

**RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 10, 2016**

**Darcy's Bistro & Irish Pub – 303-770-0477**

**4955 S Ulster St #103**

**Denver, CO 80237**

The room is reserved beginning at 6:00 pm

(See directions at end of agenda)

**@ 6:30 PM**

**Attendance:** Gwen Ka’awaloa, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen, Nicole Bizzarro, Didi DeKrey, MaryJo Hoepner, Sharon Soos, Peter Soos, Beverly Swanson, Una Schade, Kathy Simard, Aline Brandeau, Kris Cooper, Patricia Leech, Linda Gaber, Sarah Dodge, Joan Clay, Shannon Lemons

**Proxies:** Sandra Rosewell to Nicole Bizzarro; Barbara Terry to Heather Petersen; Arlene Rhodes to Didi DeKrey; Michelle Anderson to Gwen Ka’awaloa; Beth Hart to Didi DeKrey; Laura Speer to Peter Soos;

**Call to Order-President**

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm**

**Secretary -Approval of Minutes**

**Heather Petersen**

January minutes needed a word corrected on the first page. **Una Schade moved to approve the minutes as corrected, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Treasurers Report**

**Sharon Soos**

Funds as of February 29, 2016	
RMDS Checking Account	\$13,668.60
RMDS Paypal	\$20,673.45
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,879.63
<u>Wells Fargo Money Market</u>	<u>\$44,169.36</u>
TOTAL	\$83,391.04

Discussion of why the difference in cash on hand for 2016 versus where we were in 2015, discussion of the donations worksheet and that all approved donations have been dispersed for the year.

**President Report**

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

Gwen is really happy with the way we are moving forward as an organization. We accepted the resignation of our education chair due to several issues with her animal family so we will be appointing someone to fill that position. We want to keep the meeting a little more streamlined this evening because we have a lot to cover.

Gwen recommends for appointment to the vacancy of the education chair as co-chairs MaryJo Hoepner and Michelle Anderson. **Kathy Simard moves we approve Gwen’s recommendation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joan Clay. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Vice President Report**

**Joan Clay**

Joan has worked to connect with Julie Burt and help support her. She is going to work to connect with a few folks to help with Juniors and Young Riders.

## Central Office

Beth Geier

### Membership

- Registration – 488 members for 2016 – 22 new horses since October 1, 2015
- See chart with Chapter membership totals
- Have a potential new chapter in Jackson Hole, Wyoming

### Omnibus:

- Mailed bulk on Friday Jan 29. Production: \$5378.75. Printing \$6940.00 for a total of \$12318.75 or \$15.40/omnibus.
- Mailing of omnibus now \$6.45 – need to think about this and make a decision at BOG. ?? Bulk was \$.83/omnibus for \$260.94 (313).

### Education:

- Helped Carrie with Judges CE Jan 30 and the TD/Show management Feb 6.
- Trainers Symposium: rider apps due by March 20.
- June 11 Team Competition.

### General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events as long as ½ price covers the cost of materials supplied.
- Paid position contracts are up for bid in 2016. To be decided in July (bids due by June 30):
  - Central Office
  - Website maintenance
  - Junior Camp

### Next Executive Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday odd months) –

#### 2016:

**Awards Banquet:** January 14, 2017 (Saturday)

**Executive Board Meetings:** Jan 14 March 10 May 12 July 12 (Tuesday) September 8  
Oct 13-Budget Nov 5 BOG (Saturday)

**2017 Championships:** September 13-17, Estes Park

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

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	488	760	752	827	797	868	897	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:		59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	16	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	118	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
CS	15	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
FH	44	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	52	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	97	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	54	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
OB	29	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	47	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PR	3	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	13	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	0	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
PN							Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
TS							Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA	Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1162</b>
Juniors	45	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	96	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	7	16													

Beth made mention of the extension of the RMDS Championship management contract due to the bid requirements for 2017 USDF Regional Championships and the request for RMDS to put in a last minute bid because no one else in the region had put in a bid. Bids for the management of the RMDS Championships will open back up in 2017 for the 2018/2019 Championships.

**WDACO recognition** – RMDS shows can get it for \$25 and WDACO will list it on their calendar.

**Omnibus Bids Consideration** – 1 bid received from Nicole Bizzarro. Rates have not changed again this bid cycle. Estimated Time for Omnibus determined from production records of past 10 issues, at a rate of \$65/hour with a range of 80 hours for the low and 115 hours for the high. Those are the top and bottom number of hours recorded to complete the Omnibus in the last 5 years. **Kathy Simard moved to accept the bid from Nicole Bizzarro, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously with Nicole Bizzarro abstaining her proxy.**

**Centaur Bids Consideration** – 1 bid received from Beverly Swanson. Rates have not changed again this bid cycle. E-CENTAUR: \$100 per issue and PRINT CENTAUR: \$550 per issue. **Una Schade moved to accept the bid, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Bizzarro. Motion passed unanimously with Beverly Swanson abstaining.**

**Permanent Committee Reports:**

**1. Adult Amateur**

**Didi DeKrey**

**Junior and Adult Team Challenge** – getting good prizes and looking for new prizes and fun things to give away.

## **Education Events**

The final budget and proposal for the “Foundations In Dressage” clinic is submitted to the Board for approval. This is the second of three clinics initially proposed that look to highlight our Region’s diverse locations, instructors and trainers. We will have several clinicians offering instruction at the same time, thus, offering a selection of sessions for auditors to choose.

Equine events are **Springing** up everywhere (I couldn’t resist)! Early schooling shows, Chapter clinics, Ride

A Tests and other happenings are blossoming about our region. Believe it or not – RMDS’s first show is only 6 weeks away!

And, it’s not too early to act on The Region V Adult Clinic! Check out the Omnibus (page C-79) and the web at [usdf.org/education/clinics/adult](http://usdf.org/education/clinics/adult) for information on the clinicians and what to expect. A few bullet points about signing up:

- Registration for auditing or riding is only via the web page at [usdf.org](http://usdf.org)
- Rider deadline is **August 26, 2016**
- All breeds and riding levels are encouraged – the USDF wishes to showcase how our sport is universal across breeds and training levels
- Horse and rider must be able to perform movements expected at the level they are applying
- Submit a video of you and your horse
- You do NOT need competition history
- You Do need a history of instruction with the horse

These are a few of the points – go to the web!

As always, check the RMDS website, your Omnibus and local Chapters to stay abreast of everything happening in your areas!

## **Foundations in Dressage Course Overview**

This Clinic will cover the foundations of Dressage; the building blocks that help all riders and all horses, no matter the discipline, breed or riding level. The Clinic will have lectures, demonstrations and mounted sessions presented by several local Dressage instructors (Lauren Smith, Maureen Sterling, Sarah Dodge, Christina Rudman, Kathy Simard).

### **Requirements**

The primary prerequisite is a love of learning more about interacting with the horse. Mounted participants must be 22 years of age or older. Auditors can be any age.

### **Course Materials**

Handouts will be provided at the Clinic

- Training Pyramid
- Description of Gaits
- Arena diagram
- Tests; Introductory through Training Level

### **Resources**

Instructors to suggest references

2016 Novice Adult Clinic June 24-25, 2016		Fountain Valley School			
Income	Fees/ Income	Multiplier/ Days	Total #Multiplier	Total	
Donations, sponsors	\$ 400.00	\$ 1.00	1	\$ 400.00	Arena needed, by Chapter; AA fund
RMDS Adult Amateur	\$500	\$ 1.00	1	\$ 500.00	
Participant per ride/horse - RMDS, \$70 for non RMDS	\$ 65.00		12	\$ 780.00	45 minute mounted
Auditor per day fee	\$ 10.00		5	\$ 50.00	
<b>Total Income</b>				<b>\$ 1,730.00</b>	12 riders, 5 auditors
Expenses					
Facility Cost					
Friday Evening Lecture/Dessert Pot Luck; Observation room	\$ -	1		\$ -	
Arena -Large indoor, divided into two	\$700	1		\$ 700.00	
Porta Potty		1		\$ -	NA @ Fountain Valley
Stabling					
Separate Arrangements between facility and rider					
Clinicians					
Clinician (\$40 per session)	\$ 40.00	13		\$ 520.00	12 ridden, one lecture
No lodging or per diem or mileage		0		\$ -	
<b>Total Local Clinician</b>				<b>\$ 520.00</b>	
Meals					
volunteers - lunch	\$ 7.00	7	49		McAlister box lunch; non profit cost
clinicians - lunch	\$ 7.00	5	35		
Sat. Lunch participants auditors	\$ 7.00	17	119		
<b>Total Meals</b>				<b>\$ 203.00</b>	
Misc. Expenses					
Bottled Water /drinks/snacks	\$ 50.00	1	50		
Copies, Misc offic supplies	\$ 50.00	1	50		
Marketing	\$ 50.00	1	50		
<b>Total Misc. Expenses</b>				<b>\$ 150.00</b>	
Insurance cost 1 day	\$ 150.00	1		\$ 150.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>				<b>\$ 1,723.00</b>	
<b>Total profit/loss</b>				<b>\$ 7.00</b>	
Assumptions:					
1) Saturday snacks provided by CSDA/High Plains etc. and included in the per day fees					
2) Any additional fees charged by facility are paid directly by riders (e.g., stalls, shavings)					
3) Clubs Provide volunteers					

### Clinic Marketing/Advertising Proposal - Budget: \$50

Mediums: Facebook Advertising, RMDS Facebook Posts, RMDS Email Blasts, Share the RMDS Facebook post with Horse Groups around Colorado, RMDS Website. Estimated Facebook Ad Reach: 4,700-12,000 People in Colorado that have an interest revolving around Dressage or English horseback riding (cross country, hunter jumper, etc.). Advertisement period: 14 days, we will run this prior to sign-up deadline.

Ad Explanation: After we post an informational post on Facebook about the event, we will boost that post (to make it sponsored content) with the \$50 we have allotted for in the budget. We will measure the success rate of the ad by post likes/shares (engagement) and views (reach).

**MaryJo Hoepner moved to accept the Foundations in Dressage clinic proposal and budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah Dodge, Motion passed unanimously. Kathy Simard abstained as she is one of the proposed instructors.**

## 2. Awards

Shannon Lemons

### 2015 Awards

- Awards all mailed
  - A few returns due to incorrect addresses on file. Will try to get corrected addresses but don't always get responses.
  - A couple of small plates disappeared in the mail and will be remade.
- Budget - \$440 under ☺

### 2016 Awards

- To be replaced/updated this season (have donors for most – thank you!)

- Futurity – the board decided to move this trophy back to championships and not present it at the awards banquet in the future. 2 White Feet or the Petersen Family will sponsor what needs to be updated.
- Long Way Baby –
  - Stock show trophy originally donated by Cariellen DeMuth.
  - Should keep for historical value, new plaque.
  - Olga Hendrickson will sponsor this award.
- High Score Mare 3<sup>rd</sup> level + - enamel lined silver bowl
  - Could be replaced or reused
  - Aline will sponsor
- Grade Horse – Joder Arabian Ranch Trophy
  - CC Ross and Sandra Roswell will sponsor
- AA PSG – Waterloo Perpetual
  - Asian style horse, originally donated by Lori Oakley
  - This will be the new Veronica Holt Perpetual trophy
  - Sponsored by Heather Petersen and Susan Gregg
- Pony Training – silver horse plate, originally sponsored by Julie Barringer-Richers
  - Renee Martig will sponsor and provide an original new sculpture
- Pony Second – silver horse plate, originally sponsored by Julie Barringer-Richers
  - Pikes Peak Dressage will sponsor
- Open First Level – needs to be replaced
  - High Plains Chapter will sponsor
- Open I2 – Graf Bobby Memorial – large glass challis sponsored by Phillip and Jennifer Oldham
  - Replace? So fragile... RMDS board decided to keep it in play because it is unique and RMDS will sponsor it and get a new plaque.

### 3. Communications

**Linda Gaber**

- Bids have been received by the Feb. 28 deadline from two professionals for RMDS paid positions. Current Centaur and E-Centaur production contractor Beverly Swanson again submitted a bid to continue working in these positions. Hers is the only bid for these. Nicole Bizzarro submitted the only bid to produce the annual Omnibus, which she currently does.
- Beverly produced first 2016 E-Centaur in February with new look on Mail Chimp, keeping issue articles shorter and more timely than printed Centaur.
- Beverly and I coordinated content for our three Centaurs in 2016. Do you have any comments or suggestions?
- We are reminding readers that they will receive credit for two hours of volunteer time for each article they write and submit to Centaur, with photo.
- We need advertisers for the Centaur.

#### **Centaur**

**Beverly Swanson**

Shooting now for the 5<sup>th</sup> to get things into the Centaur. Linda will be more prompt as will Beth in sending reminders to folks for content. Will work to identify the chapter of the person who is contributing in regards to content.

#### **Omnibus**

**Nicole Bizzarro**

Nothing new to report at this point in time.

## Website

Michael Petersen

The News section was converted over to a Wordpress backend. No significant changes for users, but it does open the possibility of others contributing or managing news items.

A blog section has also been added, again driven by Wordpress. Like Beverly has done for Championships in the past, articles can be written and published online. The board needs to decide who should have access and what, if any, review process should be used.

Over the next couple weeks, the server will be upgraded/moved by the hosting company. It should be seamless, but if you notice any problems, let me know so I can pass it along to the hosting company.

Much discussion followed on who should have access to the blog and who will review the content and editing aspects. Everything will go to the central office, the office and another board member will review it and then Una will post it to the blog. Nicole asked what the purpose of the blog is... Una wants to make it kind of like an FAQ.

**Nicole made a motion that all blog content be run thru the Central Office and an additional board membership before being posted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 4. Education

MaryJo Hoepner/Michelle Anderson

TD/Show management lost \$70, Judges continuing education made \$190, so combined overall profit \$120. Great comments about both sessions. MaryJo and Michelle will start to work on sessions for next year.

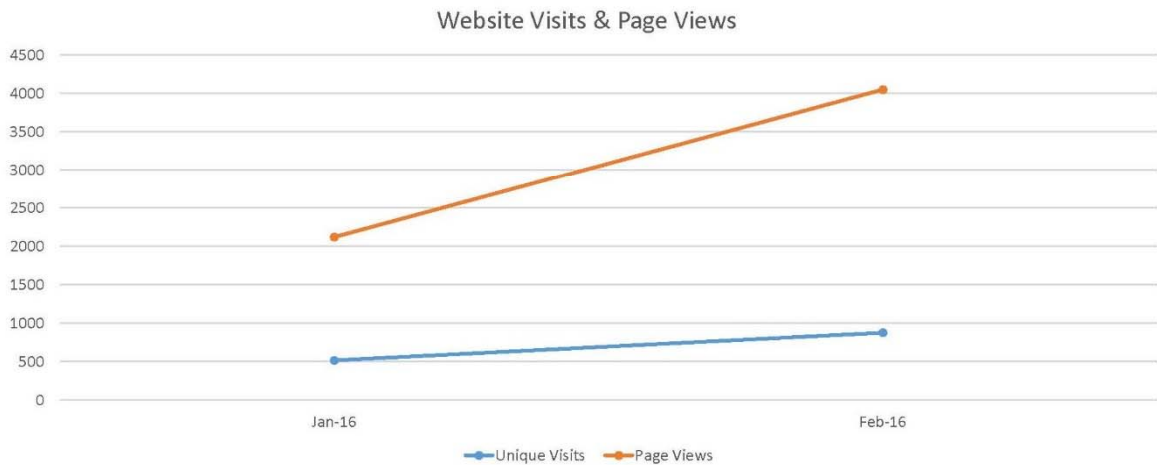
Michelle would like to have RMDS consider offering the group sit sessions once a year rather than having them offered privately. Currently have one set for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Horse Park with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez that she is running outside of RMDS but have RMDS "run" it in the future. **Kathy Simard moved that starting 2017 RMDS organize a group sit day with an L faculty member or USEF approved apprentice list judge at least once per year and it will be organized by the Education chair or committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Didi DeKrey. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 5. Junior/Young Riders

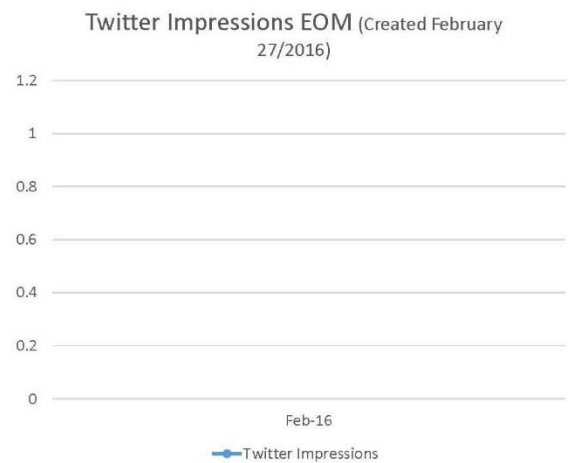
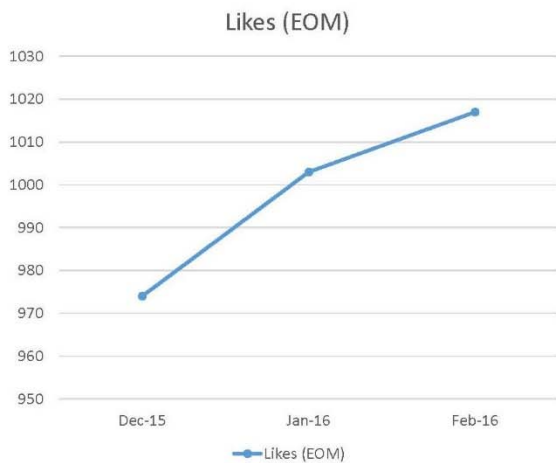
Julie Burt

No report, no proxy

## RMDS Website Data (Started Analyzing 1/17/2016)



## Social



### Other Notes:

I asked a large group of Adult Amateurs around the country on Facebook what their GMO does that makes it a benefit to pay for membership, what brings them in. Here are a few thoughts I pulled away from the discussion.

- Do we open up clinics/learning events/etc.to Non-Members?
  - We could charge non-members more and members less. This would be a way to attract people that might not quite want to commit to a membership yet. We already do this.



- Members get 1 week of signup before the event is offered to non-members. We do priority to members currently.
- Make sure to advertise reduced membership fee for educational members only.
- Learning classes on things like: Trailer Safety, First Aid/CPR certification, Vaccination Recommendations, Vet talk on recent disease concerns (EHV-1, Corona Virus, etc), Footing Seminar.
  - Could do as a dinner, pot luck, etc. too.
  - May professionals will typically donate their time because it gets their business exposure.
- Organize Social events. We book the “space” on a Friday evening (or whenever) and invite everyone out for cocktails. We don’t pay for anything, just organize.
- Discounts to volunteers with over ## hours. (You get credit toward clinics and such when you volunteer.)
- When asking for volunteers, be sure to let them know the benefits: AKA we will provide you with water and lunch for the day. Goodie bag. Etc.
- Organize a tack swap.
- Create Blog articles explaining different topics revolving around RMDS: Awards, Team Competitions, Show Rules, etc. 8 Volunteer hours required to be qualified for year-end awards. (We could alter to any amount of volunteer hours we want).
  - I need help creating these articles! Heather has already offered to help with some.

We have edited the news feed on the right side of the homepage to be a blog as well as the bottom of the slideshow. The right side is RMDS News and the bottom is Informational/Educational articles. Therefore all things posted can be archived and looked at by potential or current members to see what has happened in the past. It will also allow us to easily create a landing page for every topic which will make sharing information much easier to our member body. (i.e. we can link them to a page with event specific information rather than link them to the homepage and pray they find the information they need).

We need to send our emails from MailChimp so that I have analytics to provide to potential advertisers based on open and click rates. I can setup the account/import members and help with mailings. It will be easy to input the information into the template to send a mailing. They will look more professional too.

We are going to try a split approach... advertising emails will come from MailChimp and more personal tone emails will still come from Beth. Shannon addressed the tone of various emails.

Advertising in the Colorado Horse Park – discussion. It was decided to do a flyer and pass those out.

## **7. Professional Trainers/Riders Committee**

**Sarah Dodge**

I did a direct email to the professionals – ways that they can more involved and help RMDS. Splitting the Friday party with 10 trainers to cover the cost of the \$2500 party. Great feedback. Ideas for articles and articles themselves.

George Williams Clinic update:

2 auditors and 2 riders for the professionals.

10 auditors and for 4 riders for the Wednesday.

Many have said they will still be applying – deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Scholarship**

**MaryJo Hoepner**

Received reports from 2 of the recipients.

One needed to change her goals - plans due to changes in plans. But reported the new plan.

We look forward to seeing upcoming reports throughout the year.

**9. Shows – Championship**

**Beverly Swanson**

Update from Heather – she and Jon had a meeting with the new manager at Estes Park last week and there are some great updates happening. We will be moving the show office set up and will know more about that in a couple of months. Progress is being made with CHP. Heather met with the new COO a couple of weeks ago and we are working to try and get back into their calendar for 2018.

Discussion of donating a judge’s booth to the Estes Park facility with RMDS splashed all over it. It would be good marketing for RMDS and provide another enclosed judge’s booth and also a template for the Estes facility to hopefully make more. Folks are going to go out and get possible estimates and we will discuss this again at the May meeting.

Heather has advertised for a volunteer coordinator for Championships. One person has expressed interest and Sarah has another possible candidate. Heather will interview folks next week.

**Appointed Committee Reports:**

**1. Western Dressage Liaison**

**Frances Carbonnel**

No report

**2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents**

**Sandy Rosewell**

Need nominees for 2 years: Vice-President (1 year), President, Treasurer, Secretary, Awards, Education, Marketing, Professional

No report

**3. Historical Committee-Archives**

**Pat Leech**

First meeting November 7, 1971 in a bank building in Boulder. Formed January 1972 as officially recognized organization. First RMDS Championships was held in 1979. Cost 50% more than what the income was. It was thru 2<sup>nd</sup> level. First RMDS sponsored USEF Zone Championships – 1980 at Latigo. Veronica Holt was the original manager for those shows.

**4. BOG – November 5, 2016**

**Heather Petersen**

Benjamin is checking on date availability and room availability and looking at menus and costs. Do we just want to go with Lunch and or breakfast? It was decided to not have a full breakfast and to just have coffee, juice, tea. Similar Lunch menu was requested by all.

**5. Banquet – January 14, 2017-Renaissance Denver Hotel**

**Beth Geier**

See central office report

## Region 5 Report

**Heather Petersen**

Spring is coming and the weather has been great, at least in Colorado ☺ I'm ready for the snow to be done! Fundraising efforts are once under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2016 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held July 26-31, 2016 at the Colorado Horse Park. It will hopefully be a bit of an easier trip this year for our group of 8 riders with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipes but they still need all the support we can give them. There are still some travel expenses, they must stay in a hotel for the week, and there are team uniforms, chef expenses, feed, bedding and oh so much more that they need help with. 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](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877 or our Fundraising Chair, Kathy Gillespie at [kjpagillespie@msn.com](mailto:kjpagillespie@msn.com) or 303-921-5253. If you are still interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2016, the last intention deadline is May 17<sup>th</sup> but the less expensive deadline is May 4<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to get in your intentions soon.

Regional Championship bids for 2017 have been received and we should know soon where the competition will be held. I had really hoped for some bids from some new areas but unfortunately it did not happen. Maybe we can get some things going for 2018. USDF will announce the locations of the 2017 Regionals in May. I hope everyone is planning on attending the Regionals in 2016 in Estes Park, Colorado at the Stanley Park Fairgrounds. It's a beautiful area with lots of fun things to do and the venue is very nice. It should be a great show hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society!

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Scarlett Fahrenson at [stgeorg@dakotacom.net](mailto:stgeorg@dakotacom.net) and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate nominations are due in to the USDF office no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Old Business:

None

### New Business:

Shannon Lemons – 1<sup>st</sup> week of May – Dressage for the Cure – Sense of Security is the charity – everyday living expenses. She runs the silent auction for the big fundraiser. Money goes directly to the charity, does not go to the show at all. Asked for an email blast. Kaimana Equestrian will be the sponsor for the email blast for the charity fundraiser.

### Chapter Presidents:

**Linda Gaber Moved to approve all chapter reports as submitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Bizzarro. Motion passes unanimously.**

#### 1. Arkansas Valley No report

**Beth Hart**

#### 2. Boulder Valley

**Sandra Rosewell**

The Boulder Valley Dressage banquet was a big success! We had the biggest Silent Auction to date and it was very well received. Thanks to all the members that contributed items. Big thanks to all that helped to make it a success, Julie Barringer-Richers, Beth Geier, Kristi Cooper Camp, Dave Camp, Amy & Paige Smith, Grace Maddox and many others.

We decided at our last board meeting to keep the date of the banquet in January. We will book the Boulder Country Club again next year, as it has proven to be a great place for the event.

The BVD Spring Fling

Ride A Test – May 7 – Bluerood Equestrian  
Spring Fling – May 8 – Singletree

<https://www.facebook.com/Reverie-Farms-LLC-626686164098364/?pnref=lhc>

We discussed a possible event for next year 'Prepare for the Show' with several stations, i.e braiding, filling out forms, TD information, saddle fit, show dress, riding a clean test tips. More to come...

Next BVD meeting will be April 11 Place to be determined

### **3. Colorado Springs No Report -**

**Pat Leech**

### **4. Foothills**

**Kris Cooper**

The Foothills Chapter will be home to four RMDS-sanctioned shows in 2016:

date	name	sponsor	location	judge
June 12	Spring into Summer Show	Foothills Chapter	Table Mountain Ranch	Michelle Anderson
July 10	Centaur Rising Dressage Show I	Centaur Rising	Anchorage Farm	Kathleen Donnelly
August 14	Centaur Rising Dressage Show II	Centaur Rising	Anchorage Farm	Jessica Greer
August 27	Last Chance Show	Foothills Chapter	Table Mountain Ranch	Julie McDermott

On February 27, we sponsored another successful Western Dressage clinic with Frances Carbonnel. The clinic was full and made a profit of \$200! We are offering a western dressage high-point award to Foothills members who compete in at least three of the above four shows. Our four shows are also being enrolled in the Western Dressage Association of Colorado high-point award program. On April 10, we will be sponsoring a How-to-Do-a-Seat-Lesson clinic at Anchorage Farm. We also plan to hold a Ride-A-Test Clinic on May 22 at Table Mountain Ranch. We are in the preliminary planning stages of an end-of-the-year banquet, which will honor not only members who excel in shows but also our volunteers and other special awards.

Please visit our website at <http://www.foothillsdressage.org/>.

For up-to-the-minute news, please like our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/FoothillsDressage/>.

Our next meeting will be held on May 23 at Mimi's Café in Golden.

2016 Foothills Officers

Kris Cooper President 303-847-9862 kris@anchoragefarm.com

Jan Danis Vice President

Nicole Riffe Secretary

Laura Quakenbush Treasurer

Maylou Metcalf Scholarship

Cassandra DiPentino Education

Jan Danis & Linda Gaber Shows

CC Ross & Linda Gaber Communications

### **5. Grand Valley**

**Arlene Rhodes**

We are in the process of finalizing all our prize lists. We decided to add several new classes to our schooling shows to help encourage everyone to play! We've added these classes: a lead-line class with a short test, an in-arena assist test for Intro TOC (following another horse or ponying) and we've changed the Prix Caprilli classes so there are two jump heights for the training level test, one of them up to 2ft. Something else new for this year - we enrolled all our schooling shows in the Western Dressage Association of Colorado's High Point Award Program. We are hoping that this

will be another way to help encourage Western Dressage entries.

In order to help members prepare for the show season and to also encourage members to renew their membership we rented the local fairgrounds arena for March 28th 4pm-7pm. Only current 2016 members will get to take advantage of this free practice time. In March, instead of a business meeting we will be showing an educational DVD at one of our member's homes. We hope to do a few different events like these this spring before the show season starts in earnest. It is a nice way for everyone to connect and have fun with or without their horses.

On a sad note, we lost a dear and longtime friend of Grand Valley Dressage, Diane Nugent. For many years Di was an active supporter and volunteer for the club. Her Arabian horse, Riddle, ridden by Deb Crooks, was shown and placed in the RMDS championship at the Prix St George level. Di had many friends that will miss her kindness and spunkiness. Her picture from a recent therapeutic ride at Harmony Acres Equestrian Center is attached, with two of her close friends, Deb Crooks and Cyndi Mettler. Di is the one on the right. The picture was used in an article about Harmony Acres in the local Senior Beacon newspaper. A donation in her name was made by our club to Harmony Acres for their fund-raising auction. One of our members will be honoring her with a special year end award for a rider that has overcome adversity.

## **6. High Plains**

**Katherine Simard**

Our Dressage Youth Day at Iron Horse Farm in Elizabeth February 21<sup>st</sup> was a success! We had 10 riders and 7 auditors. Our instructors were Julie Barringer Richers and Greta Vowell. In addition to lessons, we had an educational lecture about the pyramid of training given by Kathy Simard and a Q and A with Sharon and Grant Schniedman. The low key friendly environment proved to be fun for all. We had kids ranging in age from 10-18 coming from pony club, eventing, and western backgrounds. Look for an article in the Centaur about the day. We hope to make it an annual event.

March 8<sup>th</sup> we had an educational meeting at Littleton Equine Medical Center. We hosted a private "evening with a vet" focused on our dressage horses. It went really really well and we had a lot of new faces that showed up including a young rider.

High Plains will again be hosting SRS Chief Rider Andreas Hausberger this year. The dates are July 10-12 and will once again be at Stellar Stables in Parker. Look for the application and more information on our Facebook page. We will be holding a raffle among the accepted riders for a free lesson to be awarded during the clinic!

## **7. Northern Colorado**

**Didi Dekrey**

NCDA 2016 Board: President – Didi DeKrey, Vice President – Rose Balfour, Treasurer – Karla Lauritsen, Secretary – Kathleen Kilkelly, Delegates – Renee Martig and Julie Haugen

Just as the grass is pushing itself out of the frozen ground, our membership is growing towards our projected level. The club has held a nice financial cushion for several years, and continues to do so. Plans are under way for this season's events. We will have two presentations at our meetings.

March 8th meeting Ms. Julie Haugen will present a short lecture on Freestyles. She will discuss and answer questions about the basics of constructing Freestyles and what are the advantages of "Dancing to the

Music" with our horses. For our April 12th meeting Ms. Heather Peterson will lecture about Forbidden substances.

Judges have been contracted for our two schooling shows; Ms. Kathleen Donnelly for the Spring, and Ms. Michelle Anderson for our Fall show. Check out the Omnibus for details and the Prize List!

**8. On The Bit**

**Jessica Ford**

**No Report -No Proxy**

**9. Pikes Peak**

**Michelle Anderson**

We are looking forward to another successful year for our chapter and are happy to welcome some new faces at our meetings.

Our Communications Chair was forced to resign for personal reasons but Bev Swanson has kindly stepped forward to fill the void. We will have an email election and should have her confirmed in the next week.

2016 Meetings & Events are as follows (weather permitting)

- Tuesday, March 15 @ 6:30 pm, PPDS Awards Dinner, Olive Garden by Citadel Mall. 513 N Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 (719) 591-1210.
- Sunday, April 3 & Saturday, April 9– Work Days at Kaimana Farms in preparation for our annual RMDS show
- PPDS RMDS Show – Saturday April 16 with a snow date of April 17. We offer a wide range of classes including traditional USDF tests, Western Dressage, Dressage Trail and USEA tests – there is something for everyone!
- Other upcoming club meetings this year are scheduled for the following Tuesdays. May 17, June 14, August 9, October 4 & November 15, all starting at 6:30 pm. Locations are TBD but we will be moving them around the Colorado Springs area.

For the most current information on our chapter activities visit our website at <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

**10. Platte River**

**Laura Speer**

**No Report**

**11. Western Colorado**

**Barbara Terry**

**No Report**

**Sharon Soos moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shannon Lemons. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Petersen  
Secretary