

## USPC Middle California Region Annual Meeting Minutes 11/13/16

*Votes are highlighted*

### Attendees:

Katie Graham	Portola Valley PV, Mid Cal Board
Karen Flores	Woodside Pony Club, Mid Cal Board
Jennifer Berry	WPC
Eben Haber	Saratoga Pony Club
Naomi Koga-Smith	Saratoga Pony Club
Nancy Pittman	Black Oaks Pony Club, USPC Pres.
Sarah Dubost	BOPC
Bess Pieracci	Golden Hills Pony Club
Summer Hensley	Webb Ranch Riding Center
Linda Gow	Black Ridge Pony Club
Laurie Ridge	BRPC
Sally Phillips	Portola Valley Pony Club
Michelle Cale	PVPC
Molly Johnson	PVPC, Mid Cal Board
Kathie Schulz	Bay View Pony Club
Sydney Doede	BVPC
Alane Alchorn	Claim Jumper Pony Club
Kathy Harold	Moon Valley Pony Club
Deb Smith	WPC, Mid Cal Board
Nichole Fisher	Santa Cruz County PC, Mid Cal
Anu Sambath	Pacific Ridge PC
Judi Martin	Redwood Hills PC, Mid Cal Board
Karyn Ogorzalek	Redwood Hills PC
Mary Beth Erickson	WPC, Mid Cal Board

### Call to Order - 10:00am

### Adjustments to the Agenda – none

### Introductions -

Katie Graham, Regional Supervisor, encourages everyone to take a minute and meet two people they don't know. Then, Katie introduces Mid Cal board, encourages volunteering, and discusses USPC national level committee work.

- Mary Beth Erickson - Secretary
- Karen Flores - Regional Vice RS Champs, come to Festival everyone!
- Deb Smith - RIC
- Nichole Fisher – Regional Vice RS Rallies, National Tet committee, treasurer for SCCPC
- Judi Martin - Treasurer
- Molly Johnson - Regional Vice RS Testing - upper level testing - horsemaster

### Old Business:

**Approval of Minutes from 2015 Regional Meeting - Sarah Dubost motion to approve, Karen Flores second, all approve.**

Katie – Statement of USPC Philosophy

Lack of Centers at today's meeting – We need to make the meeting more accessible to centers.

### Volunteer awards:

Nancy Pittman - committee work, structure of committees, how to get involved. Committees are mostly calls, easy to do.  
Ben Duke will be the next USPC president, has worked with 4H. New membership category, professional program for HM

package of our educational materials, goal is to reach more kids with Pony Club HM program.

- Founders Award Nomination - Jen Jensen – SCCPC
  - 20 Year Local Legend and Local Legend Awards can be presented at the club level, info about awards on USPC website
  - 20 Year Local Legend - Judi Martin - Redwood Hills, Mid Cal Treasurer
  - 20 Year Local Legend - Nichole Fisher – SCCPC
  - 20 Year Local Legend - Terri Fisher - SCCPC
  - 20 Year Local Legend - Betsy Cameron – SCCPC
  - 20 Year Local Legend - Lynda Erhich - Clayton Canyon DC
  - 20 Year Local Legend - missed name
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- Local Legend - Karen Flores – WPC DC of biggest club in the region
  - Local Legend – Mary Beth Erickson – Region Secretary 2015, 2016
  - Local Legend - Bess Pieracci – Golden Hills DC, Quiz Rally

### Centers and Clubs

Discussion regarding increase in center membership and how do the volunteers from clubs assist centers:

- Should it be a paid assistance since the centers are for profit?
- Is it appropriate for members to ask for payment if they are upper level members?
- What ways can upper level members provide support that is fair to both parties?

Perhaps a free lesson or other small compensation would be appropriate. Deb Smith, RIC, is discussing this with the national office as well. She has explained that if you are HB or HA you are approved to teach and should get some compensation for that teaching if mounted or unmounted. Anu Sambath stated that at least the request from the club/center to the member should be more specific of what is needed, maybe a small contract on what is expected and what each party would provide. With more centers, it may be good to put in some guidelines to set some new expectations for both parties.

HBs have *earned* the ability to be a certified unmounted instructor.

HAs have *earned* the ability to be a mounted and unmounted instructor.

### Review of the Regional Activities (Katie Graham, RS and other Regional organizers)

See *Katie's presentation slides*

#### Regional Instruction Activities (Deb Smith, Regional Instructional Coordinator )

*See Deb's presentation slides*

Pony Palooza

Upper level clinics

Discussion about attendance at clinics --

Transport to clinics is a huge problem - Deb Smith commented that planning ahead may help.

Katie - Idea for centers, have clinics at centers, then the centers can provide horses.

#### National Convention 2016 and 2017

- Michelle Cale – attended 2016 - took 14 pages of notes, many interesting ideas from other people, great workshops, good experience.
- Katie Graham – For convention 2017, located in CA, we would like to send at least one person from each club! Bring your kids, there are many opportunities for them. Our region needs to attend this, early reg closes on tues 11/15. USPC's goal – our volunteers are trained and capable.
- Nichole Fisher - Bring your kids no matter what age, pony paddock for young kids - badge program, seminars - for older kids, great experience for all.

#### National Youth Congress –

- Bess Pieracci – Daughter, Jess, attended 2016 and had a great experience, met a lot of nice people.
- Katie - have one more slot for 2017

#### C1/C2 Certifications hosted by Mid Cal –

- Karyn Ogorzalek - 25 candidates participated in 2016, including 4 horse masters – Karyn was really impressed with the volunteers and examiners. Biggest issue - attire and tack cleaning not up to standards. Camaraderie has been nice, we have had mother/daughter pairs at certifications with horsemasters.

#### Quiz Rally

- Bess Pieracci - 69 participants - 1 candidate went east champs and 1 to central champs.

#### Show Jumping Rally

- Laurie Ridge - Sarah Dubost clinician and course designer, clinic day before then rally.

**Eventing Rally** - Not held in 2016, planned but due to conflicts there was not enough interest.

**Dressage Rally –**

Kathie Shulz - Nancy McIsaac was the HM judge, she did a great job as always. Karen Twyford did a great job organizing it, lots of learning. Laurie Ridge - Dressage Rally worked with JK show very well.

Jen Berry - A few mid cal teams went to Sierra Pacific SJ Rally.

**Tetrathlon Rally**

Nichole Fisher - Tet Rally was great. We incorporate any level, D1s who can't ride a course - upper level qualifiers. Teams are mixture of all ages. For qualifying, you are not required to ride the horse you will ride at champs. Also, up to 3 riders can share a horse both at rally and champs: split cost to transport horse to Kentucky, lends to teamwork when the kids share a horse.

**C Camp**

Sally Phillips – C Camp had a healthy resurgence in 2016. This is the main C level mounted activity supported and sponsored by the region, held at eventful acres, used to be more eventing focused, now there are more tracks for sj and dressage. This year, 2017, we will add a new instructor and add a strong dressage track. By design a casual fun camping experience, no formal hm program but c level hm is expected. Teams help each other out. If we see something unsafe, we call it out, usually flip flops. No certifications offered by design, to keep it fun and relaxed. Fully catered, parents don't have to lift a finger, plenty of time for relaxation.

**D Camp**

Alane Alchorn - D Camp - fewer kids this year, first time having para riders, coupled with 60th anniversary of SCCPC, article in pony club news. Kathie Shulz - Also in pony club news: tetrathlon exchange, the Roth girls and Paralympics.

**Champs Central**

Eben Haber - 130 attendees, great for daughter to meet other pony clubbers, on a scramble team, daughter was high point winner for her division.

**Champs East**

Nancy Pittman – Held at Tryon - first time for pony club - facility was thrilled with kids using trails and level of horse care. As a spectator you could see two arenas at once, also shopping, still developing the facility, so more to come in the future.

Katie – The senior games were held under the lights. Lots of fanfare - helicopters dropping people, flags, excitement. Kids participated in lip sync competition on Friday with 5k prize for winning team. 2017 Festival will be 10 days and expects 1200 competitors.

**National Testing hosted by Mid Cal 2016**

Molly Johnson - 13 for mounted tests

Kathie - HB - smoothest running HB so far, easier because no HA candidates

Nancy Pittman - National is losing money on each certification, so we have to have numbers show up for the tests. Judy Martin - I feel very strongly upper level certifications need to be continued to be run by national level USPC.

Deb Smith - echo Judy's comment - c3 +HB needs to be run by National. These certifications need to be thought of as pony club investing in the people who will be giving back for the rest of their lives. Maybe schedule one in California, set the date, but then don't cancel it.

Molly Johnson - The other thing, the fees do not come near to covering the costs of the tests.

Nancy Pittman - Expensive for the kids too.

Katie Graham – During the actual testing, decisions need to be made quicker, Olympic tests are quicker the pony club certifications and overnighting creates more expense for the kids.

**International Tet Exchange**

Karen Flores – Exchange was really exciting and fun. It was a fabulous opportunity to meet the kids from other countries, lots of site seeing in Ireland. We need to do more as a region to let kids know about opportunities and requirements for international exchanges. We need to raise awareness and money for national for to help kids pay.

**New Business:**

**Statement of Account Year To Date** (Judi Martin, Treasurer) –

See Budget sheet.

Review/Discussion of Budget sheet.

Molly Johnson – I need more money in my budget to support upper level testing.

Katie - Some areas we don't spend all of it: annual meeting, champs fund, but this year we will spend it. 2017 will be an expensive year for the region, next year will be leaner year.

Anu Sambath - Maybe we should tell sierra pacific to help chip in for upper level tests

Katie - Camino Real dues are \$85

Anu Sambath - Our dues our low compared to other regions. Also, Camino Real runs silent auction at HITS, big fund raiser for them.

Karen Flores - One way to raise money, is hosting dinners. For tetrathlon we had a lasagna dinner which made \$400.

Judy Martin - Pony club as a national organization does not help the kids out with expenses.

Nancy - Pony club is running a deficit, and it is a serious problem. USPC needs to cut programs due to membership drop from 10k to 8k.

#### **Report of the Nominating Committee** (Kathie Shulz, head of Nominating Committee )

2017 Slate is the same as 2016 board as except for new secretary, Karen Twyford:

- Regional Supervisor – Katie Graham (Portola Valley Pony Club)
- Treasurer – Judi Martin (Redwood Hills Pony Club)
- Secretary – Karen Twyford (Clayton Canyon Pony Club)
- RIC & Vice RS Instruction & Camps – Deb Smith (Woodside Pony Club)
- Vice RS/Horse Management Organizer – Deb McCarley ( Pacific Ridge Pony Club)
- Vice RS Rallies – Nichole Fisher (Santa Cruz County Pony Club)
- Vice RS Testing – Molly Johnson (Portola Valley Pony Club)
- Vice RS Membership – Barbie Roth (In the Irons Pony Club)
- Vice RS International Exchanges & Championships – Karen Flores (Woodside Pony Club)

Katie's comments –

USPC is changing to a new national system for treasurers. Judi will help us with this transition, and then we will change to a new treasurer for 2018.

We will need a new RS for 2018.

**Karen Flores makes a motion to accept 2017 slate, Michelle Cale seconds, all approve.**

**\*\*\*LUNCH\*\*\***

Reminder to Mid Cal Leadership - Youth Protection Requirements — complete your required training!

#### **Proposed Nominating Committee for 2017 –**

- Judi Martin - Redwood Hills
- Sally Phillips - PVPC Joint Dc
- Kathie Shulz - Bayview
- Heather Ercolano - DC Fresno
- Bess Pieracci - DC Golden Hills

**Deb Smith makes a motion to accept 2017 nominating committee, Anu Sambath seconds, all approve.**

#### **Proposed Budget 2017 (RS)**

Discussion around individual budget items.

Discussion about C Camp subsidy

D Camp idea - bring in visiting instructor

**Anu Sambath makes a motion to accept 2017 budget, Molly Johnson seconds, all approve.**

*See budget*

Karen Ogorzalek - C1/C2 – currently \$50 per portion, in the future \$175 for lower levels for C1, with \$175 for lower levels for C1 \$175 at the national level, \$175 for lower levels for C1?

**Molly Johnson - I make a motion for the region to charge \$175 for C1/C2 certifications, where the breakdown of fees is \$75 for HM, \$50 for flat, \$50 for jump.**

Much discussion about expense for kids vs costs to the region vs dues.

**Karen Flores - Amend motion for region to charge \$55 HM, \$55 Flat, \$55 Jump for a total of \$165 for traditional. Motion passes unanimously.**

Karyn Ogorzalek also commented examiners charge different amounts for C1/C2.

Molly Johnson - motion to increase dues to \$55 annually, \$70 prorated.

Nichole Fisher - amend to \$50, to \$65 prorated. Deb Smith seconds. All approve.

**Proposed Calendar 2017 (RS)**

2017 regional meeting will be held on Nov 5.

*See proposed calendar.*

UL certification dates discussion – In light of Festival participation, we need to reconsider UL certification dates.

Kathie Shulz - history of how we got to the dates we used in 2016

Deb Smith – I will poll who is interested and see what dates work best this year.

**Policy Review (RS) –** Katie presented Mid Cal policy document.

Jen Berry made a motion to approve changes as discussed, Kathie Shulz seconded. All approve.

Katie will make an appendix A and B with approved changes.

**Mid Cal Assets –**

First concussion lights are available for silent auctions - contact Katie.

Kathie Shulz – Region needs some items for HB kit - farrier kit, bits, training bridles, girths

Alane Alchorn has many items that can be borrowed, must be returned to Alane.

Mid Cal stores its assets in the container at the horse park, a shared space with Portola Valley Pony Club.

**Other Business:**

Reminder of USPC Annual Giving Campaign

Reminder for leaders of required Corporate membership, 3 year Background check, Child Protection Training,

Concussion and Heat Illness one-time trainings.

Collect required signature cards for Treasurer.

Katie made a motion to adjourn, second Kathie Shulz, all approve.

Alane Alchorn – One final note - western rulebooks are finished!