

Message from the President



**Michael Erskine,
DVM, DABVP**

I am sure we all have been looking forward to Spring. For many of us, Spring represents the “real” beginning of the New Year. Now we can begin to work in earnest on those projects and goals we set for ourselves in January.

For the Maryland Horse Council, Spring represents the beginning of our membership efforts. Soon we will be sending out membership renewals. This is a very important time of year for the MHC.

The MHC is a membership association. We are here to serve our members. We rely on our members to support and drive our services. And membership dues are an obvious and essential part of that support. Without these funds, the MHC could not function.

But membership is more than just paying dues. Membership is how we exercise influence. A large membership receives greater attention from legislators and regulators in Annapolis and around the state. It gains more generous support from corporate sponsors. Our relevance is in large

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Issue Summary: Upcoming Slots Referendum

The following information is presented to MHC members to help promote understanding of the upcoming slots referendum, as it affects Maryland’s horse industry in its entirety. The MHC welcomes your comments on this issue, and any other that affect the industry. Please send your comments to secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org.



All of us who participate in Maryland’s horse industry, whether for work or pleasure, have a very important opportunity – and responsibility — in the next several months. We must get the word out about all of the contributions that our industry makes to Maryland’s economy, environment and way of life. Support for the slots referendum depends on the voters of Maryland knowing what the consequences of their vote will be, and informing them effectively is our assignment.

On the November ballot the citizens of Maryland will be asked to vote for or against slot machine gambling. Most are tired of the issue and want some sort of resolution, but for the horse industry a positive outcome is crucial. The bill is very specific and details where and how many machines would be implemented if the voters support it; for a synopsis go to marylandthoroughbred.com.

The results of that vote will have a far-reaching and dramatic impact on the lives of many Marylanders, but most immediately those involved in the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries, and all of the related equine support services. Visualize the racing industry as the tip of the ice berg of Maryland’s horse industry, the most obvious portion — and the most vulnerable. What you can do is to get information out about why it is important to vote yes on slots because each one of you has a personal story to tell about what you, and your farm or business, contributes to Maryland’s economy.

The residual value to all horse related activities from a healthy racing industry is evident in the services, infrastructure and expertise of those that choose to do business in the state. Though the Maryland horse community has long

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part measured by how many members we have. How many voters, customers, individuals, or groups we represent. And it fuels the energy of this volunteer association.

We also want to invite new members to join. Over the past year or so, the MHC has hosted 4 educational seminars and 1 BBQ picnic! We have been out there providing opportunities to the horse community to learn about the horse business, equine health, and to just have fun enjoying food and music. The MHC plans to continue these outreach events, and we look forward to new members joining us as a result. We all can help to encourage this.

Thanks to those who work so hard to make the Maryland Horse Council successful. You can be proud of your efforts and of your membership in an association that is on the move.

Michael D. Erskine, DVM, DABVP
Maryland Horse Council President

Health Seminar

The Maryland Horse Council 2nd Annual Health Seminar was held March 1, 2008. This year's topic was Equine Colic and was a great success.

The speakers were: Dr. Nat White from the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia, Dr. Barbara Dallap Schaer and Dr. Rose Nolen-Walston from New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Amy Polkes from Damascus Equine Associates in Mt. Airy, Maryland. They provided excellent information about this most serious and important topic. We appreciated their time, expertise, and generosity.

The MHC Annual Health Seminar offers current, authoritative, scientific information from recognized experts on important equine health topics. Indeed, the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners awarded 6 continuing education credits for this year's seminar. MHC members enjoy discounted registration fees and all attendees enjoy an opportunity to learn about keeping their horses healthy.

Please look for next year's seminar and plan to attend.
MHC Trails & Greenways Committee
New Co-Chairs for Trails & Greenways

Unfortunately for all Maryland equestrians, Peggy Bree is moving out of state! Peggy has been the backbone of the Trails and Greenways Committee since 2002, taking the committee from essentially a theoretical concept and executing it into a dynamic, living, breathing functioning committee, complete with regular meetings and a vibrant on-line forum. The purpose of the MHC Trails & Greenways Committee was always to provide a networking forum for Maryland vast and varied trail organizations to be able to share information, success stories, and challenges, so that no one had to reinvent the wheel and in order to inspire each other. Peggy gave legs to that purpose. Peggy made it happen.

Thank you, Peggy.

And thank you to Dr. Judy Tubman and Christine Reynolds for accepting the baton and agreeing to serve as co-chairs of the MHC Trails & Greenways Committee. You are inheriting an active and dynamic committee!

Thank you to our MHC Sponsors!

B&D Builders
Naden/Lean

MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Southern States
The Equiery

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org.

Business Seminar

On February 25th, upwards of 50 Maryland horse industry business owners and professionals gathered at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis to share information and ideas about how to navigate the sometimes treacherous waters that confront employers in the horse industry. The program, organized by the Horse Council, offered a wealth of resources for information.

The day kicked off with a panel of lawyers who specialize in equine and labor law: Kathleen Tabor, Kate Masterton & Barbara Kraft. The panel discussed such difficult and complicated issues as how to decide if someone is an Employee or Independent Contractor (which has numerous ripple effects in tax and employment law). Other topics covered by this panel included: contracting with workers—agreements for employees and independent contractors, non-competition and confidentiality concerns, and discrimination and sexual harassment: how and how much do you need to worry?

This panel also talked about mediating disputes with employees; how to avoid legal problems when it's time to fire someone; health and disability issues; unemployment insurance issues; and recordkeeping and paperwork requirements and recommendations.

Other morning panels featured discussion of immigration and guest worker issues by immigration lawyer Laurie Volk. Laurie and her associate Cynthia Hemphill covered the types of visas available for equine industry workers, legal requirements for hiring and recordkeeping and the ever changing enforcement outlook.

Laurie and Cynthia's presentation was followed up by attorney Mike Daney, who presented a thorough breakdown of issues related to workplace safety (MOSHA/OSHA), and workers compensation.

After a break for lunch and networking, the afternoon was devoted to presentations on working Student and Internship programs, with a panel that included Dr. Amy Burk from the University of Maryland, Betsy Harrison, former working student and former business manager for Olympians Karen and David O'Connor, and Lambert Boyce, CPA. This panel provided a wealth of information on tax, workers compensation and liability issues involved in using working students. They also discussed ways of

finding, training, educating, and certifying employees, and the associated concerns about making and recovering your investment. Finally, they discussed High School and University programs: are they turning out the programs we need?

Merlin Williams of the MD Department of Labor illuminated the landscape regarding minimum age/wage and overtime requirements for agricultural businesses.

The last panel of the day was Lambert Boyce and Scott Weitz, a financial insurance and benefits professional. They discussed the tax and benefits consequences of in-kind compensation (housing, transportation, expense accounts, etc.); bartering; incentives (profit sharing, commissions), and the recordkeeping, paperwork and payroll requirements implicit in each. Finally, Scott Weitz laid out some do-able options for offering health, dental and retirement benefits to workers.

Judging by the evaluations turned in by the attendees, the day was a resounding success, and we have requests to repeat the program at least every 2 years!



**Maryland Horse Council
Executive Committee
2007 – 2008
www.mdhorsecouncil.org**

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raymonba@mda.state.md.us

Dorothy Troutman
Phone: 301-627-1327
Fax: 301-627-1327

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the MHC:

Business Members:

Centreville Equine
Dr. Judy Tubman
31239 Chesterville Bridge Road
Millington, MD 21651
410-928-5700
www.centrevilleequine.net

Friendship Equine Dental Service, LLC
Joel Nupp
2644 Tyrone Road
Westminster, MD 21158
410-259-1301
www.friendshipequine.com

Hands on Horses, LLC
Courtney Molino
7638 Oldfield Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-379-0869
www.handsonhorsesmassage.com

Unionville Equine Associates, P.C.
Nicole Benzinger
25 Webster Lane
Oxford, PA 19363
610-932-6800

Youth Members:

Stephany Forsythe
21832 Riviera Court
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Farm Members:

Burrages End Stables, LLC
Carol J. Jahnigen
5635 Old Ridge Path Ln
Lothian, MD 20711
410-271-3100

Greenock Hills Stables, LLC
Liane Hoffmeyer
5500 Greenock Road
Lothian, MD 20711
410-741-1172

Hilltop Farm, Inc.
Gayle Stike
1089 Nesbitt Road
Colora, MD 21917
410-658-9898
www.hilltopfarminc.com

Rolling Hills Ranch, LLC
Renee S. Luther
33 Rolling Hills Ranch Lane
Port Deposit, MD 21904
410-378-3817

Running Fox Farm
Jack Butler
11432 Old Frederick Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Sugarloaf Equestrian Center, Inc.
Maureen F. O'Connell
PO Box 408
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-8307

Individual Members:

Jan I. Berlage
16422 J.M. Pearce Rd
Monkton, MD 21111

Angela M. Brennan
2509 Vineyard Lane
Crofton, MD 21114

Sandra Brewer
13070 Triadelphia Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

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20001 Bucklodge Road
Boys, MD 20841

Jacki Edens
17823 Tree Lawn Drive
Ashton, MD 20861

Suzy Floyd
21001 Georgia Avenue
Brookeville, MD 20833

Jean M. Freund
8696 Manahan Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Amy Krengel
3639 Elder Oaks Blvd.
Bowie, MD 20716

Bobby Lindsley
A Moment in Time
PO Box 1338
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Juliet Piekarski
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Odenton, MD 21113

Rick Quinlan
21950 New Hampshire Avenue
Brookeville, MD 20833

Milt Savage
7733 Libertytown Road
Berlin, MD 21811

Margaret A. Scarff
4406 Carico Lane
White Hall, MD 21161-9664

Dr. Carol Spicknall
149 Thomas Avenue
Owings, MD 20736

Lisa Striplin
Top Notch Farm
162 Northview Lane
Chesapeake City, MD 21915

Deborah A. Supik-Jones
Stonehill
15355 Old York Road
Monkton, MD 21111-2222

Ann Zinsser
10217 Capitol View Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Issue Summary: Upcoming Slots

Referendum *(continued from page 1)*

been known and respected for producing great horses and skilled horse people the competitive economic pressures in the region have forced some of those people to make difficult business decisions, including moving out of Maryland.

What we do know is that Maryland's horse industry:

- Has an annual economic impact \$1.6 billion
- Includes \$5.2 billion equine-related assets
- Generates \$72 million in annual taxes
- Supports more than 16,000 jobs
- Has twice as many horses per square mile as Kentucky
- Is home to 20,200 horse farms
- Contains 685,000 acres in those horse farms

Sources: 2005 American Horse Council Economic Impact Study, 2002 Maryland Equine Census

With your help in spreading the word for Maryland, and for our future, our horse industry—your horse industry—will regain its vitality.

Following is a summary compiled by For Maryland/For Our Future, the organization charged with the mission of communicating and obtaining support for the Maryland slots referendum.

Video Lottery Terminals Fact Sheet

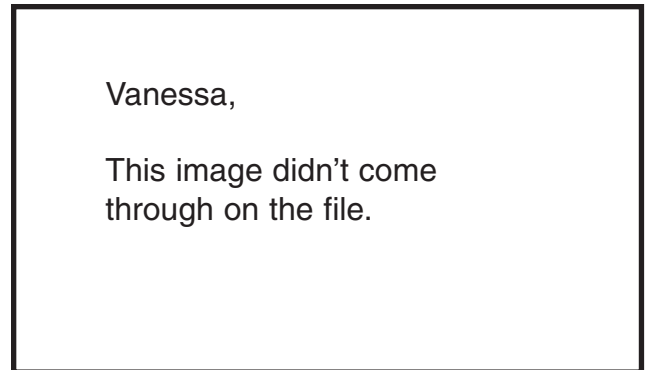
During the 2008 General Election, Marylanders will go to the polls to vote on a constitutional amendment to authorize up to 15,000 video lottery terminals (VLTs) at five specified locations within the state. If this minor expansion of the existing gaming within Maryland is approved by the voters, the state will be able to reclaim money spent outside the state and redirect it towards the Education Trust Fund. Additionally, this tax-payer friendly amendment will provide jobs, preserve farmland and open space and help protect the historic nature of Maryland horseracing.

Economic Benefits will be Felt across Maryland

- Estimated \$1.3 billion gross revenue generated in Fiscal Year 2013
- 48.5 – 51% to the Education Trust Fund, up to \$660 million starting in 2013

- 5.5% in local impact aid, primarily to local governments, up to \$74.9 million starting in 2013
- 7% to a purse dedication account to enhance horse racing purses and funds for the horse breeding industry
- 1.5% to a small, minority, and women-owned business investment account
- Up to \$750 million in capital expenditures by licensees
- Reclaiming the \$400 million a year that Marylanders wager in Delaware and West Virginia
- Protects farms and open space from development and sprawl, as well as the 6,000 horse industry-related jobs

Public Supports Expansion of Existing Gaming in Maryland



Constitutional Amendment Specifies Number of VLTs and Location

- 4,750 VLTs at a location in Anne Arundel County within two miles of Route 295;
- 3,750 VLTs in Baltimore City, in a nonresidential area within one-half mile of Interstate 95 and Route 295, on city-owned land that is not adjacent to or within one-quarter mile of residential property;
- 2,500 VLTs at a location in Worcester County within one mile of the intersection of Route 50 and Route 589;
- 2,500 VLTs at a location in Cecil County within two miles of Interstate 95; and
- 1,500 VLTs on State property in Allegany County associated with the Rocky Gap State Park in a building physically separate from the Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort.

By authority: For Maryland For Our Future, Inc. George Rakis, Treasurer



Thank you for your commitment to Maryland and our state's future.

Your generous contribution today will help Maryland make continued investments in education, health care and job creation. Instead of Maryland's dollars flowing out of state, the limited expansion of video lottery terminals will generate additional revenue that by law must be dedicated to these important priorities.

Please make checks payable to: "For Maryland For Our Future."

Please overnight contributions to: Jennifer Swanson at

For Maryland For Our Future, 10125 Colesville Rd., Box 161, Silver Spring, MD 20901

To make a credit card contribution, please fax back to (202) 467-1625

Under federal and state laws there is no limit to the contributions that can be made by corporation, labor organizations and individuals (US citizens and legal permanent residents) to For Maryland For Our Future, which is a non-profit corporation exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and a ballot issue committee under Maryland election law.

Contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Phone (H): _____ (W): _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

If you prefer to pay by credit card, please complete the following:

Credit Card Type: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express

Name on Card: _____ Amount: _____

Billing Address (If Different): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

By authority: For Maryland For Our Future, Inc. George Rakis, Treasurer

Maryland Horse Council Meeting of the Board of Directors January 17, 2008 • Timonium, MD

Officers Present:

Mike Erskine	President and MD Association of Equine Practitioners
Crystal Kimball	Secretary, Dir-at-Large Business and MD Steeplechase Assoc.
Keith Wills	Treasurer and Director at Large for Businesses
Vanessa Finney	MHC Administrator

Directors Present:

Amy Burk	Dir. at Large for Individual Members
Beverly A. Raymond	Dir. at Large for Individual Members
Diane Ayers	Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club
Stuart Pittman	Dodon Farm
Vicki O'Hara	Equine Extravaganza
Kathy Dobson	League of Maryland Horsemen
Cathy Tucker-Slaterbeck	Maryland Combined Training Association
Dorothy Troutman	Maryland Equestrian Foundation/ Rosaryville Conservancy
Kristin Wilson	Maryland 4-H Program
Cricket Goodall	Maryland Horse Breeders Assoc.
Christine Bricker	Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.
Priscilla Huffman	TROT - Trail Riders of Today
Royce Herman	Tuckahoe Equestrian Center

Directors Absent:

Darryll Ann Buschling	Briarpatch	Deloise Noble-Strong	Maryland Horse Shows Assoc. Rep
Joseph Zentgraf	Carroll County Equestrian Council	Carrie Everly	Maryland Jockey Club
Sharon Roberts	Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association	Felicia Hilleary	Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.
Kathleen Schwartz	Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.	Patty Sasscer	MD Assoc. of Wildlife Conservation
John Bolinski	Delmarva Driving Club, Inc.	Terry Christensen	MD State Quarter Horse Assn.
Jane Seigler	Director at Large for Farms	David Turner	Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assoc
(Vacant)	Elkridge Harford Hunt	Guillermo Warley	New Market Middletown Valley Hounds
Debbie Rollins Frank	Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc	Gail Varnedoe	Pasadena Horse and Pony Association
Charlie Colgan	Fair Hill International, Inc.	Gayle Miller	Plantation Walking Horses of MD
Holly Hamilton	Goshen Hounds	Monica Breland	Potomac Hunt Club
Jim McDonald	Graham Equestrian Center, Inc.	Deanna Beal	Potomac Valley Dressage Association
Mary Anne Steele	Howard County Horse Shows Association	Elizabeth Yewell	Prince George's Equestrian Center, Show Place Arena
Gayle Curtiss	Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds	Jane Seigler	Reddemeade Farm, Inc.
Nicky Ratliff	Humane Society of Carroll County	Gretchen Mobberley	Summer Hill Farm
Christy Clagett	Marlborough Hounds	Barbara Kraft	The Ranger Foundation, Inc.
Margaret Wilterdink	Maryland Dressage Association	Susie Webb	Washington International Horse Show
Tim Streaker	Maryland Farriers Association	Cindy Wood	Wicomico Hunt



For the latest News Bulletins, Maryland Bills and Legislation,
Asset Protection, Horse Ownership and more, visit our website at
mdhorsecouncil.org



P.O. Box 233
Lisbon, MD
21765

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 20 – MHC Quarterly Board Meeting

Prince George's Equestrian Center
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue • Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
www.showplacearena.com
6:00 Meet and Greet Reception • 7:00 Business Meeting

August 19 – MHC Quarterly Meeting

All Members Welcome
Frederick County Fairgrounds • Administration Building
797 East Patrick Street • Frederick, MD 21705
www.thegreatfrederickfair.com
6:00 Meet and Greet Reception • 7:00 Business Meeting

September 20 – Second Annual MHC Picnic BBQ

Venue to be determined

November 11 – MHC Quarterly Board Meeting and Annual MHC Membership Meeting

Membership Meeting
Annapolis, MD
Venue to be determined
6:00 Meet and Greet Reception • 7:00 Business Meeting