

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

March 1, 2014

On Saturday March 1st, Central New England held the first Regional Council meeting of the new year at Beth Platt's home in Carlisle MA. The following members attended: Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Karen Marcotte, Laura Menard, Judi O'Neil, Andrea Nelson, Beth Platt, Wendy Johnson, Stephanie Infante, Aliina Keers, Heather Dostal, Lori Decato Metz, Lynda Angstadt, Betsey Reeves and Susan Beliveau.

We began the meeting by approving the Minutes of the last Council meeting. Then our guest Aliina Keers introduced herself. She has relocated from the Northwest and would like to participate in activities in Central New England this year. She is a Chief Horse Management Judge and is also the USPC Fox Hunting Chair. We look forward to seeing more of her this season!

Beth reminded DCs to encourage their members to visit the CNE Facebook page. She will be posting activities and updates. Parents can check if their children don't have Facebook. The Junior Board should also be encouraged to check Facebook. Heather will be announcing a social event shortly. The Junior Board would like to hold a beach ride in the spring. Any potential members are urged to contact Heather and join the Junior Board.

Our new Treasurer, Laura Smith was not able to attend the meeting but she has been working on the bookkeeping and is doing a great job sorting out the various line items. Please contact her for any expense reimbursement or questions. Updated forms are on the CNE website. Also, be sure to send any regional membership dues directly to her and not to Beth. All club treasurers should be on the Treasurer's Digest. Beth also mentioned that we are supposed to perform peer review audits among the clubs in the region. If any club has a knowledgeable parent who would like to assist with peer auditing, please let Beth know.

Beth updated the group on information shared at the Annual Meeting in Portland. We can now use the "member in good standing" status again to determine if a member is eligible to participate in a rating, rally, or Champs. Minimum participation in preps is one part of determining good standing. We will be getting more feedback on wording in order to possibly update our regional and club policies.

The USPC website now has a number of enhanced resources including lesson plans, information on press releases, IEA crossover activities, pony club promotion, the visiting instructors program, etc. The Dorothy Renfro Scholarship submission is due by 3/15. Also, be sure to complete the training module on concussion/heat training online. The National office is encouraging DCs to use the website for membership enrollments and administrative updates. It also appears we may have a standardized accounting program for clubs to use in the future.

The National Office is encouraging regions to hold regional C2 certifications. Karen is hoping to hold a C2 Certification this spring for HM and flat. A D1-C2 lower level examiner handbook is expected out shortly. Karen would like to hold a "certification" for upper level pony clubbers, possibly during a Standards Clinic, so they can do certifications at the club level.

There is now a 12 week deadline for national level tests this year. CNE will host an HB Certification during our regional camp June 29-July 2. We will not be holding an upper level test in the region this year. Any members wanting to rate should let Karen know as soon as possible so we can plan our UL prep this year.

Wendy gave a brief update of changes that are being made to the Horse Management rulebook this year. DCs are encouraged to meet with members to review these changes once the new rulebook is available. In the meantime, Andrea will try to send out a highlight of some of the updates. She also recommended each club appoint an HM coordinator.

Beth asked the Nominating Committee if they would be willing to serve again. A motion was made to approve the committee and passed unanimously. Thanks to Karen Marcotte, Judi O'Neil and Heather Dostal.

Next on the Agenda was the Regional Calendar.

Quiz Rally will be held at Haverhill High School on April 26th.

Games Rally will be held at Green Acres on May 18th as a one day rally. Please advise Wentworth Pony Club if you plan to send a team. If we do not have six teams the rally will not be held. We will then offer a games clinic that day instead.

Show Jumping Rally will be held in Fremont NH on May 31st.

Dressage Rally will be held at UNH on June 14-15th.

D Rally will be held on September 21st.

Regional Camp will be June 29th through July 2nd.

Eventing Rally will not be offered in CNE this year. Instead those interested in qualifying for Champs can either get permission from Beth to compete at an out of region qualifying rally (NY/UC usually holds a qualifier at Kent) or compete and submit affidavits from two sanctioned events held between last year's Champs and closing date for this year's Championships. In addition they would need to compete in one regional rally this season to satisfy the horse management requirement. Contact Beth if you have any questions.

A one day HB camp will be on May 24th at UNH.

Amanda Ellis plans to offer D level cross country schooling at her farm in Haverhill. Members are encouraged to come with their coaches or coaches will be available onsite. The date will be announced shortly. There was also some discussion about offering additional D rallies during the summer.

On May 31 Karen is planning a mounted prep. She will also hold a bandaging and lungeing clinic sometime this spring.

In August (tentatively around the 8th) Karen plans to offer a Standards and Ratings clinic with low level examiner certification, possibly at Foss Farm in Carlisle.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary