



WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

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

PRESS RELEASE

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WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL INTRODUCES DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

COLUMBUS – The 22 people recently elected to represent their districts in the Wisconsin State Horse Council represent nearly all facets of the equine industry.

Last year, the WSHC amended its bylaws to divide Wisconsin into five geographic districts. Earlier this year, meetings were held in each of the five districts to explain the changes to the Council and elect representatives to link district horse owners to the state organization.

District 1 includes 18 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor and Washburn.

Representing District 1 are William Drinken, Hammond, president; Ellen Vander Bent, Sarona, vice president; and Terri McDonald, Phillips, secretary.

Drinken enjoys equestrian camping and trail riding, and helps with trail development through the Willow River Riders saddle club. He is a dedicated volunteer for a therapeutic riding program for children with disabilities. Drinken may be contacted at (715) 821-2473 or wdrinken@yahoo.com.

Vander Bent is a lifelong rider who has passed her enthusiasm on to her children. Her family has been active in 4-H and enjoys going on trail rides. She recently opened a trailer dealership and western store.

McDonald is president of the Northwoods Equestrian Trailriders and is active in trail development. She operates a boarding facility, offers lessons for young riders, and is an adult leader in the Price County 4-H Horse Project. She's a member of the Price County Rodeo Wranglers and Maverick Mounted Security. McDonald became a WSHC director in January.

District 2 includes 11 counties: Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas.

Representing District 2 are Sharon Petraska, Florence, president and director; Alice Johnson, Florence, vice president; and Patricia Breitenfeldt, Tigerton, secretary.

Petraska enjoys trail riding and camping with her horses. She also operates a saddle and leather repair business. She volunteered to represent District 2 because she has always been interested in the Council “and all the good things that they do for the horses and horsemen in Wisconsin.” Petraska may be contacted at (715) 589-4284 or spetraska@msn.com.

Johnson participated in horse shows in the past, and for a time had a Quarter horse stallion. She now enjoys trail riding and equestrian camping.

Breitenfeldt is active in 4-H with her daughter and serves on the Shawano County Equine Show Association. She is very active in youth rodeo through her daughter, and the two of them are members of a local saddle club.

District 3 includes 15 counties: Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago.

Representing District 3 are Smokey Brannaman, Greenleaf, president; Betty Bobb, Reedsville, vice president; and Margie Neumeyer, Seymour, secretary.

Brannaman is a full-time professional in the horse industry, working at a boarding stable, starting colts, training horses, and offering clinics for riders. His hobby is Civil War reenacting. Brannaman may be contacted at (920) 246-1518 or bmcsmok@yahoo.com.

Bobb has been a member of the WSHC for about 20 years. She served as president in 1994 and has been active in equestrian trail development. She owns the “Horses In Lights” production, Manitowoc.

Neumeyer operates a farm dedicated to rehabilitating unwanted or abused horses and other animals.

District 4 includes 12 counties: Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha.

Representing District 4 are Kathy Findley, Franksville, president; Jennifer Bush, Mt. Horeb, vice president; and Cricket Jewett, secretary, Fort Atkinson.

Findley enjoys helping youth work with horses and says she takes “every opportunity during the lessons to make it a fun, safe and educational event.” She is also a respected judge and trainer. Findley may be contacted at (262) 895-6978 or whisperingwillowfarm@yahoo.com.

Bush operates a small training stable and enjoys working with children. She is also a certified equine massage therapist. She volunteers with the Iowa County 4-H horse project.

Jewett has Tennessee Walking Horses and is active in breed organizations. She also serves as president of the Rock County Multi-Use Trail Group. She is a life-long rider who enjoys trail riding and showing.

District 5 includes 16 counties: Adams, Buffalo, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Portage, Richland, Sauk, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood.

Representing District 5 are Larry Gage, Soldiers Grove, president; Joe Parr, Ontario, vice president and director; and Adrienne DeMaster, Trempealeau, secretary.

Gage raises, trains, rides and drives Morgans and is active in breed organizations. He is interested in becoming a mounted search and rescue volunteer. Gage also hopes to begin showing his horses next year. Gage said he became involved in WSHC because he thinks "it's an organization that needs to be in Wisconsin to bring all horse people together." He may be contacted at (608) 606-2620 or gage@mwt.net.

Parr, a member of WSHC for about 10 years, has owned horses for more than 60 years, and enjoys training, driving and trail riding. He has worked to improve trails in both Wisconsin and Illinois.

DeMaster grew up with horses, saying she learned to ride, drive horses, and walk all at about the same time. She is a Trempealeau County 4-H leader, just starting to show horses, and an avid supporter of the American Standardbred Adoption Program.

The districts also elected directors to represent area residents on the Council. They are Robert Housel, Spooner, District 1; Judy Larson, Ripon, and Dave Petrie, Sherwood, District 3; Karen Kroll, Arena, and Floyd Finney, Milton, District 4; and Nap Bourdeau, Lodi, District 5. District 2 is in process of electing another representative after the first person elected was unable to serve.

END

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