



ONE COMMON BOND - THE HORSE

ONE COMMON VOICE - MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

MHC UPDATE

AUGUST 2017

WWW.MDHORSECOUNCIL.ORG

President's Letter Neil Agate

Dear fellow Maryland Horse Council members:

As I take over the reins as President of the Maryland Horse Council, I am truly awed by the incredible things that this organization has accomplished as a primarily volunteer run organization. While speaking of volunteerism, I want to personally and publicly thank Jane Seigler for four incredible years as our President and echo what I have said privately to her, that she has set an extremely high bar for the position of President.

The main focus of the Executive Committee over the last several months has been to work on our GoPro initiative. At the January quarterly meeting the board approved a plan to hire a full-time professional management organization, and since then we have been working with Kevin Atticks and his firm Grow & Fortify (G&F) to put together an agreement where the Horse Council will hire G&F to manage all aspects of the organization, including the hiring of an executive director. While this sounds simple it is a very complex move forward, as we have to make sure that all tasks are identified and accounted for in the new structure and that we (with G&F) identify and hire the right person as our Executive Director. We will have some exciting updates on the entire GoPro initiative at our Quarterly meeting on August 15th.

The Horse Council has been working with the Right Horse Initiative and a number of Maryland based groups, including our sister organization, the Maryland Fund for Horses, to develop and implement a facility and/or plan to execute on the resolution that MHC passed in November 2015, to encourage horse owners to take responsibility for placement or euthanasia of their unwanted horses, and seek to create a system to evaluate and place or humanely euthanize horses that are unwanted, abandoned or neglected. We will provide an update on this initiative at the Quarterly meeting on August 15th.

As we all know, although small in geographic miles, Maryland is a big state when it comes to horses and horse people, and as much as we all might want to participate in state wide Horse Council events it is often impossible to do so in person. It is our goal to encourage more members to join the Council and participate in our activities. In order to do that, we will be experimenting with a number of ways to broaden our reach. Technology can play a huge part in doing so.

Our website needs to be a central location for the exchange of information of all aspects of the horse world in Maryland. We know that we have some "structural" issues with the site and will hopefully be able to resolve them in the near future, and start using the site as a way to gather and disseminate information to our membership. Where possible we will continue the experiment we started at the Spring meeting of live streaming our meetings so that members who cannot physically attend can still participate.

In addition to many of the external things that are happening in the horse industry in Maryland, the Maryland Horse Council Board passed some long needed updates to the By-Laws of the association which will restructure the Board and make it more active and effective. To implement these changes I will be heading a nominating committee to put

forward a set of candidates to fill the new board, which will be representative of the groups and disciplines represented by membership. If you currently serve on the Board of Directors as a representative of a member organization and would like to remain on the board or would like to be part of the nominating committee please contact me at nagate@mdhorsecouncil.org.

Thank you to all of our members and sponsors for your continued support of the Maryland Horse Council and the Maryland horse industry in general. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Quarterly meeting on August 15th and our Annual BBQ on September 9th at the Congressional Polo Club in Poolesville.

MHC QUARTERLY MEETING

Open to All Members & Guests

August 15, 2017
Woodvale Farm

9602 Bartgis Road • Frederick, MD 21702
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Social hour and free refreshments
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: Meeting

Highlights

MAJOR GoPro initiative update
Updates on MD Right Horse initiative
Update on Fair Hill & other statewide projects

Refreshments courtesy of the Frederick Equine Alliance
Visit www.mdhorsecouncil.org to RSVP

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



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Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals. To join, please visit mdhorsecouncil.org or contact admin@mdhorsecouncil.org. The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by B & D Builders, The Equery, Farm Credit, Maryland Horse Industry Board, MARBIDCO, Days End Horse Rescue, Maryland Thoroughbred Horseman's Association and Agape Pet Services.

Go Pro Campaign Update



by *Stuart Pittman, vice president*

If you read this MHC Update regularly or have attended MHC meetings, you've read or heard my pitch for the GoPro campaign. We're well on our way, but we're not done yet.

The Maryland Horse Council that you know today is a great organization that has represented us well in Annapolis.

The Maryland Horse Council you are about to meet is one that will put the horse industry on the map in this state right where it belongs.

We will be your source for America's most innovative, most diverse, and most exciting local horse industry.

We will be your secret weapon when county officials mess with your farm.

We will educate public officials, reporters, and the general public about the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of horses.

We will demonstrate to the rest of the country that there IS an alternative to the slaughter pipeline, and that it is humane.

We will be there to put political power behind campaigns for upgraded competition venues, bringing huge events like the Fair Hill CCI**** and Breeders' Cup to Maryland.

This sounds like a lot of wishful thinking, but it's real. Our contract with Grow & Fortify is only part of what is forthcoming. But there is more, and it's equally exciting. The plan will be unveiled at our Tuesday, August 15 meeting.

This growth is only possible because the following organizations and individuals have contributed to the Go Pro Campaign.

Contact me about a contribution or click on the Go Pro page at mdhorsecouncil.org and donate. We are half-way to our goal.

Special recognition goes to Carolyn Macintosh and Maryland Horse Trials for raising nearly \$5,000 through entry fee assessments. That is an investment in the future that will pay off.

The following have pledged \$1,000 or more.

- Baywood Farm
- Bill Reightler Sales
- Bloomsberg Farm
- Caves Farm
- Cloverland Farm
- Damascus Equine
- Days End Farm Horse Rescue
- Dodon Farm
- Good Friday Farm and Friday's Horse Giftware
- Hilltop Farm
- James Casey, DVM
- Larking Hill Farm
- Ross Peddicord
- Neil Agate
- Jane Thery
- Crystal & Brian Pickett
- Dale Clabaugh
- Paul Turner
- Kathleen Tabor

Maryland Horse Council "Go Pro" Pledge Form

Yes! I/we want to be part of the Maryland Horse Council's push to "Go Pro."

Your Name _____

Associations & Business members: Can you support MHC with at least \$1,000? That is just \$83.33/month to allow all your members to have personal access to assistance with local and state level zoning and regulatory problems, as well as state legislation!

\$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other _____

Farm members. Think of having your own personal advocate with your local permitting/zoning authorities! Isn't that worth your investment?

\$1,000 Other _____

Individuals and Charities/Rescues. Please contribute what you can to help MHC continue to exert maximum effort to help you and the issues that matter to you.

\$100 Other _____

Please make checks payable to:
"Maryland Horse Council"
and mail to: PO Box 141,
Damascus, MD 20872

Or visit mdhorsecouncil.org
to donate online!

