

**RMDS BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 21, 2020**  
**Zoom**

Call to order at 9:00 am by President Gwen Ka’awaloa.

<b>Arkansas Valley-2</b>	Nancy Leonard	1	Yes
	Cat Siemiet	1	Yes
<b>Boulder Valley-7</b>	Janeen Cochi	1	Yes
	Beth Geier	1	Yes
	Dorothy Kapaun	1	Yes
	Berott Mathnov	1	Yes
	Stan Adamson	2	Yes
	Julie Barringer-Richer – proxy to Stan Adamson		
	Miranda Avila	1	Yes
<b>Foothills-3</b>	Cassandra DiPentino	2	Yes
	Lauren Still	1	Yes
<b>Grand Valley-4</b>	Karen Harkin	4	Yes
<b>High Plains - 6</b>	Andrea Price Valenzuela	2	Yes
	Lori Keilt	1	Yes
	Kathy Simard	1	Yes
	Anclaire Spaulding	1	Yes
	Sharon Soos	1	Yes
<b>New Mexico – 2</b>	Maureen Mestas – proxies to Heather Petersen	2	Yes
<b>Northern Colorado-3</b>	Didi DeKrey	1	Yes
	Jon Haugen	1	Yes
	Andrea Chirich	1	Yes
<b>On The Bit-2</b>	Tom Wolfe	1	Yes
	Kelly Wolfe	1	Yes
<b>Pikes Peak-4</b>	MaryJo Hoepner	1	Yes
	Heather Petersen	1	Yes
	Shannon Lemons	1	Yes
	Gwen Ka’awaloa	1	Yes
<b>Western Colorado-2</b>	Lesley Hill – Proxy to Gwen Ka’awaloa	2	Yes
	Total votes present: 34		
<b>Members attending without votes</b>	Michelle Stevens		Yes
	Natalie Defee Mendik		Yes
	Nicole Bizzarro		Yes
	Ginka Gulbelka		Yes
	Joan Clay		Yes
	Sally O’Dwyer		Yes
	Christy Rawlings		Yes

**Approval of the 2019 BOG Minutes**

**Heather Petersen**

No corrections brought forward.

**Motion made by Nicole Bizzarro to approve the 2019 minutes. Seconded by Stan Adamson. Motion passes unanimously.**

**President’s Message**

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

We sit here today not in a conference room but on our phones or computers. This Zoom meeting is a result of months of a Pandemic, Covid 19 a corona virus has changed the way we meet and do our work. The last few months our horses have been a way we ground ourselves and how many of us cope with the changing world and the loss around us. Some have lost friends and family, horses or dogs and other loved ones. This past year we had to change our schedules, horse shows were canceled and others were scheduled to cover the loss. Some of us rode as if nothing changed, others were not allowed to see their horses, or were limited to time with their horses and their horse friends. Today we still have some uncertainty as to the horse show season for 2021. But we plan so that we can hope for a return to the horse show scene, the clinics, the education. I have had the privilege to serve as the RMDS President for what seems like several years. I have learned so much in that time. My time at the USDF Convention led to new friends and new committee participation. I am proud of my time with RMDS as I worked with lots of great people and we accomplished some goals to move RMDS forward. Last year at this time we began the upgrade of our Database and Website. We are in the process of implementing it now. Thanks to Code Geek and our team of experts we will be operating with much more efficiency. Today we will elect some new Board members and a few may stay to complete their goals for our organization. Please listen carefully to some of the new proposals to help RMDS move forward in 2021. I am requesting that we stay on point as this will be an extended Zoom meeting and I am sure that our attention will need to be refocused several times. I hope we can be efficient as we move through this day.

**First reading of election roster, nominations from the floor**

**Heather Petersen**

**The slate for 2021:**

President:	Dorothy Kapaun
Vice President (1 year):	Gwen Ka’awaloa
Adult Amateur:	Jan Tracy
Championships:	Anclaire Spaulding
Communications:	Nicole Bizzarro/Sally Dale O’Dwyer as co-chairs
Marketing (1 year):	Christy Rawlings/Nicole Bizzarro
Scholarship:	Natalie DeFee Mendik
Jr/YR:	Cassandra Dipentino

**Vice-President’s Message**

**Dorothy Kapaun**

Dorothy is looking forward to stepping into the Presidency and these are huge shoes to fill. We will make this another couple of fabulous years.

**Treasurers Report**

**Sharon Soos**

Funds as of October 31, 2020

RMDS Checking Account	\$28,821.98
PayPal Account (as of 10/20/20)	\$ 2,280.66
Subtotal	\$31,102.64
Website/Database	\$ 0.00
Scholarship Account	\$ 4,592.29
Reserve	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total	\$35,694.93

Discussion of how low the accounts are after the final pending payments for the database/website upgrade.

**Banquet:**

- Do you want to secure a room at the Renaissance for 2022?

**Database/Website:**

- Nearing the end of development-it has been a pleasure working with the personnel from CodeGeek. Very knowledgeable & professional people.
- Td’s, judges, officers, trainers/instructors: Must be current with RMDS to be listed on the website

**Education:**

- ‘L’ grads –Reminder.
  - April 1 is USDF deadline to be sure all your credentials are current
    - Current Membership
    - Continuing Education up to date
    - Safe Sport completed
    - Must be “with distinction” to judge FEI levels at a schooling show
  - To be approved to judge RMDS only recognized shows you must be on the USDF list at the time of the show.
- Need some more RMDS TD’s – please encourage people as this is a good way to give back to the sport. We have 3 in progress and they have until the end of 2021 to complete their requirements-must attend td/show mgt. clinic in 2021

**Membership**

- Registration – 636 members for 2020 – 54 juniors, 140 amateurs; 109 new horses since October, 2019
- See report with chapter membership totals & yearly comparisons.
- Accepting dues for 2021: \$65.00 \$75 after January 15

**Omnibus:**

- Accepting ads now-new media kit-more on this later

**Shows:**

- 8 shows submitted results for 2020-2 were USEF/USDF recognized
- Prize lists may be placed on the RMDS calendar-no charge. Send as a pdf. to the Central Office.

**General:**

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**2021**

**Executive board Meeting:**

- 2021 Adult Amateur:** April 17-18 –
- 2021 Professionals:** April 24-25 – Tamora Equestrian
- Executive Board:** Jan 14
- Executive board Meeting:** March 11
- Executive board Meeting:** May 13
- Executive board Meeting:** July 13 - Tuesday
- Executive board Meeting:** Sept. 9
- 2021 Championships:** Sept 16-19
- Executive board Meeting:** October 14 –Budget
- 2021 BOG: ??**
- 2022-2021 Awards Banquet: January 11, 18?**

**RMDS MEMBERSHIP -  
YEAR-TO-DATE**

11/17/2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	636	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	33																		
OB	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	20	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS			-	Dissolved	24	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
PN			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
PR			-	-	Dissolved	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TS			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA			-	-	Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1162</b>
Juniors	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	12	12	9/2																
Life	35/1	33/1	32/2																

## Committee Chairman Reports

### Adult Amateur

**Anclaire Spaulding/Michelle Stevens**

Unfortunately all clinics etc. were canceled this year, but the 2021 AA clinic with George Williams is in planning stages. April 17-18, 2021 at Faith Farms in Castle Rock. Anclaire will be there to help facilitate the transition. The updated budget for the 2021 clinic will be presented at the January meeting. Hopefully the Team Competition will be able to be held next year. We propose choosing a date, and we can go from there depending on the COVID climate. Looking at end of June for team competition – June 27<sup>th</sup> which would follow the Junior camp on the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

### Awards

**Shannon Lemons**

1. Corrections from the database issues in 2019 will be corrected on the trophies once I am able to get everything in to the engraver
2. Still working on getting all the trophies in, missing about 12 despite multiple emails, announcements, etc. etc. Everyone always has an excuse but I don't know how to resolve this. Every year there is a problem with getting trophies back. We talk about it at the banquet, they sign a form, we email multiple times. I'm going to try a large fluorescent sign on boxes this time, but open to other ideas.
3. Database –
  - a. Working with Beth on how reports are generated to make sure they are clear, easy to find and make sense for next Awards person and to make less work for us now.
  - b. Will have a run through with this year's scores soon
4. Breed Awards
  - a. Suggestion has been made to add part Friesians to the Friesian Awards or to create a new award for Friesian Sport Horses

- b. Breeds/registries could include Friesian Sporthorse Association (min 25%), Friesian Sport Horse Registry (min 25%), International Georgian Grande Registry (saddlebred/Friesian crosses for part breeds. Friesian Horse Association of North America for purebreds)

It was discussed and the focus is on adding a trophy for part-breds. **Cassandra Dipentino moved that we create a new award for Part-Bred Friesians, with a trophy being presented once a sponsor is found. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stan Adamson. Some discussion on the name and donors. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Mailing out awards

- a. This year, plaques, plates and ribbons will be mailed out – trophies will be engraved but not handed out as there will not be a banquet.
- b. Would like to set a standard fee for mailing – weighing each parcel and then having to go back and enter postage on the receipt and reseal the envelope takes up such a huge amount of time on normal years. In most cases, there is little variation among the costs of mailing large rider plaques to various locations, same goes for small 5x7 plaques with and without ribbons and ribbons alone. The reimbursement needs to cover postage as well as the cost of special envelopes, receipts, managing the payments by Central Office, etc.
  - i. We charge a base \$2 for mailing plates to include postage, sorting, mailing, etc.
  - ii. Rider plaques cost \$8.95 - \$10.95. Would like to charge \$10
  - iii. Small plaques with or without a ribbon cost \$6.00-\$8.00. Would like to charge \$7
  - iv. Ribbons alone cost \$4.50-6.50. Would like to charge \$5.50
- c. This year, before going to the expense of mailing awards that we do not get reimbursed for, if I have a standard fee I can email with a request for payment before we send them out. **Beth Geier made a motion to accept Shannon's motion to see a fee structure prior to mailing out awards. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dorothy Kapaun. Motion passed unanimously.**
- d. What do we do with awards that aren't paid for...

6. Request to increase minimum score to 57% to qualify for year-end awards. Here is some research from other GMOs:

- a. New England Dressage:

**Rules:**

- There must be three (3) different juries (one or more judges). If multiple judges, judge at C must be different. If there is more than one judge for a test, then averaged (final) score to be counted only.
- Two of the scores must be 55% or better.
- The median (middle) score of all tests submitted will be the rider's year-end score. If there is a median score tie, it will be broken by using the higher total of all scores submitted.

- b. Central States Dressage:

- In all divisions, a minimum **median score** of 55% is required to qualify for an award. **The median score is the middle score**, when ranking scores from high to low. If an even number of scores is ranked, the two middle scores are averaged.

- c. Georgia DCTA:

1. All awards will be based on a Rider only meeting these eligibility requirements that does not own or lease a horse or pony.

A) To be eligible a Rider must have at least seven scores, two from the highest test of the level from two different judges at two different shows. Each score must be at least 55%.

- d. Central Texas Dressage:

**How are the scores figured for awards?**

For mini-shows and Recognized Shows, it is the average of the 3 highest scores from the highest test of the level under 3 different judges. Minimum acceptable score of 55%.

- e. New Mexico Dressage:

4. For the purposes of NMDA Year-End Awards: Junior is 18 and under; Adult Amateur over. (4/13/16)

5. The final average score must be 55% or higher to receive an award. (1/17/14)

6. Year-End Awards are presented at the Annual Awards Banquet. (3/8/17)

f. Houston Dressage:

5. An average score of 58% or above is required to be eligible for awards at the National level and 55% at the FEI Levels.

g. Northeast Florida Dressage:

Introductory through First level: submit 6 scores from a NFDA Schooling or DOTFC Recognized show. One score MUST be from the highest test from that level. Example: Training 3, First 3, (exception – Intro B will be used as the highest test for the Intro level.) The highest and lowest scores are thrown out and the remaining 4 scores are added then divided by 4 to reach the rider's average score. If the rider only submits one score from the highest test and that score is the highest or lowest of all 6, that score cannot be discarded. Rider must have a minimum average score of 55% to be eligible for an award.

Second through Fourth Levels: submit 4 scores from a NFDA Schooling or DOTFC Recognized show. One score must be from the highest test of the level. All 4 scores are used to determine the average score of the rider. Rider must have a minimum average score of 55% to be eligible for an award.

FEI Levels: submit 3 scores from a NFDA Schooling or DOTFC Recognized show. All 3 scores are used to determine the average score of the rider. Rider must have a minimum average score of 52% to be eligible for an award.

h. Bottom line is that only one found has higher than 55% and two were actually 53%. Georgia and New England DCTA are similar size GMOs at 55%.

7. Volunteer hours – while researching minimum scores, I noted that multiple organizations allow members to pay \$50 in lieu of 4 hours of volunteering that is required to earn year end awards. Should we allow this option to allow people to qualify for awards? It was discussed and decided to not accept payment as hours are needed to run the organization, though if they wanted to do what had been done in the past and pay the USDF Region 5 FEI Jr/YRs \$25 per hour, that would be acceptable. Several actually also mentioned the number of hours should possible be increased.

Several folks brought forward the change to the Open division RMDS Year End Awards from the 2019 BOG that excluded the AA and Junior divisions. It was discussed that instead professionals should have their own division. Sharon mentioned it was not financially feasible at this time to add a division but we should include everyone in the open division like USDF did. **Sharon Soos moved to have the Open division include all divisions (AA, Pony, Jr/YR). 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrea Chirich. Motion passed with 4 against and 2 abstaining.**

Gwen appointed a volunteer committee – Now on the committee are Miranda and Sally. There followed a discussion of how to reward volunteers at shows or at the awards banquet and throughout the year.

**Break from 10:26 until 10:46 AM**

## Communications

Nicole Bizarro

### Recap

I stepped in to fill the roll left when we and the larger community lost Beverly Swanson. I had been Com chair before for two terms and had been publishing the Omnibus for the last 18 years, so the roll was not unfamiliar. It was a bit like jumping on a moving horse, but I was able to re-build the Centaur files from scratch and get the last two print issues completed and printed on time.

### Discovery

In taking a hard look at the RMDS Communications budget and the profit and loss of each of our publications the board unanimously decided to re-vision the communications products going forward.

This decision was not taken lightly, but was needed, given the double whammy of the expense of the website/database and the loss of income due to covid canceling events in the last 11 months.

## **Goal**

I wanted to revision the entire RMDS Communications to be of better value in three ways: to the organization as a whole, to its members and to its advertisers and future sponsors.

## **Reset**

If we are going to pivot, let's make it a pirouette! The decision was made to end the print Centaur and Omnibus in their current forms.

## **Pirouette**

The Board reviewed, in Sept., and approved in Oct., the merger of the Centaur and the Omnibus into a new, better product better designed and positioned to serve the three groups, while working seamlessly with future Championship show programs and future sponsorship outreach.

Una Shade will continue to create the e-Newsletter, and that will now go out monthly to continue to be able to get timely info to our membership and provide advertising opportunities as frequently as before.

Redesign the Omnibus to be full color 8.5 x 11 glossy magazine format to launch in early 2021. We can do this for basically the same expense as the old product. Its success will depend on advertiser participation to offset the production, printing and distribution costs.

The intention is to retain the sections and the content included in the Omnibus and supplement it with editorial content and educational content found in the Centaur.

The first issue will be branded as The RMDS Magazine | Omnibus Edition. This will roll this out in early 2021 and be in hand by Feb./Mar. It will be useful as an educational and outreach marketing piece at events (when events are able to happen again). Picture it as an RMDS version of a merger between the USDF Handbook and USDF Yearbook. Awards can now include photos of folks and their horses. All ads will be in color.

If there is the budget to create a second edition at the end of the show season, we will create a "The RMDS Magazine | It's A Wrap Edition" in the fall of 2021. If these publications are the success I envision them to be, they could be produced quarterly. Hopefully when life, showing and events get back to normal again, maybe in 2022? Or even every other month like the Centaur at some point in the future.

## **The Team**

I will be lead designer and production artist doing layout and pre-press.

Beth Geier will coordinate Omnibus-type content, and ad placement, the same role as always.

Natalie DeFee-Mendik has been awarded a paid position as editor, creating and managing editorial, and educational content.

Una Shade will create electronic newsletters and support outreach and communication on Social Media and help with ad sales and managing a spreadsheet of those who we have contacted.

Anclarie will help with ad sales.

Eleanor Harrison will help with ad sales.

Leanne Fesenmeyer will help with ad sales.

## **Accomplishments**

First and foremost envisioning these changes, presenting them and building support and strength enough to pull off an award worthy pirouette. Second, outlining the new product, its ad sizes, specifications and pricing structure.

Third, creating a Media Kit to support all of RMDS's advertising opportunities. Coordination with Una / social media for additional outreach, beyond just the membership base. Creating a social media RMDS visual 'meme' format to be used for educational, informational and inspirational content. Partner with marketing professionals such as Una, and Leanne to reach new potential advertisers. Finding and eliminating the inconsistencies in our message and information. Creating a 50th Anniversary Commemorative Badge that can accompany visual communications throughout the year.

## **Looking forward**

To creating the first issue of this new product and working in tandem with the whole MarCom team to make 2021 a great year for RMDS, its members and its advertisers!

Discussion from Christy – can we do something for volunteers in the publication? Perhaps volunteer bingo or something to recognize the volunteers. Photos of our volunteers, etc. Nicole says we are somewhat limited in pages in that we have and what ads we're going to sell. We are just starting things now and perhaps as we go into the publishing period at the end of January we'll be able to put something together that we can make work.

Natalie, as editor, was planning on having a collage of RMDS events photos – candid, volunteers, riders, behind the scenes, etc.

**Website**

Website and Database should go live on November 24<sup>th</sup> with the new site and programming. Heather did a quick walk through of what it will look like when it goes live and some of the key functions.

**Education**

**MaryJo Hoepner/Pamela Phillips**

I am attempting to set up a remote Judges Continuing Education day. Dates are not determined yet. I perceive a remote TD / Show Management day needs to be established considering the restrictions being set down in many counties due to Covid. Would like to do at the beginning of March perhaps. Sooner rather than later. I hope to have dates confirmed in the next 3 weeks.

**Junior/Young Rider**

**Cassandra Dipentino**

Unfortunately, with the year 2020 has turned out to be, I have very little to report for Jr/YR activities. I was hoping to do a clinic this winter, but with COVID numbers on the rise, I do not think it is a very wise idea. I would like to put off the idea of a Jr/YR clinic until the spring when we can be outdoors and socially distanced.

For the 2021 Summer Intensive I would like to do two rides per day for students. In order to accomplish this I will have to raise the price for attendance, but I see it as a good opportunity for young riders to learn how to access the many scholarships and grants that RMDS has to offer. I'm thinking somewhere around \$495, a \$100 increase so that we can provide a more in-depth educational experience, without increasing the budget RMDS allots. Cost includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, camping overnight for 2 nights, instruction and activities. Dates for the 2021 Summer Intensive will be either June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> or July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. It was decided to go with the June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> dates since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July tends to be a family holiday.

Discussion on how to get young kids involved. Many factors are involved in developing programs.

**Second reading of election roster, nominations from the floor**

**Heather Petersen**

**The slate for 2021:**

President:	Dorothy Kapaun
Vice President (1 year):	Gwen Ka'awaloa
Adult Amateur:	Jan Tracy
Championships:	Anclaire Spaulding
Communications:	Nicole Bizzarro/Sally Dale O'Dwyer as co-chairs
Marketing (1 year):	Christy Rawlings/Nicole Bizzarro
Scholarship:	Natalie DeFee Mendik
Jr/YR:	Cassandra Dipentino

**Break from 12:18 until 1pm**

**Professionals**

**Kathy Simard / Joan Clay**

SUMMARY OF 2020 EVENTS: COVID -19!!

**2021 PLANNED EVENTS:**

Lilo Fore will return for the 2021 Professionals Symposium! The dates are Saturday and Sunday April 24-25, 2021. The event will be held at Tomora Training Center in Greeley. We are hoping that the event being on a weekend will bring in more auditors. Also, we have moved it north of Denver. We will be advertising it to more of the region as well. Lilo is a big draw and we hope all these things combined will mean more professionals attending! The budget expenses we have presented are the same as the actual numbers planned for 2020. Hopefully by spring we will be able to hold this event!



As an aside on the national level, it will be very important to encourage trainers to attend these events. It is quite possible that the International Olympic Committee will require some kind of official licensing for coaches at recognized shows. Which means USEF will follow suit. This may then follow the Safe Sport model and become legislation. Just a heads up!

## Marketing

## No Current Chair

Beth brought up that in marketing and promoting, we need to look at RMDS as a whole so that sponsorship can be done of the entire organization. Nicole echoed those sentiments. Looking at attracting bigger, national sponsors and the advertising is a comp of the sponsorship. The thought of having extra magazines available for chapters to distribute. Facebook exposure for advertising/marketing/sponsorship. We need to research what we can do as a 501c3 on Facebook and not versus what general groups can do.

## Scholarship

## Natalie DeFee Mendik

The RMDS Executive Board voted unanimously to rename the 'Solid Seat Adult Amateur Scholarship' the 'Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship' to honor Beverly Swanson's dedication to the organization. With five strong candidates for the 2020 RMDS scholarships, the Executive Board voted to accept the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to split this year's funds between all five applicants at \$400 per scholarship in the following categories: Leg Up Scholarship (2 recipients), Solid Seat Scholarship (2 recipients), and Opening Doors (1 recipient). Awarded were:

- The Leg Up Scholarship: Summer Mayo and Nadia Westra
- The Solid Seat Scholarship: Lynn Van Voris and Danielle D'Augustino
- The Opening Doors Scholarship: Frances Carbonnel

With Covid-19 travel restrictions, Frances Carbonnel opted to graciously return her funds to the organization as she had planned to train in Portugal with her award. Three of the recipients were able to attend local clinics and fulfill the required volunteer hours. As of creating this report, two recipients have completed their volunteer hours and articles about utilizing their funds; one has completed her hours and will write an article; and one has advised that she will send her hours and an article soon.

Due to the difficulty in maintaining communication with and follow-through by some recipients this year and last year, the scholarship committee recommends the following changes to the structure of the program:

- Recipients will receive their award checks once they have completed and verified a minimum of eight volunteer hours during the award year; have utilized their award funds for the educational activities detailed in their applications; and have written and submitted an article together with a photo to the RMDS magazine.

Recipients have until September 30 of the award year to fulfill these requirements.

**Beth Geier moved that we accept the recommendation of Natalie with the change to be that ½ the funds are issued after the January meeting and the other half are issued after the requirements are fulfilled. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cassandra DiPentino.** Discussion followed on the publication of articles – magazine or blogs or E-Centaur, where to publish, what kind of content, etc. Beth called to question. **Motion passed 32 in favor and 2 opposed.** Kathy then brought up that we should look at a revamp of the scholarship. We will look at appointing a committee

The RMDS executive board voted to allocate \$2,000 in scholarship funds for 2021. Guidelines for scholarships can be found at <http://rmds.org/Organization/Scholarship>. The deadline for 2021 scholarship applications is Nov. 30, 2020. Members interested in serving on the scholarship committee should contact Natalie Mendik.

## RMDS Championships

## Heather Petersen / Anclaire Spaulding

### Heather's Report for BOG Championships Committee

We are trying to find a facility that would allow us to have the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration in Colorado. We are struggling to find a facility to meet our needs. Anclaire is going to research some places, Karen will look at Rifle. Ginka will do Douglas in Wyoming.

**Jon Haugen moved that we hold a meeting mid-December (the 17<sup>th</sup>) to look at our Championship options to help move up the timeline regarding facilities and judges. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Simard.** Much discussion followed. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## Resumed Committee Chair Reports after a short break at 3:15 pm.

### Appointed Committee Chairman Reports

#### Western Dressage

**Simone Windeler**

Purpose: To be the link between the Western Dressage chapter of Colorado and the RMDS board  
WDACO held its Summer Sizzler show on Aug 16, 2020. They had a limited turnout due to COVID-19. All other clinics and events were canceled due to COVID.

WDACO will hold their annual meeting on Nov 18, 2020.

At this meeting they will elect new board members, decide on the clinic schedule for 2021 and announce the judges for the annual Summer Sizzler show.

That show is currently planned for Aug 14 and 15, 2021 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock.

The annual World Show of WDAA was held virtually this year and was a great success Almost 2400 tests were submitted via video, checked by stewards, and judged by 15 judges. It was extremely well received and gave many competitors that would not be able to ever travel to Oklahoma a chance to participate. WDAA is planning to go back to the Lazy E Ranch, Guthrie, OK in 2021 and hold their show once again in person from Sep 29 – Oct 3, 2021. Results and details are at <https://www.wdaaworldshow.org/>

WDACO is a fun group and with quite a few educational events and shows planned throughout the year. Their website is <http://wdaco.org/>.

You can find out more about WDAA at <https://westerndressageassociation.org/>

#### Banquet – Cancelled for 2021

**Beth Geier**

The hotel is allowing us to push our deposit to 2022. Beth will see which weekend is available around Stock Show in January.

#### BOG

**Heather Petersen**

Beth will see if the hotel is available for in-person on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### ByLaw and Standing Rule Changes:

Standing Rule Changes:

Section V. Awards - Year-End

C. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle.

Change to: The median score must be 57% or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle.

E. Perpetual Trophies

4. Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/ rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) shows, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least 55% at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least 55% or higher to qualify for an award.

Change to:

Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/ rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) shows, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least 57% at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be 57% or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least 57% or higher to qualify for an award.

**Cat Siemiet made the motion to disapprove the proposed the Standing Rule change regarding raising the required median score. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cassandra Dipentino. Motion passed with 2 no votes and 2 abstaining.**

2021 Budget	Income	Expense	Net Change
Adult Amateur	\$4,210	\$4,510	(300)
BOG Awards	\$400	\$7400	(7,000)
BOG Banquet	0	0	0
BOG Meeting		\$1,800	(1,800)
Centaur	\$0	\$0	0
Central Office	\$3,000	\$13,000	(10,000)
Championship/Breed Show	0	\$1,000	(1,000)
Donations		\$1,000	(1,000)
Education/Clinics	\$1,800	\$1,800	0
Jr/Yr Program		\$500	(500)
Junior Camp	\$3,500	\$3,500	0
Marketing/Expo/Merchandise	\$200	\$200	0
Membership - Dues	\$45,000	\$23,100	21,900
Membership - Horses	\$5,000		5,000
Miscellaneous	\$500	\$500	0
Omnibus	\$0	\$0	0
Operating (USDF Conv/Treas Exp)		\$3,500	(3,500)
Professional Committee	\$6,700	\$7,000	(300)
Publication (RMDS Magazine)	\$12,050	\$17,250	(5,200)
Scheduling / Insurance	\$250	\$2,000	(1,750)
Scholarship	\$1,500	\$2,000	(500)
Taxes / Legal / Audit	\$225	\$1,000	(775)
Team Competition	\$2,300	\$1,000	1,300
Website/Database	\$2,000	\$3,750	(1,750)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,635</b>	<b>\$95,810</b>	<b>(\$7,175)</b>

- Discussion of how the budgeting sheets work and packet material.

- Allocate \$500 to Juniors, Amateurs and Professionals.
- Adult Amateur - There was a discussion regarding increase of the allotment as well as allowing for a roll-over of funds. Decided to not change any of this.
- Awards – most of the income is postage reimbursement-\$400.00. Expense (\$7,400.00).
- BOG Banquet – hopefully the silent auction will actually help us show a good profit but not putting into the budget at this point in time.
- BOG Meeting - \$1800 expense.
- Centaur – will be removed once the budget is approved.
- Central Office – Email blasts
- Championships – just a loss recorded now, will come before the board when things are figured out and proposed.
- Donations - since we have limited funds, we are just proposing to do our scholarship fund at this point in time.
- Education/Clinics – programs come before the board for approval as they are proposed.
- Junior Camp – Looking to break even, though it tends to make a little money.
- Marketing/Expo – Expo already cancelled for 2021 so this is just covering basics.
- Membership dues – \$45,000 income, \$22,500 expense. \$23,100 profit. Right on previous years.
- Horse dues – right on numbers from previous years.
- Misc – pass through funds often times from people paying RMDS instead of who they were supposed to pay.
- Omnibus - no omnibus for 2021. Doing a different publication. Will be removed after approval.
- Operating (USDF Convention/Treasurer expenses, CoHoCo,)
- Professionals committee – their clinic and such.
- Publications – the new magazine and based on Nicole’s budget.
- Scheduling/Insurance – show recognitions, insurance for club and chapters if asked for it. Event insurance, D&O.
- Scholarship – RMDS donations and outside donations plus what we give out.
- Taxes/Legal/Audit - Chapters are down but income is what chapters each pay. \$625 is what the preparer pays.
- Team Competition – usually makes a decent amount.
- Website/Database – Regular maintenance costs and software upgrades and such.

**Motion made to accept the budget by Beth Geier. 2<sup>nd</sup> by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Old Business**

- USDF Convention **Gwen Ka’awaloa**  
Gwen Ka’awaloa and Dorothy Kapaun will be the virtual convention. All USDF members are invited and it is free this year. Please donate items to Dorothy by December 1st for the RMDS basket.

### **Region 5 Report**

**Heather Petersen**

Our first virtual convention! It’s been an odd year, but we persevered and I hope many of the folks from Region 5 are able to join us for this convention when they might not normally be able to get away. It’s a unique opportunity and I hope to see you on Zoom.

2020 has been a very hard year for our Region. The competition season started well in Arizona, but come March, almost all of the shows and educational events were cancelled. Colorado was able to have 2 shows in August, as was Arizona, but sadly most of our other states were not as fortunate.

We had to make the decision to cancel the USDF Region 5 Championships due to the lockdown of New Mexico and quarantine requirements. Several folks were able to change regions and compete in other Regionals. I hope everyone had successful ventures!

The 2020 US Dressage Finals were also cancelled but will hopefully be stronger next year with the 2020 Regional Championship top horses and riders being allowed to compete at the 2021 US Dressage Finals if they should so

choose. 2021 will also see the addition of divisions for Junior/Young Riders at the US Dressage Finals. It will be an exciting year.

Next year the Regional Championships will be at HIPICO Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico, hosted by the New Mexico Dressage Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. It will be held September 16-19, 2021.

The bid process for the 2022 USDF Region 5 Championships opens very soon. I very much hope we're able to keep as many parts of our Region in the process and hope that the championships will continue with a rotation to another great facility and GMO. Diversity is important and since our region is so large, it's very important to host the Regionals in various areas. Here's hoping we can keep the Regional Championships moving throughout our Region to better serve the membership. If you know of a facility we should consider, please let me know.

The North American Youth Championships were sadly cancelled for this year, but they will be held in Traverse City, Michigan for 2021. They will be held August 9-15 and hopefully more fundraising can be done to help support sending both a Junior and a Young Rider team.

We had a few combinations attend the USEF Festival of Champions at Lamplight in Illinois and represented Region 5 very well! Congratulations to everyone who participated and thank you for your hard work.

The USDF Junior / Young Rider clinic was held October 10-11 at Reverie Farms in Longmont, Colorado with George Williams. We had 13 applications and 8 riders were chosen to ride. Many thanks to Reverie Farms and Nancy Davis for donating the facilities for this clinic. Congratulations to the following riders that rode with George – Gaylen Davis, Charlotte Dunn, Megan Kelleghan, Noami Kumar, Emma Lavin, Nadine Lurz, Rosie Nowlin, and Elizabeth Petersen. There were no auditors due to Covid, but the kids rode very well and learned a lot.

This year Region 5 was allocated 5 Participating Member delegates to the USDF Board of Governors meeting. Eva Maria Adolphi, our Nominating Committee member, rounded up a nice diverse roster of 5 individuals to fill those spots. Your delegates are Joan Clay, Cecilia Cox, Sarah Lindsten, Kay Lorenzen and Sarah Martin. These 5 members are a nice representation of the different states/areas in Region 5. Our Nominating Committee folks also worked hard to get representation for all our eligible GMOs in the Region or proxies to cover their votes. If you are interested in being a PM delegate for 2021, please don't hesitate to contact our new Nominating Committee member, Dorothy Kapaun. We will hopefully be back "in person".

And lastly, a few of updates from some of our organizations and GMOs and what they've been up to this year.

Taka Chi Dressage (Sarah and Clayton Martin) every summer invites 6-8 professional dressage trainers from around the country to come for a week of training and theory. They offer this week as support to hard working pro's who deserve to have their education supported/continued. They donate the 5 days of lessons, they just pay stall board and do self-care.

They always bring in a trainer from Pilates/Yoga/other so they are learning and doing on their own bodies as well as their horses.

The format of riding, speaking and instructing with a group of their peers helps them get comfortable for "L" programs and instructor workshops. This year they focused on long lining every day as a warm up for riding, and for them to see and feel how introducing half steps at any stage of a horse's development really helps both horse and handler understand how collection develops at different training stages. This year they had every level spanning training to Grand Prix, so participants could see the different degrees of expectation and duration according to the stage of development. If any other groups or GMOs are interested in the way Sarah and Clayton have set up their "camp", they are happy to share and encourage others in our community to donate with their actions if they are unable to support the sport monetarily.

The Central Arizona Riding Academy will be doing the first USDF L Program Part 2 since the Covid issue.

The dates are as follows:

October 31-Nov 1, 2020 USDF D1 Scottsdale

January 22-24 USDF D2 Queen Creek

April 17-18 Final testing.

Also their horse show has now grown to 2 shows: Champagne I and II. These shows will be January 22 and Jan 23-24 at Horseshoe Park in Queen Creek, Arizona.

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society has had a busy and frustrating 2020 year. We started out with clinics for Judges Continuing Education moderated by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez in January followed by a Technical Delegates/Show Managers Clinic moderated by Heather Petersen. Both were well attended.

Then the year started to fall apart and our clinic for adult amateurs, professionals and the Youth/AA Team competition all had to be cancelled due to Covid. Most all the shows were cancelled with the exception of 1 weekend having 2 USEF/USDF recognized shows in Estes Park and a very limited few RMDS only recognized shows were held.

For 2021 we hope to have all the clinics and many more shows. Our calendar is filling up fast so go to <http://rmds.org/Calendar/Home> to keep up to date.

Our big project for 2020-2021 is getting the database/website brought up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. A huge project taking many hours of programming. If you wish to donate to RMDS, it would be greatly appreciated so we may continue with the excellent educational programs that are offered. <http://www.rmds.org/Main/Payment>  
Have a wonderful 2021 year.

In spite of a dearth of area shows because of Covid-19 restrictions, the *Santa Fe Dressage Association* had a great year.

In late 2019, the recently-increased Board of Directors changed leadership. The membership thanks Dianne Delayo, founding member and president, for her service. Founding member Heather Miles is now serving as co-president with long-time member Cathy Soller. They've had a "trial by fire" in this difficult year but have led the SFDA to a series of successes.

In 2020, the SFDA inaugurated an improved website at [Santafedressageassociation.com](http://Santafedressageassociation.com). Bonnie Schwartz of Santa Fe, webmaster, and board member Julia Boaz-Cooper set up a compartmentalized site including photos, a calendar, and a recording of an educational webinar.

The SFDA's missions are to produce top-rated Level 3 USEF dressage shows and to provide educational events for the growth and development of members. In 2020, the annual show which drew more than 100 horses last year was cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions.

However, SFDA was able to mount three seminars: Ann Hale, equine research veterinarian, spoke in person in early March about the latest in regenerative medicine. On the same day, Dominic Lombardo delivered an enlightening presentation on the latest in technical innovations to improve horsemanship, from shoeing to showing. In May Dr. Jason Turner, extension horse specialist and equine professor at New Mexico State University, delivered a welcome webinar entitled *Nutrition for the Performance Horse* to followers in front of their computers. The Board of Directors is now planning its annual meeting for November 2020. This will be a virtual meeting with a pre-recorded speaker on a topic of interest for members, to be announced.

On Memorial Day weekend, 2021, SFDA will host a two-day mounted seminar in Santa Fe with 5\* Judge Janet Foy, clinician. The focus will be on the technical aspects of freestyle riding as well as other topics enabling re-certification of judges. The Level 3 recognized show for July 2021 is being planned. Look for it!

SFDA asks members to send photos sharing what they've been doing to webmaster Bonnie Schwartz at [bss9878@gmail.com](mailto:bss9878@gmail.com).

SFDA urges all in its region and everywhere to stay safe and be patient. Continue loving and training the horses and get ready for future competitions.

## **New Business**

- **2021 Show Schedule**

**Beth Geier**

Schedule can be found on the RMDS website [www.rmds.org](http://www.rmds.org). Junior camp & Team competition will be held in June.

## **Arkansas Valley**

**Nancy Leonard**

2020 proved to be a challenging year for us all. Due to COVID 19, our schooling shows were cancelled. We filled this void by sponsoring clinics through the club and through the help of our individual members and trainers. We have been able to attend clinics on Dressage, Liberty and Freestyle. We also started an equestrian book club, which appealed to riding and non-riding members alike. We will be going to zoom for our book club this month due to COVID but we are hoping that we can have a great sharing experience. We were able to meet some this summer outside in person which was fun for us all but will continue our meetings now on

zoom until things improve. We have had members do more trail riding this year which has been fun for all who attended. All in all, we kept busy with our horses, feeling lucky to have a relatively safe activity during this time of sheltering.

The River Walk Schooling Show Series is back on track for 2021. Our show dates are April 10, June 5, and October 2. We are starting our 15<sup>th</sup> year as a club looking forward to good times, with gratitude for our wonderful, diverse membership, our horses, and for the support of RMDS.

## **Boulder Valley**

**Stan Adamson**

This report could be brief indeed: almost all the face to face events we planned for calendar year 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19.

However, before the pandemic reached its strength and stay-at-home orders arose for Colorado, we did have a few meetings and our Awards Banquet. The banquet was held in a new venue this year, on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at Nissi's Entertainment Venue & Event Center, 2675 North Park Drive, in Lafayette. Members loved the change from the Boulder Country Club (closed for renovations) and appreciated the food, seating arrangements, technology, and service. We had great entertainment from the Dave Camp duo. We expressed appreciation to Sandra Rosewell for her work with arrangements and setup, and all her years of service to BVDA, to Beth Geier, outgoing Treasurer, and to Julie Barringer-Richers and all her assistants for work on awards. We have decided not to present awards for the 2020 show season due to the abbreviated number of shows; therefore, we will recognize all who participated in this year's shows on our website.

Officers for 2020 were elected at the Awards Banquet:

President	Stan Adamson
Vice President	Lesya Ukrainchuk
Secretary-Treasurer	Dorothy Kapaun

Our bi-monthly meeting in February was postponed from February 10 to the 24<sup>th</sup> due to slick roads. Julie Barringer-Richers presented on "Preparing a Musical Freestyle." The meeting had been scheduled to be at Lookout Ridge Equestrian Center but had to be moved to Beth Geier's home because of scheduling conflicts. This was our last face to face meeting and was well attended. The program was so useful and enjoyable, it will be reprised and updated for our December 14, 2020, meeting, presented virtually via Zoom. We hope this will provide growth and knowledge for an even larger constituency.

We had planned two large shows with accompanying clinics, but all had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 shutting down our event venues the Boulder County Fairgrounds and Nighthawk Equestrian Center. This was very disappointing because we had arranged wonderful judges and clinicians Kathy Simard and Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, and these events were growing in popularity. As of now, we have plans for two RMDS/USEF/USDF recognized shows at the Boulder Valley Fairgrounds July 31-August 1, 2021, with setup, trailer-in and schooling on Friday July 30. We are very grateful to Nicole Donohue for her work as show manager.

At our November virtual meeting, BVDS elected officers for 2021:

President	Stan Adamson
Vice President	Lesya Ukrainchuk
Secretary	Janeen Cochi
Treasurer	Dorothy Kapaun

As of the current date, Boulder Valley has contributed \$2,000 to the Build-a-Byte Barn fundraiser to support the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society's new web site and database debuting before the end of the year. We have been regularly represented at all the RMDS board meetings this year, held via Zoom. We look forward to new possibilities as our nation begins to get a grip on the worldwide pandemic that has caused such suffering this year. We are grateful for our horses, who provide such joy and solace to us during this period of isolation and disconnection. Without our horses, life would have been much harder.

## **Foothills**

**Linda Gaber**

After a disappointing start to 2020 with the cancellation of our Spring into Summer Show, Foothills Chapter had a relatively successful season.

We chose to cancel our Spring into Summer show but made it into a highly successful ride a test with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez. We had a day and a half full of riders everywhere from intro to second level learning from one of our local legends.

By the time August rolled around, we all felt comfortable enough to go ahead with our Last Chance show. With lots of guidance and plenty of volunteers, our show filled and was overall a great day. Looking to 2021, we are planning our Spring into Summer and Last chance shows for June 6<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>, respectively. We also have Ride a Test clinics on the calendar for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>. Here's hoping 2021 has good things in store for us!

## **Grand Valley**

## **Arlene Rhodes**

As with most clubs, we were impacted by COVID and wildfires which led to the cancellation of a couple of schooling shows and our recognized show. We were able to hold schooling shows in June and October. We had a small handful of riders qualify for year-end awards, so we decided to allow their scores to move forward to the next competition year, as we will not have an awards program this year. We changed our monthly meetings to Zoom meetings. Our member participation increased so we will continue this format for the next year at least, with occasional small committee meetings when necessary.

We held one successful clinic with Dolly Hannon but had a couple of clinics scheduled that were cancelled. Two of them had been approved to be partially funded by the USDF Education Initiative and The Dressage Foundation. We hope to move forward with these clinics next year. We hope to have a seat clinic with Sue Martin in February through the Dressage Foundation.

Our club elected a new slate of officers this year:

President - Karen Harkin

Vice President - Judi DeVore

Secretary - Arlene Rhodes

Treasurer - Susan Gregg

We have a new Year-End Award Score Checker, Cindy Petersen, and a co-chair to help with the Awards, Donna Dubois. Our Volunteer Coordinator for the shows will remain - Barbara Progress, and our Show Manager Pat White will also continue in her position. Linda Chadwick volunteered to be our newsletter organizer. We plan to have a new website format after the first of the year and five different members have volunteered to help with this project. Jennifer Weber agreed to help with the JR/Young Rider camp and programs.

Our Education Chair, Megan Bretey, will also continue and she met with the new President Karen Harkin and VP Judi DeVore and came up with a list of TWENTY possible ideas for clinics and programs. We think we can organize four of them for next year, with input from members on which event they want to support.

Another area of emphasis for next year is supporting the needs of our Western Dressage riders. Entries to our schooling shows are sometimes more than half Western Dressage so we want to hold quality educational events that will benefit and encourage these riders to be participating members of our club.

Karen has already begun planning for next year with energy and vision. Our club is fortunate to have her talent in leading us on our new journey in 2021. We have a strong volunteer base in our membership to support her leadership.

We just hope and pray (as we all do!) that the following year permits us to expand opportunities for education and showing!

## **High Plains**

## **Stephanie Stokes**

### **2020 Recap from Stephanie Stokes**

Hello RMDS Board and Membership,

2020 was quite a challenging year with lots of changes within the High Plains Board and our membership. The year started off strong and High Plains Dressage had a full calendar of activities for our community. In February, we held our annual Youth Clinic at Paradox Ranch in Elizabeth, CO. Guest trainers included Kelly Boyd and Colleen Diamond. As always, we received great reviews from kids and their parents about the fantastic training they received from these two fabulous trainers and look forward to the next annual Youth Clinic!

Come, March 15th. Colorado and the Nation is placed on a stay at home order due to the COVID pandemic. High Plains members were constantly hit with bad news: Clinics were canceled, shows soon cancelled week over week, and even just visiting your horse at the barn required coordination and sanitation. In a time where there was uncertainty, the only certainty we could rely on is that our horses are still being well taken care of. The High Plains board wants to make a special shout out to all the boarding facilities who continued keeping



our horses fed and happy while us humans figure out our "new normal".

Another hit to our horse community was the loss of future Dressage shows held at the famous Colorado Horse Park. With this devastation, it is now more important than ever that we continue as a High Plains Board to offer alternative show options, clinics, and educational opportunities to keep this wonderful sport alive in our community.

Lastly, with all the changes to work-life and the infamous Urban Exodus, the High Plains Board has lost a few of our long standing board members who have or are in the process of relocating to other parts of Colorado and the country. With this news, High Plains reached out to our wonderful membership to recruit a new board with the charge to keep our legacy going and carry out our mission to "continue to offer affordable and quality Dressage programs and events in the High Plains area, growing the involvement and excitement of Dressage within our youth and adult amateurs to keep the sport alive and robust in our community". With that said, I would like to welcome our new High Plains Board of Directors who were officially elected November 2020! I am excited to see what they will be planning for the 2021 year in this new post COVID world!

Please join me in welcoming the following new High Plains Board:

President: Andrea Price Valenzuela taking over for Stephanie Stokes (Figgins)

Vice President: Gemma Hanekom taking over for Julie Burt

Treasurer: Lynn Van Voris taking over for Ellen Siebert

Secretary: Lori Keilt, faithfully continuing her term as Secretary

We wish these ladies the best of luck in 2021 and we will miss everyone across the High Plains chapter membership!

### **2021 Update from Andrea Price Valenzuela**

RMDS Board and Membership,

As we know, 2020 didn't pan out as we would have hoped. At this point, the ability to plan for future events is still delicate. That being said, we have been hard at work brainstorming other educational opportunities to bring value to our members.

The power of connecting with others through the internet has proven to be the new normal in our personal and professional lives. While we would love to stack the calendar with in-person activities, it is hard to know if that will be feasible in the New Year. However, with challenge comes opportunity and we are working on creating a framework for an educational Zoom series from top level dressage riders all over the world. We hope to be able to bring educational opportunities directly to your family room during the cold blizzard days when some of us are not as motivated to ride. While we have most of the framework developed, we always appreciate feedback from our members regarding speakers you would like to see featured in this series.

We are excited to announce that our annual High Plains Youth Clinic will feature trainer Sara Storch and will be held March 20, 2021 at Happenstance Barn in Parker. We feel this clinic will be a great event for the youth in our dressage community as Sara is a very fun, encouraging, and knowledgeable clinician.

We are still ironing out the final details on the annual Adult Amateur clinic, but we are aiming to host this in the month of March as well.

As we watch the current state of the world, we will work hard to adjust our events as needed. Of course, if we have more opportunities to hold other events in person, we will jump at the chance. Looking forward to 2021, we will keep pivoting as necessary to bring maximum value to our community.

The new board looks forward to meeting and getting to know all our members!

## **New Mexico Dressage**

**Maureen Mestas**

### **2021 Organizational Plan**

Submitted To: NMD-RMDS Board of Directors 2020 (BOD)

Form of Ratification: Vote of the Board of Directors

**2020 Activity:** Due to the announcement of COVID 19 pandemic on or about 11 March 2020, our year planning was postponed. We were not able to have our two recognized USDF/RMDS shows in May and October due to State of New Mexico Public Health Orders and penalties associated with violations of those orders.

**2020 Fundraising Revenue:** The total of donations and pledges collected to date - \$8,901.04

The total of outstanding donations and pledges - \$3,100.00

**2021 Elections:** The BOD agrees to table elections until December 2021 due to the COVID 19 pandemic shutdown of commerce, social and equestrian events in the State of New Mexico since March 2020. The postponement of elections will allow the current, founding BOD to complete the 2021 organizational plan which reflects changes in focus and direction of NMD-RMDS regarding competitions, education and grants.

## **Organizational Priorities**

- **A discount on 2021 membership dues for 2020 members who renew. Partially funded by donation earmarked for this member-retention project.**
- **Development and maintain Facebook presence starting 1 December 2020, to be updated weekly and as news and events require more frequent posts, shares, etc.**
- **Maintain up-to-date website for announcements and calendar and other dressage content.**
- **2021 Show Sponsor Advertising and Promotional Plan (committee chair needed)**

Our 2020 USDF Recognized Show Sponsors will receive a 12-month advertising and promotional package that will include:

1. Featured 15-minute video segment on [www.nmd-rmids.com](http://www.nmd-rmids.com);
2. Interview of principle of sponsor company and/or service to be shared with all NMD-RMDS members via Constant Contact;
3. Banner presence on all NMD-RMDS print, internet and social media;
4. Monthly advertising refresh/updates as sponsors request (one request per month);
5. Branding on all NMD-RMDS Hoof It Up University segments and education/learning modules;
6. Complete donor benefits package from 2020 will rollover to 2021 shows.

- 2021 Recognized USDF/RMDS Shows

Applications submitted for 15-16 May and 16-17 October. Judges and final preliminary binder for insurance pending. Show manager for each show will be 2 White Feet.

- **NMD-RMDS Virtual Show Format (committee chair needed)**
  1. Two virtual horse shows with S-judge scoring. Awards and points toward NMD-RMDS year-end champion awards in classical, western and eventing dressage at all levels;
  2. Two virtual schooling shows with R judge scoring. Awards and points toward NMD-RMDS year-end champion awards in classical, western and eventing dressage at all levels;
  3. Two virtual schooling shows with judge feedback in a ride/re-ride live format;
  4. Cooperate with USDF for submitting points to their year-end awards system;
  5. Cooperate with WDAA for submitting points to their year-end awards system.
  6. Design Show Schedule, Premium and Fees and approve by January 2021.
- **NMD-RMDS Hoof It Up University**
  1. Host 11 online learning modules for NMD-RMDS members to subscribe to and earn credits for University awards and certificates; Proposed Topics:
    - i. The Training Scale;
    - ii. What to Look For in the Dressage Horse;
    - iii. Psychology of Training;
    - iv. Psychology of Competition;
    - v. Dressage Horse/Sport Horse Soundness Practices;
    - vi. The Stretch – How Does the Dressage Horse Benefit?
    - vii. Rider Fitness Practices – Yoga, Weight Training and Aerobic Practices;
    - viii. Turning Your Training Efforts Into Show Success – When to Move UP the Levels;
    - ix. Seminar – Zoom Panel of Experts give 20 minute segments on a topic
    - x. USDF/USEF Updates
    - xi. Graduate Seminar – Moderator-Lead Zoom Group - Testing Your Knowledge, Asking Your Questions

2. Design Course Curriculum and Fees and approve by February 2021. Begin module segment production in February 2021.

3. Earned credits go toward year-end recognition, awards, credits for events i.e. symposia, clinics, sponsored attendance at USDF National Convention.

- Proposed Budget for 4QTR 2020 and 2021

#### 4QTR 2020

1. December 2020 – Purchase dressage court, letters/flower boxes from Premier Equestrian to take advantage of year-end sale savings. Estimated cost \$3500.00

2. Set up Facebook page and boost advertising for 2021 announcement. Estimated cost \$125.00;

3. December 2020 – contact potential judges for 2021 virtual shows. Estimated cost for each judge \$200-\$300 per show;

4. Invest in video equipment for virtual shows – offer video taping to competitors for a fee? Decision to rent vs. buy?;

5. Begin sponsor recruiting for 2021

#### 1QTR 2021

1. January 2021 – Facebook boost for announcement of Virtual Show Schedule. Estimated cost \$125.00;

2. January – March 2021 – sponsor recruiting for 2021

3. February 2021 - Pay for ribbons for first virtual show estimated cost \$700.00

4. February 2021 – Publish first virtual show premium

5. February 2021 – Begin Hoof It Up University Learning Module production

#### 2QTR 2021

1. Revenue results from first virtual show – to decide on next show offering date, format, etc.

2. Begin budget for 3QTR and 4QTR 2021

3. Financial Audit of Year-To-Date expenditures

## Northern Colorado

## Didi DeKrey

2020 Events started out a bit late, a bit shaky, but, our stalwart members and friends still pulled out a busy year! We kicked off the year in June with a Ride-A-Test with Julie Haugen as Judge/Clinician. It was so popular, we extended the event to two days!

Our Chapter decided to try a new format for our other events, a Show/Clinic combination. This format allows participants from Classical, Eventing, and Western Dressage to improve scores and skills.

We chose our Judge/Clinicians to reflect the diversity of these riders. In the heat of July, we had our Schooling Show/Clinic with Dolly Hannon, well known in the Classical and Western Dressage worlds. Then, August brought about the next Schooling Show/Clinic with Kathy Simard. Kathy brought her keen eye and Biomechanics knowledge for riders and auditors alike.

At the events, everyone was cognizant, cooperative and thoughtful of others. We all followed Covid 19 protocols and were flexible to roll with the punches. Thank you to all our Volunteers and Participants for these successes!

We expanded our Communications with more email and FaceBook communications to our members. And this Fall, like many others, we added a Zoom account and Zoom meetings to our regular business acumen. This option has brought about new faces to our gatherings!

Also, NCDA has been pushing its geek factor with a face lift and increased usefulness to our website. An online store with logo merchandise will be up and running in time for the holidays!

Congratulations to all of our competitors! Show High Point winners were Michael Graham and Brandi Chapman. Our Chapter Year End Winners for this year are: Champions Silja Knoll and “Ruby”, Reserve Champions Brandi Chapman and “Drummer”, Award of Distinction Felix Duerr and “Sebastian”.

A difficult choice for NCDA is to choose which of our great volunteers for the Volunteer of the Year award. This year’s choice goes to Kellee James! Thank You Kellee!

More Thank Yous go to our outgoing Officers; Andrea Chirich and Didi DeKrey. Hearty applause for our new 2021 Board: Jon Haugen-President, Melanie Newkirk-Vice President, Katie McGivney-Secretary, and Kellee James-Treasurer.

NCDCA is looking forward to next year – in a balanced, harmonic manner. For one, our Treasury balance is in good shape, having actually profited financially! NCDCA is planning for 3 Show/Clinics plus a fun-themed Ride-A-Test year end wrap up. NCDCA is also working on bringing in a nationally recognized clinician for either 2022 or 2023. We continue to welcome everyone to join the learning journey that is dressage. Feel free to join us anytime! General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month; September through May. Good company and interesting topics. Touch base with us for the Zoom meeting.

### **On the Bit**

### **Ginka Kubelka**

This was a strange and challenging year! Thanks to our somewhat remote location, we were able to hold a Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly in June and an RMDS recognized show in July. We also organized a seminar on horse nutrition and a groundwork clinic for our members.

With the recent increase in case numbers, we will not be able to have our traditional holiday party in December. However, we are hopeful for next year!

All of our officers have agreed to remain in their positions (President – Ginka Kubelka, VP – Kelly Wolfe, Treasurer – Tom Wolfe, Secretary – Anna Chalfoun), so we will continue to provide interesting, educational and fun events for our members and all dressage enthusiasts in the area!

We are planning to hold another Ride-A-Test in the early summer in Cheyenne and will hopefully be able to have our fully recognized show in July in Laramie. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Until things get better, we will continue to offer our monthly meetings every first Thursday of the month at 7pm on zoom. Please join us, if you are interested in what we are doing!

### **Pikes Peak**

### **Shannon Lemons**

As with all of our other chapters, 2020 has been challenging to find ways to move our chapter forward. Zoom meetings are safer and in some ways easier, but attendance is not as high as we would have thought or hoped. We have had several zoom meetings, and we are planning activities for next year and working on trying to have a December in person educational event, depending on how things shake out over the next few weeks.

In December, we are planning a truck and trailer maintenance talk with Chad Toney of 20X Custom trailer shop. There will be tons of great information on hauling safely and keeping your truck and trailer working for you! If the weather cooperates we will have the event outdoors, and if not we have a large indoor facility that we can pull trucks and trailers into and still keep our distance from each other. Date will be December 12 at 2pm, location TBA depending on weather conditions. We are planning on having packaged snacks and drinks available as well. We plan to host an RMDS show in May or June once we have a location confirmed. As early in the year as is possible we are planning to host a clinic for our riders. More information to come depending, as you all know, on how things go over the next couple of months.

Officer elections will likely be by email or at our December event. Please look out for our emails. The next one should hit your inboxes by the end of the month – if you don't see it, please check your spam folder as they are coming from a different address. Since you can't go to the movies, sit in your pjs in front of your computer and catch up with your dressage buddies!

### **Western Colorado**

### **Lesley Hill**

Greetings from the Western Colorado Chapter. We hope you are all staying safe, getting out to your horses as much as possible, and keeping cheerful in these strange and challenging times.

Though it has been frustrating without the fun and excitement of showing and hosting clinics, this year has taught us equestrians the true meaning of half halts. Droughts, fires, pandemics and lockdowns have all combined to make this our most challenging year. Still, 2020 has been a different, but meaningful ride. We started the year as a board paying particular attention to our chapter focus: education. To that end, even throughout the maelstrom, we have continued to host a variety of clinicians at barns throughout the valley, and we look forward to putting our 2020 plan for bigger, better, and more clinics in place in 2021. If circumstances permit, we will also reboot our plan to offer an educational grant to one of our members ~to help defray expenses and support their riding journey down center line.

Despite the challenging circumstances, our chapter remains optimistic and eager to resume our efforts next year. Importantly, we congratulate our members that successfully showed in Estes Park. In the meantime, we wish you and yours a safe Holiday Season.

Final Reading of candidates,

Heather Petersen

**The slate for 2021:**

President:	Dorothy Kapaun
Vice President (1 year):	Gwen Ka'awaloa
Adult Amateur:	Jan Tracy
Championships:	Anclaire Spaulding
Communications:	Nicole Bizzarro/Sally Dale O'Dwyer as co-chairs
Marketing (1 year):	Christy Rawlings/Nicole Bizzarro as co-chairs
Scholarship:	Natalie DeFee Mendik
Jr/YR:	Cassandra Dipentino

***Everyone was elected by acclamation.***

At 4:41pm ***MaryJo Hoepner made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sharon Soos. Motion passes unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Petersen