

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
November 8, 2008

The Central New England Regional Council held their Annual Business Meeting at the Best Western Executive Court Hotel in Manchester NH on Saturday November 8, 2008. The meeting began at 5:15 p.m., immediately following a day long USPC Leadership Camp. There were 23 members in attendance. They included the following: Betsey Reeves, Elizabeth Kohler, Curtis Renner, Talia Martin, Shelly Patrick, Karen Marcotte, Janet Oliver, Lori Decato Metz, Laura Smith, Amanda Ellis, Sarah Robinson, Lara Hubner, Debbie Power, Beth Platt, Tracey Young, Wendy Johnson, Iris Realmuto, Lisa Doyle, Lisa Cook, Deb Titus, Chris Daly, Helen Robinson, and Nancy Fantom.

Betsey welcomed the group and began the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. She spoke of the great opportunity offered by the Leadership Camp to meet new people and have any questions answered by the National Office directly. She shared her pride in the Central New England Region, noting that many of the DCs have been with pony club for 5 to 10 years or more. CNE is solid, strong and stable, with very little turnover of DCs. She thanked everyone again for taking a weekend out of their busy lives to dedicate to pony club.

Next, Betsey delivered the RS report. 2008 started with a bang as we hosted the USPC Annual Meeting, a great success by all accounts. The Region offered a strong instructional program during the year, starting with the D3/C1 program, aimed at helping the “vulnerable” younger members feel a sense of belonging within the region. The Upper Level programs included comprehensive preps for the HB, C3 and UL members. There were approximately 27 applications just for the B and above ratings. It was clear these programs reached a lot of kids in the region. On another note, our rally numbers were noticeably down this year. We were forced to cancel a couple of rallies due to lack of participation and the rallies we held were smaller than in previous years. Betsey noted this was a national occurrence as well, and was probably due to the tough economy. We use the rallies as a measure of the success of our instructional programs, so hopefully we are still on target. Also, with regards to ratings, Betsey said she had tremendous respect for all the candidates (particularly the B candidates who had a difficult rating); it takes a lot to step up and take a UL rating. There was better success with the UL, C3 and HB tests. Betsey ended her report by saying that CNE is a healthy region, with unmounted programs moving along at the club level. She thanked everyone for their support over the year.

Next, Curtis presented the Treasurer’s Report. This had been emailed to the Region earlier for review. Chris Daly made a motion to accept the report, Shelly seconded and the motion passed unanimously. In an effort to save on time, all the year end reports from the other Coordinators were emailed to the Council prior to the Annual Meeting.

Karen Marcotte followed with the Report of the Nominating Committee. She explained that Catherine Williams would not be continuing as VRS. She presented the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Chris moved to accept the slate as presented; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Central New England Regional Officers for 2009 are as follows:

Betsey Reeves- Regional Supervisor
Curtis Renner- Vice Regional Supervisor
Beth Platt- Treasurer

Wendy Johnson- Secretary

Following the election of officers, it was suggested that we approve the Nominating Committee for 2009 right now so that it is in place for next year. Chris Daly offered to be the fourth member. A motion was made to approve the Nominating Committee for 2009 with the following members: Lisa Brem, Karen Marcotte, Janet Oliver and Chris Daly. Deb Power made a motion to approve the Committee, Shelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Regional Calendar of Activities was next on the Agenda. The following is a tentative calendar for 2009:

Standards Clinic, held in March, hosted by Nashoba Valley PC

Quiz Rally, held either Sunday March 29 or Saturday April 4, hosted by Jordan Stable with help from a couple of clubs

Dressage Rally, held June 27-29, hosted by Squamscott PC

Show Jumping Rally, tentatively to be held June 7th, hosted by Rockingham PC

NQ Eventing Rally, held on September 20th, hosted by Wentworth PC

D Rally, held on October 4, hosted by Groton PC

Qualifying Eventing Rally, to be held at Valinor Horse Trials on June 13-14, hosted by ONB

Games Rally, held on May 30-31, hosted by Overlook PC and Merrimack River PC

Mock Rally, to be held in the spring and hosted by Jordan Stables Riding Center again

Tetrathlon does not have a host at this point so qualifiers will need to go out of region.

Catherine Williams had previously announced that we would not hold an in region rating unless a club was willing to come forward and host it. There was no willing club at this time. We hope to hold an HB testing at UNH during the July UL Camp.

February 7th will be the next Council meeting. Beth Platt will call the Carlisle Library to see if we can go there. The spring Council Meeting will be at Nashoba Tubing Park on May 2nd.

Finally, Betsey reminded everyone to bring the message back to their club members regarding donations to the USPC Annual Fund. It is expensive to administer programs for the kids and annual dues do not cover the whole cost, so donations are vital. USPC would like 100% participation among CNE clubs.

At 6:10 p.m., with no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Reed Johnson
Regional Secretary