**Nov. 12, 2023 State Board Meeting**

Pizza Ranch, Emporia

In attendance: Bill Racy, Donna Marotta, Cheryl Thomas, Diana Skinner, Sheila Watkins, Kyle & Laura Smyth, Rosie Sweeten, Pattie Stalder & Stephanie Huss

**Call to order at**: 11:57

**Minutes from previous mtg**. Pattie Stalder - Approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Sheila Watkins - Approved as submitted. Beg. Balance $7,301.83, Expenses $554.37, Income $672.21, Ending Balance $7,419.67. At the annual meeting Sheila will use the 2023 budget and show what adjustments need to be made for 2024.

**VP Report** – Laura Smyth – Fill the Campground – Hillsdale ride was canceled due to weather. Oct. at El Dorado had 3 BCHKS members + 20 Newton Saddle Club members. The events hosted a total of 76 participants this year. 2024 will have 4 campouts beginning in May at Milford. Locations not yet determined for June, Sept. and Oct. A wheelbarrow was donated to El Dorado Lake State Park.

**National Committee Reports**

Expansion – Diana Skinner – BCHA comprises 33 states with TX as the most recent.

Why Should I Join BCHKS? – Diana said there’s a list of at the bottom of the national newsletter showing member benefits.

Media & Marketing – Pattie Stalder – no update

Public Lands –Dianna Skinner

* National Forest Service wants to place 250 grizzly bears in WA State; BCHA is in opposition.
* 2024 national meeting is in Casper, WY. 2025 meeting will be in Flagstaff, AZ.
* BCHKS needs to vote on approval of a $5.00 increase in national dues which would go into effect in 2025. *(There will be an online voting opportunity by the end of the year sent via email to all KS members.)*
* BCHA provides 4 newsletters per year. There is some opposition to having them online, but it costs $13,000.00 to mail a hard copy. We will receive 2 hard copies each year.
* In AR there is a movement to change the designation of the Buffalo River, which is currently a National Scenic River, to the Buffalo River National Park. If this passes, we could lose access to all the equestrian trails.

Membership Date Coordinator – Sheila Watkins – Kansas Horse Council is changing to a new bookkeeping system so Trails Advocate memberships will go directly to KHC. Sheila will be trained in the new KHC program so she can access memberships in a more timely manner. Not sure if we can process payments through the new program.

Volunteer Hours – Cheryl Thomas – Getting close to time to submit volunteer hours to Cheryl.

**State Committee Report**:

* Logo #2 was selected via online voting as the 10th anniversary logo. It will be available for individuals to create their own promotional items. Steph showed two beverage holder options that are available with prices range from $19 to $25. Steph will provide contact information.
* Melissa Martinez has acquired a $1200, 16” western saddle for us to raffle. A PayPal account will be set up for selling raffle tickets online beginning Dec. 15. Ticket price will be $5 for one or 5 for $20. Need not be present to win. Saddle will be given away at the 10th anniversary jamboree, April 20th at Eisenhower.
* Jamboree Committee asked for $300 for expenses to be reimbursed by raffle funds. Laura moved to approve request, Diana seconded, no opposition, motion passed. Committee will move forward with creating decals, Cheryl will confirm campground request at Eisenhower State Park. Reservations can be made by calling the park beginning December 15, 2023. No rain date.
* 10th Anniversary decals will be ready by annual meeting for member renewals. Chapters will receive decals to give to members that have renewed. Steph will begin online promotions.

**Chapter Reports**

Sunflower – Jo Turner reported a successful fundraiser $5500. Completed removal of lagoon fence and cleared trails, replaced panels and repaired equipment.

Saddle Ridge – Stehanie Huss – Raised $3000 from Murder Mystery Ride, new bathroom is completed, still no pens, trails are in excellent shape, still no grant funds. Hillsdale Best of America Ride is on RFD TV.

Tuttle Creek – Pattie Stalder – Opie Huddleston memorial is in planning phase.

Big Hill – Bill Racy – Creating a memorial for Sally McKinzie, fireplace at shelter, Steph will work on brick donation.

Chisholm Trail – Laura Smyth – Used grant funds for safety equipment, reflective vests, eye protection, ear plugs. Struggling to get attendance at meetings. Looking at amending bylaws to allow for votes for members present rather than 50% of membership.

Eisenhower – $5400 raised from benefit ride, funds will be used to cover fourplex pens in middle of the campground. Dedicated new round pen to Paul Pingleton.

**New Business**

Monthly Newsletter – Most recent newsletter was produced in June. Will begin again in 2024. Steph requested pics and stories from each Chapter on a regular basis.

Recruiting BOD members: We need to find new people to fill positions. BOD officers are asked to begin actively recruiting for 2024 officers.

BOD officers’ duties and descriptions – Steph needs to find what each officer submitted in response to request.

Wyandotte Trails – Steph, Cheryl & Laura will be going to meet with Wyandotte representatives regarding creating a BCHKS Chapter.

2024 Annual mtg. ideas – Date: Jan. 13th at TJ’s Main Street Grill in Overbrook, eat at noon, meeting at 1:00. Steph will work on getting some raffle items. Chery moved to donate $100 to annual meeting promotion, Bill Racy seconded, motion passed.

Annual meeting Agenda item: Vote on whether to extend Sheila’s treasurer position. Treasurer and Vice President will be elected.

BCHA & BCHKS Grants Recap – Laura will report to BCHA on the use of their grant funds. Pattie received two dump carts from BCHKS.

Pattie requested a $100 contribution to the Opie Huddleston memorial at Randolph - Cheryl moved to donate $100 to memorial, Laura seconded, motion passed.

Kyle and Laura Smyth will donate a horse leg lamp as a raffle item for Fill the Campground 2024.

Work horse award - Chapters should submit nominations with a photo by Dec. 15, to Diana [dgskinne85@gmail.com](mailto:dgskinne85@gmail.com). Invitations will be sent to attend the annual meeting where award will be presented.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm