

**DELAWARE EQUINE COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 20, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Stan Vonasek

Board Members

Present: Stan Vonasek, Ken Horeis, Tami Stevens, Pam Nebel, Julie Warrington, Wendy Lippincott, George Parris

Absent: Dr. Christina Dayton, Cyndi Vollmer

Secretary's Report (Wendy Lippincott for 10/16/17) October Minutes forthcoming

Treasurer's Report: (Tami Stevens)

Starting balance as of 10/16/17: \$27,308.09

Deposits: \$3,055.00 (Dues, Directory Ads, Shirt Sales, Redeposited "seed" money for event)

Deductions: 450.00 (ARG dues 2018, AHC dues)

Ending balance as of 11/20/17: \$29,913.09

George motioned to accept Treasurer's report and Dan seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

License Plate Design (Julie) – Julie and Pam had sat with Tom at J&D Signs a while back to review design of license plate. Presented to membership at the September meeting. Design was forwarded to DMV for approval. Tom put together a mock plate and Julie brought to the meeting. Looks great. DMV are now using 3" numbers instead of 2" numbers which will take up more room on the plate and cover more of the design, but it still looks great. It can be used on trucks and cars but not on trailers. Wayne mentioned that the cost of the plate will be \$50, whereby \$35 is income for DEC and \$15 goes to the State. Tom has permission to put this design on his Facebook page and be listed as the original designer. Press release will be forthcoming pending final approval by DMV. It was suggested that we advertise the DEC plates in the Directory, newsletter and Facebook. Wayne mentioned that to purchase vanity plates you can go to DMV's website to check on what names are available. Additional costs required for vanity plates. **UPDATE 11/22/17:** Final approval has been made and DMV will be putting on their website.

Directory (Ken) – Ken mentioned that he needs all final ads now along with the money. Ken asked Wendy is she was done with checking the one-lines and she reported yes and that she will get her information to him. We are down in ads as follows: six full page color, three ½ page color, three ½ page black and white, and four ¼ page black and white. Our present gross number is \$7,420 before printing costs. We will decrease the number of directories printed for 2018 to 2,000 from 2,500. Ken will get two estimates for printing

Scholarship Banquet (Stan) – Saturday, March 3 is the date for the 2018 scholarship awards dinner. A committee was formed tonight with the following volunteers: Wayne, Kate, Julie, Laurie, Wendy, Kathy, George, Ken, Pam. Stan will be the Committee Chair and will set up the first meeting in December. This meeting will cover all aspects of organizing the event and a

delegation of responsibility to each participant. An agenda will be provided in advance. Stan gave Kate Bowski a brief summary of how the scholarship program/banquet works. Auction items are beginning to come in. Wendy reported that KTB Equine is providing two floats and a sponsorship. Kathy reported that a purse specialty company will provide a handmade purse. Kathy also reported that she is going to get in touch with Horse and Gun magazine and ask for a subscription. Pam has received a \$125 sponsorship from Vogl Brothers and is waiting on approval for a \$1k sponsorship from M&T Bank. Everyone can be involved in getting silent and live auction items for the event.

Newsletter (Wendy) – Newsletter is with Barbara. **UPDATE:** Barbara hopes to get back to the newsletter by mid-week the week of November 27. Said there are probably not enough articles to fill the pages at this point in time. So, if you have any articles, please submit them to Wendy ASAP so that we can get this newsletter published. Kathy has offered to provide an article.

OLD BUSINESS

Redners Save-A-Tape Program (Ken) - If you have a Redners Rewards card and make any purchases be sure to save your receipts. Once \$5k of receipts are turned in to Redners they will reimburse non-profit organizations 1% in funds. Ken asked for a volunteer to keep track of receipts and Tami volunteered. Thanks Tami! Wendy made a motion to put this information in the Directory and the Newsletter and George seconded. Motion passed. Be sure to include in the information that you **MUST** have a rewards card to be eligible for the program.

Delaware Equine Environmental Stewardship Program (Ken) – As it turns out, deadline for this program is too close and not enough time to digest and decide if we want to consider further and sponsor. This issue will be tabled until next year.

Bylaws Review (Ken) – George and Ken recently reviewed DEC's Bylaws and will be updating next year. Need to remove duties for directors that entail the Fair booth and the Expo. Will re-evaluate and vote on the Family membership in January. Lifetime memberships are covered in the Standing Rules.

First Time Horse Owner's Clinic – Ken wants to get in touch with the MD Horse Council to discuss their agenda for a clinic such as this. More to come.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections - Elections were held and the results are as follows:

President – Stan Vonasek (re-elected for two-year term)
Treasurer – Tami Stevens (re-elected for two-year term)
Director – Wendy Lippincott (re-elected for three-year term)
Director – Kate Bowski (elected for one-year term)

New Positions will be effective at the January 2018 meeting.

Congratulations to all!

MISCELLANEOUS

Incentives for Board Members and Volunteers – Wendy commented that volunteers should be given perks for their service to the organization. She does not feel it is fair for some people to have numerous responsibilities when others do very little. Some members feel that since this is volunteer organization, we should not be expecting awards for our participation. Volunteers help because they want to, not so they can be awarded. It was felt that people that helped a little would be alienated compared to those who helped a lot. Pros and cons were offered on this subject. No determination was made.

Ken remarked that most organizations have a slim number of volunteers and that we are not the only ones with this issue. They also have a shortage of people attending meetings. Ken also mentioned that even with speaker night we still do not really have an increase in participation. Mary Bashtarz mentioned the point system with the woman's auxiliary at the fire house. Perhaps we should have a point system for participation.

Stan reminded members that the big organizations such as the Wisconsin Horse Council have 84 directors, they meet once a year, whereby half of the board shows up, they have a big dinner and the paid staff presents the entire year's events/activities once a year at that meeting. They have an Expo with a gross of \$250k and a net of \$150k with a paid staff of five coordinating it. New Jersey and Arizona only have volunteers like DEC, and there are many more. Recently, even a VFW facility was up for sale due to a lack of interest in the organization.

All agree we need an increase in participation, but what is the key to success in making that happen? Julie suggested a database be created for volunteers. Kate agrees that we need to attract younger people. She suggested perhaps surveying members to see what they want from the Equine Council.

Wayne mentioned that the Coalition of Horse Council annual meeting is a good source for information/ exchanges of ideas i.e., the directory and license plate.

It was reiterated that Wisconsin Horse Council has staff for all events and DEC does not have the manpower to coordinate programs. Wendy mentioned that Assoc Resource Group has suggestions on how to improve participation.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken Horeis and seconded by Connie Lundquist.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting – January 22, 2018 at the Harrington Fire Hall conference room.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Pam Nebel.

HOPE EVERYONE HAS A
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!