

Northern District 4-H Horse Council Meeting  
Orange Co. Ext. Office, Warrenton, VA

April 2, 2014

Called to order at 7:05pm

Attendance: (By phone) Rose McDonald, Doug Fidler. (in person) Ana Rij, Kim Mayo, Carrie Swanson, Bertha Durbin, Julie Williamson, Karen Ampeh, Alina Ampeh, Cindy Puryear, Kim Mayo, Michele Roszell, Sandy Arnold, Linda Brown, Eleszabeth McNeel.

Public Comments: None

Treasurers Report:

- The 990ez form was submitted by Doug for our taxes. There were no costs or financial obligations.
- We paid out a \$500 donation to the Theresa McDonald fund to the VA Tech Foundation. One scholarship of \$40 was also used. The balance is \$12,502.70

Old Business:

- **District Qualifying Horse Bowl:** Bertha reported that three senior teams that were in attendance all qualified for State. And we qualified our full number of 5 teams for Juniors. We thank Bertha for running this contest and all the volunteers that helped out on the day.
- **District Hippology:** Rose McDonald that the contest was held in a new location, this year and they hosted about 70-80 kids. The parents and volunteers had a nice place to hang out in the building and she thanked all the volunteers for helping out. We thank the Golden Horse shoe club for hosting this event and putting the contest material together, plus hosting the judging clinic afterwards.
- **County Contests:** Karen Ampeh reported on the Fairfax Co. contest and remarked that they had many more contestants at this event than expected. Some 4-Hers came all the way up from Fluvanna and they were grateful for all those that came. There were about 34 in attendance. Bertha thanked Fluvanna for also hosting a Horse Bowl and Hippology contest as well. It was held at the new elementary school. It had good attendance and all that went enjoyed it and many were thankful for this opportunity.
- **Equismartz report:** We thanked Rose McDonald for working very hard at finding horses for the horse judging contest. All the volunteers were phenomenal and worked very hard and worked very well together to make this event run smoothly for our kids. We also appreciate all that Celeste Crisman does for our program and what a great leader she is to our program. Anna Rij is looking for room judges and monitors for next year's contest, so please contact her if you know of a good experienced public speaking and presentation judge. We encourage all 4-hers to send thank you's to the state and their local adults that helped at the contest.

- **Officer's insurance liability concern:** We are reviewing the MOU agreement and getting further consultation from insurance professionals about whether or not we need to purchase coverage for any type of liability. We will table this to the next meeting with more information. Bertha mentioned that the group used to be bonded. It is our understanding that the commonwealth covers us. We want to remind all volunteers to sign the 4-h Equine Waiver and Volunteer forms to be sure of coverage at any event or gathering. Forms can be obtained by your local 4-H office or online at the State 4-H website. We will also have forms posted on our NDHC website.

New Business: (reviewing dates)

- **Skills test:** We reviewed all dates requested and they are all posted on the website. There was concern of some charging for these events and we want to remind all hosting that this is not a fee-charging or fund raising event, and any money collected should be in the form of a check to only cover expenses as mentioned on the application form. It is posted now on the NDHC website that "in the event that there are expenses for this, please itemize this information as these are not fund raisers." Those organizing, please call your evaluators first and then ask for the approved date. It is noted that there were no complaints from riders that went to state last year about any lack of available skill testings. We remind skills evaluators that they need to be willing to travel and expect to drive. Skills organizers, don't be afraid to ask them to evaluate based on the distance they live from an evaluation. This is nature of the evaluator's position in that they are not to know the riders.
- **Qualifying Shows:** All qualifying show date requests come through the District Council and are approved by us and then State is notified. Four dates have been selected for Northern District. These shows were reviewed on the status and all have entry forms online, except the June 21 show which will be forthcoming soon. Golden Horseshoes and Nokesville have offered to run the concessions at the June 21 show. The May 11 show at Lexington is an open show and the skills testing is being held the day before. Stall are available for overnights. We want to remind all horse & rider combinations that their May 1 Declaration forms need to be turned into the 4-H office in order to show at a Qualifying show. This was also mentioned on the NDHC website. A reminder to riders: If you are going to show out of district you need to get permission from the one who is hosting the show. This is also stated in the state show rule book.
- **Qualifying Clinics:** We want to let all extension agents know that it is our goal to have as few qualifying clinics as possible so we have a larger turnout at our Four Qualifying Shows. The purpose of the qualifying clinics is to provide opportunity for the underserved disciplines if there is not enough opportunity at the Qualifying shows.
- **Mary Cole Sayers 4-H Horse Program Fund:** We recently lost a young adult alumni to a tragic accident. Alina Ampeh made a motion to decline the use of her scholarship award of \$100 and that the council make a donation in the amount of \$200 to the Mary Cole Sayers 4-H Horse Program Fund. Carrie Swanson 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion. Motion passed. We applaud Alina for her decision to decline her scholarship in order to allow a larger contribution to this great cause of a 4-H Fund in the name of an avid 4-Her. Alina would like to recognize that Mary Cole was an active 4-H member for many years and she had influenced and befriended many other 4-Hers

throughout the state 4-H horse program. 4-H state wide truly cares about Mary Cole and the connections that she made. Carrie will send a thank you note to Mary Cole's mom and Alina on behalf of the Mary Cole Sayers 4-H Horse Program Fund. Further individual donations may be sent payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation and please include "Mary Cole Sayers Fund" on the memo line. Donations may be mailed to Barbara Martin, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MC0402), Hutcheson Hall, Suite 216, Virginia Tech, 250 Drillfield Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24061. Donations may also be made online at <https://webapps.es.vt.edu/givingto/academic/gift>. When selecting the designation, please use the "Enter your own" button and type in "Mary Cole Sayers 4-H Horse Program Fund" and follow prompts.

- **Julie Williamson announced the passing of** Mike Bowman recently and mentioned about what a great volunteer he was for 4-H, having done many clinics and judging and never accepted payment for his services. Mike was a professional horseman and an avid foxhunter. He was a member of the Keswick, Bull Run, and Farmington Hunt Clubs. Add Mary Cole obit.
- Rose McDonald is in charge of the silent auction at state and that information has just been distributed and is also posted on the NDHC website. We ask that all 4-Hers try to take a part in this fundraising effort for the State Horse Show.
- A reminder was given about Southern Regional applications being due Friday.
- Congress applications are also due coming up on April 11.
- Refunds for the Block and Bridle contest are being sent back from VA Tech in the mail. Some have already been received at this point.
- We congratulate Linda Brown for being nominated into the All Stars ceremony this June.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm. Thank you for all who called in and came.

**2014 Meeting dates are as follows:**

June 4, 2014, Fauquier County Extension Office, Warrenton

August 6, 2014, Orange County Extension Office, Orange

October 1, 2014, Fauquier County Extension Office, Warrenton

December 3, 2014, Orange County Extension Office, Orange

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary, Sandy Arnold

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