

## Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – February 17, 2015

The meeting began at 9:22 a.m. Due to a snow storm, the meeting was conducted by conference call.

Attendees were: Paula Beckett Bliss, ~~Howard Bliss~~, ~~Louise Cotulla~~, Kelly Foltman, ~~Richard Gargagliano~~, ~~Heather Heider~~, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, ~~Janie Rentz~~, ~~Lisa Snooks~~, Mary Terpak, Lizzie Beer, Terri Smithson, and Terri Young.

**Secretary:** The minutes of January 13, 2015, were approved.

**Membership:** Mary said there was a total of 48 members, with 31 individual members.

**Treasurer:** There is \$1579.45 in the LCEA account. Payments have been made to Label Lab, to Tri-State for a table at the sale event February 21, and to 8 Chains North Vineyard winery for the March 12 meeting.

**Elections:** Marion said she has only one bio from a prospective new board member – Janet Van Der Vaart. She will re-contact Jacqui Ross who is interested and Heather Heider who knew of someone who might be interested. The deadline for prospective new board members to submit bios is February 23. Mary said that we need to focus on getting eventing people as members and possibly board members. Terri Young asked in what categories we are seeking new board members, and Marion said she would send out the list of current board members, their terms of office and categories. Voting will be March 2 – 9.

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting will be held 8 Chains North Vineyard Winery on March 12 at 7:00 p.m. Kelly asked who could bring what in terms of refreshments. Board members should be there by 6:15 to help set up. It was agreed to have a table at the meeting for Potomac Heritage Trail Association to display trail maps. Mary said she might go to the LOCOTA meeting tomorrow to see the county's trail map presentation, and we might show those at the annual meeting also. Kelly asked Paula to invite LOCOTA members to the annual meeting. Kelly is planning to send individual invitations to members of Loudoun Board of Supervisors, Purcellville Town Council, NVRPA, Parks and Recs (P&R), and Chronicle of the Horse Staff. Paula suggested inviting Frank Milligan from Morven Park. Kelly asked board members to send her names and addresses of people to invite. It was decided that reporters only need the press release, not individual invitations. Stephanie will send the first internal LCEA email blast next week, and Terri Young will follow it with a press release. There would be another email blast in 10 – 12 days. Kelly will supply Terri and Stephanie with speaker Libbie Johnson's bio and speech topic. Kelly said we need more tri-folds and noted that more room would be made on the new tri-folds for business information.

**Survey:** The survey will end February 28. Jim Ellis reported that as of February 11 they had received 699 paper surveys, and the following number of electronic surveys: 73 from equine organizations that shared members' emails, 55 from organizations that shared only the survey web address, and 280 from the public website. He said originally that it would take several months to analyze the data. It is not known whether the event data has been analyzed already.

**LCEA Website:** Kelly said she has updated the website event list and still has more input to enter. She needs members to check the website and submit additional event information

**Tri-State Tack Sale:** LCEA will participate in the Tri-State Tack Sale in Lovettsville on February 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Kelly, Paula, Mary, and Marion volunteered for 1 ½ hour shifts to man the table.

**LOCOTA:** Paula said last month's meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is tomorrow.

**ZOAG (Zoning Ordinance Action Group):** Stephanie said she would go through the equine zoning regulations and then meet with zoning officials. She will then prepare a talk for the April LCEA meeting. She will also propose recommendations for zoning changes that affect equestrians to ZOAG officials at their May meeting.

**Trails:** A site plan for the Lovettsville Park will be available in May. Mary suggested that a LCEA representative meet with Mark Novak to find out what is going on. Kelly has gone to the meetings of a new group, Friends of Franklin Park, to keep them aware of equestrian interests.

## **New Business:**

**Conservation Easements:** Mary suggested that we connect with conservation groups, such as the Land Trust, to make them aware of LCEA interest in conservation easements and to provide us with more timely information on the topic. Mary will call people she knows, and Kelly will follow up with a letter.

**Summer Equestrian Programs:** Kelly said she was present at a P&R presentation on summer camps, and she asked board members whether they knew of whether any farms that provide a summer riding program for children through P&R. Mary will find out if Lucia Farms is still providing the program, and Kelly will ask P&R if anyone else is.

**Post Office Box:** Stephanie said we should have a P.O. Box and Mary agreed. Board members voted to open a P.O. box in Purcellville for \$48 and to distribute keys to Stephanie, Mary, Kelly, and Sheli.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 12, at the 8 Chains North Winery, 38593 Daymont Lane, Waterford, at 7 p.m. LCEA members should be there at 6:15.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee