

OHIO HORSEMAN'S COUNCIL
STATE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 11, 2007

President Rick Patterson called the meeting to order at 12:00N. A welcome and special recognition of veterans on Veteran's Day was given by Ed Allshouse. A roll call of the counties was taken. Rick asked for a motion to waive the reading of the March 4, 2007 minutes, it was seconded by Judy Preston.

President's Report - Rick stated that a questionnaire was given out to the counties to be filled out. An American Horse Council issues book was passed out. Rick asked membership to go to the OHC website to check on current issues. He reported on a statewide coalition for all horse organizations in Ohio - this would bring horse groups together to consider issues affecting horse industry. OHC state would pay the yearly dues and all OHC members would be a member. OHC would get a seat on the board. Although it is still in the planning stages, Rick Patterson and Mike Gerard approve this coalition. Question by Linda Husvar - will sample letters be available to send to representatives? Mike Gerard answered "yes". Question by Bill Craft - OHC state will pay the dues of \$1,000.00 a year - should members' dues be increased to cover this? V-President Mike Gerard stated that yearly OHC dues need to be looked at. It has been ten years since a dues increase. Art Crist stated that a big plus to this coalition would be it is statewide and American Horse Council and the Farm Bureau are nationwide. Mike Gerard said that the horse industry to now has been very separate - we need to unite to tackle issues.

Vice-President - Mike Gerard has attended some excellent state rides, has attended many OHC county meetings and trail building gatherings. He attended the Ohio Quarter Horse ride and we may get a new county chapter from it.

Treasurer's Report - The budget as of 10/31/07 is in the packet. Our Corral payment is higher (we pay per member and we have more members). The insurance will have a budget next year. We received more advertising money than expected from newsletter. We are over budget on American Horse Council and will raise this for next year. Please fill out and sign the membership forms.

Rick Patterson passed out the officer/chairman packets. We have 2 new committees and chairs: Reuss Griffiths for Legislative and Gary Boggs for Youth. We need a new by-laws chair. The strategic planning meeting for officers/committee chairs will be at Salt Fork State Park the weekend of January 11-12-13. We will gather on Friday, meet on Saturday and Sunday morning.

Committees:

Buckeye Trail - worked in July at Tappan Lake and will be there every year developing new horse trails in the Tappan area.

By-laws - Changes in grievance procedure - adopting procedure removing from chapter level to state level.

Equine Affaire - Thank you to all who helped plan, work, set up and tear down last year. For 2008, the first planning meeting will be Dec. 2, once again need help setting up and tearing down, booth greeters, need updated county books. Linda Patterson will be taking care of books. New for 2008, we would like a slide presentation from each of the 5 regions that will highlight chapters, trail work, trails. Bring updated books and CD's to March meeting.

Grievance - no report

Groom & Clean - there will be an apprenticeship clinic in March, 2008, geared to children. There is no date scheduled yet but it will be on the web page and in the newsletter.

Membership - Barb Gerard stated that she is still receiving old forms - they need to be destroyed. The insurance has to be on the county membership form. Insurance can be purchased any time during the year. All money collected for the insurance goes to Equisure. OHC has 3,673 members in 2007. There are 25 associate memberships which each get one vote. Children are not on the form but Barb is keeping track of all youth memberships. There is no percentage comparison from 2006-2007 but membership is up. Barb offered to make a customized membership form for each chapter if needed. We had 53 new members sign up at Equine Affaire. Barb asked the counties not to put membership forms in their county books for Equine Affaire. Bill Unger had question regarding the insurance and whether there have been any claims. So far there has been one and it is in litigation.

Nominating - no report.

Ohio-Erie Trail - this is a temporary organization and it's purpose is to secure off road right of way from Cleveland to Cincinnati. There are over 300 miles and to date the right of way has been secured for 280 miles. This organization will go 3 more years and then disband. The most unfinished portions are in the larger metro areas. Maps and website are available on the OHC website. A question was asked about availability for overnight camping for horses. None is known.

Public Relations - Gussie needs state ride sign ups for 2008. Any suggestions for the Gibby ride for next year would be appreciated.

Trail - Larry Matthews thanked all for being volunteers and recognized Carolyn Sullivan for her work on the Ohio-Erie Trail. Larry had two dates for next year: a work crew is needed for the Chapel Cave trail at Hocking on Feb. 9,10, 2008 and on March 8,9,2008 is the OTP work weekend, site TBA. Larry posed the idea of inquiring from Equine Affaire whether we could have the small ring he had last year for trail clinics throughout the weekend. Larry asked for people and parks to be recognized for trail work this past year. Mike Gerard reported that Hocking will get a group camp, at Mohican there has been work on the Green trail to the lodge. This trail will open May 1, 2008. Rick Patterson stated that the television show "Best of America by Horseback" was at Smoke Rise. This #1 trail riding show is traveling to each state and OHC was recognized in Ohio.

Webmasters - their first priority is information. In 2006 there were 16,000 + hits and already in 2007 there have been 95,000 hits. Our website is being viewed by other states.

Trail Usage - as published in our newsletter, mileage turned in must be on legal horse trails. Bill Unger's goal is to get 500,000 miles turned in this year and he needs the trail usage forms in to him by January 30, 2008.

Finance - For the Gibby memorial ride use we received \$540.00 in donations. Our regional reps are traveling a lot so a budget for personal expenses is planned. The budget includes restricted funds categories of Youth Support, \$5,000.00 and the Gibby Memorial of \$2,000.00. A question was asked of Joyce Wilson of the expenses for regional reps - will it be receipt or calculated mileage? Joyce responded that receipts would be necessary. Another question on why we have so much money in the bank, why not use it for trails. OHC state is proposing a matching funds with the counties for trail use. We need a reserve in the treasury for unexpected issues. A determination will be made as to how much to keep in reserve. A question was asked about the small counties not being able to match funds. Answer: they could do in kind service. Larry Matthews moved to accept budget as proposed. Second: Jim Strayton. It was pointed out that the Gibby money can only be used at Barkcamp - another fund would be needed for other trails. Motion passed.

Merit Awards - Anita Hoon passed out award certificates to officers and committee chairs and appointees.

Old Business - Horse Power - 2 years in the works, has 1,000 signatures, artwork is done and accepted. Penny Passalacqua was told recently another plate is being done in place of ours. Our plate is connected with the transportation committee of the Senate. We need to send a personal message to the people on this committee. Penny has the forms to send to lawmakers. This license plate could bring us around \$400,000.00 annually.

The trailer (used for storage and moving of Equine Affaire props) is still being investigated. We hope to have one purchased by Equine Affaire. New OHC logo cards, magnets and brochures are available. Linda Husvar reported on accessibility. Regulations are being worked on and are not ready yet. There are 2 newsletters available. Linda reported that all trails will not be totally compliant. Many need mounting blocks, accessible restrooms. Larry Matthews made a motion to invest \$1,000.00 into new horse coalition. Second: Sam Liebfreund. Discussion - we need to investigate this further before investing money. Art Crist questioned the initial investment of \$1,000.00. This gets OHC a seat on the board and one vote. \$1,000.00 will be the yearly fee. Cindy Barnett suggested we join for the first year and check it out. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Rick reported Tom Green agreed to take over By-laws committee. Terry Crampton needs to step down as Central region representative due to work demands. Someone is needed to fill this vacancy. Larry Matthews will investigate Equine Affaire seminar participation.

The next general membership meeting will be on March 2, 2008 in Delaware with lunch proceeding.

A motion to adjourn was made by Herb Rider, seconded by Mark Stevens at 4:25 p.m. The

motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin A. Green
Recording Secretary