

**Great Lakes Region
Spring Regional Council Meeting
Minutes for March 9, 2025
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI**



8:45-9am get situated for meeting

***Bold, Italic Green items* are voting items**

9am-12:30pm meeting *One 15-minute break before 11. Later start due to time change.*

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

| Agenda | |
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| 9:00 | <p>Welcome & Introductions; Attendance</p> <p><i>Foxwood:</i> Candy Tavormina (DC), Jennifer Rupp (Treas), Amy Fidler (GLR Sec) <i>Grand River:</i> Linda Cooper (DC), Polly Corbett (Sec) <i>Highland Hills:</i> Kim Grossman (DC), Charity Murph <i>Huron Valley:</i> Brenna MacLeod (DC), Lori Page (GLR VRS), Kate Brown <i>Kalamazoo Valley II:</i> Christine Stenger (DC) <i>Never Out Foxed:</i> Mary Orlando (DC) <i>Orchard Hill:</i> Kerry McKinley (GLR RIC), Alex Clay (GLR JLC Liaison) <i>Pierport:</i> Ginger Wisseman (DC, GLR HMO), Melynda Ziehm (Sec, Treas, GLR Treas) <i>Rose Lake:</i> Karen Usher (Sec), Jennifer Mattison (Treas), Kristen Reynolds <i>Traverse Bay:</i> Susy White (JtDC), Jana Stone (Treas), Jennifer Wolf (GLR RS), Stephanie Bugai</p> <p>Representatives from Central Michigan, Metamora Hunt II, Silver Snaffles, Cedar Ridge Equestrian Center, and K. Colfer Sporthorses were not present.</p> <p>Recognition of new DCs/CAs (Jen Wolf)— Welcome to Never Out Foxed!</p> <p>Brief mention of Robert’s Rules of Order (Amy Fidler)</p> |
| 9:10 | <p>Approval of <i>Spring 2025 RC Agenda:</i> GLR RC Spring Agenda 2025.docx Brenna moved to approve Spring 2025 RC Agenda. Ginger seconded. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Approval of Fall 2024 RC Minutes Ginger moved to approve Fall 2024 RC Minutes. Brenna seconded. Passed unanimously.</p> |
| 9:15 | |

Regional Officers' Reports

- **Regional Supervisor (Jen Wolf)**

- Jen Wolf May Return to RS one more year!
- The convention was a smashing success. National thought that all aspects of convention were the best in recent history regarding the atmosphere, profit, level of quality, etc
- Goal is to get the 2026 Calendar ready this year to prep for 2026 champs
- Congratulations to our new club, Never OutFoxed!

- **Treasurer (Melynda Ziehm)**

[GLR Members & Dues Report Spring 2025.pdf](#)

[GLR RC Meeting Treasurer's Report Spring 2025.pdf](#)

[GLR Actual vs Budget by GLR Category 2024.pdf](#)

- Loss of just 184.48 – Very balanced budget!
- Budgeted a loss of over \$4,000 for 2024 but overcame that mostly due to our fundraising efforts. Bravo to the people making the silent auctions successful.
- We have budgeted a loss for 2025 but we did have some significant fundraising.
- Some regional dues are still due— make sure to get current with Melynda by the middle of this month. If you get a new member during the year, send their dues right away.
- 2024 Books need to be closed for the clubs. Compliance needs to be wrapped up. 990 needs to be completed by May 15th. Filing with the IRS that keeps us up to date with the nonprofit status. Budgets for 2025 can be input into CFRS now.
- Melynda is always able to assist via email/zoom meeting.
- We need to find a successor to train with Melynda now. She will be stepping down so this is her last year serving as treasurer.
- Regional Challenge— Every year in the fall ,the national office challenges the regions to donate to USPC in the name of the region designated to USPC. Goal to get every region & club to donate ***something*** —can tell sponsors we have 100% participation— Candy is formally challenging all the clubs to donate in the name of the club. Would be great to have 100% participation. This year the winning region was Great Lakes— \$606 in addition to winning, we get an exclusive zoom online with RidelQ sponsored Q+A w/ professional rider as the reward for the Region (date TBD)

- **Regional Instruction Coordinator (Kerry McKinley)**

[RIC Report Spring 20251.docx](#)

- Reminder— Connect the standards with what you're doing at your meeting. Certification & SOPs as the heart of our training program.
- National feedback for C2 Members and above is an opportunity for ALL C2 and above members to get feedback. It's free, and you don't have to be prepping for a test.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources for organizing a club, testing & examiners’ guides are available. The website is a great resource. ○ Upcoming upper-level mounted clinics are intended for C1+C2 with D3 + mature D2s if there is space and opportunity for C1 testing. Good idea & opportunity to go watch the next level testing as well. ○ The region supports this & it’s why we are so strong at champs and festival. Festival caliber experiences right in our own backyard. Best way for Ds and above to get the education they need! ○ National testing coming up! Come and watch even if you aren’t participating, so you know what’s coming ahead. ○ Examiners & Test Fees 2025.xlsx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Horse Management Organizer (Ginger Wisseman) <p>HMO Report - Spring 2025.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helmets: Must have the correct certifications to be permitted to participate. Replace if a fall has occurred or if the fit is no longer correct. You may not substitute padding. ○ Vests: Need to have the correct vest for jumping over solid objects (like XC) for all clinics, camps, rallies & mounted meetings. If an injury occurs without the approved vest, the USPC insurance may not cover. Buy BETA 2018, LEVEL 3 if you are doing cross country. Make sure it has 2018 + Level 3 for the correct level of protection needed. Pony Club will be checking. ○ Stirrups: Peacock Stirrups are now prohibited. ○ All DCs should review the safety handbook content and teach at meetings ○ Note changes to HM Rulebook regarding boot trees, equine first aid kit, & extra equipment |
| <p>10:15</p> | <p><u>Old Business & Activity Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Silent Auction (Stephanie Bugai, TBPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thanks to everyone who donated! Made over \$2000. Lower for this year due to convention. ● Quiz Rally – Rough Financial Report (Jen Wolf) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has a loss of \$200 so far with a potential gain of \$499—the difference in cost was to feed everyone. Some financial adjustments coming with a cookie refund. Kerry proposes that in the future we continue to offset any minor losses with quiz. People were very happy with food being provided. ● Quiz Art & Poetry Exhibition (Candy Tavormina, FWPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The exhibition format was a successful shift ○ For the future, auction off the art? ○ Best in show could also receive a best in category award ○ Thanks to Bella for being a fantastic judge. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2025 USPC Convention (Co-Chairs - Kerry McKinley and Melynda) Grand Traverse Resort & Spa • January 22- 26th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to all who led, volunteered, participated & attended. ○ Linda Short Lowe (previous RS) led a strong effort for fundraising. ○ It was a cohesive experience and represented the region really strongly. BRAVO! ○ The national organization needs to fill the information if people miss information that's disseminated (like leadership information from USPC). ○ Full circle moment of David Silver coming back and speaking and having members of Detroit Horse Power attending and participating. 100% the right speaker for the moment. ○ Melynda will have an updated financial report once everything closes. The regional board gave registration per club incentive for leaders & members. Are still showing a gain of \$1600 gain. Silent auction, brought in \$6000! |
| <p style="text-align: center;">10:45</p> | <p><u>New Business 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Testing June 23-24, 2025 @ Revel Run (Kerry McKinley) National Testing 2025 Budget and Actual.xlsx Registration deadline is March 31st to avoid late fees ● Vote to include the ghost fees. ● We have to cover facility feeds and meals/lodging for NE. The national office takes care of the flights. ● Brenna moved to approve the proposed budget. Lori seconded. Unanimous approval. ● Regional Camp June 25-27, 2025 @ Revel Run Chelsea MI (Kerry McKinley & Lori Page) Camp 2025 Budget and Actual.xlsx Initial ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D2 & 10 year old members & above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes stabling, food, 2 lessons & unmounted sessions, crafts & team building daily ○ Lodging in host homes or camping <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion—only 1 national examiner? ● Offer to donate hospitality from Jenn Mattison? ● How many volunteers are needed? Need 5-10 volunteers/day. ● Younger members probably need more volunteer support (2 people/day for safety reasons, etc). Safety checks, walking to arenas, pony holders, etc. ● Kerry will send a survey to understand potential interest. ● Do you have a 2nd NE instructor lined up? JMB also would be a great suggestion. ● Ginger propose adding 3rd instructor. ● DC+ Up discretion (Self Sufficient with a horse or dedicated parent/support person must accompany). ● Kerry will send a survey April 1 feedback for participation numbers. |

- Younger & lower level member to interact with the upper level members.
- Brenna & Kate will work with younger members. Create a camp experience.
- Jana Stone motioned to Approve the budget, amending the quantity of portapotties to 3, and adding the expense of the second NE. of 2750. Brenna Seconded. No opposed. Passed unanimously.

- **Mega Rally - GLRPC Brainstorming....**

- Rally Organizing Committee needed minimum of 3 for the committee
- Date August 16-17?
- Location Northern Michigan? TBPC Host?
- Wyn could be a possible venue for this year & next year
- Susy's farm is a possible venue
- Flex rally for 2026
- Eventing rally for 2026 alongside an event
- Photos of hands up for rally with volunteers ☺
- The following folks enthusiastically put their hands up as future rally volunteers: Candy, Kim, Christine, Jana, Ginger, Karen, Kristen, Jennifer M, Lori, Mary, Charity

- **Monthly Leadership Calls & RS Newsletters**

- Newsletters are great
- Quarterly zooms (maybe before large events?)

- **Fundraising Opportunity at Hunter's Run Metamora MI (Amy Fidler)**

- Donation for providing Derby Volunteers – Maximum 10 Volunteers
- 2025 Opportunity: May 11 & July 13

- **Virtual UNmounted with Kate Brown** March 20th 7:30pm

- **Leg Dissection Unmounted Clinic** April 12th 9-noon @ MSU
Now full! Waitlist started

- **UL Clinic / preps / C – Testing opportunities**

- April 5-6 @ Lonetree Stables, Rockford MI
- May 31 – June 1 @ Revel Run, Chelsea MI
- November 15-16 @ Lonetree Stables, Rockford MI

- **2026 Calendar**

- **Quiz Rally 2026** (March 7 if at Great Wolf Lodge)
- **Mega Rally 2026**
- **Festival / Championships:** July 13—20, 2026
- **Mock Quiz 2026** Grand River + Never Out Foxed Volunteering to Host

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| 11:45 | <p><u>Committee Report — JLC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JLC Officer Introductions and Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small profit after Treat Bar. ○ Feedback from Fall Camp: Perhaps make tack sale open to the community to sell more items/ make more money? The opportunity to teach at the JLC meeting was appreciated. ○ Feedback from Convention: They appreciated the project fair; needed more space on tables. Enjoyed the variety of clinics and things to learn. Enjoyed the anatomy room and trade fair (including vaulting). ○ Feedback from Quiz: Didn't like the 5:30 sign off for quiz (awkward timing). Really liked alternative schedule. Mega room felt long due to sign offs not being table-side. Sometimes people were in & out of barn which was challenging. Lunch was great. ○ Clinics with Kate & Brenna are awesome. More! ○ JLC vaulting clinic moving forward on March 30th. ○ New officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carolyn Wolf, President Mariah Orlando, Vice President Olive Carlson, Secretary Jack Grossman, Treasurer |
| 12:00 | <p><u>Additional New Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional Member Dues for 2026 (must be approved every spring)</i> Currently \$40 per member. Invoices are emailed to each club by Jan 15th. A late fee may apply for payments received after Feb 15th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jen motioned that we leave the dues at \$40. Melynda seconde. No opposed. Motion carried. • USPC Scholarships & UL opportunities Check out the USPC website Comment: Grants are often limited to certain ages ... seeking things that aren't limited. Also, consider tapping into your passion for pony club and have some influence by joining a national committee. |
| 12:15 | <p><u>Championships 2026</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>USPC eligibility requirements and regional intention process</u> (Jen Wolf, TBPC) |
| 12:20 | <p><u>Nominating Committee 2025 GLR Board Roles and Responsibilities.docx</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nominating Committee for 2025 Regional Officers</i> (Jen Wolf) New committee is: Stephanie Bugai, Karen Usher, Mary Orlando 2026 • Jen motioned, Ginger seconded. None opposed. |

12:31

Announcements & Adjournment

- Susy invites everyone to the Stepping Stone horse show series
- TB Pony Club Fall Distance Ride October 4 Saturday
- Ginger invites everyone to participate in a Trail Clinic/Rally in the fall
- Amy reminded people about USPC Member Achievement Program & Virtual Rally opportunities

At 12:31, Jen Wolf motioned to close the meeting. Candy seconded.
Passed unanimously. THANKS, EVERYONE!