



NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL

- WWW.NYSHC.ORG -

“To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State.”

May 5, 2021

Our Regions:

Dear Members of the New York State Horse Council,

Southeast
New York City
Long Island
Mid-Hudson
Capital
Northern
Central
Southern Tier
Finger Lakes
Western

We had scheduled a webinar on Thurs. May 6 at 6 pm with Dr. Anna Pesta, a nutritionist at Purina Animal Nutrition. We need to postpone this a few weeks, but will get back to you with a new date, and how to register.

As we hope for a better 2021, we'd like to summarize some contributions of the New York State Horse Council (NYSHC): COVID was the big issue for the world last year, and still is, but we have some hope that life will be “normal” by summer. NYSHC wrote to the Governor supporting re-opening horse stables, and worked with Farm Bureau and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) in getting correct and current information out to horse owners and businesses.

COVID information was posted on our website and on Instagram, covered in our newsletter, and we answered questions from horse businesses and clubs. Thanks to Sarah E J Collier, Recording Secretary, and Chauntel Gilliland, Northern Region Director for posting updates. They were recognized at our virtual Annual General Membership Meeting in October as Horse Persons of the Year 2020.

Sarah also wrote an article on “Creating an Emergency Plan Amidst the COVID19 Crisis”, published in the newsletter and Country Folks magazine. Suggestions in the Emergency Plan are also useful if you or your horse caregiver is incapacitated and someone needs to step in.

Brianna Hughes, Capital Region Director and Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator, performed a survey of “[Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Equine Related Businesses in New York State](#)”, that received over 400 responses. We hope to use the information gathered for future legislative recommendations. Thanks to Brianna for completing a complex survey. Both of the above articles are available on website nyshc.org.

Since we haven't had an in-person meeting for over a year, we also recognized the recipients of the 2019 Awards. Horse Person was our Webmaster Brad Zehr, who maintains our site and membership information. We feel the website is well designed and readable. He had also suggested linking Horse Trails websites on ours, which is very useful for getting maps and directions.

Lifetime Achievement 2020 went to Steve Ropel, Past President and current Treasurer. Steve's experience with government agencies in Albany has been useful in getting information. 2019 Lifetime Achievement recognized Gary and Sharon Slate, Central Region V.P and Director. Gary has written articles for our newsletter and Mane Stream/Country Folks magazines. They also write and maintain a stock of our informational brochures (to hand out at Horse events) and place ads for NYSHC in magazines.

Everyone on the ballot for 2021 was elected, emails and phone numbers will be posted on website under “Contacts”. Two chapters, Westchester County and Putnam County, plus Dutchess County members, were combined into the new Eastern Hudson Valley chapter. They organized a Drive In Movie, with everyone socially distant in their cars, showing “Seabiscuit”. Brilliant idea!

An online clinic with Sharon Wiltsie on “Horse Speak” was presented in November, sponsored by Karen Lassell (Northern Region Director) and the Miner Institute. This Spring we had a series of online nutrition seminars by Purina Feeds.

Governor Cuomo announced there will be a New York State Fair in 2021! We hope to have an Annual General Membership Meeting this Fall, and the Fall Pleasure Ride in Brookfield on October 8 – 11 (Columbus Day weekend).

If anyone would like to help with our activities please let me (Sue Knauer 585 230-3720, sdknauer1@gmail.com) know. We need someone with computer and media knowledge to help with our website and Facebook page. We also need someone with Powerpoint or Publisher expertise to help us create some presentations.

Regards,

Susan Knauer, President
Dan Gruen, Executive VP
Sarah E.J. Collier, Secretary
Stephen Ropel, Treasurer
Shannon Budnik, Past President