



Horse Council Courier

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.

Aussie Sensation Guy McLean Headlines 2012 Illinois Horse Fair March 2-4

Aussie stockman, entertainer and bush poet Guy McLean will headline Illinois Horse Fair, both conducting clinics and starring in Horse Fair's HorseCapades evening entertainment.

Illinois Horse Fair will be March 2 - 4 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. It is sponsored by Purina Feed, Midway Trailer Sales, Illinois Farm Bureau and Koetter & Smith, Inc. (official shavings supplier), and produced by Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

McLean is the Australian horseman now amazing Americans with his performing horses, demonstrating extraordinary feats of trust and intelligence. Following Horse Fair, he will compete in the Road to the Horse Colt-Starting Competition. Joining McLean at Horse Fair will be Charles Wilhelm of Castro Valley, CA, the trainer/communicator/motivator who garnered so many positive reviews from participants and auditors for his clinics at last year's Horse Fair, and True Partnership trainer Tracy Porter, skilled at bringing common sense and sense of humor to foundation training.

Others include cowboy dressage and trick horse trainer David Davis, who also will conduct cowboy church Sunday morning; trainer/showman Tim Austin doing training demonstrations, including retraining horses off the track and a reprise of last year's popular introduction to cattle handling; Laurie French-Treber with a hunt/jump clinic; Terry Brown on Showmanship and Western Pleasure; and

Jill McRae presenting French Classical Dressage.

Riding clinics at Horse Fair

New at Horse Fair will be a Western Dressage clinic by Lynne Levy of Milwaukee with demonstrations and help from David Davis. Having just formed its national association in 2011, Western Dressage

she's an analyzer and a fixer, making her an effective and outstanding coach," Sharon says.

Applications to ride in all three clinics, as well as participate in other aspects of Horse Fair, are available online.

In addition to these clinics, Illinois Horse Fair offers seminars by horse experts, great shopping with 140 vendors selling all things equestrian, and more horse trailers for sale on site than any other event in the state. Programming includes 25 breed and sport demos, stallion row and parade, HorsesForSale aisles and the All-Youth Horse Judging Trials.

More new this year

For the first time, Horse Fair will have a queen, chosen in a contest being coordinated by Pam Siegler. Young ladies ages 13

continued on page 5



West Coast trainer/
communicator/motivator
Charles Wilhelm at work.



Clinician/entertainer Tracy
Porter is fearless in the saddle.



Timmermann's Drill Team on maneuvers.

takes the principals of classic dressage and puts them into a more relaxed frame, Levy says. Levy also will host a gaited riding clinic at Horse Fair.

Another exceptional opportunity to ride at Horse Fair is the barrel racing clinic with Storme Camarillo, co-instructor with renowned expert Sharon Camarillo. "Storme knows how to get in and get things done;

Inside This Issue

2012 Illinois Horse Fair	1
President's Corner.....	2
Executive Director's Report	3
Congress Blocks New H-2B Wage Rule	3
AHC Opposes Changes to Child Labor Rules on Farms	4
Two Tax Benefits Revert to Prior Levels.....	4
Illinois' Horses Need Your Help! Become an Equine Ambassador.....	4
SARL Calls for Reasonable Regulation of Equine Processing in United States	6
Benefits of Membership in the Horsemen's Council of Illinois	7
Illinois Equine Foundation provides tax-free way to help horses and horsemen in Illinois.....	8
HCI Board Studies Regional Program, Consolidates Committees, Elects Officers	8

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President's Corner



What Do We Owe the Horse?

Dogs may be Man's best friend, but it was horses that built human civilization. In fact, a celebration of the horse and its influence on human culture recently concluded at Chicago's Field Museum. How inspiring, the contributions of this marvelous animal to humankind. How shameful, at times, the way that we have repaid that service. Surely the horse deserves a return on its investment of sweat and blood in the service of Man.

What do we owe our horse?


On a more personal level, individual horse owners have their own stories to tell about the deeds (and occasional misdeeds) of their horses, and how owning a horse has molded and changed their lives. Mine include a "borrowed" Shetland pony with an attitude. I grew up in a sleepy little town in Massachusetts, with a circa 1700s farm just across the street. At the time, the farm was a typical example of New England agriculture, and a bit like Noah's approach to life on the ark; at least a pair of numerous different creatures called this farm home. Although I love animals of all kinds – and thanks to this farm have experienced riding the occasional pig and cow – the outstanding feature for me was that the farm boarded horses. Queenie was the farm owners' pony, and they graciously allowed a young horse-crazy neighbor girl to care for and ride her. That pony taught me a lot about the intelligence and wile of the horse and about the value of patience – also about taking your lumps, sucking it up and going on. I owe that feisty little pony a lot. I also owe her my most humble apologies. I am ashamed to admit this, but like many beginning horsemen, in my profound ignorance I abused that poor little thing. Queenie was barn sour – the only thing (that I knew of at the time) that could get her away from the barn was the use of a switch. The ride out was always slow, but once you turned Queenie around in the direction of home, you were in for a wild ride – over or through any obstacles between you and the comfort of the stable – hence my lessons in dealing with injury.

A little later, during my early teen years, I was finally gifted with a horse of my own. Jody was a steadfast companion to me – al-

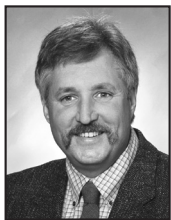
though he did try to get his bluff in on more unsuspecting humans. How many splendid hours we shared together going here and there, and even sharing a coca-cola (he drank from the bottle) and cupcakes (he preferred chocolate to twinkies) from the corner store. Even at this stage of my horse-keeping, what I didn't know about horses could fill volumes, and poor Jody was not cared for in the way that I would care for him today. I owe him so much for keeping me centered and, frankly, keeping me out of trouble during my teenaged years. The teen-aged angst that that poor gelding listened to! He would rest his head on my shoulder while I cried and railed against all of the petty injustices that responsible parents impose on a teenager. Jody saved me from much – since I would run to him rather than get into a car or act out in a more destructive manner. Oh, how I would ride hell-bent for leather on that horse when I was particularly peeved! He never complained. He was the best therapy that any teenager could ask for. To this day, I can still see the vision of his tail receding from view in the trailer that took him to live with his new teenaged owner as I went off to college.

What is my point?

Simply this – we owe our horses a lot. We owe them thanks for countless intangibles, and apologies for all of the slights, major and minor, that our ignorance, anger or personal limitations inevitably cause. As horsemen, we owe it to our horses to remain open-minded and continue to seek a better way to care for them. We owe these animals our deepest respect for what all their brethren have provided for we humans, and for all that they will endure for us in the future. We owe them our best efforts to familiarize others with the true nature of the horse, and to dispel fallacies about these marvelous creatures.

A small measure of this payback can be obtained through the educational opportunities and horse-centric events conducted by Horsemen's Council of Illinois, such as the Illinois Horse Fair. Hopefully, we can learn to be better stewards of our horses through the education offered – and if you bring a horse-crazy neighbor girl with you, you may just start her down the road to a rich and rewarding life... 

Executive Director's Report



We can do more if we all pull together

If a single draft horse can pull a load of up to 8,000 pounds, what could we do if we hooked up two draft horses to a load?

If you instantly thought two draft horses could pull 16,000 pounds you'd be wrong. Together they can actually pull up to three times as much. The two draft horses that can each pull 8,000 pounds alone can pull almost 24,000 pounds by working together, three times as much.

Quite a lesson in teamwork, but the horses still have more to teach us. If the two horses pulling together have been trained and worked together before in tandem they can actually pull upwards of 32,000 pounds, a load nearly four times as heavy as either of the horses could pull by themselves.

As much as we might like to think, none of us live or work alone as the proverbial island unto ourselves. By collaborating and working together we can accomplish much more for our horses.

Folks, IDNR is in deep financial trouble. Director Marc Miller reports the agency "has run out of tricks to try." As many of you know firsthand, needed maintenance has been deferred at state parks just to pay salaries. Skeleton crews are trying to do the work required at the parks with less than half of the staffing levels the parks were designed for and with equipment that is really showing its age. Almost half of the site superintendents, biologists and managers at IDNR will be eligible for retirement by the end of the year. Depending on how

pension negotiations go, decades of experience may walk right out the door without any replacements being trained or funded. The department has asked for our help on ideas how to do this heavy lifting.

All the user and resource groups have been meeting with IDNR to look for proactive ways to pull through this tough spot. By working together we might just be able to do it, but it will require some imaginative ideas, compromise and likely shared sacrifice. We will certainly need to fight for the resources we use. I'd love to hear your ideas and about innovative funding sources you may have run across in other states you have ridden.

Gaming appears to be a top priority again this spring. Slots at the tracks or some other way to increase purses is a priority for the horse racing industry, and while we may not recognize it, a particular interest to all the rest of us, too, who provide support to that community in the way of feed production, veterinary and farrier services, truck and trailer sales and even to those of us who just enjoy seeing good horses run.


Since its heyday in the times before TV, NFL, NASCAR and video games, horse racing has been regulated, licensed and debated into near obscurity in Illinois. Purses have been declining for years, and horses and horsemen seek greener pastures in neighboring states that take pride in a vibrant racing industry and the economic activity that surrounds it. Governor Pat Quinn apparently fails to see that or just doesn't care. We all need to do our part to remind him that there is a large and vibrant horse community in Illinois and an attack on one is an attack on us all.

Proposed federal law and regulatory changes that deal with horses, from prohibitions on transportation and processing to estate taxes, regulations on migrant guest workers and several seemingly innocuous pieces of legislation that could have a huge impact on the future of horse ownership are before Congress and may be considered before the elections next year as well.

In all these discussions, HCI will be there to represent you and keep you apprised of the activity. If you haven't signed up to receive HCI's legislative updates yet, simply log onto Facebook and click "Join My List" from the Horsemen's Council page.

For those who have an active interest in building a better future for the US horse industry, the "2nd International Summit of the Horse" will be held in Oklahoma City, OK April 2 – 5, 2012. Last year's event culminated with the creation of a coalition of over 250 organizations, tribal nations and interested parties pledging to work together on behalf of the horse community. Join HCI at this important event and help us facilitate an answer that works for the horses.

All of you recognize the value that membership in HCI brings to your equestrian lifestyle. Not the least of which is the member-automatic equine liability insurance, discount purchasing plans, the timely information we provide on topics that you're interested in and the educational networking opportunities you'll find at Horse Fair and Expo. Thanks for renewing your membership and support. Please tell your friends about the work we are doing for you!

Be sure to stop by and visit at Horse Fair! 

Frank Bowman

Congress Blocks New H-2B Wage Rule

In December, Congress passed and the President signed an Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R.2055) that in addition to funding most federal agencies for the remainder of the 2012 fiscal year (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012) will prohibit the Department of Labor (DOL) from implementing a new wage rule for the H-2B program.

The new wage rule is opposed by the American Horse Council (AHC) and other H-2B users and would have gone into ef-

fect on January 1, 2012. The AHC is sensitive to any changes to the H-2B program because many horse business employers in the racing and showing segments of the industry use the H-2B program.

"We have been working with a broad coalition of H-2B users to block this wage rule. We are pleased Congress responded to our concerns that this wage rule would drastically raise the cost for many employers who rely on H-2B workers, like horse trainers," said AHC President Jay Hickey.

"The horse industry uses the program not by choice, but because of a lack of Americans who are willing and have the knowledge to work with horses. The wage rule would have made an already costly program even more expensive and left many employers unable to afford the workers they need and put other American jobs at risk."

The wage rule, in most instances, would have increased the hourly wage that must

continued on page 6

AHC Opposes Changes to Child Labor Rules on Farms



The American Horse Council has submitted comments in opposition to the Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed new child labor regulations applicable to agriculture. The proposed rule, if adopted, would place new limitations on the ability of young people to work for pay on farms or ranches not owned solely by their parents and would effectively bar workers under 16 from working in most capacities in agriculture, especially around livestock, such as horses.

"The safety of young workers is important, but these proposed rules are so broad they would keep most young people from working on horse farms and ranches at all," said AHC President Jay Hickey. "For over 70 years Congress has explicitly allowed young people to work in agriculture because of its unique and family nature. We believe, as written, this proposed rule is contrary to Congressional intent."

In comments submitted to the DOL the AHC focused on the parts of the proposed rule that it believes are overly broad, such as prohibitions on workers under 16 herding livestock on horseback or foot in confined spaces and engaging in most common animal husbandry practices. The AHC also highlighted the special role young people play in the horse community and raised concerns regarding

new limitations on the parental exemption that could impact family farms and ranches. The complete AHC comments can be found at www.horsecouncil.org.

"Members of the horse community do not employ young people simply because they need workers. In most instances, they employ young people to give them the same opportunities they had to learn and do something they love," said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass.

"Young people don't go to work on horse farms and ranches just for a pay check but because of a desire to learn about horses and to follow the traditions of their families. This experience often leads to later careers as veterinarians, horse trainers, breeders and farri-

continued on page 6



Two Tax Benefits Revert to Prior Levels

Despite the acrimony and brinksmanship, Congress eventually passed an extension of the payroll tax reductions in late December maintaining the 2% reduction in payroll taxes for workers and the self-employed. The relief is good for two months through February, 2012. Negotiations are already underway between the House and Senate to find a way to extend payroll tax relief through 2012.

But the bill ultimately passed by Congress did not extend the Section

179 expense deduction or 100% bonus depreciation at the 2011 levels. Both provisions have returned to prior lower levels.

Section 179 Expense Deduction

The expense deduction has returned to \$125,000 for 2012 and phases out dollar-for-dollar once purchases of depreciable property reach \$500,000. The 179 expense deduction applies to horses, farm equipment and other depreciable property used

continued on page 6

ILLINOIS' HORSES NEED YOUR HELP! BECOME AN EQUINE AMBASSADOR


Grass Roots Lobbying Works!!

For more than 25 years the Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) has been an active participant in legislative debate and with regulators in Springfield and Washington, DC. We have worked to secure necessary changes in Illinois statutes, to enhance equine health and welfare in Illinois, and we have directly contributed to the rule-making process that has resulted in many unseen benefits to our members. Advocacy – it's probably the most important thing we do for horse owners across the state.

In the upcoming election year it's going to be more important than ever that our legislators recognize the thousands of HCI members and equine enthusiast throughout Illinois and the important role the equine industry plays in the state's economy.

Help HCI and the equine community be visible by making a personal visit to your legislators. Join us at the State Capital during the upcoming legislative session if you can, or pay a visit in their home districts to say hello and simply become acquainted. Let the legislators or their staff know you are a resident of their district, that you own horses, that you vote and that you actively participate as a member of the Illinois equine industry. Nothing is as important to an elected official as a visit from a constituent and maintaining good relations with the voters of their district. Your visit will be an enjoyable experience for you and **provide legislators with a source for information on things that are important to you** now and will be in the future.

If you'd like, an HCI representative can try to accompany you on your visit. This is an excellent opportunity to help preserve and enhance the equine lifestyle in Illinois.

Become an HCI Equine Ambassador today! For more information, contact Frank Bowman, HCI Executive Director, at 217-529-6503 or by e-mail to hci@horsemencouncil.org. If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for equine related legislative alerts using the "Join My List" function on the [HCI Facebook page](#) 

to 21 interested in wearing the crown should contact Pam for an application form at (217) 553-1755 or email gpsigler@mwii.net. Applications also are available online.

Also new will be veterinarians from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine demonstrating many techniques for wellness exams, lameness evaluations, verifying injection sites, providing emergency care, and bandaging.

And yet another new event this year will be the auction on Sunday afternoon, conducted by Staley Auction Service and featuring a selection of quality horses. Contact Chris Staley for auction contract at (309) 370-4337 or staleyauction@yahoo.com.

McLean will open Horse Fair on Friday with training demos. He will do an arena demonstration on both Saturday and Sunday, offering participants the opportunity to gain guidance, instruction and coaching from this international expert. His demonstrations will address starting a young horse, showing how it progresses and how fast it can learn and considerations for advanced horsemanship.

Horse Fair tickets

Horse Fair opens at 1 p.m. Friday with a reduced \$6 admission charge. Saturday or Sunday Horse Fair tickets are \$12 adult and \$6 child/senior; weekend passes are \$20 adult and \$10 child/senior. HorseCapades (evening show) Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. requires a separate ticket: general admission \$9 adult, \$6 child/senior; reserved seating \$15 adult, \$10 child/senior. Saturday evening shows have been a sell-out for the last three years. Advance tickets may be purchased with a credit card online or by calling the Council office at (217) 529-6503. Cash only at the door.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of responsibilities, ranging from manning information booths to hospitality. They can work for a few hours a day or for the whole weekend. To volunteer, contact Cheryl DeMent by email at paintfilly71@yahoo.com.

See website for more information

Information on clinicians, schedules and special host hotel rates are posted at www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair. Those interested in having information emailed to them may sign up for Horse Fair Updates. For information on exhibiting contact Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair Manager: (630) 557-2575 or JM@TheMeierhans.com.

Illinois Horse Fair is produced by Horse-

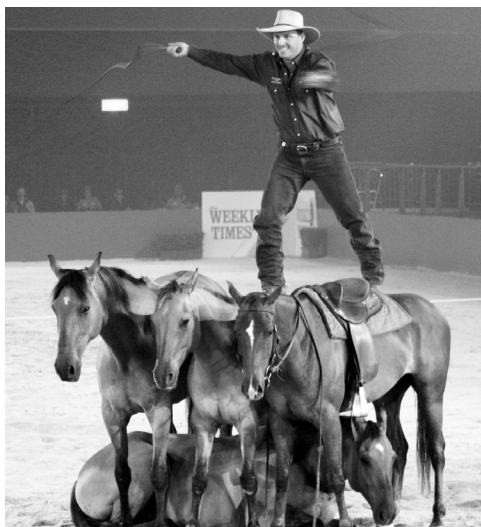
men's Council of Illinois (HCI), voice of the Illinois horse industry. HCI is affiliated with the American Horse Council and is the state-wide association of equine organizations and individuals working to provide centralized representation for Illinois' horse community and its multi-billion-dollar economic engine. HCI's mission: Protecting and educating the Illinois horse community and promoting more interaction with horses. 🐾



Laurie French-Treber will host hunt/jump clinics.



Jill McCrae will bring French Classical Dressage to Horse Fair.



Headliner Guy McLean demonstrates uncanny control of his horses.

HorseCapades Entertainment

HorseCapades on Friday and Saturday nights is an equestrian variety show featuring horse breeds and riding styles from around the world. It headlines Aussie stockman, entertainer and bush poet Guy McLean, along with cowboy dressage and trick horse trainer David Davis. Horsemen especially – any horse lover, for that matter – will be amazed at the extraordinary communication and response McLean has with his horses... the kind you have to see to believe!

After a patriotic grand entry with the drill team and Queen Pageant contestants, performances include bullfighting maneuvers; La Garrocha (the pole) pas deux on Lucitanos; charro showmanship with Leopard Appaloosa/Friesians and Aztecas; Laura Amandis with Andalusian Acierito at liberty; Robust Rider Tracy Porter comedy act on her Paso Fino stallion and showing her "mustangs in training;" Timmermann's drill team; local favorite Bianca Massa, of extreme cowboy racing fame, on her stock horse, doing her "Proud to be an American" presentation; and more.

One word of caution: Saturday night performances have sold out for the last three consecutive years – get your ticket orders in early.



Cowboy dressage and trick horse trainer David Davis salutes audience.

SARL Calls for Reasonable Regulation of Equine Processing in United States

The State Agriculture and Rural Leaders Association on January 8 unanimously passed a resolution, sending it to President Obama and the Secretary of Agriculture, the Chair and Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate and the House Agriculture Committees and others.

SARL, formed in 2006 at the Annual Legislative Ag Chairs Summit, promotes policy solutions and innovations to serve the agricultural and rural communities of the nation.

The resolution reads:

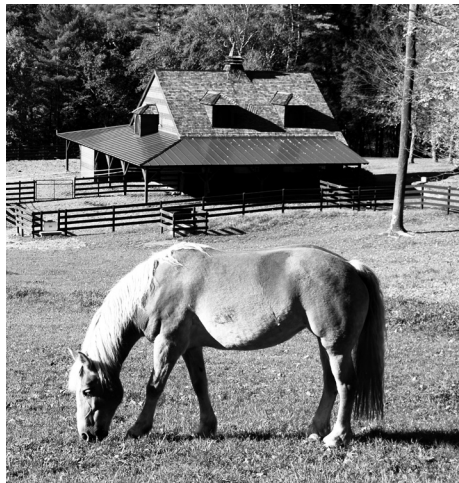
WHEREAS: The Ag Appropriations riders preventing the necessary USDA inspection of horse processing plants have now been removed from the federal budget.

WHEREAS: Companies seeking to create jobs and restore the economic viability of the entire horse industry are organizing enterprises nationwide.

WHEREAS: The federal government has failed to respond to European Union and other foreign governmental bodies in a manner that would allow commerce in equine products to recommence without delay.

WHEREAS: There may be other areas as yet undiscovered that would impede the use of equine products for export, or for domestic use; and

WHEREAS: Animal activist groups continue to use propaganda and misleading campaigns to prevent the ethical and responsible use of horses, and seek to compromised the private property rights of horse owners.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that State Agriculture and Rural Leaders urges all governmental agencies to use sound science and responsible regulation in addressing this newly emerging industry in order to work in partnership with private companies to implement a world class system that ensures quality, safety, and proper handling of livestock. 🐾

AHC Opposes Changes to Child Labor Rules on Farms continued from page 3

ers or other agricultural pursuits. This proposed rule would deny most young people such an experience.”

The AHC urged the DOL to revisit the proposed rule after reviewing comments from the agricultural community and either retain existing regulations or propose a rule that recognizes the original Congressional intent that youth be able to productively work in agriculture with adequate protections.

“This proposed rule is not acceptable to the agricultural community. Right now a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen are asking the DOL to withdraw this rule and start over or keep existing regulations,” said Hickey. “We support their efforts and urge all members of the horse community to contact their members of Congress and let them know they oppose this DOL proposed rule.” 🐾

Congress Blocks New H-2B Wage Rule continued from page 3

be paid to all current and future H-2B workers and American workers recruited in connection with an H-2B job application. More information on the wage rule can be found at www.horsecouncil.org The Omnibus bill combined the remaining appropriations bills and concluded the FY 2012 appropriations process. This ensures the government will operate until September 30, 2012.

The Labor/Health and Human Services/Education title of the bill specifically prohibited the DOL from using any funds to implement or enforce the new wage rule for the 2012 fiscal year.

“Halting the new wage rule was important, but we are also concerned about a DOL proposed rule that could change the way the entire H-2B program operates. The DOL is expected to release a final version of that rule anytime and we will be taking a close look at whether the DOL responded to concerns the AHC and others expressed during the comment period,” said Hickey. 🐾

Two Tax Benefits Revert to Prior Levels continued from page 4

in a business and permits a horse owner or breeder to write-off up to \$125,000 in assets purchased and placed in service in one's horse business in 2012.

The expense allowance for 2010-2011 was \$500,000 and phased out after purchases exceeded \$2 million.

Bonus Depreciation

In addition, bonus depreciation has returned to 50% for 2012. Bonus depreciation allows horse owners and other horse businesses to write off 50% of the cost of “new” capital assets, including horses, when purchased and placed in service in 2012. To be eligible for bonus depreciation the original use of the property must commence with the taxpayer. Any prior use makes the property ineligible.

Bonus depreciation was 100% for

eligible assets purchased and placed in service from September 8, 2010 through 2011.

Both provisions can be used together.

Retroactive Change is Possible


“It is possible that the higher levels could be reinstated retroactively to January 1, 2012. In fact, the House-passed payroll-tax bill extended 100% bonus depreciation through 2012, even though the Senate bill did not,” said AHC president Jay Hickey. “The negotiations between now and the end of February on the one-year extension of the payroll tax reduction could include other changes to the tax code, such as the expense deduction or bonus depreciation. But this is speculation at this point.” 🐾

Benefits of Membership in the Horsemen's Council of Illinois


As a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, you may take advantage of a host of discount programs offered through the American Horse Council (AHC) and our insurance provider, Association Resource Group (ARG).

AHC Saving Plus will provide you discounts with John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, OfficeMax, and Prescription Drug Card. You can buy products directly from

these companies at greatly reduced prices – no minimums required!

Below is a sample of discounts available through ARG. For details on how these valuable Horsemen's Council of Illinois member benefits can help you save money, go to www.horsecouncil.org/ahc-advantage-plan and www.associationresource.net. 

Automatic Member Benefits
go to www.associationresource.net to click through on your benefits



Access to insurance products from Equisure, Inc.
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www.associationresource.net

Join Us Today!

Individual Membership Application

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
County _____
State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____
Work Phone () _____
Fax () _____
Email _____
How many horses do you own? _____
_____ at home _____ boarding stable

Individual Membership Dues (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$42/yr**
Family Membership Dues (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$72/yr**

Organization Membership Application

Organization _____
Contact Name _____
Street _____
City _____
County _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____
Fax () _____
Email _____
Website _____
of Illinois Members in Organization _____

Check appropriate category
____ Business/Professional ____ Association ____ Charity

Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois
3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: 217.529.6503
www.HorsemensCouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____



Horse Council Courier
Horsemen's Council of Illinois, Inc.
The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry
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Illinois Equine Foundation provides tax-free way to help horses and horsemen in Illinois

As tax time approaches and people begin to think about deductions, Horsemen's Council of Illinois reminds them that its Illinois Equine Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization, meaning that gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible.

The Foundation has been organized and is a program of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, a 501 (c) (6) organization.

An important distinction between the mutually exclusive 501 designations, according to the Kevin Kline, Ph.D., who chairs the Foundation's board of directors, is that while a (c) (3) can receive tax deductible contributions, a (c) (6) permits an organization to conduct legislative lobbying and advocacy work, HCI's principal mission as the voice of the Illinois horse industry.

Gifts to support the work of the Council may be received through the Foundation as monetary sums via checks or wire transfers as well as in the form of stocks, annuities, bequests from an estate, endowments, etc.

For more than a decade, HCI has used the Foundation to support the Ruby Holmquist Memorial Scholarship Fund, and more recently the Dean Scoggins Memorial Scholarship.

By charter, Foundation funds are used solely for scholarship and educational pur-


poses, Kline said.

"Contributors may designate their gifts for general or specific uses, such as either of the current memorial scholarship programs or to expand HCI's educational efforts, including development, publication and distribution of equine related pamphlets, guides and brochures," Kline said.

"Or contributions may be designated to support new programs," Kline said, "such as educational seminars on responsible horse ownership, beginning horsemanship programs, environmental, zoning, legal, best practices and business aspects of the equine industry."

Gifts can be in any amount. For example, one of Dr. Scoggins's long-time friends provided \$20,000 to support the annual scholarship in his name and dedicated to nurturing students in veterinary medicine. Gifts of \$25 or more will automatically generate receipts for tax purposes.

For information on how to become a major Foundation Sponsor or sustaining member, contact the Illinois Equine Foundation, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703.

Checks may be made payable to the Illinois Equine Foundation and mailed to the address above. 

HCI Board Studies Regional Program, Consolidates Committees, Elects Officers

During its annual planning session and January Board meeting, Horsemen's Council of Illinois Directors worked on ways of energizing committees within HCI, discussed committee roles, and elected officers for the coming year.

With the idea of bringing services closer to end-user groups – and at the same time generating more involvement from membership – the Board discussed establishing regional leadership and liaison along geography consistent with the five regions established by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The Board also consolidated its committee structure into Trails; Legislative; Health, Education & Welfare; Development & Membership; and Racing.

Board officers elected were Sheryl S. King, Ph.D., Carbondale, president; Karen Freese, Hammond, vice president; Ron Rhoades, Seymour, secretary; and Joseph Lowry, DVM, Davis Junction, treasurer. Frank Bowman, Pleasant Plains, is executive director. 