

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

October 24, 2015

On Saturday October 24th, Central New England held a Regional Council meeting at the First Parish Church in Groton MA. The following members attended: Laura Smith, Beth Platt, Betsey Reeves, Wendy Johnson, Lelo Reeves, Stacy Snell, Stephanie Infante, Heather Dostal, Linda Vollinger, Karen Marcotte, Donna LaPierre, Liz Hoyt, Amanda Ellis and Judi O'Neil.

Beth began the meeting with a motion to accept the Minutes from the last meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next, Laura Smith reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Basically, the region is breaking even overall with regards to revenues compared to expenses. We incurred losses with the Show Jumping Rally and Dressage Rally, but our regional dues offset these losses for the year. We all agreed that we need to increase participation at Rallies in order to improve the bottom line. Combining rallies with other regions next year was one suggestion. Also, setting rally dates early in the year so they don't conflict with other activities and allow members to plan ahead, is a goal for 2016. Beth suggested that if clubs can come to the Annual Meeting next month with a possible date and an alternative, this will help to set the calendar early. Betsey Reeves volunteered Nashoba Valley to host a qualifying Eventing rally for 2016. The most likely venue will be at Valinor but more details to be worked out.

Next on the agenda, was a discussion regarding Norfolk Hunt Pony Club. They are an active club with about 25 members from Southeastern New England Region, and have indicated they would like to move to Central New England. After discussion, a motion was made to invite Norfolk Hunt Pony Club to join CNE in 2016. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Adding new volunteers was the next topic of the day. The region is looking for more volunteers and Amanda Ellis passed around a list of some of the volunteer positions we would like to fill. The list included a communications coordinator, publicity chair, fundraising coordinator, membership coordinator, RIC committee and other potential positions. Wendy Johnson mentioned that there will also be a need for a new regional educational program coordinator and HB coordinator in 2107 if anyone is interested in learning more about what that might involve.

We began to discuss the UL prep program and the possibility of offering two mounted clinics during the spring and summer. These preps would be listed in the calendar and UL candidates would be expected to attend if they plan to certify for the C3, B or A. DCs are asked to provide a list of members who are planning to certify or want to prep in 2016 at the Annual Meeting. This will allow us to plan the preps based on the level of interest in the Region. We would like names and email contacts for both the member and a parent.

Heather Dostal spoke next. She has organized a Riding Center Committee including herself, Linda Vollinger, Betsey Reeves and Amanda Ellis. They will put together guidelines and a questionnaire for potential Centers, and will schedule onsite visits and interview prospective Centers to make sure there is a good fit, no conflicts with existing Centers, and they are appropriate for the region. Also, she has volunteered to be Quiz Champs Coordinator, which would involve coordinating with the overall Champs

Coordinator as far as prepping Quiz qualifiers, working with the teams, gathering paperwork and any other Quiz related preparations for Championships.

Regarding the Junior Board, Stephanie Infante has agreed to work with Heather to coordinate some Junior Board activity on the eastern side of the Region. In January and February Heather would like to have two meetings, possibly combined with a social activity and a fundraiser. Heather and Stephanie will work together and come up with an action plan for the Annual Meeting.

A final reminder was mentioned that clubs should encourage any qualified members to apply for the National Youth Council or National Youth Congress before November 15th. Speak with Beth as soon as possible.

DCs were reminded to send their Regional membership dues directly to Laura Smith. Membership information does not need to be sent as that is recorded online and a report is sent to the RS from USPC. Dues will be \$15 for 2016 but we will discuss raising dues for 2017 at the Annual Meeting. Also, if DCs could send Wendy Johnson a list of the new officers as soon as possible after their elections, an updated contact list can be compiled and sent around. An email with the names of the DC, Jt. DCs and Treasurer including phone number, address and email would be greatly appreciated. Also, anyone who does not want to be on the contact list should let her know.

Finally, we discussed the preliminary calendar for 2016.

Quiz - looking at March 19th pending facility approval.

Eventing Rally - may be held possibly at Valinor or at a non sanctioned event in the area. Nashoba will explore options.

Show Jumping Rally - Rockingham will try to confirm dates.

Dressage Rally - waiting to hear if Squamscott is willing to host again.

Games Rally - looking into level of interest, Wentworth may host a clinic at Green Acres again.

D Rally - Groton will try to solidify the date, possibly earlier in the month than this past year. We also discussed having a policy for leading a rider and whether there should be a penalty. The general feeling was that safety should be the number one priority and that if a child needs to be led, that there should be no penalty since D Rally is meant to be a positive experience as well as a safe one. It was suggested there is a disclaimer on the entry and that the TD be aware of the policy in advance.

Champs is July 28-31st next year so it is a little later than some years.

Standards and Certification and HM Clinic. Karen would like to set a date possibly in February or March, possibly at Lelo's barn in Marlborough MA for a Standards Clinic and would require all examiners in the Region to attend so they can be considered authorized local examiners in the region. We would also hold a Horse Management Clinic at the same time.

Again, everyone agrees we must get these dates on the calendar early.

The Regional Annual Business Meeting will be held at 10:00 at Andrea Nelson's house on Saturday November 21st. The regular council meeting will follow immediately. With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary