

VIRGINIA REGION PONY CLUBS  
Regional Council Meeting  
November 8, 2014  
John Barton Payne Building

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>Regional Supervisor</b>	Carolyn Lorenzen (LHPC)
<b>Vice - Regional Supervisor, Activities</b>	Not Present (Leslie Pitcher)
<b>Vice - Regional Supervisor, Administration</b>	Dawn Bellinger (RBPC)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Valerie Page (DVPC)
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne Williams (BRHPC)
<b>RIC</b>	Not Present (Vicki Fox)
<b>HMO</b>	Brian Smith
BRHPC	Mary Schwentker, Joint DC
CFPC	Not Represented
CWPC	Jennifer Carpenter, DC
DRHPC	Carrie Camp, 2015 DC
DRPC	Sue Murdock Fox, DC
DVPC	Barbara Shurtleff, Joint DC
GGPC	Diane Fanta, DC
LHPC	Margaret Good, DC Michelle Johns, Joint DC Lisa Woods, Champs Coordinator
MBFRC	Vicki Golden
MOCPC	David Quanbeck, DC Debra Stehly, Jt-DC
ODHPC	Debbie Welch, DC
RBPC	Represented by Dawn Bellinger
RCPC	Not represented
SARC	Pamela Smith, CA

**Meeting Minutes**

- I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions
  - a. Carolyn Lorenzen, RS called the meeting to order at 9:25 am. A quorum was established.
  
- II. Review of February 2014 Minutes
  - a. MOTION: Carrie Camp moved to approve the February 8, 2014 Minutes as submitted. Debbie Welch seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
  
- III. Officer Reports
  - a. Activities – Carolyn Lorenzen, RS for Leslie Pitcher, Vice-RS, Activities

- i. Pitcher prepared a written report detailing the 2014 Rally season along with participation and financial data for the past five (5) years for comparison.
  - ii. 2014 was a successful rally year in terms of participation. In February the Council will review the actual profit/loss figures for the 2014 Rallies as the figure presented on the written report showing a profit may be inaccurate.
    - 1. Anne Williams asked that the entry fee for D1/D2 Rally be reviewed at the Rally Organizers meeting in February as their rally fee doubled in 2014. If there is a profit, that may be the reason why.
    - 2. Debra Stehly noted that she believes the attendance figure for Eventing Rally may be incorrect based on how many stalls were occupied that day versus the number of participants recorded on the written report.
- b. Administration - *Dawn Bellinger, Vice RS, Administration*
  - i. Newsletter: Cindy Shellberg has been doing an fantastic job with the monthly newsletter.
    - 1. A few Council members noted that their have members have not been receiving the newsletter, or were receiving it and are no longer. Shellberg and Bellinger will check the contacts to remedy this.
    - 2. Bellinger reminded the Council that the newsletter is also linked on the website so it is always available there.
  - ii. Membership: Dawn prepared a written report showing healthy membership in 2014.
  - iii. Website: The website was recently hacked. Dawn is working with the host provider to install a back-up version to before the hack. Log-ins are down right now, but Dawn will email leaders with Log-in info once it is working. In the meantime, email Aldona Petraitis for membership information when needed.
- c. RIC - *Michelle Johns for Vicki Fox, RIC*
  - i. Vicky Fox prepared a written report summarizing activities in 2014.
  - ii. Plans for 2015:
    - 1. Preps - Upper Level, Show Jumping and XC
    - 2. National Tests - May HB and August C3 – A
      - a. Carrie Camp noted that there was a VRPC member who did not get in a test, but sees that there are more out of Region

candidates that VRPC candidates, wonders if there's a way we can get priority for our members. Carolyn Lorenzen noted that the VRPC member Camp referenced applied late, but that in the future, if any VRPC candidate applies on time then they should get preference for an in-region test.

- b. Debbie Welch asked that the incoming RIC take a look at the Regional fee and try to make it lower than the max \$175. Welch noted that we charge more than other regions.
- c. Sue Murdock asked that the incoming RIC look at the C3 pass rate as it is horrible at 14%. Carolyn Lorenzen responded that the Region will address that with more preps. Carrie Camp stated that there were twice as many preps when her daughter went for her A and felt they are important to adequately prepare our members.
- d. Jennifer Carpenter commented on the importance of adequately prepping our members in our clubs stating that if you follow the guidelines provided by USPC for the timing of committing to the tests, scheduling the preps and getting National Examiners in for the local C2 test, the kids are more likely to succeed at the national level.
- e. Mary Schwentker suggested that we use National Examiners to be clinicians at not just the Upper Level Prep, but also the Show Jumping and Cross County Prep to give those members wanting to participate in National Level tests that much more exposure to National Examiners.

d. HMO - *Brian Smith, HMO*

- i. In 2014, Brian Smith received all positive feedback from the Chiefs at our rallies; especially with the work ethic and attitude of kids.
- ii. Challenges in 2014 to address in 2015
  - 1. Staffing at rallies: In 2014, Smith felt clubs sent either green AHMJ's or he had no-shows or not enough people. Smith feels that in the past (before going to the current policy of the clubs being required to send one HM volunteer per team) he used to have a bank of qualified judges, some of whom were current members, who wanted to participate and would repeatedly come to rallies each year. Now, he does not have that bank of volunteers. Smith encouraged clubs to send their current members to volunteer, but wonders if the fact that we don't pay current members has

something to do with their lack of participation. Finally, Smith thinks that Horsemasters could contribute to the rallies as AHMJ's.

- a. Carolyn Lorenzen would love to see a training session for those who want to be an AHMJ and suggested the HM Seminar as the place to do that.
- b. Jennifer Carpenter noted that the Rulebooks have forms to have Chiefs and AHMJ's hired ahead of time. Carpenter thinks the staffing could be set up well in advance rather than relying on the responses from the rally forms. She, as the organizer of Games Rally, had an issue with the lack of HM judges on site.
- c. MOTION: Carrie Camp moved that we reaffirm our current HM policy of clubs sending one HM volunteer per team, and to ensure adequate staffing Dawn Bellinger will make sure that the rally form clearly provides for HM volunteers. There being no second to Camp's motion, discussion continued.
- d. Camp thinks that this needs to be handled at the club level. The Clubs need to produce the HM volunteers.
- e. Lorenzen noted that it's more of a training issue. The Region needs to adequately train those who want to be judges.
- f. Lisa Woods asked what level members can do this - Smith responded that mature C1's and C2 and above would be ideal. Those 18 and younger cannot be responsible for safety issues.
- g. Carrie Camp stated that she didn't agree with kids being judges. Smith said they will be paired with adults. Camp suggested a 16 year old age minimum.
- h. Jennifer wants the Region to build a resource list from the clubs, including their alumni and volunteers, to give the HMO some other pool to gather judges from. This should be up to the DC. The list should be of qualified judges. Carpenter also thinks the HMO, Rally Organizers and Vice RS of Activities should be working together at least one month in advance of the rallies to be sure an adequate baseline number of qualified AHMJ's have been secured. Carpenter cited some complications with Games Rally to support her recommendations.



4. Leslie Wellington disagreed with Debbie's view. Wellington views this as a wonderful opportunity to hold adults to the same standard as the children of USPC.
5. Jennifer Carpenter recommends that we send invitations to the Horsemasters for each rally.
6. Pamela Smith stated that she has about 12 adults at her center who are interested in Horsemasters, but are holding off on joining because they don't want to compete against the kids, but want educational expericnes. Down the road, it would be nice to have them participate at their own rally.
7. Carrie Camp suggested that those with complaints about Horsemasters direct them to USPC.
8. MOTION: Dawn Belliner moved to have the Executive Committee explore how Horsemasters will fit into our Region, including having the Horsemasters Liaison have a voting interest in the Regional Council. Jennifer Carpenter seconded the motion. There being only one dissenting vote, the motion carried.
9. SUMMARY: Rally organizers will decide which rallies Horsemasters will be invited to and report back to Regional Council for vote in February and the Executive Committee will explore whether we amend our policies to include new voting positon for the Horsemasters Liaison.

f. Champs - *Lisa Woods, Champs Coordinator*

- i. In 2014, Virginia Region sent 57 competitors to Champs
- ii. We lost about \$1,000 from Champs in 2014
- iii. Debra Stehly praised Lisa Woods for doing an amazing job.
- iv. 2015 Recommendations
  1. Woods will delegate more next year, if parents get on the website and create a username then they will be able to see so much more and that can alleviate some stress.
  2. We need one volunteer to “babysit” the coaches at Champs.
  3. Maggie Compton cautioned that the Champs secretaries may be pushing up the deadline for entries, so for all clubs to be organized.
  4. July 22nd is the opening date for Champs for 2015
  5. Carolyn Lorenzen would like to see the Region not use as many exemptions in 2015 because they are not acceptable for every situation.

g. Treasurer’s Report - *Valerie Page, Treasurer*

- i. We didn't lose as much as we intended to in 2014.
- ii. In 2015, Annual Meeting Hosting is a new line-item. The Region purchased pins for advertising the meeting. Hopefully we will make a profit on selling them. We are hoping to meet our budget goal of \$2,000 profit.
- iii. Page reminded officers and rally organizers that any expenditures at the regional level need to be reported to the treasurer right away.
- iv. MOTION: Dawn Bellinger moved that we refund any amount over \$25 to national testing candidates. Carrie Camp seconded. All in favor. None opposed, motion carried.

#### IV. New Business

##### a. 2015 Budget

- i. Dawn Bellinger submitted a written request for funding for a membership management system.
- ii. MOTION: Carrie Camp moved that we authorize \$1500 for 2015 to see if Bellinger can work with 500 contacts and programming expenses. Pamela Smith seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- iii. MOTION: Anne Williams moved for an allocation of \$1,500 for a new line item for a National Testing Candidates Subsidy so that the Region could subsidize or refund \$50 per candidate per national test. Sue Murdock seconded the motion. Ten (10) in favor, three (3) opposed. Motion carried.
- iv. MOTION: Dawn Bellinger moved for Reimbursement of at least \$20 per member for Annual Meeting registration. Michele Johns seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- v. MOTION: Carrie Camp moved to create another line item for National Level Preps with a \$1,500 allocation. The current \$1,500 budgeted for Preps would go to other preps and clinic. Mary Schwentker seconded.
  1. Staci suggested \$2,000 for upper level preps and \$1,000 for other clinics and preps.
  2. Carrie Camp then revised her motion to \$2,500 for mounted and unmounted upper level preps (including HB Preps) and \$500 for clinics. Staci Kapinos seconded. All in favor none opposed, motion carried.
- vi. MOTION: Dawn Bellinger moved for a new line item for HorseMasters with a \$500 allocation to be used for insurance and other misc expenses. There being no second to this motion, discussion continued.
- vii. MOTION: Jennifer Carpenter moved for a Horsemasters line item not to exceed the amount of their dues (ie, \$20 per member) which would be \$60

based on 2014 membership. Dave Quanbeck seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- viii. MOTION: Staci Kapinos moved to approve the budget, Michele Johns seconded. All in favor, none opposed. 2015 Budget approved.

b. Regional Supervisor Report – *Carolyn Lorenzen, RS*

i. Calendar

1. January

- a. 3&4 - Consensus was to not use Morven Park due to expense and lack of longeing location, but to keep the date for the prep
  - i. Mary Schwentker suggested a series of preps focusing on different aspects of the test rather than cram it into one weekend.
  - ii. Carrie Camp suggests the incoming RIC canvass the clubs to see what the candidates need and when is a good time to do it.
  - iii. HB Preps will be at different locations than Morven Park as well

2. March

- a. Add 15<sup>th</sup> Difficult Run Horse Trials
- b. Add 21<sup>st</sup> Horseless Rally

3. April

- a. Add 11th - Games/Polocross Fun Day
- b. Add 12<sup>th</sup> – Show Jumping Clinic
- c. Add 18th - Deep Run Hunt Horse Trials & Capital Region Polocrosse Rally @ Great Meadows,
  - i. While the rally above is hosted by Capital Region, Carrie Camp reminded the Council of the longstanding Regional policy not to have Regional activities on the same date as Clubs' fundraisers.

4. May

- a. Add 16&17 – XC Clinic

5. June

- a. Add 27 or 28 Richard Lamb Clinic (CWPC)

6. July

- a. Add 12 Champs Prep

7. September

- a. Add 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> Tet Rally
- b. Add 19 & 20 Bluemont Fair (SARC fundraiser)

- c. Add 26<sup>th</sup> D1/D2 Rally
    - 8. October
      - a. Add 10th Games Rally (tentative)
      - b. Add 11th BRHPC Paper Chase
    - 9. Notes
      - a. Dressage Rally moved from Memorial Day weekend - we will not have this weekend reserved by Morven Park in the future.
      - b. Jennifer Carpenter suggested getting a training video for the Standards & Rating Clinic rather than doing it live and combine that with HM Seminar.
      - c. Items Still Needed to be Added:
        - i. Standards and Certification Clinic
        - ii. HM Seminar
        - iii. D3 Rally
  - ii. Annual Meeting
    - 1. January 21 through 25
    - 2. VRPC will be offering apparel wear for sale on the USPC website prior to the meeting
    - 3. Vicki Fox and Margaret Good from LHPC are doing a great job getting auction donations
    - 4. Michele Johns noted that each club is asked to donate one item to the auction
    - 5. Dawn announced that there is vendor space available so contact Gina Nelson and cc Carolyn Lorenzen if anyone is interested in getting space
  - iii. Regional Youth Board
    - 1. Carolyn needs an adult leader for the Youth Board.
    - 2. None present volunteered.
- c. Nominating Committee Report – *Pamela Smith*
- i. 2015 Slate of Officers
    - 1. Regional Supervisor - Carolyn Lorenzen
    - 2. Vice RS Activities - Erin White
    - 3. RIC - Kris Gerald
    - 4. Secretary - Anne Williams
    - 5. HMO - Brian Smith
    - 6. Treasurer - Vicky Golden

- ii. Nomination from the floor: Helene Steinberg from DVPC nominated Jennifer Carpenter as HMO; Debra Stehly seconded. A vote was taken by written ballot. 9 in favor of Brian Smith, 3 in favor of Jennifer Carpenter and 5 did not vote.
- d. Founders/ Local Legend Awards - *Gigi Winslett*
  - i. Vicki Fox to receive Founders Award at Annual Meeting.
  - ii. Gigi encouraged members to nominate for 20+ Local Legend Awards.
  - iii. This year, Margaret good and Vicki Fox will receive Local Legend Awards.
- e. Perpetual Volunteer Award was awarded to Dawn Bellinger by Carolyn Lorenzen
- f. Family Tree for Annual Meeting- *Jennifer Carpenter*
  - i. Carpenter is doing a Family Tree for the Annual Meeting to show all of the family connections in Pony Club.
  - ii. She will be sending out a google form that she asks all council members to share with their members about their family connections in Pony Club.
- g. Open Forum
  - i. Dawn Bellinger reminded everyone to register for Annual Meeting and submit their membership packets by November 15<sup>th</sup>
- h. Adjourn
  - i. Upon motion made by Mary Schwentker, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Williams (BRHPC), Regional Secretary