

The spring **State Ohio Horseman's Council (OHC) General Membership Meeting** was held on March 9, 2024, at the Elks Lodge 391, 73 N Third Street, Newark, Ohio. The meeting, hosted by the Central Region, was called to order at 10:30 am by the President, Mary Alice Kuhn. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

President, Mary Alice Kuhn. Executive Cabinet (EC) and Regional meetings were held in January and February. Don Wagner and Bobbi Arters are working together as co-chairs of the Trails Committee. The fall state OHC general membership meeting will be November 9, 2024, back at the Eagles Club in Delaware, Ohio, hosted by the Northwest Region.

Secretary, Catherine Estill, read the roll call. 40 of 63 chapters were represented. Attendance totaled 135 members (sign in taken at the door by hosting Central Region).

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (November 5, 2023) as written. Seconded by Cindy Barnett. Motion approved.

Membership, Catherine Estill. As of 3/8/2024, 1,921 memberships (2,890 members) for 2024. Approximately 20% of memberships typically come in after spring. Membership report on file.

Treasurer, Margaret Hite. Balance Sheet on file. EC revised 2024 budget to cover the OHC State Rides event insurance premiums.

OHC Foundation, Arden Sims. Jo Neeley is OHC Foundation treasurer. Financial statement on file. Forms to report donations will be available on the OHC website.

Vice President, Nancy Strayer. Reviewed how State OHC funds are spent. Graph on file. Reviewed comments from the November meeting and subsequent changes made in response. Asked for feedback on trails software. A total eclipse on 4/8/2024 is expected to create traffic, parking and camping congestion in the Ohio parks. Put #ODNR in your phone for non-emergency assistance.

Bylaws, Eric Estill for Jim Wallace. Moved to amend OHC Bylaws Article 7.11 and 7.2.4 regarding the election of Regional Representatives. Mark Westlake seconded. Motion approved.

Under Article VII: Elections, amend 7.1.1 and 7.2.4 (changes highlighted):

7.1.1 Regional Representatives shall be elected within their region by vote of the county chapters, casting one (1) vote each based on the outcome of a vote taken at the **October or November** meeting of the county chapter, with the results reported to the **Nominating Committee** in writing or by e-mail **by December 1**. The candidate in each region receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

7.2.4 Nominations for Regional Representative shall be made to the **Nominating Committee by October 1** and the **Nominating Committee** shall notify each county chapter as to the nominees prior to a vote being taken.

Trail Miles and Saddle Hours, Anne Lindimore. Announced Top 10's, report on file. 29.6% of members reporting, up from recent years.

Trail Work Hours, Bobbi Arters. Reporting increased from previous year, 60 of 63 chapters for 2023. Explained definitions of work categories. Report on file.

Don Wagner: developing Appalachian Hills Equine Area, Morgan County. Possibly open May 2024.

LUNCH. Blessing by Brent DeWees.

Vice President, Nancy Strayer. Hocking special use area grant project from surplus state of Ohio capital funds still pending legislative approval. Better to apply for OHC grants, or for bigger projects, go through local land managers, such as park personnel.

Guest Speaker, David Lane, Division of Forestry. Hiring additional foresters to help land managers. Increasing urban forestry programs. Developing seedling nursery. Trying to manage invasive plant species. Special use permits are available for some closed forestry areas. Making some trail and campground improvements. Developing online camping registration for forestry land, starting with Hocking. Q&A.

Insurance, Tom Green for OHC Insurance Chair, Jackie Romaker. Types of insurance:

- Event liability policy (Argonaut Ins Co). Send Jackie a calendar of chapter events. Have a sign-in sheet to document attendees. \$75/one-day event, includes set-up and take-down days. Venue may be added as additional insured for \$40.
- Personal excess equine liability policy (Equisure Ins). OHC member coverage for damage caused by your horse.
- Homeowner/Farmowner's policy. Check what your policy covers in respect to your horse.

24 Challenge: New memberships recruitment. The five OHC Regions will compete for the most new (never OHC member before) memberships from 1/1/24 to 12/31/24.

Regional Representatives Reports:

- **SW-** Cindy Barnett. Report on file. Warren chapter holds its 38th Great Tack Exchange on March 17, 2024. Butler chapter hosts the Wounded Warrior Ride in March. Greene chapter hosts an OHC State Ride in June. Pike chapter hosts a regional ride in June. Preble chapter having a raffle and hosting an OHC State Ride in October.
- **NE-** Penny Passalacqua for Jim Wallace. Activities will be posted on the OHC website. Chapter events include rides and shows. Cuyahoga, Medina & Summit chapters host an OHC state ride in September. Geauga chapter has built a mounting platform with an OHC grant. OTP awareness event at Camp Tuscazoar.
- **Central-** Craig Santee. Chapters holding gymkhana and rides. Deer Creek State Park putting in water line to horse camp. Morrow chapter hosts a St Jude benefit ride. Franklin chapter awarded a grant for a Columbus urban youth summer horse camp.
- **NW-** Al Sidell. No state ride this year due to Van Buren State Park undergoing renovations. Taking the 24 Challenge seriously!
- **SE-** Mark Westlake. Belmont chapter preparing for Gibby Ride weekend. A tree will be planted for ODNR's 75th anniversary at Harrison. Chapters having rides, shows and work projects. Mark put together an OHC information packet for horse owners in the SE region to recruit new members. Recruiting equine-related businesses as Associate Group members.

Chain saw certification, Don Wagner. Dates and locations will be posted on the OHC website.

Ohio trail maps, Nancy Strayer. Some maps on the OHC website to be updated.

A motion was made to adjourn at 3:50 PM and seconded by Penny Passalacqua. Motion approved.

Submitted by
Catherine Estill
OHC Secretary