

Maryland Region Pony Club

Annual Meeting

11/11/2017

Attendees:

Lorelei Coplen
Misty McClain
Karen Taylor
Paul Chance
Kim Cranford
Emily Dietrich
Susan Riccio
Jennifer Gibboney
Lori Chance
Darryll-Ann Buschling
Bill Fitzhugh
Lani Hyde
Brigitte Frasier
Jenny Bowman
Jocelyn Stahl
Linda Jackson
Marty Miller
Leslie Van Hasselt
Darlene Connors
Jenny Tipa
Vicki Bowman
Margie Williams
Samantha Spiegel

Prior to calling the meeting to order, viewed "We Are Pony Club" video. Lorelei explained where to find the video and suggestions for its use.

Call to Order – 0905

Reviewed Proposed Agenda. Paul Chance made a motion to approve the agenda. Kim Cranford seconded the motion.

Introductions – spent 5 minutes learning about the person to the left of the attendee. Each attendee then officially introduced the person to their left to the group. Lorelei pointed out that no one said they joined Pony Club for the competition.

Margie announced that Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club is having a Youth Hunt on 11/24/17 at 1100. All Pony Club members welcome. Donation fee of \$20.

Reviewed 2016 minutes. Lori Chance pointed out several spelling errors. Paul Chance made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Bill Fitzhugh seconded the motion.

Consent Agenda – reviewed the items approved by the MD Region Board during the 2017 year. Susan Riccio made a motion to approve those actions. Lori Chance seconded the motion.

RS Report – Lorelei sent the document out electronically. Items of interest:

- Centralized Financial Reporting system – mandatory for 2018. Karen can set up a conference call with clubs who need additional help. USPC is available to help train.
- Qualifying rules are new. Check out the details on USPC website. The biggest change is the period to qualify has been extended.
- National Youth Congress – MD Region hasn't sent anyone in a long time. Age seems restrictive (due to busyness of 18-21-year-old). Open to C2s and above.
- VIP (Visiting Instructor Program) – clubs can bring in instructors but must be for at least 3 days. Members can also go out to other regions.
- Scholarships – encourage members to apply
- USPC Annual Meeting being held in Louisville, KY – any interest in from the region? There will be further discussion on this topic in the budget section.
- Champs East will be held in Tryon, NC for 2018.
- Fundraising – can now do raffles (in some circumstances)
- Club Policies – one template – why not have one USPC club policy vs. one for each club. Something to think about and explore in the future.
- Where are the riding centers? Lorelei mentioned that there was a group of centers interested in joining Pony Club but there's been no activity since last year.
- Annual Funds Appeal – encouraging members to add a donation as minimal as \$1. Member donations makes organization look good for larger donations.
- MD Region – the bulk of our members are Ds – what are we doing for them? The work group discussion will hopefully come up with some good ideas on how to include these members.
- Regional Equipment – this is equipment needed for rallies open to use for all clubs. Currently each club is donating \$25 to offset the cost of the equipment. Half the clubs have not been aware this equipment is available for use. If we continue to “pay” for the equipment, how do we promote use. If not, what do we do with the equipment? Is there any other need for tithe from the clubs?
- Missing trophies – where are they and why are they not coming back to the club? Check with older members no longer in the club. These trophies recognize our volunteers. Send an email to the RS if any are found.
- Pins – MD Region pins were hugely popular. Kim C. can offer proposal to original designer of pin. Further discussion in budget section.
- Outreach – can be a presence at expos, etc.
- How often should we meet as a region? – can be virtual or conference call.
- Any issues with bullying? – this topic is making waves at national level. USPC is developing training modules.

Treasurer Report

- Checking account #1 - \$4529.99
- Checking account #2 - \$17222,11 – is this too much? Non-profit organizations should sustain funds to cover 5-year expenses.
- Income/Expenses – provided electronically. Make sure clubs are filing EZ-990 or the club could lose their EIN number. The club then becomes a burden to MD Region. Further discussion in budget – asking clubs “who are under MD Region” to contribute to this expense. Only way to re-establish EIN is to close and restart club under new name.

Survey Outcomes – the largest response was 35, smallest was 7. Responses below.

- “Other” – 7 responses. Improvement suggestions were certification preps, splitting events between states, “how to” champs guide, horsemasters organizer
- Outreach – 16 responses – This area felt inadequate but no real suggestions
- HM – 18 responses – It was felt that the seminars were helpful. The HMO will visit specific clubs, but the invitation was not extended this past year.
- Certifications – 18 responses – 50/50% - Not too many suggestions for improvement. What can MD Region do to participate in certification prep?
- Champs – 23 responses – discussed coaches and a coaching committee
- Rallies – 13 responses – 93% satisfied
- Communications/Meetings – 35 responses – What’s the best method to get information out?

Working Groups – Attendees broke into work groups to come up with ideas and suggestions on how to improve the specific areas presented in the surveys. Outcomes from work groups below.

- Instruction/Certification
 - o Teaching to teach clinic – provide template to Region level
 - o Consistent vs regional level instruction. D members would benefit more from consistent training, while Cs and above members would benefit from Regional instruction and clinics.
 - o Standards and Ratings clinics should be re-instituted
 - o Upper level preps should be offered 2-3 times/year
 - o Encourage attendance at camps/clinics, mock certifications, audit certifications
- Rallies and Champs
 - o Overnight rally as prep for champs
 - o Mega-rally
 - o Eventing rally – more affordable option? Response this discussion point was that the 2017 site was selected intentionally to provide a champions level course to riders.
 - o Horsemasters not part of final scores – regions should hold rally specifically for them. Thought not to pursue this due to USPC stance and extra work to separate groups.
 - o TET – height of jumps to match rating, not age. This has been presented to Nationals for a solution.
 - o Champs –
 - Institute a discipline coordinator. The job description for this person is to arrange, organize for each discipline (checks, shirts, saddle pads, paperwork,

- etc.) Attendees are encouraged to go out and look for volunteers to head this up for next year.
- Lorelei made a motion to form a coaching committee. Margie seconded the motion. The job description for this committee is to determine who is willing to attend champs as a coach and contract with those individuals. They will then assign to specific teams. Committee for 2018 has been started with Margie Williams, Bill Fitzhugh (opt), Susie Riccio, Lori Chance.
 - Form for attendance on website?
- Communication/Outreach
- Vehicles
 - FB groups/kids Instagram
 - “Remind Me” text groups
 - Targets from MD Region – who should receive the communications from the Region?
 - Email plus...
 - To whom? The clubs should have responsibility to contact Secretary to tell who on their counsel should receive emails. Secretary will build new contact list for 2018
 - Website
 - USPC links not repeated
 - “How to” corner with documents
 - Available resources (HMO, etc.)
 - How to contact us – add FB groups to website
 - Meetings
 - Pre-rally season – meet in February. Venue and format to be determined
 - Pre-champs (prep, volunteers). Lorelei made a motion to add full meeting to calendar for planning purposes. Emily seconded motion. Lorelei made a motion for discipline the latitude to organize a meeting for teams (encouraged, not mandated). Susie Riccio seconded motion.
 - One meeting for discipline to meet the teams and coaches
 - One meeting for champ’s teams as a whole
 - Face to face once for MD Region
 - Video conference can be utilized to record and replay later or at unmounted meetings
 - Outreach
 - Pick 2 venues to partner with another region to have a presence. Current ask is to partner with Central region at the Washington International Horse Show. Lorelei made a motion to consider outreach with other regions. Marty seconded motion.
 - Horse Management Ed and Prep – “restore MD Region as powerhouse in HM”
 - Seminar at Quiz
 - Better advertising
 - Better organization for opportunity to attend
 - Unmounted or Mounted – mock rally HM
 - Burntwoods offered to host

- Do at Round Robins?
 - Provide “Musings” – need a point of contact in each club to disseminate musing to members. Also discussed having an “Ask Ginger” for members to write in questions. Responses would be from the horses’ perspective.
 - New rules state each team must have their own required equipment (rally boxes). No more sharing amongst teams.

Budget

- 2018 budget. Lorelei made a motion to accept the 2018 budget as proposed. Paul seconded the motion. This motion was later withdrawn and a new motion entered.
- Discussion
 - Club outreach line item is to pay for RIC and others in gas reimbursement
 - Pins line item was raised to \$800
 - Officer dues were increased to \$180
 - Suggestion to subsidize chief HMJ for national seminar. Margie made a motion to pay \$150 for national seminar for attendees (\$1000-line item). Jocelyn seconded motion. Paul stated it was reasonable for the region to pay expense but not mileage and meals.
 - Annual Meeting – Lorelei made a motion to pay DCs at the early registration fee (\$105) to attend meeting. Margie seconded motion. Discussion – this is the better way to approach helping to offset the expense. The club can track who is registered and not hold hotel rooms that may become an expense if they are not used. *Any attendees should send their registration receipt to Karen for reimbursement.
 - Lorelei made a motion to accept the amended 2018 budget with the delta. XXX seconded the motion.
- Lorelei made a motion to accept the 2019 budget with changes to 2018. Kim seconded motion. Discussion – raise dues to \$30 rather than \$25? Support the dollar donation on website?

Calendar

- 1/25/18 – 1/28/18 Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY
- 2/25/18 – Pre-Rally Season meeting with updates from annual meeting
- 3/1/18 – 3/4/18 – PA Horse Expo in Harrisburg
- 3/2/18 – 3/4/18 – Chief Horse Management seminar
- 3/11/18 – Unmounted certification prep
- 4/7/18 – Quiz Rally (Burntwoods)
- 4/22/18 – C2 Level Testing (Elkridge Harford)
- May – Tentative – Qualifying Event Rally – Lorelei made a motion to table until after Thanksgiving. Re-engage before December first.
- 5/19/18 – Tentative – Games (Blue Mountain and Burntwoods)
- 5/26/18 – Tentative - Round Robin (Elkridge Harford)
- 6/16/18 – EPA (upper level camp at Fair Hill)
- June – Tentative – Qualifying Show Jump Rally – table until after Thanksgiving. Group suggested June 9. Chestnut Hill needs to check with club before committing to date.
- 6/23/18 – 6/24/18 – TET at Caves (Green Springs)
- 6/29/18 – Champ entries due

- 7/7/18 – Pre-champs meeting (whole group)
- 7/25/18 – 7/29/18 – Champs East at Tryon, NC
- 8/25/18 – Qualifying Dressage Rally (Waredaca)
- 9/1/18 – C3-HB National Exam Certification (Quentin)
- 9/22/18 – Non-qualifying Event Rally
- 10/6/18 - C2 Level Testing (TBD)
- 10/7/18 – Round Robin (St. Margaret's)
- Polocrosse – date to be determined (Manada Creek)

Nominations/Elections - Brigitte Frasier presented the slate for 2018 officers.

- RS – Lorelei Coplen
- Vice RS – Lani Hyde – Activities
- Vice RS – Marie Williams – Outreach/membership
- Secretary – Misty McClain
- RIC – Sam Spiegel
- Treasurer – Karen Taylor
- HMO – Paul Chance

Lorelei requested to nominate from the floor – Kim Cranford as Vice RS for instruction and certification. Kim accepted the nomination.

Brigitte Frasier made a motion to accept the slate from the nominating committee with the addition of the floor nomination. Margie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lorelei requested to set up the nominating committee for 2018. Lorelei made a motion to accept Brigitte Frasier as chair, Darryll-Ann Buschling, Bill Fitzhugh on the committee. Emily seconded the motion.

Emily made a motion to adjourn. Margie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1500.

Respectfully submitted,

Misty McClain, Secretary