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President's Message

Welcome to 2021 for better or worse. As I write this president letter we are dealing with the aftermath of a very brutal February. So far for most of the country the weather has become as much of a challenge as the Pandemic and the rollout of the vaccine. With all that being said, we had to make the tough decision to cancel this year's Illinois Horse Fair. Due to the COVID restrictions and the continued renovation of the coliseum and other Fairgrounds buildings it was not feasible to host the event this year. But plan on a bigger and better event next year. Which seems to be the theme from 2020 and continues the theme for 2021. Our new normal is masks and social distancing which is really hard as most of us are social which, I believe is why most of us show or compete our horses to be with our friends. By July, a path was beginning to take shape as to how we were going to be able to start showing & traveling. Events and trail riding increased as everyone began to find a new path to do what we all love to do with our horses.

One of the many tragedies of the pandemic was the Chicago Carriage horses being banned despite the efforts of the HCI and many other organizations and individuals' best efforts we lost the battle. Those horses still have jobs and are well cared for. On the positive side our Trail committee is wrapping up the printing of a new edition of the trail book. Which will be available for purchase through this newsletter or visit our website to order your copy they will be available by April 1st. There are several bills coming before the state assembly, legislation that the HCI and Illinois Farm Bureau are observing that will affect the horse community. There is an excellent article in this newsletter about how you can take an active roll in this process this takes a village to keep our lifestyle. Moving forward we all need to work together to keep our lifestyle moving forward and our sanity is in our horses. Be kind to each other and know that spring is coming, and it is a new season with a fresh start in what we will call a new normal. Hope to see you at the shows or on the trails.



Follow us on Facebook for the most up to date information on our upcoming events, including Virtual Educational Seminars with specials for members only. Membership packets are available digitally so that you have your membership card on your phone for easy use! Just email the office!

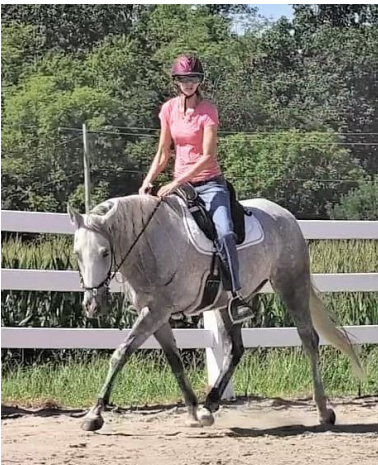
Board Member Spotlight, Region 4 — Deanna Preis

Deanna Preis, HCI Region 4 Board Member, started asking for a pony at age 3. Her parents finally succumbed and bought her a Thoroughbred as her first horse when she was ten. The big gelding was an unraced grandson of a Derby winner, and Deanna rode him in hunter/jumper activities. Later she used Boomerang as a lesson horse until she retired him at 30; she just lost him this past summer at age 35. Deanna said the faithful guy wanted to work until the end.

Deanna's life is horses – she says she lives, sleeps, dreams, and thinks about horses all the time. She spends her days teaching, giving lessons, and training her horses. She also acts as a clinician offering clinics or workshops as well as presentations. Deanna pursues continuing educational opportunities for herself, too, believing that life-long learning is necessary for her to be able to serve the horses' best interests.

Deanna believes strongly in working horses from the ground – she strives to get horses moving correctly in hand before stepping on. Her groundwork addresses correct body placement at a microlevel and depends upon strong communication between her and the horse. Deanna thinks that all the horse's limbs need to work equally and be balanced for the best results. While her methods may seem to go along more slowly than others, the results she gets make for a well-rounded, balanced horse with a great foundation to go in any direction. This strong foundation focusing on balance and correct movement increases a horse's longevity as well. She says her way may not be for everyone, but it works well for her.

Deanna has a background in biology. During the COVID-19 shutdown, she's been able to spend much more time taking classes in equine anatomy, dissection, and structure. She collects bones –calls herself a geek – and studies those to see the pathologies that can explain why a horse may behave as it does. In these bones, she can see the malformations or injuries that might have been seen as behavior or training problems but may actually have been the result of pain. Deanna believes that many problems a horse faces in the training arena or even on the trail may be the result of pain due to malformations or even injuries that are undetected. Her goal is to study this theory and hopefully help improve the lives of horses who may be suffering.



Deanna joined HCI as a Board Member in 2017. She came to the board through the Illinois Horse Fair – the Horsemen's Council of Illinois' premiere event. Deanna offered to present at the Horse Fair one year; other board members saw her potential contribution to the board and invited her to serve. Deanna's goal as a board member is to provide a different perspective to the board's membership, increase HCI membership to reach more Illinois horse owners, and work to improve horses' quality of life. She feels that HCI is a great platform to encourage and promote responsible and caring ownership of horses in Illinois.

One of the issues Deanna feels most pressing to horse owners is the high cost and difficult process for euthanasia and disposal. Horse owners who must euthanize their horse are faced with a substantial cost and difficult time securing proper disposal. Illinois only allows for a few options in disposal – most of which may not be available to a hobby horse owner. And the cost for other options – cremation or removal – are exorbitant. While euthanasia and disposal can be difficult issues to discuss, they are real concerns for horse owners – oftentimes not identified until an urgent need arises. She'd like to work on possible remedies for this problem. Another important goal for her is education – she firmly believes that an educated and informed owner is imperative for the benefit of the horse. HCI and the Illinois Horse Fair offer great exposure for her to offer and encourage education.

Deanna makes her home with her husband, 7-year-old daughter, and four horses in Freeburg. She offers educational material, instruction, opinion and more on her Facebook page and YouTube channel. You can find her at [facebook.com/ShadeTreeStables](https://www.facebook.com/ShadeTreeStables) or on YouTube at ShadeTreeStables.



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Threat of African Horse Sickness

Anna Ruman, DVM

West Nile Virus came to the United States in 1999 so is it possible for African Horse Sickness also to appear here? We would hope not but plans are being developed within the US by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service which is a part of the US Department of Agriculture. Plans are being developed to look at potential spread and to look at paths of potential entry.

Make no mistake, this disease is deadly in the equine species (especially horses). In South Africa the disease reservoir is the zebra who can be virtually asymptomatic. Why worry about this now, you ask. Well, last year the disease was in Thailand and it had never been there before. It is thought to have come in through imported zebras. Over 600 horses died in the southern area of Thailand before control measures could be implemented. Control measures include movement control, insect control, and vaccination (after serotype is identified). Later in 2020, AHS was found in Malaysia.

African horse sickness is not spread from horse to horse directly but is spread by biting insects called Culicoides or midges. We have multiple species of midges here in the US, some of which have been proven to be able to transmit AHS within a laboratory setting. The virus is hardy enough to over winter in these biting insects and it is unknown if other biting insects in this country could also transmit it. There are 4 forms of AHS with horses most likely to develop the most deadly form with as high as 95% death rate.

For more information on AHS, the USDA recently posted an hour long video on YouTube entitled "Overview of African Horse Sickness."

Dr. Ruman serves HCI as a Director from Region 4 and also serves as a Director for Illinois Equine Foundation



Trails Update

The trails committee is continuing the work to get volunteers back in the parks to help with maintained and trail improvements. HCI recently submitted a letter of support to IDNR to allow horse drawn carts on some existing trails that are currently wide enough to accommodate them and for the possibility of improving other trails to allow driving.



Reminder that the 2021 Illinois Horse Fair is Cancelled.

Mark you calendars for 2022 IHF

March 4, 5 & 6 2022

Rodeo will return as well as headliner Clinicians!

Watch your email and our calendar for updated information on upcoming events!



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Illinois Legislation – January 2021

As of this writing, the 102nd General Assembly continues to meet at the Convention Center rather than the Capitol or Stratford Building due to COVID-19 concerns. Only a small percentage of the normal number of bills has been introduced, and it's hard to predict how many bills will be pursued. Presumably, much of this session may be taken up by the pressing matters of the pandemic, budget and economy, and law enforcement/criminal justice reform.

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois includes a Legislative Committee which monitors potential legislation that may affect horses and our members; the committee also drafts and proposes laws that will promote the horse industry and ownership. In this upcoming legislative session, we hope to work on the Working Animal Protection Act. We need you, HCI members, to be able to respond to our call for action – you may be asked to file a witness slip, contact your legislators, or even appear in Springfield for a committee meeting to present testimony. Knowing who your elected officials are and how to contact them before we need you will help!

How Can You Help?

Establish a relationship with your local legislators BEFORE an issue arises so you can capitalize on it when you need to. Visit or call the district office of your Senator AND Representative and introduce yourself. Explain your work or passion for horses and outline your interests in potential legislation affecting equines.

Less effective than a personal visit, but still an alternative, is a handwritten letter or note to your legislator introducing yourself. After an election, send a personal note of congratulations. Identify yourself as a constituent with horses and offer to be a resource for them on equine issues. Even if you don't consider yourself an expert, you'll likely know more than the legislator and can always draw upon HCI or friends or colleagues in the horse world for information. The goal is for your elected officials to think of you when faced with a bill that addresses or affects horses or the equine industry.

What to Do When a Bill Gets Introduced

When a bill has been introduced and is moving through the legislative process, HCI may ask you to contact your elected officials and ask that they support or oppose a particular bill. This is much easier than it sounds – particularly if you already have an established relationship. Some simple tips to keep in mind when contacting legislators:

DO:

- Identify the bill number and subject matter that's at issue. Be specific about what action you want your legislator to take (i.e. Please support HB 7781 or Vote NO on HB 7781.) Identify yourself as a constituent if you are.
- Be prepared to explain your position if asked. If you don't know an answer to a question, tell them you don't know but will find out. Then, get that answer and call the legislator back.
- Follow up on the legislation so you know how they voted after your contact – it's important to be aware of how your representatives vote on your issues. Communicate with them to let them know you're paying attention to how they vote.

Fill out a witness slip!!! When bills are in committee, witness slips are often read into the committee minutes. Here's your chance to state your position without having to travel to the Capitol. For information on completing a witness slip, use this tutorial <http://www.informz.net/isvma/data/images/Using%20The%20GA%20Dashboard.pdf>.

DON'T:

- Don't start your conversation with "I'm a taxpayer" or "As a concerned citizen". Legislators know you pay taxes and are a citizen.
- Don't apologize for visiting, writing or calling. Listening to citizens is a huge part of their job. Just be sure your communication is short, on point, and clear.
- Don't get frustrated if a legislator is late to a meeting or not in their office. Our elected officials face many demands on their time and do their best to keep appointments. It may not always be possible. Work with their staff on how best to get a few moments of their time. If you're visiting in the Capitol, the only time you may get with your Senator or Representative is as they walk from their office to the Capitol – but at least you'll have their attention.
- Don't answer a question that you don't know the answer to – offer to find out and get back to them. "I don't know, but I'll find out" is always acceptable as long as you follow up with the answer.

Finally, remember your legislator expects and appreciates hearing from constituents. While it may seem daunting to begin that relationship with your elected official, it will pay off in the end. Your Senators and Representatives typically want to serve the citizens, and most respond with interest and appreciation to our comments. Just be professional, honest, forthright, and helpful. And, while it may seem overwhelming to introduce yourself and start this relationship – it will pay off in many ways in the long run. So, reach out and tell them about yourself and your work!

2021 Legislative Committee members: Bona Heinshohn, David Nobbe, Jenne Rosegay, Lauren Malmberg, Paula Briney, Tony Troyer & Sheree King.

Keep the graphic for reference on how to file a witness slip!
 Enter a Witness Slip—It's EASY! 1. go to www.ilga.gov 2. Enter your bill number to determine which committee it has been assigned 3. Go back to the Home page and click on GA Dashboard and follow these easy steps in the graphic!

How To File A Witness Slip Online

- 1 Go to the **Illinois General Assembly Web** site at <http://www.ilga.gov/>.
- 2 Once there, look to the lower left, under Reports & Inquiry and click on **GA Dashboard**.
- 3 Next, select either **Senate or House** tab located under the State seal, then select Committee Hearings from the drop-down menu.

Next, select the chosen committee by clicking on the paper icon on the far right.

- 4 Next, choose a bill and look to the right. Under Witness Slips, there are two icons. **Click on the pencil and paper icon** to create your Witness Slip
- 5 Fill out and submit witness slip.

The graphic illustrates the process of filing a witness slip online through the Illinois General Assembly website. It consists of four numbered steps:

- Step 1:** The homepage of the Illinois General Assembly website. The 'GA Dashboard' link is highlighted in the bottom left corner.
- Step 2:** The 'GA Dashboard' page. The 'Senate' tab is selected under the State seal, and 'Committee Hearings' is chosen from the drop-down menu.
- Step 3:** The 'Senate Hearing Details' page. A bill number is highlighted in the 'Witness Slips' section.
- Step 4:** The 'Witness Slip' form. The 'Create Witness Slip' button is highlighted.

Bills pertaining to the horse industry include:

SB093—pertains to stallions and ownership for Illinois Standardbred Horses.

HB685—Amends the Horse Racing Act of 1975 and covers topics of licensing in Illinois Horse Racing.

HR70—covers importance of county fairs in the state of Illinois

HB3728—The Working Animal Protection Act provides protection to working animals including horses in service, agriculture, transportation, ranching, entertainment, education and exhibition.



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HCI Regional News

HCI Member Organizations

as of 02/15/2021

Marshall Putnam Trail Riders
Lake County Mounted Posse
Equestrian Coalition of McHenry County
Bull Valley Riding Club
Shawnee Trails Conservancy
Arab, Inc.
Centerline Dressage
Double L Equestrian
Illinois Draft Horse & Mule Association
IN/IL Chapter, NACMO
The Illinois Boots & Saddle Club
Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association
UMECRA
Riding Club of Barrington Hills
Mid-America Horse Show
Prairie Trail Riders

Non-Profit Organization Members

Main Stay Therapeutic Farm
Sol's Legacy Ministries
SOUL Harbor Ranch Animal Therapy

Business & Professional Members

Gateway Stables

Don't forget to get your renewals in!



We want to know what's going on around the state! Send in your announcements, accomplishments, projects and issues you are facing. Send to:

hci@horsemencouncil.org

If your organization has an upcoming meeting and would like a director from the Horsemen's Council of Illinois available to answer questions feel free to contact the office to check availability of your regions director.

HCI has volunteer opportunities throughout the state year round send us an email if your interested.



North West Region - 1

Director: Brad Hubbard

Counties: Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Whiteside, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb, Rock Island, Mercer, Henry, Bureau, Putnam, LaSalle, Henderson, Warren, Knox, Stark, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, McDonough, Fulton, Tazewell

North East Region - 2

Director David Nobbe

Counties: McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, Grundy, Kankakee

East Central Region - 3

Director Russ Derango

Counties: Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, McLean, Dewitt, Piatt, Champaign, Vermillion, Macon, Moultrie, Douglas, Coles, Edgar, Shelby, Cumberland, Clark

West Central Region - 4

Director Deanna Preis

Counties: Hancock, Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Mason, Cass, Menard, Logan, Pike, Scott, Morgan, Sangamon, Calhoun, Green, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian, Madison, Bond, St Clair, Clinton, Washington, Monroe, Randolph

South Region - 5

Director Jerry Sutton

Counties: Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Marion, Clay, Wayne, Richland, Edwards, Lawrence, Wabash, Perry, Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski, Massac



2021
Dean Scoggins
Memorial
Scholarship



The Illinois Equine Foundation is accepting applications for Emergency Disaster Relief. Please email the office for a copy of the application if you have been affected by a disaster and would like to apply for a grant. Send email request to:
hci@horsemencouncil.org

Since 1987 the **Illinois Equine Foundation** has provided a tax-free way to help the Illinois equine community through charitable giving.

The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Its purpose is to promote equine events, equine activities and equine education and to include the establishment and administration of related scholarship funds, grants, financial assistance, research projects in support thereof.

Tax deductible contributions to strengthen and support these worthwhile goals are gratefully accepted. Contributions can be designated as general or earmarked for specific uses. Gifts can be made in any amount and may be received as monetary sums, stock, annuities and other assets, bequests from estates, endowments or other means.

For more information contact the Illinois Equine Foundation through the HCI office at 217-689-4224 or visit the Foundation page on the HCI website.

My name is Emily Banigan and I am a fourth-year veterinary student at the University of Illinois. I grew up in Hinckley, Illinois where we always kept a few horses and chickens, and I would travel with my family to my grandparents' horse farm in Elizabeth, Illinois. I spent many weekends there on horseback either in the arena or out on the trails. Whenever the local veterinarian came to care for our horses, I would watch intently, and as I got older I began to ride along with her on farm calls. I built my foundation of experience with that veterinary practice and decided to apply to veterinary school. I was very fortunate to be offered a seat with the University of Illinois Class of 2021 and I gratefully accepted it. Through my time in veterinary school I have been a member of AAEP and its Equine Emergency Team, which provided excellent hands-on opportunities to participate in wet labs and help treat horses on an emergency basis. I was also able to further my education in equine medicine by taking equine-focused electives. Thanks to my private practice mentors and the University of Illinois, I will be starting my career as an ambulatory equine veterinarian in northern Illinois. Along with primary care and emergency, I will also be able to do a large amount of reproductive and sports medicine.



Emily Banigan

It's Not To Late to Renew!

HCI Represents YOU!

Founded in 1987, **Horsemen's Council of Illinois** is the only statewide organization that works to serve the entire horse community. We are amateurs, professionals, horse hobbyists, breeders, local riding clubs and larger businesses. Individuals and groups from all disciplines, breeds and types of horses are welcome. We are led by a Board of Directors and committees that address education, equine health and welfare, trails, land use and legislative and regulatory concerns.

Memberships are critical to HCI success for two reasons:

- 1) We can better represent you, your organization, your discipline, your PASSION if we know who you are;
- 2) The income from memberships helps sustain the operating budget of HCI and provide key services to members.
- 3) **There are more than 70,000 horsemen in Illinois.** Please encourage others to join HCI so we can do MORE to educate, mobilize and represent horsemen. Memberships are accepted throughout the year.

HCI Member benefits:

All Membership Levels: email bulletin, monthly e-newsletter, equine health and legislative alerts, print newsletter, access to members only resources on website, access to professional expertise of HCI board members and speakers for your group events, regional event invitations, American Horse Council Advantage Plan, option to purchase American Horse Council Grassroots Membership at 40% discount.

Gold Level Membership: all of the above benefits and \$1 million Excess Personal Equine Liability Insurance

Member Discount Benefits

As a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, you are eligible for significant savings on nationally known products through NTRA Advantage. Your membership entitles you to special savings on products used for your equine farm, business, or personal use. To enjoy the benefits of one-stop buying, call NTRA Advantage toll-free at (866) 678-4289 or visit www.NTRAadvantage.com.

This package includes discounts from: John Deere, Equine Savings, UPS, OfficeMax, Sherwin Williams, Valvoline.



Membership Application

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

of Horses: _____ Boarded _____ At Home: _____

Membership Levels

All memberships run January through December

- ☐ Youth Membership - Free
18 years or younger can join HCI at no cost
- ☐ Basic - Family Membership - \$30.00
Bundle (list all family members on the membership)
- ☐ Gold - Family Membership - \$75.00
Includes \$1 Million Excess Equine Liability Policy
- ☐ Basic-Individual Membership - \$25.00
- ☐ Gold - Individual Membership - \$50.00
Includes \$1 Million Excess Equine Liability Policy
- ☐ Life Individual Membership - \$350.00
\$1 Million Excess Equine Liability insurance option, Billed \$20 annually.

Organization/Business Name:

(Provide primary contact information above)

Number of Members: _____

- ☐ Business & Professional Membership - \$100
Bundle (up to 50 members can be listed)
- ☐ Non-Profit Organizations - \$50
Bundle (up to 50 members can be listed)
- ☐ Supporting Association Membership - \$50
Bundle (up to 50 members can be listed)

You can also join online: www.horsemenscouncil.org

Send application and payment to:

Horsemen's Council of Illinois

P O BOX 181

White Hall IL 62092

For more information: 217-689-4224

SHARE THIS PAGE WITH OTHERS!



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White Hall IL 62092

Phone: 217-689-4224
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Illinois Trail Riding Handbook

- ☐ \$25 Member Price
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☐ \$ 9 Shipping _____

\$ _____ Total Enclosed

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City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The mission of Horsemen's Council of Illinois is to educate, mobilize and represent Horsemen and the equine industry to ensure a thriving Illinois horse community.

The 2021 Events Calendar is Open

Horsemen's Council of Illinois encourages as much interaction with horses as possible and gladly announces equine events from throughout the state on our website and in our email bulletins.

LIST YOUR EVENT - send an email with details, contact information and attach show bill or event flyer in jpeg format to: **hci@horsemencouncil.org**