

**Pennsylvania Equine Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Final Minutes
March 11, 2017
Hoss's Restaurant
State College, Pennsylvania**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Charles Van Auken at 11:00 a.m. Charlie started the meeting with a “thank you” for all the help with the EXPO.

- 2. Roll Call :**
 - A. Board of Directors Present:** Charles Van Auken, President; Bud Wills, Vice-President; Edith Ryan, Treasurer; Aleta Seifert, Corresponding Secretary; Gail Eichelberger, Recording Secretary; Judy Cole, Amanda Gerner, Sharon Kessler, Mike Kraft, Helene McKernan, Desilene Phillips, Guy Seifert, Skip Seifert, Burt Staniar, Capri Stiles-Mikesell, Ann Swinker, Elaine Winters

 - B. Board of Directors by Teleconference:** Not available for this meeting.

 - C. Board of Directors Absent:** Jeanne Askey, Donna Foulk, Linda Golden, Rick Shiffler

 - D. Guests:** Richard Eichelberger, Emily Otto, John Ryan, Tammy Withroup, Gwen Wills

- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Minutes of the January 21, 2017 meeting were emailed to members of the Board of Directors for review prior to the meeting. See attached. *A motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Helene McKernan, seconded by Guy Seifert. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.*

- 4. Treasurer's Report** – Edith Ryan reported. A Financial Statement was emailed to members of the Board of Directors for review. See attached. Beginning balance January 1, 2017 was \$24,657.40. Total deposits for January were \$20,893.19; total payments were \$6,899.46. Ending balance January 31, 2017 was \$38,651.13. Beginning balance February 1, 2017 was \$38,651.13. Total deposits for February were \$13, 744.03; total payments were \$14,603.71. Ending balance February 28, 2017 was \$37,791.45. *A motion to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Bud Wills. A vote was taken and the motion passed.*

Edith reported that the 2016 year taxes have been filed. She explained the problem that has occurred with our tax exempt status. Our filing paperwork had been lost and the IRS has required us to refile the 1024 form for our 501A status. It may have been an issue with another organization having a very similar name. Edith has the required paperwork ready and needs approval to pay the \$850.00 fee. This will put us back in good standing with the IRS and allow us to file our returns online. ***A motion to approve the expenditure of \$850.00 to the IRS form 1024 for the 501A status was made by Mike Kraft, seconded by Guy Seifert. With no further discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed.*** Edith also reported that at the Horse Expo a total of \$1,542.00 was collected for the sale of the liability signs. We signed up 24 Individual memberships, 13 Family memberships, 74 Individual Plus memberships and 13 Family Plus memberships for a total of \$3,860.00.

- 5. Corresponding Secretary's Report** – Aleta Seifert reported. She emailed her report to the board prior to the meeting. See attached. Ken Carpenter of the North Carolina Horse Council has been sending emails about the funding for the AHC's Economic Impact Study. They are setting up a GoFundMe page to garner contributions. Aleta asked if this was something we wanted to put on our web-page. ***A motion to put a message on our web page about North Carolina's GoFundMe account to raise money for the Economic Impact Study was made by Ann Swinker, seconded by Mike Kraft. After much discussion the vote was taken and failed unanimously.*** Discussion continued about the Economic Impact Study and how we may proceed with participation. The commitment is for 18 to 20 thousand dollars. The AHC is looking for a commitment from us by March 15, 2017. Charlie will be in contact with them. It was also suggested that a committee be formed to create a plan on how to communicate with the various equine organizations in Pennsylvania to solicit donations towards the study. Aleta also reported that we have received PEC sponsorship money for 2017 from Gailey and King. She received an 8 x 10 glossy photo from the Farm Show of Charlie and Kate Klunk with Dave Rohrbach and his team at the Farm Show Celebrity Driving Event. She is going to see if she can get the digital version so we can have it printed in a newsletter. Aleta talked with Dan Grunewald at the EXPO. He is a clinician from the Wisconsin Equine Council. He will be sending Guy some information on a high school program that they sponsor. The program allows students to letter in an equine activity.
- 6. Foundation Report** – Jeanne Askey emailed her report. The general Foundation account balance is \$13,852.08; scholarship account balance is \$616.46. It was noted that the Foundation must find a replacement for Elaine Bish, current President. It was suggested that \$1,000.00 automatically be transferred to the scholarship fund from the PEC's account each year.

7. Old Business

- A. EXPO/VIP Night 2017** – Skip Seifert and Elaine Winters reported. For the VIP reception there were 17 no-shows from people that confirmed their reservation. There were 6 extras. A lady from Schuylkill County approached Aleta with a concern about zoning in her community. She found out that she did not meet the zoning requirements for her equine facility after she had already purchased the property. Guy Seifert said he and Donna Foulk sit on the board in his community and they are going to work on a template for zoning and land use for pets and equine in their township. His hope is that other townships in Pennsylvania will follow suit and do the same. Gwen Wills said she heard good comments about the EXPO. Guy also had good feedback from representatives. Elaine commented about the two new carpets in the booth. Skip said the computer is now working properly thanks to Capri. Bud talked to the vendor from UKoala Bags and PEC members can get a 15% discount if they purchase one.
- B. PEC Members Trail Ride** – Bud Wills reported. Currently the ride is full and a waiting list has been started. We still need a few more to be paid up. There was discussion about how the information about the ride was distributed. The ride was announced at the annual meeting in December and the ride filled up by the end of the meeting. There was a limited amount of room. Guy said he heard that some people were upset about not getting on the ride. It was discussed that we look at having more rides and look at different parts of the state to have them. A committee was set up to look at this. The committee is Skip, Mike, Jim Theurer, Jim Robinson and Bernie Czarnecki. There was a discussion started by Guy about Sunday hunting and the game lands. He mentioned that the legislators do not have an understanding of the rules. Helene said the information about hunting in the game lands is very confusing. Bud said the information must be face to face with the legislators. Linda is working on some ideas about communicating with the legislators. Guy suggested we come up with something to give them to put on their desk that identifies the PEC so they remember us. Gwen will check with her contact for some ideas.
- C. Needs Assessment Study** – Ann Swinker reported. She presented to legislators and guests at the VIP night at EXPO. She will be sending out the survey to members of the legislature that requested it.

D. Additional Old Business - Guy commented that Donna Foulk has been receiving questions about rescues and cruelty to animals. This is a moral vs. legal issue. It also ties into some township zoning. Helene commented that religious issues may differ with township regulations and the township must honor them. Ann will send Guy some information. It was brought up about the law for bikes that require the four foot clearance when a motor vehicle passes a biker. There is also the Blue Law for passing at 25 mph. The law is rarely enforced. Bud said these laws are important.

8. New Business

A. Election of the Executive Committee – Charles VanAuken reported. This action was done and approved by email. Capri will be replacing Burt on the Executive Committee. All other members are remaining.

B. Regional Board Members – Charles VanAuken reported. There was discussion about creating six regions and having a director for each region voted on by the members of those regions. These six directors would then sit on the PEC Board of Directors. They would represent the membership and also help grow membership. The By-Laws and the Policies and Procedures would have to be changed. Charlie, Skip and Bud make up a committee to research this. Ideas should be brought back to the May meeting. Skip clarified the objective. It is to establish a place for the general membership to be represented on the board. Membership in the region will vote for their representative on the board. Guest attendee Tammy Withroup commented that there is disconnect with the membership and the county directors. The information does not get from the board, to the directors and then back to the membership. Skip said all important issues like Sunday Hunting, High School Letter Program and Zoning impact the entire state. A question was asked if a board member must be a member in good standing to be elected. The answer was no. *A motion to add a section in the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures to require a PEC member to be a “member in good standing” to be eligible for a board seat was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Burt Staniar. With no further discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed.*

C. PEC 30th Anniversary – Bud Wills reported. The PEC’s 30th anniversary will be in 2018. A committee comprised of Elaine, Amanda, Sharon, Aleta and Edith was established to plan the celebration. For the 20th anniversary, the shirts included “20 Years of Service” under the PEC logo.

- D. American Horse Council Survey** – There was a motion made by Guy and seconded by Mike to contact the AHC and agree to be part of the study. There was discussion. Guy asked how much money does the PEC need to raise. Bud answered between \$17,000 and \$20,000. Burt commented that the AHC will survey all of the states. The states that contribute funds will have additional data collected. The last survey was very good information. We need to make phone calls and have a letter for fund raising. Mike commented that the PEC should agree to pick-up the funds that are not raised. Guy amended his motion and Mike agreed to the amended second since the first vote had not been taken. *A motion to commit to raising up to \$20,000 for the American Horse Council survey was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Mike Kraft. A vote was taken and the motion passed.* Ann will chair a committee to oversee this project.

9. Committee Reports

- A.** Advertising – Bud Wills. No report.
- B.** Collegiate Membership – Burt Staniar reported that he is trying to work with Karoline Kent.
- C.** Education Grant Program – Donna Foulk. No report.
- D.** Electronic Director’s Manual – Helene McKernan. Report was emailed to Board. See attached. Since the last meeting, there were some updates to the manual. There are still some minor changes to be made.
- E.** Equine Learning Center – Mike Kraft. Report emailed to Board. See attached. Mike thanked Bob Sneed and Charlie for taking his place at the Farm Show this year and helping Skip. Brenda Mowery and Jeff Geiger will be doing the Bloomsburg Fair this year.
- F.** Equine Heath and Regulatory – Ann Swinker. Report emailed to Board. See attached. Ann reported that there is a delay on the Walking Horse Bill.
- G.** Facebook – Amanda Gerner reported that she does not want to put too many issues on Facebook. These issues may become controversial for the PEC. When posting an issue Amanda will add a disclaimer. Linda will provide some links to legislation. The youth page is not reaching as many people as we would like.
- H.** Legislation – Linda Golden. Report was emailed to Board. See attached. We are kept informed about Federal Legislation through the American Horse Council and Animal Welfare update. The petition to the Governor about the funding reduction to Penn Vet and New Bolton was well received at the EXPO. She will see that the Appropriation Committee Chairs receive the petition.
- I.** Membership – Desi Phillips. Report emailed to Board. See attached. Membership is lower this year than last year. Membership since the EXPO is 666. We have been dropping about 100 members per year. Amanda suggested doing a Facebook poll to see where people are from that are reading our posts.

- J.** Newsletter – Judy Cole. Judy shared the 2017 Newsletter schedule. Information for the April newsletter in the *Pennsylvania Equestrian* must be in by the end of March. The deadline for the June edition is May 3, 2017.
- K.** Nominations – Bud Wills. No report.
- L.** PennAg Liaison – Skip Seifert/Ann Swinker. There have been no meetings. Ann will have to be replaced on this committee when she retires.
- M.** Policies and Procedures – Bud Wills. Helene stated in her report that there has been no progress on this project since the last meeting.
- N.** Scholarship – Rick Shiffler. No report. Helene will put the winners and an article in a future newsletter. She also mentioned that some procedure changes must be addressed by Rick.
- O.** Signs – Skip Seifert – We have about 1,000 at this time with 875 in inventory and the rest with board members to sell.
- P.** Sponsorship – Skip Seifert/Mike Kraft. Skip reported that Yanmar Tractors are interested in being a sponsor.
- Q.** State Directors Chair – Charles Van Auken – Reported that Rick and Marcie Buck are now the county directors for Perry County.
- R.** Trails – Bud Wills – Report was emailed to Board. See attached. There were 400 responses to the Sunday hunting survey. Mike commented that a lot of people may not have been educated about the Sunday hunting proposed changes.

10. Additional Business

- A.** Capri shared an educational flyer about poultry disease. There was an event in Tennessee and cases in three counties in Pennsylvania.
- B.** Helene asked if we had any nominees for the Van Ness Award. It looks like we do not at this time.
- C.** Helene suggested we have a photo album on our PEC website. She will look at that possibility with Aleta.
- D.** It was mentioned that our Electronic Manual on the website is not user friendly. It was suggested that we look at a different format. Aleta will contact the web master. Flyers are not PDF format. It would be convenient for county directors to be able to download the brochures and changes would be easily made.
- E.** Charlie asked that everyone think about ways to increase membership and bring those ideas to the next meeting.

10. Meeting Dates

- (1) May 13 – PA Farm Show Building, Harrisburg 11:00 am
- (2) August 15 – Ag Progress Days, State College 5:30 pm
- (3) November 3 & 4 – Annual Meeting/Issues Forum, Super 8 Hotel, State College

12. Meeting Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bud Wills, seconded by Guy Seifert. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail R. Eichelberger

Gail R. Eichelberger
Recording Secretary