

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

February 4, 2015

Called to order at 7:00pm

Attendance: Bertha Durbin, Carrie Swanson, Eleszabeth McNeel, Doug Fidler, Linda Brown, Sandy Arnold, Cindy Puryear, Rose McDonald, Faye Strickler, Morgan Strickler, Rene Grady, Cindy McAlister, Heidi Kovacs, Zoey Kovacs, Alexis Kovacs, Kelly Cody, Katie Muchler (Fairfax Co.)

By phone: Michele Roszell, Dot Chaplin.

No public announcements.

Minutes were approved per posted online.

Treasurers Report:

- Balance – Expenses were for Celeste retirement supplies, horse judging supplies and scholarships paid out totaling \$457. \$237 was deposited in from the district horse judging contest. Balance is \$13,472.85

Old Business:

- Bertha's highlights of the upcoming district knowledge contest. It will be held at Nathanael Greene Elementary School in Stanardsville, VA on March 7. The speaking contests are qualifiers for state Equismartz contest. Horse Bowl is also qualifier, and only for Northern District 4-Hers. Hippology is not a qualifier – anyone can attend hippology at State. All information has been posted on the NDHC website. Registration for team and speakers is also online and due Feb. 27. Bring entry fee money to the contest. Volunteer sign ups went around at meeting. Please let Bertha know if you can volunteer. Her email is berthadurbin@earthlink.net. The top 5 Horse Bowl teams qualify for Equismartz. The top 5 public speakers of each age division qualify for Equismartz. Public speakers wanting to compete at the State event- Equismartz- must compete at this contest. Based on new State qualifying selection rules, only the top 5 winners regardless of the country they represent, will compete at the State contest.
- Status of Ribbons & Trophy orders – we ask that all District show secretaries touch base with each other to see what is needed for the shows. For State show keeper trophy order we need three keepers - budget will potentially be between \$100-\$150. Sandy will look into ideas and prices for the state show keeper trophies. Let her know if you have ideas or contacts. Email 4arnolds@gmail.com
- State Sales tax free status research – we are going forth with filing this year. Linda will work with the treasurer to see that we can send in a proper application. A CPA is not required to review, but we will need an independent reviewer.
- Youth District Representatives – Sandy proposed the following changes in the NDHC Constitution, section 8 which states:

- ARTICLE 8 – VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP

This Council is made up of volunteer members, who: are officially enrolled, beyond 4-H member age, participate of his/her own free will and without compensation or expectation of compensation beyond possible reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, and perform tasks at the direction of and on behalf

of the Virginia 4-H program. All 4-H Council members are expected to abide by the “Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers”.

And change the language to read:

- ARTICLE 8 – VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP

This Council is made up of volunteer members, who: are officially enrolled as adult volunteers **or youth**, participate of his/her own free will and without compensation or expectation of compensation beyond possible reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, and perform tasks at the direction of and on behalf of the Virginia 4-H program. **Volunteer members are non-voting members.** All 4-H Council members are expected to abide by the “Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers” **and must have on file at their Extension Office their enrollment forms and Equine Waiver. Youth volunteers that participate in at least 50% of the year's meetings may consider themselves as Youth District Representatives. Youth District Representatives will be presented with a certificate upon request and verification.**

Discussion followed: We would like to see them participate as volunteers at our District events (shows and knowledge contests) and ask that they become an integral part at the meetings. Question was do we limit age and number of kids and the consensus was to first see if that is an issue. Should we clarify District Representative obligations (reports, volunteer hours, delivering information to clubs, etc)? Our goal in creating this membership status is to give 4-Hers opportunities for a voice and leadership in their 4-H program at a higher level beyond their County.

New Business:

- Discussion came up about the phone in calls for the meetings and the need for audible clarity. Kelly Cody moved to purchase microphones for the teleconference phone, Elsebeth 2nd them. Motion passed. Doug will order and have for the next meeting in April.
- Calendar review of dates per the agenda plus add June 13th for a District Qualifying Dressage Clinic in Nokesville.
- A portion of next year's 2016 Budget is needing prior approval for paying out scholarships. Considering the 2015 budget, Bertha moved to continue the Budget of \$2800 for scholarships (because there are 28 counties in our District) and to continue the ENR (Eastern National Roundup) scholarships for 2016 at \$1000. Doug 2nd, motion passed. The 2015 budget will be reviewed and approved at the April meeting.
- Bertha gave a review on the State Horse Advisory Committee Meeting held at the end of January. Celeste was there and there is no word yet as to who new horse specialist is. Three candidates were approved. We may know until the end of May or early June who may fill the position. If not by then, there will be another candidate search. **Nose nets** were addressed. State will allow them however we have to realize that we don't have the authority to make the judge disregard them. State will let the judges know that we will be accepting nose nets however it will not be stated in the rulebook. **For the minis**, there will be two driving classes for the championships. There is a temporary change in the qualification rules regarding the **Horsemanship Skills**. The 4-H Horse Program Advisory Council has voted to exempt those 4-H Horse Show participants from additional Horsemanship Skills retesting, if they acquire a new project horse, who 1) have previously passed Levels 1 and 2 of Horsemanship Skills and 2) are a senior (4-H age 14-19) that have exhibited at the state horse show at least twice. This exemption will remain in place until Horsemanship Skills Levels 3 and 4 are implemented. All other State Show qualification criteria will still be required. At state, those who win **Visa card awards** must get information to state no later than Oct. 1 or they will forfeit their prize. Additional clarification and details on changes will be sent out by the state office. Be looking for the email from Celeste.

- We need lots of volunteers at Equismartz – see Celeste’s email about this (and is also posted on the NDHC website under state contests) - each contestant gets a ticket for entry plus one free parent pass. Volunteers are also needed for the horse festival and they dont have to be horse knowledgeable but need to be 15. See the NDHC district website for entry and volunteer information. ***Celeste loved her scrapbook!*** Thank you all for providing pages for this wonderful gift.
- Carrie Swanson, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the slate of available candidates for the two year term beginning in April 2015. President – Linda Brown, Vice President – Michele Roszell, Secretary – Sandy Arnold, Treasurer – Rose McDonald. Faye Strickler moved to accept the slate, Elesebeth McNeel 2nd it. All candidates accepted the nominations and they were accepted with a unanimous vote, with a quorum present. NDHC would like to grow in our attendance at these meetings and have more available candidates for officer positions for the next term. To satisfy the meeting requirements you can phone it in. Sandy will send extension agents the list of current voting members and will ask for updates and corrections to the list. We realize that that many counties are not being represented and its as easy as calling in. Only two members from each Extension Unit shall be eligible to vote. It is the duty of each County agent to specify who these representatives are and to submit their names to the Council Extension Advisor and the Council Secretary. Alternates may be designated by the unit to stand in for voting members in their absence, so long as their names have been submitted by the unit agent to the Council along with the regular voting members.
- Doug Fidler motioned to adjourn the meeting and Elesebeth 2nd it. Meeting adjourned at 9pm. Thank you for all who called in and came.

Upcoming 2015 Meeting Dates, 7pm:

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