

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
November 19, 2017

The Central New England Regional Council held its Annual Business Meeting at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park Cafe on Sunday November 19, 2017. The Business Meeting began at 3:10 p.m., immediately followed by the fall Regional Council Meeting. There were 28 people in attendance. They included the following: Amanda Ellis, Stephanie Infante, Shirley Foster, Liz Hoyt, Antonia Buneas, Lara Sloan, Judi O'Neil, Lelo Reeves-Curtis, Emma Newman, Heather Dostal, Andrea Nelson, Betsey Reeves, Rachel Drew, Jessie Springer Svatek, Kelly Radochia, Kristen Cole, Sandy Niles, Karen Marcotte, Amber Anderson, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Shelly Patrick, Ben Vaughan, Donna LaPierre, Penny Lowman, Sarah Grallert, Stacy Snell, Susan Hanna and Julie Tollman. Everyone introduced themselves and we welcomed the new attendees. Seventeen of Nineteen voting members were present and a quorum was established.

It had been decided at our meeting this summer that we would distribute the regional officer reports ahead of the business meeting by email in effort to save time reading through each of them together and be able to focus more attention on planning and strategizing for the upcoming year. There were also copies available at the meeting for anyone who wished to have a hard copy. Amanda began the meeting by asking if anyone had any questions on any of the reports. There were no questions brought forward. The full RS report, as well as the other regional reports, are attached and will be posted on the CNE website.

Amanda then summarized the recent activities of the junior board since we did not have a report in hand. They met this month and elected their officers and revised their policy on membership in effort to attract new members. Megan Gibson is the new Junior Board President. There is no minimum rating requirement but members must be a minimum of 13 years of age (or have a DC recommend them) and they must also have been a pony club member for a minimum of one year. The junior board is looking into hosting a clinic for the region in February. There will be a conference call (log-in details to follow) on Sunday December 3rd at 6:00pm for current members and for anyone interested in learning more about the junior board.

All of the reports were approved unanimously by the Council.

Next, Karen Marcotte, as Nominating Committee Chair, followed with the Report of the Nominating Committee. She presented the slate as proposed: Amanda Ellis RS, Amber Anderson VRS, Karen Marcotte RIC, Andrea Nelson Secretary, Stephanie Infante HMO, Ben Vaughan Treasurer. There was no nominations from the floor. A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. The council voted 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

The slate of officers for 2018 is as follows:

Amanda Ellis - Regional Supervisor
Amber Anderson-Vice Regional Supervisor
Ben Vaughan - Treasurer
Andrea Nelson – Secretary
Regional Instructional Coordinator – Karen Marcotte
HMO – Stephanie Infante

Amanda then proposed revising the current policy on for championship fee contribution for competitors. Sandy Niles suggested keeping the policy broad and writing in a best practice that is more specific. The policy amendment will be tabled until the next meeting after further review by the policy committee. Amanda will re-visit this with the council at our next meeting.

Ben Vaughan then proposed we look into increasing rally fees slightly to cover the cost of regional championship preps. He is going to look into what would be needed by way of contributions to make that happen. He also suggested we consider a fundraising effort to offset the cost of these preps. It was discussed that it has been a considerable period of time since the region has done any type of fundraising. Betsey suggested that the goal should be to bring people from outside the region in to spend their money.

A motion was made by Donna Lapierre to move discussion of the Regional Activities Calendar to the immediately following meeting. That motion was seconded by Stephanie Infante and accepted.

At 3:45 p.m., with no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Nelson
Regional Secretary