

The General Membership State Meeting of the Ohio Horseman's Council was held on November 7, 2021 at the Eagles Lodge, 127 E William St, Delaware, OH 43015. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by the President, Eric Estill. Secretary, Catherine Estill, was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Secretary, Catherine Estill, read the roll call. 37 of 62 chapters were represented, and meeting attendance from sign-in sheets was 100. Reports filed.

- Minutes of the previous meeting on November 10, 2019 had been posted online and copy was available at this meeting. Minutes approved as written.
- Fulton chapter was the first to report 2022 officers. Chapter reports of 2022 officers due to Secretary by January 15, 2022. secretary@ohconline.com

Membership, Catherine Estill, reported 2,170 memberships (Family, Individual, Youth & Associate) and 3,414 members for 2021 as of 10/25/2021. Report filed.

- Membership information packets, with chapter membership applications and cards, were mailed to chapter treasurers at the beginning of the 2022 renewal period in October.
- Washington chapter had the first 2022 membership renewal. Lorain chapter had the most 2022 renewals in October, followed by Delaware and Knox.
- Warren chapter had the most 2021 memberships, followed by Wayne and Lorain chapters.

Treasurer, Jo Ellen Reikowski, presented a financial report of 2018 - 2021 income and expenses, and the proposed budget for 2022. The budget includes OHC hosting the October 2022 AHC Convention (our expenses will be compensated) and for our 50th Anniversary celebration and promotions. Jo Ellen answered members' questions about budget items. Jim Wallace moved to accept the 2022 budget, Penny Passalacqua seconded, motion carried. The treasurer's report was filed.

President, Eric Estill, told the story of the proposed Doris Dukes Woods nature preserve at Malabar Farms. OHC's influence resulted in public horse trails remaining available.

- He will attend the bi-partisan Legislative Trails Caucus meeting in Columbus on 11/10/2021.
- OHC is a 501 (C) 4 non-profit organization. Eric proposed that OHC change to 501 (C) 3 so donations to OHC are tax-deductible. Requires a Bylaws amendment.
- Non-horse campers in horse camps. OHC Executive Cabinet formed a committee to investigate and found that Indiana allows horse-only campgrounds. Current Ohio Chief of Parks is opposed to this exclusion. Online reservation system provides a safety warning message for any non-horse camper reserving a horse campsite, and safety warning signs are posted at horse campsites. New AEP lands may provide an opportunity for horse-only camping.
 - Nancy Strayer provided background and differences on state park and state forest campground regulations.
- ODNR Forestry Division draft proposal suggests closing horse trails from the beginning of deer gun season through April 1st. Closing trails would reduce damage from riding on muddy ground and provide an opportunity for repairing trails. Eric will meet with David Lane, Assistant Chief, Ohio Division of Forestry, and Dan Balsler, Chief of Forestry to discuss. Asked that OHC provide a "champion" for each forestry area for consultation regarding trail closures.
 - Paul Ayres asked how to inform non-OHC riders about trail conditions.
 - Jim Bolon will procure signs for trail heads acknowledging maintenance by OHC.
 - Cindy Barnett said that Wisconsin has a trail closure policy following rain.
 - Anita Hoon asked about the closing of Hocking trails.

- John Sharp, Hocking chapter president, said that online reservations are proposed. Hocking Hills is state forestry land and does not currently utilize online reservations.
- Jeff Lindeman asked for clarification about status of trail closings. Eric responded that a final decision has not been made by the state.
- On behalf of Tom Green, Legal Chair, Eric asked chapters to send Tom (legal@ohconline.com) any new ODNR work agreements/volunteer forms to review before signing. Approved legal documents must be signed by the OHC President.

Officer Nominations, Charlene Santee

- Nominees for 2022 - 2023:
President, Eric Estill; Vice President, Nancy Strayer; Secretary, Ranee Vititoe
- Nominees elected by unanimous consent, terms to start January 1, 2022.

LUNCH

OHC 50th Anniversary plans, Mary Alice Kuhn, Promotions Chair. Introduced other Committee members: Charlene Santee, Anne Hunter, Theresa Burke, Trudy Schmidt, Penny Passalacqua, Becky Porter, Cindy Barnett, Diane Joseph (not present) and Catherine Estill.

- Logo selected. Trudy Schmidt is doing embroidery on apparel. Order forms on OHC Facebook and website. Items can be shipped or picked up at Deer Creek State Park at the Mid-Winter meeting, January 15 - 16, 2022.
- Bingo 50 game: "Try something new in 2022". Participate throughout the year.
- 50th Anniversary Celebration party. Saturday, November 5, 2022, Elks Lodge, Newark OH. State general membership meeting to follow on Sunday, November 6, 2022. Block of rooms at the nearby DoubleTree Hotel @ \$99.
- New online anniversary information site: ohconline.com, then select Documents from top menu bar, then Chapter 50th Anniversary. Email anniversary@ohconline.com
- Diane Joseph is making a 50th Anniversary quilt and asks for chapter t-shirts to use for the border. Tel 419-307-3776, email joseph@nwonline.net

Regional Representatives

- Jim Wallace, on behalf of Kendall Smith, Northeast Region. Northeast Regional meeting on November 20th.
- Al Sidell, Northwest Region. Thanked Joan Miller, NW Regional Mentor, for her help. Generous donations from NW chapters for trail maintenance.; improvements made at several parks. Rides, events, trail work and fundraisers held. Increased membership in Hancock and Auglaize County chapters.
- Becky Porter, Central Region. Thanks to Central Region for hosting this meeting. Central Region ride was held.
- Don Wagner, Southeast Region. Two regional meetings to be held. SW Regional Trail Maintenance Ride was held third week of June.
 - Trails Committee, Don Wagner. Seven chapter grant applications received.

At Large, Anne Hunter. Started an At Large Facebook page. At Large logo t-shirts were made. Held the first At Large Members Trail Ride.

Trail Miles, Anne Lindimore

- Announced members who have earned the Trail Mileage buckle:
Linda Zehe (Geauga), Bobbi Jo Tucker and Darrell McKay (Washington)
- Reminded members to turn in their 2021 trail mileage. trailmiles@ohconline.com
 - Eric emphasized the importance of documenting miles for influence at the state legislature.

Guest speaker: Jayne Maxwell, ODNR (ODNR Chief is Glenn Cobb), PowerPoint presentation:

“Helpful Campground Reservation Hints”. ohiostateparks.org

- 2021 was record year for overnight camping.
- “Detour” trail maps program. Track your ride. Report tree down. Detour app and website administrator: Megan.Carmel@dnr.ohio.gov and Trails administrator: Mark.Allen@dnr.ohio.gov

BREAK

Trail Work Hours, Vicki Wagner. Reported hours down in 2021, some parks closed due to Covid.

- Most hours for 2021 turned in by Delaware chapter, then Madison, Preble, and Wood.
- Turn in 2021 hours; gives us leverage with park administrators. Indicate county chapter, park, equipment, time (including drive time). Volunteers valued @ \$24/hour. Send a chapter report, even if hours are 0. trailhours@ohconline.com

State Rides, Cindy Barnett. Encouraged chapters to consider organizing a state ride.

Vice President, Jim Wallace

- AHC, Power Point presentation about American Horse Council (AHC) and Coalition of State Horse Councils (CSHC).
 - All OHC members are also members of AHC. Comprised of equine associations (including CSHC - 25 members – of which OHC is one), equine small businesses, industry partners and individual horse owners. Advocates for equine industry issues. For example, United Horse Coalition, serving at-risk horses, places unwanted horses.
 - AHC fall 2022 meeting will be held on October 21 - 23 in Columbus, Ohio and hosted by OHC. Jim Wallace will Chair. Looking for OHC member to host and/or transport attendees.
- National Trail Days, June 4, 2022. Members report trails ridden to chapters. For 2021, almost every trail in Ohio had a “hoof on the trail”.
- Tappan Lake (\$10,000 donation) Trail workday on November 13, 2021.

Historian, Laura Wallace.

- Encouraged chapters to send her their documents in digital format to archive. Email or bring to January Mid-Winter Meeting. historical@ohconline.com
- Looking for documentation from the beginning years of OHC, 1972-1973.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Plan, Marietta Tromp, member of Summit County OHC chapter and Bridle Trail Fund Advisory Committee. PowerPoint presentation.

- Cuyahoga Valley Bridle Trails Fund. Provided by \$100,000 gift from Jan and Ray Dalton for the revitalization of the Valley Bridle Trail.
- Fund managed by the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
- Evaluates and repairs trails. Over 35 miles of trails throughout the National Park.

Mohican Memorial Forest, Marlene Smiley. Wayne & Holmes chapters.

- Improvements to the horse campground.
 - Eric asked members to send him pictures of improvement projects to show to legislators. president@ohconline.com

Mid-Winter Meeting: weekend of **January 15 & 16, 2022**, at the **Deer Creek State Park** Lodge, Mt Sterling, OH.

Spring 2022 General Membership State Meeting: Saturday, **March 12, 2022**, at the Eagles Club, Delaware, Ohio. Meeting to be hosted by the Northeast Region.

50/50 Raffle, \$228. Won by Chris Price.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.

Catherine Estill,
OHC Secretary