

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
November 2, 2013

The Central New England Regional Council held its Annual Business Meeting at the home of Beth Platt in Carlisle MA on Saturday November 2, 2013. The Business Meeting began at 10:20 a.m., immediately followed by the fall Regional Council Meeting. There were 14 members in attendance. They included the following: Curtis Renner, Karen Marcotte, Laura Smith, Heather Dostal, Beth Platt, Wendy Johnson, Lelo Reeves Curtis, Andrea Nelson, Susan Beliveau, Lynda Angstadt, Betsey Reeves, Christine Benware, Krystine O'Connor, Margaret Potorski. Beth welcomed the group and began the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for their volunteer efforts. She appreciated all the time everyone devoted to the region and felt it was time well spent.

Next, Beth delivered the RS report. In 2013, membership decreased slightly in the region. We are seeing growing membership from the Riding Centers and our membership is two thirds D or unrated. To date we have approximately 211 members. We need to look at ways to spread the word about Pony Club. She also touched upon this year's rallies, Upper Level ratings, and the Regional Camp. A copy of the full RS report is attached. **A motion was made to accept the RS report. It passed unanimously.**

Next, Curtis presented the Treasurer's Report. He advised that the 2014 proposed budget will be the same as the previous year's budget. Unless we expect a big change in our rallies or educational programs for next year, the budget should be pretty consistent with this past year's budget. We are spending our money on camp and educational programs for the members, which is in line with our goals. The Region is financially solvent with approximately \$22,000 in the bank. A copy of all the checks was available for review. Copies of the actual budget and proposed budget for 2014 are attached to these Minutes.

Next, the HMO, RIC, HB, Regional Education, Championships, Junior Board and Webmaster reports were summarized by the coordinators and the full reports are included with the Minutes and will be posted on the website. Andrea advised it was a quiet year for rallies. We held two qualifiers: Show Jumping and Dressage Rally, and also D Rally this fall. Next year we plan to host a Games Rally and Eventing rally as well. She had a good team of Chiefs and Horse Management Judges and is looking ahead to a more active rally season next year due to Festival.

Karen gave the RIC report and said that the regional camp was well attended and we had a great selection of clinicians, two NEs for all four days and three others that filled in for a day or two. Next year she would like to expand the HM track to appeal to those members from Centers who might not have access to a horse. For the Upper Level program, we held preps and hosted a national testing, and we now have a new C3 Traditional member and a new C3 Dressage member to brag about.

Wendy continued with a review of the Regional Education program: we had two clinics, one on Conformation with Laurie Chapman Bosco, and one on legs and hoofs with Allie Hayes. Both were very well attended. She also reported on the HB program. We had a very successful rating this year with 100% of the candidates passing their first attempt.

Lelo advised that we sent just four teams to Champs this year, all for Quiz. The teams did quite well and she expects that next year we will have more interest due to Festival. She would like to make sure all paperwork is handled promptly and communication is improved for next year. Parents need to have a clear understanding of the expectations and possibly sign a letter of intent ahead of time.

Iris sent us the webmaster report and we all agreed she is the best and we are lucky to have her!

Finally, Heather reported on the status of the Junior Board. She expressed frustration over the lack of communication and response to both emails and facebook. She would really like to see more members participate so the girls who are active have additional feedback and social interaction. She will not give up and hopefully more DCs will encourage their members to attend meetings and become involved. The Junior Board did grant a scholarship this past year and would like to give more if kids want to apply. They also want to have some fundraisers to add to their account. **A motion was made to accept all reports as presented which passed unanimously.**

Karen Marcotte followed with the Report of the Nominating Committee. She presented the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Curtis stepped down as the treasurer for next year and Laura Smith was nominated as the 2014 regional treasurer. All other officers agreed to continue their positions for another year. There was no further discussion or nominations from the floor. **A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. Approval was unanimous and the new slate of officers for 2014 is as follows:**

Beth Platt - Regional Supervisor
Amanda Ellis - Vice Regional Supervisor
Lelo Reeves Curtis -Vice Regional Supervisor
Laura Smith - Treasurer
Wendy Johnson – Secretary
Regional Instructional Coordinator – Karen Marcotte
HMO – Andrea Nelson

There were no proposed amendments to the Regional Policy.

A decision was made to table the activities calendar until the regular Council Meeting.

At 11:30 a.m., with no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Reed Johnson
Regional Secretary