

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

September 19, 2009

The fall 2009 Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park in Westford, MA on September 19, 2009 at 10:00. The following members attended: Denise Atherton, Helen Robinson, Kim Mello, Chris Daly, Rob Lak, Iris Realmuto, Julie Koss-Stephany, Judi O'Neil, Rita McConnon, Vicky LoChiatto, Lara Hubner, Ruth Colburn, Beth Platt, Laura Smith, Elaine Brazeau, Karen Marcotte, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Shelly Patrick, Elizabeth Kohler and Betsey Reeves.

Betsey opened the meeting by having the DCs introduce themselves, and thanking everyone for attending on such a gorgeous fall day. Attendance was high, and it was great to have so many clubs and centers represented at the Council Meeting.

For the Webmaster report, Iris advised that she has just redesigned the CNE website (cne.ponyclub.org). She would like all clubs and Centers to email her their logo and contact information including the primary address for regular mounted meetings. Iris will be putting club links on a map in addition to the current club links on the website.

The Upper Level Advisor was not present, but Betsey brought Yankee Candle fundraiser packets to distribute to DCs and their appropriate members. Last year, potential candidates were able to sell items and use the proceeds they had raised to directly offset their prep camp and clinic expenses. The more they sold, the less they had to pay. If anyone is interested and did not get a packet, please contact Allison Blood or Betsey. Hopefully DCs will communicate this opportunity to their UL members as soon as possible since there are deadlines involved.

Wendy spoke briefly about the HB program. We had 100% passing ratio at the test in July. The prep camp was open to neighboring regions, which helped cover the cost of the program. We will have a kick off meeting for HBs this fall. A list was passed around for DCs to list their C2 and C+ members so they can be contacted. C1s who plan to take their C2 in the spring are also welcome to attend. Anyone who did not list potential members is asked to email wendy@wendyj.org so we can have a complete contact list.

For the C3 program, we discussed the prep agenda. This year we offered a number of one day clinics with different clinicians. We discussed the pros and cons of having a multiple-day prep camp instead of numerous clinics; the problems of members with jobs or school obligations; scheduling issues; and financial concerns, etc. More feedback would be appreciated. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled before the beginning of the 2010 program. Karen Marcotte also suggested that any clubs offering club level C3 or HB level preps should open them up to the region which is what Rockingham PC generously did this summer.

Detailed Advisor reports will be submitted at the Annual Regional Council Meeting.

Next, Beth Platt reviewed the current Balance Sheet and Proposed & Actual Budget to date. Basically, rallies and ratings broke even or came close to the expected budget projections. We are still waiting for a bill from Topsfield which will change the numbers for Games Rally. The biggest expense was for Champs. The bottom line was a loss of approximately \$7140, due to the fact that we did not fundraise for Championships this year.

That led to a discussion of fundraising options. Without a fundraising program in 2010, we will not be able to fund the entry fees for our Championship qualifiers. We need to bring in money from outside of CNE. The two auctions we held in prior years were our most successful fundraisers. One DC mentioned a dinner theatre and silent auction that had worked for her club. Chris Daly suggested looking into Circus Smirkus, which was very successful as a fundraiser in his town. Chris will make a preliminary call to the organization in VT to see if they are available and what is required from us. Denise Atherton will speak with some local banks to see if any money is available for initial funding. Denise will also look into online bulb sales with proceeds going to CNE. We will continue to sell medical armbands (at D Rally). DCs are encouraged to buy a supply for their clubs: they're good for new members, thank you gifts, prizes, etc. Any additional thoughts for fundraising would be appreciated, and we will continue the discussion at the Annual Meeting.

GMHA has offered the use of their facility for a Ponyclub function on August 7 and 8th of next year. We discussed holding a regional camp for all levels, maybe doing a fundraiser or "twilight" dressage similar to a jumper night, and opening the camp to other regions. Beth Platt and Betsey will communicate with GMHA to find out the details and limitations.

