

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

February 5, 2011

The first 2011 Regional Council meeting was held at the First Groton Church Parish House in Groton, MA on February 5, 2011 at 10:00. The following members attended: Iris Realmuto, Julie Koss-Stephany, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Donna Lapierre, Judi O'Neil, Beth Platt, Laura Smith, Elaine Brazeau, Karen Marcotte, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Heather Dostal, Karen Hamill, Amanda Ellis and Jaime Ferry.

Beth Platt, our new RS, opened the meeting by having the DCs introduce themselves. First action was to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. Next, Beth reviewed the 2011 budget. CNE had a good year financially. We had a net income of approximately \$7900. We have about \$4700 in the Championship budget to date, which will be combined with the Champs fees we collect from rallies between now and the 2011 Championships. It is expected we should be able to subsidize about half of each entry fee based on previous entry numbers. Final figures will be calculated as of Championships but this should help families plan their budgets. This past year, the region was able to return \$61.13 to Champs attendees.

Most of the rallies stayed right on budget, even with lower attendance. Beth tweaked some of the educational program budgets to allow for more funding. It looks like we will have some additional resources for education if we use the Long Education fund and the Junior Board hopes to sponsor a jumping clinic in May for the benefit of the region. The Junior Board has approximately \$3900 in their account. We would like to expose as many members as possible to a great Pony Club educational experience. After no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the budget. Approval was unanimous.

Next, Beth reviewed the information she gained at the USPC Annual Meeting last week. There are more Riding Centers joining Pony Club than ever. Our region has four Centers so we are one of the regions with the most Centers. USPC is considering adding a western discipline to the program. Amanda and Karen both thought they might have interested members and will speak with Beth about becoming a beta site this year.

Also, the National Office is requiring all clubs and regions to revise and update their policy by-laws right away. There can be no restrictions or exclusions for members for the most part. Templates are available online. Each club should complete their new by-laws and give to Beth as soon as possible so she can keep a copy and send a copy to the VP of Regional Activities to approve. On a regional level we named a policy review committee to review the policies as well. Iris Realmuto, Curtis Renner, Beth Platt and Amanda Ellis will review and amend the policies for the region. There is an April 15th deadline for clubs to send their policies to Beth.

Next we discussed Championships. Lelo was not able to attend the meeting but we believe she has lined up a block of reasonably priced and conveniently located hotel rooms in Lexington KY. Information will be posted on the CNE website. It is recommended that parents reserve their rooms or camp sites early to assure space since this is a Festival year. DCs should encourage their members to go experience Festival even if they do not have a horse. We may be able to send two teams for each discipline with the exception of Jr. Quiz. Please let rally organizers know if you plan to send qualifiers. Lelo will also need an early head count so she can arrange for equine transportation.

All DCs, officers and coordinators are required to have background checks as of March 31. This can be done on line. Without a background check you will not be allowed to continue your position in the organization. You can go to the pony club website and find instructions under the FAQ section.

Karen Marcotte graciously agreed to fill the RIC (Regional Instructional Coordinator) position. A motion was made to nominate her and passed unanimously. She will coordinate the Upper Level and instructional programs for the region. Jaime Ferry will coordinate the horse management programs as the new HMO. The D3/C1 Program will now be referred to as the regional unmounted program with unmounted clinics open to the entire membership. This will hopefully avoid any confusion the members may have had about rating levels.

Next we reviewed the regional calendar.

Wentworth Pony Club will hold a Polocross Clinic on Sunday February 27 with Sally Batten from Dartmouth as clinician. The clinic is expected to last all day, will be held at Green Acre Stables in Madbury NH at a cost of \$40 per rider. Bring a horse (fitness should not be a concern) as this is just winter indoor fun, equipment will be provided. For \$5 you can audit. More information will be available on the CNE website.

There will be a Regional Unmounted Clinic next Saturday, February 12th from 1-3 at the First Parish Church in Groton. The topic will be Equine Diseases, Vaccinations and Teeth. Dr. Koss will be our clinician and all levels are welcome to attend. HBs in particular are urged to attend as part of their rating prep.

Rockingham Pony club is planning a horseless rally using Breyer horses on April 16th. They have opened the clinic to the region. Additional information will be forthcoming. This will be a great opportunity for Ds and UR members, or those who have never rallied to learn the scoop about rallies. This will also be an opportunity for anyone interested in horse management judging to practice as well. Karen Marcotte will also try to hold a clinic for interested regional examiners at the club level. More information to follow.

Wentworth will host a Standards Clinic this spring. It was recommended that we wait until nice weather and hold it outdoors. There will announce the date and venue as soon as possible but some time in May would be ideal.

Jaime Ferry is actively trying to recruit new assistant horse management judges. She will be sending out an email shortly to set up a meeting for all interested horse management judges to get together. Many regions require a mandatory volunteer from each club to help judge at rallies. Hopefully we have enough interested volunteer parents and don't need to go that route. Jaime is hoping to meet with interested parents, older pony clubbers and former pony club graduates who are interested in volunteering at this year's rallies. She'll go over the details of being a judge and then new judges can practice their skills at the mock rally in April. Please be sure to distribute the email to all potential judges.

Quiz Rally will be held on April 2 at the Newbury MA Elementary School. There will be a mandatory volunteer required for each participant entered. Amanda Ellis will be sending out information soon and will be looking for Quiz Masters and volunteers. Games Rally is scheduled for June 11 in Topsfield MA. On the same day the Eventing Qualifier will be held at Valinor Horse Trials. Dressage Rally will be held on June 18 and 19th. Nashoba Valley will help Squamscott host the rally. Competitors can truck in on

Friday night or Saturday morning. The rally will run Saturday and Sunday. This gives kids a chance to experience an overnight rally but limits the number of days and involves just a weekend. Show Jumping Rally will be held on July 2 and all potential qualifiers must complete their entries immediately following the rally in order to make the closing date for Championships. The general theme with rallies this year is to poll your members, see who wants to rally, who plans to qualify etc and notify the organizers as soon as possible.

The HB program will have a mock rating prep camp at UNH on May 28 and the testing will be the weekend of July 9th. The C3/B test will also be held in the Region on August 15-18th. Both the HB and the UL testing applications need to be submitted as early as possible this year so we can assure our candidates a place at the rating. We would like to receive all applications, signed by DCs, members, and parents, by March 15th at the latest. UL applications should go to Karen Marcotte and HB applications should be returned to Wendy Johnson.

Insurance for pony club locations needs to be coordinated on a regional level in order to save clubs and the region additional expense. Once a site is insured by the region, DCs just need to update online with the dates of their activities. We are looking for a dedicated volunteer to coordinate insurance coverage. Please contact Beth if you have an interested volunteer. Also remember that only current members that have paid their current dues are covered under the pony club insurance. Non-renewed members and non-pony clubbers attending functions will need to be additional insured. This additional insurance can be purchased on the pony club website.

Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant is offering an opportunity for pony club members to come to her farm to practice cross country in a fenced in schooling facility. She will be sending out an announcement when her schooling days will begin. She wanted DCs to know this is an excellent chance for young members to ride in a safely contained area for cross country schooling. She is located in the NH Seacoast area.

Finally, while the Regional Council was meeting, several pony club members also met to discuss plans for the new Regional Junior Board. Heather Dostal volunteered to be the Jr. Board Advisor. There are currently 5 members but more are encouraged to attend. Each club can send participants who are 12-14 years old and recommended by their DC. The Junior Board will be forming their policies and mission statement, raising funds and providing educational opportunities through clinics and various other functions within the region. They will be starting a facebook page and website link. They are hoping to sponsor an IPC clinic as well. Please have interested members contact Heather for more information. DCs should check with their members at their upcoming club meetings to see if there are any interested members.

The next Regional Council Meeting will be on April 9th at Beth Platt's home in Carlisle MA. Directions and details will be provided.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary