

Northern District 4-H Horse Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 4th, 2009
Fauquier Extension Office, Warrenton, VA

Voting or Alternate Members Present

Jody Ramey
Chris Russ
H. Fred Kane
Debbie Jo Foster
Samantha Buonomo
Eleszabeth McNeel
Julie Williamson
Stacy Daugherty
Harry Daugherty
Toni Stison
Suzanne Stepp
Terri Jones
Linda Brown
Marty Hartmann
Sandy Arnold
Mitzi Santana
Michele Roszell

Adult Members Present

Kim Mayo
Marquerite Kane
Bertha Durbin
Carrie Swanson

Senior 4-H Members Present

Kimberly Buonomo
Taylor Walters
Ashleigh Ramey

Agenda:

1. There were no public concerns or comments brought to the meeting. The regular meeting was called to order by President Bertha Durbin at 7:05 pm.
2. **Minutes from the December 2008** meeting were reviewed. The last name of Halley was corrected to Howley and she is moved to the Alternate side of members. The minutes were approved and accepted.
3. **The Treasurer's Report:** The Audit Committee reported that there were some changes and adjustments they saw to the practices of the Treasurer. There was a \$. 50 cent error on the bank statement, this change is in our favor. They stated that the balance is currently \$10,268.33. Further changes would be discussed with the next elected Treasurer rather than wasting meeting time on these changes.
4. **Election of Officers:**
 - a. The Election Committee presented a list of those adult volunteers that have volunteered to fulfill the Offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The floor was opened for other nominations and no others were given. The motion was made and seconded that the list of officers from the Election Committee were accepted as is. The new officers: President - Linda Brown; Vice President - Michele Roszell; Secretary - Eleszabeth McNeely; and Treasurer - Bertha Durbin.

Note: The Council is pleased to thank Bertha for her many years of service as President.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. **Report on the Rose Mount District Show** – Suzanne Stepp and Toni Stinson gave a report on the show.
 - a. One of the items up for discussion is whether or not to change the show date from June 7th (Sunday) to June 6th (Saturday). This date has opened up and they would like to know the

Council's thoughts on the change. After a brief discussion it was determined that a Saturday date would be perhaps better for that date. Toni and Suzanne will see if the change can be made and will post the result on the 4-H website when it is finalized.

- b. Changing this date may change who the judges are. Those changes will be posted on the website as well.
 - c. Volunteers are requested. If you can attend, please give your name and phone number to either Suzanne or Toni. They will also be accepting volunteers the day of the show.
6. There was a concern raised regarding the lack of Dressage classes in either of these shows. There will be a **couple Dressage clinics** to cover this area. Those clinics will put their ideas in writing and get them to Julie Williamson who is coordinating the clinics for Virginia.
7. **District Show Trophies.** If you have or know of someone that has a continuing trophy from last year, please get word to the District Show hosts that you have them and how you plan to return them. You can drop the trophies off with your Extension Agent. Carrie Swanson will also be contacting these holders and determine the best way to retrieve them.
8. There was an opportunity to have a Dressage qualifying event at the Culpeper show with the Charlottesville Dressage Chapter. However, we have learned that this show has been cancelled.
9. **Palmyra District Show Report.** Mitzi Santana had the floor to go over the proposal put together for this May Show. The date is May 2nd at Speakeasy Farm in Fluvanna County.
- a. It was requested that there be a western side saddle as an open side saddle class so the gaited people could participate.
 - b. The budget was gone over and after discussion the proposal was accepted. The information will be given to Celeste to post on the website.
10. Discussion of any **other known Qualifying Clinics**
- a. Marty Hartmann mentioned that her group is creating a clinic and that the information was being posted on the website. It is **Hunter/Pleasure**. The clinic will be at Amber Hill and it will cover Showmanship.
 - b. **Westwood Center Dressage Clinic** – April 25th. This is to be approved and the information will be posted on the website as soon as possible.
 - c. Front Royal is having a **Driving and Saddleseat** clinic also on April 25th. The host is Debbie Jo Foster and the information will be on the website.
 - d. Loudon County is doing a **Dressage/Hunter clinic**. For more information see the website.
11. Please keep in mind that a list of qualifying horse/rider combinations needs to go to Celeste within three days of the clinic or show. There are new forms on the website to help with this process.
12. **Northern District Hippology Contest – Feb. 7th** at the Fauquier County Fair Grounds.
- a. There are currently 120 kids registered and volunteers are needed to make this run smoothly.
 - b. There will be live horses for parts of the test.
 - c. There is a need to borrow a portable PA system for the outdoor pieces.
 - d. There will be a period of time during the test where all contestants and adults will have time to go into town to have lunch.
13. **Report from the State Horse Advisory Committee and State Horse Show Meetings.**
- a. The biggest change to report is that all Drill Team Competitions are moving to the State Fair in Caroline County. The State Fair is currently building all new rings and barns to help bring horses back to the State Fair. The Drill Team Competitions will just be one part of these horse events. Because the state usually gives the 4-H programs money every year for the State show, it is important that we have a solid presence at the State Fair. The current proposed dates for the competitions are September 26 and 27th. There is not currently a schedule in place, but that will be presented as soon as it is available. The plusses for this move is that there will be no missed school, no limit on the number of Drill Teams, and a greater audience to watch the performance. You can check the State Fair Website for more information as it is make known.

- b. Another change has to do with the addition of a mini division at the 4-H State show. This division will have an over fences class.
- c. Moving Drill Team to the next weekend will also allow Gymkhana to be moved to Saturday night where they hope to find more spectators.
- d. There will be Hunter Classics on Sunday.
- e. Saddle seat will get a second go.
- f. Racking Horses will be separated from the big group.
- g. There will no longer be a 13 year old separate class. They will be in the 9-13 age group. These classes will now be split according to the size of the ponies.
- h. They also have a new computer program that will allow all the classes to be split much more easily according to the number of entries.
- i. There will be a new point system from 1-10 for all divisions.
- j. Also starting in 2009-2010 kids will enter their 4-H project horses on-line.
- k. These are just some of the highlights. As final decisions are made they will be posted in the State Rulebook and on the website. The final version of the Rulebook should be completed by the first District Show in May.

14. Mandatory Horse Handling Qualification: Another change next year will be to add a new, mandatory layer of safety for horse qualification. There will be trained auditors and qualifiers that will attend as many of the District Shows and qualifying clinics as possible. These trained qualifiers will be working with each horse/rider combination to make sure that every rider can handle the basics of working with their horse. The basics will include picking feet, leading the horse properly, turning the horse, stopping the horse. These are just some of the things they are looking for. A complete list will be in the Rulebook as the details are finalized. If the horse/rider misses them at a show, then they will need to make arrangements to go to them. After they pass, they will get a certificate for that one horse/rider combination. If they are going to use other horses, they have to have these certificates for each horse.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 15. New Northern District Website:** <http://sites.google.com/site/northerndistva4hhorse/>
- a. Many thanks to our council member Sandy Arnold for her role in creating this website.
 - b. As we gather information then pass it on to Carrie Swanson who will be adding it here.
 - c. Show Updates will be posted here as well.
 - d. A contact list for all the 4-H clubs in our district will be there.
 - e. You can also create a google site for your club and we can put a link to that page to help you let others know of learning opportunities as they arise.
- 16. Volunteer Leaders meeting** at Smith Mountain Lake April 3-5.
- a. There has been a request that the Council help with registration fees to attend this event. After some discussion, the motion was made and seconded that the Council will pay for one adult leader from EACH NORTHERN DISTRICT CLUB to attend. Please submit any requests to Bertha for reimbursement.
- 17. New resource book** for Hippology and Horse Bowl contests is the “Equine Science” by Jean T. Griffiths. Bertha has a couple of copies left if you are interested.
- 18. Calendar of Events:**
- a. **February 7th – Northern District Hippology Contest in Warrenton.**
 - b. **February 20-21 – Block and Bridle Hippology and Horse Judging Contest**
 - c. **February 28 – Charlottesville, Horse Bowl Qualifying Event.** Because the March 20-22nd event can only handle so many teams, there will be a qualifying event to determine the best 4 Senior and 4 Junior teams from the Northern District to send. Please register with Bertha ASAP.

- d. **March 7th – Virginia Horse Council meeting in Weyers Cave.** Annual horse meeting at Blue Ridge Community College. There is a reduced fee to attend and this group is the pipeline to Virginia Legislature.
 - e. **March 14th – North Western District Horse Judging Contest**
 - f. **March 20-22 – State Horse Bowl, Hippology and Horse Speaking Contests** – due to space they will only accept one presentation per club per age group - one Junior and one senior. Information on this can be found on the website.
 - g. **April 3-5 – Volunteer Horse Leaders Conference – Smith Mountain Lake** – deadline to turn in Registration is in March
 - h. **April 18th – District Contests**
 - i. **June 15-18 – State 4-H Congress**
19. **Virginia Budget Shortfall** – As many of you know the Virginia Budget has experienced a shortfall in money this year and next year. They were unable to give us the annual \$10,000 gift they do each year to help pay for the State 4-H Horse show and to Virginia Tech to pay for things and people in our extension offices. With the shortfall, there will be cuts made everywhere in order to meet the demands that we scale back. We need every adult and child to write a letter to their regional officials from the county levels on up saying how much they have appreciated the support of Virginia in the past and how they hope they will be able to continue that support in the future. You can send pictures, letter, postcards - the more the merrier. Let us put faces on those budget cuts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 1, 2009 at the Orange County Extension Office.