

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

October 7, 2015

Called to order at 7:15pm

Attendance: Linda Brown, Carrie Swanson, Eleszabeth McNeel, Bertha Durbin, Karen Ampeh, Michelle Dionne, Arthur Kohn, Julie Williamson, Debbie Garrett, Debbie Torrance, Dot Chaplin, Marion Sharp, Dot Chaplin, Colleen Chaplin, Kelly Cody, Sandy Arnold

By phone: Erin Mitchell

Announcements: Karen is looking for help at Hippology contest in March at Frying Pan Park, Fairfax County contest.

No public announcements.

Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Rose is recovering nicely. 4 scholarships came in and were paid out. Also paid for donation to Hospitality Suite (200); District Show bills paid. Balance \$14,309.97

Old Business:

- State Show Comments and feedback
 - Complaint that Jr and Sr joined together in Hunter classes. Combined because of lack of numbers in some classes. Gymkhana as well.
 - Discussion why jumpers are in East Arena only, not in Waldron. Not enough help, no schooling, not enough time.
 - Discussion of lighting in East Arena not the greatest. Julie collecting funds to raise monies for Horse Center.
 - Inconsistencies with Gymkhana. Leading horses in chute to gate. Horses must walk into the ring. Discussion followed about having a horse show to raise young people and teaching sportsmanship.
 - Congestion at the Wiley arena between the two schooling rings. Some missed calls for class. Compared to two years ago, it's not as bad as it used to be. Q's: should we announce into barns? A: horse center doesn't have a central communication system other than walkie talkies and so much info coming into and out of office with so many different disciplines its hard to manage that detail.
 - Some weather issues – difficult keeping kids under cover.
 - Schooling difficulties: crowded rings (for hunter pleasure classes). Some suggested keeping schooling 1 hour before ride, a ring master assigned to manage size. Some riders stay too long and linger ahead of their class time. Some think kids are afraid they're going to miss their warmup. A: we need more volunteers.
 - Hunter pleasure: Discussion: uncontrollable horses in the class and no one calling a halt. A: ring steward and judge must call that. Problem: people not making a class. A: Bertha was in announcer booth, she would count horses and tell the gate people about the number of horses missing. gate person would call for riders before gate was shut. Plenty of opportunities to not miss class.

- Discussion: Getting judges outside of our state. A: tight budget, had additional expenses at horse center. Q: do we raise fees for show entry? Placings should still be the same or very close to the same with a local or a distant judge – shouldn't affect placings. Perhaps we could start a fund transportation for judges. Promote Horse Show Hero more.
- Discussion: allowing kids to bring a 2nd horse? A: we dont have enough stalls, the selection process of who is allowed a 2nd horse, class conflicts with multiple horses. We have had conflicts with siblings sharing a horse. Logistics would be nearly impossible even if we only allowed seniors to bring a 2nd horse. A second horse would certainly increase numbers. Elesebeth says the lower numbers reflect a cyclical turnover. Julie says we are down about 80 kids. A suggestion by Erin was to change the hunter o/f class arrangements to get more numbers. A: would take too long to get through the show. says we'd never get thru the show.
- Dot says thank you to all the volunteers - show ran very well. Most experienced good helpful parents and kids. Colleens club would always help with jump crew.
- Art contest: 16 pieces went to the MARE center. Could we make a list at the contest area and at the ice cream social to know who won what. Art is pinned right before the ice cream social. Maybe we can have it judged sooner or keep art there until the end of the day or until at least 6pm? We can put placing stickers on artwork instead of ribbons. Ribbons have been stolen in the past if they were displayed with art work.
- Volunteering at the state show - we appreciate what's happening at the club level. The leaders prepare their kids for the contest - teaching them to plan ahead and put the responsibility on the kids, a life skill that is necessary. It was pointed out that a majority of the kids don't have the opportunity to have a large horse show experience east of the Mississippi.
- Kelly enjoyed doing the evaluations prior to the shows. Its can be an expensive venture for the hotel and travel reasons.
- Many many thanks to all volunteers!
- State Fair make-up date plans – Drill Team and Ranch Riding and fun show was cancelled due to the rain. VDOT was put on emerg alert, there were not enough police to police the fair, and then gov. declared a state of emergency. It is rescheduled for Nov. 14, 15. RR on Sat., Sat. pm fun show activities, and Sun is DT. DT should be done by noon. We need volunteers and we need a food vendor or club volunteer to do the food. We are reopen for RR entries. You can bring 2 horses, so long as they have both qualified, one for RR and one for DT. Pipe gates will be used to setup the arena in the covered ring.
- Youth Rep: Colleen suggested we use the title, Youth District Representative. Language and guidelines were presented by Sandy Arnold. Suggestion not to limit representatives but to allow those who want to come, to come. They can be awarded upon their participation. Would like for them to contribute to at least one district horse council event. Linda says she can break meetings into a working group sessions. A final draft with these modifications will be provided by Sandy for the December meeting to present and vote to accept.

New Business:

- The Northern District Horse Judging Contest will be Dec. 19, Fauquier Fairgrounds. It has 3 covered rings and a large heated building to hold contestants for reasons and lunch. Bertha Durbin and Karen Ampeh are organizing this event. Discussion followed about potential horses that could be drafted for this event.

- The Northern District Contests will be March 12, 2016 – hippology, horse bowl, and presentations. This is the qualifying event for the state EquiSmartz contest (April 1-3, 2016) in horse bowl and presentations.
- Block and Bridle Contest is Feb. 12-13, 2016
- Please bring Qualifying Clinic dates, Qualifying Show dates and Horsemanship Skills testing dates to the Dec. meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45

Upcoming 2015 Meeting Dates, 7pm:

December 9, 2015 Orange County Extension Office, Orange

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary, Sandy Arnold