

SPOKES AND SPURS NEWSLETTER



Election Time!

It is time for Spokes and Spurs elections of officers. Since Jennifer Harber, Secretary and Hugh Bellis-Jones, Treasurer have only served a year, they have agreed to stay on in their capacities.

We now must elect a new President and Vice-President. We normally do this at our annual meeting which was scheduled for December 8th. Due to the pandemic, we have cancelled the annual meeting, dinner, and silent auction for 2020. Jennifer Harber is working to create a way that we may vote on-line. You will be notified soon how to vote.

In the meantime, we are still accepting any nominations for these offices. Just make sure you contact the person you are nominating to see if they will accept your nomination. You may do this by sending your nominations to: spokesandspursky@gmail.com

As of the date of this publication, there are two nominations. David Gaston, current President has nominated Ann Katona, our current Vice-President for the office of President. Ann Katona has nominated Christy May for the office of Vice-President.

Halloween Drive at Shaker Village

Responses to the Halloween Drive at Shaker Village on were very positive. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had an effect on attendance. Pam and I were really looking forward to this occasion since other events had been cancelled due to the pandemic. In our case, we missed the drive because I contracted the virus. My case was fairly mild, I have totally recovered, and am out of quarantine. I moved into the back bedroom and bath to stay away from Pam and even though she was required to quarantine, she did not become ill and tested negative.

I want to thank Linda Freeman who took the lead and guided drivers and riders through the many beautiful trails. We went back and forth for a while as the weather forecast kept changing. We finally settled on Saturday afternoon, October 27. The weather cooperated for everyone to have a lovely time.



Janet Eaton with her daughter, Katie Cooper.

Now that's the spirit!

Thorsten Zarembowicz Clinics

All of the clinics have taken place at Coach House Farm, 2027 Clintonville Road, Paris, Kentucky. Lessons are \$100 for 45 minutes. The final clinic for 2020 is November 5, 6, and 7. There were so many requests for lessons, an additional day had to be added. The lesson times are all full, but all are invited to come out and audit the lessons. The only requirement is auditors must wear a mask. If you desire to have a lesson or two at these clinics in the future, you will need to go to our website: spokesandspurs.com Katie Whaley has already begun working with Thorsten to schedule dates for clinics for 2021. The schedule will be coming soon!

A Request to Lend a Hand

Our current Vice-President, Ann Katona, is requesting some help from Spokes and Spurs members. She is having LRTI surgery (remove the trapezium bone at the base of her thumb) December 3rd. This means she cannot clean stalls for approximately 8 weeks! Her horses are out most of the time, but in when it is rainy. She has four stalls and a manure spreader. Her husband, Ivan, is able to get the horses in and feed them, but is unable (or shouldn't be) twisting or lifting. Ivan and Ann live near Berry, Kentucky in Harris County. If you can offer some assistance, please contact us at: spokesandspursky@gmail.com

A Message from the President of Spokes and Spurs

As I enter the end of my term as your President, I wish to thank all of you for your wonderful support of myself and our Executive Officers. If you may remember, I stated that I had two main goals as your President: 1) Increase membership involvement in a number of activities/events 2) Make communications more often and clearer which in turn would benefit the first goal.

In reflection, we have mostly met those goals. During my time of service, we had to endure several obstacles. Chiefly, the obstacles were finding places for activities, my wife Pam's diagnosis of a sarcoma, and as everyone well knows, the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the beginning of Pam's diagnosis, we sought treatment at M.D. Anderson Sarcoma Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The first prognosis looked as if we would have to stay in Houston for up to six months. Thank goodness, through wonderful treatment and testing, we left Kentucky in April and returned home in June. We returned to Houston for final surgery in early July. Pam has continued to have clear scans now for over a year! In the meantime, our great Executive Officers carried on with our planned schedule of activities which had great attendance and support by the membership. We finished 2019 with a super pot-luck dinner and silent auction at the Carriage Association offices at the Kentucky Horse Park. We were able to thank Summer Frost for serving in 2019 as our Treasurer as she needed more time to work at her business. We welcomed Jennifer Harber as our new secretary, Hugh Bellis-Jones as treasurer, and Cathy Courtemanche as our board member at-large.

We began 2020 with great anticipation. We opened with our budget in great shape and planned an ambitious schedule for the year with activities and events for every month of the year. In January we had educational meetings with clinics presented by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Sports Medicine from the University of Kentucky and in February, we toured Rood and Riddle Equine Veterinary Center. Then the pandemic brought things to a screeching halt. Developing and using COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to return in June with a tremendous open driving and riding day at Hillcroft Farm. Summer activities included a fun driving/riding/lesson day at Walkyrie's Haven and a mini-CDE and a derby both at Coach House Farm. We had a tremendous gift come our way throughout the entire year with clinics by Thorsten Zarembowicz, a world champion driver and former USEF Coach, at Coach House Farm, with a rainy day using the in door arena at Charlotte Creek Farm. Even with the tremendous problems thrown our way, we managed to persevere.

Using Facebook, the Spokes and Spurs Newsletters, email, and the expert work on our website by Jack Goodman, we improved our club communications. We have re-established connections with Driving Digest where you will see future news and events about our club. Dates of activities and information about the club will continue to be published by the CAA. Through communication it has helped us to have increased attendance and achieve our current membership of over 120 members.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Executive Board members, Ann Katona, Summer Frost, Jennifer Harber, Hugh Bellis-Jones, and Cathy Courtemanche. I would be remiss in not extending our wonderful gratitude to property owners that opened their farms for our activities and events: Tom and Fonda Eigel, Riverfront Farm, Cynthiana; Leslie Berndt, Whispering Oaks, Lexington; Kate and Katie Whaley, Coach House Farm, Paris; Judd and Chris Roseberry, Charlotte's Creek Farm, Georgetown; Wanda Backscheider, Batavia, Ohio; Jim and Leslye Sandburg, Walkyrie's Haven, Paris; and James and Misdee Miller, Hillcroft Farm, Paris. The members that chipped in, volunteered, and worked so hard to help make everything possible were numerous and I extend my heartfelt thanks.

Coming Activities and Events for 2021

All dates will need to be approved and/or posted later:

Thorsten Zarembowicz Clinics will continue throughout 2021!

Charlotte's Creek Farm in Georgetown will offer open schooling days:

May 16, July 24, November 6, 2021!

All of the above dates and details can be subject to change, mainly due to weather! In the event of changes, we will notify the membership as soon as possible through email, Facebook, and our Website.

Find us on-line at www.spokesandspurs.com