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## Hunters Valley Association Minutes of the Annual Meeting February 22, 2010

**1. Call to Order:** 2009 President Sam Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**2. Attendance:** Sam Wheeler - 10505 Wickens Road  
David & Mary Ann Young - 10519 Walter Thompson Drive  
Richard Altman - 2226 Halcyon Lane  
John Burgess - 10504 Walter Thompson Drive  
Bill Lightfoot - 2237 Hunter Mill Road  
Tom & Diane Helbing - 2416 Sunny Meadow Lane  
Linda Byrne – HVA non-resident member and Speaker  
Beverly Dickerson – HVA non-resident member and HVRC Liaison  
Beth & Ron Holt - 10505 Hunters Valley Road  
Debby & Bret Busse - 10512 Walter Thompson Drive  
Angele Gilroy - 10504 William Terry Drive  
Jennifer Laughlin - 105611 Walter Thompson Drive  
Judy Beattie - 2414 Little Fox Lane  
Johnny Wilson - 10614 Hunters Valley Road  
Nancy Rice - 2217 Halcyon Lane  
Walt Schlie – 2190 Hunter Mill Road  
Jill Campbell – 10420 Hunters Valley Road

**3. Proxies:** Cheryl Schmauss, Steve Symansky, Bill Lightfoot, Tom & Ann Brownell, Jennifer Laughlin, Marilyn Copans, Debby Busse, Lolly Burke, Elise Abt, Jim Burgess, Dr. Lauve Steenhuisen, Julie Sobelman, Michelle Rimel, Beth Holt, Diane Helbing, Rainer Altman, Ashley Lowrey, Amy & Bob Allen, Laura Adame , Jean Myrah.

Overall there were 20 votes from proxies and 15 votes from resident attendees; however, some were duplicates, so there were a total of 27 resident member votes.

**4. Minutes:** Minutes from Annual Meeting on 1/14/09 were approved.  
Minutes from Special Meeting on 2/26/09 were approved.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Sam Wheeler provided highlights of the report. He stated that the HVA began the year 2009 with \$6,782 and ended the year with \$6,250. In 2009 we had 150 paying members (72 HVA and 78 HVRC) providing us with \$4,620. This is a drop from 2008 when we had 185 paying family units (89 HVA and 96 HVRC). We spent \$863 on the Summer Picnic, \$601 on the Halloween Party and \$569 on the Holiday Party (\$1,680 of income from tickets from 42 attendees less \$2,249 in costs). Other major expenditures for the year were \$247 for liability insurance, \$540 for web-

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site development and \$200 to fix the trailer used for the hay rides at the Halloween party. The report was approved.

**6. Membership and Annual Dues:** This year we have 61 members to date who have paid versus a total of 150 last year. We need to encourage members to pay their dues soon. There were comments made on how to generate more interest in joining and there was speculation as to the reasons for current lack of interest. This was quickly ended with a promise to discuss this further at future Board meetings.

**7. Election of the Board:** This year we nominated Co-Presidents. Having two people share the presidency is something that we have done in the past, but not recently. In selecting the new Board members, the Nominating Committee tried to involve some new members along with more experienced ones. The following slate was elected by acclamation; there were no dissenting votes:

Judy Beattie and Johnny Wilson - Co-Presidents  
Debby Busse - Vice President  
Sam Wheeler - Treasurer  
Nancy Rice – Secretary

At Large Members: Lolly Burke, Jill Campbell, Fred Dooley, Sheila Dunheimer, Angele Gilroy, Diane Helbing, Beth Holt, Jennifer Laughlin, Walt Schlie, Vince Sabio, Julie Sobelman, Beverly Dickerson – non-voting liaison to HVRC

## **8. Old Business:**

Summer Picnic: The Picnic was well attended and a big success. There was an excellent riding demonstration by Laura Roberts this year; pony rides provided by Shelly Young and kids games provided by Jennifer Laughlin and Sheila Dunheimer. By eliminating the “moon bounce” and replacing it with these more popular activities, the HVA saved \$575. The new location, on Hunters Valley Road next to the dressage riding ring, has caught on and seems to work well for this event. Debby Busse suggested that we might want to think about having a barbecue contest next year.

Halloween Party: This party was extremely successful this year but we need to spread the work around as only a few help out. Also, we need to be better about outreach to the wider community as most of the attendees are from the area closest to the dressage ring. We didn't have the party on Halloween itself this year for the first time and feel that this decision enhanced attendance. Special thanks go to Carl Carter for making this past year's party so successful. Carl set up and managed the bonfire and provided the hay rides. It was also noted that the tractor used for the hay rides is owned by long time HVA member Walt Schlie. Walt has donated this tractor to the HVA for HVA activities and has agreed to let us store it on his property.

Holiday Party: Although the attendees commented that they had a wonderful time, this event is not well attended by the membership; so we may want to try something

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different next year. In 2009 we had 42 paying guests many of whom were not members, but were rather guests of members. We were glad to have those guests but it means that there were very few actual members attending. This attendance of 42 is a drop from the 58 attendees in 2008. A few ideas were offered but nothing was decided. It was agreed that we would pursue this further at future board meetings. Debby Busse and Bill Lightfoot volunteered to be on the committee for the event this year. Special thanks to Johnny Wilson for his help in making last year's event a success. Johnny has also been instrumental in the success of all HVA events this year as well as in the past.

Traffic Calming Update: There has not been a lot of cooperation from VDOT because there is not enough traffic for them to justify making any changes for us to slow traffic along Hunters Valley Road. In addition, there is not much energy from the community on this issue. Beverly Dickerson suggested possibly putting in crosswalks to slow people down. This project is tabled for now.

Insurance and Liability Issues: The achievements of the HVA and HVRC boards in the last two years have positioned us well for the future protection of the community. In addition, the annual cost to the HVA of insurance has dropped from \$729 to \$247 as result of favorable negotiations between the HVRC and the owner of the jumping ring property at 10856 Flowerstone Street.

## **9. New Business:**

HVA web-site ([www.hva-va.org](http://www.hva-va.org)): It was noted that Steve Symansky did a great job with the designer and the website looks very professional. It was suggested that we try to get the word out about the site and the resources that it can provide. Google Message Board is up and it is a great venue for sharing on various topics of interest to the community. It was noted that Vince Sabio, new HVA Board member, hosts the HVA/HVRC web-site and the email system at his home. His help during the recent snow storms was critical in getting messages out to everyone.

## Weather Emergencies:

- Power outages/trees down: Because of the numerous power outages in the community, it was suggested that we talk with the electric company about the cost of installing underground wiring. HVA member Rich Altman said that he had heard anecdotally that the cost of underground wiring is very expensive. This issue will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.
- Snow plowing: We have developed a list of contractors for the community. Homeowners can band together and use one or a few contractors to negotiate special rates. Posting of these contractors and coordinating with one another is a good use for the website and the forum. There was mention of and enthusiasm for seeing many neighbors helping each other out during these recent storms.
- Emergency Planning: Concern was noted for those neighbors who might need special assistance in dealing with weather emergencies; and these people should be accounted for and helped during storms. This topic will be taken up at

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future Board meetings. In addition, the Board will establish a Committee for Emergency Planning.

Directories: The 2009 edition has been mostly delivered to members and the Board will undertake to complete this task. The 2010 version should be available at the time of the June Picnic. Sam thanked David and Mary Ann Young, owners of Allegra Print and Imaging in Tyson's Corner for printing out the HVA directory for the last two years, free of charge to the association.

HVA Property/Dressage Ring: A drainage problem was reported near the dressage ring. The area where the old swimming pool is buried gets very muddy. It was suggested that additional soil be brought in to fix the problem. In addition, the gazebo needs to be cleaned and sealed. The Board agreed to develop a plan and schedule a workday.

## **10. Hunter Mill Community Update from Linda Byrne:**

- Linda noted that The Unity Church has a "green" roof and they would like to encourage the "greening" of Oakton.
- Linda reported that the Friends of the Oakton Library ("FOOLS") holds book and art sales. Information can be obtained by contacting the library.
- Linda reported that 22 acres next to the Hunter Mill Golf/Driving Range were sold to a Catholic Girls' School (Oakrest School). She said that if the plan that was submitted is approved, traffic will be a major concern. Therefore, the Hunter Mill Defense League ("HMDL") has requested that the special exception request for alternative use of that property by Oakrest School be denied. The request to build the school is in contravention of the County Comprehensive Plan which provides for this property to be used for low density housing. It will take some work and dedication to block the school's request. Interested parties can protest by sending an email to ([plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov)).
- Linda reported that the Zoroastrian property development plan has been reactivated. Interested parties can contact Cathy Hudgins' office. This property is next to the Church of the Good Shepherd on Hunter Mill Road.
- A roundabout at the Oakton end of Hunter Mill Road in front of the county park has been approved.

## **11. Hunters Valley Riding Club ("HVRC") Update, Beverly Dickerson:**

- Beverly reported that the "Funday" activities were very successful and well attended. Funday is a series of riding activities for mostly young riders in the community. They are held in the dressage ring on the HVA property on Hunters Valley Road. The HVRC welcomes spectators and participants from anywhere in the community.
- The Breakfast Ride was also lots of fun and well attended. This event takes place at the Fairfax Hunt Club and is for all HVA and HVRC members. Beverly

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emphasized that you don't have to ride to come and meet your neighbors and enjoy a delicious breakfast courtesy of the HVRC.

- The Christmas Caroling Event was cancelled due to inclement weather, so we will have to try again next year.
- The trails have taken a lot of damage from the snowstorms, but the HVRC will be organizing work parties soon. Trail damage should be reported to Beverly Dickerson.
- Fairfax 4 Horses: Annual Meeting 2/28/2010, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

**12. Next Board Meeting:** Judy Beattie said that at some point in the future she would like to begin holding Board Meetings at the Gabrielson house at 2514 Leeds Road, if it is available. Some members voiced drawbacks in meeting there including the parking situation and the temperature control in the basement where the meeting room is located. The Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. All HVA members are welcome to attend. The next Board meeting will be Monday, March 22nd at Johnny Wilson's house, 10614 Hunters Valley Road .

**13. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.