

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2009

The Central New England Regional Council held their final Council meeting of the year at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park in Westford MA on Saturday November 21, 2009, immediately following the Annual Regional Business Meeting. The meeting began at 11:15 a.m.

Betsey started the meeting by advising that DCs might be hearing from some potential new members who had inquired about Ponyclub while attending the Equine Affaire last weekend. She shared some extra USPC handout material which can be used during membership drives. She also had pamphlets regarding horse mastership for anyone that was interested.

First on the agenda was a discussion of fundraising. One suggestion was to stop paying for Championship entry fees for the time being, since the region cannot afford the expense without a major fundraising effort on an annual basis. It was suggested that we bump the fundraising back to the club level so that Championship funds are targeted to club members directly. It was also recommended that we still fundraise on a regional level, but use those assets to start a scholarship fund for Championship qualifiers. Beth Platt and Betsey would be the only ones to review applications to preserve privacy. Karen Marcotte mentioned that there will be three Championship venues this coming year, which would free up more space for additional teams if a region wanted to send more than one qualifying team. Betsey reminded the region that we need to stick to our qualifying criteria and not just send someone because they want to go. She doesn't necessarily expect our qualifiers to win, but she wants them to be worthy competitors and represent the region well.

After further discussion, a motion was made for the Region to stop automatically paying the entry fees at Championships, but we will consider a candidate for a scholarship on a need basis. The motion passed unanimously. Beth Platt will continue to explore the scholarship fund, how to budget for next year, where the money will come from and how to determine eligibility.

Betsey would still like to have a volunteer fundraiser coordinator and asked DCs to see if anyone from their club might be a possibility. Beth mentioned that Jeff Brem may have a function hall we could use for a regional fundraiser. She will look into the possibility of holding either a golf outing or a regional dinner with a small silent auction at the golf course. She will get back to us with more information.

Next Betsey asked each club for an update on their club packets and List of Officers. She needs a copy of each club's LOO and the first page with membership information. Also, the regional contact sheet was passed around so each club could update their contact information. A final copy will be emailed shortly.

New for 2010, a medical armband must be worn at all mounted functions and when working around horses. The region has supplies of armbands that clubs can purchase and have on hand for their new members. Supplies were on hand and you can contact Betsey if you need more.

A change in ratings was recently announced. There will now be a direct path from the HB to the H, meaning that a C2 would no longer have to pass the C3 before they take their H. If they pass the H while a C2, they would be called an H/HM. If they have their C3, they would be an H/C3 and if they have their B, they would be an H/A. We may have some HBs that will now be

interested in trying for their H/HM. Allison Blood will try to determine how this will affect the UL program with regards to number of potential candidates and testings. She asked for a participation estimate from DCs. At this point, she does not know if there will be enough candidates for us to hold a UL rating in region, but it looks like surrounding regions may be hosting some.

There was also a discussion about UL applications and deadlines for withdrawing from camps. Allison discussed how it is very hard to plan a clinic and hire clinicians at the beginning of the year and then have the attendance drop off and not be able to cover the expenses. Also, there needs to be a policy regarding the cutoff date for refunds. It was suggested that 50% of the fee be paid with the initial application 6 weeks prior to the clinic. This would be non-refundable. The other 50% would be due prior to the clinic. Nothing was decided so additional discussion will be necessary. Other comments were to find less expensive clinicians to keep the cost down or to include lower level participants to help offset the overall costs.

There will be an HB kickoff meeting at Wendy Johnson's house on December 5th for interested HBs and their parent. We plan to hold a one day camp again in June and a rating at UNH in July similar to last year.

There will be a D3/C1 clinic on Conformation at UNH on December 12 with Laurie Chapman Bosco.

Next we discussed the regional calendar. Please notify everyone when you firm up the date/location.

Horse Management Clinic - Nashoba will host at Shepley Hill Farm in Groton. Date to be determined based on Quiz Rally's date but will either be in March or April.

Quiz - Pentucket, Pegasus and Hybrid have volunteered to host different sections of the rally but we need to have an overall organizer now that Jordan Stable is not available. We also need to firm up a date and location.

Eventing Qualifier - ONB will host again at Valinor on June 12/13.

Non-qualifying Eventing - Wentworth will host again in the fall at Green Acres in Madbury NH. They will confirm dates as soon as possible.

Dressage Rally - **New date- rally will be at UNH on June 19-20 with move in on Friday June 18**, hosted by Squamscott.

Show Jumping - will be hosted by Rockingham at Brookvale Farm either on June 12 or 19. It will be on a Saturday and will include qualifying and Non-qualifying again.

D Rally - will be held on September 19, hosted by Groton PC.

Games - hosted by Overlook and Merrimack River, on June 5-6.

Tetrathlon - we will probably not host this rally and encourage interested competitors to contact White Mtn Region to participate in their rally.

Polocross - Jericho Forest will host a clinic in the fall.

Other clinics open to the region this year - Gary Keating Clinic in mid July, hosted by Squamscott. Jericho Forest will host a series of unmounted clinics during the winter/spring and will send out a calendar as soon as possible. They have agreed to host a D3/C1 clinic on spring horse cleaning in March for the region. Rockingham is having a mock Show Jumping Rally on April 18th and will open it to the region. Let Iris know if you are planning a clinic and she will post it online.

The agenda continued with some miscellaneous topics. Betsey advised that for the first time in many years, CNE did not send a candidate to the National Youth Congress. She asked that DCs think about likely candidates and discuss the opportunity with them earlier this year so we can send someone next year.

USPC has started a National Youth Board and CNE would like to propose a candidate. We have received an application form one member and Betsey will send it to the National Office. This is an opportunity for the youth to be heard so if anyone has any questions, they should contact Betsey for more details.

Iris has put a map on the CNE website. Club logos appear on the map and Betsey asked that all clubs be sure to send Iris their information. The map was very helpful at Equine Affaire this year. Also, Betsey asked that Iris remove a couple of outdated addresses from the direction section of the CNE website.

Squamscott PC has agreed to store the regional PA system since they will be using it for dressage rally. We still need a regional equipment manager to store and keep track of the rest of the regional equipment.

The next Council meeting will be held on February 6th. We will look into a meeting location since the Groton Church and Tubing Park will not be available that day. The location will be announced as soon as possible.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary