

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

April 9, 2011

The CNE Regional Council meeting was held at the Beth Platt's house in Carlisle, MA on April 9, 2011 at 10:00. The following members attended: Iris Realmuto, Julie Koss-Stephany, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Donna Lapierre, Beth Platt, Elaine Brazeau, Karen Marcotte, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Heather Dostal, Heather Concannon, Karen Hamill, Amanda Ellis and Lori Decato Metz.

First action of the day was to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. Next, Curtis reminded everyone that we need to follow proper procedures for requesting reimbursement from the Region. Be sure to use the reimbursement forms on the website and allow enough time for Curtis to process your request for checks. Also, be sure to identify the discipline that the needs to be credited with the transaction. We also discussed the rate of mileage reimbursement and decided to keep it at \$.25/mile for now. Finally, membership dues should be mailed to Curtis and the paperwork should be sent to Beth.

Next on the agenda was rally status. Amanda Ellis reported that Quiz Rally went well. There was a relatively small turnout but the facility worked well, the organizers were able to come in the night before to set up, the school was reasonably priced, and the location was closer for some clubs than prior years. We were able to qualify several competitors for Championships. It was suggested that in the future we might want to incorporate horse management training or some other educational piece during the down time.

Karen Marcotte reported that her club is hosting a mock rally next weekend but she has had no outside entries. Several DCs said they would try to get some new members to attend. She also advised that we will be adding an H/HA prep to the HB one day camp at UNH on May 28th. There will also be a mounted prep on Sunday the 29th for the C3s since we will have access to a National Examiner for the weekend. DCs were asked to follow up with their UL members.

Games and Eventing Rallies are coming up and we are still looking for chiefs. It looks like we have a good number of teams for Games Rally. Organizers were reminded to post the entries early and DCs to return their entries as soon as possible.

Dressage Rally organization is moving along. Competitors will be able to come in unofficially on Friday night to set up tack rooms; judging begins on Saturday with just one overnight instead of the usual two nights. The shorter format hopefully will encourage more entries.

Show Jumping Rally is scheduled very close to the closing date for champs. Competitors need to be prepared to commit right away to make the closing date.

Next, Beth discussed the new club policy guidelines and reviewed the information she received at the RS Training Seminar. Revising club policies to be compliant with the National guidelines needs to be a top priority. We went through the guidelines article by article. It is recommended to add a disclaimer to refer to the National policies. **DCs need to submit their new policies to Beth by the end of May.**

Pony club handbooks are being rewritten. They expect to have an online format as well, and are hoping for an end of the year availability for the D Manual.

Beth also reminded us that in order to maintain 501(c)3 status, the National Office wants payments to instructors to come from clubs and not parents in order to substantiate that we are a charitable organization and not just parents subsidizing their child's hobby. Also, we are not supposed to be reimbursing parents directly. The region may need to review our Championship reimbursement distribution policy.

Safety on the Internet was another topic at the training session since it is expected that everything will be converting to online at some point, including social networking.

There is a new mission statement. Please review with your members and share with new members.

A question came up regarding requiring participation and volunteerism. We are not allowed to require a level of participation or volunteering for a member to be in good standing, only that dues are current. Clubs handle this issue differently with some clubs adopting a pay as you go policy versus a single annual activity fee. It is okay to use financial incentives to encourage participation. Clubs can't use vouchers but can give discounts to eligible members.

It was recommended that both the Region and local clubs keep an inventory of their assets. Shelly Patrick will post an inventory of regional equipment in case anyone wants to use it for rallies or champs.

Iris recommended that DCs use the regional email list in order to avoid sending out email to outdated addresses. Emails that need to go to all DCs can be sent to cne@cne.ponyclub.org.

Next Lelo brought us up to date on Championships. She has booked a block of rooms at the La Quinta hotel in Lexington. It is very close to the Horse Park, convenient to restaurants and reasonably priced. The rooms are held under CNE. If you think you are going to Championships or Festival, check the information on our website and call to reserve one of the rooms in your name as soon as possible. If you later need to release the room, please let Lelo know so she can pass the availability on to other competitors. Qualifiers will get a handout with all the information they need for Championships. Two weeks after the rally, Lelo must have the paperwork in hand. Championships run from 7/19 to 7/22 and Festival is held from 7/23 through the 26th. The Gold Book has all the details and is now available on the Pony Club website. We discussed the fact that it is hard to predict the amount of reimbursement the competitors will receive from the Region based on the late date of the last rally. **A motion was made to give everyone \$75 towards their entry fee for 2011 since we know what we raised at the auction and can roughly estimate the number of competitors. Another motion was made to apply all Championship fees raised from rallies and fundraisers in calendar year 2011, to the following year's Champs.** That way we will know how much we have to distribute well in advance. Both motions passed unanimously.

We discussed some ideas for fundraisers this year. There is an option to do an online auction. Iris has a contact. Heather will coordinate again and we'll target the end of year. We also discussed having a Regional awards dinners and pot luck.

Stephanie suggested we consider a dinner theater to bring in outsiders. She will look into the details and coordinate.

There will be a Regional Championship Meeting held at Nashoba Valley Tubing Park on Tuesday, July 12, at 6 pm for all qualifiers. We will review the dress code and behavior, regional activities at Champs including the BBQ, trailering safety and other last minute details so it is very important for qualifiers to attend.

CNE is starting a Horsemasters program. Heather Emslie and Betsey Reeves are coordinating the group and meetings will be held at Shepley Hill Farm in Groton MA. Horsemasters are able to ride at Championships this year.

The Junior Board met during our meeting and worked on finalizing their mission statement. They would like to send someone to the National Youth Board this year, and are planning to hold a fundraiser at the Groton Pony Club Two Phase food booth next week end, and at Groton House this summer. They would also like to host a one day riding clinic.

Next, Karen gave the RIC report. She is trying to develop a group of upper level local pony club examiners who want to learn, so if you can let her know when your club is holding a rating, she can send them to apprentice. Please email your dates to her as soon as you know your schedule.

Also, there is a hunt seat track possibly coming to pony club. Please let Karen know about any local resources you might be aware of.

Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant is offering her farm in Rye for informal cross country schooling in a contained field with low level jumps. This would be an ideal opportunity for Ds to take advantage of. She has several dates planned starting on 4/23. Please contact her at stephanpc@aol.com for more details.

There will be another Council meeting scheduled for the fall. With no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary