



New York State
Horse Council

Winter 2025 Newsletter



December 4, 2025

Did you know, that December 13 is the National Day of the Horse? This is a day that encourages our Nation to celebrate and recognize the many contributions that equids have made throughout our nation. Prior to the development of the automobile, trucks and tractors and their use over the past 100 years, horses were the main source of transportation for everyday activities. Horses and mules helped to build the Erie Canal in New York State, plowed fields, pulled wagons, and even galloped toward burning buildings pulling fire trucks. Horses, mules and donkeys have contributed to various cultures throughout the centuries as trusted steeds in battle, beasts of burden, working ranch horses, pulled travois and carried Native Americans on bison hunts (see the larger than life mural at the Rockwell Museum in Corning, New York). Celebrate your horse and continue to strive for the humane treatment of these noble creatures. Today they have a particularly important role in therapeutic riding programs and give mobility to our aging population.

I've heard that this marks the 400th anniversary of horses in New York State. I have not been able to find documentation more than the Dutch brought horses to "New Amsterdam" and the English brought horses for racing. If you would like to view some interesting pictures of the horse in New York City, even pulling garbage wagons for sanitation, go to <https://www.archives.nyc/blog/2023/10/20/horsepower-the-city-and-the-horse>. Today, the New York City Carriage Horse continues to be an important tourist attraction in New York City but is under increasing pressure to be banned from New York City and even Central Park.

Throughout New York State, there are development pressures on open space and agriculture, and competition from other trail users that keep the New York State Horse Council active and engaged in advocacy and education efforts for our membership and legislators. We participate in "Share the Trails" training programs and attend public meetings advocating for equestrian access to trails. Many of our member clubs are volunteers maintaining trail systems with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, such as the Friends of Otter Creek Horse Trails; IMPACT: Friends Improving Allegany County Trails, Inc.; Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System (CCETS); the NY Plantation Horse Club and others. The NYS Horse Council continues to have representation in Albany at the Statewide Trails Council, which includes representatives from the NYS Parks System and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

The New York State Horse Council, Inc. has been working on some initiatives for 2026. The most important is the development of a 2-year Strategic Plan for the NYSHC. This includes a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and the development of SMART Goals, described as Specific, Measurable,

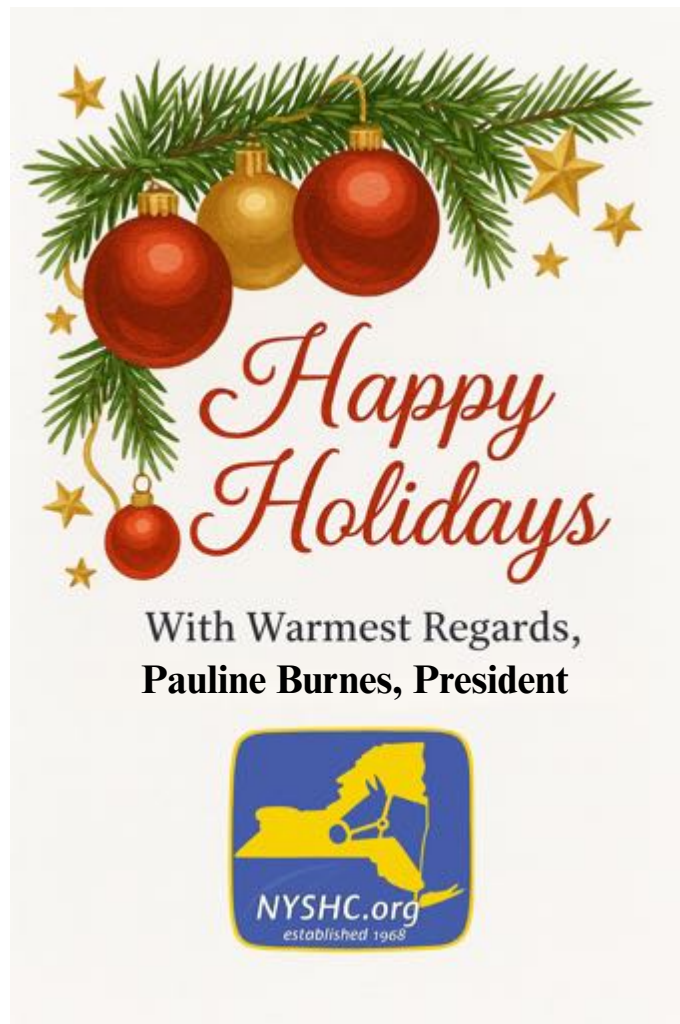
Winter Newsletter 2025

Achievable, Realistic, and Timely. One of the first goals is to establish a Youth Board of the NYSHC. The structure and proposal will be discussed at the December 11 Board of Directors meeting.

As we are developing an Event Calendar for 2026, please send your items such as trail rides, clinics, horse shows to info@nyshc.org. If you would like NYSHC to sponsor your show or clinic, please reach out to me by January 10, 2026. We are currently preparing the 2026 budget, which will be finalized in January. To be included in the Event Calendar and considered for sponsorships, we encourage you to become a member of the NYSHC.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season, and success in the New Year!

PAULINE BURNES



MEET THE *Board*

Karen Lassel



Karen grew up in Chelmsford, MA riding at a local boarding stable. Following graduation with a B.S. in Animal Science from UNH, she took a position at the W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute in Chazy, NY with the equine program in 1991. In 1995 she was named the Equine Manager and remains in that position today. As such, Karen oversees the care of the Morgan Horse herd as part of the historic Heart's Delight Farm which is under the Miner Institute umbrella. The educational program around the horses is multi-fold including internships for recent college graduates and undergraduates, youth, adults and the general public. Miner hosts many seminars, clinics, workshops, open barns and publishes a newsletter a few times per year all designed to improve the care, training and welfare of horses and the community. Karen has been a long-time member of the NYSHC and has served on the board for many years. She currently is on an advisory committee for the NYS Diagnostic Lab at Cornell University.

A Call for Volunteers by Gary Slate, Vice President of Central Region

The New York State Horse Council has always depended on the work of volunteers. The Board of Directors, composed of the elected Vice Presidents and Directors of each region, are all volunteers who actively seek out horse events and news in their areas to share with the membership, through the newsletter, website, and Facebook. Add to this the work of the committees devoted to specific jobs, like organizing the Annual Horse Council Trail Ride at Brookfield, finding people willing to accept or run for election of vacant positions, running the Ride and Drive Program, and you will find an army of volunteers doing work that makes the Horse Council a respected non-profit among the horse world of New York State.

You can find a list of the standing committees on the nyshc.org website, clicking on the menu "Contacts", then "New York State Horse Council Officers: Board of Directors, Regional VP & Directors, & Chapter Presidents & Committee Chairs". The list of committees shows the committee chair and contact information. Many of these are a committee of one or two. Per the NYSHC by-laws, the Chair of a committee must be a member of the Board of Directors. The members of the committee can be NYSHC members that are not on the Board of Directors. Some of these committees are always looking for more members to share the work, such as helping plan the Annual General Meeting, or advocating for more and improved horse trails in your area.

Sometimes the President will ask for volunteers to work on a temporary special committee created to deal with a specific task that has just become necessary. For example, we are currently looking to create a strategic plan for the growth of the Horse Council over the next two years. We are looking for ideas that will attract more young people, organize events that will encourage horse owners to gather for competition, education, and to meet others who share their enthusiasm for horses. This may require research, brain storming, and creating carefully worded documents, or even just talking.

With a membership as large and diverse as the Horse Council, there are many talented and resourceful people who are just waiting to be asked to help. Ask yourself if you have the time to make a difference, to join with other horse people who are actively doing work that they are passionate about. You can participate in fulfilling the Horse Council's mission statement: "The mission of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC) is to create a strong, unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State".

YOUTH Corner

Celebrating Young Equestrians Across New York



The New York State Horse Council is proud to recognize the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication that young equestrians bring to our statewide horse community. Whether you spend your time in the saddle, in the barn, at clinics, on the trail, or volunteering at local events, your involvement strengthens the future of horsemanship in New York. This past year, youth across the state have shown exceptional commitment to learning and growing—improving riding skills, studying equine health and safety, supporting community shows, and helping fellow riders whenever needed. Your passion is not only inspiring but vital to keeping our equine traditions strong.

NYSHC youth members have also been active in community service efforts, from assisting at trail maintenance days to lending a hand at educational programs and open barns. These contributions help create safe, welcoming spaces for riders of all ages and encourage more people to enjoy the world of horses.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to offer youth-focused clinics, educational opportunities, Scholarships and statewide events designed to help young horse lovers expand their knowledge, build confidence, and connect with others who share their passion. Keep an eye on upcoming newsletters, social media and the NYSHC website for details on new programs for 2026!

Thank you to every young equestrian who continues to show kindness, sportsmanship, and a willingness to learn. You are the heartbeat of New York's horse community, and can't wait to see what you accomplish in the year ahead.





Landsman Kill Trail Association's 2026 SCHEDULE

EVENTS

3/22/26 Annual Dinner
5/17/26 Spring Hunter Pace
6/14/26 Spring Trail Ride
9/13/26 Fall Trail Ride
10/11/26 Fall Hunter Pace

Located in beautiful Rhinebeck, NY

**For more information email president@lkta.org
or go to lkta.org**

Deciding to breed your mare is an exciting time! It is easy to get caught up in the promise of this yet-to-arrive foal, but there are many steps to take before you get there. One of the most confusing of those can be the Stallion Service Contract. There are a few industry norms, but the range of offerings and terminology is huge, and not all terms are universally defined. A basic contract should name and identify all parties involved, humans, including addresses, and horses including descriptions and registration numbers. This short article offers a few points to think on whether you're looking for live cover, transported semen, or on-farm artificial insemination.

Payment of Fees: The contract should have a clear outline of what fees will be paid and by what dates to fulfill the contract.

A "Booking Fee" is a reservation to be on that stallion's list for the season and is often applied to the stud fee, but not always. Booking fees are not usually refundable, so if you change your mind this year, or need to re-breed your mare due to non-pregnancy or a non-viable foal, you'll likely be required to pay again.

The "Stud Fee" is the price paid to get a pregnancy by this stallion. Check carefully to see what happens if you've paid your stud fee in full and the stallion is no longer fit for service (i.e., infertile or dead). Some farms will refund you less the booking fee; some will offer a substitute stallion. If the substitute stallions do not interest you, think carefully about this, particularly if the fee is very high.

"Chute Fees" seem to be handling fees for semen, but they vary widely in price and what they cover. It can include: the collection fee (or not); one or more collections and shipments of semen; handling the mare for live cover; or taking the stallion to a station to be collected. This fee is found more often in the stock-horse breeds such as Quarter Horses, Paints and Appaloosas, and less frequently with other breeds.

"Collection Fee" is the price of semen collection, which may or may not include shipping. Some stallions include a shipment or two in the stud fee, others increase the fee with each subsequent shipment. Ask the stallion owner what sort of semen quality you can expect- ask how many live, motile

sperm you'll get in an inseminate, and what that will be at 24 hours when you receive it to use. This is the right time to ask about conception rates for the stallion- how many mares did he breed last year and how many of those settled? How many cycles did it take to get those mares bred?

"Mare Care" will be charged when your mare goes to the stallion's farm. These are a per day fee and can be "Dry"- a mare without a foal at side or "Wet"- a mare with a foal. Understand clearly what care your mare (and foal) will get. Will she be stabled? What is the feed quality and quantity? How much turnout and with other horses? What's the health status of horses on the farm? What vaccinations or health papers are required of your mare?

Other key terms to understand include:

- "Transfer or Assignment of Contract:" This will answer whether you can sell or give away your service to this stallion. If you choose not to use the service you have already paid for, what can you do with it? Not all stallion owners will honor the agreement if it is no longer for you, or the mare you specifically named. Look for your contract to include written language as to how to proceed if a substitute a mare is required.
- "Opening and Closing Dates:" Understand the breeding season and make sure they jive with your schedule- both to get the mare bred and thinking ahead to what time of year you hope for a foal to be born. Stallions with busy show seasons might have limited time available to breed your mare, ending the season early or with block-out dates for shows. If they offer only frozen semen after a certain date, confirm your veterinarian's experience handling and breeding with frozen. How and when to notify the stallion manager that your mare needs a collection is crucial. This can get tricky depending on how easy your mare's cycle is to follow, as well as the delivery of semen to you. Stallion managers often have specific collection days and may require up to 72-hour notice to get a shipment. Know too if you can get Saturday delivery in your area with whatever shipper the stallion manager chooses.

- “Live Foal Guarantee (LFG):” It is generally accepted that a “live foal” is one that stands and nurses. In a textbook parturition, the foal will accomplish these milestones within a few hours of birth. The “guarantee” is the hard part; read closely to determine the specifics of your contract. Most of the time to prove you did not have a live foal, you’ll need documented veterinary visits and proof that you did all the appropriate pregnancy checks including ultrasounds and palpations, as well as the mare receiving rhinopneumonitis (equine herpes virus (EHV)) boosters at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation. If the foal is born dead or fails to stand and nurse within the time limits set by the contract, you’ll again need a vet’s evaluation. Even after proving you did not have a live foal, your options will be narrowly limited to the terms in the contract

Raising a foal is incredibly rewarding, but getting that foal on the ground can be a stressful and expensive experience. Contracts are agreements that can be updated and changed as long as both parties agree. Understanding the Stallion Service Contract is just one part of the process; doing your homework and asking the questions ahead of time can make this part of the journey go smoothly and help keep everyone’s expectations grounded in reality.

Karen Nevius Lassell

lassell@whminer.com

NYSHC Northeast Regional VP



Photo courtesy of Christopher Crosby Morris.

Morgan mare, Sugarlane Dominique with her colt HD Adirondack, by the Western Pleasure Champion, Privilege at Miner Institute in Chazy, NY.



Orleans County Sheriff Update

November 27, 2025 – A big thank-you to Deputy Borrell and Deputy Morgan of the Orleans County Sheriff's Department for assisting in the safe recovery of a horse who managed to jump his fence! We're grateful for their quick response and hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Northampton Park Trail Feasibility Study Update: Northampton Park is a 900+ acre, all-season park in Brockport, NY, offering an extensive network of hiking and horseback-riding trails, winter recreation opportunities, natural play areas, and the publicly accessible Springdale Farm. The Northampton Park Trail Feasibility Study aims to identify ways to enhance user safety, improve trail conditions, and explore better connectivity throughout the park and surrounding community.

As part of this study, the Orleans County Boots & Saddle Club met separately with project representatives, joined by many members of the equestrian community. The conversation focused on safe and respectful trail sharing among all visitors, the potential for a mountain biking trail that could also support equestrian use, and design considerations such as accessibility, bridge construction, and infrastructure that accommodates both carriage driving and foot traffic.

Public comments closed on November 14, and Monroe County Parks will now begin reviewing all submissions to develop a draft trail plan for public presentation. An open house held on October 16 drew more than 70 attendees, and informational maps from that event remain available for reference. Additional public meetings will be scheduled in the coming months, and community feedback continues to be welcomed.

Quick Winter Riding Tips

1. Check hooves frequently for snow and ice buildup.

Snow can pack into tight, hard "snowballs" in your horse's hooves, creating unstable footing and increasing the risk of slips or strained tendons. Pick hooves before, during, and after your ride, and consider using hoof boots or non-stick sprays to reduce buildup.

2. Allow sweaty horses to cool and fully dry before turnout.

Even in cold weather, winter rides can leave horses damp under their tack. Always cool down gradually, use a wool or fleece cooler to wick moisture, and wait until your horse is completely dry before turnout to prevent chills and muscle stiffness.

3. Increase visibility in low-light conditions.

Winter days are short and weather can change quickly, so make yourself and your horse easy to see. Use reflective vests, leg bands, or breastplates, and choose bright colors if riding near shared trails or road crossings. Always let someone know your planned route and return time.

4. Report trail damage with GPS coordinates.

If you encounter trail damage or a downed tree on a Monroe County Park trail, drop a pin on your phone and email the GPS coordinates along with a brief description of the issue to mcparks@monroecounty.gov. Quick reporting helps keep trails safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

Have a Happy Horsey Holidays!

Winter Newsletter 2025

NYSHC Board of Directors Report

Name: Gary Slate

Email: garysharonslate@gmail.com

Region/Chapter Name/Committee: Central Region, Vice President

Date Submitted: Monday, November 17, 2025

Date of Meeting: Monday, November 24, 2025

Report:

Central Region still has horses and horse shows. I've been told that Agriculture and Markets have lowered the price for showing in the Coliseum on the New York State Fairgrounds here in Syracuse. There have been shows for Morgans, Arabs, Quarter Horses, jumping, reining, barrel racing, 4-H, and the Draft Horse Show during the New York State Fair. The Lorenzo Driving Competition at Cazenovia was successful and will be looking forward to their 50th anniversary next July. The Draft Horse Club held their annual Plow Day and Harvest Day as well as several club activities. The Cherry Valley Carriage Association again had club events almost every month. Kathy Zimmer of Bridle Path Manor hosted a full schedule of shows for student riders at the Coliseum, Morrisville College, and venues outside of Central Region. Besides the many people participating in breed or club events, even more engage in riding on trails or at home.

I want this to be included in newsletter: At Newsletter Discretion

Comments:

Lindsay – You asked for a member count of Chapters. I count 26 members in Central Region including spouses, and not counting our member Elsie Dotson, who passed away this year. If you would like, I could send you a link to her obituary, which showed her remarkable life with horses.

www.NYSHC.org

Winter Newsletter 2025

NYSHC Board of Directors Report

Name: Sharon Slate

Email: garysharonslate@gmail.com

Region / Chapter / Committee: Central Region – Director

Date Submitted: Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Date of Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2025

Report

The brochure committee has had a reasonably full year. Inventory of existing brochures was done at least twice and a list of those that needed to be reordered was formulated. It was discussed at a board of directors meeting with board agreement, the order was placed. At least two brochures were updated prior to being reordered. Whenever possible, delivery was done directly or pick up was arranged. However, postage was necessary when some requests were mailed out. The total for postage was \$57.22 for 2025. A reimbursement form will need to be submitted to our treasurer in that amount.

Comments

Goals for 2026 are to continue to keep track of general inventory and order replacements (with updates where necessary), to develop new brochures on request, to save postage by facilitating delivery or pick up when possible, and to encourage the availability of a selection of our brochures at various venues.

www.NYSHC.org

Winter Newsletter 2025

NYSHC Board of Directors Report

Name Karen Lassell Email lassell@whminer.com

Region/Chapter Name/ Committee Northern Regional VP/Scholarship

Date Submitted Monday, December 1, 2025

Date of Meeting Thursday, December 11, 2025

Number In Attendance

Report

Things are quiet in the Northeast Region. Karen attended a meeting of the Advisory Board for the NYS Diagnostic Veterinary Lab on Sept. 30, 2025 as a representative for the horse industry. The group was given a presentation on the annual report of the lab, some discussion on expansion plans for this busy and diverse facility, and the opportunity to ask general administration questions as well as more specific tests for horses and emergent issues. 2026 will hopefully bring a few opportunities to put the horse council's mission front and center to the area's equine enthusiasts as part of a membership drive.

www.NYSHC.org



2026 NYSHC Election Results

The New York State Horse Council is pleased to announce the results of the 2026 Election. Thank you to all members who participated in the voting process and to each candidate who stepped forward to serve our equine community.

Please join us in congratulating the following individuals on their re-election:

Sharon Young – Central Region Director

Marcia Schwartz – Central Region Director

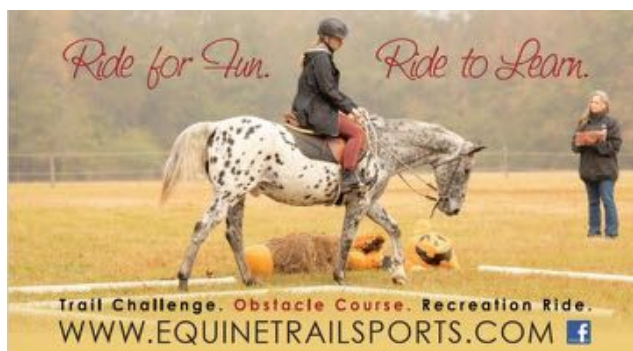
Lindsay LaBella – Finger Lakes Region Vice President

Karen Lassel – Northern Region Vice President

Joanne Frechette – Southern Tier Director

We are grateful for their willingness to serve and for the dedication they bring to the NYSHC. We look forward to the leadership, collaboration, and positive momentum they will help guide in the coming year.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the New York State Horse Council and our mission to protect and promote the equine industry across the state.



Equine Trail Sports (ETS) is a national group that certifies hosts and judges to organize competitions within their communities. These events are centered around navigating obstacles, which help riders enhance both their horsemanship and partnership with their horses. Depending on the host, competitions may take place In Hand, in arenas or fields, or along trails spanning 2 to 10 miles. Because trail competitions send participants out in staggered groups, riders have the opportunity to compete alongside family and friends. Equine Trail Sports also serves as an excellent way to raise funds for clubs, barns, non-profits, or simply to unite the community around a shared goal. **In our area of the southern tier of western N.Y. we are blessed to have an event host, Jodi Grey (907-602-3607) who puts on family friendly and fun events and in western Pa. we have Tara Nason.** ETS is always available to talk to anyone who would like to host ETS Events for fun, promotion and profit.

Obstacles, both natural and man-made, accommodate all skill levels. Competitors are tested on skills such as confidence (i.e. drag, bridge crossing), ground manners (mount, bridling), forward and backwards movements, and precision movements such as turning on the forehand or side passing. Participants select their skill level for each obstacle and inform the judge, so there is no pattern to memorize. This allows them to compete by choosing a higher level for skills they have mastered or choosing a lower level for the skills they are still working on. The choices of their levels determine where they place in the competition.

ETS trains judges online to maintain consistent standards. In the Ride for Fun, Ride to Learn format, judges give feedback with scores and discuss obstacles during the awards ceremony, helping riders spot strengths and areas for improvement.

Due to standardized judging criteria, ETS designates national and regional winners according to points accrued in competitions. Awards are determined by placement points, ranking points, rider age, and horse age. Both youth and senior participants, as well as their horses, are eligible for recognition in regional and national tournaments.

For 2025, Anne Lynch (72 years young) and her horse Alinor (28 years young) will be awarded the Senior rider and equine Tournaments, as well as the Dream Team (Advanced Bracket) tournament for the Northeast Region. The Rising Star, ETS's youth tournament, will be awarded to Colton Reynolds (9 years young) for the Northeast Region.

To compete, judge, or host, visit equinetrailsports.com or call 512-537-3961.

DREAM TEAM NORTHEAST REGION TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY ETS								
ADVANCED			INTERMEDIATE			NOVICE		
 GOLD CONCHOS			 SILVER CONCHOS			 COPPER CONCHOS		
Team	Region	Total Placement Points	Team	Region	Total Placement Points	Team	Region	Total Placement Points
1 Anne Lynch <i>Allnor</i>	NE	45	1 Dawn Tocha <i>Soleil</i>	NE	21	1 Colton Reynolds <i>Houston</i>	NE	10
2 Rebecca Sank <i>Cash</i>	NE	24	2 Sandra Colvenback <i>Zip</i>	NE	18	2 Maria Haelner <i>Dakota</i>	NE	5
3 Theresa Hetzlep <i>Rabbit</i>	NE	10	3 Kathy Alleman <i>Eley</i>	NE	14	3 Virginia King <i>Ching Ching</i>	NE	4
4 Pauline Burnes <i>Little Joe</i>	NE	10	4 Patti Gallant <i>Peanut</i>	SE	10	4 Cheri Stady <i>Pearl</i>	NE	4
5 Cate Cameron <i>Faith Haven Stables</i>	NE	9	5 Dakota Quelland <i>Tucker</i>	NE	8	5 Sierra Wiesmore <i>Dakota Dreamer</i>	NE	4



Winter Newsletter 2025

The NY State Conference Board of Farm Organizations was established 1954 to develop a united effort on economic, social, legislative/regulatory and other state and national issues affecting agriculture in New York State. Later coined the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations, it built on the collective strength of its membership and policy statements representing numerous facets of New York agriculture, including the equine industry. More information on their website

www.EmpireStateCAO.info

NYSHC President, Pauline Burnes and Northern Regional VP, Karen Lassell recently participated in the planning for policy development and will head to their annual meeting early in January to ratify the updated handbook. A key update for horses boosted the NYSHC's request for \$100,000 from the state to the number one recommendation of the CAO under the Equine Industry heading. The NYSHC has a history of strong programming and support of horses; just imagine what we can do with the financial backing of the state! Elsewhere in the book, we strengthened statements about education, open space, and equestrian trails.

The unique nature of the CAO is that policy statements are unanimously backed by the membership giving strong credence to the group's advocacy. Lobby day is an opportunity to meet, greet and emphasize the needs of agriculture, including horses, to our elected officials. WE NEED YOUR HELP. You are invited to join us on February 9, 2026 in Albany to make our case heard! No previous experience or special skills required; simply a desire to see the equine industry thrive and a willingness to share our passion with legislators. Contact Pauline Burnes at pauline.burnes@nyshc.org to get more information, or to sign up for a day of sharing what we love.

Empire State
Council of Agricultural Organizations, Inc.

**Save the Date:
CAO Lobby Day**

The Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO) Lobby Day will held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Your organization's participation is strongly encouraged. Given today's political climate and state budget, it is essential that our industry advocate for agricultural priorities before members of the New York State Assembly, Senate and their staffs.

**Wednesday,
February 4, 2026**
Mark Your Calendars!

Registration information coming soon ...

Join us on February 4, 2026
to advocate for the agriculture industry!

Empire State CAO
Sue Vandenberg
sue@nyshc.org
www.empirestatecao.org

The NYSHC Annual General Membership meeting was held at the Morrisville Equine Rehabilitation Center on November 1, 2025.

Participants from upstate, downstate, western New York and the Southern Tier convened to enjoy the hospitality of Scott Seymour, director of the Equine Rehabilitation Center.

President Pauline Burnes gave an update of initiatives for the New York State Horse Council and presented the following awards:

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Shannon Budnik for her dedication and volunteer service to the NYS Horse Council, Inc. Shannon has served as past President of the NYSHC, Director at Large, Membership chairperson, and manager of the Social Media sites including the NYSHC Facebook page. Shannon is currently the NYSHC Mid-Hudson Region 2 Vice President. The Lifetime Achievement Award comes with a Lifetime membership to the New York State Horse Council, with her name engraved on the perpetual trophy.



Joanne Freschette received the NYSHC Horse Person of the Year Award for her service to the NYS Horse Council as Manager of the Ride and Drive Program for five years, and her service on the Board of Directors as Southern Tier Region Director. Joanne was instrumental in organizing the NYSHC AGM at the Morrisville Equine Rehabilitation Center, and serves as a volunteer with 4-H.



Susan Knauer, past President of the NYSHC, accepted an Appreciation Award for Dru Malavase, who has served the NYS Horse Council for many years and was instrumental in getting the first riding helmet law to protect minors passed in the Nation. Dru is retiring from the Board of Directors after many years of faithful service, and Chair of the Safety Committee.



Cathy Floetke received an Appreciation Award for serving the NYSHC as Manager of the Fall Pleasure Ride for the past 3 years. Cathy has agreed to manage the 2026 Annual Fall Ride, which will be the 57th Annual Ride for the New York State Horse Council, held at the Madison County Fairgrounds during Columbus Day weekend.



Pauline Burnes and Cathy Floetke point to a picture of them riding Little Joe and Rooster Cogburn at the NYSHC Annual Fall Ride at Brookfield, 2023



Michelle Petrosky with a Morrisville resident

Scott Seymour presented an overview of the equine rehabilitation program at Morrisville prior to lunch in the classroom. After lunch, he demonstrated swimming a draft horse in the therapeutic pool and described various modalities at the equine rehabilitation center.



Gentle Giant



Salt water bath



Hosing off before a swim

A Silent Auction was held during the meeting, with some very interesting donations of various items including a horse head cookie jar, donated by Colleen Segarra; western show tack, donated by Susan Knauer; riding jewelry donated by Marcia Schwartz from her mobile tack shop “The Show Kid”; a puzzle of the Genesee Valley Canal made in America, an annual membership from US Rider, a gift certificate from State Line Tack, and a bucket of donated items from the Hornell Tractor Supply store. The Silent Auction raised over \$530 for the Equine Benevolence Fund, which has been used to help barn owners when they have experienced a barn fire and have an immediate need to purchase hay and grain.

The 2026 Annual General Membership Meeting is in the planning stages to be held at a downstate location, at the end of October. Plan to join us, Hudson Valley is quite beautiful in the fall!



New York State Horse Council, Inc
Memberships are for the calendar year Jan. 1-Dec. 31



All fields required which apply!

Name: First Last Email:
Address: City: State: Zip Code: Phone:

Business/Club/Organization Additional Information

Name: Website: Category:

Options: Horse & Rider Services - Adoption / Boarding / Breeders / Camps / Carriage / Clinics / Clinicians / Dentistry / Education / Farrier / Horsemanship / Humane Welfares / Lessons / Rescue / Showing / Training / Transportation / Therapeutic / Veterinarian. Organizations & Clubs - Driving / Horse Organization / Horse Club / Social / Trail / Youth (4H, Pony Club, College teams, etc.). Trail Services - Lodging / Camping. Business Services - Insurance / Legal / Marketing / Promotional / Publications. Sales & Products - Barns/Buildings / Feed/Supplements / Tack / Trailer/Truck / Shop & Apparel

Description (short):

Chapter: ☐ General ☐ Cattaraugus/Chautauqua ☐ Eastern Hudson Valley ☐ Orange
☐ Sullivan ☐ Ulster ☐ Western

Membership Type: ☐ Individual With Insurance (\$66) ☐ Individual No Insurance (\$40) ☐ Family With Insurance (\$92) ☐ Family No Insurance (\$60) ☐ Life
Membership With First Year Insurance (\$556) ☐ Life Member Insurance Only (\$31)
☐ Youth No Insurance (\$15) ☐ Commercial/Business/Association/Club/Farm (\$80)

NYSHC Newsletter via: ☐ E-Mail (No Extra Cost) ☐ Postal
Mail (Add \$10)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS ONLY

Date Received:
Check Number:
Amount Paid:

Referring Member/Number:

*Make checks payable to NYSHC mail to:
NYSHC Membership/SB, PO Box 236, Marlboro NY 12542