

PBCHA

March 21, 2026

Meeting started at 6:15 by President, Karen Kimball.

Minutes have been posted on the website. No corrections were made. Minutes from February stand as written.

Bea gave the Treasurer's report. She reported for both February and March.

Guest speaker – Renee Burke with Embrace Equine Ministry. They are a non-profit and are run largely by volunteers. They provide Equine Assisted Therapy/Healing sessions. They work with various community groups such as The Union Gospel Mission and Canopy Village formerly known as Children's Village, veterans, foster children and first responders. They get 2 mustangs each year to train and use in the program, then they find the horses forever homes. They have about 35 volunteers and many volunteers bring their own horses to work the program. The purpose of this therapy is to help people reconnect with family and the community. They address many different situations including trauma, substance abuse/addiction and other mental health concerns. Their services typically run for 8 weeks at a time and they try to keep the same horses and handlers working with individuals/groups throughout the 8 weeks. They can work with individuals and small groups. They often work with couples, parent/child dyads and family groups.

Renee used to be a 4-H instructor for Kootenai County and was looking for another opportunity once her daughters graduated out of 4-H. She visited a similar program in Oregon and was inspired to start her own program.

Embrace Equine Ministry relies on volunteers and contributions from the community. They are in need of saddles, various tack, feed, etc.

Renee Burke, President 208-691-9673
Embraceequineministries@gmail.com

Karen reported that she and Jill attempted to ride English Point this week but the area has many more trees down and is not passable at this time. The long bridge also still needs to be repaired. The Forest Service will repair the bridge this Spring.

Broomtales is looking for sponsors to help offset the costs of the printing. They are “selling” ads – business card size up to ½ page. It is expected that a business advertising will provide a discount to BCH members.

Contact Susan Johnson at newsletter-editor@bchi.org

Karen asked Julie to write an article to submit to Broomtales regarding the chapter’s involvement with clearing trails at Heyburn State Park. Julie agreed.

All public events need to be registered with the state by April 1st. We are having just one public ride this year: the hotdog ride which will be on August 30th.

Robert Wuest is planning to do the annual steak ride (non-public) in October.

Karen requested that someone take on managing the Garmin/In-reach device and service as it requires payment by credit card. Robert Wuest volunteered to take on this task. All trail bosses will need to coordinate with him to get the device for an event.

CONVENTION -

Karen and Jim attended the convention.

Julie donated a pair of chaps to the auction which earned \$100 for the association.

Karen reported that a committee of four individuals was created to review the State bylaws before the State Directors meeting in September, which will be held locally.

The State Association is looking for additional fund raising opportunities – they will continue with the calendar sales but sales are dropping as many people no-longer use calendars.

Regarding the resolutions that were presented:

- the change in reporting deadline for volunteer hours was approved. Hours need to be reported by November 1st. This allows for more time to process before the end of the year.
- The resolution to increase chapter dues passed (which reflects the change made at the national level.)
- The domestic horse dispersal resolution was referred to the Horse Council. It was determined that it was not a issue for BCH to be involved with.
- Karen mentioned that a Wild Horse & Burro Specialist from the Challis area was a speaker.

Julie reminded the group that the Heyburn Clearing dates are April 24-26th. She stated that there are limited corrals that remain in good shape and people should not arrive with the expectation to use one. Several were in need of repair. She added that the potluck will be on Saturday night. Those that will be joining need to sign a waiver – contact Julie to request the link. Julie’s number is (805) 674-6807.

Karen reminded the group that meetings will be on Wednesday in April

Karen made a request for suggestions of guest speakers for future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM.