

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharron Soos, Heather Petersen, Gwen Ka'awaloa, MaryJo Hoepner, Beth Geier, Joan Clay; Ginka Kubelka, Natalie DeFee Mendik; Stan Adamson; Jewlee Bellah, Arlene Rhodes, Nicole Bizzarro, Kathy Simard; Shannon Lemons; Silja Knoll; Didi DeKrey; Anclaire Spaulding; Lauren Still; Stephanie Figgins; Nancy Leonard

Proxies: Cassandra Dipentino to Jewlee Bellah

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Secretary - Approval of Minutes - May

Heather Petersen

Stan Adamson made a motion to approve the May 2020 minutes as amended, 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.

Heather went over a few brief updates on what is going on with our sport during the Covid pandemic.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of June 30, 2020

RMDS Checking Account	\$37,500.24	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$ 480.22	Total \$37,980.46 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of June 30, 2020

Database/Website	\$ 0.00
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,592.29
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$42,572.75

Database / Website Development By CodeGeek

Estimated:

Cost \$66,000 - \$88,000

Timeframe: 8 Months

Payments:

1 st Payment	07/22/2019	\$16,500.00
2 nd Payment	12/18/2019	\$17,875.00
3 rd Payment	02/14/2020	\$17,875.00
4 th Payment	04/16/2020	\$17,875.00
Final Payment = ?????		
Total		\$70,125.00

Estimated Due:

\$88,000 - \$70,125 = \$17,875.00

Donations:

As of 12/31/2019	\$5,735.00
Received in 2020	\$7,014.00
Total	\$12,749.00

Payment Terms:

First payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due before work commences

Second payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due 60 days after work commences.

Third payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due 120 days after work commences.

Fourth payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due 180 days after work commences.

Remaining balance is due upon delivery, defined as the date upon which the website is approved on our testing servers, and prior to it being made available to the public via the Internet.

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

We held a moment of silence for Beverly Swanson.

Gwen discussed the state of things in Colorado. We would like to have another board meeting in the next 2-4 weeks to keep on top of things with Championships, finances, etc.

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

The sudden death of Beverly has made me realize that I lost the opportunity to befriend an amazing person. I have been coming to meetings for about two years now and it has greatly saddened me to realize that I have not taken the time to get to know but a few of you. As I am an introvert, it does not come naturally to me to say hello and start a conversation. I will do my best to change this! I will reach out to each of you on the board over the next few weeks and get to know you better. As always, if there is something I can do to help, just let me know.

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 583 as of 7/3 members for 2020; 85 new horses since October, 2019
- See reports with chapter membership totals.

Shows:

- For 2020: Only 1 RMDS show has been held so far and that was in Wyoming.
- Most shows cancelled due to Covid have wanted their recognition fees transferred to 2021.

Education:

- Keep an eye on the calendar.

Omnibus:

- Delivered.

Database/Website:

- Progress continues. Very exciting.
- Have been involved in several conference calls as the process continues. Very exciting.
- *Build A Byte Barn*-Donors of \$100 and more have received the donation letter. \$14,229.00 raised so far. Most of the pledges made at the Banquet have been paid.
- 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.

General:

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

Banquet:

- Renaissance Hotel is reserved for November 21 and January 16, 2021. Still so far a go.
- Will ask for a veggie pasta – no mushrooms.

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

2020

Executive Board Meetings: Sept 8, Oct 8 (budget)

BOG Nov 21

2021

Banquet: January 16, 2021

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

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	583	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	85	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	37	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	131	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	42	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	70	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	105	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	52	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	31																		
OB	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	58	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	16	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS			-	Dissolved	24	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
PN			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
PR			-	-	Dissolved	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TS			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA			-	-	Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	583	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	44	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	123	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	11	12	9/2																
Life	35/1	33/1	32/2																

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

No report.

Michael Stevens/Anclaire Spaulding

Awards

Nothing much to report at this time – a couple of folks wanting to return trophies already. Beth can store some if they want to return them up north.

Shannon Lemons

Is it time to consider what we want to do about yearend awards? As I understand it, USDF decreased requirements to enter regionals, but there has been no change to year end awards. I believe if we do the same, as we probably should, there will be a significant decrease in the number of people who actually qualify for awards. If we award significantly fewer trophies, ribbons, etc., should we consider not having a banquet this year? How would this look? Not award any since many are not able to show? Give them to those that were able if they meet requirements? Engrave but not deliver them and mail out ribbons and small plaques?

Gwen mentioned we can still do our normal plates and plaques and such. Do we even give out awards?

Sharon Soos moved that we do not hold the 2020 Awards Banquet (held in January of 2021) and move the deposit for the banquet to 2021 (held in 2022). 2nd by Kathy Simard. Motion passed unanimously.

Stan moved that we engrave the trophies but not distribute them, mail out ribbons, plaques, plates, etc. and waive volunteer hour requirements for year-end awards for 2020. 2nd by Sharon Soos. Discussion – pick up options for wine glasses and such for the 60 and over folks – also make them available. Slide show zoom awards presentation, online auction. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Communications

Beth spoke to both Nicole Bizzarro & Una Schade.

Gwen appointed Nicole with approval

Una is willing to do the e-Centaur for no cost - just volunteer hours

Nicole will do the printed version for the \$550 that we currently paid Beverly. She is not sure about the current masthead as she may not be able to use what Beverly has set up but can always use the old format from when she used to do the Centaur.

Anyway, just food for thought and decisions can be made on Tuesday. Maybe someone else steps forward.

At this point in time, Nicole is happy to do the communications chair. She would love help with the editor aspect for the print Centaur. Discussed encouraging people to join to support the organization and using social media to promote that.

Website/Data Base

Status report July 2020: RMDS web app project CodeGeek

What we worked on this week:

- The team did a "last month" check in to see where we're at and where we need to be.
- We finished updating the front end of the website with any content that's coming to the site from the WordPress CMS
- We did an internal CMS kickoff
- We are nearly finished with the Admin dashboard for membership management (horses are the final task on this one)

What we'll work on next:

- We'll continue our work on the reporting wireframes.
- We're adding a team member to help us get the score uploads system working and possible work on awards calculations systems after that
- We'll wrap up the admin and membership dashboards.

What we need from you and your team:

- We could use some photos for the homepage slider (and the associated captions). It would be great to have those ASAP.

Education

MaryJo Hoepner/Pam Phillips

Still targeting the weekend of February 6 and 7 for TD/Show management and Judges Continuing Education. Janet said she would be unavailable from January through end of July due to commitments.

Debbie Riehl Rodriguez will help us. Checking on dates available for her.

Discussion of scheduling something in October so we could have Janet since we've had Debbie for the last 2 years. MaryJo is going to talk to Janet. Heather said she wouldn't be available in February 2021 for the TD or Show Management portion as she will be out of town.

Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

After unfortunately cancelling our 3 day Intensive, I have started to plan a one-day clinic similar to High Plains's Jr/YR clinic every winter. It looks like to work with everyone's schedule we will look for a date after championships. I look forward to still having a fun, educational, and safe event geared towards our young riders. Heather mentioned that George Williams was scheduled to come to Longmont for the USDF Region 5 Jr/YR clinic October 10-11 so we should maybe avoid that weekend.

Marketing

Vacant.

We could sure use a marketing person.

Professionals

Kathy Simard / Joan Clay

The Professionals Clinic with Lilo Fore is scheduled for April 24-25, 2021.

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

Due to Covid 19, there is no activity to report.

Discussion of including something in the September Centaur on the applications for 2021.

Discussion of how folks can get volunteer hours.

Shows – Championships

Anclaire Spauling/Michelle Stevens

Heather gave an update on where things stand currently with the state of New Mexico and other efforts currently going into hosting the competition.

MaryJo Hoepner moved, 2nd by Anclaire that we allow 2019 scores to be used to qualify for the 2020 RMDS Championships. Motion passes unanimously.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

Currently, Douglas County Fairgrounds is open so they are hoping to hold their annual show in August. Then again - who knows what will happen with the health department.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson

President, Vice President, Adult Amateur, Championships, Communications, Scholarship, Jr/YR

Scholarship – Natalie will run again. Dorothy will run for President, Gwen will run for VP. Anclaire will think about her positions. We will need a person for communications and marketing.

3. BOG - November 21, 2020

Heather Petersen

Do we have a zoom meeting or an in person meeting? Most folks seemed to feel that a zoom meeting was the way to go. **Stan Adamson moved that we do BOG by Zoom on the same date, 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Banquet –

Beth Geier

Previously discussed and we will try to return to in person for 2022 (2021 year end). Shannon would like to see us have an earlier date in the month of January. Beth will look at getting us dates for future discussion.

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

I hope everyone is having a decent summer! Things are still very unusual and every changing, but I hope you are enjoying time with your family, loved ones and animals. I am enjoying the chance to ride a little bit more often than normal during the summer. Shows are starting to pick up a little, but the extra time at home is not unwelcome. It's so much fun to enjoy the summer riding with both of my girls and spending more time with them before they hopefully go back to school in August.

Several important **DEADLINES** are coming up:

- USDF National and Regional GMO volunteer nominations, as well as GMO award nominations, are due to the USDF office by August 31.
- GMOs can submit nominations for Newsletter Awards, Website Awards, and Photography Awards. Don't forget that all nominations are due to the USDF office by **August 31**. No more submitting hard-copy nominations! See the nomination forms for detailed information.
- Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year nominations can be submitted by any participating member, group member or the Region Director.
- One deserving group member will receive the Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant to attend the 2019 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in Savannah, Georgia. The grant includes full convention registration and partial reimbursement for travel expenses. Applications due by **August 31**.
- GMOs must return their GMO Delegate/Proxy Authorization form to the USDF office to appoint representation to the Board of Governors meeting at the USDF Annual Convention December 2-5, 2020.

Region 5 is very much looking for someone that might be interested in being the USDF Region 5 Nominating Committee member for the rest of 2020 and going forward. Eva Maria Adolphi has sold her farm recently and is retiring to a lovely apartment in a senior complex. She has just retired her TD license and is also giving up her position on the nominating committee so we need to look for someone who would be interested in filling her position.

Here are the goals and objectives of the Nominating committee:

Goals

1. Secure nominations for regional Participating Member (PM) delegates and the USDF Executive Board.
2. Ensure that all GMO members are represented on the Board of Governors by GMO delegates.
3. Educate the membership about the candidates and oversee the election process.

Objectives

1. Procure nominations for the following USDF Executive Board positions by June 1: Administrative Council At-Large Director (ALD), Technical Council ALD, and Activities Council ALD.
2. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15.
3. Obtain GMO delegate and proxy appointments when designated by each GMO.
4. Educate the membership about candidates and oversee the election process.
5. Notify GMOs who failed to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests that they lost their votes at the Board of Governors meeting.

The person who would serve for Region 5 would help obtain Region 5 PM delegates yearly - we help them by asking folks at each convention if they are interested in serving for the next year; they would also follow up with GMOs who don't send in their delegates or proxies. This is a few phone calls and emails in October and November. They also confirm Regional Director Candidates as well and help guide others who may be interested in running for USDF President, VP, secretary, treasurer. There are also a few conference calls throughout the year and we also ask that they attend the USDF Convention each year.

Please let me know if you know anyone who may be interested so we can follow up with them, or have them contact myself!

One more very important thing – due to the lack of competition in Region 5 for the rest of the 2020 USDF Regional Championship qualifying period, the qualifications for the 2020 USDF Region 5 Championships have changed. A press release was recently sent out, but I have also put it below.

Attention Region 5 Competitors:

With recognition that USDF Region 5 has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and now have less than fifteen total competition days to qualify for the 2020 Great American/USDF Regional Championships, the USDF Executive Board has approved alternative qualifying options for the 2020 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships. In addition to normal qualifying procedures, horse/rider combinations may qualify for the 2020 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships if they have obtained the following:

- *Earning two scores of at least the minimum qualifying percentage from either 2020 Great American/USDF qualifying classes, 2019 Great American/USDF qualifying classes, 2019 Great American/USDF Regional Championship classes, and/or 2019 US Dressage Finals classes. The qualifying fee did not need to be paid prior to riding in these classes.*
- *Competitor must contact USDF in writing to request the previously earned score(s) be recorded as Great American/USDF qualifying and pay the qualifying fee(s) to USDF. Request and fee must be paid prior to the closing date of the regional championship competition.*
- *Scores can be earned at one or more competitions and may be from the same judge or judge panel.*

As always, to make sure you are accessing the most up-to-date information, visit the USDF website at www.usdf.org and follow us on social media.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- Beverly Swanson memorial – do we want to discuss ideas for something to honor Beverly. Kathy suggested a donation to USDF Circle of Friends or to a scholarship. Is there a charity that she would have liked donations to? We need to get some good pictures from Frances. We'll get a card from RMDS to take to the memorial service. Heather suggested we name the AA Scholarship in honor of Beverly. **Shannon Lemons moved we rename the AA Scholarship in honor of Beverly Swanson, 2nd by Sharon Soos, 3rd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.** Gwen will share the information at Beverly's memorial service.
- Shannon Lemons made a motion to extend the deadline for TD applicants' requirements in the current program by 1 year, but ask that they attend the TD clinic in 2021 as part of the extension. 2nd by Nicole Bizzarro. Motion passed with Sharon Soos and Stan Abstaining.
- The board decided to add another meeting date to discuss Championships and such – August 4th, 6:30 pm.

Shannon Lemons moved to accept all chapter reports as written. 2nd by Stan Adamson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

Greetings to all our fellow riders. AVDA is continuing to provide horse activities for our members although everything we are doing is modified.

AVDA is sponsoring a clinic by Ida Seiferd Fear of Riding Clinic this weekend. As we have at all our activities we will practice social distancing and will wear masks when not riding. This will be a clinic on how to manage anxiety/fear and what happens in your body when those feelings are present.

JoElyn Newcomb, one of our members, has been sponsoring Ride a Test days at her arena with Sharon Sarchet. These have given our members and others in our community a chance to safely socialize with our fellow horse people and to practice for future shows. She will be sponsoring another Ride a Test of August 9 with Kathy Simard. All Covid19 rules apply to these activities. This will include social distancing of 6 feet and masks required when on the ground. This is a very trying time for all of us, filled with anxiety and uncertainty for the immediate future. We still have a show on the books for October and we will remain hopeful that this will be possible.

We believe it is our responsibility as a club to keep our members safe while allowing activities that are important to all of us. At this time we will continue to hold our monthly meetings by zoom. This is still a work in progress but we hope it goes well in July.

West wishes to all of you and safe riding!

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

Nothing much has changed for Boulder Valley. We of course cancelled our June show, but the August 29 show and August Clinic are still on. We plan to assess things on August 1, see where USEF/USDF are by that time. If things are equal, we will do the August 29 show and observe all the USEF COVID-19 guidelines. Were less concerned about the Clinic; seems social distancing and all that would be pretty easy to manage at Nighthawk. All the logistics are in place; we will have two trucks, one for the judge and the other for the scribe, communicating via wifi or walkie talkie. That will be a challenge!

3. Foothills

Cassandra Dipentino

Sorry for the last-minute report, but we have a plan in place for the rest of the summer hopefully. After cancelling the June 7th show we had a highly successful Ride a Test with Debbie Riel-Rodriguez on the 6th and 7th. We hope to have another RAT in July. We also are still looking forward to our Last Chance show August 30th. Hopefully, we can make everything happen. I will keep you informed as I receive new information.

4. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

Our August 28/29/30 show is still scheduled, with a Friday schooling show and Saturday/Sunday being a RMDS/USDF/USEF recognized show. This show will be a qualifier for 2021, and we decided that in future years, our June show weekend would be a better time for a recognized show. We have begun to work on this so we can always have our recognized show held in the qualifying year. We also found out that AQHA is recognizing Western Dressage for their point system, so we are working on getting our Friday August 28th show AQHA recognized for Western Dressage, along with WDACO and WDAA.

We did have to cancel our two sponsored clinics with Jennifer Roth and Janice Dulak. Both clinicians were cautious of air travel this fall. Perhaps next year we will again apply for USDF and TDF sponsorships for these clinics.

5. High Plains

Stephanie Figgins

High Plains Dressage has suspended any educational events or clinics as of now due to COVID-19. We wish competitors good luck and be safe at any upcoming shows or events!

High Plains Dressage wants to recognize and remember Beverly Swanson, who passed on June 29th. Beverly was a member of High Plains Dressage, and a huge supporter and contributor to our organization, and Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. She will be missed dearly!

HPDS Board Meetings:

- June 9, 2020 (Cancelled)
- July 9th 2020 - Tentative

6. New Mexico Dressage

Maureen Mestas

No report

7. Northern Colorado

Didi DeKrey

The July 11, 2020 Schooling Show is full! We are all looking forward to a fun and informative event at Tomora Training Center with Dolly Hannon as judge. Dolly will stay up North for the "Improve Your Performance" clinic at Wendy Lanham's farm.

Thanks to Tomora Training Center and Wendy Lanham for use of their lovely facilities!

Due to Covid-19, we are limiting the number of individuals at Tomora Training Center and Wendy Lanham's.

Let's all be mindful of the safety of their boarders and fellow participants. Riders are asked to limit helpers to one trainer, one groom, and one family member. Everyone please wear masks while not riding. Individuals in the indoor arenas are limited. Please do not linger after your rides and keep social gatherings small!

- Next on the horizon:
August 22, 2020 NCDCA Schooling Show with Kathy Simard 'L'
- August 23, 2020 "Biomechanics" clinic with Kathy

Feel free to join us anytime! General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month; September through May. Good food, good company and interesting topics.

8. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

Due to the current situation, we had to cancel our fully recognized show in Laramie. In order to provide an opportunity for everyone to get their horses out and showing, we replaced it with a one-day RMDS show on July 18th at Spur Ridge in Laramie. Closing date is July 8th. Please check the RMDS calendar for the prizelist.

We were able to hold our Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly in June as planned and it was a great learning opportunity for all riders. A big Thank you to Jane Swanhorst for welcoming us at her beautiful facility and helping us to make this event a success! Everyone was enjoying the perfect day and Kathleen was providing great feedback. Further educational opportunities will be a seminar on horse nutrition held by a local vet during our September meeting (contact us for the zoom link, if you would like to join us virtually!) and a groundwork clinic in September. Please check out our website for any updates or connect with us through Facebook!

9. Pikes Peak

Shannon Lemons

Aside from all the disappointments associated with COVID, Pikes Peak members are reeling from the sudden unexpected loss of Beverly Swanson last week. Beverly was always around, always involved and so active in both PPDS and RMDS. Her loss will be felt for a long time in both organizations.

Pikes Peak is planning a Saddle Fit demonstration and talk with Shannon Cole of Custom Saddlery on July 22, 6:00 pm at Parfait Ranch in Elbert. We will be able to stay apart from each other as needed using the indoor and will have multiple horses of different shapes and sizes to be her guinea pigs☺. Come join us and bring your favorite snack and beverage (adult or otherwise☺).

10. Western Colorado

Lesley Hill

Not too much to report from the WCC.

Thanks to very helpful members, we have had Janet Foy come back and teach again. She's been a wonderful clinician and has a full slate of lessons. She will be back again in July and August as well.

We are also lucky enough to have the stellar Kathleen Raine coming back to the Roaring Fork valley to teach in mid July.

Other than the above, no shows or large clinics/ groupings planned for now. We are concentrating on staying small and keeping people healthy....

Next Meeting is August 4th.

8:50 pm Kathy Simard made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Joan and Winslow. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen