

GLRPC Fall Regional Council Meeting Minutes

November 6th, 2016 – Sparta High School

Welcome—Meeting called to order at 8:35

(Allowed a few extra minutes due to heavy fog, members continued to straggle in for first half hour)

Club Attendance: (** signifies voting)

- Great Lakes Regional Board
 - Lorri Witkowski RS** (OHPC)
 - Candy Tavormina VRS** (FWPC)
 - Linda Short-Lowe VRS** (MHII)
 - Kerry McKinley RIC** (OHPC)
 - Sue Smith HMO** (HHPC)
 - Julie Graber HMO** (SSPC)
 - Jase MacLeod Treasurer** (HVPC)
 - Ginger Wisseman Secretary** (PPC)
- Unaffiliated
 - Jennifer Foreman
- Cedar Ridge
 - Kate Vane**
 - Carolyne Wheeler
- Orchard Hill
 - Ann Szumski**
- Foxwood
 - Stacey Ramirez**
- Highland Hills
 - Jamie Pachota**
 - Kata Siegel
- Grand River
 - Cindy Hogan**
 - JoAnna Urban
- Kalamazoo Valley II
 - Karen Barsuhn**
 - Sara Wieber
 - Maria Selner
- Macatawa
 - Angie Barnes**
 - Merrilee Wilson
- Metamora Hunt II
 - Lisa McCormack**
- Huron Valley
 - Laura Reynolds**
- Southeast Michigan
 - Pauline Fick **
 - Joshua Phillips (GLR - JLC Liaison)
- Little Traverse Bay
 - Suzi White**
 - Jill Byard
 - Jennifer Finnegan-Pool

No representation from either Rose Lake Pony Club or Synchrony Riders Pony Club

Time Keeper:

Candy Tavormina

Approval of Agenda

- Awards are adjusted to be given out during the JLC report

Laura Reynolds – Motion to adopt the agenda with changes

Lisa McCormack – Second

Unanimously approved

Approval of 2016 Spring Meeting Minutes

Laura Reynolds – Motion to accept the minutes without changes

Karen Barsuhn – Second

Unanimously approved

Old Business

RS Report – Lorri Witkowski

Membership

- Current membership = 205 (down 7 members from year end last year)
- No clubs were added/lost
- Interested riding center in Macomb, MI (Emily Nett)
- Synchrony Riders – not present (missing a solid base of support within the parents, this club may not continue due to the lack of support of adult leaders)
- If there are concerns with parents willing/able to be DC, please let the region know so we can provide support to make the DC responsibilities more clear. Also possible to transition from a club to a center if that makes things easier.
- Increased number of Horsemasters in the region (Mirta participated in rally, camp, and champs)
- Grand River and Highland Hills will receive their 25 year award at USPC annual meeting

Review of Regional Goals from spring 2016 and prior

- Support for USPC Paperwork and Financial Compliance
 - Board members attending fall sponsor meetings
 - Review of club year end submissions
- Review of regional activities – general
 - EBTH – had some speed bumps initially, but went well
 - Quiz attendance was down
 - SJ rally attendance was down 20%
 - Camp – had steady participation
 - Alternative Activities did not happen due to lack of adult volunteer leadership
 - Champs – 3 senior Quiz, 2 Jr Quiz, 1 HMX Show Jumping
 - Start Box scoring to be available in 2017, will need adults trained
 - DC connections are encouraged for testing combinations
 - Please remember to include new board members in club communication
 - We understand that you hate the digest, but please remember that this is how the national office communicates, all leaders need to be able to access the documents on the digest. At the moment this continues to be the standard for storing/accessing documents. We may be able to utilize the website or something else, but this would probably need a web master responsibility, and we don't currently have one.

Treasurer's Report – Jase MacLeod

- Championships – a little ahead due to selling merchandise that we already had.
- Fundraising - \$4000
- General Expenses – chasing down non-sufficient funds checks has cost time and money
- Instructional Expenses – a little over \$4,000
- Meeting Expenses – a little over \$1700
- Rally Expenses – ahead by \$1600, + \$1500 competitors tax
- Dues – Collected - \$2800
- Gains - \$3500
- Please work on getting your reporting done ASAP so that you can have accurate treasury reporting and keep everything above board, cutting down time, and accuracy. Make sure that you get your receipts right away (take a picture of the receipt), and forward them onto Jase. Do not pay anyone for anything without getting a receipt. Try to complete the financial report within one week.

Laura Reynolds - Motion to accept the treasurer's report

Lisa McCormack – Second

Motion carries unanimously

2016 HMO Report – Julie Graber/Sue Smith

- Observations during the JLC Prep – it was quite apparent who is used to teaching and who isn't.
- Try to involve all members/all ages in teaching in some manner.
- EBTH – Jamie and HH put it together, HMO's decided to utilize this as an opportunity for Horse Management instruction (teaching kids how to rally and teaching AHMJ's how to be AHMJ's) Probably need more hands on deck to both teach AHMJ's and someone be a Chief. Need to have more follow through from those who are trained as AHMJ's...only had one come to rally.
- Review the HMO report and make sure that they are included in your educational program.
- DC's are approving the mount/rider combination is ready to be at a rally when they submit teams. Must be a safe pairing without a lot of additional assistance from HM staff.

2016 RIC Report – Kerry McKinley

- Thanks for sending in your instruction plan – Every club sent one in!
- Goals are to take that further to assist each club.
- Encourage your members to teach at the meetings (give them assignments just like in school)
- Communication has improved – expect a weekly reminder from Kerry, please forward them on to upper level members.
- Notes sent for mounted clinics for pre-planning – much better
- Mounted testing was canceled by the national office due to lack of participation. Did not get 6 members. Only had 3 sign up.
- Observations from upper level clinic and camp – jumping is a weakness across the board
- Last survey for UL clinics had a lot more to it, and is better for pinpointing weaknesses and areas of improvement
- Need to include parents with the discussion for UL clinic schedules (weekdays during the summer)
- National Testing Intent
 - Large number of members/HMX interested in testing HA

- Carolyn (CRPC) mentioned that according to the NE at the test in Wisconsin (C3/B candidate) there is not a minimum number of sections that need to be passed. The retests can be done within the year. (It was later confirmed by Lorri through a call to USPC that this IS NOT the case.)
- Rally questionnaire – how many kids are interested in attending the rally with a championship focus.
- Trying to get with each club to determine what they need regarding support from the region.
- Helping the UL members gain teaching from each club.
- Reaching out to UL members to assess their needs
- Upcoming clinics: Dec (trying to get an NE—later got feedback that this was bad timing and is cancelled) Jan (lunging with Mara Trudgen – possibly adding AHMJ training with HMO's)
- Common problems at testings:
 - Need to focus on grooming and tack cleaning. All levels are failing the turnout section of tests.
 - Understanding the training pyramid/Basic Balanced Position (C-level candidates)
 - Understanding of fit/tack (including halter fit)
 - Safety standards
 - Candidates taking more than one level and not being prepared for the higher level.
- Please remember to include the RTC on your testing planning and to forward test sheets onto the RTC and RS.
- Utilize the Google Doc for communications regarding testings.

2016 Activity Reports

The summary sheet is incorrect – please disregard (uploaded correct version to digest and USPC)

- Quiz Rally/Spring RC Meeting (Julie Graber-Quiz Organizer) –
 - participation was down a bit, would like to hand off quiz as a contingency, lucky that we got Autumn Kennedy for UL classroom at such short notice, need to make quiz a more relevant UL experience
- Spring Dance (Candy Tavormina) –
 - Third year having the dance at the end of the day after awards, younger members had a hard time staying up, so dance attendance was down. Should we evaluate the schedule to allow for more participation? Should we continue to have a dance or will some other social activity work better?
- Omnibus (Ginger Wisseman) –
 - lowest printing costs (down by 60%) most profitable omnibus to date.
- Standards and Certification Clinic (Nicole Bodmer) –
 - Concern with how to continue to improve c-level examiner training, need to include the updated information
- EBTH Rally (Jamie Pachota) –
 - Gain of \$432, 41 participants, but a bench was damaged in parking area – no one came forward, and the region had to buy a new bench for the venue.
 - Should we bring the registration fee down? If we only have a few members coming, how will this balance?
 - Had to switch venues at last minute due to strangles at planned venue, had to scramble for ponies also.
 - Great participation, lots of volunteers, HM training.
 - Need to coordinate more with C-members.
 - Had 10 kids from CRPC attend and really enjoyed it (noted by Carolyne Wheeler)
- Dressage Rally (Cindy Hogan) –
 - Much help from Sue and others, Intro level riders encouraged to have a reader, champs competitors needs to memorize their test.

- Practice reading tests, also communicate the arena size. Need to change jogs for next year, possibly have C's prevent first, then put their horses away and assist with D's.
 - Jr. D program at dressage rally was fantastic. (Thanks to Kara Davis) Foxwood will take care of organizing Jr. D program this year.
- SJ Rally (Bridget Rodgers) –
 - 7/2 and 7/3 dates were very difficult to work with. In the red due to attendance.
 - Very difficult to financially organize mega rally because of splitting up duties with so many clubs
 - Hospitality and Facilities should not be split up?
- Regional Camp (Kerry McKinley) –
 - Lots of helpers making this happen, Metamora, Orchard Hill, board members etc...budgeted a \$2500 loss, actual loss was \$1500 thanks to many of donations (housing, paddock supplies, Quiz materials)
 - Great group of hard working kids from 11 different clubs.
 - Designated a person for photography.
 - Not happening this year due to festival.
- Championships (Linda Short-Lowe) –
 - Sent 8 people to champs (7 as competitors, 1 coach), participants paid for everything (polo's, saddle pads, fees, coaching, lodging, and transportation)
 - The region supported competitors by paying for Champs Camp instruction/fees.
 - The Tryon venue is fantastic, but lodging is really tricky.
 - Not much real grass available, cross country was a minor concern related to footing.

Discussions

- Horsemasters – only difference between HMX and youth member is that a Horsemaster can be both a member, sponsor, and/or officer of a club. Incorporating Horsemasters with youth members at rallies will probably follow the direction of the national organization. This year Horsemasters at GLR rally were a separate division to mirror nationals. This could also depend on numbers. Expect rally packets to have everything spelled out. If there are concerns with Horsemasters, contact the region/RS/rally organizers. Can you be a national member as a HMX without belonging to a physical club/center?
 - Attendance at rally, camps, clinics, and champs
 - Expectations at the club level
- D level educational activity – camp or competition? – D level Derby (dressage and SJ/CC combination) organized by JLC. Offer to use Cedar Ridge free of charge, early august? Multi-day? One day? Cobblestone? Are there options for really young D's?
 - Spring or late summer?
 - One day or multi-day?

Junior Leadership Council

JLC Report

- Bunny Hendricks clinic – appreciated the schedule and staying with Bridget, saddle fitting and exercises for the winter, HA tack fitting discussion, want her back, want to encourage everyone to come to more UL clinics.
- Nominating Committee
 - Grace Mitchenson
 - Talia Graber
 - Miriam Graber
- Will present slate at the Spring meeting
- Utilized scribes for the clinic with Bunny
- EBTH rally discussion – need to have more appropriate horses for very young members (size). A few concerns about HM scoring consistency.
- Super Camp discussion – schedule was confusing, impressed with quiz preparation
- New quarter zip long sleeve shirts purchased for members
- Instituting the high point dressage trophy for the region
- Dates for upper level clinics/festival
- 4-\$50 scholarships to a national pony club event sponsored by JLC (Nov. 10th, and April 1st) Only for active JLC members (came to 2 meetings and help out or attend a JLC event.
- Winter JLC meeting probably in Jan.

JLC Treasurer's Report

- JLC will pay for an active member's apparel up to \$25.
- The purchase of the trophy, plates, and engraving will be managed by JLC.
- JLC Derby – (Aug 12/13?) Tadpole, Green as Grass, Starter, etc... Lots of discussion about the details of this event. Goal is to offer members a D-level Rally experience. Learn how to rally correctly and safely. Budgeting for 18 participants. Able to accommodate all ages. How will this be educational? 2 days can accommodate both the rally and the educational aspect of this opportunity. Planning for each team to have a c-level advisor. Three people from the region that the JLC wanted to recognize because they feel have done so much for the region. Cards were given out to Lorri Witkowski, Candy Tavormina, and Jennifer Foreman.

Regional Recognitions and Thank you

- Candy gave out awards to members who earned a national testing certificate.
- Big Thanks to Jennifer Foreman and Candy Tavormina for all her hard work and dedication to the region. Jennifer was given a banner with logo that she helped design. Candy was given a blanket with USPC pin and GLR name.

New Business

Round Table Discussion – Kerry McKinley

- Meeting participants put comments about various club issues on large pieces of paper hung around the room. It was helpful to think about how your club does things and to get ideas from other clubs. These will be used to assist in club and leadership development.

Nominating Chair presents 2017 Slate of GLR Officers for Election – Jill Byard, Bridget Rogers, and Brenda Tomlinson

- Jill Byard presented the slate.
- Nominations called from the floor. None given.
- Paper ballots were used to vote. Jill tabulated and reported acceptance of the slate was unanimous.
 - 2017 GLR Board:
 - RS – Linda Short-Lowe
 - VRS – Sue Smith
 - VRS – Ginger Wisseman
 - RIC – Kerry McKinley
 - HMO – Julie Graber
 - Treasurer – Jase MacLeod
 - Secretary – Brenda Tomlinson
 - Approval of exception of VRS to be DC/Jt. DC
 - When the RS or VRS are also DC's, the USPC requires a vote of exception related to corporate members.

Lorri Witkowski– Motion that we have an exception for Ginger Wisseman to be VRS and DC

Cindy Hogan - second

Unanimously approved

- Josh Phillips will be the JLC Liaison to replace Jennifer Foreman.
- Suzi White will be the Regional Testing Coordinator to replace Nicole Bodmer.

2017 Calendar of Events and Club Roles – Lorri Witkowski

- Examiner's Education Clinic 2017 – Suzi White (2017 RTC)
 - Clinic during quiz rally for parents (does not have to be the DC, volunteer responsibilities within quiz will be coordinated).
 - Topics covered will be testing expectations, how to organize a test, etc...
 - Expect a separate clinic for examiners/apprentices, must attend once every 2 years to remain eligible.
 - Probably in March.
- UL Clinics – Kerry McKinley,
 - Only 4 members signed up for the Dec. clinic, cancelled
 - Leg dissection clinic expected in Feb.
 - UL members are saying yes to a mock testing; need to work out date
- Leadership Meeting – Linda Short-Lowe with budget approval
 - Leaders feel they need more support from the region.
 - USPC will send representative to our region to lead "Leadership Outreach" the national office will cover their flight and their time.
 - Whitehall, MI in February, possibly the 1st weekend in Feb.
 - Macatawa possibly picking up leadership from the airport.
 - Require to have one representative from each club.

- Propose that the region cover the cost of the event to include lodging and meals.
- USPC sent an outline of what they would cover, DC Guide, How to use the digest, website resource pages, how to run a sponsor's meeting, how to have a succession plan, how to manage volunteers, how to handle conflicts, etc...
- Can be catered to our specific needs.
- Discussion on food and the comparison to previous leadership retreat budgets.

Lorri Witkowski – Motion to approve a budget for the leadership event within \$2500.

Karen Barsuhn – Second

Unanimous approval

- Quiz Rally/Spring RC Meeting – SSPC
 - Same budget as last year, Metamora organizer of spring meeting
 - Should we continue with the dance? Nice to have some kind of social thing after. Ice cream social? Pool Party? Organize the dance differently.
 - Need to increase the budget to include a new printer/scanner with document feed

Laura Reynolds – Motion to accept the budget with the addition

Lisa McCormack – Second

Unanimously approved

- Spring Dance – FWPC
 - Modifying the spring dance
- Omnibus – PPC
 - Encouraging online ads, and electronic E-book Omnibus because they are no cost to the region.
 - Printed omnibus are available, but will cost \$10 and must be ordered in advance.
 - E-book Omnibus will be full color, Printed Omnibus will be full color if we can meet our fundraising goal... otherwise it will be printed in black & white.
 - Love Ads are now Member Messages – each member gets one short message and one pic at no cost.
 - Goals:
 - Each member bring in at least one ad.
 - Each club bring in at least one online ad.
 - Raise at least \$3500
- D activity (as decided at earlier discussion)
 - If there is an overage in the EBTH rally, push it onto the JLC event. Try to stay within \$90 entry fee.
- EBTH Rally – HHPC w/HMO
 - Added a little bit to office supplies from last year's budget – OK with a little bit of a cushion.

Kate Vane – Motion to accept the EBTH budget as it stands

Ann Szumski – Second

Unanimously approved

- Eventing Rally – KV2
 - Stabling @ skyline? Other venues have tent stabling.
 - There are 5 members who answered survey currently looking to qualify for eventing.
 - Probably \$300/competitor @ Derbyshire.
 - Preliminary/Training level riders should be going out of the region to fully prepare
 - The RS can sign a waiver if the member uses the 2 USEA events. Vet box is done at championships.

- We can have a rally at Honey Run Team Challenge but need a club to organize. Was proposed this year but no club able to organize and would have fallen to the regional board who had just completed organizing camp.
 - Leave the option open to do a rally with Honey Run...will explore this and discuss again in the spring. HVPC could organize if another club took over SJ rally.
 - Karen Barsuhn will research neighboring regional qualifying rallies and post on digest and Facebook
- Dressage Rally – OHPC (lead organizer) May or Mega rally?
 - Exploring Flint Fields for 2018. (LTB organizer)
 - Also looking at Albion for 2017. Weekend of the 17- 20. SJ Rally Fri Sat. Dressage Mon Tue or Dressage in May 13/14, SJ in June 17/18.
 - The difference will be additional cost for Chief travel and transportation.
 - Show of hands showed heavily favoring Mega rally; Lorri will follow up with Albion to have a Mega rally
- SJ Rally – HVPC (lead organizer, CRPC facilities) –
 - Jumps are a major issue for facility selection
- Festival at KHP -
- National Test – Kerry McKinley –
 - Looking at the numbers 9-10 potential HA and 3-5 HB.
- Fall RC Meeting – Metamora

GLR Fundraisers for 2017 – Candy Tavormina

- Silent Auction – club goal –
 - Typically every basket goes for less than what it is worth.
 - Cannot utilize raffles.
 - Try to get items donated.
- Omnibus – club goal
 - Each member to bring in at least one ad
 - Each club to bring in at least one online ad
- Used tack sale in spring at existing event (need an organizer) –
 - A lot of labor for little return to Festival tack sale

2017 Budget (USPC national fund) – Jase MacLeod

- Use of \$50 club fee: Spring RC meeting and certification clinic
- 2017 Annual Meeting Budget – Can send 5 board members and the NYC plane fare and meals. \$4000.
- NYC delegate(s) – Brenna and Alex both expressed an interest in going, Brenna’s riding schedule complicates so next year may be better (as reported by Jase)

Candy Tavormina – Motion to send Alex McKinley to annual meeting

Linda Short-Lowe – Second

Unanimously approved

- Purchase of Regional Projector for UL clinics and leadership development \$300 for a nice projector
- Championships - \$5000
 - Linda would like to explore options for camp/instruction while possibly getting kids more “swag” supplied by region

Laura Reynolds – Move to approve the budget

Kate Vane – Second

Unanimously approved

Reminders:

- USPC Annual Meeting in LA, Jan 25-29, 2017
- Background Checks: DC, Jt. DC, Treasurer, Secretary
- Youth Protection Training
- Concussion Training
- Heat Illness Training

Announcements from the floor

- Pierport wants to play polocrosse and tetrathlon, would be willing to join up with other clubs that also have this interest.

Adjournment at approximately 3:30pm