The USPC Annual Meeting will be held in Houston, Texas January 27-31 this year. Central New England Region can send one or two NYC (National Youth Congress) candidates to represent the Region. Potential candidates must be 18-21 years old. New this year, the RS can include an exemption form for a candidate with a rating lower than C3 if the candidate is a good representative of the region, and demonstrates good volunteerism and leadership qualities. **If your club has any suitable member that is interested in NYC, age 18 or older, and available to go to Houston in January, please have them print out a NYC application and medical release located on the USPC website, and submit it to Betsey by 10/15.** The deadline is very important because applications need to be reviewed and if we have more than one candidate, the region will need to vote on the member and alternate. The final application will need to be at the National office by November 1st, so please discuss this with your eligible members as soon as possible. Eligibility details and the application form are available at this link. <http://ponyclub.org/forms.php#N>

The NYC delegate is responsible for travel arrangements to and from the Annual Meeting. If they just attend the National Youth Congress, their room and meals are covered. If they wish to stay for the Annual Meeting (workshops, Banquet, demos etc) they are responsible for their own registration fee, and hotel and meals as well. A motion was made for the Region to contribute \$150 for each candidate to attend (limited to 2 candidates). The motion passed unanimously.

Also, there is a new National Youth Board with USPC. Each area of the country is allowed one representative to the NYB. CNE is in Area 10. Betsey was not sure of all the details at the meeting. Additional information is attached to this email along with an application for any member who is interested and qualified to participate on the NYB. Please contact Betsey with any additional questions.

Next, Betsey reminded DCs to send her a copy of their notice of the upcoming Annual Meeting. The invitation and agenda need to be sent out by club secretaries at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Please check the regional bylaws located on the CNE

website if you have any questions. After the meeting, be sure to send your renewal packet to the National Office and send a copy of the List of Officers and the front page of the member application to Betsey for her signature. Also, if you have any questions regarding club sponsors, you should be sure to check the USPC by-laws.

Central New England now has four Riding Centers. R.E.R Ponies in Hatfield, MA is our newest Center. Cedar Brook Equestrian Center, Hybid Farm, and Northgate Farm (formerly Jordan Stable Riding Center) are our other Riding Centers.

Note: A question was raised regarding voting at Regional Council meetings. Following is the response from the National Office regarding voting status. This should help clarify the question:

Riding Centers still do not have a vote on the regional council, although they are to be considered non-voting members. There is a suggested regional position called the Regional Center Administrator that some regions have adopted, and this position may be considered a voting member of the council if the region's policies specify such. The RCA may not be affiliated directly with any center in the region, thus ensuring the voting interest lies in the best interest of the center members of the region, rather than for a specific riding establishment.

Equine Affaire is held in Springfield MA on November 12-15. USPC has a both and CNE volunteers to man it for the 4 days. If anyone is interested in helping Betsey with the booth, please contact her as soon as possible. Topsfield Fair (October 2-12) is also having a pony club demo on Friday night. Betsey will give Pentucket PC a copy of the program we presented at Equine Affaire a few years ago.

Karen Marcotte and the Nominating Committee will be putting together the 2010 slate of officers. Betsey has indicated that she has a life outside of Pony Club that is calling to her after 5 years as RS, although she is willing to stay on to help train a new RS. She pointed out that the region is very viable and competent and needs the RS to be a good facilitator. Karen and the Nominating Committee will be contacting everyone for feedback.

Finally, Karen Marcotte mentioned that she'd like to put together an apprentice program for HBs and above, to train upper level members to assist clubs with ratings and teaching. Please contact Karen for more information.

The Annual Regional Council Business Meeting will be held on November 21 at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park at 10:00. All clubs are required to send a representative. The 2010 calendar will be discussed, so please be thinking about your club plans for next year. Invitations and the agenda will be mailed to DCs shortly. Following the Business Meeting, we will hold the final Regional Council Meeting of the year.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary