

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

September 29, 2011

The CNE Regional Council meeting was held at Wendy Johnson's house in Nashua, NH on September 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm, following a suggestion from the Council to hold the meeting during the week to free up weekends. It appears that the later hour is difficult for those members with a longer travel time so we will probably continue with weekend meetings. The following members attended: Donna Lapierre, Beth Platt, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Heather Dostal, Denise Atherton, Susan Beliveau, Andrea Nelson, Laura Smith, Lisa Doyle, and Vicky Lochiatto.

First action of the night was to unanimously approve the Minutes of the last meeting. Next, Curtis reviewed the Regional Budget and Balance Sheet. There were a few areas that needed additional expense clarification. There was a discussion of the fees allocated towards Champs and it was agreed that the Champs fees from rallies need to be clearly accounted for on the rally organizers report to Curtis. Organizers should use the generic rally entry form, should always include the Champs fee with the entry fee, and should be sure Curtis knows how much of the total revenue is to be allocated to Champs. This would include late fees as well. There was some confusion as to whether stable managers owe the fee as well.

Next on the agenda was rally status. Although the rally attendance was down overall this year, rallies ran well and stayed pretty much on budget. We discussed the rally schedule briefly for next year and reminded DCs to go back to the clubs to discuss what they would like to host in 2012. If clubs can try to determine their rally dates for 2012 before the Annual Council meeting, this will greatly assist in planning for next year. Some venues and dates are determined by the availability of the facilities but if we could try to hold some rallies earlier this would help the schedule. Eventing Qualifier locations were discussed, possibly GMHA as an option. Nashoba Valley PC has offered to help ONB with hosting next year.

Next we touched briefly on this year's Championships and Festival. Despite the heat, it appeared that everyone had a great time. CNE had a well attended BBQ, there was lots of camaraderie and spirit, and the competitors from CNE represented us well over all. Results are listed on the CNE website.

Next, Beth discussed the Upper Level program. CNE hosted a mega rating this year for the C3 traditional, C3 dressage, B traditional and B dressage. The pass ratio was quite low and we need to rethink what we would like to offer the candidates in the future for prep opportunities. Heather thought the Junior Board might be happy to host a prep clinic and Beth pointed out that it is a two way street, if we offer preps the kids need to attend and we should look into a camp again as well as additional outside clinicians. Much will depend on the number of potential candidates so DCs are urged to speak with their members and bring a head count to the next Council meeting.

Moving on, Beth announced the new Nominating Committee. Karen Marcotte, Heather Dostal and Judi O'Neil have agreed to serve. The Council voted to approve them unanimously.

CNE now has a new HMO. Andrea Nelson from Nashoba Valley PC has agreed to take up the reins as HMO, replacing Jaime Ferry who moved out of the area this summer. She is

putting together assistant HM judges for the upcoming D Rally and will be looking for names of volunteer assistant judges for next year's rallies so please be in touch with her if you have recommendations or are interested in volunteering.

This is the time for club annual meetings. Clubs should all have their nominating committees in place by now. Beth reminded everyone to include her when they send out their invitations as she will try to attend as many as she can. Also remember to review your policies at your meetings and forward a copy of your latest club policy to her as soon as possible. There is a template for club policies on the USPC website. Also, any new officers need to have their background checks done as soon as possible.

Along that same line, Beth reviewed the instructions for returning paperwork to the National Office and the Region. All new original membership forms should be sent to the NO directly along with a copy of the List of Officers (LOO). The original LOO should be sent to Beth for her signature along with a copy of the front page of the membership forms. Any checks payable to the Region should always be sent to Curtis directly.

Beth would like to have a dedicated insurance coordinator for the region so clubs do not duplicate insurance costs when insuring locations for club activities. It may be possible to list all locations that have been insured on the CNE website and anyone that needs to use that facility or site in the future can just ask the original insuring club to add the date to their coverage. A location only has to be paid for once, and new dates can be added at no charge, so coordinating insurance makes a lot of sense. Please check to see if anyone in your club might be interested in volunteering.

This year the USPC Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans on January 26-29. Information is on the USPC website and there is a discount if you sign up early. Beth would like to see every club send a representative if possible. It is very educational for DCs as well as parents, there are great workshops for older kids, and lots of fun as well for everyone. The meeting was held in New Orleans several years ago and it was a great time.

Last call for National Youth Congress nominees. Please speak with Beth as soon as possible if you have an interested HB and above rated member, age 18-21. This is a great experience for older pony club members.

The Annual Council meeting will be held at Beth Platt's house in Carlisle MA on November 5th at 10:00. Invitations will be email shortly. Although some clubs may not have held their club meetings yet, this was the best date for the majority. If you anticipate a change in officers, both current and new officers are welcome to attend. Either way, each club needs to send a representative who can vote. Also, this is the time we need to submit a tentative calendar to the National Office so clubs should be discussing what they would like to do in 2012.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary