

**Pennsylvania Equine Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Final Minutes
March 17, 2018
Hoss's Restaurant
State College, Pennsylvania**

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Charlie Van Auken at 11:00 am.

2. **Roll Call :**
 - A. **Board of Directors Present:** Charlie VanAuken, President; Edith Ryan, Treasurer; Aleta Seifert, Corresponding Secretary; Gail Eichelberger, Recording Secretary; Judy Cole, Amanda Gerner, Mike Kraft, Skip Seifert, Burt Staniar, Capri Stiles-Mikesell, Ann Swinker , Elaine Winters and Tammy Witherup.

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

 - C. **Board of Directors Absent:** Bud Wills, Vice President, Donna Foulk, Jeanne Goforth, Linda Golden, Sharon Kessler, Desilene Phillips and Guy Seifert

 - D. **Guests:** Emily Coy, Richard Eichelberger, John Ryan and Danielle Smarsh.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Minutes of the January 20, 2018 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 20, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Aleta Seifert, seconded by Burt Staniar. 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, 2018 was \$9,035.35. Total deposits for January were \$25,176.84; total payments were \$5,399.48. Ending balance January 31, 2018 was \$28,812.71. Beginning balance February 1, 2018 was \$28,812.71. Total deposits for February were \$8,370.72; total payments were \$9,844.56. Ending balance February 28, 2018 was \$27,338.87. *A motion to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit was made by Mike Kraft, seconded by Capri Stiles-Mikesell. Motion passed.*

5. Corresponding Secretary's Report – The report was emailed to board members prior to the meeting. Aleta reported that she has not been having any luck changing the Paypal account into her name. A booklet was received with an overview of the American Horse Council's Impact Study. The cost to purchase the short version is \$40.00 and the large version is \$80.00. The final numbers for attendees at the Expo VIP night are in the report but will be covered under Old Business. A picture of our team and driver from the Celebrity Driving event at the 2018 Farm Show was received and can be made available to print in a future newsletter. Linda Golden, Shelly Rodgers and Aleta completed their work on the Policies and Procedures. A copy will be emailed to the board members. Aleta would like all comments to come back to her as soon as possible.

6. Foundation Report –Report submitted by Jeanne Goforth. The balance in the Foundation General Account is \$22,033.55 and the balance in the Foundation Scholarship Account is \$166.47. A check was sent to Caleigh Anderson the winner of the PEC Scholarship.

7. Old Business :

- A. EXPO/VIP Night Final Report**– Skip Seifert reported. The number of attendees was 90. We had 9 representatives from government entities. The food charge was higher than anticipated. There is a new catering service. Denise Parsons, the promoter for the Expo covered the additional charge. There was a discussion about changing the focus of the VIP night to honor volunteers and the scholarship recipients. Capri Stiles-Mikesell along with Danielle Smarsh and Ann Macrina took care of the Seminar B Hall. Elaine thanked the volunteers that helped at the PEC booth. There were 137 signs sold.
- B. PEC Member Trail Ride**– A report was emailed to board members. Skip Seifert reported. The ride will be at Bob Summers camp again this year and take place on August 3-5, 2018. There are currently 16 signed up and 6 on hold that went last year. There is room for 42 horses. There is a three percent increase in the catered food. There was a discussion on increasing the cost to cover that increase. Judy Cole reported on the member ride that is being hosted by Crawford County. The ride will take place at Two Mile Run Park in Venango County on September 13-16, 2018. So far there are 2 people signed up for that ride. If Amanda gets questions about the rides on Facebook she will refer them to Skip and Aleta.

C. American Horse Council Impact Study Update - Charlie VanAuken reported that the draft report is out. Charlie along with Bud Wills and Ann Swinker reviewed the information. Charlie suggested that they use a different picture. The one they used show trail riders galloping through a stream. Ann also commented on the big difference in this study and the one done by Penn State. There was a difference of 10.3 million and 3.3 million in costs for property. The difference reflected only the costs spent to improve your property in year 2016. Other than that the study was very close. Recreational use of horses was more than 50 percent over racing and farming. The quarter horse, thoroughbred and standardbred were the top three breeds. Bust Staniar commented that even though the PEC paid \$18,000.00 towards the study we got a good deal. There was a question about the copyright on the study and if we would be able to sell it. Charlie would look into it.

8. New Business:

- A. “Day of the Horse” Meeting Report** – Linda Golden attended the meeting. The purpose was to set up a time when members of the equine community could meet with legislators and representatives at the Capitol in Harrisburg. The PEC would partner with members of the Penn National Horse Show. The “Day of the Horse” date is July 28, 2018. This may not be the best day and a different day will be discussed. There is another meeting scheduled for April 7, 2018.
- B. York Summerfest/Wild West Day** – Skip Seifert reported. He met Ashley Eisenbeil from the Pennsylvania Racing Commission at the Farm Show. She is the Director of Marketing. He invited her to the VIP night and she attended. In July there will be Standardbred racing held at the York Fairgrounds. They would like to set up a Summer Fest and Wild West Day for that same time. We could participate by setting up a mini booth. The Pennsylvania Race Horse Commission will give the PEC \$500.00 as a consulting fee. Space for a booth would be free.
- C. Pennsylvania Livestock Association Meeting-** The meeting was attended by Charlie Van Auken. He updated them on the AHC Impact Study. They were the only organization that contributed to the PEC to support the study.

9. Committee Reports:

- A. Advertising** – No report.

B. Collegiate Membership – Capri Stiles-Mikesell reported. The name of this committee will be changed to Youth/Collegiate Membership. The PA State Junior 4H Horse Show is looking for sponsors. Jackets are still available to sponsor. We would be able to have the PEC logo on the jacket. They would need 30 jackets. The 3 day show will be held in Centre Hall at the Grange Fairgrounds. We would also be able to have booth space to promote the PEC. *A motion to allow Capri Stiles-Mikesell to find out the cost of the jackets and offer \$20.00 per jacket for up to 50 jackets for sponsorship from the PEC was made by Skip Seifert, seconded by Mike Kraft. With no further discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed.*

C. Education Grant Program and Scholarship – Gail Eichelberger reported. Gail will be writing articles for the June newsletter to promote the Scholarship Program as well as the Education Grant Program.

D. Electronic Director’s Manual – Capri Stiles-Mikesell reported. Capri and Aleta Seifert are working on the manual.

E. Equine Learning Center – Report was emailed to board members. Mike Kraft reported. Mike received a request from the Oregon Horse Council for help in starting an ELC for their council. They would like some pictures and permission to reproduce our brochures. He thinks this is a result of the article that was in the *Appaloosa Horse Journal* about our ELC. *A motion to authorize Mike Kraft to cooperate with representatives from the Oregon Horse Council in their efforts to establish an Equine Learning Center was made by Skip Seifert, seconded by Capri Stiles-Mikesell. With no further discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed.*

F. Equine Health and Regulation – Report was emailed to board members. Ann Swinker reported that this year there will be an increase in ticks. To have a tick tested for Lyme disease you can send it to the PA Department of Agriculture PADALS lab in Harrisburg. There is a cost for the test. Skip Seifert reported that there is no new information about the low cost euthanasia program. He also mentioned the “Fast Act” (Fixing America’s Surface Transportation) which prohibits the transport of horses or horse parts anywhere in the United States.

G. Facebook – Report was emailed to board members. Amanda Gerner reported. ELD (Electronic Logging Device) mandates and the PEC member trail rides will be posted on Facebook. There has been sharing of information that she has been posting. Anything that is posted on Facebook must be in a JPEG or GIF format.

H. Legislation - Report was emailed to board members. There has been a change in the PA special organization license plate weight requirements. Special plates can now be purchased for trucks with a registered gross weight of 14,000 pounds or less and are also now available for trailers. Linda did a seminar at the EXPO on horse boarding.

I. Membership – No report received. There was discussion about the membership information. Currently it shows 526 Association and Youth memberships. There are 18 Associations with 1,401 members in the Associations. Aleta said the information in the report is not correct. There was a request from a snowmobile club to become an Association Member. It was determined that this would be no different than a trail riding club to become a member.

J. Newsletter – Judy Cole reported. The next newsletter will be printed in the *East Coast Equestrian*.

K. Nominations – No report.

L. PennAg Liaison – No report.

M. Policies and Procedures – Aleta Seifert reported that the updated Policies and Procedures will go out to all board members and it is important to review them and send any changes, corrections or additions to Aleta.

N. Signs – Report emailed to board members. Skip Seifert reported that we have a good supply of signs. Signs shipped January 20, 2018 thru March 17, 2018 was 71. 137 signs were sold at EXPO.

O. Sponsorship – Skip Seifert and Mike Kraft reported that Eby did not renew and King and Galley have renewed.

P. State Director Chair – No report.

Q. Trails – Report emailed to board members. Bud Wills reported that dates have been established for the trail workshops and the packing clinic. Bud and Gwen have received a request from Matt Beaver and Nate Fice from the Loyalsock State Forest to come and ride the trails there and give recommendations for the correction of some water issues. Bud thanked the volunteers that helped at the Trails Booth at the EXPO.

10. Additional Business:

- A. Spring Valley Park, York County**– Skip Seifert reported that Nedra Applegate from York County has requested help in repairing a section of the trail. They need donations for materials. Bud suggested a 1- Day Trail Stewardship workshop for them. Skip feels that there are members there that can help. This was a trail that Charlie had helped repair before. The park representatives said they can provide some supplies.
- B. Internal Revenue Service** – Edith Ryan reported that we received \$900.00 back from the IRS.
- C. Pinchot Trail** – Amanda Gerner reported that they are looking for speakers. They need to repair some of their trails. Charlie did some work on the trails. There is a small 45 minute loop. The roads are open for horses and snowmobiles. It was suggested that a workshop be done to instruct the workers.
- D. American Horse Council National Conference** – The conference will be held in Washington, DC in July. *A motion to approve the attendance of Bud Wills, Gwen Wills, Ann Swinker and Burt Staniar to the American Horse Council’s national conference this year, and also to approve the expenditures of mileage, rooms and parking fees for the conference was made by Mike Kraft, seconded by Elaine Winters. With no further discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed.*
- E. Concerns** – Charlie Van Auken asked the board for their suggestions about the future growth of the PEC. There was a discussion about ways to get the attention of people who do not know about us and what we do. Aleta Seifert suggested putting ads in the newsletters offering our help or giving away a free trail ride. Amanda Gerner suggested using “Help Wanted” notifications to get people’s attention. Capri Stiles- Mikesell suggested nominating a youth to receive a free registration to our Annual Conference. Mike Kraft commented that outside organizations are opening their doors to us and we need to take advantage of that. Burt Staniar commented that we represent the horse community and we must learn from each other. We need to educate horse owners and provide facts and not opinions. Ann Swinker suggested we have a “Media Day” to release the AHC Survey information. *A motion for Ann Swinker and Capri Stiles-Mikesell to write a media press release about the Pennsylvania results of the AHC Economic Impact Study was made by Mike Kraft, seconded by Burt Staniar. With no further discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed.*

F. Meeting Dates

- (1) May 19 - PA Farm Show Building, Harrisburg 11:00 am.
- (2) August 14 – Ag Progress Days, Horse Building - 5:30 pm
- (3) Annual Meeting dates TBD

13. Meeting Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Kraft, seconded by Burt Staniar. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail R. Eichelberger

Gail R. Eichelberger
Recording Secretary