

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

December 3, 2014

Called to order at 7:00pm (following a potluck holiday social snack time)

Attendance: Bertha Durbin, Joanne Carroll, Carrie Swanson, Eleszabeth McNeel, Michele Roszell, Kim Mayo, Erin Carver, Linda Brown, Sandy Arnold, Cindy Puryear, Anna Rij. By phone: Doug Fidler, Heidi Kovacs and Kim Abel at Blazing Saddles, Cindy McAlister (Loudoun Co.).

No public announcements.

Minutes were approved per posted online. Michele moved to accept the minutes, Anna seconded.

Treasurers Report:

- Balance \$13,598.23. Paid out money for ENR contestants, Chelsea Bickley and Abbey Strickland. Mariah Cassaday will also receive \$100. A total of \$700 has been requested for scholarships for 2015. The District Horse Judging contest brought in \$552. Some of that was scholarship money that 4-Hers requested. Linda has the money and will make the deposit on behalf of Doug (with a detailed list provided by Bertha). Caroline Co. and Spotsylvania Co. will be submitting request for \$100. Orange Co. request for scholarship horse judging participants will be paid out after the 1st of the year. Deadline for scholarship requests is Dec. 31st. Money awarded is to be used Jan 1 – Dec. 31 2015.

Old Business:

- State Drill Team – Eleszabeth reported details: we had a total of 41 competitors for drill and ranch riders. No one rode in the color guard, but we had riders in all other divisions. Grand Champion drill team riders were the Rixeyville Riders, and Reserve Champion was Albemarle Hoof N Woof. Trae Kohn from Prince Wm. Co. was the Junior Champion in Ranch Riding, and the senior Champion was Morgan Strickler from Frederick Co., with Reserve Champion being Emily Eubank from Amherst. The weather was great, we had an excellent and large audience, the event went very smoothly, Rose McDonald was excellent as announcer, educating the audience about what the riders were doing. We expect the turnout of the audience was due to good seating, food vendors next to the event, other livestock in the area now as a draw for spectators, and noticeable marketing on the State Fair's behalf to have it be more of a 'farm animal' venue, bringing the country back to the state fair.
- Nomination Committee – Carrie reported she is looking for a treasurer as Doug is unable to run for office again. Sandy will note in an email to the listserv that NDHC is in need more volunteer participants at our meetings. Officer elections will be at the next meeting in February at the Fauquier Co. Ext. Office.
- Sandy suggested that we look into adding a position on the council for Teen Representatives. We will look into the language of the 501c3 status to see if there is an age restriction on voting members. Eleszabeth moved to have a statement prepared at the next meeting to add this position into the bylaws, and how representatives should be selected (i.e., by Co. Ext. Agent). Michele seconded. In the meantime, Sandy will send an email out to encourage teen members to come to meetings.
- Questions were asked about seeking a VA Sales tax deduction paper. At one point this past year the officers decided not to do this because of the time and cost involved compared to the savings. We will look into this further once again.
- District Horse Judging Contest report by Bertha: the contest was on Nov. 22, at Bertha's farm, with 52 contestants. It was super cold in the morning. Anna said she can get Rocky Mountain horses for next year and

Cindy Puryear could get western horses. Bertha had a difficult time getting horses for judging this year. We appreciate all of Bertha's time and energy in putting on the contest and we extend our thanks to all the volunteers who helped with so many details in bringing horses, handling them, helping with the kids, feeding the volunteers super good food (thank you Bebe!), working hard at the scoring (thank you Michael Ho!), and all the 4-H alumni that come back year after year to come help as the officiating judges.

New Business:

- District Qualifying Horse Show proposals presented (timing is so that dates and locations can be presented at the State Horse Committee meeting in Jan): Doug Fidler will do the show again in Front Royal at the 4-H Center hopefully on June 20 and will do the same format of classes with the exception of dressage. He will also have the skills testing opportunity there beginning potentially on the Friday night. Stabling is available. Fluvanna is considering a show and Albemarle would help with volunteers. Rose McDonald will secure a show in Frederick Co. much like last years. Clinics requests can come in beginning at the February meeting after these Qualifying Shows are secured. Clinic requests will go through Julie Williamson again for approvals. Clinics will be considered based on the need for a division not supported at the District Qualifying Shows.
- Skills test – April 11 at Bertha's place. If you would like to HOST a Horsemanship Skills Testing, please first contact Julie Williamson with your information and request at stepatatimefarm@gmail.com.
- Budget: brought to our attention that in 2014 we had a deficit of about \$2000, we are in the black this year by \$415 with regard to the budget. The projected budget for 2015 is potentially in the red by approximately \$4k. We may have to consider raising fees at the qualifying shows and clinics, or reduce scholarship money. We are asking members to think of ideas on how we can make decisions to remain in the black.
- Mail Celeste scrapbook pages to Anna 122 Dorsey Lane, Bowling Green, VA 22427 by Jan. 5th. Sandy will send out a reminder email through the listserve.
- Eleszabeth moved to adjourn, Anna second it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. Thank you for all who called in and came.

Upcoming 2015 Meeting Dates, 7pm:

February 4, 2015, Fauquier County Extension Office, Warrenton

April 1, 2015, Orange County Extension Office, Orange

June 3, 2015, Fauquier County Extension Office, Warrenton

August 5, 2015, Orange County Extension Office, Orange

October 7, 2015 Fauquier County Extension Office, Warrenton

December 9, 2015 Orange County Extension Office, Orange

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary, Sandy Arnold