



Gypsy Horse Association

In August 2008, the Gypsy Horse Association celebrates its six-month anniversary. The GHA's charter is based on service to its membership as well as to the Gypsy Horse breed. Specifically, the GHA was created to support and aid its members, to promote the Gypsy Horse by whatever name it is known, and to be a steward of the GH's genetic and pedigree information. The GHA's activities in its

first six months, including writing and adopting bylaws, election of officers and Board members, and implementation of a truly automated registration process, have given it a firm foundation to undertake its charter in the years to come.

The GHA's initial Board was made up of four directors who also acted as officers. Since the aim of this founding Board was to include the GHA's membership in the running of the organization as soon as was practical, the Articles of Incorporation directed that election of officers and three new Board of Director's seats be held when the GHA reached thirty members.

The GHA grew to thirty within its first two months of existence and then went on to reach fifty-two members within two more months. The election went off as scheduled, leaving the GHA with a full complement of officers and seven BOD members.

Election of the officers by the membership is rare in associations such as the GHA; in most cases, the Board of Directors appoints all officers. However, the founding BOD felt that having the officers of the GHA as well as its

directors elected by the membership would give the membership greater control over the running of the organization. To further limit the influence of a BOD or a set of officers, term limits were written into the bylaws for all officer and director positions.

With its bylaws, officers, directors, and registration process in place, the GHA is ready to begin the tasks for which it was founded. With the rapidly growing popularity of the Gypsy Horse, we expect the GHA's future to be a bright one.

We'd like to close with special thanks to some

who have made significant contributions. First and foremost are our members, who, as of June 2008, are drawn from all regions of the United States and beyond. By geographical region, the forty-nine American members are distributed as follows: 18 from the West, 15 from the South, 10 from the Midwest, and 6 from the Northeast. The GHA is honored to have three international members – two from Great Britain and one from Australia. We wish to thank all for their support and confidence in this fledgling organization.

Very special thanks go to one member who, because of her background in organizational design, was well equipped to guide GHA through the procedural and philosophical mazes needed to get it where it is today. This individual is Terry Marshall, who drafted the GHA's Articles of Incorporation, made many helpful suggestions for the bylaws, prepared and submitted the GHA's filing for its 501(c)5 status, and supervised the development of GHA's automated registration process. Terry's help in getting the GHA off the ground has been invaluable. With GHA well established, Terry is turning her considerable talents to DNA research, especially attempting to reconstruct the DNA of some of the great deceased sires such as His Majesty the King and Sid's Good Stallion (aka Jim's Good Stallion).

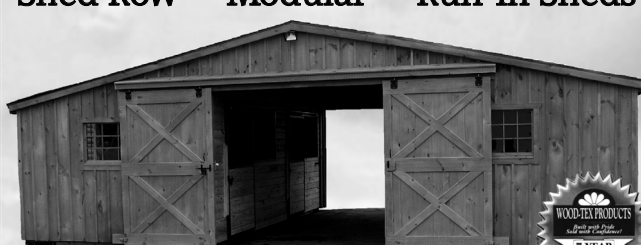


Many other members have made and continue to make significant contributions. Drawing on much research, Ella Cummings drafted the GHA's bylaws. Linda Dennis (Member #1) got GHA on the Internet with its initial, temporary website. In addition to designing the GHA's new logo, Elizabeth Sescilla volunteered to be web master; she designed and is maintaining the permanent site. Many others, including but not limited to Allison Alvino, Claudette Griffith, and Gretchen Stribling, have made too many contributions to be noted here. All are much appreciated.

The GHA has been and will continue to be a team effort. It also seeks to collaborate with the other Gypsy breed associations, especially in the areas of pedigree and DNA preservation and verification. If you would like to find out more about GHA, please see our website at www.gypsyhorseassociation.org.

Submitted by Mary Graybeal

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