



Winter - February 2017

Dear Members,

One of the most common questions I am asked is why I should be a member of a horse council or, more specifically, a member of the Virginia Horse Council. Let's examine the reasons why we join any organization. The first thing we usually consider when joining an organization is what's in it for me. This is especially true when we join professional organizations related to the work we perform. These type organizations offer professional discounts, access to reduced-cost continuing education courses, and the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals. The second reason for joining an organization, and the one that I feel is most important, is that you join the organization because you respect and support the work that the organization performs.

Horse councils have been established to allow the various states to monitor the health of the industry at the state levels. It is the function of state horse councils, and specifically the Virginia Horse Council, to protect, promote and preserve the horse industry. The more members that we represent, whether they be individual or association members, the greater legislative and economic clout we have as an industry. We protect our industry by constantly monitoring legislation at both the federal and state levels that may impact our industry. For example, over the past months you have seen information on our website that related to the proposed changes to the Horse Protection Act (HPA) Rule 9, CFR I I. The VHC formed a working committee which studied the changes to the regulation in depth, produced a matrix to study the changes, contacted the Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture for support, and actually spoke during the public comment period. No other group in the Virginia equine industry looked at this issue in this much depth. The VHC maintains a cordial working relationship with members of the Virginia General Assembly through legislative visits and through the production of our annual Legislative Trail Ride. Consequently, when a legislative issue arises that requires our attention we have access to legislators who already understand our industry and its unique character.

We promote our industry by partnering with other agricultural organizations such as the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Horse Industry Board, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and the Equine Land Conservation Resource. Additionally, we promote our industry and our organization by attendance at equine expos and trade shows, The Virginia Gold Cup, The Day of the American Cowboy SFH Colt Starting Challenge, and various horse shows and clinics.



Youth visit the Capitol



Virginia Horse Center



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We preserve our industry by maintaining a commitment to provide quality education to our constituents through the production of equine seminars. In addition, we are vitally interested in our youth as they represent the future of our industry. We just completed a legislative visit the General Assembly, where 11 future youth leaders accompanied us. With respect to the youth visit the purpose was twofold – one, we wanted our youth to experience the legislative process and, secondly, we wanted the legislators to meet the youth who are doing vital work in their associations and communities. Watch for a special report in our next newsletter.

Historically, the VHC was responsible for the establishment of the Virginia Horse Industry Board, which administers the Virginia bred program and has awarded more than \$2 million in grants to the Virginia horse industry to date. VHC was also responsible for the passage of Virginia's equine liability act as well as a Virginia fence law. The VHC worked to bring horse racing to Virginia and in the establishment of the Virginia Horse Center.

Our work is not done. We hope that you think that our past and current work benefits our industry. So we hope that you will join us because you think our mission is important and you are committed to seeing our industry continue to grow and prosper.

Happy Trails!

Sue Alvis

President, Virginia Horse Council



VIRGINIA HORSE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING at VIRGINIA HORSE FESTIVAL

The VHC will hold its annual meeting on Saturday March 25, 2017 at 11:30 am, in the mansion, during the Virginia Horse Festival at the Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Virginia. Members are invited to attend the general meeting session which will feature a box luncheon. Officers for the coming year will be elected and annual industry awards will be presented. To register your attendance at the meeting and to reserve your box lunch please visit the Horse Council website or call the Virginia Horse Council office at 1-888-467-7382.

EQUINE EDUCATION SEMINAR at HORSE FESTIVAL

In addition to holding its annual meeting the VHC will also host its annual Education Seminar Series on March 25th at the Virginia Horse Festival. Admission to the seminar is free with a paid admission to the Virginia Horse Festival. Seminar topics will include equine welfare laws, information about equine rescue organizations and tips for adopting a horse from a rescue, acupuncture, hoof bandaging, and emergency horse shoe removal. Seminar registration will be handled on site at the VHC booth.

VIRGINIA AGRIBUSINESS BANQUET



Sally Lamb, Regional Director, VHC

One of the VHC's agribusiness partners is the Virginia Agribusiness Council. Organized in 1971, the Council is a member organization that is committed to representing agricultural and forestry interests in Virginia. The Virginia Agribusiness Council hosts an annual banquet that showcases Virginia agriculture and Virginia agricultural products. Generally, 100 members of the General Assembly as well as 600 members of the agricultural community attend the banquet. With an attendance this large, the banquet offers the opportunity to network with fellow members of the agricultural industry as well as elected officials.



Sue Alvis, President, VHC

This year, recognizing that the Virginia Horse Council does not always market itself to our fellow members of the agricultural community, the VHC staffed a booth in the exhibit hall prior to the banquet, as well as a banquet table. In addition to decorating the booth with pictures and horse paraphernalia, members of the VHC executive committee and our invited guests dressed in attire to represent various aspects of the equine industry. VHC members and guests represented trail riders, English and Western competition riders, foxhunters, polo players, a rider with disabilities, and even a jockey. The booth and staff garnered a lot of attention and many questions from banquet attendees.

HORSE PROTECTION ACT REGULATIONS ON HOLD

The change in federal administration has placed the final Horse Protection Act rules on hold. President Trump placed a hold on all new federal regulations pending review. On January 13, 2017, USDA announced a final HPA rule, however, the final rule had not been published in the Federal Register before the President instituted the hold. At present there is no timeline for the review of the rule and the new administration could issue the new rule at any time, or withdraw the rule completely. Until that time the enforcement program will continue under current HPA rules. The VHC will alert its members when any action is taken.

PASSING OF VHC BOARD MEMBER BERYL HERZOG

The Virginia Horse Council is saddened to report that long time VHC director and former president Beryl Herzog passed away after a short illness on February 10, 2017.

Beryl bred, raised and gave lessons on her beloved Morgan horses at Green Bay Morgans in Beaverdam. She was a past president and the founder of the Old Dominion Morgan Horse Association, as well as past president, current board member and Hall of Fame member of the VHSA.

Beryl served on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Rural Exposition (State Fair of Virginia) and was currently chairman of the Virginia Museum of the Horse. The industry has lost a gracious lady who loved and gave a life of service to the equine industry.



2016 TRAV Horse Show – 28 years at the Virginia Horse Center

The Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV), Inc. is a nonprofit organization formed to foster the concepts of therapeutic horseback riding for people with disabilities. The Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia, Inc. was formed in 1986. There are currently over 24 member centers in the Commonwealth. Each operating center is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), complies with accreditation standards, and certifies their instructors through PATH Intl. TRAV individual members include program administrators, instructors, therapists, volunteers, parents, riders, and other therapeutic riding enthusiasts.

One of the ways that TRAV promotes therapeutic horsemanship is the Annual TRAV Horse Show. The Annual TRAV Horse Show started at the old Richmond Fair Grounds, then moved to the beautiful Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. Although the show has run for more years, it celebrated its 28th year held at the Virginia Horse Center this past October 22-23. The show is one of three of the longest consecutively running horse shows at the Virginia Horse Center. The two day show includes equitation, trails, pole bending and dressage. Therapeutic centers across Virginia bring their riders and mounts. In addition, the show hosted Centers from North Carolina and West Virginia in October.



The show is a time for riders to exhibit their skills among peers. Instructors, parents and riders themselves look forward to this show all year. One parent mentioned that her son has a digital calendar and resets it every year the day after the show, counting down until next year. The TRAV show often shares the Center facilities with another show. One year some riders from the House Mountain Show came to our arena to watch. As one spectator called to a friend, "You have to come see this – this is amazing!"

Tina, from *Lift Me Up* of Great Falls, was shown by several riders and handlers and was voted the mount that best represented the therapeutic horse. Submitted by Lynda McGarry, VHC Regional Director.



Bruce Griffin -
Griffin Sport Horses



2017 VHC Youth Day Richmond

Photos provided by Charlie Finley



VIRGINIA HORSE COUNCIL

2017 Membership Application

The Council is a not-for-profit organization and is your voice for the expanding equine industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia, supporting all equine activities and interests in Virginia.

Membership year is January 1 through December 31

Annual membership:

Youth (21 and under)	\$10
*Premium Youth	\$35
Individual	\$25
*Premium Individual	\$50
Family	\$30
*Premium Family	\$75
*Premium memberships include \$1,000,000 In Excess Liability Insurance	
Commercial/Business/Farm	\$50
Equine Group or Association	
Up to 100 members	\$50
More than 100 members	\$100

Lifetime Membership \$500

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

Mail check payable to:

The Virginia Horse Council

Administrative Assistant, 16157 Pug Swamp Lane, Beaverdam, VA 23015

888-HORSEVA (888-467-7382)

Or you can go to www.virginiahorsecouncil.org and join or renew on-line and use the PayPal feature.

After we receive your membership application, you will receive a Welcome Packet which will include:

- * Current newsletter
- * Membership card
- * In-excess policy (if purchased)
- * Chart of contacts
- * Info on member benefits

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ County _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (____) _____

Membership Status: _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL

Type of membership: _____ Youth* _____ Individual _____ Family* _____ Comm/Bus/ Farm

_____ Equine Group / Association <100 _____ Equine Group/ Association 100+

_____ Life

Number of people on membership _____

*Optional In-excess Coverage for Youth/Individual _____ +\$25 **OR** Family _____ +\$45(see webpage for more info)

Number of horses owned _____ Breeds _____

Interests (i.e., Trails, 4-H, Safety, Legislation, Showing, Breeding, etc.) _____

Would you be interested in serving as: _____ an Officer _____ a Director _____ Committee member

_____ Volunteer at an event

Subjects you would like VHC to address: _____

*For Youth memberships, please list name and age

*For family memberships- please list the name of all and include age of all minors



VHC Regional Directors, David Lamb & Sandy Hoyer with youth in Richmond

The Virginia Horse Council

Our mission is to serve as the umbrella organization of the Virginia equine community and to monitor legislative issues affecting horsemen and horses in the Commonwealth.

The vision of the Virginia Horse Council (VHC) is to be recognized as a leader in providing broad representation to all facets of the equine industry before the Virginia General Assembly and Congress.

The VHC collaborates with other areas of the agricultural community and helps facilitate communications between members of the equine industry and state and federal agencies.

The VHC aspires to keep Virginia horsemen informed of regulations and pending legislation that may impact them, and to provide educational opportunities that further enhance the industry.

Visit www.virginiahorsecouncil.org for further information and join us on Facebook

