



MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

THE POLITICAL HORSEMAN

by Royce Herman

“Let George do it.”

“Who’s George?”

“I don’t know, but I’m too busy running up the down escalator, so let George do it.”

How many of us have heard an exchange like this in any organization when we ask for help with a project? I’m sure we all have at one time or another. This brings to mind that old saying; 20% of the people do 80% of the work in any volunteer organization. I guess there may something to be said for this concentration of effort but there is a serious downside as well. The most obvious is burnout. We all have lives outside the club (whichever club that is), so when the duties of the volunteer start to encroach on the personal life, the problems begin. Another problem is the concentration of power. When a few people make all of the decisions, good ideas from the rest of the group tend to get ignored. Anyway, you can start to see why it might be a good idea to raise your hand once in a while.

Let’s look at what it takes to be a volunteer. The first and most obvious factor is time. How much time, you ask? It can be anything from a few minutes a month to several hours a week. That part is up to you. How much time can you spare? Some of us are better time managers than others and those people always seem to FIND time no matter what is asked of them. There are, however, reasonable limits. Some people seem to take on every new task that comes along until they are so over-burdened that they can no longer function at all. This is worse than not doing anything at all. You have to learn when to say “no.”

Another factor is skill. Some of us are good speakers and some of us are scared to death to talk to more than one person at a time. Some of us are great organizers and others are scatterbrained. The point is that every one of us has a strong point to contribute. The real shame is when we sit in a corner and are afraid to put these strong points to use. I know some people who are afraid that they may make a mistake or say something wrong. Hey folks: We’re all human. Lord knows I’ve stuck my foot in my mouth on occasion, but I’ve always managed to pull it out and move on; and so can you!

The Maryland Horse Council is a great example of what can be accomplished with a few good people. The number of these people is increasing all the time. The last meeting that I attended had about 15 directors present, which is about average for a Horse Council meeting. The problem is that there are about 45 organizations (I think) that are members of the council and have appointed directors to serve on the board. That means that only a third of the directors bother to show up. You’d think that the rest of the organizations might want to

have their ideas heard. Folks, if your appointed director can’t make the meetings, find someone who can. I find it hard to believe that all these groups are content to just sit back and “let George do it.”

Organizations like the Horse Council draw their power from numbers. This means that we must all pull together (watch for more on this in next months column). All clubs in the state need all the help that they can get. So, tomorrow morning, when you’re standing in front of a mirror, ask yourself, “Can I give just a little time to the organization that supports my love of horses?” A little time can make a huge difference!

See y’all next month, and ride safe—

DNR Trail Workshops

The DNR has offered the Maryland Horse Council the opportunity to participate in some of these training sessions. There is no cost to attend, but you should plan to do some volunteer trail maintenance in return.

Date	Workshop Type	Location/Indoor	Site Contact	Comments
May 3-4 9:00am-4:00pm	Basic Prerequisite for Advanced Training	New Germany/ Lake House	Mike Gregory/ Justin Carrico	Dress for outdoor activities rain or shine. Bring your own lunch.
June 5-9	Advanced: Wet Area Solutions	St. Mary’s River SP/ Indoor TBD	Dawn Letts	Need ER proposal and review; Rich or MORE volunteer visit site
June 12-16	Advanced: Wet Area Solutions	Rosaryville / Mansion	Bob Cantin	ER completed; Geo-mesh textile application
Sept. 4 To be confirmed	Advanced: Mechanized Trail Construction	Fair Hill / Walls Auditorium	Wayne Suydam	Need ER proposal and review; Rich stop by and see site with Wayne
Sept. 11 To be confirmed	Advanced: Mechanized Trail Construction	Fair Hill / Walls Auditorium	Wayne Suydam	Need ER proposal and review; Rich stop by and see site with Wayne
Nov. 6-10	Advanced: Planning & Design	Greenbrier / Visitor Center	Tammy Mc-Corkle	
Nov. 13-17	Advanced: Planning & Design	Susquehanna	David Taylor/ Margit Pruett	

Disclaimer: This column is sponsored by the Maryland Horse Council. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of The Equiery’s publisher or staff.

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The Executive Committee meets monthly.

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Maryland Horse Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m.

Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Open to All Members of the Equestrian Community

Meet & Greet Reception, 6 p.m.
sponsored by Marshall & Associates Insurance, Inc.

•
Horse Park: Where Are We?

•
2006 Legislative Wrap-up

•
Planning For Maryland's Future –
Will You Be a Part of It?

•
The First Report From
the Maryland Equine Health Advisory Committee



Maryland Horse Council

2006

Serving the Industry Serving You

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP— \$1,000 one-time fee

Open to any private entity, corporation, or for a state, county or other municipal agency, department, service or office that wishes to support the Maryland equestrian industry. Membership shall be a one time fee of \$1,000. Payment shall entitle the institution to designate one or more individuals to serve in an advisory (non-voting) capacity to the Council.

- Association—\$100/year
- Farm—\$60/year
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- Individual—\$35/year
- Youth Club—\$10/year

Name (Assoc./Business/Farm/Youth Club/Individual) _____

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Phone _____

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*Membership dues payable by check or MasterCard or Visa.
Make checks payable to Maryland Horse Council.*

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