

## Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Annual Meeting – August 15, 2017

Board members attending were: ~~Paula Beckett Bliss, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, Christie Kimberlin, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, and Janet Vandervaart.~~ Eric Hilgarnter from Southern States attended a guest.

The meeting began at 9:15 a.m.

Eric Hilgarnter discussed his initiative as a Southern States representative visiting various equine establishments and expressed his intent to promote LCEA interests and the Expo.

**Secretary:** The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

**Treasurer:** Stephanie said that there was a balance of approximately \$4447 in the LCEA account.

**Membership:** Kelly reported no change in the membership: a total of 96 members (47 Business and 39 Individual.)

**Expo Update:** Kelly said that she, Stephanie, Sheli, and Emily visited Stone Tower yesterday and approved the location for the next Expo, which will be held on Tuesday, March 20, from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the lower ballroom. We expect to have a limit of 50 vendor spaces. Vendors will be limited to items that fit on their table, so if they have additional merchandise to display or sell, they will need to buy another table space. Vendors with tall displays must have tables against the wall. We agreed to pay \$150 more for two additional bartenders. We will use various means to encourage visitor signup prior to the event. Christie again brought up the idea of sponsorship, but it was decided not to pursue sponsorship this year. Kelly will contact various organizations such as Morven Park, Visit Loudoun, Southern States, and Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center to solicit door prize donations. Door prize tickets will be included in vendor packets. Stephanie will provide Emily with an updated ad for the upcoming Horse Times issue. The importance of early publicity was stressed.

**Rural Roads/Drive Gently:** Kelly emailed Bill Aiton of USTR in an effort to set up a meeting with LCEA, Bike Loudoun, USTR and representatives of area wineries and breweries to develop and procure signage for the Drive Gently initiative. The Board of Supervisors plans to vote on the Greggsville Road compromise (which would keep the southern portion of the road unpaved) at their September 13 meeting. LCEA members are encouraged to attend, and perhaps speak at the meeting. Supervisor Tony Buffington gives LCEA credit for helping to develop this compromise.

**Conservation Coalition:** No meeting was held in August. In regards to revisions to the comprehensive plan, Kelly suggested that we should write what has been accomplished so far and what we would like to happen relative to equine interests. Kelly said that taxing should be a more open process.

**TLAER Training with Marion duPont Scott:** Janet will follow up with the presenter to try to move this project forward.

**Trails:** Parks and Recs will hold a meeting on September 14 at 7 p.m. in Ashburn. They will be asking where trails should be built and for staff to build the trails. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation will sponsor a meeting on the Loudoun Heights Parkland on August 31 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Between the Hills Community Center in Purcellville. Kelly is planning to attend. Kelly has unanswered questions regarding the Banshee Reeks/Evergreen Mills trails. Kelly has been in contact with a North Fork resident who is interested in promoting horse trails in her area and is working on a position paper to present in Purcellville.

The meeting was adjourned 11:00 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marion Lee

The next meeting will be September 19, 7 p.m. at the Marshall House International Center in Leesburg.