

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2018

Yanni's Greek Restaurant

Highlands Ranch, CO

The room is reserved beginning at 6pm

@ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharon Soos, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Beth Geier, Michelle Anderson, Didi DeKrey, Rosemary Balfour, Ginka Kubelka, Stephanie Figgins, Simone Windeler, Kathy Simard, Dorthy Kapaun, Anclaire Spaulding, Tiffany Busch, MaryJo Hoepner, Cassandra Dipentino, Michelle Stevens, Linda Gaber

Proxies: Sandra Rosewell to Heather Petersen; Arlene Rhodes to Didi DeKrey; Shannon Lemons to Heather Petersen

Members: Julie Barber, Aline Brandau

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Introductions

Secretary - Approval of Minutes - October 2017 meeting

Heather Petersen

MaryJo Hoepner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with additional language on the database bid from Michelle. 2nd by Tiffany Busch. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as December 31, 2017

RMDS Checking Account \$64,747.77

RMDS Paypal (as pf 12/18/17) \$ 4,707.39

RMDS Scholarship \$ 6,775.63

Reserve \$43,823.00

TOTAL \$120,053.99

- Discussion of the budget, end of year figures, Dressage Foundation giving and applications.

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

- Lots to cover for bids this year.
- Each committee chair needs to achieve a goal this year and we're looking forward to hearing their proposals.
- Committees need to have a clear idea of their job, so job descriptions are due by March so going forward everyone knows what their job descriptions are. We will have a meeting in February for chairs to work on this project.
- We need to respect other people's jobs and their time.
- Executive board attendance expectations – not expected to make 100% of the meetings, but we hope you can make as many as you can. If you can't make it, please please send a report and proxy.
- Quite a bit of new business at the end.

Vice President Report

Tiffany Busch

No report

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 390 as of 1/9 members for 2018; 12 new horses since October, 2017
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2018: \$70.00

Shows:

- For 2018: 8 RMDS recognized shows: 43 are USEF/USDF recognized and

Omnibus:

- See Nicole Bizzarro’s report

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.
- Sent several invoices to Kristi Wysocki – payment was made

Voting for Board – if positions are shared and the position has one vote, how do you want to determine who has the vote. Committees will appointment which co-chair will vote at the meetings.

2019/2020 RMDS Championships bid consideration. Only one bid was received, from 2 White Feet, Inc. It is basically the same bid as received since 2003, but there was a \$2 increase in the per office fee. **Kathy Simard moved that we accept 2 White Feet, Inc bid for 2019/2020 RMDS Championships, 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed with Heather Petersen abstaining.**

D&O Insurance approval

| RMDS - OFFICERS 2018 - D & O Insurance | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------|
| Chapter | Title | Name |
| Arkansas Valley | President | Brenda Haley |
| | VP | Nancy Leonard |
| | Treasurer | Candace Bridgers |
| | Secretary | Renee McMillen |
| Boulder Valley | President | Sandra Rosewell |
| | VP | Kristi Cooper-Camp |
| | Treasurer | Beth Geier |
| | Secretary | Stan Adamson |
| Foothills | President | Linda Gaber |
| | VP | Cassandra DiPentino |
| | Treasurer | Laura Quakenbusch |
| | Secretary | Nicole Riffe |
| Grand Valley | President | Arlene Rhodes |
| | VP | Pat White |
| | Treasurer | Susan Gregg |
| | Secretary | Deb Crooks |
| High Plains | President | Stephanie Figgins |
| | VP | Julie Burt |
| | Treasurer | Ellen Siebert |
| | Secretary | Lori Keilt |
| Northern Colo | President | Denise "Didi" DeKrey |
| | VP | Rosemary Balfour |
| | Treasurer | Andrea Chirich |
| | Secretary | Jacki Rosellen |
| On the Bit Dressage | President | Ginka Kubelka |
| | VP | Kelly Wolfe |
| | Treasurer | Tom Wolfe |
| | Secretary | Anna Chalfoun |
| Pikes Peak Dressage | President | Tiffany Busch |
| | VP | Mary Jo Hoepner |
| | Treasurer | Michelle Anderson |
| | Secretary | Heather Petersen |
| Western Colo | President | Heather Lafferty |
| | VP | Rosemary Strong |

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| | Treasurer | Justina Potter |
| | Secretary | Barbara McElnea |

Sharron Soos moved we approved as read, 2nd by Cassandra Dipentino. Some discussion on chapter taxes oddly off topic – due by the end of the month. Motion passed unanimously

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

2018:

2017 Awards Banquet: January 13, 2018 (Saturday)

Executive Board Meetings: Jan 11 March 8 May 10 July 12 Sept 6 (1st Thursday) Oct 11 (Budget)

BOG Nov 3

2018 Championships: September 20-23.

2018 Awards Banquet: January 12, 2019

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

| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Members: | 290 | 752 | 756 | 779 | 694 | 827 | 797 | 868 | 773 | 945 | 1030 | 1008 | 1036 | 1019 | 1151 | 1177 | 1162 |
| Horses: | 12 | 91 | 93 | 59 | 63 | 59 | 135 | 123 | 132 | 132 | 166 | 246 | 262 | 234 | 207 | 337 | 274 |
| AV | 23 | 39 | 25 | 29 | 26 | 27 | 25 | 27 | 24 | 15 | 26 | 12 | - | - | - | - | - |
| BV | 64 | 159 | 182 | 168 | 171 | 180 | 182 | 190 | 200 | 188 | 205 | 172 | 178 | 179 | 199 | 208 | 230 |
| FH | 26 | 57 | 73 | 79 | 76 | 64 | 65 | 71 | 72 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 74 | 73 | 109 | 103 | 115 |
| GV | 36 | 91 | 95 | 71 | 55 | 71 | 53 | 65 | 83 | 87 | 105 | 102 | 88 | 92 | 93 | 98 | 77 |
| HP | 50 | 169 | 149 | 156 | 151 | 176 | 190 | 208 | 226 | 256 | 265 | 260 | 259 | 251 | 267 | 283 | 278 |
| NC | 31 | 69 | 77 | 77 | 89 | 94 | 93 | 110 | 132 | 107 | 124 | 137 | 137 | 139 | 162 | 151 | 150 |
| OB | 19 | 49 | 43 | 42 | 33 | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PP | 36 | 89 | 63 | 70 | 63 | 62 | 44 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| WC | 4 | 29 | 22 | 18 | 19 | 23 | 27 | 31 | 22 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 32 | 34 | 44 | 55 | 64 |
| No Chapter | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 25 | 14 | 16 | 22 | 21 | 34 | 36 | 24 |
| CS | | 7/1/17 | 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 | | | 6/30/16 | 10 | 11 | 18 | 14 | 14 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TS | | | | | | | | | Dissolved | 36 | 51 | 68 | 90 | 86 | 91 | 74 | 77 |
| WA | | | Dissolved | 19 | 21 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 24 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 290 | 752 | 756 | 779 | 694 | 827 | 797 | 868 | 773 | 945 | 1030 | 1008 | 1036 | 1019 | 1151 | 1177 | 1162 |
| Juniors | 22 | 80 | 86 | 88 | 95 | 120 | 117 | 120 | 134 | | | | | | | | |
| Amateurs | 66 | 195 | 163 | 152 | 176 | 209 | 220 | 239 | 230 | | | | | | | | |
| Education | 10 | 21 | 17 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Permanent Committee Reports:

1. Adult Amateur

Anclaire Spaulding/Michelle Stevens

Budget presented for approval a clinic with William McMullin, USEF “R” judge, USDF certified instructor/examiner, therefore making us eligible for the USDF Education grants. Nancy Davis has agreed to let us use Reverie, with some stalls available (probably not 8). We did already put in the grant application. **Tiffany Busch moved and 2nd by Michelle Anderson to approve the clinic. Motion passed unanimously.**

| Program Budget | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Name | Rocky Mountain AA USDF Clinic | GMO | Rocky Mountain Dressage Society |
| By | Anclaire Spaulding | Event Date | April 21 and 22, 2018 |
| Revenue | | | |
| | Revenue Source | Budgeted | Actual |
| | Rider/Participant Fees | \$2,000.00 | \$ - Location: Reverie Farm |
| | Stabling: NA | | \$ - 8 - 9 riders per day |
| | Auditor Fees: \$25 x 5 | \$125.00 | \$ - Participate fees: \$250 for 2 days, \$125 for one day |
| | USDF Grant | \$0 | \$ - Anclaire donated the \$65 application fee |
| | Additional Grant(s) | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Sponsors | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Donations | \$65.00 | \$ - |
| | AA 2018 Funds | \$995.00 | \$ - |
| | Other (List) | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Other (List) | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Total Revenue | \$3,185.00 | \$ - |
| Expenses | | | |
| | Expense | Budgeted | Actual |
| | Primary Instructor Fee | \$2,000.00 | \$ - |
| | Additional Instructor Fees | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Instructor Travel (airfare/gas) | \$600.00 | \$ - Food List for lunch |
| | Lodging Costs | \$300.00 | \$ - Anclaire |
| | Facility Rental | \$500.00 | \$ - Beth |
| | Equipment Rental | \$ - | \$ - Nancy |
| | Instructor Food Expenses | \$200.00 | \$ - Bill |
| | USDF Fees: application fee | \$65.00 | \$ - 2 workers |
| | Insurance | \$120.00 | \$ - |
| | Office Supplies | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Food/Catering: \$20 per person | \$250.00 | \$ - |
| | Volunteer expenses | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Breakfast - coffee | \$100.00 | \$ - |
| | Snacks | \$50.00 | \$ - |
| | Other (List) | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Other (List) | \$ - | \$ - |
| | Total Expenses | \$4,185.00 | \$ - |
| | Net Profit/Loss | (\$1,000.00) | \$ - |

Team Competition – need to get together with Cassandra. Have judges and facility and will do the same flyer as last year.

2. Awards

Shannon Lemons

It's Saturday. Come.

3. Communications

Beverly Swanson

Centaurus: Nov - Jan Centaurus

- Thank you to Taryn Anderson for sharing her personal experience at Championships - there were certainly some "Thrills and Chills" as you all know. Also a big "Thank You" to GVDS and President Arlene Rhodes for spotlighting their end of year show, especially seeing the variety of classes offered (quadrille, costume, lead line, and pas de deux). Great pics!
- Much appreciated also was the excellent January cover article on the WDAA nationals by Pat Van Buskirk. I reached out to Pat for coverage of this event, and with her knowledge and contacts within

WDACO/WDAA she delivered such a great piece we were asked for reprint permission (see below)! I'm glad that we can reach out to WDAA members in a positive way, as many of our shows now include WD competitors, and our RMDS judges are becoming quite skilled on judging the WD tests and being valuable teachers of dressage skills and show techniques.

Pat,

*Thanks so much for writing the great article in the RMDS magazine on the WDAA Show!
What fantastic exposure for WDAA and WDACO. Gratefully, Neide Cooley*

Beth and Beverly,

Western Dressage Association of Colorado and Western Dressage Association of American are grateful for the recently article about the WDAA national horse show by Pat Van Buskirk in the RMDS magazine. Would you be willing to share the content so that each of the organizations could include it on their Facebook pages and websites? Many thanks! Neide Cooley

WDAA and WDACO would like to publish the article

- **January Centaur Note:** This is the issue where we usually have a number of changeovers in officers. Unfortunately, January had errors in it on the Officers page, and the TD/Judges/Instructor page as well. I apologize for the mixups on my part, but it definitely points out the need for our members and chapters to keep us notified and updated on any changes - including your meeting dates/places. Be sure to let the Central Office know of any updates (like CE credits!) and phone or email contact info.
- **Chapter Reports:** Chapters, you were a little behind for January - but with the holidays and nice weather, you are forgiven! Please remember to send your reports to Central Office and Centaur on the months that we print (odd #). For e-Centaur months (even #), we focus on events, so if you have anything scheduled in the following month, please let us know! I will always send you an e-mail reminder.

Personal Note: I will be putting in my bid again for publishing the Centaur, and want you all to know how much I enjoy reaching out to all of you and being in the position to "spread the word" about what a great organization we have, thanks to our pretty darn wonderful members and their awesome experiences.

Notes from the meeting: there were a lot of typos that we need to get fixed that occurred this past month. We talked content and the need to get more articles from our membership.

Omnibus

Nicole Bizzarro

P R I N T E R: JAZ Print and Promo/Jen Zawistoski — All digital printing

Q U A N T I T Y: Internal Binder Pages: 800 sets of 272 pages – 5.5" x 8.5"

Last Page Folded Form: 800 – 11" x 8.5" folded to 5.5" x 8.5"

Blank Sheet: 800 – 5.5" x 8.5"

Bank Tabs: 800 sets of 6 – 6" x 8.5"

Catalog Envelopes: 400 – 7.5" x 10.5" (CATALOG - OPEN END)

S T O C K: Internal Binder Pages: 60# White Offset

Last Page Folded Form: 60# White Offset

Blank Sheet: 60# Natural Offset

Bank Tabs: 110# Index Offset

Catalog Envelopes: 28# White Wove

I N K: Internal Binder Pages: Black only - 2 sides (EXCEPT 7 PAGES IN FULL COLOR)

Section A - 22 pages

Section B - 32 pages (1 color)

Section C - 82 pages (6 color)

Section D - 102 pages

Section E - 24 pages

Section F - 10 pages

Last Page Folded Form: Black only - 2 sides

Blank Sheet: No Printing

6-Bank Tabs: (12 pages)... 8 of which are 4/C process and the other 1/Color.

Catalog Envelopes Q: 400: Black only - 1 side
 P R O O F S Proofs: PDF and Hard copy (one-off) proof
 B I N D E R Y Collate all pages, Fold Form, 3-hole drill and band in sets: 800 Qty
 Mailing: Mailing List to come
 Address sort, inkjet onto envelopes, drop mailing portion at USPS in Parker, CO.
 Remaining to deliver to RMDS (Beth's house in Boulder)
 C O S T S 800 sets & 400 envelopes. No covers printed this year.
 (RMDS Endicia Used - no postage included) \$7,617

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| 2018 Omnibus to printer | Jan 8 | printing and finish work | \$7617 |
| 2017 Omnibus to printer | Jan 5 | printing and finish work | \$6790 |
| 2016 Omnibus to printer | Jan 11 | printing and finish work | \$6940 |
| 2015 Omnibus to printer | Jan 4 | printing and finish work | \$6824 |
| 2014 Omnibus to printer | Jan 10 | printing and finish work | \$6055 |

Looking at different printing options to lower printing cost. Nicole wants us to discuss and look at for March meeting. Bids for omnibus will be considered then.

Website

No report.

Michael Petersen

4. Education

Michelle Anderson/MaryJo Hoepner

L Continuing Education

2018 session is scheduled for Jan 27 at the Longmont Public Library. We will order in lunch at an extra charge or attendees can bring their own, due to limited time available. This site was free to a non-profit while others would charge several hundred dollars. Currently 6 attendees and 1 auditor. MAY just break even after \$800 grant from The Dressage Foundation.

Clinic with Melissa will be the Sunday & Monday after the "L" session. Currently have 7 riders for both days and 2 riders for one day each, so 2 slots available each day. We need both riders and auditors to avoid a financial loss for this event!

TD / Show Management training

Scheduled with Deeda Randle & Simone Windeler for February 10 at Douglas County Fairgrounds.

Group sit time for L Graduates

Group sit time with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez is scheduled for Sunday, May 27 at the Paragon show. Tried to schedule a different clinician but they were booked. Budget will include one hotel night for Deb as she is judging a Western Dressage show at CHP on Saturday, however we may save on travel since at least 1/2 should be covered by the WDAA show.

Event Budget worksheet

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Event: 2018 RMDS "L" Group Sit Time | | Date of Event: May 27, 2018 |
| Location of Event: Colorado Horse Park | | |

| Income | USDF | Amount |
|------------------------------|------|----------------|
| 10 participants @ \$100 each | | \$1,000 |
| Total Income | | \$1,000 |

| Expenses | Amount |
|---|-----------------|
| Instructor: Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez | \$550 |
| Lodging | \$175.00 |
| USDF CE Recognition fee | \$40 |
| Per Diem or Meals | \$40.00 |
| Photocopying | \$20 |
| Travel (possible split or covered by WDAA show) | \$25 |
| Total Expenses | \$850.00 |
| Net Profit / Loss | \$150.00 |

Tiffany Busch moved, 2nd by Simone Windeler to approve the continuing ed budget for sit time. Motion passed unanimously.

Scribing Clinic

We had considered one in conjunction with the 2018 PPDS show but Gwen will be out of town and Michelle is judging the show. Will investigate using another “L” graduate or another show. So Linda is going to talk to the Foothills board to do it at the Foothills Last Chance show, August 26th. Gwen will judge the show and Michelle will teach the scribing clinic.

New Business

We are down to 12 “L” graduates who have maintained eligibility to judge RMDS recognized shows. As a result it will become increasingly difficult to fill annual “L” CE and group sit time sessions.

Recommendation: Decrease these events from annually to every other year. Move the date for the CE session to a warmer month, making it easier for participants to review live rides rather than video. We might even consider 2 days at a single show every other year. Group sit time is usually limited to 10 students but I think we can get the clinicians to accept up to 12 so everyone currently eligible can participate.

This would (a) greatly reduce the organizer’s workload, (b) reduce potential for financial loss running the programs since all current “L” grads would need to attend here or attend out of state sessions and do sit time privately and (c) expand pool of potential instructors since we could schedule a clinic before or after with someone from outside CO (and not worry about the need for a heated indoor arena!)

Michelle and Simone will work on a proposal for the March meeting that will be a solution to issue.

Michelle cannot continue as education chair, by June 1st she would like to resign. She is overwhelmed in her job and it’s not allowing her to continue. She will finish out the events she has organized and train someone to take over. We are looking for someone to step up and co-chair with MaryJo.

5. Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

Happy New Year!! So ready to get 2018 started...Table Mountain Ranch has committed to letting us use the facility for the 2018 Summer Intensive as long as we give them a deposit for the kitchen. Apparently, it was left a mess last year. I’ll get more details about the amount. I am starting to research potential clinicians and get the

activities planned. I'm open to suggestions as always.

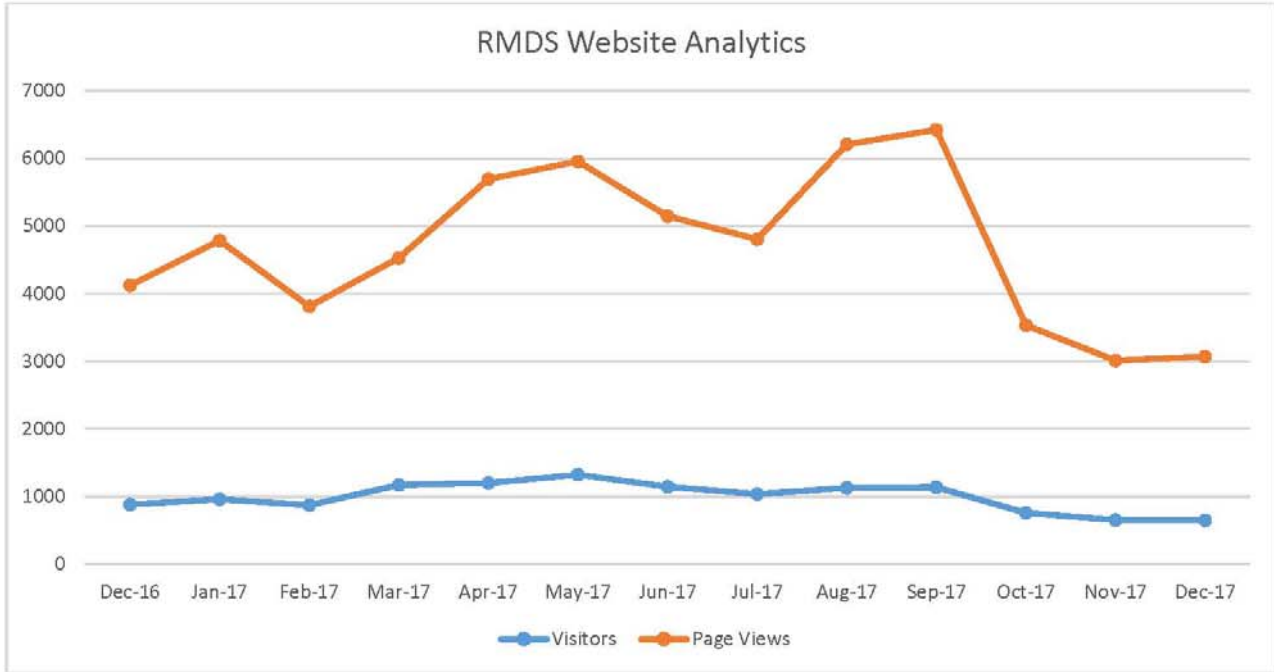
Also, looking forward to the High Plains Youth Clinic.

I would like to create a Facebook page for the RMDS Jr/Yr Committee. Is this something I am allowed to do? It was suggested she talk to Una about the Facebook abilities and creating a subset in our MailChimp account for the parents and kids.

6. Marketing

Una Schade

- I have been working fervently on the silent auction. We have MANY gift certificates, baskets, tack items, photos, artwork, and more for our auction. I will be arriving early in the day at the Awards Banquet to get everything setup!
 - I will be sending an email a few days before the banquet to remind people to bring checkbooks, credit cards, cash, or to download Venmo and pay via Venmo.
- I have shut down the RMDS Member Survey. Thank you to everyone that has taken it. The results should help us garnish new sponsors for the 2018 calendar year!
 - To see all the results – follow this link: <http://bit.ly/rmds2018survey>
 - The entire survey will not be shared with potential sponsors, only the parts pertinent to their industry.
- I am finishing up the 2018 Marketing Packet. This will be a completely comprehensive packet of all marketing opportunities for 2018.
 - The goal of this packet is to reach out to sponsors once and garner a yearlong sponsorship commitment from them. It will hopefully save time and energy in garnering sponsors throughout the year.
- We are looking for people willing to reach out to potential sponsors to try and help make this daunting task more manageable. If you are willing to help reach out to sponsors, please let us know!



For all of 2017, our most visited webpages were:

- Calendar (13,799 views)
- Marketplace (4,650 views)
- Organization/Membership (3,456 views)
- Awards (2,970 views)
- Publications/Centaur (2,173 views)
- Championships (1,617 views)
- Homepage (1,281 views)
- Instructors (684 views)
- DSIR (568 views)
- Barns (231 views)



Mailchimp Email Campaigns

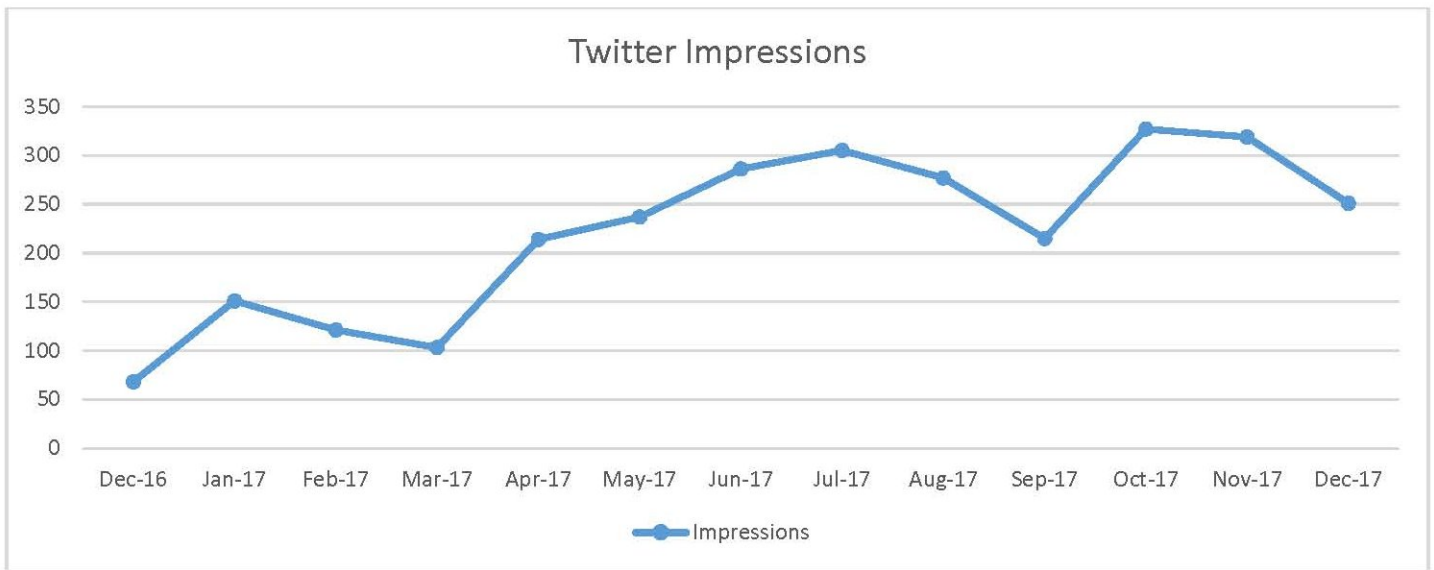
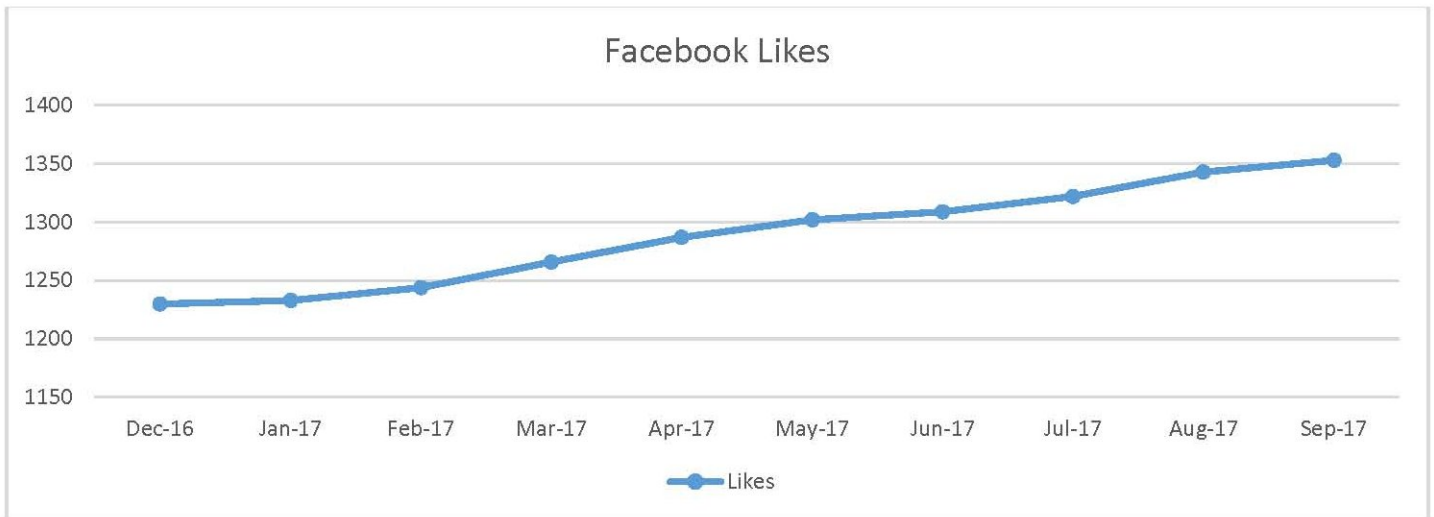
Member list of 884

RMDS Members

Created Jun 16, 2016 2:14 pm



| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 884 | 40.9% |
| Subscribers | Opens |



7. Professionals

Kathy Simard / Joan Clay

Plans for the 2018 Professionals’ Symposium are well under way. The contract has been drafted and agreed upon. Heather Petersen put together a budget using past years numbers along with Lilo’s fee. Sarah Martin put together a page for the Omnibus. Kathy put together a tentative schedule based on both RMDS and Lilo’s requests. Beth Geier, Sarah and Kathy are currently working on the flyer and sign up sheets for both riders and auditors. I will have copies of these items at the meeting for anyone to look at.

It is my hope that as the clinic approaches, Joan and I can personally call the professionals listed with RMDS and personally invite them to attend.

8. Scholarship

MaryJo Hoepner

This meeting we will vote on the 4 Scholarship recipients

MaryJo presented the grid. **Ginka Kubelka moved that we accept 7, 11, 14 in their respective categories. 2nd by Anclaire Spaulding. Motion passed with Gwen Ka’awaloa and Didi DeKrey Abstaining.**

Kathy Simard moved that we don't award the Leg Up Scholarship, 2nd by Simone Windeler. Motion passed with Gwen and Didi abstaining.

Anclaire Spaulding moved that we increase the 3 awards to \$650 per person, 2nd by Stephanie Figgins. Motion passed unanimously.

MaryJo had someone who wanted to donate money to a Jr/YR. There was a lot of discussion. It was suggested they pay for a clinician at camp so it would benefit several kids.

Winners of the scholarships:

Solid Seat Award – Michelle Anderson - \$650

Opening Doors – Joan Clay - \$650

Jr/YR – Gaylen Davis - \$650

9. Shows – Championships

Andrea Chirich/Una Schade

The Championship Liaisons are gearing up for 2018. Many businesses are laying out plans for their 2018 advertising budgets, and we want to be a part of their advertising plans. First quarter, 2018, is a critical time to reach out to potential partners and get them on board with sponsorship. We have strategized ways to increase our sponsorship involvement for championships, and ways to make it much easier for all of our RMDS membership to offer sponsorship opportunities to the business they know and frequent.

We will have a chart available that clearly shows the different sponsorship levels for championships, and what each level provides. This will make it much easier for potential sponsors to see the value of different packages, and select the visibility they want and the spending level they desire. The chart is wonderful for businesses that we frequent, from feed stores to doctors' offices, to help us build on those relationships each of us has with in our communities.

To help us reach more potential sponsors, and therefore secure more sponsorships, we are creating Sponsorship Committees that will target specific business categories. We've all heard of the best way to eat an elephant.... and that is the best way to reach potential sponsors as well. Many businesses will be asked in order to find those that want to be sponsors. By creating a few Sponsorship Committees that target a specific category of business, we can reach more businesses with less effort and more success.

Each type of committee has a form letter/email, tailored to the business they are in, and how sponsorship will benefit their particular business.

Please consider joining one of these committees and reaching out to a few of the businesses in your community.

Sponsorship Committees

- Trainers
- Boarding Facilities
- Feed Stores
- Tack Stores
- Veterinarians
- Barn Building businesses
- Equestrian Organizations
- Farriers
- Equine Massage/Rehab/Physio therapists
- Equine Transport Companies
- Construction Companies
- Car Dealerships
- Horse Trailer manufacturers and dealerships
- Gyms
- Restaurants

- Hotels
- Real Estate Agents
- Tractor Dealerships and Manufacturers

Process to follow:

Target specific business categories.

- Please keep track of all contacts made, their contact information, and business title if applicable.
- Provide list of contacts made, all contact information, and whether or not a sponsorship was taken via a live Google Spreadsheet that is shared with all committee members.
- Main contacts for all committees are: Una Schade (unaschade@gmail.com) and Andrea Chirich (ajc2314@gmail.com).
 - Una and Andrea will follow up to ensure forms, payment, and artwork are received from sponsors.
- Provide sponsor with RMDS form and complete the information as to the package they want, and information as to camera ready artwork for their ad.
- Collect completed form, artwork, and check; or have the sponsor mail the form, check, and artwork to Heather Petersen (slush@drgw.net).

Address, e-mail and specific formats required for artwork are all available on the bottom of the sponsorship application form.

ALL: contacts to potential sponsors and contact info to Una Schade and Andrea Chirich

ALL: Forms, artwork and checks to Heather Petersen.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

Level 4 tests have been developed. The judges' symposium in Denver again this year, February 6-8 in the Tech Center. Dressage judges will be weaned out and only allowed to judge if they hold a western dressage rule. The sport is definitely growing. WADCD/WDAA wants to use the article from the Centaur. **Simone Windeler moved we approve their request with a byline that it was published from RMDS. 2nd by Anclaire Spaulding. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Need nominees for 2 years: President, Vice President, Scholarship, AA, Communications, Jr/YR, Show Chair

Need someone to head up the committee, it was asked of the group....

4. BOG - November 4, 2017

Heather Petersen

Discussion of location, cost, others charge for the meeting, etc.

5. Banquet – January 13, 2018- Renaissance Denver

Beth Geier

The Awards Banquet was held January 13, 2018 at the Renaissance Hotel with 146 reservations made and paid.

The silent auction will be awesome again this year with great thanks to **Una Schade**.

Una, along with **Stephanie Figgins**, will be helping check people in for the banquet.

Heather Petersen is putting together a fun display of photos taken during the whole 2017 show season.

Shannon Lemons is organizing the awards.

Moderator will be handled by **Julie Barringer-Richers**.

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season! We had a great week at the USDF Convention in Lexington, Kentucky at the end of November and beginning of December. Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were a lot of you. We had great interaction and discussions at the Region 5 meetings and a couple of very nice tables for the awards dinner. Thank you to Joan Clay for running the second Region 5 meeting while I attend the USEF Dressage Sport Committee meeting that sadly was scheduled for the same time. Congratulations to everyone who received year end awards and congratulations again to our GMO award recipients!

- USDF Region 5 GMO Volunteer of the Year – Beth Geier of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society
- GMO Photography Award (Best Amateur Photograph) – GMO with 75-174 members – Utah Dressage Society, UDS Newsletter, November 2016 – Madeline Mortensen
- GMO Newsletter Award - General Interest Article – GMO with 500 or more members – 1st place – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, The Centaur, May 2017 – Amber Clark’s article “Different Horses, Levels, and Breeds: How One Pro Manages and How It May Help You”
- GMO Newsletter Award - First Person Experience Article – GMO with 500 or more members – 1st place – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, The Centaur, January 2017 – Katherine Simard’s article “Back Pain? Poor Attitude? Or Something Else?”
- GMO Website Award – GMO with 500 or more members – Honorable Mention – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

The USDF Convention is always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. I think the biggest item to be discussed at the Board of Governors meeting was the US Dressage Finals. Through several motions that were proposed, it was decided to have the organizing committee hold an open session in future years at the USDF Convention for folks to ask questions of and have more interaction with. The Executive Board will also add a couple more members to the organizing committee that will give it some Western US representation.

I sadly ended up getting the flu while at convention this year, so I only made a couple of trips outside of the hotel. We did do a nice tour of the Southern Lights light show at the Kentucky Horse Park on Tuesday, our first night there, and it was great to explore the Kentucky Horse Park after dark. The area where the hotel was located was in downtown Lexington and there was a great park with ice skating and several restaurants that folks explored.

A few more key things to come out of the convention this year:

- We will continue the \$200 reimbursement grant for those attending the USDF Convention as USDF Region 5 PM Delegates for the 2018 USDF Convention in Salt Lake City.
- The budget was presented as balanced was approved. The finances of USDF are in good shape. There was a sizeable donation from an estate as well that will help our National Education Endowment.
- PM membership is staying fairly steady. GMO member is down a little but overall USDF membership is doing very well.

Looking forward to serving and working with everyone in the upcoming year and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

New Business:

- DSIR info will come out after our meeting on Sunday. Professionals clinic, where ever it will run, will indeed be followed by a AA clinic on the third day. Great clinicians for DSIR this year.
- Committee Chair duties group – meeting in late February. We need a date to get together. Looking at Tuesday the 20th or Friday the 23rd. Looking at late afternoon evening. Leaning towards the 20th. 5:30 pm.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Beth Hart

It is with gratefulness that I take the reins once again as president of AVDA. Our past president Beth Hart did such an outstanding job during the last 3 years, we are very thankful to her!

Our little dressage chapter has grown! We now have several eventers that add a lot to our group, and new people that have recently moved here. The enthusiasm expressed at our planning meeting was contagious and we have a lot planned for this year. Many more of our members will be showing in 2018!

Three schooling shows are planned for the months of April, June and September. A two-day clinic is in the planning stage to be held in the Colorado Springs/Black Forest area; most likely in early April. Camping is encouraged to add to the fun.

We are also wanting to ride to music as a group and would like to have another clinic on preparing our own freestyles.

We have a few trainers in our club now and hope to use their talents to our advantage by having clinics with them. Some of our members are bringing in their trainers from where they moved from, giving us more opportunity to train with some of the best. It seems like every weekend will have an event to enjoy.

I am looking forward to AVDA growing in membership and in continuously offering education opportunities, but most of all for our club to be a gathering place for those that love our sport dressage!

2. Boulder Valley

Sandra Rosewell

No report

3. Foothills

Linda Gaber

No report

4. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

No Report

5. High Plains

Stephanie Figgins

High Plains Dressage is excited to welcome in the new board for 2018! Please join us in welcoming Stephanie Figgins as President, Julie Burt as Vice President, Lori Keilt as Secretary, and Ellen Seibert as Treasurer. We are excited for a new year with various educational events on the horizon. The first highly anticipated event is High Plains Dressage's third annual Youth Clinic! This year we will be joined by USDF Certified Instructors, Joan Clay and Julie Burt. This clinic is open to all riders and disciplines 21 and younger and will be held at the beautiful Iron Horse Farms in Elizabeth. Clinic dates are March 4th (Snow Date March 11th), and we are now accepting applications. Email Stephanie for a digital copy, or the application is available on our website at highplainsdressage.org. Happy New Year!

6. Northern Colorado

Didi DeKrey

NCCA 2018 Board: President – Didi DeKrey, Vice President – Rose Balfour, Treasurer – Andrea Chirich, Secretary – Jackie Rosellen

Our Christmas Party was again hosted by Shelley and Jake Jansen at their lovely home in east Fort Collins. Italian fare from a local restaurant supplemented by pot luck goodies filled the air with enticing aromas. Laughter and lively conversations about (what else?) our equine antics spilled out from the walls into the crisp night.

Our year-end awards for members participating in NCCA and RMDS events were presented. Scores are kept for members that rode in our Spring Schooling show, the RMDS Team show and our Fall Schooling show. Jacki Rosellen riding "Manny" was Champion, Bruce Rosellen and "many" were Reserve Champion and Whitney Haugen and "Ella" received the Award of Distinction.

NCCA was well represented at the USDF Convention held in Lexington, KY. Joan Clay, RMDS Vice President, Rose Balfour as a Participating Member Delegate, and Didi DeKrey attended.

General meetings are the second Wednesday of the month (September through May) at the McKee Building at The Ranch, Loveland, Colorado.

7. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We are looking back on a successful year filled with fun activities and events!

The Christmas tree our club donated to the silent auction at the Art Museum in Laramie turned out beautifully. It was built out of horseshoes welded together (thank you, Robert and Tammy!) and decorated with shiny ornaments, a horse, and lights.

On December 10th, we had an interesting educational day with Steve Foxworth from the Equine Lameness Prevention Organization (ELPO). We learned everything about the anatomy of the hoof, hoof growth, and how and why feet have to be trimmed in a certain way to keep our horses happy and sound. After a delicious lunch with pulled pork donated by The Butcher Block (thank you!), we moved on from a theoretical presentation to the practical part: we looked at cadaver legs before, during, and after trimming. What an inspiring day!

We finished up 2017 with a Holiday Party at Kelly and Tom's house with delicious ham and beautiful gifts. For the new year we have big plans: we will have our first RMDS recognized show in August! Mark your calendars and come join us at the Spur Ridge Equestrian Center in Laramie, WY, to earn some good scores in a fun and friendly atmosphere!

Besides the show, we will be offering educational movie nights for our members and we are already in contact with potential clinicians to bring to Laramie. It will be a fun and exciting year!

If you would like more information or are interested in joining our chapter, connect with us through Facebook or join us at our meetings every first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at Altitude Chophouse in Laramie, WY!

8. Pikes Peak

Tiffany Busch

In December we ended the year with a wonderful fun browband party for the chapter members. It was a great evening with friends and fun!

In the month of February we are planning a Pilates for horse rider with our member, Sharon Meazell at the Pikes Peak D20 Library on February 6th at 6:00pm.

In March we are going to do an introduction to volunteer positions that are run at Dressage shows held on March 13th at 6:30pm at Bourdon Brothers off of I-25 open to outside chapter members.

In April we will be holding our RMDS show on April 15th at Latigo Trails in Elbert, Colorado. Please plan on many great things planned for this year!

Welcome to a wonderful New Year!

9. Western Colorado

Heather Lafferty

No Report.

9:23pm **Tiffany Busch made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.**