

Northern District 4-H Horse Council Meeting
Fauquier Office, Warrenton, VA

October 2, 2013

Called to order at 7:03pm

Public Announcements

- VA Tech Polo Club is trying to raise money. They started in 2011. If you would like to make a donation please see their website for further information at <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/poloclub>
- Fairfax County would like to ask for support of their county fair next year with regard to information on how to run a well-attended 4-h horse show.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance of \$14,215.89
- Some scholarships were paid and the cost of the polycon conference phone will be coming in.
- Rising Riders is donating \$100 toward the polycon conference phone.
- Some scholarship funding will be returned: \$25 for Elizabeth Hill and \$50 for Hannah McDonald. Qualifying fees are still to be collected from the few riders that qualified at the Western Clinic in Catlett.

Old Business:

- State 4-H Fair Drill and Ranch Horse Competition is coming up on Saturday – 10 teams will be competing in all divisions and 36 kids are signed up for the Ranch Horse Division. The following day is the 4-h sponsored fun show. It is an open show as well. If anyone needs tickets they need to contact Elizabeth. Southern States is providing a free bag of shavings to each competitor
- Qualifying Show date inquiries and requests are already coming in. If your club wants to host a 4-H Qualifying Horse Show, please contact Linda Brown by email at labcam@hotmail.com and inform her of a date and location. We hope to have all dates brought to the table at the December meeting and show dates will be determined and approved. Qualifying Clinic dates will be considered after the Qualifying Show dates and locations have been determined. Qualifying Clinic applications are on the NDHC website and are submitted to Julie Williamson. The Northern District is allowed by State to host four Qualifying shows. The clinics fill the needs that are not met by the clinics.

New Business:

- 4-H Eastern Nationals contest is coming up. Many 4-Hers who are going were in the top three senior placings at Equismartz. We have 10 4-Hers representing Virginia and all are coming from Northern District. We have in the budget \$800 to contribute to their expenses. Rose McDonald moved to raise the budget up \$200 to cover the cost of those traveling. Michelle Rozell 2nd that. Expenses will be raised to \$1000. Contest is Nov. 8-10, 2013 in Louisville, KY.

- Comments on 4-H State Show:

Lots of compliments on running the show – very well run show.

 - Some comments from stable management judges: found some stall doors not latched, doors / decorations impeding entrance for horses to get out, a few confrontational notes from 4-hers and parents to judges. Note that empty water buckets is grounds for disqualification at the show. One stall had more than one miniature horse in a stall together and this is not allowed.
 - There were some questionable rides noticed, wondering how some could have passed their horsemanship skills testing. Write down numbers of unsafe riders so we can address these issues directly with those families. Ring etiquette was also discussed and how that is addressed in the horsemanship skills testing. It was discussed to encourage judges to excuse riders when they see safety issues. Problem could be more rooted at the District Qualifying show because the smaller shows don't offer a big horse sized class where riders have to ride in such a situation.
 - In Hunter pleasure (and in any class with riders) horses should wear a red ribbon for questionable horse/rider safety issues. Legal equipment should be reviewed and questioned in the showmanship classes. There were some issues with winners and noticeable illegal equipment in the Hunter in Hand classes. There is a request from those showing in the Hunter and Hunter pleasure divisions to not use judges that have seen these riders year after year. Could state find someone that does not judge in this area, possibly use an out of state judge. We realize this is an issue of cost because of travel expenses. Please let Celeste know if anyone has any ideas or is able to get sponsorships to fund this issue.
 - Some concern about the Wiley arena footing – that is tough, like carpet, and somewhat slippery.
 - When the question came up about why the stakes class is not split for juniors and seniors – it was explained that they've done this for years because of the low number of attendance for this division and with horses and large ponies. Note that the small pony division is split.
 - When schooling was allowed after reining, times could maybe be more clarified.
 - Some horses were being lunged in the wrong area and when addressed the 4-Hers and parents were lacking good and appropriate conduct.
 - A little bit of congestion between the covered arena and fletcher arena – use of the gate – the timing on that needs to be better monitored, with a suggestion to switch the gate location.
 - East arena was run like clockwork – Julie, Bebe and Kendall did a phenomenal job as well.
 - Around 450 participants were at the show.
- We are formally approved for the 501c3.

The next meeting is at the Orange Co. Extension office in Orange, VA, 7pm on Dec. 4, 2013
Adjourned at 8:17pm

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary, Sandy Arnold
