

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING
August 11, 2017

The Central New England Regional Council held a Summer Council Meeting at the First Parish Church in Groton, MA on Friday August 11, 2017. There were 11 members in attendance. They included the following: Amanda Ellis, Stephanie Infante, Karen Marcotte, Kristie Gill, Andrea Nelson, Betsey Reeves, Wendy Zwicker, Aly Werth, Megan Gibson, Donna LaPierre and Susan Hanna. It was determined we had the required number present for a quorum.

We began the meeting by discussing the upcoming D Rally on October 1st at the Groton Fairgrounds. The entry has been posted on the regional website. All questions and correspondence should be directed to Amy Armstrong (email address on entry form), who is coordinating entries. The deadline for entries will be **September 20th**. Last year GPC was inundated with last minute entries which made it very difficult for the volunteers making the schedule. This year they want to be very clear entries must be postmarked by the deadline (Sept 20th) otherwise they will not be accepted.

Stephanie Infante will be the chief for D Rally and is looking for C2+/HB level kids (age 16 and older) who are interested in shadowing the HM judges to learn more about the being a HM assistant. DC's if there is anyone in your club who meets that criteria and is interested please put them in contact with Stephanie. We would also like to remind DC's who have first-time rally parents who will be attending to review rally basic protocol with them ahead of time. i.e. they will not be allowed in the trailer area after the initial set-up. This can be confusing to new parents and it is important that everyone has an understanding of how rallies work ahead of their first rally.

Next, Donna asked everyone if there is anything in particular that they would like to have for the winter unmounted education clinics. The ideas that were discussed were trailer safety, bandaging, parasites and poisonous plants, and a confirmation clinic. DC's if you have any other ideas you would like to share please send those to Donna LaPierre, who is coordinating these winter unmounted meetings.

If anyone has any knowledge as to where the model of the digestive system is and the video that goes along with it 'The Glass Horse' please contact Betsey Reeves. These were valuable resources that were lent out several years ago. We would love to be able to get them back to continue using them for our regional clinics. There will be a small reward to anyone with any information on their whereabouts :)

We are going to be implementing a new monthly newsletter with information on upcoming events and important member news. DC's please email any pertinent information to Andrea Nelson atnelson6@comcast.net and I will include it in the next newsletter. I am planning to send them out the first week of each month starting in September so would need to receive anything you would like included by the end of each month.

We would also like to encourage DC's to email me any important items they would like to see on the agenda ahead of any upcoming meetings so we can include them in our regional discussions.

We then moved on to a brief discussion about the junior board. Megan Gibson, the current president, was there to join us and lead the discussion. She is planning to focus member communication on social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. She proposed opening the board up to younger members to gain more participation. We all discussed and agreed to let her try that strategy. While we are concerned that this may make older members less inclined to participate we all agreed we need to find a way to increase participation. DC's if you have mature younger members that you think would be a good fit for our junior board please contact Megan to discuss further.

Amanda then proposed the nominating committee slate which included: Heather Dostal, Donna LaPierre, Karen Marcotte, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant and Judi O'Neil. Kristie moved to accept the slate as presented and Betsey seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve the new nominating committee. One important position we are in need of filling for 2018 is a new regional treasurer. Our current treasurer, Laura Smith, is moving to North Carolina. We are very grateful to Laura for her years of service to our region and want to wish her all the best in Tryon! DC's if you know of anyone who may be willing to fill this important role for our region please let our nominating committee know.

Next we set the dates for our upcoming Fall meetings. Based on the feedback from the informal poll sent out this week the majority prefer Sunday afternoons for the regional meetings. With that in mind we set the next two meeting dates for:

Sunday, September 17th@ 3:00 pm
Sunday, November 19th@ 3:00 pm (Annual Business Meeting)

We are hoping to hold these at the Nashoba Valley Ski area in Westford (where we held meetings for many years). Once this location is confirmed, I will send out the address and meeting room location.

Reminder to clubs you should be scheduling your annual club business meeting as well if you haven't done so already. You also need to make sure you have your nominating committee for club officers in place 90 days ahead of your annual meeting. If you have any questions regarding this please process contact Amanda and she can help to guide you.

Kristie then proposed a motion that instead of spending time reading the reports at the annual business meeting we email them out ahead of the meeting so everyone has a chance to review them beforehand. This motion was also unanimously approved. So going forward, if you are a regional officer submitting an annual report please send to me by the Thursday before the meeting so I can email everything to the region on Friday. Then if there are any questions we can go over them together at the meeting. The hope is to spend more time strategically planning/brainstorming new ideas as a group instead of reading reports.

Amanda then offered 20 minutes for anyone who would like to speak on what they would like to see improved upon from this year. Topics discussed were getting more of the region's parents involved by offering additional meetings designed specifically for them. It was also discussed that we are in need of leadership training for many who are new to the role of DC and also it would be a beneficial refresher for all so looking into that will be a priority for this coming year. It was noted that our rallies were all very successful with many participants throughout the region.

We also discussed the need for regular regional meetings and the plan is to go back to the format where we are holding them around this approximate schedule:

- 1 in September in preparation for our annual business meeting
- 1 in November our annual business meeting
- 1 in February to re-cap the National Annual Meeting and plan for the Spring/Summer
- 1 in April to finalize rally plans, summer camp, championships, ratings, etc.

At 8:00 p.m., with no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Nelson
Regional Secretary