

CNER REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2006

Minutes of The Meeting

The CNER quarterly regional council meeting was held at the First Parish Church in Groton MA on Saturday March 11, 2006. The meeting began at 10:00 with the following members in attendance:

Audrey Zwicker, Wendy Johnson, Iris Realmuto, Louise Hara, Betsey Reeves, Chris Daly, Beth Platt, Curtis Renner, Leonora Giguere, Karen Marcotte, Lara Hubner, Lisa Brem, Peggy Knight, Shelly Patrick, Betty Staten, Anne Marcotte, Tracey Young and Penny Jaques.

Betsey opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction to new club representatives.

Betsey began by addressing the unfinished business left on the table after the last Council meeting in January. Deb Titus had agreed to be the Championship Coordinator with the stipulation that someone else co-chair with her. After much discussion, the board decided to break the responsibility down for each discipline, with one person responsible for distributing and organizing the qualifying paperwork at each rally. That person would then give their specific paperwork to Deb for overall coordination. They would also oversee planning for any practices for championships if applicable.

Leonora and Audrey have volunteered to coordinate at Quiz Rally. They will meet with qualifiers after the Rally, discuss their responsibilities and commitments, and delegate organization of Quiz practice to a willing parent volunteer.

Wendy Johnson will do the same at the Qualifying Eventing Rally. Betty Staten will be responsible for Games. Coordinators are needed to handle the Championship paperwork for Show Jumping and Dressage qualifiers. Please speak with Betsey or Deb if interested. Deb should get all completed paperwork as soon as possible so it can be reviewed before going to Betsey for final submission.

The next topic of discussion was reimbursement for National Youth Congress. One of the two girls we sent this year received what she thought was reimbursement for NYC from the Region. It turned out that the reimbursement was actually for another program. This led to the discussion as to what we wanted to do for reimbursement for NYC representatives. A motion was made to send \$150 to both Becca Cole and Katie Biery for this year. The motion was passed unanimously. Curtis will send them each a check. A second motion was made to reimburse \$150 each to any candidates we send to NYC for 2007. The motion passed unanimously. We will then readdress the topic for 2008. Betsey reminded DCs to talk about the program with their eligible members since this is a wonderful opportunity to meet amazing former pony clubbers and represent our region.

Fundraising for Championships was next on the Agenda. We all agreed that we'd like to continue to pay the entry fees for qualifiers. We also agreed we need to raise funds to do so, and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the best way to raise the most funds with the least manpower and effort. We finally agreed to hold a raffle. Lara will print up 300 tickets at \$50 each. She will have a table at the Quiz Rally and start the ball rolling. We will sell tickets at Rallies and functions and ask DCs to have qualifiers sell tickets to friends and relatives etc. The drawing will be at the Dressage Rally and there will be a substantial cash prize. Curtis, Lara and Chris have formed a committee to get the permit and handle the details. More information to follow.

The Region has two tickets to the Rolex 3 Day Competition in Lexington KY on April 27-30. Anyone who would like the tickets needs to contact Betsey Reeves immediately. The tickets are free but must be used by pony clubbers.

Betsey asked Iris if the distribution list was working well and she confirmed that it was.

The need to continue holding Focus Group meetings was the next topic. The general consensus was that the meetings worked well during the transition but with increased feedback and communication during the Council Meetings and with individual committees and specialty clinics, we no longer have a need for regular focus groups. The meeting on April 1 has been cancelled.

The next DC meeting will be held at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park on July 15th at 10:00. The meeting will be followed at noon by the mandatory Championship Qualifiers meeting and BBQ.

Karen Marcotte gave a brief update on the progress we've made on the 2008 Annual Meeting. We are waiting for the National office to firm up the hotel and date and will advise the Region as soon as we have definite. She handed out a list of jobs that we will need to have help with. Any parents, clubs or other interest volunteers should e-mail Karen, Wendy or Lelo with their thoughts. Wendy distributed a flyer announcing our Logo and Slogan contest. DCs should let their kids know about the contest and urge the kids to submit their drawings as soon as possible. We will need all submissions by June 1 at the latest.

After the lunch break (thank you Audrey for bringing the pizza) we heard from the advisors. Chris Daly delivered the Jr. Board report. The Jr. Board voted Chris and Deb Titus as Co-Advisors. They held a meeting at the Daly's house and have lots of enthusiastic plans for the upcoming year. Their Minutes are in the upcoming CNE Scoop. They will be having a Thank You dinner, clinics, food booth at Quiz and scholarship program where they will give up to \$1000 per year to clubs who apply for a scholarship for a program offered to the region. The application will also be sent with the newsletter and will be available online. The DCs requested that the Jr. Board email them either a copy of the agenda or Minutes so they are aware of the Jr. Board activities and can prompt their attending members for details.

Lara Hubner spoke next with regards to the Horse Management program. The HM Clinic held last week at UNH was very successful. There were lots of new faces and a number of former pony club members who are interested in becoming apprentices. Lara also mentioned the confusion with the HM Rulebook. It is not complete if just downloaded from the ponyclub website as some of the previous years' addendums are missing. There is a detailed set of instructions in the upcoming newsletter that will help DCs and their members to print out a complete HM Rulebook for this year's rallies.

Leonora is still waiting to firm up dates for the dressage clinic but reminded everyone of the upcoming Steven Apatow clinic at the Giguere's Gym on March 25-26. Details are in the newsletter. She also confirmed that the NQ Dressage Rally has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Wendy briefly reminded everyone that the D3/C1 clinic would be held at Bantry Bay on Sunday, wrapping up the program for the season. Any feedback for next year would be appreciated.

Last on the agenda, Leonora passed around new expense reimbursement and rally organizer budget forms for everyone to review. A couple of changes were suggested and the forms will be tweaked and posted on the website. No checks will be issued without an accompanying reimbursement form.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at a record early 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson