

Bi-County Horse COUNCIL MEETING 10/30/13

Treasurer's Reports:

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

How do we get better participation at our horse shows?

Drop shows?

Different venue?

Different schedules?

How do we get better participation at CCFair?

How to get Lori more help at the shows?

Ring stewards, gate help, trail set up and tear down, announcer, office help

Someone to hire judges: performance and trail

Medals participation

Donna's Letter

For the good of the order:

Next Meeting Date:

Calendar:

November

3-Achievement Night, Bee Hive Grange, 1pm, Potluck, bring table service

13-Douglas County Leaders' Council Meeting, 6:30pm, Douglas County Extension office, Waterville

19-2014 Leaders' Forum Planning Meeting, 6: 30pm, Chelan County Extension Office

January

6 Chelan County Leaders' Council Meeting, 7pm, Chelan County Extension Office

31 Club Financial Reports Due

31 Fair Book Changes

Thoughts on Horse 4-H for Chelan and Douglas Counties:

I think if we are to grow the program serious thought has to be put into getting away from traditional shows as the primary way to showcase your project or qualify for state fair.

Too many members are just using 4-H to qualify for State Fair and are not necessarily interested in the components of 4-H which pertain to the growth of the member. When this occurs in the Senior age group it contributes dramatically to a culture that is contrary to 4-H.

Some of my thoughts on growing the program are:

Treat 4-H as a feeder program and prep program for WAHSET. This program is stable, kids love it, parents love it (most of the time). Take what we can from this program and nurture its growth paying close attention to 4-H guidelines and standards. Let's revamp our show lineup of classes to appeal to all levels of riders. I have lots of ideas here: in hand trail for anyone, IHOR, eliminate bareback, judges feedback classes, etc etc etc. Our program will die if we continue to only focus on State Fair qualifiers. Change the qualifying standards to reflect the goals of our program. What worked great in the past needs to change because the clientele has changed dramatically and we have not kept up.

Also, patterns are a huge road block the way they are currently handled. The patterns should be posted ONLINE well in advance of the shows. The kids should know what their target is, encouraged to practice, have time to memorize. The patterns can change from show to show, but let's create the opportunity for success and growth of the member. As it is handled now, it is punitive and is contributing to the demise of our program. Trail obstacles should be selected from a pre-posted list. Again, this lets kids practice and improve. Then showcase their growth at a show.

Five shows is too much for our funding and membership to sustain. Keep five, but turn the May show into a schooling show judged by an ex member or other qualified VOLUNTEER.

The medals program is awesome. It is slowly picking up steam. But it needs to be promoted positively by the horse program leader and club leaders. It is an excellent opportunity for growth of the member over many years. Medal winners should receive recognition outside of the shows, this will promote the program as well. Regarding the medals patterns. They are good solid patterns but dimensions need to be added to the showmanship patterns, this will eliminate the guess work and huge error that was present at one show. All the patterns need to be reviewed by an outside source, this will eliminate reading over errors.

Operating on tribal knowledge needs to end. Timelines need to be established regarding all shows and fairs and they need to be adhered to. We need to treat the horse program seriously if we want the members to treat it seriously and respect it.

Currently, neither horse council nor leader's council is receptive to new ideas. Ideas are shot down before fully discussed or allowed to evolve. This has created a culture that discourages new members, input and growth and sustaining of a positive program.