

The General Membership State Meeting of the Ohio Horseman's Council was held on November 10, 2019 at the Eagles Lodge, 127 E William St, Delaware, OH 43015. The meeting was called to order at 10:40 AM by the President, Eric Estill. Secretary, Catherine Estill, was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Secretary, Catherine Estill, read the roll call. 40 of 64 chapters were represented, and meeting attendance from sign-in sheets was 114. Reports filed. Minutes of the previous meeting had been posted online and copies were available at this meeting. Minutes approved as written.

Membership, Catherine Estill, reported 2,434 memberships (Family, Individual, Youth & Associate) and 3,887 members to date for 2019. Auglaize County was acknowledged as a new chapter in 2019. Jackson County chapter was noted for increasing membership from 4 to 27 in 2019. Membership information packets, with chapter 2019 membership list, 2020 application and cards, were mailed to chapter treasurers at the beginning of the 2020 renewal period in October.

Treasurer, Jo Ellen Reikowski, presented a financial report of 2016 – 2019 income and expenses, and the proposed budget for 2020. A new item on the budget is OHC hosting the October 2020 AHC Convention; our expenses will be compensated. Jim Wallace moved to accept the 2020 budget, Jeanie Boswell seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was filed.

Guest speaker: David Lane, Assistant Chief, Ohio Division of Forestry, ODNR (previously worked in Wildlife Division).

- Slide presentation. 200,000+ acres managed, 23 State Forests, 354 miles trails, 163 campsites. General Revenue Fund (GRF): 2000, \$10.8 M; 2020, \$4.8 M. 100 employees. Needs more funding and more employees.
- OHC can petition legislature for additional funding, write to your state senator and representative. Eric will write a letter template for an OHC letter-writing campaign, will also recommend to OTP.
- Following his presentation David Lane answered questions from the membership.

Bylaws Chair, Jim Wallace, explained how our Bylaws and Standing Rules can be amended. A Bylaws amendment requires review by the Executive Cabinet, advance notice to the membership, and a 2/3 vote. A Standing Rules amendment can be approved through a motion at the general membership meeting and a majority vote.

The Bylaws Committee offered motions which, after debate and amendment, were adopted as follows:

- Amendment 1) Motion to remove 3.6.1, which required a Regional Representative to reside in the region they represent. This requirement prevented some otherwise qualified candidates from being elected as a Regional Representative. For example, if a member lives in a county without an OHC chapter or without riding trails, so he/she joins a different county chapter, the county of residence may be in a different region than the county of active membership. Cheryl Barlett moved to amend the motion, Becky Porter seconded, changing wording to: **"3.6.1: Be a primary member of a chapter in the region which he or she represents."** Amendment approved. Paul Morgan called the question, motion carried.

- Amendment 2) Jim Wallace moved, Harold McKeegan seconded, to amend 3.9.2 pertaining to Regional Mentor, an appointed position, to the new wording as for 3.6.1: “3.9.2: Be a primary member of a chapter in the region which he or she represents.” Motion carried.
- Amendment 3) Jim Wallace moved, Cindy Barnett seconded, to amend 6.4 pertaining to new member packets sent by chapters. Mailing printed copies of the Bylaws and Standing Rules, along with an OHC decal and membership cards, is a cumbersome and expensive prospect for chapters. This amendment allows the option to inform the new member that these documents are available to view or print online. (contact merchandise@ohconline.com to purchase OHC decals) Motion carried.
Additionally, the suggestion was made that a letter from the OHC President be included in the new member welcome packet with how to view these membership documents on the OHC website.

Amendment 1) 3.6 The Regional Representatives shall:

FROM: 3.6.1 Reside in the region which he or she represents.

TO: 3.6.1 Be a primary member of a chapter in the region which he or she represents.

And,

Amendment 2) 3.9 The Regional Mentors shall

FROM: 3.9.2 Reside in the region which he or she represents.

TO: 3.9.2 Be a primary member of a chapter in the region which he or she represents.

And,

Amendment 3) 6.0 COUNTY CHAPTERS

FROM 6.4 County chapters should prepare and send to each new member a welcome packet which contains a copy of the current OHC Bylaws and Standing Rules, an OHC decal, a membership card and any additional information that the county chapter chooses to include.

TO: 6.4 County chapters should prepare and send to each new member a welcome packet which contains:

6.4.1 Membership card(s) and insurance documents, if applicable, and the OHC Bylaws and Standing Rules; or, a notice that these documents may be viewed and printed from the OHC website at <https://ohconline.com>, and

6.4.2 Any additional information that the county chapter chooses to include.

LUNCH

Nominating Committee – Catherine Estill was nominated for a second term of Secretary. Jim Wallace made motion to elect, Barb Gerard seconded, motion carried.

Historical Committee, Laura Wallace, encouraged chapters to send her their documents to archive, in digital format.

President's Report – Eric Estill reported on the bi-partisan Legislative Trails Caucus for non-motorized trails, started by OTP (Tom Green is the OTP Treasurer); Ohio Trails Plan Vision; and ODNR Director Mary Mertz. Eric attends the OTP and legislative meetings regularly held in Columbus.

Eric is working to improve state to chapter communications, email messages to members through MailChimp program, promote OHC and share information on newly formatted website.

OHC is a 501 (C) 4, so Eric proposed that OHC create a sister organization called “**Ohio Horseman's Council Foundation**” as a 501 (C) 3, non-profit organization in Ohio. The Ohio Horseman's Council Foundation will be led by three Directors appointed by the President of the Ohio Horseman's Council. So moved by Jim Wallace, Paul Ayres seconded, motion carried. This will enable tax-deductible donations to OHC because, unlike a 501 (C) 4 organization, donations to a 501 (C) 3 are tax-deductible. A committee will be formed to file with state and IRS and write bylaws.

Vice President, Jim Wallace. The American Horse Council (AHC) national organization, of which OHC is a member, meets 2x/year. Attendees are officers of the state Horse Councils. Jim presented a slide show of the AHC Convention he attended in Colorado in October. The 2020 AHC Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio and hosted by OHC. Jim Wallace will Chair.

Regional Representatives (officers of the OHC Executive Cabinet, elected by county chapter presidents in each of the 5 OHC regions)

The Regional Representatives each spoke about activities of the county chapters in their regions, including rides, fundraisers and trail work. Some chapters are active and growing, some are struggling to retain members and elect chapter officers. Most regions will hold a regional meeting in February.

- Nancy Strayer, Northeast Region. The OHC Northeast Region has a Facebook page. For aid when out on the trails in Ohio, call ODNR dispatch (614) 799-9538 or #ODNR.
- Cindy Barnett, for Kris Green, Southwest Region. Butler County chapter hosted today's meeting.
- Al Sidell, Northwest Region. New Auglaize County chapter. Hancock County chapter had 100% participation by its 7 members. Al recognized Barb Oberhaus, of Wood County chapter, for her help.
- Becky Porter, Central Region. The OHC Central Region has a Facebook page.
- Don Wagner, Southeast Region. Recognized Tom McGuire for his help at Hocking, Tar Hollow, and Scioto.

Trails Committee, Don Wagner, spoke about the AEP property, the Gibby Ride and work days in August. Asked for reporting trail miles and work hours. Don read his thoughts on “What is OHC?”

Trail Miles, Anne Lindimore. Turn in the year-end summary form. Let her know of additional parks.

BREAK

Volunteer Work Hours, Vicki Wagner. Turn in 2019 hours indicating county chapter, park, equipment, time, drive time (equipment use valued at \$25 - 45/hour).

Communications, Theresa Burke. Thanked Janet Fox for serving as County Lines Editor in 2019.

In 2020, Karen Ravndal-Emery will be the *Horsemen's Corral* County Lines editor: countylineeditor@ohconline.com. Co-editors assisting Karen will be Jane Marek, Mary Kay Dessoffy, Deb Hubbard, Kathy Brown, Trina Houser, and Karen Holland. Report filed.

State Rides, Cindy Barnett. Reported that 2020 state rides will be similar schedule to 2019.

New website demo - Mary Alice Kuhn, OHC Director & Promotions Chair, gave a visual presentation on the new website, demonstrating the primary features of the site. She had reviewed all documents posted on the previous OHC website, sorted what was current information to be posted on the new website, categorized and added revision dates. Reuss Griffith has been editing the trails maps posted on the site. Let him know of updates to the trail maps, and what trails you work on, and he'll note that on the Trails pages.

Mid-Winter Meeting: TBD. (Subsequently the Mid-Winter Meeting has been scheduled for the weekend of **January 25 & 26, 2020**, at the **Salt Fork State Park** Lodge, Cambridge, Ohio.)

Spring 2020 General Membership State Meeting: **March 21, 2020**, at the Eagles Club, Delaware, Ohio. Meeting to be hosted by the **Southeast Region**.

50/50 Raffle, \$173.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Catherine Estill,
OHC Secretary