

**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
November 8, 2014**

The Central New England Regional Council held its Annual Business Meeting at the home of Beth Platt in Carlisle MA on Saturday November 8, 2014. The Business Meeting began at 10:20 a.m., immediately followed by the fall Regional Council Meeting. There were 16 members in attendance. They included the following: Amanda Ellis, Stephanie Infante, Karen Marcotte, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Laura Smith, Heather Dostal, Beth Platt, Wendy Johnson, Lelo Reeves Curtis, Andrea Nelson, Susan Beliveau, Julie Koss-Stephany, Betsey Reeves, Laura Menard, Liz Hoyt, and Vicky LoChiatto. 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. She reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting will be in VA this January and urged DCs to attend. Regarding membership, in 2014, membership decreased by 12% in the region, making two years in a row with the same decrease. Hopefully the trend will turn around this year. We are seeing growing membership from the Riding Centers and we lost one club, Overlook PC. Remaining members will be absorbed by other clubs and centers. We need to look at ways to spread the word about Pony Club. Beth also touched upon this year's rallies, Upper Level ratings, and the Regional Camp. A copy of the full RS report is attached

Next, Laura Smith presented the Treasurer's Report. Her Preliminary Budget, Balance Sheet and Actual Budget are attached. She reallocated some of the categories for easier recordkeeping. We are spending our money on camp and educational programs for the members. This is in line with our goals but we need to rethink camp logistics due to the high cost. More discussion will follow in the regular meeting.

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. Thanks again to Iris for doing a great job as Webmaster. The website clearly gets a lot of interest and utilization.

In the HMO report, Andrea advised it was a quiet year for rallies. We held two qualifiers: Show Jumping and Dressage Rally, as well as D Rally this fall. Attendance was about the same in the early rallies and decreased for D Rally. We continue the need for an early head count to be able to staff rallies efficiently.

Karen gave the RIC report and said that there was no indication of riding interest or HA candidates this year so we did not focus in these areas. We did offer a C2 traditional and C2 dressage certification and will continue to offer this certification on a regional level. We will also host a Standards Clinic in 2015. It appears we have interest in an HA prep as well as the HB program we typically offer. DCs need to communicate to their members and urge them to let us know if they plan to certify this year so we can offer preps. We will have a kick off meeting in December.

Lelo advised we had 27 members compete at Championships this year and they all did well. There was good food and a well-positioned tent for socializing when not competing.

Wendy continued with a review of the Regional Education program: we had four clinics, Confirmation with Laurie Chapman Bosco, a Bitting Clinic with Karen Marcotte and a Farrier clinic with Betsey Reeves. We added a fourth Dental Clinic in April with Dr. Leah Limone, held at Dover Saddlery. All clinics were very well attended.

The Region offered an HB prep program again this past year. We held monthly preps, a one day mock rating camp and the certification. There were 12 members prepping, 11 tested and all 11 passed their certification, ten in region and one out of area.

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. All 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 2015 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