



WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

132 S. Ludington Street, Suite A, Columbus, Wisconsin 53925
Phone: 920-623-0393 Fax: 920-623-0583

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF HORSES AND HORSEMEN IN WISCONSIN

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MARCH 6, 2007

WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 OFFICERS ELECTED

BARRON, WI - Four northwest Wisconsin residents accepted responsibility for representing the interests of horse owners in their region on Feb. 24, when they were elected as the first set of leaders for District 1 of the Wisconsin State Horse Council.

Elected to office were Bill Drinken, Hammond, president; Ellen VanderBent, Sarona, vice president; Terri McDonald, Phillips, secretary; and Bob Housel, Spooner, director. Drinken was also elected to serve as a director for District 1. The organizational meeting was held at the Barron County Courthouse in Barron.

Two years ago, WSHC members began discussing ways to make the organization more representative of the equine industry statewide. A major revision to the by-laws, approved in August 2006, created the five-district concept. Each of the five districts will be a "mini horse council," according to WSHC President Mike McGowan, Black River Falls, who led the first portion of the district organizational meeting.

The "mini horse councils" will be able to address local issues with the backing of the larger organization, McGowan said. District councils will meet monthly. Directors from each district will then carry the district's concerns and opinions to the statewide WSHC. The statewide organization will meet four times a year, rotating through the five districts in the state to make it more convenient for people across Wisconsin to attend at least one meeting a year.

District 1 includes Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor and Washburn counties.

Drinken is an active member of the Will River Riders Saddle Club and helps with a therapeutic riding program in Minnesota. The family has four horses.

One of his goals is to build up membership in District 1 so more people realize the benefits the WSHC has to offer, he said.

VanderBent owns and operates a trailer sales and western store business in Sarona. When her two children were younger, the family was very active in 4-H. She has shown horses and enjoys trail riding.

MORE

"I have wanted to get the WSHC active up here for a long time," she said. "I want to let everyone know what a beautiful area we have up here. I think by bringin WSHC in the northern area and having a stronger voice, we can help improve the horse industry in northern Wisconsin, and help make it grow."

McDonald is president of the Northwoods Equestrian Trail Riders. She and her family have four horses. She has been a director for the WSHC since January.

Directors are able to vote on matters brought before the WSHC, McGowan said. The number of directors in each district depends on membership numbers and type.

Contingent upon meeting WSHC rules, Drinken and Housel will begin serving as directors for District 1 in July. Housel has been active with the WSHC and 4-H for many years.

The new officers are planning to begin monthly district meetings after the WSHC annual meeting, which is set for March 30-31 in Stevens Point. For more information, contact Drinken at (715) 796-5382, VanderBent at (715) 234-1130, or McDonald at (715) 339-2895.

Information about the WSHC, district representation or the annual meeting is available at the Web site www.WisconsinStateHorseCouncil.org, by e-mail at info@wisconsinstatehorsecouncil.org, or by calling the WSHC state office at (920) 623-0393.

END

Media Contact: Jane Tauber, Wisconsin State Horse Council, 920-623-0393

Photo Credit: WSHC. High resolution photo available. *Photo Caption:* District 1 Officers - left to right are Ellen VanderBent, Vice President; Bill Drinken, President; Bob Housel, Director; and Terri McDonald, Secretary.

