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Dear Member(s) AND Friend(s) of the Huntingdon Horsemen,

First, and foremost, ***MANY, MANY, MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY DURING THE PAST SHOW SEASON and at the banquet! 3 dozen women and girls got roses in appreciation of their help, and 2 dozen men and boys got tape measures for the same reason! That's a big increase over last year! Then, some things were done differently at the banquet and those changes made it more interesting and – according to my reporting sources – more fun! Hope you saw the photograph and the big write-up in Huntingdon's Daily News paper! Mark your calendar right now for Saturday, October 6, as the date of the 2012 YEAR-END-AWARDS banquet, at the Smithfield Fire Hall, located at 10 Firehouse Lane, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. 108 people attended last year, and we'd like to see more this year!***

WE NEED MORE SPONSORS FOR 2012 TOO --- still \$50 for a whole CLASS or \$30 for a Grand or \$20 for a Reserve champion trophy. Checks should be made payable to the Huntingdon Horsemen and mailed to me at the above address. Your name will appear in the banquet program and be engraved on the troph(y)(ies) awarded at the banquet, if the winner(s) get those; if they choose cash, your name will still appear in the program.

Second, and very important, since more and more people have – and use – computers and the Internet, the Huntingdon Horsemen club is trying to become more technology-friendly. This letter and the full Rule and Program Book for the 2012 Huntingdon Horsemen, Inc. horse shows is appearing on the website courtesy of Belinda Giardine. You received a post card directing you to that, and if you are reading this on your computer screen, obviously it works!

BUT, I – as the most technology-challenged individual I know [my children tell me there aren't very many people like me who just use a computer as a word processor and to play solitaire] – recognize that there are still some other folks like me – SO – if you want a paper copy of this letter and the full Rule and Program Book CALL ME at the number above. I already have your address [shown on the post card you received] so unless you've moved just let me a message with your name as shown on the post card and I'll mail you the letter and the book by snail-mail. Just please, don't let your name with my husband if he answers when you call. He's a great guy but he's not a message-taker. If he asks you to call right back and put your message on our machine, please do so. This will mean a little more work for you, I know, but it'll save me a lot of stapling and folding and envelope-stuffing and stamping AND it'll save the Club money on envelopes and copies and postage stamps as the Club's mailing list now contains nearly 400 names! Books will as always be available at the shows.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY to all who lost loved ones – whether they were two- or four-legged – since our last communication.

Get-well wishes to everyone who's still under the weather from that nasty flu that's going around, and congratulations to those who had it and have recovered! Personally, I

blame the crazy weather!!! BUT, our horses, cows and dogs are shedding, the garlic's starting to appear in the grass, I've seen daffodils and crocuses, and spring is on its way!

DUES REMINDER: QUITE A FEW MEMBERS have already paid their current dues, and I do thank them all for doing that. To those who haven't paid yet, remember that Huntingdon Horsemen dues are probably the lowest of your horse-related expenses (still \$5.00 per year for those 16 or over as of January 1, 2012; \$1.50 for those under 16 on that date). Don't sluff them off as unimportant! PLEASE pay them NOW for 2012 --- they are officially due BY January 1. The number after your name on the mailing label is – according to my records – the last year you paid your dues for. If it's a "10", then my records indicate that you last paid **for** the year 2010, and now, to remain a member in good standing, you need to pay dues for 2011 **AND** 2012, otherwise, you WERE NOT a member in 2011 [if you had a key and you used it, SHAME ON YOU], and you WON'T BE a member in 2012. In plain words, if you have been a member for years, but you didn't pay your \$5 for 2011, and now you want to stay with the Club for 2012, it's another \$5, for a total of \$10. If you only pay \$5, that is your 2011 dues. IT IS NOT FAIR for some people to only pay \$5 once every two or three years yet still consider themselves members, and the rest to pay their \$5 every year. If you have not paid your dues, and you have a key, and you don't want to pay your dues, please turn the key back in. The Club'll give your \$10 key deposit back to you. Speaking of keys, the locks are due to be changed this year. New keys will be available at the May shows --- if you have a key now, just bring the old key to the show and – IF YOUR DUES ARE CURRENT – OR IF YOU PAY THEM UP THEN – one of the folks in the entry stand will take the old key and give you a new key.

MEETINGS are USUALLY the third Wednesday of April, May, June, July, August, September and October, starting at 7:00 P.M. There may be changes during the year. Meetings are held in the concession stand at the showgrounds. Come if you can! No regular November meeting.

Betty