



# MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

## The Political Horseman

by Royce Herman

Why don't horse people talk to each other? Oh, I know everyone talks to others in their barn. Or if you're at a show, you might chitchat with other competitors. What I'm talking about is different groups, like calf ropers and foxhunters. I think I've heard every excuse on earth about this one. The most common comment is: "We travel in different circles." Another is: "I don't like that sport, so why would I talk to them?" The point of this whole thing is that we have this huge industry, but it's made up of all these small groups that seem to think that they have nothing in common.

Let's look for a moment and see if this is really true. Let's say that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) or some other radical animal rights group decided to try to outlaw foxhunting because they say it's cruel to the fox (this is what happened in England). The cowboys sit around saying, "What do I care? I don't foxhunt." They do nothing to help the foxhunters since it's not their ox that's being gored. For the sake of argument, let's say foxhunting does get banned. Now the animal rights people turn their attention to the next animal dependent equestrian group on their list: calf ropers. Now the calf ropers are in a mess; because they didn't help the other groups, nobody will stand with them.

Now, is everyone beginning to see a pattern emerging here? It's the "united we stand, divided we fall" routine. About this time I can see some stuffy foxhunter reeling in horror because he might have something in common with a cowboy. And I know a few cowboys who by now have probably swallowed their chaw for the same reason. I have to say I'm not picking on foxhunters or cowboys. It's just that they make a good example. And guess what, folks? They actually have something else in common – they both ride horses. Anybody starting to see my point yet?

Clint Eastwood said it best in *The Pale Rider*: "A man alone is easy prey." Such is true in our industry. All these small groups hardly make a blip on the radar screen by themselves. But think of the impact they'd make if they ever spoke with one voice. Even a flashy group like the mounted cowboy action shooters (which, according to *Western Horseman* magazine, is the fastest growing equestrian sport in the United States) doesn't make much of an impact in a place like Annapolis. They have been banned from state property in Maryland and I sure didn't hear much of an outcry. So, what group is going to be next?

So, what does all of this have to do with politics in an election year? The answer is that it has everything to do with politics in an election year. First of all, we all need to realize that we need to depend on each other for support. Second, we need to VOTE. I can't stress enough how important it is that ALL of us go to the polls on election day and exercise this right. I said it in an earlier edition of *The Equiery*, and I'll say it again: Throw out the party politics and vote for the person who will make you and your horses better off. Only you can make that decision and I know all of you will make it wisely.

So, until next time, ride safe and remember we all have the same interest – horses.

## Maryland Horse Council Meeting of the Board of Directors

Aug. 22, 2006

Please send corrections to [secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org](mailto:secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org)

### Directors Present

President & MD Association of Equine Practitioners: Michael D. Erskine, DVM  
Vice President & Reddemeade Farm: Jane Seigler  
Treasurer, Director at Large for Business Members & Mid Atlantic Farm  
Credit: Keith Wills  
Secretary, Director at Large for Business & Maryland Steeplechase  
Association: Crystal Kimball  
Recording Secretary: Doreen Hill  
Director at Large for Youth, Briarpatch & Director at Large, Youth: Darryll Ann Buschling  
Director at Large for Farm Members/Director at Large for Farm Summer Hill Farm: Gretchen Moberley  
Director at Large for Individual Members: Amy Burk  
Director at Large for Individuals & Past Treasurer: Beverly A. Raymond  
Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation Inc.: Debbie Rollins Frank  
Howard County Horse Shows Association: Mary Anne Steele  
League of Maryland Horsemen: Kathy Dobson  
Maryland Farriers Association: Tim Streaker  
Maryland Horse Breeders Association: Cricket Goodall  
MD Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Inc.: Christine Bricker  
New Market-Middletown Valley Hounds: Guillermo Warley  
Potomac Valley Dressage Association: Mardee Rochelle  
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center: Royce Herman

### Directors Absent

Carroll County Equestrian Council: Joseph Zentgraf, president  
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association: Sharon Roberts  
Days End Farm Horse Rescue Inc.: Kathleen Schwartz  
Past President, Director at Large Individual Members: Elizabeth Madlener  
Director at Large for Businesses & The Mill of Bel Air: Laura Schmitt  
Director at Large for Farms & Oatland Stables Inc.: Chrissy Keys Heard  
Director at Large for Farms, Past President & Periwinkle Farm: LuAnne Levens  
Director at Large for Individuals: Fred Lewis, DVM  
Elkridge Harford Hunt: Albert J.A. (Jay) Young  
Fair Hill International: Charlie Colgan  
Goshen Hounds: Holly Hamilton, MFH  
Graham Equestrian Center Inc.: Jim McDonald  
Howard County-Iron Bridge Hounds  
Humane Society of Carroll County: Nicky Ratliff  
Marlborough Hounds: Christy Clagett, jt-MFH  
Maryland 4-H Foundation: Jacqueline Harrington  
Maryland Combined Training Association: Judy Strohmaier  
Maryland Dressage Association: Margaret Wilterdink  
MD Equestrian Foundation & Rosaryville Conservancy: Dorothy Troutman  
Maryland Horse Shows Association: Deloise Noble-Strong  
Maryland Jockey Club: Carrie Everly  
Maryland Standardbred Breeders Association: Felicia Hilleary  
MD State Quarter Horse Association: Angelo Bizzarro  
Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Association: David Turner  
Plantation Walking Horses of MD: Gayle Miller  
Potomac Hunt Club: Monica Breland  
The Ranger Foundation Inc.: Ann Corcoran  
Trail Riders of Today: Priscilla Huffman  
Washington International Horse Show: Susie Webb  
Wicomico Hunt: Cindy Wood

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.



# 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
- Association—\$1000/lifetime
- Farm—\$60/year
- Farm—\$600/lifetime
- Business—\$60/year
- Business—\$600/lifetime
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- Individual—\$350/lifetime
- Youth Club—\$10/year
- Youth Club—\$100/lifetime

Name (Assoc./Business/Farm/Youth Club/Individual) \_\_\_\_\_

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If Assoc., Representative to Serve as MHC Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of cardholder as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_



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Maryland Horse Council • P.O. Box 233 • Lisbon, MD 21765

## MHC Officers & Executive Committee

*The Executive Committee meets monthly.*

President: Michael D. Erskine, DVM • 301-829-4977, mikedvm@aol.com  
Vice President, Jane Seigler • 301-421-9064, jane@reddemeade.com  
Treasurer: Keith Wills • 410-838-4242, kwills@midatlanticfarmcredit.com  
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Dorothy Troutman • 301-627-1327

### General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006 at 7 p.m.

Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland

Tour of House and Senate and Happy Hour to precede meeting; check November issue of *The Equiry* or website for more details.

## International Business Seminar

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007

at

Maryland Department of Agriculture

### Proposed Topics:

Marketing, Selling & Exporting Horses Abroad  
Buying & Importing Horses

### Including sessions on:

- International Law & Sales Contracts
  - International Banking
  - Health Passports
- How To FedEx A Horse & Other Transport Questions
- Foreign Worker Permits & Other Immigration Issues

Plus, get the latest update on a Mid-Atlantic Import/Export Facility in conjunction with BWI ... and more!

Interested? E-mail secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org to get on the mailing list for the seminar, and stay tuned to *The Equiry* for more information!