

# MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

## A Message from the President (Jane Seigler)



January is the start of the new year for most of us, but for the Maryland Horse Council (MHC), we are halfway through our fiscal/membership year. That fact, coupled with the opportunity to reach so many new people through inclusion in the January issue of the *Equiery*, which will receive even wider than usual circulation through distribution at the Horse World Expo, suggests that now is a good time to review who we are and what we do.

Established in 1985, MHC seeks to unify, inform, and represent Maryland's diverse

horse community. As the industry's state and trade association, MHC protects and promotes the horse industry by providing a united voice in the Maryland state legislature and state agencies, by interacting with the media and the general public, and by keeping its members informed on issues that affect them and their horses.

In 1998, MHC successfully advanced legislation that created the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) within the Department of Agriculture. The MHIB serves as a commodity board that promotes the horse industry and licenses stables in Maryland. MHC's and MHIB's roles are often confused; however, they are actually quite distinct. MHIB's job is to market and promote the industry throughout the state, and to license stables. Because MHIB is part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, it is prohibited by law from any type of lobbying activity. By contrast, one of MHC's main missions is lobbying, i.e., being the voice of Maryland's horse people in the State legislature, as well as before the regulatory agencies. Over the years, MHC has had numerous lobbying successes, for example: enacting state law that recognizes equine facilities and equine activities as part of "agriculture," thereby ensuring the many benefits and protections that follow from inclusion in that definition. More recently, we weighed in with the Maryland Video Lottery Facility Location Commission, urging them to locate the Prince George's Casino at Rosecroft Raceway. Recently, we were contacted by a rider with concerns about whether horse owners who trailer their horses for personal use are required to meet federal DOT and CDL requirements (some were being pulled over by State Police). We are working to resolve that issue. With the recent hiring of the distinguished lobbyist Frank D. Boston III as our lobbyist (read more about him elsewhere in this update), MHC stands prepared to be even more vocal and effective

in Annapolis as the new legislative session gets underway. If you have an issue or concern that involves state law or regulation, please let us know about it! As we did last year, we have invited State legislators and other officials to join us on a tour of the Expo, to personally experience the size and strength of the horse industry. If you see us squiring them about, introduce yourself!

*Here's more about . . .*

### What We Are:

The Maryland Horse Council is a grassroots membership organization with one part-time administrator and annual dues and sponsorship revenue of about \$30,000. We have 40 Association members that represent 30,000 people among them, plus Business members, Farm members, Charity/Foundation members, and Individual members. Our Board of Directors includes a representative from each of our associations, plus elected representatives from each of the other four membership categories. Our Executive Committee and officers are elected by the Board.

### What We Do:

The primary mission of MHC is to represent the interests of Maryland's horse community to state government, but we do more than that. We have a Save The Horse Farms campaign operating in many counties to overcome unfair zoning and permitting laws. We have a Farm Stewardship committee working to promote and expand the role that horse farms play in protecting the environment. We have an Unwanted Horse Project that has created a new Maryland Fund For Horses. We have a Political Action Committee to fund horse-friendly candidates for public office. We have a Committee to Support Racing. We have a Business Network. And, of course,

we have a Legislative Committee that coordinates our grassroots lobbying of our elected representatives and creates programs in state government, such as the Maryland Horse Industry Board. MHC also participates in the Maryland Farm Bureau and the American Horse Council's Coalition of State Horse Councils.

### How to Get Involved:

Like all primarily volunteer membership organizations, we constantly work to grow. Without dues-paying members, we would not exist. Without people willing to take on leadership roles, we would be silent. Can't wait to join up? Find out more details about membership elsewhere in this update.

*Happy New Year!*

### Maryland Horse Council Meeting Friday, January 17, 2014 (Expo)

#### Vista Room / Timonium Fair Grounds

2200 York Road, Timonium, MD 21003

6 pm: Reception

7 pm: Meeting - All Welcome!

*(refreshments provided)*

#### Meeting Highlights:

- *What you need to know about Department of Transportation and Commercial Driver's License regulations before you trailer your horse (or someone else's)*
- *2014 Maryland Horse Forum Planning*
- *What to Watch in the Legislative Session*
- *Industry Marketing Underway! by MHIB*

For more information, or to join MHC, please visit

[www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)

# MHC Update

**Frank Boston to Represent MHC in Annapolis** (by *Stewart Pittman*)

Maryland Horse Council takes great pride in its track record as a grassroots membership organization that can get things done in the General Assembly. We have passed our own bills, supported our allies' bills, and blocked many bills that needed to die. Most of that work was done without the help of a paid lobbyist.

MHC has grown in recent years, however. Our membership has increased and our financial condition has improved. When Maryland Horse Industry Board's Ross Peddicord pitched the idea of MHC hiring a lobbyist, and said he knew just the right guy, I was skeptical that we could justify such an expense. Ross's description of Frank Boston and his work for the Maryland Tourism Council sounded too good to be true.

Frank Boston is Maryland's fifth-ranked lobbyist, measured by fees paid for services. He is a lawyer whose father was a legislator. His client list includes Under Armour, Maryland and Baltimore Fraternal Order of Police, The Ravens, Amazon.com, Kaiser Permanente, MillerCoors, MD Licensed Firearms Dealers, and MD Tourism Council. Most importantly, Frank Boston owns horses. "My daughter would tell you that she owns the horses, but I own them both," he said. They board and train at the Fulton's Full Moon Farm in Finksburg. Like all good horse fathers, Frank has taken some lessons. He reported at the November Maryland Horse Council meeting that he could walk, trot, canter and go over cavaletti, but that he really needed some more lessons.

Frank's first task as MHC lobbyist was to lead the legislative tour of the capitol buildings for a group of twenty horse council grassroots activists. Many of us had been on these tours before, but in the past they were led by legislators. Frank's encyclopedic knowledge of every delegate and senator, his insights into how decisions really get made, his analysis of where the real power lies, and the humor with which he views the whole process, were refreshing and very entertaining. He demonstrated his tactical skills by charming office staff and guards into opening locked doors wherever we encountered them.

Frank has a staff of four to help him cover all the activity during the session. He will do a weekly conference call with the MHC legislative committee about the status of the bills we are watching, and he will facilitate the grassroots lobbying that we must continue. Having Frank Boston on our team will not only open doors for us in Annapolis, but will also make what we do in that town fun.

**What's In It For Me?** (by *Valerie Ormond*)

People often ask, "Why should I be a member of the Maryland Horse Council?" The reasons are many, but here are a few to consider.

*Strength is in numbers.* When the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) speaks, it speaks for over 35,000 horse people in the state. People listen to those numbers, understanding the economic impact of the many facets of the horse industry. While individuals can successfully lobby for specific interests, the MHC has a proven history of gaining attention and making legislative changes

favorable for the local horse industry. Although the interests and disciplines within the Council vary greatly, when members come together to support specific equine-friendly legislation, it can be powerful.

*Increased legislative initiatives.* MHC made a strategic decision to prioritize its legislative efforts above others. The Horse Council Political Action Committee (PAC) is making headway in its second year of existence, has made donations to those helpful to the horse industry, and is planning ahead to ensure MHC aligns contributions to those with similar interests. MHC hired its first paid lobbyist in years and is in consultations to present MHC member interests to lawmakers in the most effective manner. As a member of MHC, you have the opportunity to present your interests to these groups and help them be heard in the legislature.

*Networking.* MHC membership provides opportunities for associations, organizations, businesses, farms, individuals, and youth to network, learn from each other, and join forces on issues of importance to them. As a MHC member, you have a voice and can participate or make suggestions to ensure your interests are considered. Additionally, chances are that within the MHC, there are other people who may have had similar experiences as you in your business, with your horse, with your farm, or other. Don't go it alone; reach out to fellow MHC members who may have advice, a solution, or even just a sympathetic ear.

*Involvement.* Have you ever wanted to know more about horse racing, but didn't know where to start? Why not become a member of the Committee to Support Horse Racing? Besides having knowledgeable leadership, this particular committee hosted two successful events this year, one to introduce MHC members and their guests to Thoroughbred racing, and the other to Standardbred racing. Check the MHC website at <http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/> to see the many committees ranging from horse rescue to trails and greenways where horse owners, horse lovers, or anyone in the horse world can find a place to connect and be involved.

*Additional benefits and member discounts.* MHC members receive significant discounts from supporting organizations, including John Deere, UPS, Sherwin-Williams Paint, Office Max, American Horse Council, Hertz, Equestrian Professional, and more. MHC members also receive an annual The Equiry subscription delivered to their homes, mailings and updates for members, e-mail alerts, the MHC newsletter, and social media networking.

*Maryland is a horse state.* It is a legacy, and it should be the future. If you are reading The Equiry, you obviously have an interest in some aspect of the horse industry. Help maintain that legacy, support the industry, meet a few people with like interests along the way, and maybe learn more from some parts of the horse industry you have not dealt with in the past. You are already a horse person; now take the second step and become a member of Maryland's largest horse support organization.

# MHC Update

## New At-Large Directors *(by Margaret Rizzo McKelvy)*

Congratulations to the Maryland Horse Council's newly-elected Directors at-Large. Thank you to everyone who agreed to be nominated for these positions, and thank you to all of you who voted. Each of these Directors serve on the Maryland Horse Council's Board of Directors as voting members for each of their membership categories for a two-year period.

The Directors at-Large for Jul 2014 - Jun 2015 are the following:

### Business

Crystal Kimball (The Equiery)  
Peter Radue, DVM (Damascus Equine Associates)  
Keith Wills (Farm Credit)

### Farm

Christy Clagett (Larking Hill Farm)  
Karen Fulton (Full Moon Farm)  
Carolyn Krome (Persimmon Tree Farm)  
Carolyn McIntosh (Loch Moy Farm)  
Steuart Pittman (Dodon Farm)

### Charity & Foundation

Kimberly Clark (Thoroughbred Placement and Resources, Inc.)

### Individuals

Amy Burk  
Rob Burk  
James Casey, DVM  
Jean Clagett  
Royce Herman  
Ron MacNab  
Beverly Raymond  
Kathleen Tabor

## Stay Connected

Don't forget that there are several ways to stay up-to-date with the Maryland Horse Council. All events can be found on our website and Facebook page. And important news and topics are discussed on our blogs. Be sure to 'Like' or 'Follow' our social media outlets. And most importantly, be sure to participate! We welcome (and encourage) comments and discussions. If we don't see you at a coming event, we hope to see you online.



### Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/marylandhorsecouncil>



### Unwanted Horse Project Blog

<http://mhcuhp.wordpress.com/>



### Legislative Blog

<http://mhc-legislative.blogspot.com/>



### Horse Health Blog

<http://mhc-horsehealth.blogspot.com/>



### Farm Stewardship Blog

<http://mhc-farmstewardship.blogspot.com/>

... and don't forget about our County Forums! To find your county, visit: [www.mdhorsecouncil.org/county\\_issues.htm](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/county_issues.htm)

## Membership

Membership in MHC is open to all horse related organizations, as well as individuals, businesses, farms, charities and foundations, and youth individuals.

Member Type	Who's Eligible
<b>Association</b>	Open to all sporting, breed, and activity clubs, as well as professional organizations that have a voting general membership. A member association is entitled to designate one individual to serve on the Board of Directors, which, by vote, decides policy and legislative positions for the Maryland equestrian community.
<b>Business</b>	Open to any business, service or professional. Stay up-to-date on critical issues affecting the future of your business!
<b>Farm</b>	Open to any stable or farm. Make sure your voice is heard!
<b>Charity &amp; Foundation</b>	The Charity & Foundation membership is open to legally formed not-for-profit entities that have received or have applied for IRS recognition under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code and which do not have voting general memberships.
<b>Individual</b>	Open to any interested individual who supports the goals and purposes of MHC. Critical issues facing individual horse owners and horse enthusiasts include in-state competition facilities, preservation and creation of public bridle trails, taxes, insurance, regulation of equine health care professionals, zoning and preservation issues, and much more.
<b>Youth</b>	For Individual members age 21 and under.
<b>Benefits:</b>	1 Seat & Vote on the Board <i>(for Assn. members)</i>   1 General Membership Vote - to elect a representative onto the Board of Directors <i>(for Business, Farm, Charity/Foundation, and Individual members)</i>   Annual Equiery subscription   Email alerts   Great networking opportunities   Mailings & updates for membership   MHC member decal   Newsletter   Social networking   Vendor discounts

**Maryland Horse Council Membership**

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, The Equiery and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit.



*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	Date of Birth:			\$

**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:	\$				\$
<b>TOTAL Amount (Dues plus Donations):</b>					<b>\$</b>

**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**  
**P.O. Box 141**  
**Damascus, MD 20872**

**301.502.8929**

The Maryland Horse Council is a 501(c)(6) organization. Membership dues, payments and gifts to the Maryland Horse Council and its Political Action Committee are not deductible contributions for federal income tax purposes. Such payments may be deductible under the Internal Revenue Code as ordinary and necessary business expenses. The Maryland Fund for Horses is a 501(c)(3) organization (status pending).

*Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals. To join, please visit [mdhorsecouncil.org](http://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, The Equiery, and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit.*