

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

September 24, 2005

The fall Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park on September 24, 2005 at 10:00. In attendance were the following members: Karen Marcotte, Lara Hubner, Esther Short, Louise Hara, Steve Realmuto, Iris Realmuto, Wendy Johnson, Judy Pelis, Peggy Knight, Lisa Brem, Deb Maietta, Christina Keim, Curtis Renner, Chris Daly, Jackie Jacobs, Audrey Zwicker, Belinda Barbas, Leonora Giguere, Carol Greata and Betsey Reeves.

The meeting commenced with a discussion of the USPC Annual Meeting for 2008-should we host it at all and if so would we be willing to hold it in Boston versus Manchester. There was a motion made by Deb Maietta, seconded by Steve Realmuto, to decide if CNE is willing to host the 2008 Annual Meeting if held in Manchester NH. There were 14 votes in favor of hosting and 3 opposed. The motion passed and Central New England will host the 2008 USPC Annual Meeting. Karen Marcotte will be coordinating the committee and looking for volunteers to help.

Next, the Nominating names of candidates and Committee introduced themselves, spoke briefly about how they each saw the role of the Nominating Committee in determining next years slate of Officers, and explained what their plans were for determining the upcoming slate of officers. A motion was made by Deb to accept the Nominating Committee, consisting of Esther Short, Leonora Giguere, Karen Marcotte, Lisa Brem and Belinda Barbas. The vote was unanimous. Karen Marcotte was selected as the Chair. Cards were given to each voting member with a request that the cards be completed with candidate recommendations, specific comments and suggestion for possible officers. Cards that weren't returned Leonora at the meeting today should be mailed to Karen Marcotte as early as possible so that the Committee can review the comments and communicate with the region. An email will also be going out to the Region outlining the nominating criteria and asking for additional names and recommendations for officers. The Committee explained that they are committed to open communication within the region. Once they gather all the names for consideration, the committee will approach those members to see if they are interested in serving. They will keep us notified of their progress and ultimately present a recommended slate of officers via email prior to the November meeting. Anyone with questions regarding the Nominating policy is urged to check the National and Regional By-Laws, which are available on the website. The final slate will be presented at the November Council meeting and either accepted or rejected as presented. Deb moved to have a meeting on October 22, either as a Council meeting or a forum, for further discussion. A vote was taken, resulting in 2 in favor of meeting and 7 opposed. The motion did not pass so at this point it was left that the Nominating Committee would work together and communicate with the group as openly as possible and present the slate prior to the next meeting

The next topic on the Agenda was the National Youth Congress. Several names were mentioned including Sarah Shade, Michelle Borden, Katie Shafer, Katie Biery, Allison

Blood, Becca Cole and Courtney Pope. DCs should speak with the potential candidates as soon as possible to see if they are interested and available to attend the Annual Meeting in Kansas City in January. Candidates for NYC must be at least 18 years old, a C3 or higher rating, and available to attend the meeting. Applications for candidates are available on the website and they must be completed and sent to Betsey by November 1. Recommendations for candidates will be presented at the November meeting and the Council will vote on the two NYC representatives at that time.

A brief discussion of the 2006 Calendar was the next topic. Jericho Forest indicated they are willing to host Quiz Rally again but would like assistance. Overlook and Worcestershire volunteered to co-host. A discussion of the NQ Dressage Rally followed. The question was brought up as to whether the region should continue to hold this rally. Everyone who participated agreed they had a wonderful time. Leonora said she was willing to continue to host the rally as long as there are at least 5 teams, which is what she needs to break even. There was some feedback from DCs such as timing of the rally; too close to start of school, too close to D Rally, too soon after Nationals, maybe hold in August. No final decision was reached. Louise Hara brought up a couple of ideas for alternatives-a possible lower level camp at Kingsbury Hill which could incorporate a NQ Dressage Rally or competition of some sort at the end of the week and also a possible regional clinic/competitive trail ride. Both ideas met with some interest and a focus group will explore further.

There will be a focus group planned for the first Saturday of the month starting January 7. The first meeting will cover the Kingsbury Hill camp and competitive trail riding. The February 4th meeting will cover long range planning such as novelty rating preps, ratings, new programs and where they fit in etc. The March 4th focus group meeting will cover horse management and the April 1st meeting will cover DC support. Lara Hubner is very concerned about the importance of horse management and also wants to review the new HM rulebook changes that will come out for 2006. These topics will be covered in the March focus group.

The next area for discussion was the D3/C1 program. Wendy Johnson will continue to coordinate, but is looking for assistance with organizing this year's program and is also requesting feedback regarding topics of interest, locations and time preferences. She will email a reminder to the DCs and would really like to hear back from everyone with ideas for improving last year's pilot program. It is expected that the first meeting will be planned for early December.

Next, there was a discussion about funding for the various educational programs. Steve made a motion for the region to allocate \$500 for each of the four programs; UL, C3, D3/C1 and Dressage for 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

Curtis distributed the Budget and Balance sheet. There were a couple of areas that need to be amended or clarified and he will work on an amended report for our next meeting.

CNER will be presenting a mounted demonstration at the Equine Affaire this November as well as manning a USPC booth and conducting unmounted demonstrations. The mounted demonstration will involve a number of well-rounded pony club mounts and riders, and will show pony club members through the various ratings, riding their versatile ponies at each of the standards, while demonstrating the different disciplines in pony club. Katherine Short will be willing to work with Betsey on coordinating the program. For unmounted demos we will have the digestive tract again possibly examples of tack room setups, maybe large, sample Quiz cards. Anyone interested in helping should contact Betsey.

We briefly discussed the leadership seminar which will be held in Nashua, NH the weekend before Thanksgiving this year. We do not have any details yet so more to come on that subject. It was decided that we would hold our Regional Council Annual Business Meeting on Sunday after the Leadership seminar (approximately 11:00 am) while everyone is still present.

Next we discussed whether to hold an annual banquet this year. The general consensus was that the Leadership Seminar in November would be all we wanted to do for this year. On a different subject Esther advised that the Junior Board would not be doing any of the food booths next year so clubs might want to think about manning the food booth at Quiz as a possible fundraiser.

Betsey then asked the DCs if they would try to think of local barns that might be interested in participating in the pony club Centers program. This is a program that started in England and involves private barns willing to join pony club and sponsor, either for a short term or annually, a pony club program to introduce kids without their own mounts to USPC. The barn would need to be approved as a facility and the barn would provide mounts and offer mounted and unmounted pony club lessons at predetermined time slots. Kids would learn the standards of proficiency and have special incentive programs. If anyone knows of a barn that might be interested in sponsoring such a program, please contact Betsey to follow up.

As we were meeting, it was noted that two riders from our region, Samantha Lutz and Kelsey Bradley, were trying out for the international games team. It was agreed that we should acknowledge them on some level in the region although nothing was definitely decided.

Finally, as the sun rose higher in the sky, (was it mentioned that we held the meeting outside in the parking lot due to unforeseen circumstances?), the new changes regarding members aged 21-25 and specialty ratings were introduced. As Betsey explained, there are more details to come but it was her understanding that we as a region could decide if we want to allow members aged 21-25 to participate in our regional rallies. At this time it appears that these older members can only participate in ratings. We will wait to hear more details and discuss further at the next meeting. The C3 rating will become a National rating next year. We will want to be sure to notify National of our intent to hold a rating in our region. Betsey explained briefly how the C3 rating will be divided into a

non-mounted rating and a 3 track mounted rating. Again, we will wait to hear more details, hopefully at the Leadership Seminar.

The next Council meeting will be held at the Sheraton Tara in Nashua NH immediately following the Leadership Seminar on Sunday November 20th.

At 2:30 we adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary