

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

September 29, 2012

On Saturday September 29th, Central New England held the fall Regional Council meeting at Beth Platt's house in Carlisle, in preparation for the upcoming Annual Council Meeting in November. The following members attended: Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Karen Fahey, Beth Platt, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Lynda Angstadt, Muffy Szegvari, Lelo Reeves, Andrea Nelson and Betsey Reeves.

Beth began the meeting by reminding DCs to schedule their club annual meetings prior to the Regional Council Meeting, and to be sure to have their nominating committees in place, notices sent to members and sponsors within the 30 day time frame, collect sponsors fees, and adhere to the membership guidelines. She would like each club to bring a copy of their LOO (list of officers) to the Annual Meeting.

Curtis shared the treasurer's report and noted that the Dressage Rally receipts had not been included and some adjustments were needed with regards to Junior Board scholarships. Also, the regional education program was not broken down into the various programs. Beth expanded on the budget as we discussed topics further along in the meeting.

Andrea Nelson was next to report on Horse Management. We started the season off with a mock rally/horse management clinic. Attendance could have been greater but the content was excellent and participants seemed to enjoy themselves while learning. The Upper Level members manned many of the stations and were very helpful. We held four qualifying rallies - Quiz, Games, Dressage, and Show Jumping, two of which were overnight, as well as a non-qualifying Eventing Rally. D Rally will be the final rally of the season. Andrea said attendance was down but she was able to man the rallies without any issues.

Karen Marcotte was not able to attend but will present the RIC Report at the Annual Meeting.

Next, Beth discussed the Upper Level Camp which was held in July at UNH. She received excellent feedback from those who attended. The camp ran at a loss but she felt the educational exposure was worth the expense. We may need to adjust the cost next year. The camp offered opportunities for Ds, Cs, Upper Level preps, and semi and private lessons were actually open to the public. Beth plans to discuss the camp at the next meeting and hopefully we can offer the same positive experience next year with more clubs taking advantage of the excellent clinicians. Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant suggested we offer lower level ratings at the end of camp as an additional benefit for members. There was also a suggestion to hold a Standards or Horse Management Clinic at the camp.

Next on the agenda was Championships and the question of funding for next year. Every year we discuss the Region's level of commitment to funding Championship competitors. This will be a topic at the Annual Meeting as well. The amount of money we raised through rally fees did not cover the \$75 we gave each competitor this year. We also need to remind qualifiers that there are scholarships available.

This year the region hosted an HB rating, and a C3, B, A and Dressage Specialty rating at UNH. Again we suffered a financial loss due to the high last minute cancellation rate. We agreed we need to collect facility fees earlier in the process and enforce the cancellation policy for cancellations. We also discussed not hosting a UL rating next year. There is also discussion on the National level of returning the C3 to the Regional level. Additional information will probably be announced at the USPC National Meeting in January. DCs are asked to discuss plans for ratings with their members prior to the Annual Meeting. If you could have a list of members who are considering rating in 2013 along with their email addresses, we can get an idea of what to plan for the upcoming year. Also, just a heads up that there is a tentative HB/UL kick off meeting planned for the Saturday after Thanksgiving while kids are home from school. Details will follow.

In preparation for the Annual Council Meeting, please try to think about which rallies you would like to host next year, possible dates and locations, ideas for fundraising, and any other topics you wish to discuss. Each Club and Center must send a representative prepared to vote at the next meeting. New club officers are encouraged to attend as well. Regional officers and coordinators should email their annual reports to me prior to the meeting if possible.

We would also like to discuss cancellation policies for rallies and imposing a closing date after which nonrefundable entry fees must be collected. Rally organizers are not able to cover their expenses if teams back out at the last minute and haven't paid their fees. On that same note, rally organizers need to remind DCs that entries must come from the participant's club only. If a member wants to scramble the club must still send in the entry for that participant and organizer will try to put them on the requested team. The organizer has the final say and individual entries will not be accepted.

The Regional Annual Business Meeting will be held at 10:00 at Beth Platt's house on Saturday November 17th. The regular council meeting will follow immediately. An invitation to the Annual Business Meeting and an agenda will be emailed to DCs shortly.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary