

**Great Lakes Region
Fall Regional Council Meeting MINUTES**

SATURDAY November 2, 2024

In Person Meeting – Time 10:00am – Time 4:00pm

Tack Sale Set up 8:30am – Shopping – 9:00am-10:00am



Attendees	
Participants	All Regional Officers, CAs and DCs are expected to attend. All club members, sponsors, JLC members and parents highly encouraged to attend.

8:30	Doors Open. Tack Sale Setup.
9:00	Tack Shopping
10:15	<p>Meeting Officially Starts - Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club/Center Attendance; Roll Call Introductions (Jenifer Wolf) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cedar Ridge Equestrian Riding Center-- Ann Arbor, MI <i>no representative present</i> ○ Central Michigan Pony Club-- Saginaw, MI <i>Amanda Butcher (v)</i> ○ Foxwood Pony Club-- NW Ohio <i>Amy Fidler (GLR Secretary) (v)</i> ○ Grand River Pony Club -- Grand Rapids, MI <i>Polly Corbett</i> <i>Linda Cooper (v)</i> <i>Sherry Gunderson-Schipper</i> ○ Highland Hills Pony Club -- Milford, MI <i>unable to attend</i> ○ Huron Valley Pony Club -- Ann Arbor, MI <i>Brenna MacLeod (v)</i> ○ K. Colfer Sporthorses Riding Center -- Harbor Springs, MI <i>no representative present</i> ○ Kalamazoo Valley II -- Plainwell, MI <i>Christine Stenger (v)</i> ○ Metamora Hunt II Pony Club -- Metamora, MI <i>Tammy Dring (v)</i> <i>Mary Orlando</i> <i>Ursula Calin</i> <i>Daniella Forro</i> ○ Orchard Hill Pony Club -- South Lyon, MI <i>Kerry McKinley (GLR RIC) (v)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pierport Pony Club -- Manistee, MI Ginger Wisseman (GLR HMO) (v) Melynda Ziehm (GLR Treasurer) (v) Susan Carlson Kelly Gray Torres (v) ○ Rose Lake Pony Club -- Lansing, MI Carolyn Rigterink Jenn Mattison Karen Usher Megan Levine (v) ○ Silver Snaffles Pony Club -- NE Indiana Amy Koepke (GLR VRS) (v) ○ Traverse Bay Pony Club -- Traverse City, MI Jen Wolf (GLR RS) (v) Jill Byard Janna Stone (v) Maureen Belcher Stephanie Bugai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robert’s Rules of Order (Amy Fidler) ● Voting Procedures (Amy Fidler)
	<p>Approval of Fall 2024 RC Agenda Ginger Wisseman moved to approve. Brenna MacLeod seconds. Motion approved unanimously.</p> <p>Approval of Spring 2024 RC Minutes Amanda Butcher moved to approve. Tammy Dring seconds. Motion approved unanimously.</p>
<p>10:10</p>	<p><u>Reports</u></p> <p>Regional Officers’ Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 RS Report – Jenifer Wolf ● 2024 Treasurer’s Report - Melynda Ziehm Cash in the bank of \$28,117.84 with some assets (Jump 4 Joy standards). We have a gain of \$4310.71 with some business to conclude for the end of the year. Some expenses will be ahead— Convention in 2025, Pins, Upper-Level Clinic, and some additional items. Will end year with a slight loss of \$378.51 (and initially we were budgeted for a 4,026.34 loss, largely due to the successful silent auction which put us in this position— thank you Jen & Stephanie B!). Will likely end the year with about \$24,000 in the bank. Melynda will train new treasurers on Zoom in January. Make sure you set up your existing treasurer as a volunteer role in the system to help the new treasurer along. ● 2024 HMO Report – Ginger Wisseman The more you put into Pony Club, the more you’ll get out of it. Participation is key! And if you do just 1 Pony Club thing this year— make it Convention! ● 2024 RIC Report – Kerry McKinley Planning Your Instruction Calendar Slide Show - GLR RC Meeting 2024 ● C- Level Goal Form Template ● D- Level Goal Form Template

Old Business

2024 Activity Reports

- **Quiz 2024 – Jen Wolf**

Quiz Rally was a huge success this year. It was held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, MI. We had 78 participants, 9 of which were from the Heartland Region. We were very lucky to have huge donations for this event as well as the silent auction which brought in a lot of money. It was well organized and volunteers were plentiful which was extremely helpful and necessary! Ginger did a fantastic job setting the barn and creating questions. The art and poetry contest is still alive and running and I hope to see more next year. The cotton candy, dance party and horse treat bar were also HUGE hits! We hope to see everyone at the 2025 Quiz held in the same location on March 8th.

Brought in a profit of \$2652.30 (and didn't include the silent auction!)

- **Mega Rally – Jen Wolf**

Mega Rally was held at Wyn Farm in Williamston, Michigan. We had 25 participants that competed in dressage, show jumping or both. Everyone seemed to have a great time. The weather was beautiful, but very HOT! The facility seems to be perfect for this event. Our HM Chief, Cindy Medina was amazing and we received many compliments about her. We would love to have her back any time!

Financially, less successful than budgeted due to lower participation than anticipated. Loss of \$2,245.13.

- **Festival – Jen Wolf**

We had good representation at Festival this year. For the Championship part of Festival we had 20 members participate. 6 dressage, 4 stable managers, 2 eventing, 5 quiz, 1 international quiz and 2 tetrathlon. The weather was perfect! The JLC hosted 2 ice cream parties at the campground. The first night was amazing with LOTS of Pony Clubbers from all over. Only a few members participated in the education part of festival, but fun was had by all. Our next Festival year will be 2026.

Loss of \$1,488.86 (anticipated a bigger loss, so this was a positive!)

- **Western Discipline Discovery – PPC (Ginger Wisseman)**

Almost didn't happen! Pretty fun weekend. Members from multiple clubs and the participants enjoyed themselves. Learned about Gymkhana, Trail, and Western Dressage. Hoping that members who want to ride western in USPC will continue to be supported.

- **Fall Distance Ride – TBPC (Janna)**

9th distance ride, in memorium of one of the barn members' horses that passed away and ashes were spread along the trail. September 28th. Low participation compared to other years, but some pony club riders and some community riders. Take the Shore to Shore trail (10 mile ride) with a rest at a riding camp halfway. Rider mounts were judged on conditioning scoring. Had a brunch and learned about the Great Lakes Distance Riding Association. Raised \$1500 (mostly in honor of Marshall the horse). Potentially position this as a Shoreline Ride pre-conditioning opportunity.

10:50

<p>11:15</p>	<p>Committee Report — JLC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of JLC 2024-2025 Officers • Secretary Report Mariah Recapped 2024. • Treasurer’s Report. Balance of \$1718 and JLC Camp made \$346 after fees. Since then a few expenses (ice cream social at champs & several reimbursements) to bring 1688.90 fall balance) • 2024 Review and Plans for 2025 May 2024 camp at Cedar Creek was successful. Liked dentistry, mounted lessons & vaulting. All DCs please get word out to younger members who may not see social media posts. Upper Level Clinic at Gingers. Examiner was excellent. Learned about wrapping. Liked selecting the jump heights (maybe not as maxxed out?) Mega Rally: Loved the Chief Cindy Medina! Dressage judges this year were possibly harsh. Course designs were great & a lot of fun. Felt like parents were in the barn too much! Designated Neutral Zone would be helpful. Stay out of the barns! When HM Judges were asked for help, not always enough people around or available as quickly as needed— more adult volunteers in barn. • Champs & Festival was awesome. Some organization comments: text message system was challenging. Didn’t love the flat backed saddle pads. Golf cart decorations— talk about in advance... Opening ceremony do something more coordinated (inflatables, music, bigger show). • Western Discipline Camp—really fun & would like more people to attend. Remember you don’t have to use western tack.
<p>12:45</p>	<p>Lunch break & Tack Shopping</p>
	<p><u>New Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Convention – (Kerry) (started at 11:05) • 2025 Convention – 2024/25 Spending Budget with approval (Melynda/Kerry) <i>Ginger Wisseman motioned to approve the 2024 Budget as is. Brenna Seconded. Passed unanimously. Janna Stone motioned to approve the 2025 Convention Budget as proposed. Ginger Seconded. Passed unanimously.</i> <i>Idea: Club budgets can also incentivize/financially support a member or Club Leadership to attend.</i> • 2025 Quiz Rally / Spring RC Meeting with budget approval (TBPC/Jenifer Wolf) <i>Janna Stone Motioned to approve the 2025 Quiz Budget as is. Amy Koepke Seconded. Passed unanimously</i> • Quiz Silent Auction (TBPC/Stephanie Wolf) <i>We will keep the standard we’ve been doing over the past couple years (each club asked to participate, and more are welcomed). Kentucky Derby theme this year.</i> Convention Silent Auction Club: <i>Hoping to make this a classy presentation; new items only. Keep in mind it is a fundraiser! The intent is to get a good deal but it’s also a way to make money for the region. Silent auction only through online platform. Note that items local to areas in our region (10 pack of riding lessons to a local barn) are challenging for our wider participants to purchase since this is a national audience. Smaller / single items might be combined with other donations. We will offer shipping as needed at winner’s expense.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art & Poetry Contest (Amy Fidler) <i>Proposed ribbons & treat (for kid and/or horse!) vs. curated prizes.</i> • 2025 Calendar of Regional Events (Jenifer Wolf) • Club & Center Roles (Jenifer Wolf) Please check with your clubs to see how you want to contribute.
1:30	<p>2025 Annual Budget with budget approval (Melynda Ziehm) <i>Kelly Gray Torres motioned to approve the 2024 Budget as is. Amanda Butcher Seconded. Passed Unanimously.</i></p>
	<p>Nominating Committee Chair presents 2025 Slate of GLR Officers for Election <i>Any nominations from the floor?</i> <i>Motion to accept the slate as presented by Janna Stone & Brenna MacLeod seconded. Passed unanimously.</i> <i>Note: Jen Wolf & Melynda Ziehm will be stepping down at the end of 2025 so people will need to step forward to train/mentor.</i></p>
	<p>Approval of exemption for RS or VRS to also be a DC or Jt. DC (if applicable) <i>Motion to approve by Ginger Wisseman. Seconded by Melynda Ziehm. Unanimously approved.</i></p>
	<p>Announce appointed positions (JLC Liaison, Technical Admin) Alex Clay & Lorri Witkowski</p>
1:45	<p>Reminders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USPC Annual Meeting & Convention in Traverse City, MI – Jan 22-26, 2025 • Club and Center reports due to USPC by November 15th. Remember to donate to the Annual Fund! • Background checks and trainings due ASAP for incoming leaders as well as adult members and regular volunteers (18+ SafeSport / 21+ background checks) • 2024 → 2025 Officer Transitions (set up outgoing DCs/Treasurers as volunteers)
1:50	<p>Announcements from the floor</p>
2:00	<p>Breakout Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00-2:20 • 2:25-2:45 • 2:50-3:10 • 3:15-3:35 • 3:40-4:00 <p>Topics – Navigating the USPC Website (Jen), Regional Activity Brainstorming & All Pony Club Q&A (Amy K. + Amy F.), Supporting a Diverse Membership (Ginger), HM Toolbox (Ginger), Instruction Calendar and Goal Setting (Kerry), Treasurer Support (Melynda)</p>
4:00	<p>Adjournment</p>

Green items are voting items

Minutes recorded by Amy Fidler, GLR Secretary