



Great Lakes Region
Fall Regional Council Meeting

MINUTES _____

Agenda for November 5, 2023 - 8:30am arrival

Virtual Meeting - 8:45am – 1:30pm ****Please note we are using Microsoft Teams****

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Attendees	
Participants	All Regional Officers, CAs and DCs are expected to attend. Other club officers and sponsors are also welcome.

8:30	Arrival; Troubleshoot any technical difficulties
8:45	Welcome Club/Center Attendance; Roll Call Introductions (Wendy Willford) Regional Board RS Wendy Willford VRS Jenifer Wolf VRS Alex Clay VRS Amy Koepke (SS JtDC) HMO Ginger Wisseman (PP DC) RIC Kerry McKinley (OH DC) Treasurer Melynda Ziehm (PP CT)

	<p>Secretary Amy Fidler (FW CS) Regional Tech Admin Lorri Witkowski</p> <p>Club and Center Leadership</p> <p>Cedar Ridge Central Michigan Amanda Butcher, JtDC Foxwood Candy Tavormina, DC Grand River Linda Cooper, DC Highland Hills Kim Heaman, DC Huron Valley Lori Page, CS K. Colfer Sporthorses Katherine Reece, CA Kalamazoo II Macatawa Melissa Topp, DC Metamora Hunt II Tammy Dring, DC Orchard Hill Kerry McKinley, DC Rose Lake Megan Levine, DC Traverse Bay Susan White, JtDC</p> <p>Guests:</p> <p>Rae Birr (USPC), David Silver (Detroit Horse Power), Brenna MacLeod (HVPC) and GLR JLC Board Members: Hannah Fountain, Hannah Willford, Moriah Orlando, Carolyn Wolf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert's Rules of Order (Amy Fidler) • Voting Procedures (Amy Fidler)
9:00	<p>Approval of Fall 2023 RC Agenda</p> <p>Approval of Spring 2023 RC Minutes Please note: correction of Kim Heaman's last name.</p> <p>Ginger Wisseman motion to approve. Melynda second. Minutes unanimously approved.</p>
9:05	<p><u>Reports</u></p> <p>Regional Officers' Reports</p> <p>2023 RS Report – Wendy Willford</p> <p>Recap: A lot of "NEW" this year. It was a VERY robust year!</p>

	<p>Overall membership is lower and the volunteer pipeline is dry. Down a club and center, with another club loss ahead. How to be creative with the challenges ahead given the shifting landscape?</p> <p>2024 has several changes. Many related to the pricing pressures. Renew by 11.15 for the lower rate. Championships will occur every 2 years and festival will be concurrent. Must have 5 Club sponsors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>2023 Treasurer’s Report and 2023 Budget vs Actual</u> – Melynda Ziehm <p>Creativity is key. We are in a building mode. With the festival cycle coming up, we can anticipate 2024 will have larger expenditures. Silent auction is the largest fundraiser and it helped regain the footing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>2023 HMO Report</u> – Ginger Wisseman <p>HMO Report Share from Ginger. Appreciated the excellent chiefs and volunteers who make the behind the scenes and HM Judging. Quiz/Eventing/Flex Format</p> <p>New AHMJ’s will be needed for next year.</p> <p>HM is the core of Pony Club. Establishing excellence of horse management as the medium that’s going to form and shape our youth into the best version of themselves, as well as keeping the adults interested who may not wish to compete.</p> <p>Keep club calendar in advance + predictable. Outlined several ways to engage parents, members and leaders in making clubs successful locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>2023 RIC Report</u> – Kerry McKinley <p>Request for club instruction calendars. Shared many great resources on the USPC website (likely have to be logged in).</p>
<p>10:45</p>	<p>15 min Break</p>
<p>10:45</p>	<p><u>National Certification Achievements (Wendy Willford)</u></p> <p>JLC members joined us. Congratulations to our members who completed their 2023 National Testing Achievements! We are thrilled to recognize your accomplishments! \$50 gift card to each of you for Shop Pony Club!</p> <p>Mason Konesky, HH+HVPC— HB Moriah Orlando, JLC Secretary MHIIPC— HB Hannah Willford, JLC VP HVPC— HB Carolyn Wolf, JLC Treasurer TBPC— HB</p>

Committee Report — JLC

- **Review of JLC 2023-2024 Officers**

Hannah Fountain President
Hannah Willford VP HVPC
Carolyn Wolf Treasurer TBPC
Moriah Orlando Secretary MHIIPC

- **2023 Review and Plans for 2024**

- **Report from Moriah**

- **Treasurer report:** Balance of \$1699. (Expenses mostly JLC Tshirts and Prep Camp)

- **Recap of 2023** Hannah Willford

- Getting reports and feedback was a bit inconsistent between sources for rating prep. Send conditioning plans and things to the national resource.
- C Testing at Brookside. Great facility. Liked lots of teaching opportunities. Chris was great for the rating and the clinic.
- JLC Prep camp in TBPC, talked about Late Fees b/c people signed up last minute/cancellation/juggling. Better schedule to make it more workable. North and South Camp to get more participation? Maybe 2 days... Camp + Fun Show on day 2? Ask for sponsorship. Was a successful fundraiser.
- Eventing Rally—good experience to get in the vet box. Tricky with an event because of cross pollination with a live event. Eventing rally & eventing camp? Parents should stay out of the rally space.
- Tetrathlon Camp—highly recommend. Most fun ever.
- Flex Rally—awesome feedback. Great way to qualify for champs. Initially skeptical it would be too much but thought it was really smooth. Amazing feedback and great to have only 1 turnout. Only criticism to do the shooting further away from dressage.
- Super camp—was run really well and facility was great. Would like to bring back a region run super camp.
- D Rally or Champs East or Gymkhana (no one was on the call who attended)

- **Ideas for 2024**

- Testing Upper level Clinic Nov
- Jan Convention in Reno ← *consider going as a youth council member if you're 18+*
- More upper level participation. Entry to a clinic or camp raffling it off to offset the costs?
- Do a zoom or camp to prepare for KY for Festival.
- Alex Clay recap National Youth Council meets during the annual meeting. Talked about leadership opportunities and how regions create youth

11:00

	<p>leadership and upper level engagement. 2 year commitment. Meetings monthly and great next step.</p>
<p>11:30</p>	<p><u>New Business</u></p> <p>2024 Calendars (Activity / Leadership) of Regional Events (Wendy Willford)</p> <p>Reminder of how they are laid out and what to expect for the year ahead. Can be found on our regional sharepoint site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Annual Meeting with budget approval (Wendy Willford) <p>Motion to Approve by Ginger Wisseman to accept the annual meeting budget presented. Second by Amanda Butcher. Clarification with question from Candy Tavormina. Minutes unanimously approved.</p> • Quiz Rally / Spring RC Meeting with budget approval (TBPC) <p><i>Discussion:</i> There will be a dance again. Hopefully an included lunch will be provided. T-shirt fundraiser opportunity too. More information forthcoming. Be sure to make your room reservations by the end of 2023. Don't share the code with others until the region opens the opportunity to friends and family— right now it's competitors & their families only.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Ginger Wisseman Motions to accept quiz rally budget as presented. Lori Page HV Seconded</p> <p>Ginger added—normally quiz is a higher gain. We'll have to make sure we focus on fundraising. Note: the silent auction proceeds are not reflected in this budget.</p> <p>Minutes unanimously approved.</p> • Quiz Silent Auction (TBPC) <p>Baskets from each club will be a different color to create a rainbow to tie into St. Patrick's Day. Sign-up sheets and details forthcoming.</p> • Art & Poetry Contest (Candy Tavormina) <p>Will continue and be bigger & better than ever. Request to add a photography section to the art and poetry.</p> • Club/Center Roles (Jen Wolf / Wendy Willford)

	<p>We need clubs and members to volunteer and there are many ways to spread the load since it's not sustainable to have the same people volunteer over and over. There's executive board presence supporting all three states. 12 clubs & 2 centers in 2024. If a club hasn't taken up part of an ask to consider where you can contribute. Doing more with consistent leadership but need to have more folks involved (doesn't have to be horsey)— time, talent or treasure! Asking for folks to step forward lighten the load and have leadership across the region step up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Annual Meeting (Wendy Willford/Kerry McKinley) <p>January 2025. Still awaiting final decisions for the annual meeting. Hopefully the finalized contract will be approved soon so we can get traction on the planning.</p> <p>Following up from breakout session: Rae Burr encourages everyone to sign up to host a workshop and the deadline is July 2024.</p>
12:00	<p><u>Breakout Sessions</u></p> <p>Before going into the breakouts, we welcome back Guest David Silver who gives an update on his connection to Detroit Horse Power.</p> <p><i>**Kerry McKinley will divide the meeting participants prior to the break to ensure a seamless transition to the breakout session**</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rally Planning (Amy Koepke) • Treasurers (Melynda Ziehm) • AHMJ Planning (Ginger Wisseman) • 2025 Annual Meeting (Wendy Willford / Kerry McKinley) <p>Wendy announced Annual Meeting Committee Meeting will be held 11/14 at 7:30pm to follow up if folks are interested.</p> <p>Ginger Wissman announced there will be assistant HM Training in person before rally season starts.</p>
12:30	<p><u>2024 Budget (USPC Annual Fund) with budget approval (Melynda Ziehm)</u></p> <p>Note: Festival years tend to have more expenses as we support the folks with swag and other support. The big pieces are the annual meeting, our instruction program and championships. Budgeted for 180 members to be conservative. Silent auction is the largest fundraiser. Silent auction proceeds from the 2025 Convention may be shared with the folks from Lakeshore region if they also volunteer but Rae Burr indicated there wouldn't be sharing (although the final details, logistics and questions need to be finalized).</p> <p>Motion to Approve Ginger Second by Amanda Butcher Discussion: Ginger wondering what the fundraising portion is— Silent Auction</p>

	<p>clarification. Vote called – 14 in favor, 0 opposed.</p>
12:45	<p><i>Amy Fidler had to attend to an emergency. Ginger Wisseman took over taking minutes.</i></p> <p>Nominating Committee Chair Kim Heaman, presented the 2024 Slate of GLR Officers for Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS – Jenifer Wolf (TBPC) • VRS – Katie Koepke (SSPC) • VRS – Lori Page (HVPC) • Treasurer – Melynda Ziehm (PPC) • Secretary – Amy Fidler (FPC) • RIC – Kerry McKinley (OHPC) • HMO – Ginger Wisseman (PPC) <p>Motion – Candy Tavormina moved to accept the slate Second – Lori Page Vote called – 14 in favor, 0 opposed.</p>
12:55	<p>Approval of exemption for RS or VRS to also be a DC or Jt. DC (if applicable)</p> <p>Vote for exemption for VRS or RS to also be JDC or DC of a club. Specifically: Amy Koepke as DC of SSPC No motion or second needed Vote called – 14 in favor, 0 opposed.</p>
1:00	<p>Announce appointed positions (JLC Liaison, Technical Admin)</p> <p>Board Liaisons announced and accepted.</p> <p>Technology Liaison – Lorri Witkowski JLC Liaison – Alex Clay Region Liaison – Wendy Willford as a Convention Committee Member for the 2025 Annual Meeting hosted by GLR.</p>
1:05	<p>Recognition of volunteers – exiting board members</p> <p>A huge thank you to Wendy Willford for all of her dedication to the Great Lakes Region. Wendy was presented with a USPC jacket and brick and the Kentucky Horse Park. A video honoring Wendy was created by Amy Fidler and shared during the meeting.</p>
1:10	<p>Reminders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USPC Annual Meeting in Reno, NV – Jan 24-28, 2024 (in-person & virtual) • Club and Center reports due to USPC by November 15th. Remember to donate to the Annual Fund! All contributions matter. Please encourage membership and

	<p>clubs to give. We budget \$169 from the GLR region for the USPC Annual Fund. Candy Tavormina is going to match all club and regional donations to the USPC Annual Fund!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background checks and trainings due ASAP for incoming leaders as well as adult members and regular volunteers (18+ SafeSport / 21+ background checks) Please ensure that all incoming leaders have their background check and safesport completed. Please set up incoming DC's and treasurers as volunteers to ensure continuity. Also add outgoing leaders as volunteers so they can help with the transition as appropriate. • Adult members need to get the safe sports and background checks before being able to renew or participate. They will be in a suspended status until these are complete. • Officer Transitions: Set up outgoing DCs/Treasurers as volunteers in order for them to have access for support/assistance
1:15	Announcements from the floor
1:15	Adjournment

Green items are voting items

Respectfully prepared by Regional Secretary, Amy Fidler with Ginger Wisseman