

President's Message – NYSHC Newsletter January through March 2023

Submitted by: Pauline E. Burnes, RLA, December 26, 2022

I am writing this “fireside chat” as the winter winds howl and temperatures dip below zero degrees F. I am very grateful to all the folks in the New York State Horse Council, Inc. who have expressed an interest to serve the New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) in various capacities.

A NYSHC organizational meeting was held on December 21, 2022 to transfer the leadership from President Susan Knauer to myself, Pauline Burnes. The vice president position also changed from Dan Gruen to Allison Conti-Frey. Stephen Ropel remains the Treasurer, continuing to do a stellar job of keeping the NYSHC financial record-keeping on track. Mary Hull has resigned as Secretary, which has left us to appoint Secretary pro tem until the Secretary position can be filled. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, this is a description to the roles and responsibility of this position. “The Recording Secretary shall keep a detailed record of the proceedings of the Council and shall send same to Directors within three (3) weeks of the next meeting; and shall maintain the archives of the Council.” (By Laws, NYSHC, Inc.)

Former NYSHC president Shannon Budnick has been selected to serve as Director at Large by a Motion and majority vote at the December 21, 2022, meeting. Chip Watson remains a Director at Large. We are grateful that Chip remains to help with her knowledge and experience with the NYSHC. Updates to the NYSHC website with position changes, contact information and existing vacancies will be available in January.

A committee to review the By Laws of the NYS Horse Council, Inc. and Chapter Agreements has been formed. The By Laws were last revised in 2016. The Chair of this committee is Vice President Allison Conti-Frey, with Board members Dru Malavese and Stephen Ropel participating in the review. In addition, the NYSHC has joined the New York State Council of Non-Profits <https://www.nycon.org/about-nycon>, which will assist our organization in staying up to date with current legislation and education requirements for Board members and volunteers.

Discussion of other committees was tabled for the January 18 meeting to be held at 7 pm by Zoom. This meeting notice will also be posted on the NYSHC website. The purpose of this meeting is to reconvene existing committees, such as membership, and form new ones. It is best to start planning events early, so please consider serving on the Membership, Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting to be held in the fall, or Annual Brookfield Fall Ride scheduled for October 6 through October 9 at the Madison County Fairground. Other committee recommendations can be discussed at the January meeting.

Early coordination of events that will be offered by the Chapters of the NYS Horse Council, Inc. is requested as early in the year as possible. This is so the Treasurer can notify Equisure, Inc. of event insurance needs.

The regularly scheduled meetings for the NYSHC will be posted on the website. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 by Zoom at 7 pm. We are planning on an in-person Board of Directors meeting to be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 to be held at The Spot restaurant in Binghamton, New York. I am looking forward to having a great year with the New York State Horse Council to continue our mission: "To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State".