

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

September 11, 2010

The fall 2010 Regional Council meeting was held at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park in Westford, MA on September 11, 2010 at 10:00. The following members attended: Helen Robinson, Iris Realmuto, Julie Koss-Stephany, Judi O'Neil, Rita McConnon, Lara Hubner, Beth Platt, Laura Smith, Elaine Brazeau, Karen Marcotte, Wendy Johnson, Curtis Renner, Shelly Patrick, Heather Dostal, Debbie Power, Stephanie Casale, Beth Brown, Amanda Ellis and Betsey Reeves.

Betsey opened the meeting by having the DCs introduce themselves, and thanking everyone for attending on such a gorgeous fall day. Attendance was high, and it was great to have so many clubs and centers represented at the Council Meeting. Betsey commented again on how well our region gels. We have great interclub relationships with scramble rally teams and low stress rallies that appear to be enjoyable and educational.

We had a wonderful showing at Championships this year. Everyone did well with lots of high scoring teams in all our disciplines. Scores and results are posted on the CNE website and the national Ponyclub website. Betsey did say there have been a couple of incidences of poor sportsmanship and hopefully that will be addressed and resolved. DCs need to remind their members and parents that Ponyclub is a team concept so we are all on the same page. Also, although our rallies are small, we appear to have a bunch of Ds coming up through the ranks next year. Pegasus in particular is going through a revival with lots of young Ds and our Centers are continuing to grow and provide new membership. Betsey reminded DCs to call upon HBs and UL members to do lower level ratings. We also need to use C2s at unmounted meetings this winter to help with their teaching requirement for the HB. All and all, we should feel really good about our regional program!

Beth Platt has been working on a regional dinner/fundraiser at Meadow Creek Country Club in Dracut MA. The best date appears to be November 20th which is also the date of the Annual Meeting. Based on the cost of the buffet and the room charge it looks like we'd need to charge between \$35-40. We will also have a Championship fundraiser silent auction with possible live auction items as well. Each club is asked to donate at least a couple of items. Things like baskets, home made items from club members and non horse items are all great donations. Also please ask your horse community for donations as well. Heather Dostal is the auction coordinator. Please let her know what you have for items. They can be dropped off at various locations (to be announced shortly) and can also be brought to the Annual Meeting the day of the Auction.

Next we discussed bringing back the Junior Board. This is a group of older Ponyclub members who plan to meet regularly and will represent the youth view within the region. Heather Dostal volunteered to be the Jr. Board Advisor. DCs should check with their members at their upcoming club meetings to see if there is any interest.

Karen Marcotte spoke next as the head of the Nominating Committee. She is working with Janet Oliver but needs to bring on a third member since two of the current members are not active at the moment. A motion was made to add Judi O'Neil to the Nominating Committee. The vote to approve was unanimous. Karen and her committee will be contacting everyone regarding the upcoming slate of officers.

DCs were reminded that they also need to line up their club nominating committees and prepare for their upcoming annual sponsors meeting. Be sure to include Betsey with your notification, as she tries to attend as many club meetings as possible. Check the bylaws for rules on sponsorship and notification of the meeting timelines. After the meeting, be sure to send your renewal packet to the National Office and send a copy of the List of Officers and the front page of the member application to Betsey for her signature.

We also have a few openings for coordinators. Karen Marcotte agreed to be the new C3 Coordinator. Wendy Johnson will continue with the HB and D3/C1 programs. Lara Hubner will assist. We believe Lelo Reeves will stay on for Championships and Allison Blood will continue with the UL program. We are looking for a RIC and an HMO. Shelly Patrick will be the regional equipment coordinator. Everyone is urged to bring any regional equipment to the annual meeting, and she will take it back with her.

Next, Beth Platt reviewed the current Financial Summary to date. We still have more rally numbers to post but there were no questions at this time. Also, she will have a better calculation for Championship refunds at the Annual Meeting.

We had a brief discussion of the upcoming schedule for next year. Amanda Ellis/Merrimack River will organize Quiz again next year. ONB will host the Qualifying Eventing Rally, Squamscott will host the Dressage Rally, Rockingham will organize the Show Jumping Rally and Overlook will host Games. We discussed alternatives such as a one day rally for Dressage, moving Games to Memorial Day weekend if possible, trying to spread the rallies out a little more and future Mega Rally arrangements. Clubs should be prepared at the Annual Meeting with potential dates and other functions they would like to host or co-host.

Equine Affaire is occurring the weekend of November 13th. USPC will have a booth again and Betsey will be doing a demo on the digestive tract. Anyone who is interested in helping her man the booth over the course of the show should contact Betsey. Heather volunteered to assist on Thurs and Saturday mornings.

The USPC Annual Meeting will be held in Nashville TN January 27-30 this year. Central New England Region can send one NYC (National Youth Congress) candidate to represent the Region with an alternate (not guaranteed). Potential candidates must be 18-21 years old and at least an HB. **If your club has any suitable member that is interested in NYC, meets the criteria, and is available to go to Nashville in January, please have them print out an NYC application (under N in the forms section of the USPC website) and submit it to Betsey by 10/15.** The deadline is very important because applications need to be reviewed, must be complete, and if we have more than one candidate, the region will need to decide on the member and alternate. The final application will need to be at the National office by November 1st, so please discuss this with your eligible members as soon as possible. Eligibility details and the application form are available at this link: <http://ponyclub.org/forms.php#N> You can also send in nominations to the national office for the Academy of Achievement if you know of any graduate pony clubbers who have gone on to be successful in another industry.

The NYC delegate is responsible for travel arrangements to and from the Annual Meeting. If they just attend the National Youth Congress, their room and meals are covered. If they wish to stay for the Annual Meeting (workshops, Banquet, demos etc) they are responsible for their own registration fee, and hotel and meals as well. A motion

was made last year for the Region to contribute \$150 for each candidate to attend (limited to 2 candidates).

Karen took a minute to clarify the alternative rating system. She explained that candidates can chose a classical or alternative rating. If they go with the classical rating they typically ride first and then test knowledge at the end of the rating. If they do not meet standards any portion, they may continue and then possibly retest on that problem area. If they choose the alternative rating they must start with knowledge and cannot continue on to the next section until they pass knowledge. They can achieve a new rating on knowledge only. With the classical it is all or nothing. If you are confused please contact Karen for clarification.

Helen Robinson advised that there will be a small Ponyclub demo at the Topsfield Fair (the first weekend in October). She will forward an email to the region with details in case anyone is interested in riding.

Julie Koss-Stephany suggested clubs look into the Nutrena Club Support program where collecting Nutrena labels can earn money for non-profit organizations. She suggested speaking with local feed stores and contacting the Nutrena rep.

The Annual Regional Council Business Meeting will be held on November 20th at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park at 10:00. All clubs are required to send a representative. Again, the 2011 calendar will be discussed, so please be thinking about your club plans for next year. Invitations and the agenda will be mailed to DCs shortly. Following the Business Meeting, we will hold the final Regional Council Meeting of the year. We'll probably try to do a potluck lunch since it's a longer meeting than usual.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Johnson
Regional Secretary