

Darke County Horse Committee Minutes
August 6, 2026 at 6:30 at the (Bleaches) Fairgrounds

Members present:

Buckeye Buckaroos: Angie Bender
Greenville Rangers: Jessica Post, Brandi Hamm
Horse & Rider: Izzy Rausch, Kelly Smith
Silver Hoofs: Mary Neill
Tails & Trails: Madison Werner
Jr Fair board: Allison Pierron

Other: Shay Ann Auten, Sophia and Natasacha Hemmerlgarn

Meeting was called to order by President, Angie Bender

Secretary Report: Minutes from July's meeting were submitted via email by Shay Ann Auten. Mary Neill moved to approve the report, and Izzy Rausch seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: the report was submitted by Brandi Hamm to Angie Bender

	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
GNB checking	\$9808.58	\$8069.96
GNB savings	\$1513.06	\$1513.06

There was one outstanding check

Mary Neill moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Jessica Post seconded. Motion passed.

Sr. Fair Board: Recap

1. Russ had Angie lock 3 of the gates so the racehorses couldn't be turned out in the arena. The key is locked in the shed. Everyone should have a new key to the shed
2. The play area was getting cleaned up
3. They're working on cleaning the sawdust from the mounted shooting
4. They're working on catching the groundhog in stall 239 and filling in the hole and spraying around the barns.
5. Angie asked that after stall picks at the end of the meeting, that she would like the advisors to take a look at their stalls and let Angie know if there are any issue so that only 1 person (Angie) is contacting them to address the issues. Give her the stall number and what needs fixed.

Jr. Fair Board:

Kelly asked to clarify who was presently on the Jr. Fair Board and what spots would be opening up for the coming term. Presently there was Ty Isreal, Allison Pierron, Glori Mae Rausch, and Micah Arbogast. At the end of this term Micah and Glori will still be going into their 2nd term with one spot opening up. There were two 4h members who applied for the spot.

Jr. Fair Coordinator:

We did get one scholarship application. We generally award them \$500. Angie asked for a vote on continuing to give the applicant a check for that amount. Brandi Hamm made a motion and Mary seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

1. Mackenzie is booked for Showman of Showman along with Team Tournament and Generation Gap.
2. Shay Ann is going to be taking over Skillathon. Angie said she would help and Madison said she would get the kit together to pass on. She also said she would help where needed.

New Business:

1. Angie has the "Senior Recognition" sheets available for those that graduate this summer.
2. She also has the rules and expectations for the mandatory meeting from last year which were passed out for everyone to look over and see if we need to make any changes for this year's meeting. The meeting is on Wednesday 19th at 6:00. Kelly recommended the Jr. Fair Board highlight the areas that needed addressed because reading it word for word wasn't keeping their attention. Allison was going to highlight the main points to present at the meeting. After everyone looks it over if there are any additions or corrections please email Angie so she can make those changes before they're printed.
3. We are still looking for Ring Master's for Saturday PM, Monday PM, and Tuesday PM. If we don't find anyone, the clubs that are on duty during those times will have supply someone for that job. Natasacha volunteered to work the Gate Duty for Tuesday 9:00 to 3:00.
4. Angie asked Madison to let her know the skillathon winners when she had them done. Madison had half of them scored and would then let her know when she got them finished.
5. Advisor's meeting will be following right after the mandatory meeting.
6. Sawdust will be delivered on the 18th. (arriving in 2 loads)
7. Shay Ann passed out the individual class sheets for each kid along with stall cards to each club.
8. Advisor packages are ready to be picked up at the other end of the fairgrounds for your club.

Above and Beyond Buckets:

Allison reported that she had little to no luck finding sponsors or donations for the buckets. She was able to get 3 companies to donate 5 gift cards each for the buckets. Madison knew someone that had previously donated for the buckles and may be willing to donate. Allison clarified that she was looking for either money to purchase items or products to put in them. Madison also recommended that she reach out to the Sr. Fair Board members as well. (Kacey Stollar) Angie also said would reach out to Eppco. I (Shay Ann) mentioned that I already purchased some items to go towards the buckets. It was agreed that the 5 buckets should all be the same. Angie suggested that each club donate \$50 towards a bucket if possible. If a club wanted to raise the \$50 that was fine as well. Patrick mentioned he could donate 5 Magna Wave gift certificates. Mary recommended Allison make a list of things she would like and get with Shay Ann and see what (I) had. Everyone agreed on keeping the items in the bucket at \$50. Kelly said she would supply snacks.

Champion/Reserve: Possibly 30 classes

They're also looking for at least 60 prizes. Natasasha had stuff to donate for the kids to pick from. Angie was going to talk to Kobe and see what we could get donated or pick things up at cost.

Horse Camp:

Kelly asked if Allison had thoughts/suggestions for camp. She mentioned that several people mentioned that they liked being able to pick their own classes. Kelly expressed how that was a logistical issue for 40+ kids in only 3 rings and then having to supply 12 instructors at the same time. It was mentioned that all the original classes (such as contesting classes) are all still offered each day but that we have them rotate from one ring to the other so that were able to divide them up into riding levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and keep the rings down to maybe less than 10 in a class instead of 30 trying to be in one class and all different levels. Allison mentioned that they liked the clothes pin craft and thought the kids wanted more free ride time to ride around. It was mentioned that it was offered last year and none of the kids took advantage of it. By the end of the day both the kids and horses were tired, but it was offered. Kelly mentioned if she knew anyone that was unhappy that she would invite them to discuss the issues. Overall, she thought this year was very productive with the instructors and the classes that were offered as well as how camp is laid out. Allison also mentioned desensitizing with objects, and it was noted that they do get a chance to work with Jesse on desensitizing on the first day of camp. It was also mentioned that many of the popular classes such as contesting are offered daily and we have fun show classes (ex: egg and spoon) at the end of the week. Unfortunately, not everyone is going to be happy, however we do want to try to provide as much variety as possible for kids to learn and try new things as well. It was mentioned that we could provide a suggestion box to discuss camp and other areas that could be improved upon. In the end Kelly mentioned that she loves input and welcomes the chance to talk to anyone who has ideas.

Additional:

Allison mentioned that she felt a suggestion box would be a great idea even for fair. She also noticed last year that there are moments when she saw areas that needed improved on. As an example, there were several young ones that struggled at fair being able to saddle and get ready for their classes because their parents weren't around and thought some of the older kids should be helping them. It was mentioned that this is something that needs to be brought to an advisor. But if there were things that needed addressed or an idea where we could improve on, to write it down and bring it to the committee. Angie said she was going to look into getting a suggestion box.

Angie asked if the Jr. Fair Board was having the "Pie in the Face" and if so they would need 4 people. Angie is going to bring the box down. Those who would be good candidates would be fair board members or those running.

The Meeting Concluded:

Brandi Hamm moved to adjourn, and Jessica Post seconded.

Next Meeting September 10thth at 6:30

Submitted by Secretary
Shay Ann Auten

