer: None  
Capitol Region: None

Mid-Hudson: Chip Watson, VP  
Southern Tier: None for Director  
Northern Region: Karen Lassell  
Central: Sharon Young Slate  
Finger Lakes: Regional Director  
Mid-Hudson: Shannon Budnik & Alix Dench-Layton. Shannon Budnik, Director  
Western: Megen Mangold, Director. (Barbara Cunningham withdrew)

Steve would like to do on-line voting in the future. Forty ballots were returned. One write-in for Alix Dench-Layton, who is President now and would have to resign from President to become a Director.

**Membership:** At this meeting only, if you renew for 2018 or are a new member, you will get \$5 off. Give membership forms back to Jeannette. Missy can take credit cards and checks in payment. Paula did a great job and the membership has grown because of it. Shannon and Facebook connect with a lot of non-members. Alison: The Rolex Horse Show recognized the NYS Horse Council and gave us a \$1,000 donation. Things we can all do: Become a Mentor and take on a youth and sign them up for a membership. They may be eligible for the Scholarship in the future. Lissette has a Drone and will take videos of the carriage drive and post this to our website. Perhaps we can video trail rides as well. We can create videos for commercials, YouTube, Facebook and to show at trail meetings exactly what the Horse Council is doing. You can get a good quality Drone at Tractor Supply for a reasonable amount. Every Chapter should have a Membership Committee and be active. We need a brochure with bullet points on why someone should become a NYS Horse Council member. The membership list is for NYS Horse Council business purposes only.

**Jillian Keding:** Jillian spoke briefly after being introduced by Steve. She gave a quick update as to what she did during her first year as NYSHC Youth Ambassador. Jillian is preparing for Equi-Fest and she also went to Walnut Hill with Steve and Paula. Jillian is writing articles and working to get more youth members. Paula Pratt and Barbara Moore are working with Jillian.

**Scholarship:** There were three applicants for the NYS Horse Council's \$1,000 Scholarship. It was awarded to Katie Peterson who is a Freshman at SUNY Morrisville in Equine Science and Management. Unfortunately, Katie could not attend the AGM. The Scholarship is for any college or any certified program. Get the word out about this program. (\*\*note- see update at end of this document.)

**Youth/Scholarship Chair:** We need a volunteer for this. It currently is/was Paula and Jeannette. We need one dedicated person for this position. Please contact Jeannette.

**Unfinished Business: None**

**Report of Officers and Committees:** There are hard copies and this information is posted on-line. Get any outstanding reports to Jeannette and Mary Szarek for the Newsletter. We will post an e-mail regarding the Rolex show.

**New Business:** 2018 AGM, we need volunteers to step up and plan our 50<sup>th</sup> year. The By-Laws specify the AGM must be held in September. However, this conflicts with the Rolex show and the NYC people cannot attend. Some would like the AGM in the Mid-Hudson region since the NYS Horse Council was started in Kingston, NY. Shannon is checking into 9/18/18 in Ulster/Mid-Hudson. Can we change the meeting to the first week in November? Can the By-Laws be suspended? Lissette will check. Possibly hold the AGM during Columbus Day weekend/the Fall Trail Ride?

**Legislation:** None known

**Equi-Fest:** What is the budget for 2018? NYS Horse Council donated \$1,000 in the past. Would the Horse Council donate \$1,000 in 2018? We need to put this in the budget and check on insurance costs.

**Fall Ride:** Eighty-five people are registered. The stalls are filled, but there are camping spaces available. The ride will use the Brookfield Trail System. The trails are drying out and in good shape. The

Ride has good food and good people. It is a First Come, First Serve for stalls, but perhaps members can get a discount price to ride. We'll look into this, it may be a quick fix.

**Treasurer's Report:** From Facebook, the Network for Change gave us a \$50 donation. Alison has over \$1,000 in donations from her company. Smile Amazon uses Prime, has free shipping and Horse Council donates to itself when we use this. Debts: We have a charge of \$85 for Insufficient Funds. Missy is tracking this. Brad is doing a PayPal account for Friends of Otter Creek. The Fall Ride and Membership will each have their own PayPal account. Catt/Chau completed all requirements for reimbursement for membership (\$795). Missy has a meeting with Eva in October for transition of treasurer's duties. \$56,300 Money Market account, \$48,500 in the checking account, \$23,600 Friends of Otter Creek, \$21,726 PayPal, \$5,825.58 2017 Fall Ride (RSVP for registrations is working well), \$155,968 is the bottom line. The Executive Board needs to discuss the symposium and possibly funding it ourselves. We should look for sponsors. The Fall Ride expenses have not been taken out, but the Horse Council makes \$2,000 to \$3,000.

**Motion** by Diane Ermer to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Dan Gruen. Motion voted on and carried.

**Awards:**

**Horse Person of the Year = Tina Wolcott who embodies the spirit of what we're trying to achieve.**

**Lifetime Achievement = Barbara Cunningham who has worked for the NYS Horse Council and for horses.**

**Congratulations Tina and Barbara!**

**Motion** by Peter Tarnawskij to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.

**Update:** 9/28/2017: I hereby authorize the Treasurer of the NYS Horse Council to write a check in the amount of \$2,626.42 with one signature and send to Bravo Catering and Café for food and services provided at the NYSHC Annual Meeting at Knox Farm State Park, East Aurora, NY on September 22 - 23, 2017. This acknowledgement to temporarily suspend the two signature requirement is done to expedite payment of an outstanding bill in a timely manner. This waiver does not change in any manner our By Law requirement of two signatures required on checks written in the amount over \$1,000. The Secretary shall keep this note and file it with the minutes from the September 23, 2017 Annual General Meeting. Stephen Ropel, President, New York State Horse Council, [stephen.ropel@nyshc.org](mailto:stephen.ropel@nyshc.org)

Scholarship: 10/5/2017: Due to a technical error in the application of the previously announced winner, the NYS Horse Council Scholarship Committee has taken a second look at the remaining applicants and the 2017 NYSHC Scholarship is awarded to: Jenniffer Longwell.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorraine Van Luven,  
Recording Secretary



**NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC**  
[www.NYSHC.org](http://www.NYSHC.org)

REPORTS FOR MEETING September 23, 2017

1. President: Steve Ropel

## 2017 Filled with Successes

Our greatest accomplishment was to successfully push Equine Inherent Risk legislation through the Legislature and get it sent to the Governor's desk. At this writing, Governor Cuomo has not signed it yet, although we are hopeful. It took a huge effort from all the equine community and a lot of our members were out in front leading letter writing campaigns, making calls, submitting petitions and making personal visits. The work was capped off in May when nine NYSHC members visited 14 key legislators to talk about Equine Inherent Risk and other important Bills that were introduced.

We also visited NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and our State Veterinarian, Dr. David Smith. We had a very open discussion about infectious disease management and what Ag & Markets is doing to reduce risk in New York and how the NYSHC can help them. A large proportion of bad things are coming in from horses brought into New York from other states. It is hard to control this given the resources needed to check every animal on the road. It is incumbent on everyone one of us to make sure every horse that is bought or sold has a health inspection and is in good health. We will be partnering with Ag & Markets in the future to help educate our members and the general public about the disease management.

Board members were on top of several trail issues. The biggest one is with the Boreas Pond land classification. The NY Adirondack Park Agency and NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation have four plans for classifying land use on the recent Finch Pruyn land purchase. That piece of land totals about 70,000 acres and is currently laced with roads and trails made by former timber company owners. Each classification progressively restricts the amount of land that would be accessible by motor vehicles. Naturally, the hikers and bikers are advocating for the most restrictive classification while equestrians and snowmobilers are advocating for the least restrictive – most accessible classification. Your NYSHC is on record requesting that Land Classification #1 be accepted. That opens up the most area to motor vehicle access. It doesn't create more trails but allows trucks and trailers more opportunities to get to and use current roads and trails. If you have a chance to express your opinion on this, please do so. The more voices APA hears the better.

Our Southeastern Chapters have also been at work on an effort to restore about 7 miles of trails on the Sterling Forest State Park. This came about from a request of the West Hudson Program Coordinator of the New York-New Jersey Trails Conference.

Our alert Northern Region Vice President spotted a letter-to-the-editor of the Plattsburgh Press Republican calling for horses being banished from the trails at Point Au Roche State Park. She quickly responded with her letter calling for a collaborative effort to resolve any problems.

NYS Fairgrounds Improvements: Governor Cuomo included funding in this year's budget to continue improving the NYS Fairgrounds. Although not specifically designated for improving the barns and arenas, \$3.5 million were in the Dept. of Agriculture and Markets budget to address critical capital funding needs and \$70 million for capital funding of Phase II of State Fair modernization efforts. Information has been gathered to determine minimum facility needs to host major horse shows and events at the fairgrounds. Support is still needed to make sure we don't get left out and all the money is used for other things.

Our Central Region Vice President and Director were on that promptly and sent a letter to Fair Director, Troy Waffner. He assured them the NYSHC will be included in the information loop on future issues.

Events sponsored or hosted by your NYSHC. Your Board is always trying to bring you more value for your membership. As with many clubs and groups, we offer the usual discounts to motels, car rentals, equipment dealers, etc. (see our website for them.) Of course, our \$1 million liability insurance policy is a major benefit for many of our members. We also host the Fall Fun Ride, sponsor the NY 50/30/15 Competitive Trail Ride, and several chapters host a Cowboy Challenge, a fun ride at Stewart State Park, and a fun ride at Otter Creek Horse Trails System. In addition to Equifest sponsored by our Western Chapter, they and the Catt/Chau Chapter host several local rides.

One of our goals was to host a major clinic for our members. We got started on a Gary Lane horsemanship clinic however scheduling became an issue and we could not get it scheduled. We did successfully sponsor a Tina Wolcott clinic on "The Making of a Trail Horse" in early August.

Strength in Numbers: I want to thank you all for being a member of the NYS Horse Council. Our membership numbers have increased each of the past three years. Those numbers give us leverage when we're talking to legislators and various departments. It also gives us a wealth of resources to tap into about many different issues. But it also means we have a very diverse membership. We can't always please everyone though we try hard.

We have only a limited way to make money and the more members we have the more money we make. All the money we make goes right back into helping our equine industry. I urge all of you to renew your membership early and encourage all your friends to join. The more members we have, the stronger we become and the stronger our voice is for our equine friends. We need your help to continue increasing our numbers.

2. Exec Vice-President: Jeannette Dietrich
  - Work continued alongside President Steve Ropel and others in NYSHC in the hope that 2017 would be the year that Equine Inherent Risk

Legislation would finally pass through the NYS Legislature and onto the Governor's desk. A group traveled to Albany in the spring to visit with various Legislators and also with the NYS Veterinarian. Grass roots efforts really made a difference this time around and hopefully Governor Cuomo will give the final approval for this to pass.

The NYSHC's web site continues to grow and be a doorway to the organization for both members and the general public. There are constant updates and additions made and the stats for the web site show it continues to have 'traffic' on a regular basis. I continue to work with the web master to see the web site become more and more user friendly and be the 'go to' place for anything horse related in NYS. I often funnel emails and calls from the info@nyshc.org address to point inquiries in the right direction. Again, the web site seems to be a big reference point for the general public as well as our membership too.

- Work on an updated Chapter Agreement with Steve R. took place over the long winter months. At this time, it is awaiting input from chapters, then finalization and approval.
- The NYS Equestrian Trails Guide found on the web site grew during the winter months when I am stuck inside more. It also continues to be a work in progress.
- The Scholarship deadline is fast approaching and then I will meet with the others on the scholarship committee to determine a winner of this year's Educational Scholarship.
- Advertisements in both New York Horse and Mane Stream are another item of business that I have been overseeing this past year. The feedback from both publications has been positive with putting the NYSHC logo and web address in front of the public's eye on a regular basis.

I look forward to this upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> year of NYSHC ensuring the future of horses in New York State and hope that more great things are yet to happen.

3. Treasurer:

September 23, 2017

Accounts

Money Market Savings \$56319.40 (NYSHC)

Checking \$72097.12 (NYSHC\$48497 & FoOC \$23600)

PayPal \$21726.39 (NYSHC & FoOC)

PayPal Fall Ride \$5825.58 (NYSHC)

Total Funds \$155968.49 (NYSHC & FoOC)

Annual Meeting has a Security Deposit to be refunded of \$750.00 and funds are still coming in for the Fall Ride.

Have a INSF Check to us for \$85.00 to collect.

We have engaged the services of an Accountant and I will be setting up a meeting with her in the next few weeks to start the transition. This will take a while as there is so much to the Horse Council's Business. I have agreed to stay through the transition period.

Brad is setting up another email address that is for the Friends of Otter Creek, this will allow a separate PayPal for them but will still go to our checking

account. PayPal does not separate the funds by item (sadly) and the only way to know what the payment is for is to open each individual transaction, tedious to say the least.

We now have CC Swipes for our cell phones (5). Suggesting that they be used for;

Treasurer, Membership, Fall Ride, FoOC and one Misc.

Respectfully, Missy Whittington

4. Recording Secretary:

To date, I have not received electronic copies of the Budget Reports from the April 1, 2017 meeting, for inclusion in the Minutes.

To date, I have not received the action item I requested from Dan Gruen on April 12, 2017 for inclusion in the Minutes.

I have referred both these matters to Steve Ropel for follow-up/action.

Attached are the FINAL version of the 4/1/17 Meeting Minutes which must be voted on and approved at this meeting.

New York State Horse Council

April 1, 2017

The Spot Restaurant, Binghamton, NY

Call to order: 10:14 a.m. by President Steve Ropel

Determination of Quorum: A Quorum was established

Proof of Notice of Meeting: Posted on the website and printed in the previous Minutes

Approval of 1-14-2017 Minutes: The Executive Vice President noted corrections from Mary Szarek, Colleen Segarra and Paula Pratt. Minutes corrected and sent to Jeannette Dietrich 4/3/2017.

Motion by Peter Tarnawskyj to approve the Minutes as corrected. Seconded by Barbara Cunningham. Motion voted on and carried.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Please submit and read the reports in advance of the meetings.

Four-Way Speakers: Shannon Budnik will look into four-way speakers if we continue to have web meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Missy Whittington presented a document listing the proposed expenses for 2017, based on 2016's figures and current budget requests. Discussion followed: Checking account balance = \$22,000 for Friends of Otter Creek. NYSHC Checking = \$69,000. The PayPal account has \$18,000. Missy may look at putting some of this money in a Money Market account. She will speak to the accountant on this. Currently, the \$56,289.42 in a Money Market account only earned \$3.82 in interest. We must move this into

a higher yield account. Missy will send all the information to Steve and Steve will send it to the Executive Board. Our accountant is a CPA and not a financial planner. M&T Bank has a financial planner and Missy will contact him. The Profit and Loss statement shows January through December 2016 and Jan, Feb, Mar 2017. The balance sheet is as of 3/31/2017 and shows liabilities.

PayPal is an administrative headache. As of 4/1/2017, PayPal has \$18,944.64 and has been well-utilized. The PayPal balance as of 3/31/2017 is \$122,896.74. PayPal charges us 2.9%, which comes to about \$2,700. We use PayPal for Ways & Means, Membership and the Fall Ride. Brad Zehr will create separate buttons for each PayPal account (i.e. Otter Creek, Fall Pleasure Ride) and Missy will be able to generate reports for each "button."

Motion by Sharon Young Slate to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Alix Dench-Layton. Motion voted on and carried.

Trails Council: Per Dan Gruen, we are still waiting for the Adirondack Parks decision regarding Boreas Pond.

The Governor is proposing a \$30 million dollar project to upgrade Frontier Town. It would become a trail head and access point as well as an equestrian area, similar to Otter Creek. The original access point would have been at Boreas Pond, but trails can be accessed from Frontier Town.

There is a federally mandated (in order to get federal funding) trail council meeting on 4/8/2017 at 10 a.m. Two of these meetings are held per year. Dan, Carol Schmelz (Western Chapter member) and Mark Wehnau (Grafton Trail Riders) will be attending. Anyone who uses the trails can attend. There can be up to three representatives from each group (handicapped, bikers, hikers, snowmobilers, horses, sports, water, runners, etc). Some of the money from the sale of Trail Patches goes to horse trail upkeep. Each Trail Patch is \$5. More information can be found on our website.

Chip Watson attended the Cornell Cooperative Extension Livestock Symposium as a representative of Farm Bureau. Only food-animal issues that face livestock owners were presented. Attendees had to pre-register and meet with local CCC agents. There was no fee for attending. The symposium was from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Chip suggested that horse owners need a symposium for equine issues and problems. This was conducted at Cornell, but it covered the entire state. The American Horse Council and the Coalition of Horse Councils hold symposiums, but something like this has never been done by the NYSHC. Steve will look into an "issues" conference for NYS horses. Karin Bump speaks on these issues and may be an excellent resource.

Colleen Segarra mentioned that the SPCA does Webinars and they are easy to use and are moderated. Questions are submitted in advance and researched.

Perhaps an Equine Symposium can be added to the second day of the AGM. Winter is the ideal time to hold these meetings. Debbie Schiraldi said there are economic issues; business owners are struggling and leaving, which is detrimental to the equine community. Steve will look into the HC sponsoring symposiums.

- Chip said there are five Tractor Supply stores in her area. She was allowed to set up a table and give out Horse Council information at three of these stores so far. It is a great way to get the word out. Chip suggested that members check their local supply/feed stores to see if their stores will allow a similar set up.

- Ride & Drive: Barb Cunningham passed around a list for anyone to sign up to sponsor awards. There are 29 members in the 2017 Ride & Drive program; nine are new members. Carolyn ordered new 100, 200 and 300 hour patches and bumper stickers. Mary Szarek will bill HC directly for these. Jacqueline Osborn asked if citing these numbers would help with any legislative issues. How do we promote NYS horses? Ohio gives their HC grants, based upon the number of hours ridden and driven. It may be nice to have a contest between different riding and driving clubs. Debbie asked if the NYSHC shouldn't sponsor all the awards since the HC already pays for patches and bumper stickers. Steve said we'll see how many people step up to sponsor these awards. Chip said the number of hours in the saddle helps to show how active horse owners are. Donna Putnam did not think the Ride & Drive should be used to generate numbers or as a marketing tool. Steve asked how many horses the NYSHC represents. The number of horses a person owns is now asked on the membership form, so we will be collecting that information.

- Equus Film Fest: Shannon Budnik gave a brief overview of the Equus Film Festival. Shannon said that 130 bags were donated to the NYSHC by the Equus Film Festival. The remainder were subsequently given to Dan Gruen to distribute at the trail ride and the Fall Pleasure Ride.

- Humane/Welfare: Colleen said the rules have changed regarding the export of horse meat to Europe for human consumption. This is a food and consumer safety issue. The EU now requires equines exported to Canada for slaughter must live in Canada for six months and a certificate must be signed certifying that the meat is disease and drug free. There was a 3/8/17 press release about reinstating horse slaughter in U.S. Mexico is currently trying to retro-fit their slaughter houses and retrain their workers to meet the new EU rule changes.

The American Horse Council is going to conduct an economic impact study for 2017. Some of the data to be collected will be on equine welfare and sanctuaries. NYS is not on the list of participants for this study and Colleen sent this information to Steve. Jacqueline said that \$18,000 was needed for a break-out study to access equine numbers and the New York Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association each put up \$9,000 for New York State to be included in the breakout study. Steve questions the validity of the equine numbers. NYSHC will participate and offer support.

Unfinished Business:

☐ Conflict of Interest Forms: Steve has all the Conflict of Interest forms for 2017.

☐ 2017 Budget: Missy explained the expense report. At the present time, Jeannette Dietrich, Sharon Young Slate, Alison Clarke and Shannon Budnik are the only people who have submitted budget amounts. We must take a critical look at who and what needs sponsorship from the NYSHC. In return for sponsorship, the HC must get publicity, reciprocating memberships and free advertising. A stipulation must be made that any requests for sponsorship must be received by a certain date, or they cannot be entertained. At this time, we do not have a balance budget.

☐ Andrea Colella would like a NYSHC banner to put in her arena. This can be purchased through Mary Szarek for advertising. Debbie would like HC members to have name badges with the HC logo and/or pins with the HC logo. Motion by Missy Whittington to accept the proposed 2017 budget. Seconded by Shannon Budnik. Motion voted on and carried.

☐ Legislative Issues: Steve will have a conference call with the Farm Bureau regarding Lobby Days (5/9/17). We need eight Board members to travel to Albany to lobby for the Equine Inherent Risk Legislation. Also, there is \$30 million available to update the NYS Fairgrounds, including the equine portion.

☐ NYSHC Sponsored Clinics: Barb Cunningham said currently there are only two people signed up to take the Gary Lane Clinic. Gary will give back 40% of the proceeds to the NYSHC. The Wolcott Obstacle Clinic currently has six people signed up. They still have stalls available. Barb needs to contact Morrisville College again and needs authorization to sign the contracts. Missy is the contact.

☐ 2017 Annual General Meeting: This year's AGM is 9/23 & 9/24 at Knox State Park. The contract is signed with the park and the hotel is booked. Transportation will be provided on Friday evening from the hotel to the park, eight miles away. Mark Munzer, Cowboy Poet, will be entertaining Friday evening. Saturday will feature a Continental breakfast, business meeting and speakers. The speakers will be Missy (an overview of the Western Region) and Colleen. There will also be the history of Knox Farm, a barn tour, wagon ride and possibly a dinner on Sunday. It will be \$40 per person and there is a decent rate at the hotel. The Western Region, Missy Whittington and Barb Cunningham are running the AGM.

☐ NYSHC 50th Anniversary: 2018 is the Fiftieth Year. Paula suggested T-shirts with the NYSHC logo and three colors. She will get three quotes. If anyone has T-shirt pricing information, please send it to Jeannette and Paula.

☐ By-Laws Committee: Shannon, Andrea, Colleen and Alix will look into changing the By-Laws to allow a flexible date for future AGM's. Barb will write up a proposal based on Lorraine's notes.

Motion by Alix Dench-Layton to change the NYSHC By-Laws to allow different dates for the AGM (flexible dates from September through December). Seconded by Shannon Budnik. Motion voted on and carried.

Steve will check with the attorney regarding the By-Laws.  
Motion by Debbie Schiraldi for a By-Laws anniversary addendum for the Fiftieth Year only. Seconded by Sharon Young Slate. Amended motion voted on and defeated.

Missy would like the 2018 dates and location to be announced at the 2017 AGM.

Trail Etiquette Signs: Sharon asked about the grant money for the signs, as discussed at the previous meeting. Chip did not look into this. Discussion followed. Sharon gave quotes on 100 poly signs: \$3.50 each, plus \$45 one-time set-up fee, and \$10 shipping. Sharon will probably pick the signs up, so we won't have a shipping fee.

Steve said that all members must ask for an action to be performed, or ask that an item is placed on the Agenda, or make sure an item is placed in the Committee Report in order for any action to be taken.

The information regarding the signs will go into the Board area as a Budget item. We needed DEC permission: There is no problem with the sign or putting up the signs. The brochures have been okayed now that the ATV information has been removed, just ask the official in charge of the area before posting. Jacqueline would like to try out signs on private trails; this was Okayed to proceed. Dan will contact the trail council and let Sharon know how many signs to order. Chip will look into getting a grant for the signs and will get the information she needs from Sharon. We need approval to hang them before we can order. Whoever needs signs, send an e-mail along with a sample of the sign you're requesting to Sharon.

Motion by Shannon Budnik to purchase 100 signs, \$415 total. Seconded by Donna Putnam. Motion tabled by Steve. Await information from Dan and we'll do an e-vote.

Guest Speaker: Brad Zehr gave a presentation about the NYSHC website, followed by a lively discussion/question-answer session. Many wonderful suggestions were made regarding future enhancements to the NYSHC website. Brad has been a tremendous help to us and we are grateful for his expertise.

Membership: Paula provided an April Membership PowerPoint presentation:

1st Quarter Jan-April Membership Status: Bar Chart indicated Jan thru April months' growth. As of April 2017, total Members @ 740 vs. April 2016 total Members @ 562.

Jillian Keding, NYSHC Youth, attended Equifest both Saturday and Sunday as the NYSHC Membership Chair. Jillian utilized the NYSHC laptop webpage to navigate and educate attendees and used Paula's laptop to verify members. Paula was introduced to Jillian Keding and her parents by Barbara Moore, the Western Chapter Recording Secretary. Paula was so impressed by this nine

year old, she asked Jillian if she would be interested in the NYSHC Youth Representative program and then spoke with her parents to get approval. Paula will be mentoring Jillian and will be in contact with her. Also, Jillian's parents will monitor Jillian's activities. Jillian plans to report news at the youth level. Her announcement will be posted on the home page of the NYSHC website, linked to the NYSHC Youth Page and NYSHC Youth Facebook Page, and placed in the quarterly NYSHC Newsletter. Welcome Jillian!

2017 Equifest Membership Status Report: Total 36 Memberships (23 New Members, 13 Renewals [2 Catt/Chau, 2 General, 32 Western]). \$5.00 Chapter Discount allocated and provided to Missy Whittington for Chapter payback.

Membership News Corner: Paula created a Membership News Corner to contain upcoming news and announcements. This information will be posted on the NYSHC home page and in the quarterly NYSHC Newsletter.

Membership Business Directory: This directory is now listed on the NYSHC website by Category and by Name. As business members apply, their businesses will be listed on the website within 48 hours, as well as listed in the quarterly NYSHC Newsletter.

Discussion followed. In order to have a breakdown of counties by Region, Paula would have to give Brad the listing of the counties in each Region. Any club joining the HC can request our membership list, but we do not divulge that. However, the HC should ask for the membership lists from other clubs so we can send information (such as EIRL) to them. Organizations joining the HC would need event insurance.

Shannon got two new memberships for September 2015 and all of 2016, but no one can find these on the membership list for 2016. Both members had paid. Can these two Long Island members, therefore, get 2018 memberships as a "good will" offer?

Chapter agreements: Updates to the Chapter agreements were sent to all Chapter Presidents. The updates make the HC's minimum expectations clear. Discussion followed: Can proxies vote? No, the By-Laws do not allow voting by proxies, except at the AGM. HC members must live in the Region of their membership. Chapters need to meet financial goals and compliance issues. Steve said we need to strengthen Chapters and Regions. He would rather have all the members be "General" members, then the money can be spent where it is needed.

Humane/Welfare: Colleen said that Thoroughbreds are going to slaughter. In one week, six horses were with kill buyers. There are two Bills in the Legislature (S2473 Establish a horse registration fee to support the responsible retirement of all race horses) (S4167 Establish a commission and a database on retired race horses). The database will be public information and may add a layer of responsibility and protection for horses. Colleen wants to write a letter

to support these measures to protect the long-term care of horses. Discussion followed: Steve checked with the Thoroughbred Breeders Association and they are not supporting it because it is not a “clean” Bill. The Bill is not sustainable the way it is written due to the database and registry. It is a list of horses and owners; will it become broader? Colleen will send a generic letter. Steve and Colleen will both sign. Steve will check on who is supporting the Bills for the care, upkeep and disposition of these horses and will post to the website.

Membership Chair Position: A Membership Chair position does not have voting privileges. Committee Chairs are not on the Board, but we do have Board positions open. In order to have a voice and vote, a person can become a Member-At-Large. There are no current At-Large positions filled. We can't put a Chair on the Board. The person can be a liaison or a representative, but not a Chair.

Increase Membership: How to increase membership rates for 2018? Possibly offer a three-year membership? There are issues regarding insurance coverage with this. We will bring this issues up again at a later date.

Youth/Scholarship Chair: Nine-year-old Jillian Keding will be the Youth Chair with an adult mentor. Her parents must be members and sign off on everything. Jeannette will handle the 2017 scholarships. Alix, Debbie & Chip will work with Jeannette on this. We need a liaison between the HC and colleges. The person must be a HC member. Chip wrote all the youth and scholarship criteria and give it to Lissette.

Sponsorship of Events: This was covered already under “Budget.” NYSHC sponsored a GallopNYC clinic last year for \$500. At last year's GallopNYC's horse show, Alison represented the HC.

Board Vacancies and Voting: We need a Nominating Committee for all vacancies. The Chair would send out nomination forms for everyone who is up for a vote, along with bios. These should be sent to the membership by August 1st. We may be able to get an election form on the website. Jeannette will send a note to all Board members only. Members should be polled for their nominations in every location that has a vacancy. Regional Vice-Presidents and Mark Gisselbrecht will be on the Nominating Committee.

Other Business:

Missy will reimburse Shannon Budnik and Paula Pratt for their hotel rooms when they attended Equi-Fest.

Per Paula: Janis Barth will be giving the New York Horse magazine to a new Region. Can Paula give Janis our members who are in the new Region? Paula already gives the member list to Mane Stream each month so they can send out their magazine. Per Steve: Okay to give the new Region's information to Janis.

Jeannette asked if the Newsletter, which is posted on-line for members only, should be made available to the general public?

Motion by Missy Whittington to put the current NYSHC Newsletter on the web, open to the public. Seconded by Peter Tarnawskyj. Motion voted on and carried.

Jeannette will check with Brad on the cost of Mail Chimp.

- Mary Szarek said that Barbara Moore thanked the HC, Shannon and Paula for the support of Equi Fest.
- Dan Gruen mentioned the Competitive Trail Ride Clinic on 5/6/17 at Pure Country, sponsored by the HC. The Brookfield Ride is 6/23, 24, 25 at Pure Country and is also sponsored by the HC. Contact Dan for more information.
- Shannon Budnik puts all HC events on the HC Facebook page. Shannon brought vests and grooming gloves to the meeting for sale.
- Sharon Young Slate brought brochures and flyers to the meeting. Please take whatever you need.
- Alison Clarke said that Nina Galicheva was the photographer at Equi Fest and she would like the HC to give Nina a \$35 honorary membership. Motion by Donna Putnam for an honorary membership for Nina Galicheva. Seconded by Sue Knauer. Motion voted on and carried.

Old Business:

- Display boards and accompanying pieces: We need to locate all the display boards and accompanying pieces we have. We need to determine how many new ones we need. A display case costs \$538. A three-panel display costs \$115.
- Jacqueline Osborn asked what will be discussed in Albany. Steve explained the Lobby Day will be 5/9/17. There will be seven teams of four people who will contact five key Senate and or Assembly members about EIRL, tax and budget-related issues. We get two lobby days per year, on the second Tuesday of the month between January and May. Steve will ask the Farm Bureau to support Frontier Town.

NEXT MEETING: June 17th

10 a.m.

The Spot Restaurant, Binghamton, NY

Motion by Missy Whittington to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alix Dench-Layton. Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Jeannette Dietrich gave Steve Ropel the hard drive.

Attendees: Steve Ropel, Jeannette Dietrich, Missy Whittington, Debbie Schiraldi, Chip Watson, Dan Gruen, Sharon Young Slate, Gary Slate, Shannon Budnik, Peter Tarnawskyj, Alison Clarke, Karen Lassell, Andrea Colella, Barb Cunningham, Mary Szarek, Alix Dench-Layton, Flora Lee Condello, Paula Pratt, Colleen Segarra, Donna Putnam, Jacqueline Osborn, Sue Knauer, Lorraine Van Luven

Guests: Amy Zehr, Brad Zehr, Linda Tarnawskyj, Jim Sullivan, Don Pratt

Excused: Marsha Himler, Lissette Ruotolo, Dru Malavase, Mark Gisselbrecht, Joanna Sasso, Wendy Wakula, Diane Ermer

Absent: Laura Schreiner, Theresa Passaretti, Rikki Bruckman, Debbie Schecter

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorraine Van Luven,  
Recording Secretary

5. Capital Regional VP:

6. Central Regional VP: Gary Slate

New York State Horse Council Central Region Report, 2017 submitted by Vice President Gary Slate and Regional Director Sharon Slate The report for the Central Region, much like the rest of New York State, can be summed up in the word “weather”; lots of weather. Since early Spring, we have seen month after month of record-setting rain, which has impacted the horse world in many ways. Farmers here have not had three good dry days in a row, which they need to cut, dry, and bale hay. The ground is so saturated that in many areas, they can’t get on fields to harvest, plow, or plant. This does not bode well for those who need to feed horses hay throughout the winter. I wonder how those who farm with horses are making out? There have been tornados touching down in several spots, from Erie to Oneida to Fulton County (so far). High winds and rain did so much damage to Lorenzo in Cazenovia, the annual carriage driving competition had to be cancelled. Numerous local shows that are held at outdoor venues have also been cancelled. Public and private riding trails have been impacted. While our winter was milder than usual, everything since has been very disappointing. However, we should all be glad that our state is not on fire, like so many places out west or in Canada. On a brighter note, indoor events and clinics at covered arenas have gone on. A threeday Larry Poulen driving clinic at the Cazenovia College was well attended. A clinic at Morrisville College on Horse Quarantine Procedures, by Horse Council member and retired RN Karen Knowak, provided a wealth of useful information, and should be repeated in the near future. The usual season of breed and multi-breed shows at the New York State Fairgrounds has gone on as usual. The Syracuse International had a fairly good showing, especially in the Saddlebred division, with entrants and farms represented from Maine to Florida, and some classes with 16 or more in the ring at one time. One needs to be pretty mature to remember the last time there were those numbers in the Coliseum. Sharon and I have been attending meetings and training of the Onondaga County Animal Response Team (OnCART), a large animal rescue team to be available to work with first responders in accidents and emergencies involving all types of livestock. We would encourage more Central Region members of NYS Horse Council to volunteer, perhaps starting at the next OnCART meeting in September. Every year, Madison County has an “Open Farm Day”, where farmers of all types invite the general public to come find them (maps are provided) and see what they have to offer. We take advantage of this event to check out the equine farms and some of the other specialty farms. We’ve seen buffalo, hops, sheep, Scottish long horn cattle, and so many other interesting farms. This year we visited Whispering Hills (years ago it was known as Orchard Hill) horse farm and Amberfield Morgans owned by Judy Hinman. It’s always a good time when you can talk horses and pass out Horse Council brochures and membership forms. Central Region has grown steadily in membership over the past few years. The year is barely half-way gone, and we are looking forward to Walnut Hill Driving Competition, the New York State Fair, and the Annual General Meeting. Hopefully, there will be a generous amount of good things to report by then.

7. Finger Lakes Regional VP:
8. Mid-Hudson Regional VP:
9. Northern Regional VP: Karen Lassell  
Nothing new to report at this time.
10. Southeast Regional VP: Alison Clarke  
During the past year, the Southeast Region has been reaching out to folks in NYC and Long Island to make them aware of the NYSHC and the benefits of membership. I would like to thank Jacqueline Osborn and Joanna Sasso, who are our Southeast Regional Directors, for their enthusiasm, hard work and outreach.

The NYSHC were a co-sponsor for Muttontown Horsemen's Association for their Annual Equine Festival, and the Long Island Professional Horsemen's Association Annual Horse Show in May. Both are wonderful events and well worth attending. The weblinks are:

[www.muttontownhorsemen.com](http://www.muttontownhorsemen.com)  
[www.lipha.org](http://www.lipha.org)

Southeast Region would like to thank the organizers of the Fourth Annual Rolex Central Park Horse Show for once again supporting the NYSHC, our not-for-profit organization. This annual show in New York City showcases 5 days of equestrian sport. This year, the Horse Council was recognized by donation of \$1,000 from RCPHS. Information about this terrific horse show can be found at:

<http://cphs.coth.com/>

We appreciate NYSHC members supporting the Horse Council via their memberships. This facilitates communication, and we are very pleased to see NYC and Long Island contributing articles, pictures, and upcoming events to our Newsletter and encourage folks to continue to do so. We want to hear from you!

All of New York's 5 boros have riding stables/carriage barns which bring education about and the joy of horses to communities and we feel these are precious resources in encouraging empathy towards equines.

Equus Film Festival will take place in NYC on November 16-19, culminating with a NYC carriage barn tour on Sunday for participants and attendees (pre-registration required). The NYSHC will be there throughout (Shannon Budnik and I will have a table) and we encourage you to attend to watch some of the marvelous independent movies all about horses and equestrianism around the world. There will be panel discussions with Q&As which you can also attend during the day and evening, together with socials to meet film makers and authors, and the WINNIE Awards Ceremony. If you would like to volunteer

with us, do let me know! Please follow the website for news and tickets, which will be frequently updated:

<http://www.equusfilmfestival.net/>

Wishing you happy riding and driving!

11. Southern Tier Regional VP:
12. Western Regional VP:
13. Capital Director:
14. Central Director:
15. Finger Lakes Director:
16. Mid-Hudson Director: Rikki Bruckman "No Report" 12/29/15
17. Northern Director:
18. Southeast Director:
19. Southern Tier Director:
20. Western Director:
21. Western Director:
22. At Large:
23. Equine Assisted Therapy:
24. Equine Inherent Risk:
25. Fall Pleasure Ride:
26. Historian:
27. Humane/Welfare:
28. Insurance:
29. Membership:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Paula PRATT, NYSHC Membership Chair

JUNE

SUMMER Membership Promotion.

NYSHC June 1st thru June 30th Summer SPECIAL \$5.00 off NEW (Join) & GENERAL (Chapter) Membership via postal mail and NYSHC Newsletter. Only a few new members via this promo.

Submitted Membership/Business Directory to.

Equisure Insurance, M. Whittington-Treasurer, The Printer (Insurance Letter w/Card & Equisure Insurance documentation & Non-Insurance Letter w/card for postal mailings), Mary Szarek-NYSHC Newsletter Publication to include Business Directory

Submitted Articles.

"Membership News Corner", Membership Form "Jillian's News", Fall Pleasure Ride, Summer Membership Promotion; Mane Stream Publication, NYSHC Newsletter, Western Chapter Newsletter, Amy Hewson

NYSHC Website.

Posted "Membership News Corner", "Jillian's News" and YouthNews2017\_06.pdf, Fall Pleasure Ride

NYSHC Youth Representative.

- Submitted Youth News 2017\_06 Article to NYSHC Newsletter, Western Chapter Newsletter and Mane Stream.
- Set up Webmail Account sent to Jillian and Jason (father) which is posted in photo as mentioned above.
- Received photo of Jillian in her NYSHC Logo wear outfit.
- Designed layout of photo and her webmail address for youth correspondence.
- Invited Jillian, parents and Barbara Moore to Walnut Hill Carriage Driving Show coming up in August 11th & 12th.
- Proposed to Steve Ropel we sponsor two classes with the concept of Jillian & Steve handing out awards. PENDING - arrangements/confirmation. Sponsor approved via Steve, called Walnut Hill to arrange sponsorships.

Officer Membership Status.

Submitted to Steve Ropel 6/2/17 membership status of all Officers. All active, except Ricki Bruckman, Finger Lakes Regional Director (not active nor a member).

Correspondence to BOD'S, Reg VP's, Directors, Chairs.

Friendly reminder - please post, share or hand out (make copies) for the upcoming NYSHC Events.

NYSHC FALL PLEASURE RIDE > <http://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=57>

NYSHC FALL PLEASURE RIDE POSTER >

[http://www.nyshc.org/post/\\_docs/FallPleasureRidePoster.pdf](http://www.nyshc.org/post/_docs/FallPleasureRidePoster.pdf)

NYSHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING > <http://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=82>

NYSHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING POSTER >

[http://www.nyshc.org/post/\\_docs/2017\\_NYSHC\\_Annual\\_General\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.nyshc.org/post/_docs/2017_NYSHC_Annual_General_Meeting.pdf)

Please consider adding the above links to your website or Facebook page

The New York State Horse Council Fall Pleasure Ride Oct 6th-9th Registration is now available! See attached Flyer2017 for more info.

Open registration online or by postal mail June 1st to September 28th

1. Online Registration > <https://www.rsvpbook.com/NYSHCFall17>

2. Postal Mail Registration > open / print attached NYSHC 2017 fall ride registration form.pdf

For registration information contact: Kristin Bennett, [fallride@nyshc.org](mailto:fallride@nyshc.org), (518) 788-7469

For event / ride / volunteer information contact: Dan Gruen,

[DanGruen@roadrunner.com](mailto:DanGruen@roadrunner.com), (315) 749-8086

Or NYSHC.ORG website > <http://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=57>

Brookfield Fall Pleasure Ride.

Assisting Kristine Bennett, have access to RSVP data to validate current NYSHC Members entitlement to the NYSHC Membership discount registration fee.

Communicated via e-mail to Officers/Chapters/Regions.

I-FRAME. Brad, our webmaster, has established an IFrame for these types of announcements to be automatically posted to your websites via the NYSHC Website Communicated via e-mail to Officers/Chapters/Regions. Paula brought up a point we had talked about at the last meeting, maybe now would be a good time to try it. If you would like to try it, please add this code to the chapter front page html code. <iframe src="http://nyshc.org/\_feed.php" height="200" width="200"></iframe>. You can adjust the height & width to fit better. If it works fine, it should insert the latest nyshc.org news in the frame. Please let me know if you have questions and your thoughts about it. Brad 607-426-6586

## JULY

Membership Submissions.

Equisure Insurance, M. Whittington, Treasurer, The Printer (Insurance Letter w/Card & Equisure Insurance documentation & Non-Insurance Letter w/card for postal mailings)

News Articles/Other.

“Membership News Corner”, Membership Form, “Jillian’s News”, Fall Pleasure Ride; Mane Stream Publication, Western Chapter Newsletter, Amy Hewson

NYSHC Website.

“Membership News Corner”, “Jillian’s News”, YouthNews2017\_07.pdf, Lifetime Achievement Award and Horseperson of the Year Nominations, Fall Pleasure Ride & Gary Jennings.

NYSHC Youth Representative.

Rec’d report from Jillian, edited/formatted/posted to Youth Page Website i.e. Mane Stream, Western Chapter Newsletter

NYSHC Lifetime Achievement Award and Horseperson of the Year Nominations.

- Assisted Steve Ropel with 2017 NYSHC Award Nominations for Lifetime and Horseperson of the Year award documents, edited, posted on NYSHC Website and sent via email “To NYSHC Chapter Pres & Reg VP’s - please arrange to post via your Website/FB page, and/or, print/handout/share. Will be published in Mane Stream.
- Submitted to Amy Hewson, NYSHC WC Newsletter and Mane Stream Publications.
- I’ll be receiving the nominations, scan and forward to the BOD’s for their review and final nomination which will be shared at the AGM.

Brookfield. Brookfield Fall Pleasure Ride.

- Assisting Kristine Bennett, have access to RSVP data to validate current NYSHC Members entitlement to the NYSHC Membership discount registration fee.
- Followed up with Kristin Bennett & Dan Gruen re Brookfield status, doing well with online registrations.
- Inquired via Dan regarding re-invite Gary Jennings, International Recording Artist to perform Friday night after dinner. Dan approved. Coordinated invite, created poster and posted on NYSHC.ORG Website

## AUGUST

August Membership Listing.

Equisure Insurance, M. Whittington-Treasurer, The Printer (Insurance Letter w/Card & Equisure Insurance documentation & Non-Insurance Letter w/card for postal mailings)

August Articles.

“Membership News Corner”, Membership form “Jillian’s News”; Mane Stream Publication, Western Chapter Newsletter, Amy Hewson

NYSHC Website

“Membership News Corner”, “Jillian’s News” and YouthNews2017\_08.pdf

NYSHC Youth Representative.

- JILLIAN'S NEWS Rec'd report from Jillian, edited/formatted/posted to Youth Page Website i.e. Mane Stream, Western Chapter Newsletter.
- Attended Walnut Hill Driving Competition with invites; Jillian Keding, Jason Keding, Barbara Moore (Western Chapter Secretary), Philis Jensen (Western Chapter Member), Steve Ropel, Joan Ropel. Jillian presented sponsored award to Junior/Single Horse/Pony and Steve Ropel presented sponsored award to Single Horse/Runabout classes on Friday Afternoon. Paula took photos, will post via NYSHC FB page and website, also submit article(s) for publication.
- Requested & assisted Jillian to submit a Youth Representative Report for the Sept. 23, 2017 AGM meeting. Paula submitted Jillian’s report via Jeannette to be included.

NYSHC Lifetime Achievement Award and Horseperson of the Year Nominations.

- Sent request to Amy Hewson to send NYSHC Nomination Deadline August 31st reminder
- Posted reminder on NYSHC.ORG deadline August 31st

BOD’S Membership Query.

Set up (along w/Brad our webmaster) By REGION Query on NYSHC.ORG website via BOD Member log on.

NYSHC Nomination Ballot.

- Coordinated with Steve Ropel and Nomination Committee.
- Sent postal mail (435) members the 2017 NYSHC Ballot Nomination Form and Instructions via our Printer sent postal as of 8/17/17.
- Jeanette Dietrich submitted via Mail chimp e-mail (391) members as of 8/18/17.

NYS Fair, Syracuse, NY World of Horses.

- Volunteer at NYS Fair, World of Horses, August 30, 2017, 9:30am - 2:30pm. Steve Ropel's announcement requesting volunteers & signed up via Karin Bump. Bringing a guest.

Correspondence to BOD'S, Reg VP's, Directors, Chairs.

Awards and Recognition

Every year the New York State Horse Council honors those in the New York State horse community and equestrian industry who have distinguished themselves as passionate, informed leaders.

We have two award categories: (1) Linda Connors Life Time Achievement Award & Appreciation of Service (2) Horse Person of the Year Award 2017 Nominations are now being accepted. Please click on the nomination applications below

Lifetime Achievement Award & Appreciation of Service  
Horse Person of the Year Award

30. Newsletter: Mary Szarek

REPORT:

Vol 23 No 3 Summer 2017

Size: 24 pages

Printed: 500

Emailed: 525

Snailmailed: 452

Autumn/October Newsletter in progress

Deadline was September 1

31. Publicity: Sharon Young-Slate, Co-chair

A number of extra reprints and publications were produced for the Annual General Meeting held in the Finger Lakes Region in September of 2016. As a result, we were found to be a bit over budget. We attempted to correct that by providing less output this past season and still making all items available to members as requested and whenever we were presented with the opportunity. Several specific items were provided to fill the request for information from an individual in Washington state. Certain publications including membership forms were given to equine contacts met through the Madison County annual Farm Day.

Throughout the year, calls have been made to garner as much information as possible re price for poly triangular signs to be posted on trails. We now have 3 official quotes. The best quote available among these three was Voss Signs coming in at \$405. for 100. With sales tax the total would be \$437.20. The other companies were Sullivan/Szarek and Paratore Signs. The signs would take 2-2 1/2 weeks from the order date and Gary and I will pick them up to avoid shipping costs. They can be ordered when the NYSHC approves the decision. These triangular signs would be placed at trailheads of multi-use trails to indicate which group of trail users should yield to which (all users yield to horseback riders).

32. Ride & Drive:

33. Safety: Dru Malavase

Since our last Annual Meeting I have had the chance to officiate or teach at a wide variety of New York State horse activities. Many of them were related to Cornell's 4H Horse Education Advisory Committee, the Western New York Region of the United States Pony Clubs, and the Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club. As a member of the Safety Committee of the United States Equestrian Federation, a resource to the USPC's Safety Committee, and Co-Chair of the Equestrian Helmet Committee of the American Society for Testing and Materials I attend meetings both in person and by conference call. I typically field multiple equestrian safety inquiries weekly by email or phone on a wide range of topics. Last spring I received two enormous boxes of archives from Dr. Doris Hammett, founder of the Equestrian Medical Safety Association, since she was streamlining her living quarters. These included many medical studies which I am slowly incorporating into my already large collection.

In May I presented information on helmet fitting, selection and use at Cornell's Animal Crackers educational day; attended an ASTM meeting in Toronto, Judged Show Jumping at a two phase Eventing competition, and observed two days of a GVRDC clinic on the mechanics of controlling falls from a horse, presented by Danny Warrington, a steeplechase rider and Advanced level Eventer. This is a new initiative which includes huge inflatable surfaces and a mechanical horse which can move at 20 mph, rear, shake and buck. The riders who participated were amazing to watch, and thanks to Danny's assistant, a world class gymnast, great care was taken to assure their safety. The hope is that this clinic will be offered on an annual basis in all of the U.S. Eventing Association regions.

In June I announced the GVRDC Spring Event, judged at their Twilight Dressage schooling, and was Technical Delegate for the Pony Club's Games Rally in Batavia. A brief downpour stopped the action for a short while, but thanks to the nice sheltering area at the end of stabling near the ring the riders and horses were able to escape the worst of it. Heart to Heart Pony Club members were terrific volunteers.

In July I judged the Firecracker Derby for GVRDC, which features a combination of Stadium and Cross Country fences. I was Technical Delegate for the Pony Club Dressage Rally put on by Mendon Pony Club, where we had thunder, lightning and a serious deluge just as the last riders jogged their horses for soundness. Thanks to the organizers, horse management judges, two dressage judges, and volunteers we managed to rearrange the schedule, changed the location of the warmup area, and brought both judges together at different locations in the indoor ring so that each rider had two scores. While waiting for final scoring and results the judges each did two mini-clinics since my then the outdoor ring was finally available to use, so this turned out to be an educational opportunity as well as a competitive one.

At the end of July I judged ten hours of Dressage at the Orleans County 4H Fair.

In August I was a scorer for the GVRDC summer Event; and in September was the announcer for their Driving Show, which is a three phase Combined Driving Event, with Dressage, a Cones (Obstacle) course, and Cross Country. September 24th I will be judging an obstacle for their annual Trail Trial.

In all of this active year the only injury I saw was to a young rider with a horse a few months off the racetrack. The ride was late in the afternoon after fair rides were starting up close to the competition ring. There was also a Bingo game going on in a nearby tent, with a loud bell sounding at intervals. Best guess is that the horse equated that to the sound of a start gate bell at the track...the horse sprinted away from the sound in panic and wheeled before the arena fence, unseating the rider who landed face down. She got her hands down and had enough wrist pain that she was quickly evaluated by the EMT on the grounds and was sent to the hospital.

In general, I have been pleased to see the improvements in competition planning for safety at all levels in a wide variety of activities.

34. Trails Chair:

35. Trails Council:

36. Vintage Rider:

37. Ways & Means: Shannon Budnik

Ways and Means currently has 95 items in stock, please see the attached document for breakdown of inventory.

This current year we have sold to date;

22 vests

2 pairs of grooming gloves

1 tail wrap

7 boxes of Kind and Cliff bars

Our income has been \$756.68

Taken in via the following means;

Cash - \$190

Check - \$50

Credit Card - \$396.68

PayPal - \$120

### 38. Youth/Scholarship

September 23, 2017 Horse Council Report by NYSHC Youth Representative, Jillian Keding

March 2017 I joined the NYSHC Western Chapter Youth Program and was asked to become the NYSHC Youth Representative on the day of Equifest by Paula Pratt.

I wrote my Equifest article about my experiences during Equifest and getting different points of view and how Equifest could be better and how it was.

April 2017 I wrote an article to tell the youth information about me and my horse experiences.

June 2017 I wrote an article about visiting a Horse Reining Farm and my horse experiences.

July 2017 I wrote an article about taking horseback riding lessons and about the youth program and how it is the best program I have been in! Plus it has information about the program and how to contact me.

August 2017 I wrote an article about when my mother and I went to Erie County Fair camp I had an amazing experience, about my experiences to get people involved in upcoming article August 2017.

Attended the Walnut Hill Driving Competition, Pittsford, NY. Paula Pratt asked if I could present an award to the Junior/Single Horse/Pony Class Award that the New York State Horse Council sponsored.

You can find all of my articles on the NYSHC Website Youth page at NYSHC.org

So far all my articles have gotten 3-4 new NYSHC members to join the youth program.

My goals for the year of 2018 is to work in a presentation for my school in North Boston at Boston Valley Elementary to try and get members at my school interested in the equine community and to work with me and best of all enjoy it!

I must thank my amazing mentors that helped me so much this past year in being so successful Paula Pratt, Barbara Moore, and my dad. They all have made my job be so successful and helping me with all of my articles.

Regards, Jillian Keding

Scholarship- Jeannette Dietrich

To date, there is only one application received. When the deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup> arrives, I will send copies to the others on the committee and ask for their vote. The hope is to announce the \$1,000 scholarship winner at the AGM.

### 39. Cat-Chau Chapter: Diana Ermer, President Catt-Chau Chapter NYSHC

The Catt/Chaut Chapter has had four regular business meetings since the AGM meeting in September 2016. Meetings were held September 29, 2016, February 26, 2017, April 30, 2017 and July 13, 2017. Attendance at these meetings was

7-12 members. The current Chapter membership is 53 compared to 61 members in 2016.

Catt/Chaut participated in Equifest 2017 and once again paid for a booth where member clubs were welcome to set up. The booth was manned by HC members along with members from Bits n Spurs Trail Riders and Lou Eibl Corral.

Although a five dollar discounted HC membership was offered to new members at Equifest, only two new members joined our Chapter.

Catt/Chaut has a trail maintenance agreement with the NYSDEC for the horse trails in the Pine Hill/South Valley State forests. Trail work days are listed on the Pine Hill Trails Face Book page and also the Catt/Chaut FB page. The Chapter paid for two more members to take the chainsaw certification class which is required by the DEC for using chain saws on State lands. Some trails have been moved or changed due to logging. The last portion of a trail over to the ice cream stand at Onoville is now being completed after Cattaraugus County finally approved the trail crossing a portion of County land. Then a permit was required by NYS for improving a stream crossing in the same area. The permit was approved and work should be done by the beginning of September.

The annual trail ride was held at Lonkto Meadow, Allegany State Park August 13. This is a free 3-4 hour ride, this year led by Lorraine Snyder. Everyone brought a dish to pass for after the ride and Catt/Chaut provided hot dogs and beverages. The ride was great this year with perfect weather and 40+ riders. The Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System (CCETS) is now in Phase IV of development and has formed its own 501c3 as required by Chautauqua County. Some HC members continue to belong to both organizations along with private horse clubs. It remains to be seen how this might affect Catt/Chaut membership.

We have tried via our newsletters to see if there is interest in activities in other disciplines within our membership and have not heard from anyone. There are many beautiful and diverse trails in our two rural counties which have been developed and are being maintained by Catt/Chaut members along with other volunteers. We are always hopeful that there are some younger HC members who will step in to help us.

40. Orange Chapter: Debbie Schiraldi  
Orange County Horse Council Executive Board:  
President Debbie Schiraldi 2017-2019  
Vice President Mark Gisselbrecht 2016-2018  
Treasurer Patricia Bowens 2017-2019  
Recording Secretary Charron Klotz 2016-2018  
Corresponding Secretary – OPEN

Orange County Horse Council had Guest Speaker Dr. Brian McNamara on February 22 for an Equine, Infectious Disease, Quarantine, and Infection Control. We had about 25 in attendance along with our local G&M Riding Club

for their members. The event was very informative and shed light on topics that attendees needed information about for events and horse care.

Orange County Horse Council hosted our annual Horse Trail Event on Sunday April 30th and all who participated had a great time as usual. Sponsors were always supportive and prizes were randomly drawn to attendees.

OCHC presented Katie Pedersen of Valley Central High School \$500 as our Scholarship winner for 2017! Katie has been accepted to SUNY Morrisville for Equine Studies this fall, and her parents Glen & Lisa should be very proud. OCHC Executive Board had voted that the scholarship will suspend at this time due to our financials. We are going to focus on trails in the community as to encourage new membership.

OCHC has currently been made aware of an ongoing active cruelty situation in our area with a past member of OCHC. Mark Gisselbrecht has been appointed to speak to any press or other inquiries regarding such matters. President Schiraldi wishes to not have any conflict of interest with OCHC, NYSHC, and any other related parties that overlap into this organization.

September meeting will be about planning a Fall Trail Ride activity and then our end of year Holiday Party.

41. Palisades Chapter:
42. Putnam Chapter:
43. Sullivan Chapter:
44. Ulster Chapter:
45. Westchester Chapter:
46. Western Chapter: