

Tri-State Riding Club Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2015

Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, Leesburg, VA

Attendees: Pat Brescia, Judy Brescia, Nicole Caruso, Jessica Eads, Liz Shockley, Elaine Meilahn, Rhonda Boatwright, Patty Tracy, Sharon Peart, Tina Legno, Linda Giannino, Diane Hutchinson, John Moore, Mary Gustafson

Guest speaker Kelly Foltman from Loudoun County Equine Alliance - introduced by Pat Brescia.

Kelly Foltman is a local veterinarian and President of Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA). LCEA was formed in 2011 as a business strategy with the purpose of strengthening and promoting equine sports in the area. Areas of interest are quantifying the impact of horses on Loudoun County's economy, developing a trail system, land conservation and promotion of equestrian businesses in Loudoun County.

An LCEA survey of equine use and related purchases for 2013 has recently been initiated and sent out to all land owners enrolled in land use in Loudoun County. LCEA has been working on the equine survey for the last two years and the paper form has been sent to all Loudoun County land use owners and is stamped "Equine survey". They are encouraging anyone who owns a horse or is an enthusiast to fill out the survey which can be found at information@loudoun.org.

In addition, LCEA is working with the Loudoun County Parks and Recreation department to improve trail availability. One area of interest is Franklin Park and the proposed AVA trail through Round Hill and Purcellville which will intersect with the park. There is also consideration to install cross country jumps and make further improvements to the equestrian trail.

The Lovettsville Park area will be very expensive to improve to a useful standard; a realistic plan for the 5 acre park will have to be considered. LCEA is working with Loudoun County Trail Association to promote equestrian multi use trails in the County. They have a very active website www.loudounequine.org which includes a business guide, equestrian website information and related emails. They have a Facebook page, Loudoun Equine, and produce a *Newsletter* which is for members only, and they offer three to four educational evenings a year. LCEA is pushing for paid membership which will run from Jan 1 to Dec 31 and will be a nominal charge of \$20.00 per year. Dr. Foltman would like to see a member of the Tri State Riding Club on their Board; the broader the membership of LCEA the better.

The next LCEA meeting will be held at 8 Chains North Winery, Waterford at 7 pm on March 12th 2015. Libby Johnson from Tryon, North Carolina, a multiple equine facility with cross-country fences will be the guest speaker and will speak on the economic benefits of equestrian facilities; all are welcome to attend. The 28th February is the last day to take the survey.

Old Business

Pat Brescia – The Tri State Riding Club winter party went well. Liz Shockley has worked diligently on forms required to reinstate Tri State as a nonprofit, which has been successfully completed. This will make a big difference to club finances. There is still further work to be done with regard to the penalty.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Tack Sale

Patty Tracy – The tack sale to be held on Saturday February 21st will be a big event. Patty asked for further volunteers. There will be a clipper sharpening company on site. Fabioli, the winery will be there and the United States Trail Riding Association will be using the stage area. Another Turn Tack has reserved two spaces and the food will be supplied by the same chef as last year. The parking lot will be plowed and volunteers are asked to park at the very edges of the car parking area. There will be 16 door prizes drawn throughout the day. The Tri State banner will be hung on the outside of the building.

EHV-1 Virus

Elaine Meilahn – Three horses have been admitted into the EMC's isolation barn with suspected EHV-1 virus. They are all doing well in individual, self contained isolation stalls. The bio security protocol is in place and if a horse is presented to the EMC with a fever they go straight to isolation and are not admitted into the main body of the hospital. The Virginia State Vet is in charge of the outbreak and is happy with the way that the EMC is handling these cases. Horse owners should regularly monitor their own horses' temperatures, as this is the best indicator of potential infection.

A question was posed as to whether Tri State should continue to offer a lesson program. The farm that the horses came from is fully quarantined and should not pose any further threat to the local horse population. Owners should take their horses' temperature before going to a lesson and not go if they get an abnormally high reading.

Mary Gustafson – Morven Park requires a new waiver and a copy of a Coggins before anyone takes a lesson there in 2015.

Elaine Meilahn – **Motion:** Lesson Directors should be given the choice of one session of camp this year paid for by Tri State as a thank you for all their work. **Motion unanimously approved.**

Linda Giannino – **Motion:** A donation should be given to "Ride on Ranch" for kindly allowing Tri State to use their facility for the Winter Party. A donation of \$300.00 was suggested. **Motion unanimously approved**

John Moore – Temple Hall Farm

Temple Hall Farm is planning on having an equine event in the summer and Mr. Moore asked for ideas. The general consensus on time frame was to hold the event one weekend. The event would be some form of obstacle, scavenger hunt and general fun day.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to approach the Judged Pleasure Riders groups and check dates of rides already organized and also the LCEA calendar of events.

Mr. Moore is proposing a youth and adult division and requested that a small committee of Tri State members work with him towards this goal.

Mary Gustafson suggested that the April 17th Tri State meeting be held at Temple Hall Farm.

Mary Gustafson won the drawing for a free lesson.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2014 at the EMC.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Peart