

CNER REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2005

Minutes of The Meeting

The CNER quarterly regional council meeting was held at the Groton Library in Groton MA on Saturday February 12 2005. The meeting began at 10:25 with the following members in attendance:

Audrey Zwicker, Wendy Reed Johnson, Steve Realmuto, Iris Realmuto, Louise Hara, Betsey Reeves, Deb Maietta, Chris Daly, Judith Pelis, Esther Short, Belinda Barbas, Curtis Renner, Leonora Giguere, Karen Marcotte, Ted Barnard, Elizabeth Cole, Lara Hubner, Ginny Hahn, Chris Keim, Lisa Brem, Nancy Fantom, Karen Liuzzo, and Peggy Knight.

The Council members introduced themselves and Betsey opened the meeting with a brief discussion of the excellent representation of CNER at the USPC Annual Meeting in New Orleans. She then covered some housekeeping items. She emphasized that the Region should be run with full input from the Council and we must continue to work as a group. Chris Keim moved to approve Judith Pelis as VRS and DC as well as the Garron and Realmuto families who have both members serving as DC and Jt-DC. Elizabeth Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Judy assured us that she would be able to handle both roles with Chris Daly helping at the club level.

Next, volunteers were requested for Regional Equipment Coordinator, Ribbon Coordinator, Rally Consultant and Special Events Chairman. Peggy Knight volunteered to be Regional Equipment Coordinator. DC homework assignment: to find a parent in their club who would like to be Ribbon coordinator by the next meeting. Ramona Tolles will order the ribbons for now but we need to find her replacement before the rally season begins. Instead of appointing a Rally Advisor/Consultant, there will be a focus group for current rally organizers, rally scorers, past organizers and interested parties to discuss how to run rallies, scoring and the details. The plan is to meet at Black Brook Farm while the C3 Unmounted Teaching Clinic is being held. Betsey will check with Tammy to confirm. Louise Hara volunteered to help work on a written rally guide. With regards to a special events chairman, it was felt that we should just stay with the Jr. Board dinner concept but expand it to include families. Lisa Brem, Peggy Knight and Audrey Zwicker volunteered to work with Esther and the Junior Board to come up with some ideas.

Lisa Brem spoke next about the Tetrathlon Rally. She emphasized that it will be very low key and fun, to encourage as many participants as possible. Kids can drop down a level and take a 200 point penalty in order to feel comfortable competing but still be on a parity with other competitors in each division. Running, shooting and riding will be held on the first day and swimming only will be held on the second day. Chris Keim suggested DCs encourage their members to take advantage of the White Mt. Region's Tetrathlon as well to gain maximum experience.

There will be an Inter-Regional Leadership Training Camp on November 19 and 20 this year to be held in Nashua NH. The group discussed whether to have our annual regional council meeting during the weekend as we had done in the past. Getting together for a dinner during that time was also mentioned. The general consensus was to try to schedule time during the weekend to hold the business portion of the annual council meeting since there are only so many weekends

available during that time frame. At the next regional council meeting we will discuss topics that we as a region would like to see the National Organization lead. We can send around a questionnaire ahead of time to gather suggestions for topics.

The next topic was the USPC Annual Meeting in 2008. We need to decide if we want to host the meeting in 2008. Karen Marcotte agreed to chair an exploratory USPC Annual Meeting committee along with Betsey, Lara Hubner and Chris Keim. They will check into the responsibilities of the host region and also see if our neighboring regions want to help out. They'll report back at the next meeting.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of mandatory prep meetings for the C3 and UL programs. The C3 preps are at Kingsbury Hill (same weekend as Games Rally) and Mt. Holyoke (Monday and Tuesday). Deb Maietta moved that we require C3s to attend at least one of the two preps but they may decide which one to attend. They would need to discuss with their DC and C3 coordinator. Tammy should have a head count as soon as possible for planning purposes. Elizabeth Cole seconded and the motion passed unanimously. For the Upper Level prep, Deb proposed that the Kingsbury Hill Memorial Day weekend prep be mandatory for the H/HA candidates and the Mt. Holyoke prep be mandatory for the B and A candidates (3 of the 4 days). Anyone taking a dual rating would need to attend both preps. Karen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Prior to the lunch break it was agreed that the next regional council meeting would be held on April 30th at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park.

After lunch, Curtis handed out the tax exempt form for clubs to use to avoid sales tax. He also handed out the final budget for 2004. Deb Maietta did a study of last year's UL program budget and determined that we made an excess of \$2000. She recommended that the region refund \$1700 to the attendees of the Mt. Holyoke Clinic on a pro-rata basis. Steve Realmuto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was agreed that Curtis would report the refund on the 2004 tax report. Curtis also reminded everyone that per a previous motion, dues were supposed to be in by the end of January or a late penalty of \$1 per person (to go towards championships) would be assessed.

Next on the agenda, we determined that there was no need for a separate focus group on finances or scoring at this time. Moving back to the UL program, Louise Hara presented a contract previously proposed by the Regional Advisors. The purpose of the contract is to help the DC, UL Coordinator and the candidate open the door to discussions regarding expectations. Primarily the contract is recommended as a tool for DCs to stay in contact with any out-of-area candidates. Suggestions were made to include the minimum regional requirements for UL candidates to qualify and to amend some of the wording to a more positive tone. Louise will present a revised contract at the next meeting. She handed out a new list of Regional Resources and asked for any additions and updates to be sent to her. There will be a C3 Examiner workshop in NY this year and anyone with questions or interest should contact Karen Marcotte. There will be a Standards Clinic at Carol Greata's farm with Nancy Grout and Louise suggested that DCs try to get their instructors to attend.

Discussion then moved on to Rallies. It was unanimously agreed that rally organizers need to send entry forms to DCs four weeks before opening date. There will be a \$5 per person late charge for new entries, no late fee for substitutions. The late fee policy applies to every rally. Curtis must be advised if the checks coming to him include a late fee (late fees are to be earmarked for championships). The postmark is to be used to determine the date. For Quiz Rally

the closing date has been extended to February 22nd. For Show Jumping Rally Worcestershire and Pegasus have volunteered to help Swift River and in return, Swift River and Pegasus will work with Worcestershire hosting the Non Qualifying Dressage Rally. It will not be necessary to declare intent to qualify before a rally. It was also suggested that we change the name of the "qualifying" ring at Show Jumping Rally. Next, the council began a discussion of funding championships for 2005. Betsey suggested that financially supporting our members helps our Region assure that the most qualified kids get to go to Nationals, regardless of financial constraints. She reminded us that our rallies are meant to benefit 'all the children in our region' providing an opportunity for them to validate their skills, have fun and represent their clubs as they compete. We need to think about whether, and at what level, we want to fund championships. Also we need to think further about our long term budgeting plans. It was suggested that we have a focus group on championship funding.

Esther Short plans to meet with the Jr. Board officers to determine what their plans are for the thank you dinner. At this point nothing is in the works.

The calendar fund raiser turned out to be a success and the council would like to do it again for 2005. A separate line item on the financial statement is not necessary, although there should be separate line items for the Championship fund and Kathleen Long fund.

Next, Karen Liuzzo made a presentation regarding the new Dressage group that is being organized within the region. The purpose of the program is to appeal to kids interested in dressage and to provide quality programs for those kids with a common interest in dressage. There is a sleepover meeting scheduled and a clinic with Lendon Gray. The group is looking for support from the region as a pilot program. There was no final decision reached by the council. Louise discussed the \$1000 Kathleen Long fund contribution we received. It is hoped that this will be an annual education fund. It was left that the council would need to think about what to do. Possibly some of the Kathleen Long Fund could be used to offset the dressage group's costs. Peggy Knight and Deb Maietta agreed to form a committee to focus on the fund options.

Just before we adjourned for the day, Betsey announced the members of the Policy Nominating Committees. Audrey Zwicker, Betsey Reeves, Iris Realmuto and Lara Hubner were named to the Policy Committee. Esther Short, Belinda Barbas, Lisa Brem, Karen Marcotte and Leonora Giguere were named to the Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Reed Johnson