

Big Hill BCHKS chapter meeting

December 6, 2025

New Hope Christian Church, Cherryvale, KS

**Call to Order** - Bill Racy, President, called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. Members signed in. 15 members and 1 guests in attendance.

**Minutes from previous meeting** – Secretary, Jennifer Carnahan

The August 30 2025, meeting minutes presented. Motion made and seconded for approval of the minutes. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Susan Searles

Susan stated that we now have a savings account to separate specific donations for projects from the checking account. The savings account balance is \$2200.00, which includes \$1750.00 from Tim Searles memorial and \$500.00 donation from the Heartland riding group. The checking account balance is \$1714.65, which includes \$108.00 from donations made at the Best of America ride and \$206.75 paid to the Parsons State Training Center for tshirts. Donna is retaining tshirt cash for future transactions. Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

**Vice President Report** – John Scammey – not present

**Old Business**

1. **Projects** – Research partial cover (60 ft.) of the horse pens of the North (Dennis) camp. Bill stated that he has talked to Chris and is researching a custom carport type covering. He will continue to gather information and get bids for the project. Melissa stated that we could possibly get materials donated by area businesses and then erect the carport either by hiring it done or by volunteers.
2. **Best of America by Horseback** – Bill stated that we had 25-30 riders and had good rides and received many positive comments. Del told Bill that it would be 2-4 months before the final video/show is aired. Bill stated that BCHKS donated \$200.00 to help cover food expenses for the weekend.
3. **Chuck's Memorial Ride** - Heather stated that she had 40-50 riders attend and had a good ride. Donations were split between The Bridge Campground and the Big Hill BCHKS chapter. Donna stated that tshirts were available for purchase. Discussion was held regarding this becoming an annual ride and is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend of September 2026.
4. **Trail signs** – Bill stated that he has not yet spoken with Chris.
5. **Purple Heart Trail** – Bill stated that the trail dedication ceremony was held Nov. 8. Good job to Heather and Melissa for boosting attendance and recruiting the Heartland Twisters drill team and flag carriers.

## **New Business**

1. **Board elections** - Bill stated that Jennifer's three-year term, as secretary will end December 31, 2025. Discussion was held that the VP term is up as well per our chapter bylaws. We will nominate and vote for 2026-2027 replacements at our next meeting.
2. **2026 camping fees** - Bill stated that Chris spoke to him about 2026 self-pay coming to the Cherryvale and Dennis equestrian camping areas. It will be a \$10.00 per night and \$5.00 day use fee. There is no charge if we are clearing trails. Chris stated that all fees received will be given to our chapter for trail maintenance expenses or projects.
3. **Endurance ride fees** – Melissa stated that she would ask for \$10 per rider at the next endurance ride. She will give money received to our chapter. Chris has stated in the past that any money raised at rides is to be used for trail maintenance expenses or upcoming improvement projects.
4. **Spring memorial/remembrance ride** – Discussion was held regarding an annual spring ride. Heather stated that she would schedule this. More details to come.

## **Volunteer Hours Report** – Donna Marotta

Donna will send in all 2025 work hours. Please submit any other volunteer hours along with photos of any trail work and workers to Donna. When reporting, remember to include equipment used and travel time. Donna will post on facebook and submit our total hours to Cheryl Thomas, State Volunteer Hours Coordinator. Bill will also report our total volunteer hours to Chris.

The next meeting will be February 8 at 2pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:21pm (motion made, seconded, passed).

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Carnahan, BHCHKS Secretary