



January 2017

## President's Letter

Jane Seigler

This is my final Maryland Horse World Expo as President 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 united interest group, have accomplished. Serving the Maryland Horse Council for the last three and a half years has truly been my honor and privilege. I have tried to work as hard as I can for Maryland's horses and horse people, and I have surely learned and grown a lot.

At our Annual Meeting in Annapolis on November 15th, 2016, we published our Annual Report, which includes 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. You can find a copy of this report on our website, <http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/mhc-annual-reports>. I encourage you to read it. I think you will be impressed.

As the Maryland Horse Council has continued to mature as an organization, we have begun to re-visit important aspects of our structure and operation. In particular, at our Quarterly meeting to be held at 7:00 pm in the Vista Room of the State Fairgrounds in Timonium on Friday,

January 20th, 2017, we will be considering entirely new by-laws, a major aspect of which will be changing the structure of our Board of Directors to make the Board more active and engaged in the governance of MHC. Be sure to attend that meeting to be a part of this historic event.

I look forward to more important work and exciting activities as I wind up my tenure as President!

Jane Seigler  
President

## 2017 Preview of Activities

Below is a preview of activities that we have planned for 2017! Please be sure to visit our website regularly for updates on exact dates and locations! We hope to see many of you out and about this year!

- January 20th – 22nd: Maryland Horse World Expo (visit us in the Cow Palace!)
- January 20th: Quarterly Meeting at the Maryland State Fairgrounds (Timonium)
- January 26th: Horse Industry Day (Annapolis)
- February TBD: Winter Farm Stewardship Meeting (location TBD)
- May 9th: Quarterly Meeting (location TBD)
- May/June TBD: Day at the Races at Laurel Park (Laurel)
- August 15th: Quarterly Meeting (location TBD)
- September 16th: Annual BBQ Fund-raiser (location TBD)
- October TBD: Eventing at the Races

## Maryland Horse Council Meeting

January 20<sup>th</sup>

The Vista Room at the Maryland State Fairgrounds  
2200 York Road  
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

6pm: Reception  
7pm: Meeting – all are welcomed!

### Highlights for Meeting:

Vote on major revisions to by-laws and restructuring of the Board of Directors

Preview of Horse Industry Day in Annapolis on January 26th

Looking forward to the 2016 Legislative Session & our plan for tackling Sunday Hunting

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

at Rosecroft Raceway (Fort Washington)  
November 14th: Annual Meeting (Annapolis)

## THANK YOU to our Sponsors



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# Introducing MHC's New Slate of Officers

## Valerie Ormond

November 2016 was not only the U.S. Presidential election, but also the MHC officers' election. Congratulations to the new slate of officers for 2017 – 2019, which includes the following:

President: Neil Agate  
Vice President: Steuart Pittman  
Treasurer: Clarissa Coughlin  
Secretary: Ahesahmahk Dahn

Per the Council's standard policies and procedures: "The President shall establish an Officer Nomination Committee and appoint its Chair from [Executive Committee] EX-COM members. The Chair will invite members to serve on the Nomination

Committee from the MHC membership. The Nomination Committee will examine potential candidates from MHC membership for nominees as MHC Officers and will nominate candidates."

Current Treasurer Dale Clabaugh chaired the Nomination Committee, assisted by two Committee members—Secretary Valerie Ormond and Executive Committee member Judy Smith. Clabaugh announced the nominated slate of candidates at the November 15th MHC Annual Membership Board of Directors Meeting and opened the floor to additional nominees. The Board of Directors

unanimously approved the proposed slate.

MHC elects its officers in November, although the officers' terms officially begin in July of the following year. During the transition period, newly elected officers are invited to participate in leadership meetings so they are ready to assume their duties their first day in office. Per the MHC bylaws, officers may not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms.

Please welcome MHC's new officers, and find out more about them below.



## President Neil Agate

Neil Agate is the founder of Four Gate, LLC a business and technology services firm

that works with early stage companies. He is a board member of the British-American Business Association and is a co-chair of the Association's Communications Committee. He has served as Maryland Horse Council's Vice President for the past two years. While Neil enjoys all horse activities he is an avid polo player and a co-founder of Capitol Polo Club in Montgomery County and in addition to playing polo has announced many polo matches up and down the East Coast. Originally from England, Neil has lived with his wife Kathy and two daughters in Darnestown for the last 25 years.

at both private facilities and expos. He graduated from the University of Chicago and then spent eight years as a political and community organizer in Chicago, Des Moines, Iowa and Washington, D.C. before returning to the farm and horses. He has served as the Maryland Horse Council's President for two terms. His most recent undertaking is the creation of the Retired Racehorse Project, an educational organization that seeks to increase demand for Thoroughbred ex-racehorses.

## Treasurer Clarissa Coughlin

Clarissa Coughlin works as the Graduate Coordinator for the College of Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is the founder and director of Friends of Maryland Standardbreds (FOMS) a non-profit organization that promotes harness racing, the versatility of the Standardbred and advocates for the Standardbred industry. She has owned and raced Standardbreds since 1989. Clarissa has been actively involved with the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, the Maryland Horse Council and co-hosted the unveiling of the first Maryland Historic Horse Trail with the Maryland Horse Industry Board in 2014. She introduced the first racing under saddle (RUS) event in Maryland



and is a board member of RUS America and the Maryland Standardbred Breeders Association. She resides in Lothian, Maryland, with her husband Jim, a long time Standardbred trainer and owner, her mother, Ursula Ayd, and retired Standardbred, Game Day.

## Secretary Ahesahmahk Dahn

Ahesahmahk Dahn founded City Ranch, Inc. in Baltimore to teach children about horses. He and Jean Dahn have spent over thirty years working with children in the greater Baltimore area. Their experience, combined with city living conditions, led them to want to do more to help refocus and inspire youth and reduce crime. City Ranch and its Board of Directors felt children needed to be challenged, and they developed a comprehensive equestrian program in an urban setting to provide that challenge. The City Ranch teaches students how to groom, tack, and ride horses and offers a way to help young people appreciate Baltimore's long traditions of horsemanship. Ahesahmahk is a Charity and Foundation Member of the Maryland Horse Council and has been a stalwart in the Maryland State Fair's Horseland exhibit for the past two years.



## Vice President Steuart Pittman

Steuart and his siblings are the eighth generation of his family to own their 550-acre Dodon Farm in Davidsonville. Steuart was

Maryland's first eventing instructor to be certified by the United States Eventing Association and he conducts clinics throughout the country

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and five Directors elected by the Board. The Executive Committee executes the business, policy and priorities established by the Board, and in the course thereof has authority to exercise all the powers and duties of the Board, not specifically reserved to the Board by the By-Laws. A written report on Executive Committee meetings is available to all the Directors. The Executive Committee may appoint additional non-voting, advisory members from time to time in its discretion.



**President: Jane Seigler**  
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**Vice President:  
Neil Agate**  
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**Treasurer:  
Dale Clabaugh**  
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**Secretary:  
Valerie Ormond**  
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## Directors elected to serve on the Executive Committee:



**Chris Bricker**  
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**Kathleen Tabor**  
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**Steuart Pittman, Jr.**  
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**Judy Smith**  
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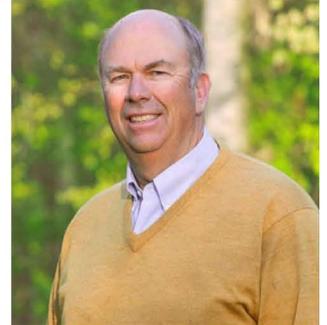
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## Non-Voting Advisory

individuals and youth. To join, please visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org). The Maryland Horse Council is sponsored by B&D Builders, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, The Equiery, Cloverleaf Standardbred

Owners' Association & Rosecroft Raceway, and Days End Farm Horse Rescue. To learn more about how to sponsor the Maryland Horse Council, please visit [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org).

Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses, charities and foundations,



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:	\$ _____	. . . . .	\$ _____

**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:
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[www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/join.htm)

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