



November 2016

## President's Letter

Jane Seigler

This is my fourth and final Annual Report as President of the Maryland Horse Council (MHC). Next year MHC will have a new President at the helm, and I ask all of you to continue your support of and involvement in the work of the Maryland Horse Council. I continue to be amazed and impressed by how far this great organization has come, and how much we Maryland equestrians, working together as a unified interest group, have accomplished. Onward and upward!

Detailed information about the activities of our Legislative Committee, Business Network, Farm Stewardship Committee, Committee to Support Racing, Trails and Greenways Committee, Political Action Committee, and our related organization, The Maryland Fund for Horses can be found on our website: [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org). I think you will be impressed.

Although we are an organization of serious substance, with many significant initiatives and accomplishments that will be discussed below, we also know how to have fun! Our signature social event is the Annual MHC BBQ. This was our 10th Annual BBQ, and this event has truly been getting bigger and better every year. Held at the beautiful Waredaca Farm and "lubricated" by the Waredaca Brewing Company, the BBQ was a big success. We also enjoyed a fabu-

lous Day at the Races at Pimlico in June, and an Evening at the Races at Rosecroft in October.

I am so pleased and proud to be part of the Maryland Horse Council!

Jane Seigler  
President

### BBQ Report

Holden Rafey

On Saturday, September 17th, the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) held its 10th Annual BBQ Picnic at Waredaca in Laytonsville. A family-run farm in operation since 1937 on more than 220 acres, Waredaca is a U.S. Equestrian Federation licensed eventing competition venue and features a new microbrewery.

The annual BBQ event included great food, music, and fun activities and was open to MHC members and guests. More than 150 people attended this year and enjoyed food by Mission BBQ while listening to music performed by Arthur Lisi & Friends.

The Maryland Horse Council and the Horse Council Political Action Committee (PAC) held a successful silent auction to raise funds for both organizations thanks to the generosity of members and attendees. Guests were also treated to Waredaca

### Maryland Horse Council Meeting

November 15<sup>th</sup>

House Office Building  
6 Bladen St. | Annapolis, MD

4pm: Legislative tour

6pm: Reception

7pm: Meeting – all are welcomed!

#### Highlights for Meeting:

Behind the scenes Annapolis State House tour  
Meet Julie Broadway, New President of the American Horse Council  
Election of MHC Officers  
MD Horse Industry Board Updates  
2017 Legislative Outlook

Visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org) for RSVP details!

Brewing Company tours and riding demonstrations by the Waredaca Pony Club.

Lots of people helped make this event possible and special thanks go out to the MHC volunteers Dale Clabaugh and Jaime Navarro for organizing the event. Thanks also go to tent sponsor Maryland Horse Breeders Association and MHC sponsors B&D Builders, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, The Equiry, Maryland Horse Industry Board, Days End Farm Horse Rescue, MARBIDCO, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, and Agape Pet Services.

## MHC 2020 and Membership Report

**Valerie Ormond**

As we communicate with our elected representatives and regulators, there is strength in numbers. Our 345 member associations and groups represent more than 30,000 people in the Maryland horse industry, and that number gets attention. But we know we can do more. Because of this, MHC Vice President Neil Agate spearheaded the MHC 2020 effort focused on strategic planning for MHC and benefits of MHC membership. Stay tuned for progress, or if you'd like to be involved, let him know by emailing him at [nagate@agate.us](mailto:nagate@agate.us).

Even if you belong to a club or association that is a member of MHC, we need your individual membership. And if you belong to a club, association, farm, or business that is not a member, please encourage that organization to join. MHC represents the interests of our member organizations at the county, state, and even national level. See elsewhere in this report for our membership application, or go online to [mdhorsecouncil.org](http://mdhorsecouncil.org). You can also sign up at any of our four Quarterly Board of Directors meetings or any of MHC's social or networking events. We offer 3- and 5- year discounted pre-paid memberships, in addition to the 1 year and lifetime options. And if you join as an individual member, you can earn cash rebates for your member organization - contact [admin@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:admin@mdhorsecouncil.org) for more information.

## Horse Council PAC

**Win Hayward & Jane Seigler**

The Horse Council PAC was authorized by the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) Board and created

in 2011. It is registered with the State Board of Elections and as a PAC is affiliated with the MHC. The idea of a PAC for the MHC came out of the 2009 Horse Industry Forum. Working in concert with the Legislative and Executive Committees of the MHC, the PAC provides another means to demonstrate the strength and unity of the Maryland horse industry to Maryland elected officials.

2016 was another year of growth for the Horse Council PAC as a key part of the advocacy function of the Maryland Horse Council. Acting in close concert with the MHC Legislative and Executive Committees, the PAC transferred \$3,600 to State Legislator PACs and, for the first time, that of the standing Governor, as demonstration of support. These Legislators typically hold important leadership positions in committees with jurisdiction over priority MHC issues. They were generous of their time, listened to our concerns, and helped the MHC have a successful year.

Organizationally too, the PAC exhibited continuity and stability. The Chair, Steuart Pittman of Dodon Farm in Davidsonville, finished his term and was replaced by JoAnne Stone. JoAnne is the wife of long-time State Senator Norman Stone and is deeply familiar with the people and processes of Annapolis. She'll provide great leadership as the PAC role evolves and expands.

Fund raising prior to the 2017 Legislative Session is in full gear—and we need your help! MHC advocacy benefits everyone in Maryland who loves horses, not just its members. To contribute, please go to the PAC page on the MHC website [mdhorsecouncil.org](http://mdhorsecouncil.org). Many thanks to those who've contributed so far,

with a special shout-out to those who purchased items at the MHC BBQ silent auction which benefited the Horse Council PAC.

## Legislative & Regulatory Report

**Jane Seigler**

Once again, MHC rocked the staid and storied halls of Annapolis by achieving what is generally believed to be the unachievable—defeating a county delegation sponsored, “county courtesy” bill. This time it was House Bill 203, which would have authorized the Department of Natural Resources to allow Sunday hunting for all game mammals and game birds on every Sunday of the respective hunting seasons in Caroline County. As late as the Friday before the end of the session, we weren't sure we had the votes. But intense lobbying over the weekend produced results! In the evening hours on Monday, the very last day of the 2016 session, the Senate Committee on Education, Health and Environmental Affairs killed the bill by a vote of 7-3. Senators Conway (Baltimore City), Pinsky (Prince George's), Nathan-Pulliam (Baltimore City and County), Kagan (Montgomery), Rosapepe (Prince George's and Anne Arundel), Young (Frederick) and Zucker (Montgomery) voted with us. Senators Bates (Carroll and Howard), Salling (Baltimore County) and Waugh (Calvert and St. Mary's) were against us, and Senator Simonaire (Anne Arundel) abstained.

This achievement was possible through the outstanding coordinated efforts of our professional lobbyist, Frank Boston; our dedicated, all volunteer, Legislative Committee;

and our hugely responsive and effective grassroots “team”—the MHC members from Caroline County who took the time to come to Annapolis and testify against the bill (thanks and a big shout out to Christy Clagett, our grassroots “whip” who worked the phones to organize the panel from Caroline County), and to the MHC members from all over the state who responded to our e-blasts and called and emailed their representatives to voice their opposition to the bill.

As mentioned, these county sponsored bills are normally very hard to defeat because the legislators generally want to give deference to an individual county’s initiatives, with the hope of receiving reciprocal consideration when their own county has a bill. Our most successful defense against these “county courtesy” bills is vigilance at the county level itself. When county officials are considering legislative initiatives to send to Annapolis and they hear from their constituents that a proposal is unpopular, that will often be the end of it. If you would be willing to monitor the agenda of your County Council, Commission or other governing body, to alert your fellow equestrians about measures that might affect them, please let us know! We’ll take care of the rest. It will only take a few minutes of your time to check your county’s website periodically, and it could make a big difference. If you can help, please contact [admin@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:admin@mdhorsecouncil.org).

All told, during the course of the 3-month session, MHC closely monitored about 40 bills that could have an effect on horse people, their farms, businesses and even their pets. (For a full report on our legislative work this year, please visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org).) At our weekly conference call throughout the session, we evaluated the new bills that had been introduced during the preceding week that might impact us, discussed and arrived at our position, and determined our lobbying strategy. We testified at a number of hearings, wrote and submitted written testimony on a number of other bills, and took formal positions without testimony on many others. We traveled to Annapolis over and over again to meet with key legislators and county delegations. Our all volunteer army (assisted greatly by Frank Boston and his staff) was a force to be reckoned with, as we weighed in on bills ranging from Soil Conservation and Program Open Space funding, to tax credits for preservation easements, to workplace rules, to deer poaching, and more, including the specific bills discussed in more detail above. A complete summary of all the bills we followed and what action we took on them can be found here: <http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/legislative-blog>.

If you have any questions about any of these bills, please let us know. You can get full information about any of them, including their full texts, any amendments, which legislators

voted for/against, etc. by going to [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov) and typing in the bill number in the “Find legislation by number” box at the top of the home page.

Finally, MHC, in conjunction with the Maryland Horse Industry Board and other horse industry partners hosted our second Maryland Horse Industry Day in Annapolis on February 23rd, 2016. Numerous promotional events, including videotaped interviews with some of Maryland’s horse industry leaders that appeared on [centermaryland.com](http://centermaryland.com), newspaper coverage, and other forms of outreach achieved broad marketing of the event. The day included a kick-off and issue briefing, press conference, and constituent meetings with over 25 legislators. Hundreds of Marylanders from around the state came to the State’s Capitol to advocate for the industry. All that preceded a terrific happy hour for legislators at the Calvert House in Annapolis. We had a great turnout of Maryland Senators, Delegates, Cabinet Secretaries and other Hogan Administration officials and horse industry leaders from across the entire spectrum of our diverse industry—all coming together to make the point that Maryland’s horse industry is wide, deep and strong. Next year we are looking forward to an even bigger and better event, and we hope you can join us in making our voice heard to our legislators!

## MHC Sponsor Spotlight

### Gold Sponsors



FARM CREDIT

### Bronze Sponsors



MARBIDCO  
growing rural ventures™

Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals. To join, please visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org) contact [admin@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:admin@mdhorsecouncil.org), or call 301.502.8929. The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by B&D Builders, Farm Credit, The Equiery, Maryland Horse Industry Board, MARBIDCO, Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, and Agape Pet Services.



One common bond ... the Horse. One common voice ... Maryland Horse Council.

# Maryland Horse Council Membership Form

**Membership Type:** *(check your membership type/amount)*

	Annual	3-Year	5-Year	Lifetime	Total
ASSOCIATION:	_____ \$100	_____ \$300	_____ \$500	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$
BUSINESS:	_____ \$100	_____ \$285	_____ \$475	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$
FARM:	_____ \$75	_____ \$215	_____ \$355	_____ \$750	_____ \$
CHARITY & FOUNDATION:	_____ \$75	_____ \$215	_____ \$355	_____ \$750	_____ \$
INDIVIDUAL:	_____ \$40	_____ \$105	_____ \$175	_____ \$400	_____ \$
YOUTH:	_____ \$5	<i>Date of Birth:</i> _____			_____ \$

**Donations:** *(if you would like to make a donation to one of our funds, please write in amount(s) below)*

Political Action Committee:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$
Maryland Fund for Horses:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$
MHC General Fund:	_____ \$	_____	_____	_____	_____ \$

**TOTAL Amount** *(Dues plus Donations):* \_\_\_\_\_ \$**MEMBER INFORMATION:** *(please fill in completely)*

Assn./Bus./Farm/Charity or Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact or Individual's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

 Check if you **DO NOT** want your membership to automatically renew each year. Renewals take place each July.**PAYMENT:** *Can be paid Online, by Mail, or by Phone***CREDIT CARD info:** *(NOTE: If credit card billing address differs from the address above, please complete below)*

\_\_\_\_\_ CC # (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Security Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of card holder as it appears on card (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pay ON-LINE at:****MAIL Payments to:****Pay by PHONE:**[www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm)

**Maryland Horse Council**  
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**301.502.8929**