

BCHKS Sunflower Chapter Quarterly Meeting
September 2, 2022, 7pm
Perry State Park

Attendance: Tyler Gestl, Rosie Sweeten, Saundra Hiller, Cheryl Thomas, Diana Skinner, Sheila Watkins, Ed & Sue Jarvis, Dewayne & Jo Turner Burgess, Jim Thomas, Charles & Judy Genola, Ed & Melissa Kramer, Bonnie Warner, Wendy Griffin, DeLayna Schooler, Ada Eldridge, Suzy Parthemer (Randolph), Nancy & Jim Poplinger (Saddle Ridge)

Meeting was brought to order by President Tyler Gestl at 7 pm.

Secretary's Report – Minutes were approved as read by Secretary Cheryl Thomas.

Treasurer's Report – Saundra Hiller provided the Treasurer's Report; current balance, \$4,612.75. Approved as read.

Lake Reports –

- **Eisenhower State Park** – Jim Thomas reported that he has filled over several persistently muddy areas with chipped asphalt that had been left over after state park roads were re-paved last year. He has added/extended some trails and continues to add markers and keep downed trees cleared. He and Cheryl are preparing a new trail brochure with map that will be available at the trailheads this fall. ESP's annual benefit ride is October 7-9.
- **Perry** – Dewayne Burgess reported that this past summer has been challenging with hot, humid weather and tractor mechanical problems. Some mowing has been done, and trail clearing is an on-going job. The new day use area, that will provide a parking area between Rocky Top and Thompsonville trails, is nearing completion. The obstacle course has been very popular.
- **Clinton** – Diana Skinner reported that trail users have complained about the rough terrain in some areas that have been a result of people riding the trails when wet. Horses leave deep hoof prints in the mud that dry and result in dangerous holes. Several local people are stepping up to help with Rockhaven trails. Work will continue on reclaiming the lower orange trail that sustained a lot of damage from the 2019 flooding.
- **Pomona** – Cheryl reported on riding the west end of Pomona recently. Several areas are overgrown, and Ken & Susan Johnson could use some help with trail clearing and maintenance. Cheryl suggested scheduling some fall/winter work days at Pomona.

501c3 Status – Sheila Watkins, Saundra Hiller, and John Leighty continue to work toward reinstating the 501c3 status to BCHKS. Current board members discovered that 501c3 annual filing had been overlooked for several years and getting that status reinstated has been a challenge. Sheila recently contacted the Washburn University Center for Small Business Development and was referred to a CPA who specializes in non-profits. He is advising the committee on the best way to move forward.

National Director Report – Diana Skinner, BCHKS National Director, reported that BCHA is interested in hearing how chapters are handling control of invasive species. Diana will forward that information to BCHA Public Lands Chair Randy Rasmussen. A webinar on the issue of e-bikes on public trails will be advertised soon. BCHA is also interested in gathering information on non-stock users in equestrian campgrounds and is asking for reports from Labor Day Weekend. BCHA reports that

only 30% of members open up email blasts and monthly newsletters from the national office. Diana asked members to open those emails when received. Cheryl reported that the September monthly BCHA newsletter should be in everyone's email soon. BCHA is always looking for chapter news for both the monthly newsletter and the larger quarterly newsletters. The summer quarterly newsletter is a mailed hard copy; the other three are emailed due to the cost of printing and mailing the hard copies.

Old Business –

- Both Randolph BCHKS and Clinton Lake (Sunflower BCHKS) received BCHKS grants this spring.
- Diana reminded members to check out the new BCHKS website, bchkansas.com. Let any officers know of anything that should be added to the website.
- Cheryl, BCHKS Volunteer Hours Chair, reminded members of the importance of submitting any and all volunteer work hours. That information gathered and reported annually is a major marketing and promotional tool for BCHKS and BCHA.

New Business –

- BCHKS Chapter Expansion – BCHKS welcomes two new chapters. South-Central Kansas is close to organizing a chapter that will represent the Hutchinson, Newton, Wichita areas. Southeast Kansas is also organizing a chapter for the Big Hill Lake and Elk City Lake areas. South-Central Kansas has added 28 members; Southeast Kansas has added 57 members!
- Membership – BCHKS Treasurer Sheila Watkins reported on current membership of 209. Almost half of those members have taken advantage of the new Trails Advocate membership level that combines BCHKS and Kansas Horse Council memberships.
- National Board Meeting – BCHA celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023, and the National Board Meeting will be held in April in Kalispell, Montana, which is where BCHA was founded. BCHKS encourages the two national directors to attend each year, and BCHKS typically pays the registration cost for both. Diana suggested some fundraising ideas to help finance sending the two BCHKS National Directors to the national board meeting in Kalispell, Montana, in April.
- 2023 Dues – Sheila reminded members that 2023 dues are due January 1-March 31. Any new members joining after October 1, will become members for 2023. BCHKS members paying by January 1 will receive a BCHKS tote bag.
- Nominating Committee – Current BCHKS and Sunflower officers would welcome some new faces and ideas to these boards. It's a great leadership team to be part of! Diana thanked Tyler for accepting the position as Sunflower president this year.
- Jo Turner invited members to the Best of America by Horseback event at Perry State Park next weekend. BCHKS is providing the Saturday evening meal.
- Perry State Park invited members to attend the Moonlight Ride & Chili/Pie Supper, October 1. The flyer is available at Let's Ride – Perry Lake.
- Jim invited members to attend the Eisenhower State Park Benefit Ride, October 7-9.
- Cheryl added that there are several weekend rides and events this fall; information can be found at kansashorsecouncil.com, Events.

Next Sunflower Chapter meeting – Friday, October 7, 6pm, Eisenhower State Park. Stick around for the potluck supper to follow.