

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

February 4, 2012

The first 2012 Regional Council meeting was held at Beth Platt's house in Carlisle MA on February 4, 2012 at 10:00. The following members attended: Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Donna Lapierre, Judi O'Neil, Beth Platt, Laura Smith, Karen Marcotte, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Amanda Ellis, Susan Beliveau, Lynda Angstadt, Lisa Doyle, Muffy Szegvari, Vicky Lochiatto, Andrea Nelson and Denise Atherton.

Beth opened the meeting by having the DCs introduce themselves. With 8 clubs and 1 center represented, we had a quorum. First action was to unanimously approve the Minutes of the last meeting.

Next, Beth reviewed some of the highlights from the USPC Annual Meeting last week. CNE was strongly represented for the first time in many years with a number of DCs and pony club members attending the meetings and workshops as well as the National Youth Congress. One member, Ally Werth from Hybrid Riding Center, submitted a Research Project and placed second in her division. Katie Platt and Elizabeth and Catherine LoChiatto from Old North Bridge set up a CNE Facebook page for the region. Beth urged all DCs to let their members know so they can "like" it. We also need to ask Allison to delete the UL Facebook page that was set up several years ago.

Beth advised DCs that we can order new club and regional banners from the National Office. She also shared that there have been some incidents where strangers have been around pony club rallies in other areas of the country. She suggested we just let the kids know that if they see anyone that doesn't belong at a pony club function they should notify someone right away.

Also, USPC would like us to encourage parents and members to value horse management. This is one of the aspects of our organization that makes us different from other groups who are now trying to incorporate HM into their programs.

Regarding tax issues, apparently there are several clubs and one region that have lost their 501 status due to improper tax filing. For the most part all clubs have to do is complete a 990 form/e-postcard to comply. Do not ignore. If you have a problem, contact Curtis or Beth. You may need to write a letter to the IRS. Also, be sure to keep a copy for your records. Beth will email a handout on accounting and tax forms. There will be a brief mandatory Treasurer online training program by the end of the year. In the future pony club will expect regions to set up a peer review committee to review club finances on a rotating basis. We will need to have a procedure in place so if anyone is interested please contact Beth. We have added club treasurers to the regional contact list so information can be easily disseminated to them when relevant.

Other reminders from the Annual Meeting included using the term "award" versus "scholarship" and certification versus rating for upper levels. A new interactive DC handbook is available now online, with immediate access to various forms, etc. It is located under the forms section of the website.

There is a new Horse masters group connected to the Rockingham Pony Club and another group that has been in existence for awhile with the Nashoba Valley Pony Club. Adults can compete at rallies and Championships-details available on the pony club website.

Andrea Nelson was next to report on Horse Management. As our new HMO, she attended the Annual Meeting and connected with a number of other regions regarding horse management, coming back with lots of ideas. She commented that CNE appears to be in great shape compared to some regions in the country. We will need to have an HM Clinic this year since we did not have one last year. We discussed having a mock rally or stations format and it looks like the stations format might make the most sense this year. Squamscott thought they might be able to host either an HM or Standards Clinic or combo, and will be meeting as a club to discuss further. April 7th was a date that seemed to work.

Karen Marcotte discussed the UL program. We really don't know who is planning to rate but it appears there will only be a few HB candidates and more C3 and B candidates interested in prepping this year. She is planning a longeing clinic and several mounted clinics with riders presenting with bandages at each mounted clinic. The Jr. Board would like to host a riding clinic to be held at the Groton Fairgrounds on May 11-13 with Sali Gear as clinician. This would be a UL prep clinic with other levels welcome to attend. There will be an HB mock rating prep camp and HA prep clinic at UNH on Saturday June 2, and a UL mounted clinic on June 3. Another UL riding clinic is planned for June 10th, following the SJ Rally. Finally there will be an Upper Level camp at UNH held in conjunction with the HB testing on July 10-13. The UL testing will be August 14-16 at UNH.

Next Curtis reviewed the Treasurer's Report ending 12/31/11. Note date is incorrect on the attached handout. He noted that the Jr. Board has a fairly high balance and the Championship fund is fairly low. Clubs may need to consider fundraising for their members. Donna Lapierre from NVPC will email the region with information regarding recycling ink cartridges for money. Most important....dues are due now! Please send money to Curtis and paperwork to Beth as soon as possible.

Next on the agenda we reviewed rally dates and status.

Quiz - Amanda has secured the school in Newbury MA that we used last year. The date is April 14th. She is looking for entries as soon as possible so she can start planning and definitely needs them by March 14th. The entry form will be posted shortly. Also let her know if you have interested judges.

Games Rally – Scheduled for June 2-3, hosted by Overlook PC.

Eventing Qualifying Rally – After discussion it was decided that anyone interested in attending Champs 2012 will need to attend two USEA sanctioned events as of last Champs and one rally for the HM aspect in order to qualify. (or, they can attend the NY/UC Eventing Rally). ONB will host a fall qualifying rally at Valinor for those who are interested in qualifying for 2013. This frees up another weekend in June for SJ Rally.

Show Jumping Rally – Rockingham will host this rally on June 9th in NH and use the Chief as a UL riding clinician on June 10th.

NQ Eventing Rally – Wentworth and Pentucket would like to host a non-qualifying rally on September 8th or 9th at Green Acres and will advise when dates and location are firmed up.

D Rally – Groton has scheduled the rally for October 21st. The general consensus of the group was that this late date was a problem for most clubs. Lisa is going to check with her club to see if October 7th is a possibility and will let us know shortly.

Championships is planned for July 25-29. It looks like there may be several teams interested in Dressage, Games and Quiz at this time. Lelo will have more information regarding hotels and paperwork shortly.

Heather Dostal was not able to attend the meeting due to illness but she emailed an update for the Jr. Board which is attached to the Minutes. She also included a letter from Katie Platt, one of our National Youth attendees.

The next regional education clinic is this upcoming Saturday, February 11th at the Church in Groton. The topic is lameness and blemishes and DCs were urged to encourage their members to attend.

Finally, Wendy offered a simple quiz on horse management myths, put together by Lara Hubner for the Annual Meeting, to see how well versed the DCs were on current HM rules. A copy of the quiz will be available so that DCs can use it as a teaching tool at their unmounted meetings.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary