



October 18, 2024

A Message from the Equine History Collective:

We have new Officers and new members this year! As the group continues to grow, we would like to clarify important facts about the organization for everyone who is part of this online community. Thank you for reading and please do not hesitate to reach out with questions!

WHAT IS THE EQUINE HISTORY COLLECTIVE?

- * The EHC is a federally registered nonprofit in the United States that incorporated as a **501(c)(3)** in 2018. Our Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) is 82-4589760, which you can look up [here](#) to access our exemption letter and most recent 990s. Our California Secretary of State Entity Number is 4115036, which you can look up [here](#) to access our Statement of Information.
- * The EHC incorporated for educational purposes, as our mission, “to support equine research and its dissemination and promote collaboration between equine historians in all disciplines,” reflects. The annual conference is the cornerstone of this mission, and we additionally promote online community and online resources. See our website for more: <https://equinehistory.org/>.
- * What this means:
 - The organization is governed by registered bylaws that require, for example, annual business meetings to publicly review finances & records of meeting minutes to record activities/votes of Officers. Officers are to meet throughout the year, to keep and file meeting minutes that record activities and Officers’ votes, and to provide a yearly report (including finances) to members. Most US-based nonprofits registered as 501(c)(3) organizations, including other academic professional organizations that many of us belong to — like the Western History Association and the American Society for Environmental History — are governed by such bylaws.
 - The organization must also comply with the legal and financial restrictions mandated by the Internal Revenue Service (the federal tax authority of the United States). Violations of such restrictions could result in the revocation of the organization’s exempt (nonprofit) status as well as possible dissolution or criminal penalties.
 - All revenue stays within the organization and is used only to advance its purpose of incorporation.
 - At present, the EHC has two funds:
 - * The General Fund consists of unrestricted income — i.e. there is no designated allocation for monies within this fund — including membership dues, conference fees, merchandise sales, undesignated donations, and any other unrestricted income. This General Fund largely contributes to the annual conference and covers general operating expenses such as digital operations and nonprofit licensing.

- * The John Schiewe Memorial Fellowship Fund is restricted income that supports research at the WK Kellogg Arabian Horse Library in Pomona, California.
- For the EHC's most current financial status, please see the reports attached to this message.
- Administering these funds in a fiscally responsible manner requires good business practices, planning and oversight, and the time and dedication of volunteers who manage all EHC programs.

WHO MAKES UP THE EHC?

- * We are an inclusive and welcoming community of academics, professionals, independent scholars, practitioners, and equine enthusiasts, bridging the gap between theory and experience.
- * Officers (i.e. the Executive Council) serve as volunteers for a term in the roles of President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Past Secretary, Treasurer, and Past Treasurer to run the organization and continue its services. These services include organizing the annual conference in partnership with a supporting institution (a university, library, archive, or historical association), planning additional virtual events, communicating with members, moderating online forums, and establishing new resources on our website.
- * The EHC uses Facebook and X as forums for sharing resources with the broader community and building relationships through shared interests.
 - Follow us on [Facebook](#).
 - Join the conversation in our Facebook [group](#).
 - Follow us on [X](#).
 - Follow us on [LinkedIn](#).
- * Our Researcher directory on the EHC website facilitates specific research requests and connections – open to all, membership not required to request to be added. Our members have dynamic careers, and we want to stay up to date! We are currently updating the page now and will post when it is available.
- * Paid members whose financial support assists the longevity of the organization to continue its offering of an annual conference and other services as directed by our volunteer Officers.
 - To become a member of the Equine History Collective, please visit <https://equinehistory.org/become-a-member/>.
 - Development of additional member-only benefits is a future objective that is dependent on additional volunteers and funding. With fundraising opportunities, it will be ideally possible to renew the travel fund for the annual conference and add research prizes, funding for publication costs, sponsored panels at other conferences, etc.
 - The EHC's goal is to foster research and is focused on developing a community of interest and connecting individuals to equine resources. Because of this, participation in the annual conference, coffee chats, Facebook group conversations, and being listed as a researcher on the website are **not** restricted to paying members.
 - As with other academic professional organizations, membership is primarily a form of support for this community rather than a purchase of services. Members steer the mission of the EHC, and we welcome suggestions for how our Officers can pursue new member benefits

while keeping membership affordable for all. Proposals that come with ready volunteers are halfway to success!

- * Our Board of Directors (composed of past Officers) offers institutional knowledge to incoming Officers and ensures that the organization's activities remain true to the mission. Most states, including California, require a Board of Directors in addition to the Officers who run day-to-day activities. Our bylaws require that one Director shall be a graduate student in order to safeguard the interests of early career scholars, a core demographic of the organization.

WHY HASN'T THE EHC ORGANIZED EVENTS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES?

- * The EHC is only six years old! Due to US legal restrictions governing the activities of nonprofit organizations, professional legal and tax counsel on international business and tax law is necessary for formal initiatives involving organizations located outside the US. The exchange of money outside of US borders without incurring fines or other legal penalties — such as revocation of its exempt status — is outside the expertise of our volunteer Officers. This requires connections to the appropriate professionals, ensuring that this is the best use of EHC funds at this point in its growth, and time from our unpaid volunteer Officers to oversee this process — a goal we are eager to pursue in the future.
- * According to United States law governing all 501(c)(3) nonprofits, activities in partnership with overseas entities furthermore require legal reciprocal agreements and additional filings with the Internal Revenue Service.
 - [Legal Compliance for Nonprofits Operating Internationally](#)
 - [Additional Tax Filing on Foreign Activities](#)
- * Currently, virtual events within our own purview are the most affordable and accessible way to engage with the international community interested in equine research topics. We understand that limitations in travel exist for international researchers *and* that our activities are also restricted by our ability to follow U.S. legal regulations.
- * We are glad that the equine history community extends globally and that online resources enable connections with this global community. We welcome participation and opportunities to connect with researchers outside of the US. We also recognize that the EHC is not the full extent of this community and are supportive of others' efforts to develop an interest in this research from their own localities.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE EHC?

- * Freely make use of the community or website resources online <https://equinehistory.org/resources/>.
- * Attend our annual multi-day conference.
 - In order to reduce financial barriers to this community for students and independent scholars, we offer reduced fees for such demographics.
 - To make the conference more accessible to everyone, we offer a virtual conference every two years, as this format is inherently more accessible to international scholars and is more cost effective for all attendees.
 - The call for papers for next year's conference — to be held in the Fall of 2025 at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island — is forthcoming.
 - For more information on past EHC conferences, please visit <https://equinehistory.org/conferences/>.

- * Volunteer to participate in a virtual event. Please see our virtual library of past events [here](#). To propose a new event, email admin@equinehistory.org.
- * Volunteer to serve as an Officer or a committee member to assist with organizing virtual events, conferences, written publications, etc. To get involved, use this [form](#), or email admin@equinehistory.org.
- * Officers must be members for the duration of their terms, but stipends are available to cover membership costs if this is a financial burden. Membership is **not** needed to be nominated for an Officer position, and — while voting is restricted to members — anyone may nominate themselves or someone else for Office.
- * Volunteers do not need to be members!

Happy Trails,

Your EHC Officers

Lindsay Marshall, President

Patricia Stafford, Vice President

Holly Heartz, Secretary

Christian Krueger, Past Treasurer