



**Goals and Objectives of the Minnesota Horse Council**

- ♦ Promote and/or support equine educational activities
- ♦ Improve communication in all horse related activities with the general public
- ♦ Gather information of value to equine related activities
- ♦ Distribute gathered information as appropriate
- ♦ Provide expertise, consult and advise
- ♦ Establish, develop and enhance equine trails and other infrastructure and encourage their prudent use

**2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS**

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**MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

**January 15, 2011 ♦ Northland Inn**

7025 Northland Drive N ♦ Brooklyn Park, MN ♦ 763-536-8300

Once a year the Minnesota Horse Council plans a dinner meeting to gather the current members and recruit new ones. At this event we socialize with our peers in the horse industry, learning as we have fun. Please join us!!

This is the time of year when the announcements are made regarding grant recipients, Horseperson of the Year, scholarship winners and trail funding plans. Displays of the past year's accomplishments and reports from the various committees are all part of this meeting. The Election of MHC Directors, who serve a 3-yr term, will occur at the annual meeting. Six MHC Board positions are open. MHC Directors that are running for re-election are Tim Bonham, Darrell Mead, Dawn Moore, and Tracy Turner. Charlyn Cadwell and David Fleishhaker are also running for the open board positions. Bios of each can be read at [www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org) and on page 2.

If space is required for displays, printed material or both, please call 763-755-7729 to reserve, as space is limited.

We hope you will join us at the next Minnesota Horse Council Annual Meeting on January 15.

**MHC ANNUAL MEETING**

Date: Saturday, January 15, 2011  
Time: 5:30 Reception, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Meeting  
Cost: \$30 per person (Cash Bar available)

**How to Make Reservations**

Mail your check (payable to MN Horse Council) along with the form below to: MHC Annual Meeting, PO Box 223, Plato, MN 55370, Phone: 763-755-7729, Email: [mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net](mailto:mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of tickets @ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

*Make Checks Payable to MN Horse Council*

**2011 MENU**

**HORS D' OEUVRE**

- Roast mushroom & onion tartlet
- Mixed greens & tomato confit
- Artisan cheese with compote & crustini
- Marinated green beans, onion straws
- Mini tomato mozzarella, balsamic reduction
- Vegetable crudites shooters

**GRAND BUFFET**

- Baby spinach & leaf lettuce tossed with cracked cranberries, caramelized walnuts and goat cheese in spiced champagne vinaigrette
- Braised beef short ribs in mushrooms, garlic and onion
- Braised Atlantic Salmon filet in crab, tomato and leek ragu
- Sauteed breast of chicken stuffed with apple smoked bacon dressing
- Green beans, onion straws
- Glazed sweet potatoes
- Glazed carrots, parsnips & squash
- Apple wood smoked bacon stuffing

**DESSERTS**

- Fudge Brownie Cake with cran-raspberry sauce
- Creme Brulee

*Menu subject to change*



# MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL NEWS

## SIX MHC BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

As part of the Minnesota Horse Council's Annual Meeting, January 15, 2011, at the Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park, an election will be held to fill six open MHC Board positions. The MHC is guided by up to 17 directors who each serve a three-year term. A list and short bio of each candidate running for a Board position appears below.

The Directors listed below are running for re-election. Their bios can be found at [www.mnhorsecouncil.org/directors.php](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org/directors.php).

**TIM BONHAM**

**DAWN MOORE**

**DARRELL MEAD**

**TRACY TURNER**

The following two additional candidates are also running for the open MHC Board positions:

**CHARLYN CADWELL**

**DAVID FLEISHAKER**

Charlynn was born in Minnesota and spent her young childhood in California where she rode a Pinto gelding on the beach with friends. Her family moved back to Minnesota and lived on a hobby farm. When she turned 14, her father bought her a Quarter Horse and a bridle. He said that he would buy her a saddle when she learned how to stay on the horse bareback! It took her a while to get used to riding bareback, but after mastering the skill, her dad followed through and did buy her a saddle--by then, she preferred riding bareback.

After graduating from high school, her parents sold her horse, and the family moved into the city. Charlyn attended business college and got out of horses until she got married. She bought a Palomino mare and did trail riding. She has worked various jobs such as banking, long distance truck driving, and law enforcement.

They bought her daughter a National Show Horse and Charlyn became a show mom. They joined Silver Buckle Saddle Club (Charlyn served on the board) and Trail Dusters of Hamel. They were very active in WSCA, MHAHA and MAHA. They bought two more horses, a registered spotless liver chestnut Appaloosa and a registered black and white Paint. After attending the MN Horse Expo, Charlyn learned that volunteers were needed, and she has been volunteering at the Expo every year since. When her daughter turned 16, she began volunteering as well. Charlyn has done everything from gates, horse and pony rides, helping vendors, emptying out the Coliseum for the rodeo, to ticket taking (and getting volunteers from our Saddle Club to help man the entrances), and currently, works in the back office answering phones, as well as anything else needed. In 2010, she was signed on as MN Horse Expo Staff.

Charlyn and her daughter have had so much fun over the years that she wants to give back. She is looking forward to having the opportunity to join the MN Horse Council and actively participate with this organization.

Raised on a farmstead in eastern South Dakota, David grew up around animals and was especially fond of the work horses used on the farm where he mastered harnessing skills, driving wagons and plows. As a young person, he learned not only the value of horses as working partners but he enjoyed riding as a pleasure past time and spent many hours on horse back.

Life's adventures brought David to the Twin Cities to pursue an education and a job, and eventually the ownership of two businesses. He was also an active volunteer in a variety of organizations and held leadership roles in many of the organizations including Radio Emergency Action Citizen Team (REACT), Minneapolis Aquatennial, St Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation.

Never losing his passion for animals, he eventually settled on a small hobby farm in the south Metro that he shares with his wife, three horses, and a collection of small dogs. Dave has served canine rescue and re-homing organizations for the last four years, providing foster care for approximately 200 dogs, managing procurement, assisting with relay transport, and fulfilling roles in the canine rescue system.

Recently, Dave and his wife have become active in Emergency Animal Disaster Response completing a variety of certifications and participating in training exercises related to disaster rescue and animal sheltering. They are involved in the development of Scott County's Emergency Animal Disaster Plan. Scott County has significant agricultural space and high density of equine interest, including many stables and boarding facilities. Dave has just been appointed to the Board of MN Animal Disaster Coalition.

Dave is passionate about animals, their role in society as companions, and insuring there are resources available to equine enthusiasts. David is dedicated to quality animal care, welfare and safe management of horse related facilities. He is an advocate for the humane management and needs of all animals.

## National Versatility Ranch Horse Association Enters the Arena

By Stephany Siitari

The National Versatility Ranch Horse Association (NVRHA) Northern Lights Affiliate made its debut into the Minnesota Horse community for its first ever appearance at the Minnesota Horse Expo in 2010. Thanks to the extraordinary men and women of the Minnesota Horse Council, this new organization captured the hearts of would be cowboys and cowgirls from across the region. Membership and enthusiasm continue to grow like a buffalo stampede.

There is something of the western spirit alive in each of us. It makes spending a whole weekend on your horse an experience that recalls our heritage and provides a feeling of connectedness. The NVRHA combines all of the legendary ranch horse skills into a weekend clinic and competition where horse/rider teams are coached by nationally certified clinicians. A Saturday night barbeque corrals the crowd and all the riders, instructors, volunteers and supporters share stories true and tall.

This year for the first time, the versatile ranch horse was presented at the Expo in live demonstrations by Jay Henson. Jay was assisted by Northern Lights Affiliate riders Kim Deters, Rick Demulling, and Craig Colter. Would be ranch hands of all ages got a chance to throw a loop with David and PJ Slipka. Imagine people of all ages lining up to rope a bale of hay! They couldn't get enough. Crowds were delighted as they watched the NVRHA demonstrate cattle cutting, roping, trail, ranch riding, working cow horse and conformation.

An attractive booth highlighted NVRHA through action photographs, flyers about upcoming events, ribbons, the popular 'Ride the Legend' poster and a huge blow-up of the Rundown Newsletter. Enthusiasm (and chocolate) was generously shared with hundreds of people, many of whom signed up for a drawing and left a request for more information to be shared by e-mail. After the demos, crowds flocked to the booth for more information where they met NVRHA President Dave Currin of Colorado. They shared stories, hopes and dreams. Many western horse enthusiasts added a weekend clinic to their summer calendar.

Since the Expo, four clinic competitions were held in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Participation generally ranged from 18 to 24 horse/rider teams. Small groups of four to eight riders received training from highly experienced and skilled local clinicians and judges including Bonnie Minor, Lance Scheffel, Tom Bjorklund, Dave Slipka, Neil Henning, and Brian Whittaker. Jay and Gena Henson from Hugoton, Kansas, came back to join us at two events.

The competition days were low key and coaching based. The really cool thing is that you only compete against riders in your own skill level: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, or Open. Scores are totaled for all events and prizes awarded to the top finishers in each event as well as overall Champion and Reserve Champion in each division:

[www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com](http://www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com)



Expo Booth 2010 (pictured left to right): Stephany Siitari, Jay Henson, Susan Heyvaert, Lisa Rixe, and Jeni Willey.

**Conformation:** Horses are judged in hand to select individuals that are the most positive combination of structural correctness, balance, and form-to-function; includes all breeds.

**Ranch Cutting:** Judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd, driving it to the middle of the pen, holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow, and finally penning the cow. Horse and rider are given a designated cow to cut from the herd. Time limit of 2-1/2 minutes.

**Ranch Riding:** Horse and rider team performs individually, a predetermined pattern consisting of all gaits and the extensions and collections of those gaits. The horse is scored on his ability to move at a working speed and provide smooth, responsive and effortless gaits and transitions reflecting a ranch horse that is easy and comfortable to ride.

**Ranch Trail:** Horse and rider team negotiates a course pattern with ten judged maneuvers that consist of three gaits (walk, trot, lope), three mandatory obstacles (gate, log drag, & dismount/ground tie/drop bridle/pick up feet, remount) and seven optional obstacles. The horse is scored on its ability and willingness to perform tasks that might be encountered in every day ranch work.

**Working Ranch Horse:** This class combines the reining ability, cow sense and roping ability of the horse. A reining pattern is executed, then boxing of a cow, followed by taking a cow down the fence and turning it once in each direction (Intermediate, Advanced and Open only). The cow is then roped and stopped. (Novices do not fence or rope the cow). Time limit of 6 minutes.



Clinic/Competition held in Nevis, MN in August 2010

NVRHA--continued on page 9

[www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org)

[www.mnhorseexpo.org](http://www.mnhorseexpo.org)

## AAEP Foundation Distributes \$262,000 to Industry Groups Improving the Lives of Horses

The American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation has awarded \$262,000 in grants to 15 non-profit organizations and universities working for the health and welfare of horses. These 2010 grant recipients share the Foundation's mission to support equine research, benevolence, education and the equine community.

From funding laminitis research to sponsoring an "equitarian" mission in Mexico, the Foundation is supporting a wide range of initiatives in 2010 and 2011 that are improving equine welfare. The Foundation has teamed with the Unwanted Horse Coalition to launch Operation Gelding, a program that assists clinics in providing free castration services for stallions. Meeting the research priorities of equine veterinarians, the Foundation has committed funding for the 10th Annual International Colic Symposium, a veterinary meeting focused on colic research scheduled for July 2011.

In addition, the Foundation is supporting an "equitarian" workshop, designed for practitioners interested in volunteering veterinary services in struggling communities with working equids, being held near Vera Cruz, Mexico. Investing in future industry technologies, the Foundation is assisting Colorado State University and Equine Guelph with the development of International Equine Biosecurity Risk Calculator, an interactive online assessment tool designed with the goal of providing equine operation owners or managers with a way to objectively evaluate their biosecurity programs.



Groups including the American Quarter Horse Foundation, Morris Animal Foundation, American Youth Horse Council, World Equine Veterinary Association, National FFA, The Race For Education and the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation are among others that are receiving funding from the Foundation. In a continued effort to promote the veterinary profession, the Foundation is allocating funding for a number of student programs, including dentistry and farriery short courses, scholarships, and activities stipends for AAEP student chapters.

For a complete list of grant recipients and Foundation-supported programs, visit [www.aep.org/foundation\\_where\\_dollars\\_go.htm](http://www.aep.org/foundation_where_dollars_go.htm).

"We are very pleased to once again offer funding to so many worthy programs and organizations," said Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, Ph.D, DSc, FRCVS, Diplomate ACVS, AAEP Foundation Chairman. "The funds awarded by the AAEP Foundation would not be possible without the generous support of our many donors."

All donations to the AAEP Foundation go directly to helping horses and their caretakers. Grants are distributed annually so that donors can see the fulfillment of their contributions to the Foundation. The 2010 grant recipients were selected by the AAEP Foundation Committee and the Foundation board during their late-summer meetings.

For the past 16 years the AAEP Foundation has allocated more than \$1.8 million in grants to programs that promote the health of horses. Grant applications for 2011 will be available at [www.aepfoundation.org](http://www.aepfoundation.org) in early February.

## AAEP Develops Veterinary Guidelines for the Care of the Racehorse

The American Association of Equine Practitioners released guidelines for veterinarians who treat racehorses. The document, "Clinical Guidelines for Veterinarians Practicing in a Pari-Mutuel Environment," promotes medical practices the AAEP believes place the appropriate emphasis on the health, safety and welfare of the racehorse.

The central focus of the guidelines is the practice of administering medical treatment to a horse based on the entry date for its next race. All medical treatment of the racehorse should be based upon a veterinary diagnosis with appropriate time allowed for an evaluation following treatment to ensure the horse is recovered before it races again. Entry date should not be the primary factor when evaluating a horse's need for medical care.

"Our purpose is to reinforce sound medical principles within the unique environment of racing," said Dr. Nat White, AAEP president. "As horse racing continues its pursuit of increased safety, we understand the need for us, as veterinarians, to examine our role in medication usage and medical treatment. These guidelines affirm the already excellent medical care provided by many veterinarians."

In addition to medication, the guidelines address the use of therapies such as shockwave therapy and hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Also included are recommendations for maintaining medical records and changing the current racetrack veterinary business model to one which bases billing on professional services rendered, rather than the dispensing or administration of medication. The guidelines will be updated as research provides new data about the medical care of the racehorse.

The clinical guidelines document was developed by the AAEP Racing Committee, a group comprised of private racetrack practitioners, regulatory veterinarians and veterinary specialists. Dr. Scott Palmer of Clarksburg, N.J., and Dr. Foster Northrop of Louisville, Ky., serve as chair and vice chair, respectively.

"While the guidelines were written for veterinarians, we hope our recommendations will focus the attention of trainers and owners on the 'entry date' dilemma," explained Dr. Palmer. "The racehorse is going to have the most success and be its healthiest whenever the owner, trainer and veterinarian are communicating openly and making decisions as a team. Transparency and integrity within this relationship reinforces good medical practice."

The clinical guidelines are available at [www.aep.org/images/files/AAEP%20Clinical%20Guidelines%20Pari-Mutuel%20Environment.pdf](http://www.aep.org/images/files/AAEP%20Clinical%20Guidelines%20Pari-Mutuel%20Environment.pdf). For more information, contact Sally Baker, AAEP director of marketing and public relations, at (859) 233-0147 or [sbaker@aaep.org](mailto:sbaker@aaep.org).

## Serious Equine Dental Issues

By Jane Manfredi, DVM, U of M

Mouth pain can be acutely painful or dull and aching in humans, but determining if our horse companions are experiencing mouth pain isn't so straightforward; particularly since they are a herd species that is designed to hide pain. Some common signs of possible dental pain and disease are quidding (dropping grain or clumps of hay from the mouth), foul smelling breath, weight loss, and refusing to chew hay. Nasal discharge, pus coming out the sides of the cheek or below the jaw, refusal to accept the bit, and head shaking may also have their roots in mouth pain and dental disease.

Regular mouth care and early identification of disease can allow preservation of teeth and a more comfortable mouth long term (Figure 1). During a yearly health check, your veterinarian can look for signs of dental disease. Reddening of the gums (gingivitis), packing of feed between teeth, and a fractured or missing tooth, are all signs that more advanced dental care may be needed in addition to an occasional equilibration (dental float). Radiographs can help determine if there is a problem with a tooth below the gumline. Digital radiographs can reveal issues with the tooth root and supporting bone. At specialty centers, intra-oral radiographs are even better at identifying early tooth and tooth root changes that may indicate the need for root canal treatment or tooth removal.

With advances in equine dentistry and the availability of equine dental specialists, many teeth can be saved. Root canal treatments and vital pulpotomy treatments can often be used in traumatically fractured incisors and cheek teeth to stop infection and avoid more invasive surgical tooth extractions. If a tooth needs to be removed, the best method is to remove the tooth by extracting it through the mouth, just as with people. With the horse sedated and standing, specialized nerve blocks and equipment make this the safest method for most horses and most teeth. If a tooth becomes fractured, surgical removal while under general anesthesia can still be performed and may be necessary; however, this is avoided when possible due to the high complication rates.

While the cheek teeth are known to cause problems, an uncommon issue with incisors has been seen in more horses. With hypercementosis, a horse's incisors or canine teeth will appear to have plaque build up, as well as a bumpy appearance under the gum line. Tooth roots may partially dissolve. Horses may resist the bit or refuse to eat due to the intense pain associated. The treatment includes removal of the affected incisors, which is not always an easy task. As more veterinarians become savvy at picking up subtle dental issues and with the increasing numbers of equine dental specialists, we are better able to save the important dentition of a grazing animal.



Figure 1.

Teeth floating and dental exam being performed by Dr. Holly Bedford at the Univ. of Minnesota.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

## Horse Hearing

By: Ashley Griffin, MS

eXtension and the University of KY

A horse's hearing is much keener than humans. They use their hearing for three primary functions: to detect sounds, to determine the location of the sound, and to provide sensory information that allows the horse to recognize the identity of these sounds. Horses can hear low to very high frequency sound, in the range of 14 Hz to 25 kHz (human range = 20 Hz to 20 kHz).

Horses' ears can move 180 degrees using 10 different muscles (compared to three muscles for the human ear) and are able to single out a specific area to listen to. This allows the horse to orient itself toward the sounds to be able to determine what is making the noise.

A horse's hearing is similar in range and tone to that of humans. Horses' ears can rotate about 180 degrees, however. This unique anatomical feature allows horses to focus on the direction from which the sound is coming, isolate it, and run the other way.

Horses can respond to a training command given at a very low volume. We don't need to shout to be heard. Also, horses are very sensitive to the tone of voice. We need to use a confident tone and avoid overly emotional tones such as shrill, high pitches. We also want to give voice commands in a way that gives the horse tools to distinguish them.

For example, if you are longeing a horse at a walk and want to perform an upward transition to a trot, you may want to divide the word "trot" into two syllables and raise your voice an octave as you say "to - rot"! When performing the downward transition from the trot to the walk, you would lower your voice an octave on the second syllable of "wa - alk."

### Ask the Expert:

**Mystery Insects in Manure** By: Roger Moon, PhD, Univ. of Minn.

Q: There are small flying bugs that are turning horse manure into large areas of flattened mush (see photo). There are hundreds working on each pile. Do you know what they are?

A: Your "bugs" are actually small dung beetles or *Aphodius haemorrhoidalis*. We researched them in cow dung 15 years ago and found they were most abundant in spring, and tapered off in the fall. The ones you are seeing descended from a bountiful summer population and they are working on your horse's manure to build up nutrients for overwintering. The beetles are actually beneficial; they spread out the manure which speeds incorporation into the soil and break up piles.



Photo: T. Hoch, North Branch, MN



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## Republicans Make Big Gains for 112th Congress Lame Duck Session Looms

The pollsters got it right this time. They had been predicting a Republican wave and it swept through Washington on November 2. The Republicans rode the 2010 voting surge into the majority in the House of Representatives and additional seats in the Senate. This is the third straight election that Americans have voted a party out of power.

The Republicans will take control of the House in January, 2011 when the 112th Congress is convened. The GOP needed only 39 seats for a majority in the House and they picked up at least 61 with some elections still undecided when this was sent out. They now have a margin of 239 to 185. Three Democratic chairmen, with long seniority, were defeated. Half the Blue Dogs, Democrats with a conservative bent, were defeated. It was clearly an electoral tsunami and produced the largest Republican House majority since the late 1940s when Harry Truman was President.

Although the Republicans failed to win a majority in the Senate, they did pick up 6 seats and the margin is now 52 to 46 with two elections undecided. This is the first time in 80 years that a party has gained control of the House without also gaining control in the Senate.

For the most part, issues specifically affecting the horse industry are not partisan. Our legislative concerns don't clearly split along party lines. Democrats and Republicans may approach issues from a different perspective, but the industry works on a bi-partisan basis with both. Clearly the industry must educate the many new members of Congress about the economic importance of the \$102 billion horse industry, that it supports 1.4 million jobs nationally, and is an important part of the nation's agri-business, sporting, and recreational life.

### Changes in the Next Congress

This change of control in the House will have various effects on the Congressional process, not the least of which is a change in the House leadership, committee chairs and the ratio of committee members. Every House committee will get a new Republican chair and Republicans will now substantially outnumber Democrats on all committees. John Boehner (R-OH) is in line to be the new Speaker, replacing Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). Eric Cantor (R-VA) is expected to be elected the new Majority Leader. This means that the Republicans will control the agenda, schedule and issues for the 112th Congress in the House.

Some of the new chairs in the House will likely change the debate on some issues of concern to the horse industry. While the elections of new chairs will not occur until Congress returns and begins organizing for the next Congress, speculation has already started in Washington.

Barney Frank (D-MA), chair of the House Financial Services Committee for the last two years, was a strong supporter of legalizing and regulating Internet gambling. His likely successor, Congressman Spencer Bacchus (R-AL), is not.

The chances of Congress passing comprehensive immigration reform, supported by the horse industry, may be lessened if Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX) takes over the chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee.

The House Agriculture Committee will have many new faces. In addition to many more Republicans on the committee, fourteen members of the committee were not reelected. Congressman Frank Lucas (R-OK) is expected to become the new chair of the committee, replacing Colin Peterson (D-MN), who was re-elected. That committee will begin work next year on the 2012 Farm Bill, which will affect the horse industry.

Jim Oberstar (D-MN), chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, lost his re-election bid and John Mica (R-FL) is in line for the chairmanship. Mr. Oberstar was a strong supporter of funding for trails and the Recreational Trails Program, which provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails important to recreational riders. The RTP will have to be re-authorized in the highway bill if it is to continue. Fortunately, the program and recreation on federal land has support from both Republicans and Democrats.

Senate leadership is not expected to change with Harry Reid (D-NV) continuing as Majority Leader and Mitch McConnell (R-KY) continuing as Minority Leader.

There will not be across-the-board changes in the Senate committees, but there could be a few more Republicans added to particular committees. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), who won this year's American Horse Council Rolapp Award for her support of the horse industry, lost her re-election bid. She was chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and will have to be replaced. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) may become chair since other Democrats on the committee with more seniority already chair other committees.

### Is Bi-Partisanship Possible?

What effect all these changes will have on Congressional dealings with the White House remains to be seen. But it is clearly a sea change.

Will there be bi-partisan cooperation next year? Republicans will be in control in the House and have new members in the Senate. But Republican leadership will be dealing with many new and enthusiastic members who were supported by tea

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### Republicans Make Big Gains--continued from page 6

partiers, for whom fiscal restraint is a fundamental belief and compromise anathema.

On the other side, the Democrats in the House will likely be more liberal since many of their more conservative members, including many Blue Dogs, were defeated.

The President has indicated he wants to reach out to all, but that was also the mantra two years ago at the beginning of this Congress. Democrats know that anything the House passes must still be passed by the Democratic Senate; and President Obama can still veto any legislation.

In light of the current deficits and the results of this election, the most difficult task may be simply moving federal funding for existing programs, much less needed new federal programs, through the legislative process. It will take great skill, and perhaps more importantly some willingness by all to compromise, to get these constituencies together and keep them moving in one direction. Bi-partisanship will be needed even more in the next Congress, but may become only an afterthought.

### What Might the Lame Duck Session Bring?

A lame-duck session is expected to begin November 15 and last a week, although that time may be spent organizing for the next Congress, particularly in the House. Then Congress will break for Thanksgiving and return for another two weeks in December before adjourning.

What might a lame-duck session bring? Congress has yet to approve any appropriation bills that fund the various federal agencies. Several continuing resolutions have been passed to keep the government operating at current levels. The current continuing resolution will expire December 3. There is little chance Congress will try to deal with specific bills funding the agencies in the lame-duck. It is expected that Congress will simply pass another continuing resolution to keep the government operating until next year and deal with government funding in the next Congress.

During any lame-duck session, taxes, and in particular the expiring Bush-era tax cuts, will be on the front burner. The tax rates are scheduled to rise effective January 1, 2011, unless the current rates are made permanent or extended. Republicans want to extend the tax cuts for all, while the President and many Democrats want to extend them only for families earning less than \$250,000. Possible scenarios being discussed include extending all the cuts for one year; or making the cuts permanent for those earning less than \$250,000 but only one year for others.

Also facing Congressional action is the estate tax, which is presently zero. If there is no action on this provision, it will return to 55% with a \$1 million exemption on January 1, 2011. There is still disagreement over the optimum tax rate, the size of the exemption and whether the rate should be indexed for inflation. Many in Congress do not want the tax to remain at zero, but they also do not want it to go back to the 55% level of 2001.

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## Sleigh Bells Ring: Are You Listening?

Submitted by Mary Lawrence

When winter arrives, does your horse take a vacation? If you are looking for something interesting to do when trails are icy and you are both tired of going in circles, you might consider training your horse(s) to drive. Any equine with the right temperament and training can be driven, and the benefits for all parties involved are well worth the effort. For example, a horse pulling something naturally rounds up and uses his back end.



Photo by Pete Markham

The first thing you need to prepare to drive is to honestly evaluate both your temperament and your horse's temperament. Are you fearful or confident? Go forward or hesitant? Do you take charge or follow the herd? By the time you actually hitch to a vehicle, you both need to be on the confident, go-forward, and independent side of the scale. The second thing you need to do is to teach your horse that "Stand" means: Though you are not tied, do not move if I throw things on you, walk around you, or walk away from you to get something...even if another horse walks by. There are some terrific driving trainers in our area that can train your horse to drive and teach you how to drive them safely, or teach you how to train your horse yourself. Even if you plan to use a trainer, they will appreciate you giving them a horse that can really stand. In any case, you will benefit from experienced help as you move toward the actual hitching of your horse.

There are several driving clubs in the area who would love to help you learn more about getting started in this great sport. Just as there are lots of opportunities for riding sports, carriage driving includes much more than driving over the river, though woods and down the road on wheels or runners! There are even competitive opportunities that include driven dressage, exciting marathons (driven at a full out gallop), pleasure shows that emphasize turnout and much more.

If you are looking for something to do this winter, teach your horse to stand and check out St. Croix Horse and Carriage Society's website at [www.sterioxhorseandcarriagesociety.org](http://www.sterioxhorseandcarriagesociety.org) where there is a listing of resources to help you get started. St. Croix Horse and Carriage Society is a member of the Minnesota Horse Council.

Interested in sleighing? Here is a brief history and an invitation to join us at the end of January at the CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA - 2011 CONFERENCE at the 125th ST. PAUL WINTER CARNIVAL where sleighing will be our focus. There will be driving seminars, two sleighing events, a display of sleighing equipment and some of the most elite vehicles in the country.

Few kinds of driving capture the imagination so thoroughly as sleigh driving. Say the words "sleigh ride" and even non-drivers conjure up images of holiday moods, Currier and Ives prints,

*Sleigh Bells--continued on page 9*

**MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES - October 12, 2010**

Meeting Location: Nutrena Conference Room - Leatherdale Center, U of MN St Paul

Board Members Present: Darrell Mead, Missie Schwartz, Mark Ward, Jan Schatzlein, Tim Bonham, Lynn Wasson, Trina Joyce, Christie Ward, Marian Robinson, Tom Tweeten, Carol Dobbelaire, Tracy Turner, Jennifer Willey, Judy Jensen, Dawn Moore

Absent: Sue McDonough, Glen Eaton

Members/Visitors: David Fleischhaker, Tarren Turner, Rick Dobbelaire

**I. Meeting called to order:** 6:31 p.m. by Mark Ward

**II. Introduction of Board Members/Visitors**

Mark Ward introduced the aforementioned guests and had the directors of the MHC introduce themselves to guests.

**III. Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda**

Mark Ward added the following to the agenda:

1. MN DOT update to Old Business
2. Washington County Tax Issue to New Business
3. Promotions to Committee Reports

Darrell Mead added Elections to Old Business

Trina Joyce added Grants to Committee Reports

Tom Tweeten added World Equestrian Games to New Business

**IV. Treasurer's Report** for August/September was distributed by Tim Bonham. Total assets: \$897,375.52 with net available funds of \$413,336.99 Carol Dobbelaire motioned to accept the September treasurer's report as presented. Tracy Turner seconded, motion passed.

**V. Approval of Minutes** - Jan Schatzlein moved to accept the September minutes. Tracy Turner seconded, motion passed. It was requested the minutes be distributed to directors as soon as they are completed.

**VI. Secretary's Report** - Dawn Moore - no nominations for Horseperson of the Year have been received to date. Business cards, with updated contact information, were ordered for all directors not up for reelection this year. Cards were distributed to the appropriate directors.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MN DOT Update** - Mark Ward stated a summary of last month's presentation is being compiled by Allison Eklund for presentation in the MHC newsletter.

**B. Elections** - Darrell Mead - six positions are currently available. Two Bios have been received by persons not currently directors (David Fleischhaker and Charlyn Cadwell respectively). The six directors currently up for re-election are: Tracy Turner, Dawn Moore, Tim Bonham, Christie Ward, Darrell Mead and Lynn Wasson. Lynn Wasson has chosen not to run for re-election.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Direct Funding** - Christie Ward reported the following:

Proposals approved at the September 2010 meeting:

1. National Versatility Ranch Horse Association - Northern Lights Affiliate, Jan Rooney-Nordvall, Clinic Organizer

This organization was awarded \$500 to subsidize costs associated with a free youth clinic held August 24, 2010. Funds awarded will be used to pay expenses for the two clinicians, Jay and Gina Henson, as well as costs associated with facility and cattle use. Fifteen girls from all around the state participated in this event, which focused on riding, roping, cutting, and sorting skills.

2. Traverse County 4-H Horse Project, Melissa Persing, 4-H Program Dir. This organization was awarded \$500 to support a series of seven equine horsemanship and showmanship clinics held between June and August 2010 at the Traverse County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, MN. Clinics addressed activities such as showmanship, drill team fundamentals, horsemanship, roping and goat tying, games, pleasure, and grooming and hoof care. Funds will be used to help cover instructor and mileage fees. Participation in each of the clinics was priced at \$5 - \$10.

3. Natural Connections Learning Center, Tanya Welsch, Education Dir. This animal-assisted therapy organization was awarded \$312 to support the purchase of a Saddle-Lite modified treeless saddle approved by NARHA. Participants interact with horses through both groundwork and mounted exercises, most of which involve the use of minimal tack to allow participants to better feel the horse's body movements, breathing, and warmth.

Direct Funding proposals approved for 2010 to date:

Victory Riders, Inc: \$500

Minnesota Mounted Shooters Association: \$500

Whips and Wheels Carriage & Driving Society: \$500

Polk County 4-H Council: \$500

North Central Morgan Association: \$500

National Versatility Ranch Horse Association: \$500

Traverse County 4-H Project: \$500

Natural Connections Learning Center: \$312

Total Direct Funding approved for 2010: \$3,812 to date

**B. Disaster** - Marian Robinson reported the following: As September came along we were gearing up for a really nice Fall and preparing for Winter....never expecting a rainfall to hit SE, SW, and Central Minnesota with up to 10" of rain. Some towns like Hammond and Zumbro Falls were almost wiped off the map. Pine Island became a virtual island and many roads were closed to a lot of towns. Some of those roads are still closed. I had the pleasure of being able to get on almost every Disaster Conference Call since this event has happened. Several incidents required help from the Horse Council for sheltering and food for horses. The first one was for shelter for a 16hh mare and a 44" pony that had to swim for high ground from their barn. While I was talking to the owners they said they could just see the top of the barn coming through the receding flood waters. Several hours before calling them, Tim Bonham did some research on where horses could possibly find shelter in Dodge County. I read off the different locations to the owner and one turned out to be someone she used to work for and she would check it out. Haven't heard from her again so I assume everything is ok.

A few days later someone on the conference call said someone in Pine Island needed help. There were 8 horses that had lost all their winter food, bale feeders, etc. I got in touch with Rick and he called the lady back to get more information before finding the hay that was needed. We weren't going to send her a whole Winter supply of hay....that was out of the question and not expected of MHC anyways. We were thinking of sending down 8 round bales within a few days,,,what with the 29th IDS PrepareFair going on the next day. While at the Fair, Rick did get a call that the lady wasn't going to need the hay since her neighbors found out about her problem they were willing to help her out. That saved our committee a lot of money just in case there would be a need much bigger down the line.

Diane Logue, of Cannon Falls, who had helped us get 8 semi loads of hay down to Mississippi and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina returned my call from the day before and said that she had talked to the semi drivers down there to see if they would be willing to help out with hay. They said "Sure, we're willing to help our neighbors. When do you need us?" She told them "We will let you know." Well it turns out that they won't be needed, unless the areas get hit with a lot more rain again.

At the IDS PrepareFair the MHC's booth had a good spot where people on the escalators and skyway could see us in any direction. I passed out quite a few brochures of how to prepare to get their animals out of danger and answered a lot of questions. They had four or five streets blocked off for emergency agency vehicles to be displayed. They didn't have room on the street for a truck/horse trailer to represent MHC's disaster vehicle but next year they promise us a spot.

*MHC October Minutes--continued on page 9*

*MHC October Minutes--continued from page 8*

**C. Budget** - Mark Ward led the directors through a line by line budget review for 2011. Mark Ward motioned to increase the Administrative Assistant's salary to \$13.50/hour, effective January 1, 2011. Carol Dobbelaire seconded, motion passed. Tracy Turner motioned to approve the budget as presented. Christie Ward seconded, motion passed.

**D. Website/Horsemen's Directory** - Mark Ward navigated the site showing the new "News and Lists" feature, current newsletter, and Horsemen's Directory listing applications. Mark Ward asked that all directors review the website to ensure accuracy. Any changes or updates need to be sent to Mark Ward directly. Due to reported difficulty in finding the "search" box, extra space will be added around it to make it more visible.

**E. Promotions** - Jennifer Willey reported a test ad was put in the EquiFest program. Discussion of the sample ad followed. In addition to the ad, a MHC drawing will be held at EquiFest. Jennifer Willey intends to track ROI on this advertising. Also being developed is a MHC Facebook page. Mark Ward will contact Kathy Juhl to obtain the Expo master mailing list.

**F. Certified Stables** - Sue McDonough absent, the following report was sent electronically. Welcome to our newest Certified Stables:

Oak Haven Farm, Michele/Dave Doebbeling, Oak Grove, MN.

It was a pleasure to meet Michele and Dave and see their wonderful facility. As owners they go the extra mile for their boarders. Welcome to the CS program.

West Lawn Farm Faribault, MN. It was a pleasure to meet Penny and see her beautiful Arabians. Welcome to the CS Program

Three stables are interested in our program and will be inspected when a day and time are scheduled. Four stables have been re-inspected in 2010. We appreciate their continued interest in the CS Program as we do all the participants in the program. With the addition of these facilities we have 73 Stables in the CS Program.

**G. Grants** - Tim Bonham reported thirty requests have been received. The committee will meet Monday October 25th at the U of MN at 6:30 pm to determine awardees for 2011.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Washington County Property Tax Issue** - Mark Ward reported a letter sent by Washington County seeking information on boarding facilities is being reviewed by Allison Eklund. Allison Eklund has also contacted the county to help reword the letter in order to encourage a better response.

**B. World Equestrian Games** - Tom Tweeten, Mark Ward, Tracy Turner - Tom Tweeten reported there were three parts: competition, trade show and the Equine Village (consisting of educational activities). Several other horse councils had representatives at the games. Tracy Turner reported on the veterinary side of the games. Isolated horses, vet students from the entire nation, Canada and Ross University received the opportunity to travel to the games to assist the official veterinarians, and FEI regulation enforcement. Mark Ward requested Tracy Turner write an article regarding the games for the MHC newsletter. Mark Ward visited with the Executive Director of the KY Horse Council who complimented MN on having such an active council and advised they obtain revenue from an Equine enthusiast license plate.

Announcements:

· October 15th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

X. Mark Ward adjourned the meeting at 8:32PM.

**NEXT MEETING** - November 9, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.  
University of MN, Leatherdale Equine Center

*NVRHA--continued from page 3*

Three of our members, Kim Deters, Susan Heyvaert, and Kathy Wyatt competed in the National Competition held at the Norris Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs in September. The Minnesota team won the state team challenge! As a result of a year of hard work, Susan and Kathy won beautiful Pierre Lamont championship saddles. The NVRHA Northern Lights Affiliate celebrates the success of all of its members at a year end awards banquet held at Houlihan's in Maple Grove. Prizes include belt buckles and handcrafted western gifts by Mike Bray and John Clark.

Because of the warm welcome by the Minnesota Horse Council, the NVRHA Northern Lights Affiliate expanded membership, increased visibility and captured interest in ranch versatility. The bottom line is that horsemen and women are improving their horsemanship skills and their relationship with their horse and now are able to connect to others who aspire to "Ride the Legend!"

Many thanks to the hard work of Missie Schwartz and Kathy Juhl who introduced NVRHA Northern Lights to Minnesota. Missie and Kathy extended the invitation, provided the direction and executed the logistics in facilitating our new organization at the Expo and did it all with a big 'welcome to town' smile. The newly formed NVRHA enjoys broader visibility and a larger membership because of their efforts, and also those of Regional Director Susan Heyvaert who worked with Missie and Kathy to make things happen. Much appreciated!

More information about the NVRHA is available at [www.nvrha.org](http://www.nvrha.org) or [www.nvrhanorthernlights.com](http://www.nvrhanorthernlights.com).

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*Sleigh Bells--continued from page 7*

jingle bells and curvy vehicles with lacy ironwork. There is evidence, at least in North America, that this association between sleighing and festivity has sound historical basis. Farmers had more free time to socialize in the winter, and their horses weren't needed to work the fields. Travel was often vastly improved by snow on frozen roads or ice on rivers and lakes. Farmers brought produce to market and stayed to enjoy the hospitality of the town. Townspeople hired sleighs and traveled to country inns for late suppers with dancing afterward.

Historically, sleigh driving always was a time to let fancy free. Sleighs and cutters had more decoration (gilding, decals, striping, fancy ironwork) than other owner-driven, non-commercial vehicles. Harness was decorated with plumes, tassels and bells. Vehicles were adorned with colored horse tails above the sides of the dash. Braiding and wrapping the tails of the horses with bright colored strips of cloth (a snow tail) was done to keep long heavy tails from collecting snow balls. Sleighing was a chance for a gentleman to show off his flashy team and his driving ability, and to enjoy his darling bedecked in furs and snuggled next to him.

Lap robes made of felt-lined animal hides (often horse) or wool robes woven in fanciful patterns and bright colors kept the driver and passengers warm. Additional warmth came from an

*Sleigh Bells--continued on page 10*

*Republicans Make Big Gains--continued from page 7*

Congress may also try to deal with several other tax provisions that expired at the end of 2009, including the tax incentive for contributions of property made for conservation purposes, which is important to the horse industry. Last year the House passed a bill that extended the conservation easement benefit through 2010, but the Senate never acted on it.

There also may be strong sentiment to simply deal with these tax provisions in the next Congress.

Immigration reform is also still in the mix for action during the lame-duck session, but action on such a complicated and emotional issue may be "a bridge too far" in a short lame-duck session, particularly with the changes in the House that the next Congress will bring.

**Conclusion**

The next six months promise to be interesting to those who follow Washington politics. But they might also be maddening to many others. It appears that voters were primarily motivated by economic worries, jobs, the size and cost of the new federal health care program, and concerns about the increase in the national debt. Reconciling all these concerns, particularly those that cost money, will be difficult for elected officials.

Although the Republicans made big gains, polls also suggest that they are not held in much higher regard than Democrats with approval ratings low for both. Many voters said they were voting against President Obama's policies, rather than for Republican ideas. Some Republican leaders and newly-elected members have said they have received a "second chance" in this election.

In the end, the real message being sent by the majority of the electorate to both parties may simply be "would someone please do something?" Given the wide divide between the new Republican members just elected to Congress, those Democrats and Republicans re-elected, and those Senators who did not have to run for re-election, that may be very difficult.

*Sleigh Bells--continued from page 9*

antique foot warmer. It was oblong, had vents with a slide to regulate air flow and a drawer for charcoal. It was lighted (like a charcoal grill) a little before getting ready to drive and placed under the feet in the sleigh. The sleigh turnout really was not complete without bells. These bells originally let people know that a sleigh was approaching and even, by the tone, whose sleigh it was. Today bells are mainly enjoyed for the lovely sound which adds to the festivity of sleigh rallies.

The tradition of sleighing is still popular with the local driving crowd. Events range from intimate back woods sleigh parties with bonfires for roasting hot dogs on a stick, to weekends with both competitive and non-competitive driving, stabling for the horses of out of town guests, and banquets with dancing.



**MINNESOTA HORSE  
COUNCIL IS NOW ON  
FACEBOOK**

**2010 MEETING SCHEDULE**

View [www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org) and [www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.org](http://www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.org) for additional events

**Minnesota Horse Council Board Meetings**

Leatherdale Equine Center Center ♦ 6:30 pm  
1801 Dudley Ave ♦ St. Paul  
Located on the U of M St. Paul Campus

February 9	June 8	October 12
March 9	July 13	November 9
April 13	August - No meeting	December 14
May 11	September 14	
January 15, 2011 - Annual Meeting - Northland Inn		

**Minnesota Horse Expo Board Meetings**

Byerly's Community Room ♦ 6:30 pm  
3777 Park Center Drive ♦ St. Louis Park, MN

January 26	May 25	September 28
February 23	June 29	October 26
March 30	July 27	November 30
April 13	August - No meeting	December 28

***For Horse's Sake***

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Please e-mail or send potential articles to:

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E-Mail: [fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com](mailto:fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com)

**2010 Article Submission Deadlines**

January/February	1/22/10	July/August	6/11/10
March	2/12/10	September	8/13/10
April	3/12/10	October	9/17/10
May	4/16/10	November	10/15/10
June	5/14/10	December	11/12/10

## MINNESOTA HORSEMEN'S DIRECTORY

The Minnesota Horsemen's Directory is a free resource provided by the Minnesota Horse Council to help you find horse-related information and services in and near Minnesota.

- ♦ Find a farrier, trail riding stable, boarding, lessons, tack stores, and much more! Use the Events Calendar to find shows, clinics and other horse-related activities. Use the new Jobs category to find a job or skilled job seeker.
- ♦ Find what you're looking for by choosing a category, or search the directory. Once you are in a category, browse the results alphabetically or by a sub-category or region.
- ♦ Help make this site comprehensive and accurate. Submit a free listing of your Minnesota horse-related business or organization. Once listed, you can edit your listing as often as you wish.
- ♦ Whether you are looking to hire or looking for an equine-related job in or near Minnesota, submit a Help Wanted or Seeking a Job ad here.

[www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com](http://www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com)



[www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20
- Organization - \$25
- Corporation - \$25
- Certified Stable: First Year - \$35
- Certified Stable: Renewal - \$25

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of your stable/business/involvement with horses:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer with MHC? If so, please list any interest you have: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive the MN Horse Council newsletter, "For Horse's Sake" by:

- E-mail (saves on postage and paper)
- United States Postal Service

Please complete this form and send with your check to:

**Minnesota Horse Council**  
 PO Box 223 ♦ Plato, MN 55370



## Minnesota Horse Council

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### **Minnesota Horse Council**

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*Expo 2011*

**APRIL 29, 30 & MAY 1**