

VRPC Regional Meeting
November 17, 2024
2:00pm
PATH Foundation
321 Walker Drive suite 301
Warrenton, Va

Call to Order at 2:14pm by Carrie Camp

Roll Call to meet Quorum: Carrie Camp (RS), Michelle Arnold (VRS), Stephanie Cosenza (Secretary; DC River Bend), Steve Vorpal (Treasurer), Aldona Petraitis (DC Loudoun Hunt), Damaris Abeles (DC Blue Ridge Hunt), Isabel Martin (Old Dominion Hounds), Jennifer Carpenter (CA Heartland PC), Jaimie Myers (Dc Casanova Warrenton), Mary Jane Skidmore (DC Middleburg Orange County), Laura Longmire (Deep Run Hunt – representing)

Others present: Elizabeth Coppersmith (LHPC), Sandi Carley (LHPC), Delani Mathias (LHPC), Catherine Jean Weber (CWPC), Karen Souder (MOC), Laurie Rossbach (RBPC), Christie Mckitrick (Red Gate RC)

RS Overview:

- 2024 minutes were passed
- Region is in excellent financial status
- Regional Activity Report
 - o Total members – 222
 - o 175 members with Clubs
 - o 47 members in Riding Centers
- Offered 9 Rallies total
- 2 cancelled Rallies due to low numbers/registrations
- 5 Regional Clinics were held to benefit all members however emphasis was to have NE to assist upper level riders prepping for Certifications
- Champs great success (55 members attending), Maryland had just a larger group with 61 members attending.
- Overall, VRPC, individual clubs and centers has offered a great program throughout the year with there being something available for 22 weekends of the year or at least 42% of the year.

Treasurer Report – Steve Vorpal

- Started 2024 with almost 90K, ending the year as of right now a little more than 100k
- Total income 55k before expenses. Total operating expense \$45,306, net profit \$10,394
- Not all membership dues have been accounted for so numbers should go up a bit.

- Budget on Rallies to be voted on in February Rally 2025 meeting, whether Rallies stand independently or will VRPC come up with a flat fee for one day or overnight rallies. In past rallies have been held by charging one flat fee which has caused some finances to be in the red. VHI grants will help to cover expenses in the future
- Virginia Horse Industry Grant - \$25k was allocated once again to VRPC. We should be receiving this amount for at least another year
- Proposed Budget – will be similar to 2024 however no Champs will be held in 2025. Future Budget will be presented at February meeting.
- Rally entry fees have increased due to inflation - \$9000 under budget
- Overall expenses about the same
- Virginia Carpenter (HPCPC) questioned how money from the Horse Industry was allocated and reported. Michelle Arnold provides a report to the VHI, and all grant money gets used over the entire region and its programs
- VHI grant disbursed amongst the 5 major cost items: Administrative, Certifications, Champs, Instruction, Rallies
- Some members questioned why keep 100k in the bank and what it could be used for. Steve explained that it is a little inflated because we received the grant from VHI last year and the new disbursement came just not too long ago. So somewhat inflated by 50k. Money will be disbursed and used. Mentioned might place in interest bearing account, but now it is not earning interest.

Rally Report – Michelle Arnold

- Discussion on cancelling Horseless Rally and D rally. Higher registration came from C advisors versus actual D members.
- Why were the numbers low. LHPC stated because there was no XC included with D Rally and that is why LHPC did not participate. Offered to possibly communicate with DC's before cancelling. However, given the deadline to register is only a week before the actual event, region needed to make the decision. Region stated that DC's need to push members more to participate and push practicing HM instead. Region felt the feedback was more because younger kids are not ready for the XC.
- D rally was scheduled August 24 which is right after school started, not sure if that was the issue. Discussion on how to prevent cancelling in the future, whether it venue dependent, member, abilities, costs etc....
- Conversation was halted and asked to discuss during the rally meeting in February.

Nominating Committee – Aldona Petraitis (LHPC), Stephanie Cosenza (RBPC), Julie Muniz (DRHPC)

- Aldona opened the floor for any nominations to the Board. There were none.
- Slate was presented:
 - o Carrie Camp – RS

- o Lisa Woods – VRS
- o Brooke Stearns – Secretary
- o Steve Vorpal – Treasurer
- o Christie McKittrick – HMO
- o Stephanie Cosenza – RIC
- Motion to accept slate as presented, Michelle Arnold second. All in favor, everyone voted Yay, no abstentions no Nays.
- Slate/Motion as presented was passed.

National Youth Congress – Carrie Camp

-Carrie presented that it has been traditional that VRPC pays for travel, and food for members that are representing the Region in the National Youth Congress during Symposium. She motioned to spend \$275 per member to attend Symposium, to cover Airfare and food that is not covered by USPC. Motion was presented and it was passed.

- Carrie then asked for nominations from the Clubs if they had any members that would like to represent the Region at USPC Symposium in Traverse City, Michigan in January 2025.

Representative must have a National Certification, four members in our region qualify.

Josephine Barklage from MOC has rescinded the nomination due to personal constraints.

- Abigail Haskins was nominated by Deep Run Hunt PC (Laura Longmire)
- Amira Cooney was nominated by Casanova Warrenton PC (Jaimie Myers)
- Jolene Grover was nominated by River Bend Pony PC (Stephanie Cosenza)
- Ballots were issued to each Club/Center representative to vote on 2. Steve Vorpal counted the ballots. Region agreed to send: Jolene Grover and Abigail Haskins.

2025 Calendar:

- In lieu of 2025 Champs, Carrie presented that she is in the organizing stages to plan a Youth Equestrian Festival during July at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. It will be 4 days of competitions plus stabling. The cost will be one price to include registration and stabling. Discussion on format but nothing definitely decided on yet, Daily competitions, and nightly activities for competitors. Overall ribbons awarded, each organization that is offering competitions will also offer awards.
- Carrie motioned that she would like to begin planning and discussions with other Organizations and she feels that \$1000 is a good starting point. Steve added a bit into future budget to include travel, meeting sites etc. Discussion was had about why VRPC needed to front money and what it would go towards. Carrie explained that she wants to get it going and this will help others to begin getting involved. It will cover meeting spaces, food and other misc. items. Members agreed to spend up to \$1000 however other Organizations involved with the Horse Festival will need to reimburse any monies spent and owed. December 15th, framework meeting has been scheduled. Pony Club

portion will be a non qualifying rally, however VHC will be having a recognized HT and if entering HT will count towards 2026 qualify for USPC Championships.

- Overall looking at having 400-600 competitors. In January will have meeting to decide on judges, how to implement HM, advertising etc...
- Qualifying period for Champs 2026, will begin January 2025. Need to decided about qualifying rallies.
- May 31-June 1 Maryland Region hosting Show Jump Rally at Morven Park. VRPC region invited to join in

Discussion on HMO Committee. Chirsitie McKitrick has agreed to take on this position.

- There has been discussion about USPC and possibly during the Horse Festival to get rid of HorseMangement scoring, or any kind of judging regarding HM. Several DC's did not like this idea because that is what exemplifies Pony Club from other organizations. That is what makes PC. USPC feels it is losing members because of the HM.
- Discussion on Rally ideas, possibly combining Dressage and TET Rally together over one weekend.

RIC Report – Stephanie Cosenza

- It was a success year with 8 Instructional Clinics being held
- 146 total attendees for all programs
- Intent is to keep it going and to offer some kind of clinic at least once a month
- \$5000 allocated to RIC program, most programs only cost about \$20 to register (some cost a bit more)
- Continue RIC program or scale down and host more rallies? Need prep clinics, this past year RIC did a great job however members still want prep sessions.

Carrie in closing offered to have another regional meeting in January 2025 in order to pass the proposed budget. Might be a zoom meeting on January 19, 2025.

Rally Meeting scheduled to discuss dates and planning of Rallies in 2025. February 6, 2025

Also Carrie stressed that All Clubs to complete End of year requirements and paperwork.

USPC New Rules – No Peacock stirrups, helmet safety regualtions

Adjourned 4:07pm