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COURIER

Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

2016 - Issue 1

Winter 2016

Sharing Our Horse Passion

Horses bring joy and added meaning to the lives of humans. Horses can help heal broken bodies and souls. They are a universally understood symbol of power, beauty and grace. We who have come to know this marvelous creature, understand how our lives would be diminished without them.

As with most gifts, the gift of knowing and interacting with the horse is multiplied by sharing it. Sharing our horses and our horse passion enriches others as well as ourselves. For every youngster whose horse-loving spark is ignited through us sharing our passion with them, we have released one youngster chained to a television, or a computer or a game. For every middle-aged Mom introduced to horses, there is one more woman empowered. Sharing a love for horses and for riding can cement human bonds and expand horizons.



Sheryl King, PhD
President
Horsemen's Council of Illinois

The largest horse-centric venue in the state of Illinois approaches. The 2016 Illinois Horse Fair will bring together thousands of horse lovers from a wide variety of disciplines within our world of horses. It is our horse lover's convention and celebration. Every year the Horsemen's Council of Illinois undertakes the colossal work of creating our Illinois Horse Fair in order to share the world of horses with others.

Our industry, our horses, our state, our communities, our friendships are all strengthened through sharing our horse passion. The Illinois Horse Fair provides a single place where you can grow, learn, create, consume, and rejoice in the power and beauty of horses. I wish for everyone reading this column to invite a friend – particularly a friend that is not familiar with horses and all they can contribute – to the Illinois Horse Fair. Through sharing we can strengthen and expand our industry and make sure that our passion for horses lives on through successive generations.



March 4 - 6 Illinois State Fairgrounds
Springfield, Illinois
www.illinoishorsefair.com
ihf@illinoishorsefair.com
Ron Rhoades: 217-689-4224 x 2
TICKETS ONLINE NOW!

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Horsemen's Council of Illinois Board of Directors

- Sheryl King, Ph.D. - President
Makanda
- Elaine Ramesh, Ph.D. - 1st VP
Barrington Hills
- Paula Briney - 2nd VP
Chatam
- David Nobbe, Ph.D. - Treasurer
Carpentersville
- Russ Derango - Secretary
Lexington
- Tim Boyer - Cantrall
- Dennis French, DVM - Urbana
- Kevin Kline, Ph.D. - Urbana
- Yvonne Ocran - Wheaton
- Anna Ruman, DVM - Coffeen
- Jim Stevens - Augusta
- Jerry Sutton - Norris City
- Tony Troyer-Earville

Staff:

- Cheryl Waterman, Operations Manager
- Ron Rhoades, Horse Fair Coordinator

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New Year's Resolution - RIDE MORE! The 2016 Events Calendar is Open

Horsemen's Council of Illinois encourages as much interaction with horses as possible and gladly announces equine events from throughout the state on our website and in our weekly email bulletins.

Search our list for shows, trail rides, competitions and educational opportunities to attend, or share your event. Look on our website:

www.horsemencouncil.org on the News & Events page. Our member clubs and associations will be given priority in the listing.

LIST YOUR EVENT - send an email with details, contact information and attach show bill or event flyer to: hci@horsemencouncil.org.

The mission of Horsemen's Council of Illinois is to educate, mobilize and represent Horsemen and the equine industry to ensure a thriving Illinois horse community.



New Directors Join Horsemen's Council of Illinois

Four directors were recently elected to the board of HCI. Each will serve a three-year term. In other action, the executive committee was restructured to ensure a stronger line of succession by creating the 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President positions.

HCI board members spent the weekend of January 15 - 17 in retreat determining priorities for 2016 and beyond. The new plan calls for emphasis on membership growth and a regional approach to working with members. (See page 6)

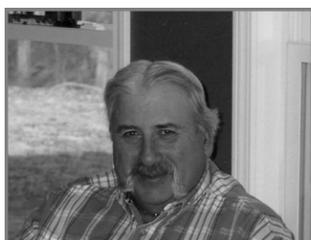
2016 Officers:
President - Sheree King
1st VP - Elaine Ramesh
2nd VP - Paula Briney
Secretary - Russ Derango
Treasurer - David Nobbe



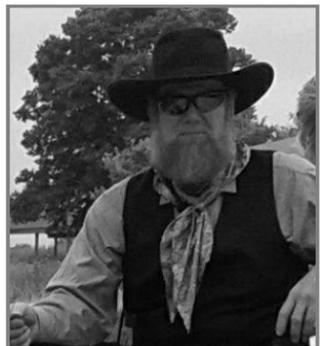
Anna M. Ruman, DVM - Dr. Anna Ruman works for the USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, in Springfield, IL as the Area Emergency Coordinator for Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. In this position, she works with state, federal, and local governments as well as private industry to promote and assist in emergency preparedness. She was the incident commander during the 2009 Contagious Equine Metritis incident in Illinois, receiving an award for her achievements. She is trained as a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician and delivers presentations to groups on current events in foreign animal disease. Anna, an Illinois native, is a lifetime horse owner of both pleasure and harness race horses. She is a licensed trainer and driver of harness horses and currently owns standardbred broodmares. She resides on her farm in Coffeen, Illinois. Anna is also a member of the board of Illinois Equine Foundation.



Jim Stevens - Jim is retired from multiple careers: Vo-Ag teacher; owner western retail store; farrier, trail boss in Eminence Missouri. His areas of expertise are trail riding, equine tack and equipment, horseshoeing. He has a passion for keeping youth involved in horse activities and in the horse industry. Jim and his wife Betty live in Augusta, Illinois on the boundary of Weinberg King State Park horse trails. As a board member of HCI, Jim hopes to cultivate a renewed partnership with youth organizations and develop more access for trail riders.



Jerry Sutton - Jerry and his wife Dorothy own S&H Arena - "Where Kids Are King", in Norris City, Illinois. His family is passionate about providing opportunities for youth. Last year they hosted 17 events at their facility including shows, rodeos and clinics. They are avid supporters of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and annually host the Saddle Up for St. Jude auction. Jerry brings his experience in management of youth rodeo and youth horse shows, boarding, training, lessons, and breeding to HCI. Jerry is an AQHA Professional Horseman.



Tony Troyer - Tony is the owner-operator of T2 Enterprises an Arabian Carriage Company. Tony and his team work throughout the region providing the equine touch to weddings, parties and community events. In addition to carriage driving and training, Tony is a strong and vocal advocate for horse trails and participates in endurance & competitive riding and driving. He also provides long distance horse hauling services. Tony lives in Earlville, Illinois. Tony is taking the lead for HCI in developing organized trail work days throughout the state.



Founded in 1987, **Horsemen's Council of Illinois** is the only statewide organization that works to serve the entire horse community. We are amateurs, professionals, horse hobbyists, breeders, local riding clubs and larger businesses. Individuals and groups from all disciplines, breeds and types of horses are welcome. We are led by a Board of Directors and committees that address education, equine health and welfare, trails, land use and legislative and regulatory concerns.

As a statewide coalition of horsemen, HCI works to:

- Provide education and resources to horsemen and the public
- Represent common interests of horsemen
- Present a unified stand against issues confronting horsemen
- Advocate improved health and well-being of horses
- Actively expand and improve Illinois' horse industry

HCI Member benefits:

All Membership Levels: weekly email bulletin, monthly e-newsletter, equine health and legislative alerts, print newsletter, access to members only resources on website, access to professional expertise of HCI board members and speakers for your group events, regional event invitations, American Horse Council Advantage Plan, option to purchase American Horse Council Grassroots Membership at 40% discount.

Gold Level Membership: all of the above benefits and \$1 million Excess Personal Equine Liability Insurance

YOUTH (18 & under): memberships are FREE!

Member Discount Benefits

As a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, you are eligible for significant savings on nationally known products through NTRA Advantage. Your membership entitles you to special savings on products used for your equine farm, business, or personal use. To enjoy the benefits of one-stop buying, call NTRA Advantage toll-free at (866)

2016 Illinois Horse Fair Sponsor



Join HCI Today!

Membership Application

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 County: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 # of Horses: ____ Boarded ____ At Home: ____

Membership Levels

All memberships run January through December

- Youth Membership - Free
18 years or younger can join HCI at no cost
- Basic - Family Membership - \$30.00
Bundle (list all family members on the membership)
- Gold - Family Membership - \$72.00
(\$75 after March 1, 2016)
Includes \$1 Million Excess Equine Liability Policy
- Basic-Individual Membership - \$23.00
(\$25 after March 1, 2016)
- Gold - Individual Membership - \$49.00
(\$50 after March 1, 2016)
Includes \$1 Million Excess Equine liability Policy
- Life Individual Membership - \$250.00
(\$350 after March 1, 2016)
\$1 Million Excess Equine Liability insurance option, Billed \$20 annually.
- NEW - Optional American Horse Council Grassroots Membership - \$15.00

Organization/Business Name:

(Provide primary contact information above)

Number of Members: _____

- Business & Professional Membership - \$100
Bundle (up to 50 members can be listed)
- Non-Profit Organizations - \$50
Bundle (up to 50 members can be listed)
- Supporting Association Membership - \$50
Bundle (up to 50 members can be listed)

You can also join online: www.horsemenscouncil.org

Send application and payment to:

Horsemen's Council of Illinois
P O BOX 788
Quincy, IL 62306
For more information: 217-689-4224

SHARE THIS PAGE WITH OTHERS!



The Illinois Equine Foundation is excited to announce the first ever 'Pitch A Pony' fundraiser! This fundraiser will take place at the Horse Fair on March 4th-6th to raise funds for the **Illinois Equine Foundation Disaster Relief Fund**.

What is "Pitch A Pony"? Each fair goer has the opportunity to flex their muscles and see how far they can throw their set of ponies. Participants will line up around the outside rail in the



coliseum and on the count of three, will try to throw their pony in a hula-hoop in the middle of the arena. The person who gets their pony closest to the target wins a prize! It's that simple!

Pitch A Pony will be held on the last day of the Fair, Sunday March 6th. Ponies will be available for purchase at the horse fair. It will be held in the

coliseum during the scoring session of the Heartland Horseman's Challenge. If you will not be present to throw your pony, you can assign a proxy OR request one our "designated pitchers" to throw your pony.

Don't forget this is all for a good cause! **All proceeds raised from this event will go to support the IEF Disaster Relief Fund.** For questions about the fundraiser, please contact the office at 217-689-4224 or hci@horsemencouncil.org

Since 1987 the **Illinois Equine Foundation** has provided a tax-free way to help the Illinois equine community through charitable giving.

The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Its purpose is to promote equine events, equine activities and equine education and to include the establishment and administration of related scholarship funds, grants, financial assistance, research projects in support thereof.

Tax deductible contributions to strengthen and support these worthwhile goals are gratefully accepted. Contributions can be designated as general or earmarked for specific uses. Gifts can be made in any amount and may be received as monetary sums, stock, annuities and other assets, bequests from estates, endowments or other means.

For more information contact the Illinois Equine Foundation through the HCI office at 217-689-4224 or visit the Foundation page on the HCI website.

HCI Board Identifies Priorities

HCI board members spent the weekend of January 15th through 17th sequestered in Bloomington, Illinois for retreat. The opportunity to discuss face to face helped the board galvanize HCI priorities and strategic direction for 2016 and the next few years:

REGIONALIZATION - To better organize activities, vitalize committees, encourage discussion of regional news and issues and bring services closer to end-user groups – and at the same time foster better communication and generate more involvement from our membership – HCI will create regional leadership and liaisons along geographic areas roughly consistent with the five regions established by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

MEMBERSHIP - There are an estimated 70,000+ horse owners in Illinois. We need a critical mass of these horse- men to join HCI so there is direct connection with those we represent. Our membership needs to grow 10-fold to sustain operations and allow for proceeds from Illinois Horse Fair and other events to be directed to initiatives that benefit our members across the state.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - During 2016 a committee will draft a legislative platform aimed to "Preserve Illinois' Equine Heritage".

TRAILS - A committee will form to develop long term funding sources for trail development and trail grant funding program.

RECOGNITION - Annual award program to recognize an organization, an individual, and a horse will encourage others to do and share activities with horses and connect horsemen while educating the general public about the horse industry. The program timeline will be linked with National Day of the Horse, December 13th.

DISASTER - HCI should lead in the development and implementation of equine disaster preparedness education and disaster response plan that ties in with regionalization plan and collaborates with groups and organizations already positioned in disaster response preparedness.

Members are invited to participate in these initiatives.

2016 Illinois Horse Fair Sponsor



2016 IHF Artist
Christy Freeman - Christy Studios



RIDE YOUR DREAM

March 4-6, 2016

Illinois State Fairgrounds - Springfield

Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

*Rodeo in Coliseum both nights at 7:30
separate ticket required*

Sunday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tickets

Adults \$13 daily or \$25 weekend pass

Child/Senior \$8 or \$18 weekend pass

Online purchase discount

www.illinoishorsefair.com

Clinicians:

Sarah Winters-Dawson

Colt Starting, Body Control, Hobbling, "So You Want to be a Trainer"

Chris Dawson - *Starting on the Flag, Cattle on the Fence, Cutting*

Gary Lane - *Soft Gaited*

Smith Lilly - *Saddle Seat*

Polly & Curt Hagey - *Barrel Racing*

Brody Robertson - *Hunter Jumpers, Eventing, Basic Dressage*

Tim Boyer - *Getting Control, TB Careers after the Track*

Marilyn Weber - *Western Dressage*

Heartland Horseman's Challenge - Trainers will compete over three days to re-train selected ex-racehorses, to win their share of \$750 in prize money! These horses will be available for adoption.

Educational Seminars

Youth Judging Contest

Queen Contest

Horses for Sale

Truck, Trailer and Carriage Displays

Rodeo both Nights

SHOPPING!

Event Sponsors:

**ADM Alliance Nutrition, Kubota,
Illinois Farm Bureau, Midway Trailer Sales**

HCI Wants to Represent YOU!

Memberships are critical to HCI success for two reasons:

- 1) **We can better represent you, your organization, your discipline, your PASSION if we know who you are;**
- 2) **The income from memberships helps sustain the operating budget of HCI and provide key services to members.**

There are more than 70,000 horsemen in Illinois. Please encourage others to join HCI so we can do MORE to educate, mobilize and represent horsemen. Thanks to the following groups for renewing memberships as of 1-20-16. Memberships are accepted throughout the year:

Individuals: 165 **Families:** 41

Supporting Associations: 19

Illinois Draft Horse & Mule Association
Illinois Fox Trotter Horse Association
McHenry County Horse Club
Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Ride Association - UMECRA
Walking Horse Owners Association
Horsemeister, Inc.
Shawnee Trail Conservancy
Centerline Dressage
Arab Inc.
Illinois Quarter Horse Association
Double L Equestrian
Will County Trail Riders
Illinois Arabian Horse Association
Mid-America Horse Show Association
IN/IL Chapter, NACMO
Heart of Illinois Pony Club Vaulters
Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association
The Illinois Boots & Saddle Club
Illinois Paint Horse Association

Nonprofit Organizations: 3

Salem Children's Home
Central Illinois Riding Therapy
Sol's Legacy Ministries

Business and Professional Members: 8

Aces & Eights Western Wear
Hannaberry Farm
Dark Horse Riding Center, Inc.
American Equine Insurance Group
D Central Farms
Barrington Equine Center
Law Office of Laura McFarland-Taylor
Arabian Woods

HCI Trail Workday

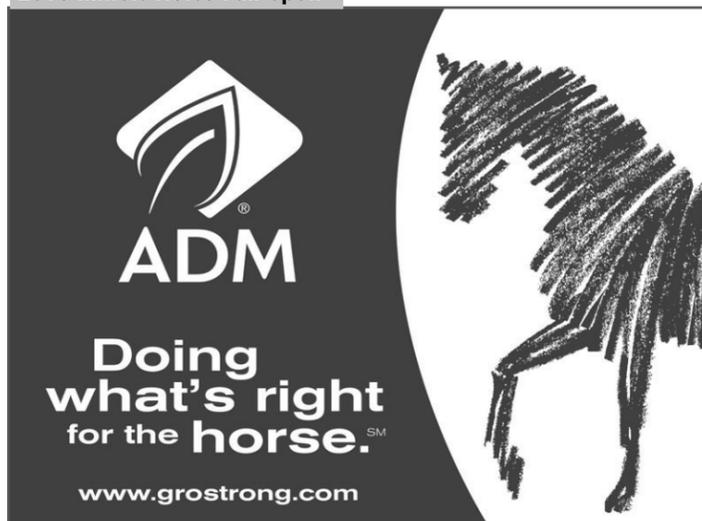
To bring a focus to equestrian trail use Horsemen's Council of Illinois is leading an effort to have a statewide "Day of Trails" work day on the weekend of April 31 and May 1. HCI is responding to concerns voiced for several years that horse trails in parks throughout the state need attention. Volunteers are ready and willing to do work such as cleaning trails, installing new posts, picket lines or signage. HCI is willing to provide leadership and coordination to join equestrians and FFA Chapters with IDNR staff to do trail clean up, maintenance or get a start on small improvement projects in 7 to 8 IDNR Parks all in one weekend. Involving the FFA chapters and other user groups will cultivate a volunteer base for all IDNR parks in the future and foster better relationships among them.

The initial focus will be parks that don't have a group already helping with ongoing maintenance and projects. Some of these are: Matthiessen, S.A. Forbes, & Giant City. Other parks that have groups who call the park home, such as Rock Cut, Franklin Creek, Siloam Springs, Weinberg-King, Jubilee, and Middle Fork will also be encouraged to schedule a work day at that same time. HCI & FFA are willing to help promote this event with IDNR.

Think of the positive jump start these projects will give to the trail riding year? Think of the opportunity to develop good interaction with the user groups of each park?

We all have the opportunity to make our trails and parks a better place for 2016! If your group is already assisting at a park, or has a project in mind let us know by calling the HCI office at 217-689-4224x106 or by sending an email to hci@horsemencouncil.org. You will be put in touch with HCI board member Tony Troyer who is leading the effort.

2016 Illinois Horse Fair Spon-



Horsemen's Council of Illinois Looks to Regionalize

With the ideas of better organizing activities, vitalizing committees, encouraging discussion of regional news and issues and bringing services closer to end-user groups - and at the same time fostering better communications and gain more involvement from our membership - the Horsemen's Council of Illinois Board has discussed establishing regional leadership and liaisons along with geographic areas roughly consistent with the five regions established by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Members interested in serving as regional representatives should send a letter of interest to the HCI office for consideration. Regional representatives should be willing to provide local input to the president and other HCI board members, actively monitor local and regional events and issues, help keep members of the association informed of association activities and assist in membership recruitment and retention in their regions. Regional representatives should be willing to serve a two-year term.

Your views and input on the plan are requested. Please forward you thoughts and letters of interest to the Board of Directors at hci@horsemencouncil.org

North West - Region 1: Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Whiteside, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb, Rock Island, Mercer, Henry, Bureau, Putnam, LaSalle, Henderson, Warren, Knox, Stark, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, McDonough, Fulton and Tazewell counties.

North East - Region 2: McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, Grundy and Kankakee counties.

East Central - Region 3: Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, McLean, Dewitt, Piatt, Champaign, Vermilion, Macon, Moultrie, Douglas, Coles, Edgar, Shelby, Cumberland and Clark counties.

West Central - Region 4: Hancock, Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Mason, Cass, Menard, Logan, Pike, Scott, Morgan, Sangamon, Calhoun, Green, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian, Madison, Bond, St. Clair, Clinton, Washington, Monroe and Randolph counties.

South - Region 5: Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Marion, Clay, Wayne, Richland, Edwards, Lawrence, Wabash, Perry, Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties.

