

Membership Meeting
1/15/2008
Rockville Library

Patty Michalak called the meeting to order at 7:00, followed by the acceptance of the December minutes.

The news of Jim Leahey's reconsideration of the VP position, and the options of replacements were discussed. As a result, Bettsie Gibbs, who was elected in December to be on our board in one of the Finance positions, volunteered to step up as our new Vice President. The membership present voted unanimously to accept Bettsie as Vice President. Gail Talley was recommended by the nominating committee to be our replacement for the then vacant Finance person. Again, the membership present voted all in favor of this addition.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jen Sarosi reported the club as having \$3640.90 to begin the year with. She also presented the results of the independent audit, which stated that everything was in order. This was the first ever, outside, independent audit.

Membership Report: Membership Coordinator Allyn Linas reported the club as having 148 members. She requested that name tags be worn to the monthly meetings as well as that a sign in sheet be passed around, so that we can keep track of who attends each meeting.

Allyn Linas also presented the board recommendation on dues. The proposal was to keep the dues at the current \$35.00. This was voted on and accepted as such. Anyone not renewing by March 1, would pay a \$5.00 per person late fee.

There was discussion on the discontinuation of the couple's membership. It was decided that if anyone had paid the couples rate last year, and renews by March 1st of this year, they can get grandfathered in at the \$55.00 per couple rate. In the future, and all new members would join as individual memberships only. This was voted on and accepted as such.

Trail Committee: Trail committee chair, Colleen Leahey, was introduced and spoke about the January 1st trail ride. She asked for feedback at anytime to make the rides safer and more enjoyable. One item of feedback was the concern for members wanting to ride at a walk, due to whatever reason. Colleen asked that if anyone does want to amble at a walk, that is perfectly fine, just please let her know ahead of time, by email. This will allow a trail leader to be found, if needed, and a designated meeting place to set up before the ride.

The next ride is schedule for Feb. 10th in Powhatan. More information is available on the website.

Hospitality Committee: Patty then introduced the Hospitality Committee- Gail Talley

and Beverly Carroll, who did an outstanding job at the first meeting.

Website Update: Patty outlined the board's plan to post contact information for all members in a password protected page on the website. Information includes phone, email, and physical address. If a member does not want their information listed, they are asked to please contact Patty. Patty also agreed to send out an email to the entire membership letting them know that the information will be online. Plans were also made to include a box on the membership application to be checked if a member does not want their information online. The membership was reminded that this information is for our members only, not to be shared outside of the club or used in anyway for solicitation.

Announcements:

New Meeting Location: Patty pointed out that we are outgrowing our current meeting place at the Rockville Library. Parking is difficult and we were at standing room capacity in January. To help solve this problem, we will move our meetings to the Markel Insurance Building in Innsbrook effective in February. This space will be large enough to hold everyone, with plenty of parking, and easy access to highways, and audio/visual equipment for our speakers. Directions are posted on the website. Thanks to Geri Hollander for securing this location!

Lost Valley Ranch trip- Colorado: Geri Hollander spoke briefly about the LVR trip that is scheduled for May 8-12. Cost will be \$753.12, which is all inclusive, but does not include airfare. A \$360 deposit is due February 1st, and the balance is due upon checkout. Any interested parties should contact Geri.

Call for Committee Participation: Patty announced that we need committees to form now, so they have the most amount of time possible to plan. We need members/chairs for the following:

- *Rally
- *Christmas Party
- *Spookathon
- *Historian
- *Business Plan Committee
- *Fundraiser- which Cindie Willoughby has volunteered to the the chair of.

If anybody is interested in joining or chairing any of these, they are asked to email Patty. This is such a simple way to get involved with the club and learn more about events and planning. No experience is needed!

Permanent nametags: Jim Leahy presented the club with pricing options for different permanent nametags. The plan is to discuss further at the February meeting.

Medical Armband Insert: Patty outlined a new, simplified insert she created which does not include insurance information or social security numbers. With further discussion, it was made apparent that the more information the better in case of an

accident. We will stick with the current insert. If there is info you are not comfortable providing, leave it off. Inserts are available on the website under forms. Armbands themselves are available from Sue Carrieri at the cost of \$4.00 a piece.

Fundraisers/Events- Planning: Prior to the meeting, Geri Hollander had sent out an email asking people to give feedback on events and fundraisers they would like to see this year. She received 7 responses. She also brought printed summaries to the meeting. Members are asked to please let the board know what they are interested in doing this year so the calendar can be planned. Plan is to discuss at board meeting.

Upcoming Speakers: Patty announced the speaker lined up so far through March 2008. Our February speaker will be Jessica Pittman talking about gaited horses. Our March speaker will be Markel Insurance Company. We plan to also have a speaker on trailer safety and maintenance. Patty asked that members please let the board know if there are any speakers or topics they are interested in.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15. We then recessed for about 15 minutes and our speaker Dr. Virginia DeChant from Virginia Equine gave a wonderful talk about winter horse care.