



Regional Council Meeting Highlights November 8, 2009 Lexington, KY

The MidSouth Regional Council's Annual Meeting opened on Nov 8 with a revisiting of the USPC Mission Statement and Guiding Beliefs. This was followed by the secretarial report and roll call. A treasurer's report was given which detailed income/expenses for the region from Jan 1, 2008 to Nov. 5, 2008. 'The bottom line' reflected a healthy positive cash flow in our region's checking account and an untouched savings reserve, which remains in an interest-bearing money market account.

The RS then presented several overview charts including a map locating all our region's Clubs and Riding Centers; a chart showing membership growth in nearly every one of the region's clubs/RCs; and, an average MidSouth club size of 14.5 members (although we aren't sure which clubs have the 0.5 members!) A ratings plot of our region's membership indicated 69.3% of our members are D3 and below in rating, 30.7% are C1 rating or above and of that 30.7%, 10.5% are HB and above.

Several administrative details were discussed including regional dues, forms and a correction that all club uprankings must be completed before the OPENING date (chart erroneously stated closing date) of the rally in which the member wants to compete at the higher rating level. [If the upranking takes place after the rally opening date, the competitor must compete at the previous rating level.]

The MidSouth Master Calendar for 2009 was projected with known 'dues dates' indicated. It is recognized that this calendar will be updated regularly throughout the year and posted on our regional website. Several dates were emphasized, which included:

- Jan. 22-25 - USPC Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC (All clubs **strongly** urged to make the drive to attend this really fun and very informative meeting!)
- March 1 - Games Rally, KHP, Lexington, KY
- March 7 - Quiz Rally, Nashville, TN
- March 20-22 - Cross-Country Leaders Camp in Phoenix, AZ. (All Club DCs are also strongly urged to attend this extremely valuable workshop. USPC is paying for nearly all the trip expenses!)

The presentation then shifted to the Regional website where attendees were oriented to find the Regional Directory, Club websites, regional Clinics calendar, *monthly* calendar highlights, and a site in which members can directly 'Download' detailed information on Shows, Clinics, Entry Forms, etc.

The Region extends a BIG Congratulations to our 14 members who passed their upper level ratings this year! The RS emphasized a regional focus on retaining our upper level pony club members (C and above) by (1) providing upper level test prep clinics with National Examiners, and by (2) offering discipline clinics throughout the year and throughout the region with 'top level' clinicians at a very reduced cost. The five regional clinics offered in 2008 were well received and attended. We will have more!

Savanna Speakman will be the MidSouth's USPC National Youth Congress representative at the USPC Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC. Congratulations Savanna!

Congratulations also to our Championship East competitors for 2008! Although the region had a 'fewer than usual' number of competitors, the final results were impressive in all the entered championship rallies, especially in the category of Horse Management!! One of our Quiz finalists was invited by USPC to represent our region at the No. American Quiz Championships **in Canada** and her composite team finished 5th!!!

The Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) report included a summary of the region's upper level national testing results which indicated excellent candidate performance on the HB and HA testings. Our C3, B and A ratings were just under the USPC pass/fail rate and only strengthened the region's resolve to boost prep opportunities and, hopefully in turn, the ratings success of our 2009 upper level candidates.

Also shown was a RIC organizational chart indicating two appointments: Cheryl Parsons (DC Davis Creek) will be the regional Discipline Clinics Coordinator and Shelley Bouton as the MidSouth Club Ratings Examiner and Instructor Directory Coordinator. Tammy Speakman will continue as the regional RIC with responsibilities to include Upper Level Prep Clinics as well as overall support to Cheryl and Shelley.

Considerable emphasis was given to the importance of each club attending the USPC Leaders Camp in Phoenix, AZ to be hosted, and largely paid for, by the USPC on March 20-22, 2009. Each MidSouth club is invited/encouraged to send their DC representative to this 2-day series of workshops. Also attending will be the region's RS and 1 Vice RS. *The USPC National Office will pay for round trip airfare to/from Phoenix, AZ plus hotel accommodations Fri and Sat (double occupancy) plus Sat/Sun breakfast plus the Saturday evening banquet!*

A distribution chart was shown which reflected the addresses for all MidSouth Pony Club members C1 and above. The resulting scatter diagram indicated two major areas of concentration - one around and south of the Nashville, TN area and the other area around north central KY. This information will be helpful to our discipline clinics coordinator with 'site selection' for 2009 clinics.

Kathy Corley, DC Stones River, presented the Nominating Committee's slate of MidSouth Regional Officers for 2009. The slate was approved as follows:

Nancy Smith- returns as Regional Supervisor,
Sue Colliver (former Jt. DC from Walnut Creek)-Vice RS,
Fred Roberts (MTPC)-returns as Vice RS,
Barbara Sullivan (former Jt. DC from Stones River)-Vice RS,
Becky Logsdon - returns as Secretary, and
Sharon Leonard - returns as Treasurer.

Shelley Ryan (2008 VRS) presented a MegaRally report with assessments of each individual Rally competition's organizational strengths/weaknesses. The overall MegaRally timeline will remain for 2009 as it was in 2008. For C-Rally competitors, an afternoon seminar and D-Rally XC jump judging tasks are being considered for the unscheduled block of time on Friday afternoon.

Jan Whitehouse, Open HT Secretary, presented a report reflecting the number of HT competitors (Open and Pony Club) and the region's profits (approx. \$24,000 net) from this fund-raiser. **A big Thank you to Jan for all her efforts!**

Our 2009 Horse Management Officer, Connie Jehlick, discussed the need for more Assistant Horse Management Judges (AHMJ) at our Rallies. **Connie requested Club officers encourage their members who are C3 and above and 18 yrs old and older to sign up for 2009 AHMJ Training**, which will be conducted in Nashville during or directly following Quiz Rally.

The RS expressed deep gratitude to **Grace Hobbie and Shelley Ryan** who are leaving their official posts as Vice RS's of the region. Gratefully, both will be staying on to help with the scoring/registration and organization of MegaRally. **A HUGE regional Thank You to two outstanding individuals and USPC supporters!!!!!!** Appreciation gifts will be presented to these two at our spring regional council meeting at Quiz on March 7, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned.