

**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**November 21, 2015**

The Central New England Regional Council held its Annual Business Meeting at the home of Andrea Nelson in Westford MA on Saturday November 21, 2014. The Business Meeting began at 10:20 a.m., immediately followed by the fall Regional Council Meeting. There were 21 members in attendance. They included the following: Amanda Ellis, Stephanie Infante, Karen Marcotte, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Laura Smith, Heather Dostal, Sandy Niles, Kristie Gill, Wendy Johnson, Amber Anderson, Andrea Nelson, Susan Beliveau, Julie Koss-Stephany, Karen Herrick, Linda Vollinger, Liz Hoyt, Heather Bouley, Rachel Drew, Julia McDonough, Lara Boisvert, and Paula Simmons. Everyone introduced themselves and we welcomed the new attendees.

Next, since Beth was unable to attend the meeting, Wendy Johnson read the RS report. Regarding membership, in 2015 membership decreased by just 2% in the region, as compared to 12% the year before. Hopefully, this is a good sign, but she encouraged the region to continue to work on improving membership. A motion was made to accept the RS report, which passed unanimously. A copy of the full RS report, as well as the other regional reports, is attached.

Next, Laura Smith presented the Treasurer's Report. The Proposed Budget, Balance Sheet and Actual Budget are attached. The region had very minimal losses overall, primarily due to good cost control with the regional camp this year. We are still losing money on our rallies and will need to study overall rally finances to see where we can improve. Increased participation would improve the numbers. A motion was made to approve the financial reports and budget, approved unanimously. We then had a discussion and a motion was made to increase our regional dues to \$20 per member. There was one vote opposed, the rest approved, and the motion passed.

Next, the HMO, RIC, HB, Regional Education, Championships, Junior Board and Webmaster reports were summarized by the coordinators and approved unanimously by the Council. Reports 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. Andrea recommended that each club appoint a Horse Management coordinator to work with club members to oversee rally preparation and HM knowledge.

Karen gave the RIC report and discussed the Certification and Standards Clinic and UL mounted prep clinic hosted by Full Circle Riding Center, and the UL prep held during the Regional camp. She pointed out the low attendance at the Standards Clinic. For 2016 she plans to offer another Certification and Standards Clinic with attendance required for club level examiners so that all our lower level certifications are performed on a consistent level. We will also hold mounted preps for UL candidates and offer camp UL preps as well.

Lelo was unable to attend the meeting but will post a Champs report on the website. We had good attendance at Champs and everyone enjoyed the experience. For 2016, Heather Dostal will act as Quiz Champs coordinator, prepping the Quiz qualifiers, and handling all paperwork and entries. Chris Keim did a great job at the regional camp, working with the dressage Champ competitors, and we are hoping to take advantage of her again and offer Champs preps at camp this year.

Wendy continued with a review of the Regional Education program: we had two clinics, a Bandaging clinic with Betsey Reeves, and a Parasite and Poisonous Plants lecture with Gina and Emily Koss-Stephany, two of our upper level members. 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 8 members prepping, 7 tested and 4 passed their certification with one retest pending.

The Region also hosted an HA certification hosted by Lelo Reeves Curtis. There were 4 successful candidates. Thanks to Lelo for the use of her facility, horses, students, and hospitality.

Finally, CNE hosted a C3 traditional and C3/B Dressage certification in August at UNH. The results were 3 new C3 traditional members, and a new C3 dressage member. We are waiting for an update on the B Dressage candidate's switch ride results.

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. This year she plans to work with Stephanie Infante to kick off the 2016 program with a Jr. Board meeting prior to the February Regional Education Clinic, which will be held at the Groton Church on February 13<sup>th</sup>. She would like all interested members age 12 and up, to meet at noon for pizza and planning. They will plan a social event, discuss fund raising, and goals for the region.

Karen Marcotte followed with the Report of the Nominating Committee. She presented the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Beth Platt will be stepping down as RS and Amanda Ellis was nominated as RS for 2016. The other officers agreed to continue their positions. Karen would like to add another VRS and will accept recommendations for the next meeting. 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 2016 is as follows:

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

Thank you to Beth Platt for a great job as RS for so many years. Hopefully we will continue to enjoy your presence in the region in the upcoming year.

There were no proposed amendments to the Regional Policy. However, it was agreed that we need to review the policies that are in place now. A new regional policy committee was formed to review and recommend any changes for the next meeting. The committee includes Amanda Ellis, Liz Hoyt, Karen Marcotte, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, and Heather Dostal.

Amanda asked if anyone would like to be the Ribbons Coordinator. If DCs have a parent in their club that attends all the rallies and would be a good prospect, please speak with Amanda.

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

At 12:00 p.m., with no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Reed Johnson  
Regional Secretary