

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November, 2007

As I indicated in our Newsletter, 2007 has been a busy year and has passed by rather quickly. We turned around and found ourselves facing the end of the year.

I previously reported in the Newsletter on our planning efforts, meetings with ODNR officials, chapter meetings, OTP weekend at Hocking, the Equine Affaire, the Youth Show, and the American Horse Council in Washington, D.C.

We were able to attend state rides at Caesar's Creek, Alum Creek, the Gibby Ride at Barkcamp, and the Chili Cook-Off at Mohican, which our chapter (Wayne Co.) .. sponsored. We also represented OHC at the Ohio Quarter Horse Association ride at the Spotted Horse Ranch.

Rick and I participated in meetings preparatory to the development of a statewide coalition for all horse organizations in Ohio. This coalition has been in the planning stage for some time prior to our involvement. The new organization officially will be called the Ohio Equine Industry Coalition and initially will be funded by the Ohio Quarter Horse Association, The Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, the Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners, and the Ohio Harness Association. This new coalition is being developed because of the need to bring together a splintered horse industry in order to focus, as a single, much larger organization, on matters such as legislative, environmental, etc., that affect the horse industry. The primary functions of the Coalition are:

- Legislative advocacy – national, state, local
- Education
- Publicity/information clearing house

All OHC members would be members in The Ohio Equine Industry Coalition. The annual membership fee paid by OHC is \$1,000, which will give us a seat on the Board after the initial start-up period. Benefits include:

- State-wide advocacy – Legislative
- Local/municipal advocacy
- Scholarships
- Grant programs
- Information clearing house
- Preparation of grant proposals
- More

Rick and I feel that OHC should be involved in this new coalition, which will be promoting the horse industry in Ohio. We will then be in a position to more effectively impact on the legislative process in Ohio with our combined numbers. Votes talk. More to come.

Enjoy Your Horses,  
Mike Gerard