

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: MaryJo Hoepner, Dorothy Kapaun, Shannon Lemons, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Gwen Ka’awaloa, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Andrea Price-Valenzuala, Miranda Avila, Stan Adamson, Ginka Kubelka, Joan Clay, Anclaire Spaulding, Natalie DeFee Mendik, Lynn Van Voris, Cassandra Dipentino, Cecilia Cox, Sally O’Dwyer

Proxies: Nicole Bizzarro to Natalie DeFee Mendik; Jon Haugen to Joan Clay;

Call to Order-President

Dorothy Kapaun

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Dorothy Kapaun

Secretary

Heather Petersen

Approval of Minutes –March 2021 – **Sharon Soos made a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes as written, 2nd by Karen Harkin. Motion passed unanimously.**

Results of email votes entered into the minutes:

- None to read into the minutes.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of April 30, 2021

RMDS Checking Account	\$ 8,800.89	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$ 9,588.62	Total \$18,389.51 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of April 30, 2021

Database/Website	\$ 0.00
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,342.29
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$22,731.80

Funds as of May 12, 2021

RMDS Checking Account	\$21,146.05	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$ 177.67	
Issued checks	\$?????	Total \$21,323.72 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of May 12, 2021

RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,092.29
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Issued checks	\$500.00
Payable	\$1000.00
Subtotal	\$ 2,592.29
TOTAL	\$23,916.01

Highlights - We had a voided payment in the P&L from 2017 and there was a payment to USDF that was marked in printing but corrected and moved to its correct column.

President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

Nothing to report 😊

Vice President Report

Gwen Ka’awaloa

We’ve had a great start to the show season, working on ideas for the 50th.

Thoughts are maybe a memory book, a key chain, pin, etc.

Membership

- Registration – 616 members as of 5/1 for 2021 –; 89 new horses since October 2020
- See Reports with chapter membership totals. We are close to last year’s total.

Shows:

- For 2021: 6 RMDS shows: 33 USEF/USDF recognized shows which includes Championships and Regionals. 2 for 2022.

Recognized Officials:

- TD: Welcome Catherine Siemiet
- In the pipeline: Stan Adamson, Sharon Soos, Sally O’Dwyer.

Omnibus:

- See Nicole’s report – gross income: \$11,570.00
- Bulk mail went out March 1, 2021.

Database/Website:

- Currently have raised \$21,706.91 as of 5/3. Asking people that have refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.
- Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

Banquet:

- January 15, 2022 – confirmed.

General:

- Amy Jablonovsky: \$60.39 for copying historical information – this is a split between RMDS and NCDA. **Dorothy Kapaun moved to approve the copy expenses, 2nd by Stan Adamson. Motion passes with Joan Clay abstaining on behalf of NCDA.**
- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) – 2021

- Summer Intensive:** June 24-26
- Adult/Team Competition:** June 27
- RMDS Championships:** Sept 3-5
- RMDS Sport Horse:** Sept 8
- Executive Board Meetings:** July 13, Aug 5, Sept 9, Oct 14 (budget)
- BOG** Nov 20

2022

- Banquet** January 15

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Cecilia Madison

The Bill McMullin clinic was a success. We made around \$300 with 9 riders. I think everyone had a good time. Talked a lot about barns, and the 2022 clinic. Heather will ask George for April 15/16 since the 17th is Easter. By the end of the meeting, George is confirmed for April.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

Major offender of awards returned their trophies to the Cure. Only one more to go it seems. Working on trophies for Friesian Cross and Intro.

Plan for RMDS Social Media 2021

Social Media: Goals and Objectives (DRAFT to be approved by the Board)

GOAL: Use Social Media, (along with ecentaur, website, blog and emails) to grow our base of support, engagement, club leadership, and participation in RMDS.

UPDATE: We currently have a Facebook Page and are approved to set up an Instagram account. Omnibus is beautiful, and new website is terrific. The Centaur is now electronic and sent monthly. Email blasts are sent out frequently from RMDS central office.

The role of communications is to promote the goal of our club:

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society maintains a high standard of accomplishment in the region through educational support in Dressage. As a USDF Group Member Organization, RMDS provides educational programs to encourage quality horsemanship and horse welfare throughout our membership

Target audience: Dressage Riders in our Region—youth, seniors, new to the sport, amateurs, and professionals. Also, it might be worth reaching out to other disciplines of riding.

Communications Objectives:

- **Grow membership, volunteering**—This should be a topic that is regularly posted in our social media. We do not want to repeat past posts, but we want to keep this at the forefront of our visitors. *Grow membership from ## to ##*
- **Promote all events, clinics, shows** of RMDS chapters and demonstrate club value. *Track attendees this year over, perhaps 2019*
- **Demonstrate our role as an educational institution** *Post ## educational articles.*
- **Encourage and welcome all** to the sport to come out and enjoy dressage. *Track new members*
- **Demonstrate leadership** to the Chapters--Many of the chapters share our posts. *Track Shares*
- **Increase member participation in the work of communications.** *Grow volunteer opportunities by ## to participate in communications*—such as Non official photographer to take photos for comms, Seek individuals to “cover” events, clinics etc., and provide a write up. Interviewers for volunteers of the month, our judges, or other celebrities.

Activities:

Collaborate closely with the various chairs of RMDS—particularly communications, marketing, volunteer coordinator. Sally O'Dwyer has agreed to be RMDS Social Media Coordinator. Seek input from other Chairs as well.

50th Anniversary. Look for ways to celebrate this throughout communications channels.

Post Frequently. We do not wish to post for the sake of posting. However, the more we can post relevant information, the more users will rely on us for leadership, education and as “the place” to go for information regarding RMDS. The more posts are made, the more the visible our posts will become by prospective and current members. We should continue to seek RMDS members who are interested in social media, writing, photography, promotion, and marketing.

Events: Recommend RMDS send out several posts for each event—via email and social media.

1. **Announcement--Offer the event**—where, when, what you will learn/experience. (up to 30 days in advance if poss)
2. **Update**—additional details on the event, perhaps let people know how many people are coming. It will be fun, etc. (two weeks before event)
3. **Reminder**—this is happening, mark your calendar. See you there. (one week before event)

Embrace creativity. The more we meet and discuss this topic, the more ideas will evolve. At the same time, recommend continuing to review what other GMOs are doing with their social media.

New Ideas:

- Feature a volunteer of the month in comms.
- Rein-Back: 50 Years of RMDS. Features from the Archives
- Gift a Membership

- Set up a web cam at regionals or championships and stream
- Offer editing services by the Communications Chairs for anyone interested in taking a stab an article, event piece or other.
- Considering creating an RMDS Podcast. Would like to pursue this possibility. This Podcast would feature RMDS members and the wonderful things they are doing. We would start with 10 interviews before releasing.

Develop Photo Gallery--Communications would like to seek photos from members of their horses—to build our photo gallery and use in communications. Photos should be made available to social media admins.

- Build gallery by assigning RMDS members to take photos at horse shows. (Could we add this to the list of volunteer opportunities at horse shows). These photos do not have to be of the horse in the ring. Heather Peterson, our Regional Director, has confirmed that for now, a verbal okay suffices as a photo release. Individuals agreeing to have their photos taken should be informed that their photo may be used for educational, informational, or motivational posts in our communications products.

Branding and Tone: What should our posts look like?

- Professional but welcoming.
- If colors are used, they should be within the tones of the logo and website.
- While our posts should have a warm, friendly tone, we want to remain professional. Recommend no slang, emojis of off topic photos.
- Each post includes a relevant equine photo—emphasis on posting photos of our RMDS riders that are of good quality.
- All posts should include a link back to our website and hashtags so people can find us..
- If a post is lengthy, for example an article, it should be posted on the website and linked to the social media sites.
- Posts themselves should be relatively brief, concise, and to the point.
- Please edit before submitting. Including me!
- We should not promote businesses, or particular trainers offering services. If a trainer writes an educational piece, can we post?
- Stay away from controversial, personal opinions, or negative subjects, like the use of Rollkur
- Focus on educational pieces featuring classical dressage.

Hashtags: All posts should include same hashtags: perhaps something like?

#coloradodressage#wyomingdressage#newmexicodressage#rockymountaindressage#RMDS

Review other Social Media for GMOs

USDF Connection published an article about social media for GMOs. They featured several GMOs. Because RMDS has a strong communications team, we have an opportunity to take social media to the next level among USDF GMOs.

- Oregon Dressage Society posts or reposts dressage educational articles. Recommend that we repost educational articles that are of substance and informational.
- New England Dressage is focused on education opportunities and what they can do to get information to as many people as possible and to bring as many attendees to the events as they can.
- Washington State GMO reports their posts are based are based on the needs of their community.

Policies: Best Practices and general information

- **Social media review process.** A best practice when more than one person is posting on the site that all posts are submitted to the social media scheduling calendar within the social media ap. This calendar should be reviewed by the designated post reviewer/supervisor to ensure that posts meet our guidelines. By using the calendar, we can ensure that messages are not duplicative, are not posted all at one time, that there are no errors and that there is harmony between posts.
- **Social media reporting to the Board.** The social media administrator should:

review stats and data regarding the popularity of posts, growth in likes to learn what kind of posts are most engaging. Report social media data review and targets achieved to the board at meetings via the communications report.

- **Be Transparent.** If you share anything related to RMDS in any way, add a disclaimer in your profile such as: "Views expressed are my own."
- **Use Good Judgment.** Remember that what you share online is permanent. So be smart in what you say and do online. Ultimately, you are responsible for what you write, which can not only reflect on you personally but also on RMDS's brand. If what you're thinking of writing gives you concern, pause and reach out to your manager or the social media team at [Email Address] for guidance.
- **Uphold Our Values & Policies.** Guidelines for functioning online are the same as the values, ethics and confidentiality policies you are expected to uphold in general as a member of RMDS.
- **Protect Confidential Information.** Never share RMDS's confidential or proprietary information or share upcoming news about RMDS. Examples include but are not limited to: financial information; information on employees, members, partners, or suppliers; and business development deals.
- **Proceed with Caution.** You may encounter negative posts about the RMDS. RMDS social media coordinator social media and is trained to respond to these types of situations. Let this team respond or, if you believe they are unaware of the incident, alert them at slodwyer@gmail.com.
- **Respect Our Brand.** Members are not allowed to create or manage RMDS social media accounts without official permission from RMDS.
- **Stay Legal.** Respect copyright and fair use laws. Give credit where credit is due.

Una has resigned from the e-Centaur. Nicole offered to do it for what Beverly was getting paid, but would like to find someone else to do it. Sally thinks she can do it with Nicole's help.

More discussion about the e-Centaur and such. Articles that are posted, sharing online and such.

Education

MaryJo Hoepner/Pam Phillips

Starting to work on Judges Continuing Education for the fall.

Have contacted possible instructors. More coming later.

We have now confirmed September 7 for Judges Continuing Education. Janet Foy will be the trainer. Should be amazing with Janet just having returned from the Olympics. It will be good information for everyone, including riders.

Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

I am working on pulling everything together for this year's Summer Intensive. I have secured Gigi Britain and Jessica Greer but may have lost Sara Storch. Talking with Petra Warlimont to be the third trainer.

I have three riders registered and sent an email to the main office to see if I can have an email sent out with the flyer and the registration form.

Marketing

Nicole Bizzarro/Christy Rawlings

No report

Professionals

Joan Clay

1. 2021 Professional's Education – "The Rider Project" online workshop

Lisa El-Ramey submitted a revised proposal (see attached) that reformats her original in-person clinic format into two online sessions (approximately 2 hours per session). The intent of the online workshop would be to improve the participants' ability to identify and correct rider alignment problems.

Participating instructors would submit video clips of their riders to use as a practical application of the concepts being taught. The secondary purpose of the online workshop would be to generate local interest for bringing Lisa El-Ramey to Colorado to conduct a 2-day Rider Project Clinic with area professionals.

Expenses = \$750 for Lisa El-Ramey's time to review videos, prepare materials and present two online sessions.

Suggested for participants = \$50 (would need 15 participants to break even)

PROPOSED VIRTUAL RIDER PROJECT PROFESSIONAL FORUM Session 1 - Approximately 2 Hours Presentation

The first session focuses on the “classroom” portion of the forum. During this session instructors will explore riding and riding instruction from a more scientific approach. They will learn how to analyze students by exploring the physical and mental aspects of rider assessment. The concepts introduced will include discussion of: • Rider Anatomy & Physiology • Learning Styles • Instructor Terminology • Riding Concepts Use of videos to demonstrate concepts and develop instructor’s eye. **Session 2 - Approximately 2 Hours Practical Application**

This session will utilize submitted videos of local students to continue further developing instructor’s knowledge of: • Identification and Correction of Rider Alignment • Assessment of Effectiveness and Correctness of Rider’s Aids • Application of Instructor Terminology **REQUIREMENTS FOR VIDEO SUBMISSION:** In order to use footage of local students video quality will be important. Please follow instructions to submit. Each of the requested segments can be done in individual clips. • Proper Attire and Equipment • Well lighted arena to clearly show horse and rider • Steady recording - best to use a tripod • Film on circle should be a 15 to 20 m circle • Keep entire horse and rider in full frame • All footage must show horse and rider in both directions **Video must have footage of the following:** • Riding directly toward and away from camera at all three gaits (down the long side or along a fence) • All three gaits filmed with the camera in the center of a circle • All three gates filmed with the camera on the outside of the circle capturing the rider along the arc of the circle (see below)

Cassandra Dipentino moved to approve, 2nd by Ginka Kubelka, motion passed with Gwen Ka’awaloa abstaining.

2. Professional’s Dinner at 2021 RMDS Championships

Is this still something we should organize or would we better served by trying to get professional’s and their barns to sponsor classes?

2. 2022 Professional’s Symposium – Lilo Fore Clinic

April 23-24, 2022 at Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

2021 scholarship recipients received their first checks representing half of the scholarship award. As the season is just now getting started, awardees are beginning to work toward their goals and volunteer hours, so there isn’t anything to report at the moment.

2020 recipients whose articles were in the first issue of RMDS Magazine expressed thanks for the opportunity to be in the magazine.

Shows – Championships

Anclaire Spauling/Heather Petersen

Anclaire will start calling members to fundraise just as soon as I update the media package. It’s on my to do list. I need to get the word doc from Una so I can update the club metrics before sending the media package to everyone.

Reminder: I need everyone on the board to help call 1-2 people, please.

Questions

1. Are we booking hotel rooms for RMDS board members?
2. Who is the volunteer coordinator? Miranda is doing it!!
3. What color do we want the t-shirts this year? Purple t-shirts is Dorothy’s desire. We also have lots of extra t-shirts to give away. Anclaire wants to have a good quality t-shirt. Shannon got us a 15% discount at 4-imprints.
4. Trainer party - move to breakfast on Sunday?

Other thoughts on the trainers party is to push trainers for class sponsorships.

Friday night 50th Anniversary celebration, Saturday night pizza. Sunday maybe Littleton for brunch?

Friday night would be a friends of RMDS party.

We discussed the AA Intro championships and whether we call it non-professional or leave it AA and it was decided to leave it for now as AA.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

No report

Simone Windeler

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson volunteered to head the committee again for 2021.

Treasurer, Secretary, Awards, Education, Marketing, Professionals, Shows

Need nominees for 1 year: Vice President

Treasurer – Sharron willing to continue; Secretary – Heather is willing to continue; Awards – Shannon is willing to continue; Education – MaryJo is willing to continue but will let someone else have it if they'd like; Marketing – we need to look for someone; Professionals – Joan can continue; Shows – Anclaire is considering but will let us know after Championships this year. VP – Gwen can continue as well but if someone else is interested, that's good too!

Stan Adamson

3. BOG - November 20, 2021

We have the Renaissance

Heather Petersen

4. Banquet –

January 15th, 2022. Reserved at the Renaissance.

Beth Geier

5. Volunteers –

Working with Joan Clay and Cassandra to get the JR/YRs fundraiser going. As in years past, the FEI JR/YRs would complete volunteer hours in exchange for a donation directly to the USDF Region 5 FEI JR/YRs. Does anyone have an idea of what would be a fair donation amount for 4 hours of volunteering? Kathy Gillespie is willing to help organize it again.

We are going to ask minimum \$25 per hour but if you'd like to do more, we'd accept it. It is a tax deductible donation.

Miranda Avila

6. Region 5 Report

Competitions are finally back in full swing for Region 5 and educational programs are a go! Life is starting to become a bit more normal. Auditors are still limited, as are spectators at competitions, but we moving forward. Our USDF Executive Board Spring meetings are coming up next week as I write this. We are hopefully doing just one more year of Spring meetings on Zoom and then perhaps returning to in-person gatherings. I miss meeting with everyone face-to-face and sharing ideas, meals, walks and just time working for our sport.

The prize list is now out for the Great American USDF Region 5 Championships being held September 16-19 at HIPICO Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There is a great panel of officials and a wonderful central location for our region. I hope you consider joining us as either competitors or volunteers. We are still working on a venue for 2022 in a respectable time frame (September/October), but there are a couple of options that are coming to light so hopefully we will have good news for you soon.

The deadline for Participating Member Delegate nominations was **April 15**. Our region will have 4 PM delegates for the 2021 USDF Convention in Houston, Texas December 1-4. Our 4 nominees for the PM delegates are Joan Clay, Cecilia Cox, Sarah Lindsten and Sarah Martin. Please be sure to vote in the election for our nominees in June. Many thanks to Dorothy Kapaun, our nominating chair, for your hard work!

As of May 12th, our potential candidates for the 2021 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships August 9-15 in Travers City, Michigan will be finalized. As I write this, we have 9 riders who have declared (7 Juniors and 2 Young Riders). If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877. This competition is a reasonable distance for us to travel by trailer, which makes things much more feasible, but we still need your help in order to be able to. If you're a rider, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR DECLARATIONS!

Heather Petersen

I hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

If you have news you'd like to share, please let me know, we're happy to get it out and about for you.

Old Business:

- Team competition – still having it at the end of June at Table Mountain.

New Business:

- No new business.

Chapter Presidents:

1. **Arkansas Valley**

No report.

Nancy Leonard

2. **Boulder Valley**

We continue to prepare for our July 29-August 1, 2021, show weekend. It appears the Boulder County Fairgrounds will be open by then. We will of course be following all COVID-19 guidelines of USEF in place at that time.

We are having a presentation on June 7 at 7 p.m. (via Zoom) from Dr. Bruce Connolly, DVM, of Wyoming Equine, on A Vets Guide to First Aid Kits for Shows, also including how to be prepared and help with a mandatory evacuation of horses. Last years wild fire season presented some major challenges for members and member barns, and we want to be sure to know how to be prepared in the future. Any person wishing to participate in this presentation should contact Dorothy Kapaun who will be sending out the Zoom link.

Our regular GMO meeting will be on June 14 at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

The BVDA Book Club will meet via Zoom on July 12 at 7 p.m. to discuss *Centered Riding* by Sally Swift, a classic.

Please contact Sally ODwyer about this activity. We had our first discussion on April 5 about Janet Foy's book *Dressage for the Not So Perfect Horse*. Great, lively discussion and learning.

Lesya Ukrainchuk, who had served as Vice President for more than a year, resigned due to work load; the President appointed, without objection, Sally ODwyer to serve out the remaining term of 2021.

Stan Adamson

3. **Foothills**

We held a successful Ride-A-Test with Sharon Sarchet on May 2nd. Entries are open for our June 5th RAT and our June 6th Spring Into Summer RMDS show. We expect both to fill quickly.

We are planning to develop a monthly clinic series at Table Mountain Ranch starting in July.

June 5th RAT – Simone Windeler

June 6th Spring Into Summer- Julie Haugen

August 29th Last Chance - Debbie Riehl- Rodriguez

Cassandra Dipentino

4. **Grand Valley**

GVDS had a very busy few months with some exciting things happening. A few of the highlights:

- GVDS members contributed to a fundraiser to purchase a new Sundance Dressage Arena from Premier Equestrian. In addition to member contributions, we held an online auction for members to purchase our old arena. The new arena arrived last week and will be ready to use for our June shows. The purchaser of the old arena will share it with GVDS if we need a second arena.
- Our first schooling shows at the end of April sold out (including overtime) in five days. We saw many new beginner riders in both Introductory classical and western dressage and western dressage Basic. Thanks to our judge Simone Windeler who did an amazing job, including accommodating additional riders in overtime. We are very thankful for the great tips she gave us in advance of June shows. Her open and honest suggestions were well received. All will be implemented.
- Our June schooling show sold out in three days with an extensive waiting list. The recognized show is 50% sold out with the closing date on May 17. We are excited to welcome Melissa Creswick and Debbie Moloznick as our officials. Based on the number of inquiries, we are expecting some new faces to join us in Grand Junction.

Karen Harkin

- Our new website is fully operational and a great resource for our members. We are thankful to Linda Chadwick Wirth for being our web designer, web master and experienced web-experience guru. Check it out at <https://www.gvds.org/>
- We've stepped up our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. Kelly Valentine-Schultz has taken over that role.
- We've had great support from local businesses as sponsors, with 14 Platinum and 5 Gold sponsors. A better designed sponsorship program with greater benefits has been key. Inka Spatafora ensures that all sponsors receive their benefits at shows, in publications, on social media and on our sponsor banner. We highlight our sponsors and educate our members through our Zoom programs.
- Our monthly Zoom programs have been a great success, frequently welcoming RMDS members to join us. Judi DeVore has spear headed the programing. We appreciate the listings on the RMDS calendar to gain more exposure.
 - Let's Dance: Creating a Musical Freestyle, presented by Julie Barringer-Richers
 - Equine Massage, presented by Krista Nobilo, Equine Performance Massage (GVDS sponsor)
 - What Not To Wear: Show Clothes and Tack for Recognized Shows, presented by Tiger Adams, The Horse In Sport (GVDS sponsor)
- Upcoming Zoom programs include:
 - Equine Therapy Options for Peak performance, presented by Carrie Washburn, Performance Equine (GVDS sponsor)
 - Preventing Ulcers and Colic During Show Season, presented by Dr. Megan Lamb, Roaring Fork Equine (GVDS sponsor)
- We had two clinics scheduled, one of which was postponed, with more coming this summer. Megan Bretey is leading this effort.
 - Scribing for a Dressage Judge 101, presented by Amber Bensen
 - Ride A Test with Megan Bretey
 - Cavaletti/Prix Caprilli will be rescheduled later this year. Lots of interest, just not a great date. We have three Prix Caprilli riders in our June schooling show!

GVDS is looking forward to the RMDS Championships coming to western Colorado. We hope that many of you will visit us during our June show and again in September.

5. High Plains

Andrea Price-Valenzuela

No report

6. New Mexico Dressage

Maureen Mestas

Membership Total: 29

Financial: Operating Account Balance \$38,743.32

Donation Pledges Outstanding (Monetary and In-Kind): \$11,150.00

FUNDRAISING : NMD-RMDS Board of Directors met their fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the May horse show. We currently have a fundraising goal of \$25,000.00 by 1 August to support the 16-19 September 2021 Great American Insurance Group/United States Dressage Federation Region 5 Dressage Championships and Open Show. NMD-RMDS is the Presenting USEF/USDF Licensee.

GMO MEMBER RECRUITING & RETENTION: NMD-RMDS continues with its monthly membership drive activities. We anticipate more members after the 15-16 May show.

SPONSORS: The Show Committee is continuing to reach out to potential sponsors for the upcoming, rescheduled NMD-RMDS Half Pass and Chaps I and II at HIPICO. NMD-RMDS is also organizing and continuing to fundraise for the Region 5 Championships. Sponsorship and fundraising campaign for October shows are underway.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: NMD-RMDS has had an overwhelming response to its Call for Show Volunteers campaign. As a Thank You to each of our Volunteers at our 2021 shows, NMD-RMDS gives out a gift bag with donated items including:

- A Noel Asmar Equestrian retail item;
- A personal sunscreen and lip balm item;

- A delicious package of Godiva chocolates;
- A HIPICO baseball hat;
- A Credit Certificate for up to 3 Credits to the NMD-RMDS Hoof It UP! University Education Program;
- A 1-Day Auditor Pass to any 2021 Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic sponsored by Hell Canyon Farm;
- A confirmation that they are qualified for NMD-RMDS Year End Volunteer of the Year and other Volunteer Awards.
- And ENDLESS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR THEIR TIME!!!

YEAR END AWARDS: NMD-RMDS finalized its 2021 Year End Award Program and will start announcing the qualification requirements in May. There are many great categories in which an NMD-RMDS member may win great prizes, trophies, recognition and more! Our Volunteer awards include categories that acknowledge all our fabulous volunteers for 2021 – both members and non-members.

EDUCATION:

NMD-RMDS' HOOF IT UP! University for members is available. Members earn credits for online learning through USDF; Dressage Today; Independent Online Trainers; Riding and Auditing approved clinics; earning USDF Bronze, Silver or Gold medals; NMD-RMDS Volunteer opportunities; and other approved independent online and in-person education. There will be year-end awards for credit levels and demonstrated proficiency in areas of dressage training, competing, horsemanship, management, health care and nutrition.

A working group is organizing to submit a grant application for a 2022 2-day Symposium with a working title of *Trouble-Shooting the Persistent Training Challenge In Your Horse*. A panel of judges, certified trainers and biomechanical/locomotion experts (panelists TBA) will work with riders and horses in clinic, as well as discuss in lunch-time presentations, on how to evaluate and solve training issues that keep a horse and rider from progressing. Auditors are welcome and NMD-RMDS members receive HOOF IT UP! University credits. The 2021 Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic Series that benefits NMD-RMDS Education Program will have its clinics at Hipico Horse Park:

1-2 May

19-20 June

31 July – 1 August

4-5 September

30-31 October

More 2021 dates may be added by Jeremy. We are also excited to re-open the clinics to auditors! A portion of auditor proceeds goes to NMD-RMDS.

COMPETITIONS:

Recognized Shows

15-16 May NMD-RMDS Swing Into Spring! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a USEF licensed show

CURRENTLY BEING RESCHEDULED FOR SUMMER 2021 WDAA AQHA Recognized Western Dressage Show, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a USEF, WDAA and AQHA licensed show

16-19 September USDF Region 5 Championships & Open Show, Hipico Santa Fe

17-18 October 2020 – NMD-RMDS Fall Flaunt It! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a USEF licensed show

If COVID prevents holding in-person recognized shows, NMD-RMDS will host online shows with USDF Judges, ribbons and awards. Both in-person and online show results for NMD-RMDS members go toward NMD-RMDS year-end awards.

USDF Schooling Shows

7 November at Enchantment Dressage, Caballo NM – a USDF recognized Schooling Show that is also an NMD-RMDS 2021 Schooling Show Championship in which riders from NMD-RMDS, NMDA and SFDA who have participated in a schooling show for 2021 and received a minimum score of 55% may compete for Schooling Show Champion awards. This concept is still in the working group phase.

GMO CHAPTER WANTS & NEEDS:

Volunteers and Sponsors!!!!!! We have a very full, very exciting 2021 show season planned. We want to give our loyal renewing members, as well as our new members a year that shows we value their support and presents the activities and events they want.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 25 May 2021 via ZOOM. All NMD-RMDS and RMDS members may attend.

7. Northern Colorado

Jon Haugen

NCDA has had an active spring. We hosted a very successful Ride-A-Test in April, and are preparing for a full schooling show on May 15th, with a Clinic on May 16th, both judged and instructed by Sharron Sarchet. In June we are looking forward to the same setup, with Simone Windeler as the Judge and Instructor. It's been a great spring.

8. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We started having in-person meetings again last week! It felt so good to see everyone there! Hopefully, we can continue to do that. There is still the option to join our meetings on zoom for those not able or not comfortable to attend in person.

Entries are open for our Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly at Jane Swanhorst's facility in Cheyenne, WY on June 5th. A flyer with more information and entry forms can be found on our website www.onthebitdressage.com. Feel free to spread the word!

Our fully recognized show will be on July 24th and 25th (two shows) at the Albany County Fairgrounds in Laramie, WY. The prizelist will be available soon!

We were looking into bringing Ulf Wadeborn from California to Laramie for a weekend clinic in late summer or early fall but decided to postpone it to next year. Something to look forward to!

We will continue to hold our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm on Zoom and at Altitude in Laramie. Check our meeting agenda on our website and feel free to join us if you are interested in what we are offering, or contact us through info@onthebitdressage.com!

9. Pikes Peak

Shannon Lemons

No report

10. Western Colorado

Lesley Hill

No report

Next Meeting is July 13th meeting.

9:15 pm Heather Petersen made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Cassandra Dipentino. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen