



MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

General Tips for Grassroots Lobbying

What is Grassroots Lobbying?

Grassroots lobbying is simply the art of communicating with your elected officials. It's the heart of our democratic way of life and is what concerned horse people do to influence legislators' decisions on issues that affect us.

What does Grassroots Lobbying involve?

It involves knowing the facts about an issue that concerns you; contacting your legislators by telephone, letter, email, faxes, or personal visits; and presenting your viewpoint to legislators.

What's the best way for me to contact my legislators?

Probably the most effective way is to pay your legislators a personal visit during the annual 90-day legislative session (mid-January to mid-April). You can call their legislative offices to make an appointment or to ascertain the best time to drop by. If you cannot meet personally with a legislator, staff members are usually happy to hear your views and can be very helpful. During the rest of the year, most legislators have offices in their home districts and sometimes hold meetings there as well.

You can also let your elected representatives know your position on an issue by telephone, snail mail, faxes, or email. Just remember that you'll need to know the facts, be courteous (never threaten a legislator that you will not vote for him/her if they do not vote your way!), and be brief in your comments, spoken or written. Form letters and postcards usually are not effective and should be avoided.

How do I contact my legislators?

The Maryland General Assembly's website contains a wealth of information and is simple to use: <http://mlis.state.md.us> — on the home page, just click on Contact or find a legislator and go from there.

Are there other ways I can make my position known to legislators?

Yes, indeed. When bills are heard in committees, citizens can testify in support or in opposition. Again, it is important to know the facts, be courteous, and be brief. If someone else has testified before you and holds your same position, relinquish your time to them. Summarize—don't read from written testimony.

In order to testify before a committee, you will need to arrive well ahead of time and sign in. Also, if you have written testimony you would like distributed to committee members, call the committee staff first to determine how many copies you will need to bring with you. When you arrive, you can hand them to committee staffers in the committee hearing room. Committee hearing schedules are available on the General Assembly website. Just click on Hearing Schedule. Remember that as the 90-day session goes on, committees can run behind schedule so be prepared to wait.

How can I find out if a certain bill has been introduced or follow the progress of a bill?

Again, the General Assembly website is an excellent resource. Click on Bill information and status. Type in the bill number, e.g., hb32 or sb32. You will get the general overview and status page. To read the actual bill, you can scroll down the page and click on First Reading, Second Reading, etc. This way you can also keep up with amendments to the bill. If you want to search by subject or bill sponsor, click on Bill indexes. In addition, prior session bill information is available which will enable you to find out how a bill fared in past sessions.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can obtain information by calling the Department of Legislative Services Library and Information Services at 410-946-5400 (Baltimore area), 301-970-5400 (Washington area), or 1-800-492-7122 (other areas).

Maryland Horse Council—

What kind of organization is it?

MHC is a private, non-government related entity; it is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) organization with dues paying members.

Who makes up the Horse Council?

The Maryland Horse Council is an umbrella association for all Maryland horse organizations. The Maryland Horse Council belongs to the American Horse Council, which is an umbrella organization for all national horse organizations and state horse councils.

What is the purpose of the Horse Council?

Like the American Horse Council, which represents the horse industry on Capital Hill on federal legislation and regulatory issues, the Maryland Horse Council represents the horse community in Annapolis. Like our national organization, MHC monitors legislation and

regulatory issues which may affect the horse community. MHC also supports research, education and promotion.

How does MHC decide its position on issues, or what issues it is going to work on in Annapolis?

Members must bring an issue to the Board of Directors for discussion. The Board of Directors will then vote to establish the position of the Maryland Horse Council.

Who is on the Board of Directors?

The MHC Board of Directors consists of one representative for every dues-paying member organization. There are Directors-at-Large to represent non-association members (businesses, farms, individuals and youth). The Board of Directors elects the Executive Committee, which serves as a combination steering and long range planning committee. Members stay directors as long as their dues are current.

—THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—

The Maryland Horse Council is the umbrella organization for all horse organizations in Maryland. The Board of Directors consists of one representative from each member organization, as well as Directors-at-Large who represent the individual, farm and business memberships, and youth groups. The Board of Directors, which meets quarterly, elects the officers and the executive committee, which serves as the steering committee for the council. Here now are brief biographies on the elected members of the 2003/2004 Executive Committee. They are your representatives. Please feel free to voice your concerns or opinions to them, whether or not you are a member of MHC. MHC is here to serve the entire Maryland horse community.

President: LuAnne Levens

LuAnne Levens began riding at the age of 10, when her father's Army career landed the family in San Antonio, Texas. LuAnne's earliest experiences riding involved jumpers and cross country. She would eventually switch to the show hunter division, but became intrigued with the "combined training" division, which necessitated her learning dressage. She quickly abandoned the jumping to focus on her dressage, and joined the Potomac Valley Dressage Association in the late 1970s, and has served as the PVDA representative to the MHC board, beginning her involvement with MHC. She was publisher of the Armed Forces Journal International for many years. After selling the publication she joined Winchester homes in sales. In 1980 she began boarding horses at her Periwinkle Farm in Spencerville. She is a former secretary of the Eastern Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, a former member of the Eastern Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board, and a former member of the Board for the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, and a former volunteer for the Literacy Council of Montgomery County (former on many of these because she is currently focusing her energies on the MHC).

1018 Parris Ridge Dr., Spencerville, MD 20868; phone 301-421-1252; fax 301-421-1253, levenslk@aol.com

Vice-President: Michael Erskine

Mike Erskine has been involved with horses since 1969. He actively participated in Pony Club, 4-H and in Quarter Horses. A 1988 graduate from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, he served as a racetrack veterinarian in Pennsylvania for two years, before moving back to Maryland where he joined Damascus Equine Associates. He is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, as well as a Diplomat in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, where he is board certified in equine practice. He is a past president of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association and serves on the board of the Maryland Association of Equine Practitioners, serving as the MAEP representative to the Maryland Horse Council for over three years. He is also a member of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Advisory Council. He still manages to find time to go out periodically with the Howard County-Iron Bridge Hounds.

17716 Quail Covey, Woodbine, MD 21797; phone 301-854-5689; fax 301-854-5687.

Treasurer: Keith Wills

Keith Wills has been involved with horses for the past fourteen years, enjoys trail riding, and is a member of AQHA. In addition to the Maryland Horse Council, Keith is the vice president of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, a land preservation organization participating in the Rural Legacy program to preserve historic and cultural sites, and watershed planning. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Baltimore County Farm Bureau. Professionally, he is a Account Executive, Commercial division for the venerable agricultural institution MidAtlantic Farm Credit, ACA. Keith is also an avid Sporting Clay Shooter and member of NSCA.

1614 Churchville Road, Suite 102 PO Box 648; phone 410-838-4242, fax 410-434-5584. kwills@mafc.com

Secretary: Crystal Kimball

Crystal Kimball is the publisher and owner of *The Equiery*. In addition to her articles in *The Equiery*, which have been reprinted in numerous other publications, her writing has appeared in *USCTA News*, *Sidelines*, *The Cecil Whig*, *Steeplechase Times*, and *The Chronicle of the Horse*. In college, she rode on the University of Maryland Equestrian Team, and has been involved with hunters, combined training, dressage, and foxchasing. She has served as secretary for MHC since 1994, and is an under-chair of the Maryland Horsemen's Party. She has been a member of MHC since 1991, and serves on the Board of Directors as a Director-At-Large representing the business membership. She also serves as secretary for the Maryland Steeplechase Association, technical advisor to the Maryland Horse Industry Board, is a member of the MDA Soil Conservation & Pasture Management Committee and of the MD FFA Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees, and is a graduate of the LEAD Maryland program.

P.O. Box 651, Lisbon, MD 21765; Phone 410-489-7826; Fax 410-489-7828; crystal@equiery.com

Member: Tim Capps

Tim Capps is now the executive vice president of the Maryland Jockey Club following a six year stint as the Executive Vice-President of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. His first job after graduation with an MS in Finance from George Washington University was managing the horse racing database development for the Jockey Club in New York. After a brief sabbatical from the horse industry as a Wall Street money manager, Tim returned to the industry as editor and publisher of the weekly news magazine, the *Thoroughbred Record*. From there he moved to vice-president of Matchmaker Racing Services and the Maryland Jockey Club. At the MHBA, he was responsible for the administration of the Maryland-bred Fund, the publication of the *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazine, and management of the Maryland Million. In his current position, he is responsible for strategic planning and development, governmental and industry relations, sponsorships, strategic marketing, and event management. He has served on the MHC Board of Directors since 1995, first as the representative for MHBA and now as the representative for MJC.

Laurel Park, P.O. Box 130, Laurel, MD 20725; phone 410-791-7775; 301-725-0400

Member: Tim Streaker

Tim Streaker grew up around Thoroughbred racing and was an active 4-Her and Pony Clubber. Today, he is a farrier in good standing with the American Farriers Association and is a current member of and the immediate former treasurer of the Maryland Farrier Association (which he represents on the MHC Board of Directors).

13720 Rt. 144, West Friendship, MD 21794; 410-489-5433; cell 410-241-9480; trstreaker@hotmail.com

Member: Royce Herman

Royce is new to the Executive Committee, but has served on the MHC Board of Directors for 7 years as the representative for Tuckahoe Equestrian

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Center. A native of Delaware, Royce graduated from Keystone College in 1966 and the University of Delaware in 1971, and has spent the last 32 years in food service marketing, the last 20 with Sysco Corp. Rode extensively as a youngster and while working a dairy farm, rode rodeo some as a teenager, and came back to horses with his wife after the kids were up and out. They are primarily involved in trail riding, mounted cowboy action shooting, and mounted reenactments. He is a national competitor in bulls eye pistol shooting, and runs a side business as a professional gunsmith and teaching hunting safety for the State of Maryland. In addition to Tuckahoe, he belongs to the Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association, National Rifle Association, National Mussel Loading Rifle Association and the Single Action Shooting Society.

P.O. Box 513, Centreville, MD 21617; 410-758-2081; raberman@dmv.com

Ex-Officio: Sol Goldstein

Sol Goldstein has been an independent life insurance broker since 1957, and has received numerous awards of excellence from the industry. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Sol brings a wealth of community service experience to the horse council, having served on civic boards, including, but not limited to, the Baltimore Urban League, the Ecumenical Drug Abuse Program, Civic Works, Inc., the Jewish Labor Committee of Greater Baltimore, the Metropolitan Athletic Association, the Maryland Bar Grievance Committee Review Board, the Speakers Bureau for the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund, and many, many more. He is an active pleasure horse owner, is a past president of the Plantation Walking Horse Association of Maryland, and helped create the MHC Trails & Greenways

Committee. Sol served as MHC vice-president for 5 years, MHC president for two years and has served on the Board of Directors representing the Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland.

1300 York Road, Ste. 200, Lutherville, MD 21093; phone 410-339-6610; fax 410-823-6543.

Ex-Officio Member: Elizabeth Madlener

Past president of MHC, Elizabeth Madlener was instrumental moving the association forward in a more formal and organized manner, which has allowed it to be more productive and functional. A Grand Prix dressage rider, trainer, and AHSA "S" judge, Ms. Madlener has trained several horses and students to AHSA/USDF year end awards from First Level through Grand Prix, and at one time was long-listed with the USET. For ten years she operated the Maryland Horse Center in Gaithersburg, and was active on numerous USDF committees. Today she is busy both locally as a freelance trainer/instructor as well as nationally as a clinician and judge, and is a frequent contributor to *Dressage Today*. Elizabeth serves as the MHC representative on the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

274 Bayard Rd., Lothian, MD 20711; 410-867-0764; em_dressage@mindspring.com

Ex-Officio Member: Beverly Raymond

Professionally, Beverly Raymond is one of the two stable inspectors for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, a position she has held since 1978. In addition, she is an inspector of veterinary hospitals for the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. She has operated a licensed stable, and is a licensed veterinary technician, and has earned 120 hours at the University of Missouri's Cruelty Investigators School. She is also the MDA Coordinator for the Maryland You're Beautiful program at the State Fair, and has served on numerous civic committees. She is also a member of the Professional Animal Workers Society.

Beverly has been involved with horses since she was a child, and has done a little of everything, including showing, eventing, western games and drill teams, with a variety of breeds, including, but not limited to, Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Standardbreds, and gaited horses. Beverly's commitment to trails in Maryland led to her becoming one of the first members of the Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Mounted Patrol for Gunpowder State Park. One of the still active original members of MHC, Beverly has served as the treasurer for three presidents. She is a MHC Director-at-Large for individual members.

50 Harry S Truman Pkwy., Annapolis, MD 21401; phone 410-841-5822; fax 410-841-5999.

Ex-Officio: Dorothy Troutman

Dorothy Troutman is considered to be a quiet but vital force within the Maryland horse industry. She is the founder and president of the Maryland Equestrian Foundation, which had an integral role in the creation of the Rosaryville Conservancy and the Marlborough Horse Trials. She is a director for the Maryland Association for the Preservation of Equestrian Sports, and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Prince George's Equestrian Center. Through her work with the Prince George's County Council Park and Planning Board, Mrs. Troutman works tirelessly to protect open spaces and trails for equestrian use, and to provide facilities for showing and eventing. At the core of Mrs. Troutman's efforts is her conviction that the horse industry and equestrian events are assets not only to Prince George's County, but also to the entire state.

6406 S. Osborne Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772; phone/fax 301-627-1327



Maryland Horse Council

2004

Serving the Industry
Serving You

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

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

Institutional Membership: 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.

Name _____

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

Phone _____

If Assoc., Representative to Serve as MHC Board Member _____

Phone _____

Alternate _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Website _____

Fax _____

**Mail w/ check payable to: Maryland Horse Council
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