



NEWSLETTER

MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP OUTREACH PROGRAM

Michigan Equine Partnership has recently announced the creation of an Outreach Program to extend its voice across the entire State of Michigan. With this new program, we will be able to reach every corner of every county in order to champion the causes of the equine industry. Every member has the opportunity to get involved and tell their local community about Michigan Equine Partnership and the great things we're doing together.

7 Regions

7 Regional leaders

Leaders will assist in establishing county ambassadors for each county in their region, communicate with MEP's headquarters, and coordinate with County Ambassadors and the Speakers Bureau to attend events and activities in the area.

83 Counties

83 County Ambassadors

County Ambassadors have a keen sense of equine related activities and events in their county. Ambassadors will work with their Regional Leader and Speakers Bureau members to coordinate MEP appearances and speaking engagements and appropriate events.

MEP's Speaker's Bureau is a consortium of MEP members trained and provided tools to make presentations in any corner of any county in any type of location to share with folks the importance of the Michigan Equine Industry. Whether making a presentation to the senior citizens luncheon, the local Lions Club, a school animal science class, the 4-H clubs, morning Kiwanis or the FFA, our members will be knowledgeable, trained and professional to greet folks across the entire state. Each trained member will receive a powerpoint presentation, brochures, talking points (statistics and general information), a DVD of the Michigan Equine Industry, and a display board with visual highlights of the industry. Training Sessions will be held in each region beginning in September of 2006.

Grant Program

Provide a grant program of \$300 per region. An Application format for any equine organization to complete and scored on a pre-determined criteria. Seven grants will be awarded annually.



The Outreach Program consists of seven regional districts with 83 county ambassadors.

Mission:

Through an energized, broad based, grassroots coalition representing all facets of the equine industry, the Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) is committed to increasing the public awareness and support, influencing public policy to strengthen the industry, and heightening recognition of the economic opportunities and value of the Michigan equine industry.

Vision:

A leader, partner, and the voice of the Michigan equine industry.

Philosophy:

Provide leadership through commitment, empowerment and accountability. Build partnerships with respect, trust, cooperation and respond to the needs of the equine industry with information, assessment, innovation, communication and coordination of services.

Value:

A proud non-profit organization of advocacy through integrity, collaboration and member driven cooperative spirit.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

When: Tuesday, May 30
Where: Michigan Equine Partnership Office
 235 North Pine Street
 Lansing, MI
 517-372-1500

What: Finance Committee 6:00 p.m.
 Outreach Committee 6:30 p.m.
 Legislative Committee 7:30 p.m.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

- * C.A.N.T.E.R.
- * Equine World Insurance
- * Int'l Draft Horse Association
- * M.T.O.B.A.
- * Campbell Farms
- Jerry & Lisa Campbell
- * Tom Cole
- * Larry Julian
- * Mast Thoroughbreds
- Henry Mast
- * Val Vail-Shirey
- * Horsemen's Benevolent & Protection Association
- * Great Lakes Downs, Muskegon

BOARD MEMBERS

- * Kim Fricke
President
- * Aaron Rice
Vice-President
- * Ronald Hitzler Jr.
Treasurer
- * Claudia Cary
Secretary
- * Carrie Barr
- * Dr. John Shelle
- * Rick McCune
- * Dale Zahn
- * Ernie Birchmeier
- * Patricia Hooker
- * Karen Waite
- * Dan Rakieten
- * Tom Tyler
- * Hank Vaupel
- * Margie Henley
- * Crystal Serra
- * Sallie Cosgrove

OUR FIRST ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER WAS A SUCCESS!

The annual meeting of Michigan Equine Partnership was held on Sunday April 30th at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. The membership approved the by-laws and elected the Board of Directors for 2006-2007. The board of directors elected is Carrie Barr, Dr. John Shelle, Ernie Birchmeier, Hank Vaupel, Patricia Hooker, Dale Zahn, Margie Henley, Sallie Cosgrove, Crystal Serra, Dan Rakieten, Tom Tyler, Karen Waite and Rick McCune with officers Kim Fricke - President, Aaron Rice - Vice President, Ronald Hitzler Jr. - Treasurer and Claudia Cary - Secretary. We were honored to have State Representatives Joe Hune and Neal Nitz administer the oath of office to our Board and Officers.



State Representatives Joe Hune and Neal Nitz administer the oaths of office to the newly elected MEP officials.

The annual meeting was followed by dinner and a live auction. Keynote speaker, Doug Darling, Chairman of the Michigan Agriculture Commission talked about the value of the equine industry and how the support is there for issues that affect all in the industry. Mr. Darling commented about the intensity and dedication of the membership and how the organization is needed to further the cause.



MEP members do some reading and relaxing as they enjoy the festivities at the annual meeting and dinner.

Music was provided by "Three Outlaws and a Good Guy" and Doyle Dingman entertained the crowd as auctioneer.

The Board held a meeting following the general membership meeting and approved the formation of a Political Action Committee, Michigan Equine PAC. The PAC is accepting personal checks for the purpose of participating in the 2006 statewide elections. MEPAC will be sending questionnaires out to all candidates to determine their positions and then notify the membership of their responses and positions. All of this activity takes funds, therefore, members and interested parties are encouraged to send contributions, in any amount, to the MEPAC office. Please make checks payable to Michigan Equine PAC. No corporate checks. Not tax deductible.

Michigan Equine Partnership has accomplished their goals established in April of 2005 and focused on a productive 2006 with the launching of the Outreach Program. These things are all possible with the participation of members and the partners we have formed.

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Michigan Equine Partnership participates in Agriculture Day at the Capitol sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau, Representative Farhat and Representative Hildebrand. Executive Director's Val Vail-Shirey and Larry Julian greeted legislators, their staff, and interested folks, sharing information and distributing materials on Michigan Equine. Thanks to MEP member Paula Hitzler for volunteering.



MAST THOROUGHBREDS

Congratulations to Michigan Equine Partnership Founding Member **Henry Mast** on the completion of his new thoroughbred stable - Mast Thoroughbreds. Henry is a very supportive member and contributor to the mission of Michigan Equine Partnership. Best Wishes to the Mast family and we appreciate your dedication to the entire industry!



OUR MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING...COME SEE WHY!

MEP membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the equine industry, whether directly or indirectly.

MEP has memberships from Student-\$5.00, to Single-\$25.00, to Family-\$50.00 and also Gold, Silver, and Bronze memberships to individual and corporate partnerships.

Members receive all newsletters, press releases, legislative updates, and notification of current issues.

MEP also has great member benefits:

- **Equine Times** - MEP members can subscribe to the Equine Times for \$8.50 annually (Non-Member rate is \$17).
- **Custom Embroidery Plus** - Custom Embroidery products are available on-line with the MEP logo and option of your farm, organization or club name. Stall and table drapes are also available for your club or organization. Many other items are also available. With every purchase, Custom Embroidery Plus will donate 10% to Michigan Equine Partnership in your name. You can visit them on-line or call Linda Curtis @ 989.227.9338 or 989.224.6342.
- **Equine World Insurance** - MEP Group Insurance Program - Special Savings for Michigan Equine Partnership Members. Members are now eligible for a 10% discount on their personal insurance written with Auto-Owners. Please contact program administrator Kristine Reed at Equine World Insurance toll free at 866.954.0555 or www.equineworldins.com. If you are a current Auto-Owners customer you may call your Auto-Owner's agent for this



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Michigan Equine Partnership Members,

The Michigan Equine Partnership, MEP, has experienced tremendous success since its beginnings in April of 2005 thanks to the vigorous focus and work accomplished by the first board of directors and our Executive Directors, Val Vail-Shirey and Larry Julian. It is very exciting to be involved with such a great group of people focused on "increasing the public awareness and support, influencing public policy to strengthen the industry, and heightening recognition of the economic opportunities and value of the Michigan equine industry".

Michigan Equine Partnership, MSU researchers, and other Michigan equine groups are focused on the realization of an equine survey. The survey will provide the data to identify the economic impact of equine in Michigan. MEP also awaits notification of award for a grant application for a feasibility study for a World Class Equine Park (facility) to be located in Michigan. Stay tuned!

In September MEP will launch its Outreach Program. The Outreach Program will take MEP to every corner of Michigan! This will consist of seven regions across the state with region directors and 83 county ambassadors, one for each county. These folks will have their finger on the pulse of equine activities, programs and participants and assist our Speakers Bureau in speaking engagements in every venue across Michigan. This is an awesome grass roots program that will educate the general public on Michigan's Equine Industry and showcase the level of economic impact this industry has in the state. If you would like to serve in this program, please contact the Michigan Equine Partnership office at 517-372-1500.

Committees are now in full action and we need member participation! If you are interested in serving please contact me. I can be reached at 734-604-5116 or by email at kfricke@equineworldins.com or call the MEP office at (517) 372-1500.

Yours truly,

Kim Fricke
MEP President



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Does your organization have events you would like posted in our publications and website? Please submit the event, date, times, and contact information to val@miequine.com.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

- Thank you to the McMaster family for the 6 line phone donation to MEP. Your support is greatly appreciated!
- Please keep the Rakieten Family in your prayers. Shana Rakieten (8 yrs old) is in critical condition and undergoing medical treatment. The Rakieten's manage the Jackson Harness Track, serve on the MEP board of directors and chair of the membership committee.





JUNE NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

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If you, your farm, organization, club or business would like to sponsor a newsletter, please contact Val at 517.372.1500.

Michigan Equine Partnership
235 North Pine Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933