

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 18, 2008

The fall 2008 Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Tubing Park on October 18, 2008 at 10:00. The following members attended: Iris Realmuto, Wendy Johnson, Shelly Patrick, Catherine Williams, Tom Tellier, Chris Daly, Karen Marcotte, Laura Smith, Janet Oliver, Meg Howes, Rita-Marie McConnon, Beth Platt, Kim Mello, Allison Blood, Amanda Ellis, Debbie Power, Mel Litter, Tracey Young, and Betsey Reeves.

Betsey opened the meeting with introductions. She advised everyone to familiarize themselves with the By-Laws which were amended 5/2008. Be sure you have the most recent revision. Regional and National By-Laws are available on the CNE website.

First on the agenda was the USPC Leadership Camp, which is being held from Friday evening November 7 through noon on Sunday November 9 at the Best Western Executive Court Hotel in Manchester, NH. Each club is required to send one representative. Centers are not required, but encouraged, to send a representative as well. Hotel accommodations and a banquet on Saturday night are provided for one club attendee. Others are welcome to attend for an additional fee. Betsey will find out how much the N.O. is charging just to attend the meeting and also if attending the banquet and will send out an email.

Next, Karen Marcotte reported for the Nominating Committee. The 2008 officers have agreed to serve for another year, so the Nominating Committee plans to present the current slate at the Annual Council Meeting next month. They would like to add another Vice RS to the Board if possible. They ask that you email any comments or additional nominations to Karen (karenmrpc@comcast.net) and she will distribute them to the rest of the Committee. Janet Oliver from Wentworth PC is the newest member of the Nominating Committee.

The USPC Annual Meeting will be held in Greenville, SC this January. It appears that several people from the Region plan to attend. If anyone is interested in carpooling or has found cheap transportation, please feel free to email the group. Registration fee discounts apply through Nov 15th for those who are interested.

We received a timely application for the National Youth Congress from Claire Williams. A motion was made to accept her application as the Central New England delegate. The motion was approved unanimously. There may be one or two other possible candidates but they will need to email their applications to Betsey by October 21st or they will not be considered as alternates. If we receive more than one additional application Betsey will email the resumes to the region for a vote.

Next, Catherine and Allison gave a quick update on the UL program. CNE prepped and sent a large number of kids to both UL traditional and specialty ratings this year. We also prepped a number of out of region candidates as well. Based on this year's experiences and the current economic climate, the coordinators are planning to run the program differently next year. They will not host unmounted meetings in the winter months. They will offer only the July prep camp. Rather than have a second camp in May, they will hold several one day clinics where the clinician is paid directly by the participant. At the camp, participants will be responsible for their own meals to cut down on cost and manpower. Participation is still mandatory but if there are problems, the Region can work out alternative. Betsey emphasized that it is important for the candidate to connect with her if there are problems. Also, the Coordinators need to know what the candidate is doing to prepare, since a recommendation is required for testing, etc. Betsey also feels the camaraderie provided at camp is very important.

Allison distributed Classic Cookie fundraiser packets to DCs. This past year the Yankee Candle fundraiser was quite successful and the proceeds went to offset the total program expenses. For next year, she is proposing that those who raise money get a direct credit for their fundraising efforts. So if someone sells a lot of cookies, they can apply that money (40%) to the personal cost of their clinics and camp. If anyone needs a packet, they should contact Allison directly at ablood318@hotmail.com. There is a limited timeframe for this fundraiser, so folks should start selling cookies as soon as possible. HB and C3 candidates can request packets and receive credit to offset their prep expenses as well.

The HB program was next on the agenda. We have eight out of ten passing so far this year. It is expected we will end up with a 90% passing ratio by the end of the year. The region will be refunding a \$25 overpayment to each of the HB camp participants. For 2009, we plan to hold frequent informal preps and possibly move the test date from August to July, ideally at UNH again. We'd also like to hold a prep camp at UNH again based on feedback from this year. DCs are asked to email a list of C2 and higher members so we can contact them regarding a kick off meeting.

The D3/C1 program will continue to be offered in 2009. Kim Mello has agreed to help coordinate. Monthly clinics will hopefully be offered again in December, January and February.

Although Curtis was not in attendance, the 2009 Proposed Budget was distributed to the Council. Any comments or questions, please contact Curtis.

All Coordinators are asked to email their year end reports to Wendy Johnson as soon as possible. Reports will then be sent to DCs prior to the Annual Business Meeting, which will be held on Saturday at the USPC Leadership Camp. This way the reports can be pre-read to save time at the Business Meeting. At that time, all reports will need to be approved by the Council.

Betsey advised that USPC Championships will not be held in 2010 in Kentucky due to the World Equestrian Games. Pony club is looking for feedback as to Championship alternatives. No one had any particular thoughts on the matter but please contact Betsey if you have any suggestions.

Equine Affaire is November 13-16. As always, we have a booth in the Youth Pavilion. Betsey would love to have some relief if any one is interested in helping man the booth. There will be a free ticket available for the day for that volunteer. If interested contact Betsey. You need to be familiar with how pony club operates beyond the region.

The 2009 calendar was discussed next. The following clubs have offered to host as follows:

Dressage Rally Squamscott, June 26-27, with move in on Friday night

Show Jumping Rally Rockingham, June 13, will try to juggle the rings to accommodate the lower level riders

NQ Eventing Rally Wentworth

Games Overlook, with help from Merrimack Valley

Tet Rally ONB, probably in the spring

Quiz Jordan Stables, in April- will need help from other clubs

Eventing Qualifier ONB will look into other venues besides King Oak for later dates

Standards Clinic Nashoba Valley, probably in March. Will try to coordinate live demo for lower levels with DVDs for higher levels

Finally, we had not previously approved the 2009 regional dues so a motion was made to keep the regional dues at \$10 for 2009. The motion passed unanimously. We will be sure to approve the 2010 dues at our February meeting.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary