

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2022

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Adrienne Murphy, Shannon Lemons, Joan Clay, Bettina Bosma, Dorothy Kapaun, Beth Geier, Sally O’Dwyer, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Andrea Price-Valenzuala, Natalie DeFee Mendik, Stan Adamson, Pippa Bird, Nadia Westra, Nancy Leonard, MaryJo Hoepner, Sharon Soos, Nicole Bizzarro, Judi DeVore, Lauren Still, Kelly McGhee, Gwen Ka’awaloa

Proxies: Sandra Rosewell to Kelly McGhee; Ginka Kubelka to Heather Petersen

Call to Order-President

Dorothy Kapaun

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

Secretary - Approval of Minutes -

Heather Petersen

January 2022 minutes – Karen Harkin moved to approve the minutes as presented. 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of February 28, 2022

RMDS Checking Account \$51,242.58

RMDS PayPal (as of 12/15/2021) \$14,391.04

Restricted Funds as of February 28, 2022

RMDS Scholarship \$ 3,842.29

Barbara H McElnea Scholarship \$10,000.00

TOTAL \$78,475.91

Funds as of March 10, 2022

RMDS Checking Account \$53,012.13

RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018) \$ 354.37

Total \$53,366.50 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2021

RMDS Scholarship \$ 2,842.29

Barbara H McElnea Scholarship \$ 10,000.00

Payable \$750.00

Pending Deposit \$1000.00

Subtotal \$13,092.29

TOTAL \$66,458.79

Sharon Soos made a motion to make an extra \$1000 donation from the banquet profits to the scholarship fund, 2nd by Heather Petersen. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon would like a note in the E-Centaur thanking all of our donors from the banquet for their donations to RMDS and it will be going to the scholarship funds.

President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

There is a bit of a Spring feel to the air! I know it is not here yet; however, the days are definitely longer and the snow is melting faster! While this results in mud, I am still grateful for it. I am also incredibly grateful for all the hard work the RMDS Committees are putting into our amazing organization. I am sure we will all greatly appreciate the fruits of their labors and that we will see some growth in RMDS.

With the new and exciting rules changes to allowable attire, I am sure some of us are very excited to purchase new show clothes. Please be sure to read these changes carefully before making your purchases! There are still things that are not permissible.

I want to remind everyone that the deadline for the George Williams clinic video application is March 15. Please be sure to get your videos over to the Central Office before then. We are hoping to cover a wide range of levels, so don't think you shouldn't apply if you are not riding above a certain level. This is also a fantastic opportunity for auditing! There may also be some opportunities for volunteering, please contact Pippa Byrd if you are interested. Check the Calendar as events are added sometimes.

Vice President Report

Bettina Bosma

In an effort to get Junior riders more involved and registered at our shows, I am starting a small program to have activities for our children during and after the shows in the hopes of building community between our Jr Riders.

05/06 Dressage for Cure (waiting on Heather to ok !)

06/03 GVDS – Karen has already said yes

06/18 Nighthawk – (waiting on Heather to Ok !)

07/09 Foothills – (waiting on Nadia to ok!)

Championship – (once we have the info!)

Idea would be to provide Pizza and Ice cream after the show as well as a movie (only need access to power) or games / crafts. I'll check on ages of Jr attending specific shows to determine what would be the best activities! For younger riders a Breyer Horse Show would be great! Creating some fun relax atmosphere to provide a place the kids can bond and bring friends; build communities eventually increasing our Jr riders numbers!

Ages / interest / increases future dressage riders.

I'm estimating \$10 a child to not exceed \$500 in total for all the shows listed above.

I would like to market it on FB as well as any other social media platform RMDS has, and if possible with the show info – the chapter hosting show would be great if they also advertised on their Instagram / FB page!

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 455 members as of 3/1 for 2022 –46 new horses since October 2021
- See Reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2022: \$80

Shows:

- For 2022: 7 RMDS shows: 30 USEF/USDF recognized shows which does not include Championships and Regionals.
- Added 1 RMDS only Recognized show

Omnibus:

- At Printer's – Nicole will have a verbal report.

Database/Website:

- Working well – let us know of any problems you are having.
- Currently have raised \$24,026.91 as of 3/1. Asking people that have refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.
- Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

Banquet:

- See report

Volunteer:

- Interesting statistic: recorded with RMDS for 2021: 296 people 3843.75 hours (average 13 hrs.person)

General:

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

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) – 2022

AA Clinic-George Williams April 16-17
Professionals-Lilo Fore Apr 23-24
 March 15 deadline for rider applications
Summer Intensive June 8-10
Executive Board Meetings: March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept 8, Oct 13 (budget)
BOG Nov 19

2023

Banquet January 14?

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

3/7/2022

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	455	714	636	700	725	752	756	779	675	827	797	868	751	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	46	161	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	30	40	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	102	160	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	41	65	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	72	89	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	92	146	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	45	69	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
OB	21	30	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	51	56	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Chapter	1	1	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
NM	dissolved	37	33																		
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	dissolved	21	20	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
TOTAL	455	693	616	677	700	723	756	761	675	827	797	868	751	945	1005	983	1004	985	1107	1122	1098
Juniors	34	64	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	125	240	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	9	12	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	10	16	12	12	9/2																
Life	38/1	43	35/1	33/1	32/2																

2022 RMDS Banquet January 15, 2022 Renaissance Hotel

2022 Banquet Chairman, Beth Geier

Income:

Reservations-118 \$ 7,670.00
 Auction \$ 1,065.00
 Auction-Nadia \$ 70.00
 Auction-Biekle \$ 75.00
 Office paypal \$ 4,597.00 \$ 13,477.00

Expenses:

Facility-Deposit \$ (126.00)
 \$
 Meals-112 (7,902.75)
 Audio-visual \$ (880.10)
 Refunds \$ (325.00) \$

(9,233.85)

NET: \$ 4,243.15 \$ 4,243.15

Many Thanks to: Nadia Westra (auction), Erika Senna (auction), Shannon Lemons (awards), Heather Petersen (video), Beth Geier (chairman), Andy Burner (announcer)

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Pippa Bird

Springing Forward!

- April 2/3 - Maureen Sterling Clinic scheduled at Meadow Lake Sporthorses
- May 14/15 - Dawn White O'Connor at Lake View Equestrian, Longmont, CO.

EVENT BUDGET WORKSHEET

EVENT: RMDS DAWN WHITE O'CONNOR CLINIC
 DATE OF EVENT: MAY 14/15, 2022
 LOCATION OF EVENT: LAKE VIEW EQUESTRIAN
 PREPARED BY: PIPPA BIRD

INCOME

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
PARTICIPANT RIDERS 10 @ \$300 (WEEKEND)	\$ 3,000.00	
	\$ 3,000.00	

EXPENSES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
DAWN'S WEEKEND FEE	\$ 2,500.00	
AIRFARE	\$ 500.00	
	\$ 3,000.00	
PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 0.00	

- Nicole Bizzarro made a motion to approve the clinic as presented, 2nd by Lauren Still. Motion passed unanimously.

- Team Competition scheduled for June 25th at Happenstance Farm
- Claudio's assistant Jess is confirming dates for June/July
- Upcoming events/clinics for the year working on pending interest:
 - Ride a Test (Dolly Hannon) before Dressage for Cure
 - Proposing AA/Youth Show - Sept

Also please note Lauren still and I have reached out to all individual chapter Presidents with the following message to "start the conversation" The purpose of our introduction is to personally reach out to each chapter in RMDS to understand the needs of your community and what you would like to see change and/or happen to improve engagement, education and/or availability of clinics for our Youth and Adult Amateurs. We would also love it if you could share any contacts of anyone in your area that would be willing to host future clinics and/or schooling shows. We look forward to starting the conversation and hopefully making a difference in the needs of all in the community.

Awards

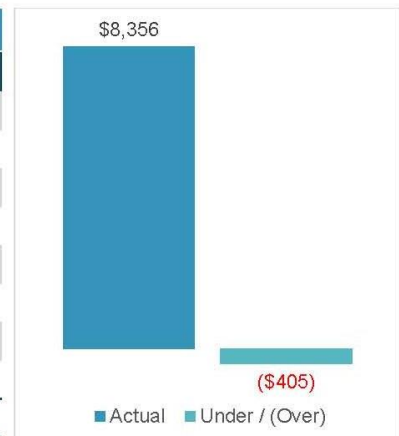
Shannon Lemons

1. Banquet-
 - a. Overall went pretty well, faster with new MC, though it did get a bit too fast at the end and some people picked up the wrong ribbons – next year will make sure names are on the back
 - b. New sign out of trophies worked well, and I have confirmed all those who skipped signing in have their trophies
 - c. People need to be reminded after checking in for dinner that they need to come to the awards table so I don't have to chase them down, please 😊
 - d. As always there were a few corrections to be made due to spelling or typesetting errors – those have been replaced.
 - e. Hallelujah most of the trophies were taken home 😊
2. Mailing awards
 - a. Have sent out all that paid for postage, and I am now going to put it away for the year. This is definitely more cumbersome to get payment first, as it tends to trickle in because people don't adhere to deadlines, but better for the financial status of the organization to not mail things that we won't be reimbursed for. Postage rates are up, the cost of mailers is up, etc.....
 - b. USPS has been quite unreliable and it is taking weeks for items to arrive, likely some will be lost. Have told folks that if they do not receive them they should contact me in October to reorder. My position is that they should pay the cost of replacement plates (\$3) as we do not control the USPS and if they have someone pick up their plates they won't get lost in the mail. That is just the way the post office works (or doesn't 😊) these days
 - c. Charging a flat rate is much easier! For 2022 awards to be mailed out will need to raise them a bit:
 - i. Plate - \$2
 - ii. 1 Ribbon - \$5.50
 - iii. 2 Ribbons or 1 Ribbon and 5x7 plaque - \$7.50
 - iv. 2 or more 5x7 plaque and multiple ribbons - \$10.50
 - v. Rider plaque 9x12 - \$12.00
 - d. Replacement or additional plates, plaques, ribbons
 - i. Rider plate - \$3 (+postage if mailed)
 - ii. 5x7 plaque - \$10 (+postage if mailed)
 - iii. Rider plaque - \$20 (+postage if mailed)
 - iv. Ribbon - \$15 (+postage if mailed)
3. Budget
 - a. I believe all costs are in (see attached)
 - b. \$400 over this year, expect similar costs next year except that I will have to buy VOTY gifts, which is usually \$350-400 but lasts 2 years.
 - c. In previous years we would have mailed all awards out and spent an additional \$200 in postage, so at least we saved that!
4. Final Items

- a. Will send reminder in August for bringing trophies
- b. Plan to actual charge if trophies are not cleaned and if they are not returned on time
- c. AVDS – They have asked if they could look at our retired/old trophies to see if they could use some of them in their awards program. It was decided they could come and look at what is available and utilize them.
- d. Still need a sponsor for Friesian Cross – we did award a ribbon.
- e. Someone proposed a Halflinger award but I do not believe we have enough competing according to by laws? If there is enough, we do have a willing sponsor.

Awards Budget

Budget per Category			
Categories	Planned Budget	Actual	Under / (Over)
Postage	\$600	\$444	\$156
Gifts	\$400	\$117	\$283
Ribbons	\$1,750	\$1,975	(\$225)
Rider plaques/plates, engrav	\$3,200	\$3,540	(\$340)
Storage Unit	\$2,076	\$2,076	\$0
Banquet	\$50	\$489	(\$439)
Supplies	\$200	\$40	\$160
Postage Reimbursement	(\$400)	(\$325)	\$0
Total Budget	\$7,876	\$8,356	(\$405)



Expense Details		
Description	Category	Amount
Postage meter	Postage	\$361
Mailing supplies	Postage	\$83
RFMA and RMDS VOTY Gif	Gifts	\$117
VOTY Chapter Gifts	Gifts	\$0
Primary ribbon order	Ribbons	\$1,912
Corrections, add'l ribbons	Ribbons	\$63
Primary trophy shop order	plaques/plates, enç	\$3,234
Additions, corrections trophies	plaques/plates, enç	\$306
Program	Banquet	\$210
Uhaul	Banquet	\$279

Communications

Sally O'Dwyer

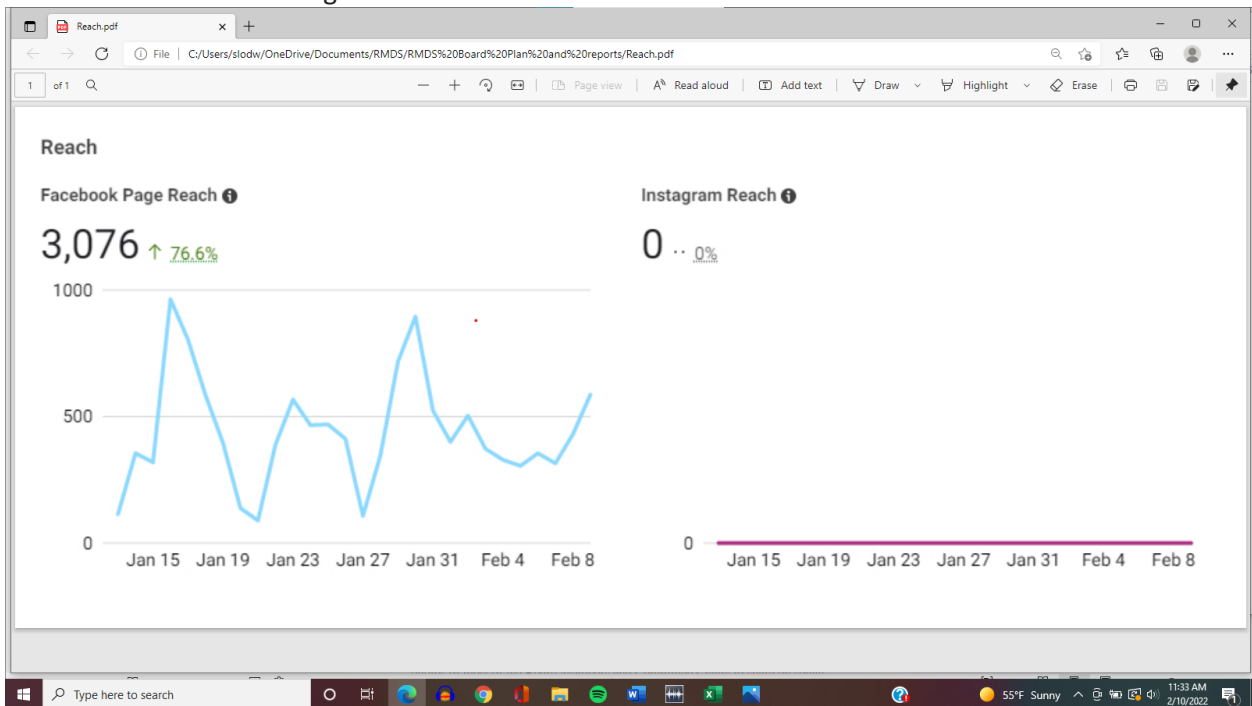
ECENTAUR opens are up! We have been hovering around the low 50% in opens or reads and Jan was a 66% open. Monthly editions continued to be published. I would love more volunteers to help out with the Ecentaur. It takes me about 10 to 15 hours a month to produce. WE NEED PHOTOS!!!

WHATS NEW WITH THE ECENTAUR:

1. A get to know you section where I hope to have write ups about our Board and Committee members. I will ask each member what their needs are and get it out to the community.
2. A section to feature current volunteer opportunities
3. Shout outs to volunteers who made an impact during the month

I believe that increasingly, people are turning to social media for information and engagement and now that the social media policy has been approved by the board, we have improved direction and a better idea of what should be published, and we have significantly increased posts.

As a result, engagement is up. In Jan, we had 1,795 likes and 2,007 followers. While I have not tracked these numbers monthly, we were hovering around 1,600 likes for quite a while. We are now at 1,800 likes with an 80% increase in reach—meaning this is the increase in reach.



New to RMDS communications, RMDS volunteer Kristina Lee is primarily responsible for this growth. She has extensive marketing experience and knows how streamline the process by using the Facebook calendar that allows us to plan and put posts on a calendar to improve consistency, messaging, and topics. This allows the Communication Chair, me, to review all posts before they go out. We will continue to research ways to improve engagement by using video clips and other. I would love to get our RMDS trainers to provide training tips so that our followers can get to know the amazing local talent we have, and of course, to learn. Post suggestions currently come from Beth, myself, and other Board and Committee members. We report information provided by RMDS blasts and other, including Ecentaur articles and information to make sure it is seen and well circulated. We have also been sharing information relevant to dressage and local area offerings. Topics we currently cover are designed to promote

- membership, volunteering
- events, clinics, shows to demonstrate club value
- RMDS as an educational institution.
- Demonstrate leadership (Many of the chapters share our posts)
- Community building

As the Communications Chair I have been working with the volunteers interested in fundraising and marketing so that we can communicate their messaging to members.

My TODOS

1. Continue to work with Kristina to grow FB following with meaningful content, builds community and promotes RMDS
2. Review posts and the FB schedule
3. Create or secure Ecentaur content
4. Recruit volunteers to assist with photography for posts etc
5. We now have an Instagram for RMDS and I am working on the interface between the two platforms
6. Work with the new marketing committee to ensure that their messaging is communicated.
7. Set up a schedule to start interviews/articles with our Board and Committee members.
8. Meet virtually with the other communication chairs in region 5 to touch base and share ideas/how tos—possibly in march

The Magazine – 46 advertisers, exceeded budget for advertising revenue, though not as many advertisers as last year. Print costs are under budget. Nicole’s hours are the only thing that ran over, about 20 hours over budget. Doesn’t think it will be a problem with budgeting going forward. Worked through some new protocols for the cover. Came to the conclusion we would only put AAs on the cover, not professionals – we are going to have our first non-headless rider. Hoping it will arrive by April, but delays with supplies and shipping and such. We will likely not lose as much as was budgeted, but still will have some loss as budgeted.

Education

MaryJo Hoepner

1. We had a great turnout for the TD training and Show Management Training.
\$362.50 TD
\$337.50 Show Mgt.
\$300 to Heather for her fee
So \$400 ahead.
2. Judges Continuing Education to be this fall. Janet is not available. Debbie Riehl Rodriquez is will to teach. We are looking at having the session at a show. Checking out dates available.
3. Could possibly use this opportunity to help train scribes.

Junior/Young Riders

Lauren Still

Passing the Baton

When Cassandra DiPentino submitted her resignation in January after many years of leading the JR/YR area for RMDS, there were some big shoes to fill. I am thankful for all the effort Cassandra and many others have put into the youth programs in previous years. My daughter has benefitted from the Summer Intensive and the youth dressage community so much in the past, and made lifelong friends along the way, so I am personally invested in seeing these programs survive and thrive.

The youth are the future of our sport, and my vision is to provide ways to attract more young riders to dressage, keep them engaged, provide opportunities for them to develop, help them build lasting friendships, and foster a fun, supportive and inclusive community for our youth riders. I have a lot of ideas for where we might be able to take JR/YR events and support in the future.

A background for those who don’t know me. I grew up in Colorado, was introduced to dressage in my early 20s, and quickly fell in love with the sport – before life took me away from horses for a few decades. (My daughter proved that horse craziness clearly runs in our DNA, and apparently so does the love of dressage. “Show Mom” is a title I’ve proudly worn every summer!) I’ve served as the Education Coordinator and the VP of the Foothills Chapter before taking on this role at RMDS. Professionally, I’ve worked in communications, HR and consulting, and I now run my own businesses – career and leadership coaching, and a saddle import business.

I appreciate all the helping hands that have already reached out to me as I get my arms around the transition and try to come up to speed. THANK YOU!

Now down to business...

Summer Intensive

The most urgent and important thing on my plate is to ensure that a great youth Summer Intensive takes place. With Cassandra no longer being at Table Mountain Ranch, certain aspects of holding the SI there were made more challenging (particularly stabling as TMR is very full). With help from Joan Clay and others in the organization, we have identified several excellent facilities willing to host the SI this summer, which is very exciting.

Next steps:

- Confirm costs and date availability with the facilities (target date: Mar 11)
- Finalize location and details with the selected facility (target date: Mar 15)
- Identify potential clinicians and assess interest and availability (target date: Mar 30)
- Launch marketing for Summer Intensive (target date: April 7)

Watch This Space

Once the planning for Summer Intensive is well in hand, I can turn to some additional ideas, outreach, education, and support for our youth riders. There is more to come. J And I’d like to hear from you and your chapter members.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you have ideas for this part of the organization. Working with Annie Morris on a Zoom presentation in April for Youth – open to all interested in dressage, not just members perhaps to hopefully grow the membership.

Marketing

Adrienne Murphy

We're Putting the FUN in FUNDRAISER!

The newly created RMDS fundraising committee is developing a NEW event to help raise funds for RMDS. Area dressage trainers are donating lessons to RMDS which will be available to purchase by anyone interested in a lesson with that trainer with ALL FUNDS being donated to RMDS.

How will this work? A dressage trainer (does not have to be RMDS member) will donate ONE lesson (or more) to be part of this RMDS lesson fundraiser, when this fundraiser “goes live,” people will be able to purchase lessons from different trainers (on a first come first serve basis) with the lesson FEE being paid to RMDS by the buyer. The trainers tell RMDS how much they want the lesson price to be and this is what buyer will pay RMDS. Upon completion of this fundraiser, RMDS will notify the trainer of who purchased the donated lesson. The trainer and buyer will make arrangements for lesson to be fulfilled (date, time, location).

• **TRAINERS**

- This fundraiser will not only raise funds for RMDS but will also HELP PROMOTE YOUR TRAINING BUSINESS! We are asking dressage trainers to donate ONE (or more) lesson(s) to this fundraiser. By donating a lesson, you'll not only be helping the organization, your donation could potentially be purchased by a new client.
- While this fundraiser is active, your business will be promoted on the RMDS website, Facebook page and in multiple email blasts to RMDS members. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE ONE HOUR OF VOLUNTEER TIME FOR EACH HOUR LESSON DONATED! **THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE!**

• **RIDERS**

- Here is your chance to try out a new trainer you've always wondered about riding with! Once this event goes live (on the RMDS website), it will be a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE basis of lessons being sold. Love your current trainer? Ask them to donate a lesson and make sure you're the first person online to purchase the lesson!

When Will All This Take Place?

We are finalizing the list of trainers who are donating lessons RIGHT NOW. We expect to go LIVE (this fundraiser will be on the RMDS website) EARLY APRIL with a page of ALL the trainers who are donating a lesson along with a short bio of each trainer. Once the page is LIVE on the RMDS website, it will be a first come, first serve basis for people buying the individual lessons. Buyers will need to use the ONLINE PAYMENT page on the RMDS website (rmds.org/payment) to send lesson money to RMDS with a NOTE in the description box as to WHAT TRAINER YOU ARE PURCHASING LESSON WITH.

How Will You Know When Fundraiser Is LIVE?

- Follow RMDS on Facebook this is easiest way to find out the latest news about RMDS
- Keep checking the RMDS website (starting the end of March) to see if fundraiser page is LIVE
- Check your EMAIL as RMDS will send out a mass EMAIL letting everyone know when this fundraiser will start

All questions and donations can be sent to:

Adrienne Murphy

murphyadrienne@yahoo.com

314-651-0912

Calling All Professional RMDS Trainers! RMDS Needs Your Help!

RMDS has a new fundraiser that will not only raise funds for our dressage organization but will also HELP PROMOTE YOUR TRAINING BUSINESS! We are kindly asking RMDS trainers to donate ONE lesson to this fundraiser. By donating a lesson (with proceeds going to RMDS), you'll not only be helping fund the organization and specifically, RMDS scholarships, your donation could potentially be purchased by a new client. While this fundraiser is active, your business will be promoted on the RMDS website, Facebook page and in multiple email blasts to RMDS members.

How will this work? You'll donate ONE lesson to be part of this RMDS lesson fundraiser, when this fundraiser "goes live," people will be able to purchase lessons from different trainers (on a first come first serve basis) with the lesson FEE being paid to RMDS by the buyer. You tell RMDS how much you want lesson price to be and this is what buyer will pay RMDS. Upon completion of this fundraiser, RMDS will notify you of who purchased your donated lesson. You and buyer will make arrangements for lesson to be fulfilled (date, time, location).

What's in it for you?

- Opportunity to grow your training business
- Way to gain new clients
- Reach thousands of RMDS members in the western states
- Your business promoted on the RMDS Facebook page
- Your business promoted on the RMDS website
- Your business promoted in RMDS email blasts
- Opportunity to help the organization you love

This is a WIN WIN for everyone! Promote and grow your business all while helping RMDS gain funds for SCHOLARSHIPS and for general operation expenses. All proceeds will go directly to RMDS.

All questions and donations can be sent to:

Adrienne Murphy

murphyadrienne@yahoo.com

314-651-0912

Professionals

Joan Clay

2022 SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

- 1) "The Virtual Rider Project" online workshop with Lisa El-Ramey was cancelled since we did not get enough paid participants to break even. Refunds have been made to those who had signed up.
- 2) 2022 Professional's Symposium with Lilo Fore is scheduled for April 23-24, 2022, at Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO.
 - RMDS was awarded the Max Gahwyler Fund for professional's grant from The Dressage Foundation. This grant will provide up to \$1000 to help cover expenses if we do not break even.
 - Lilo's first class airfare was only \$843, so that is much less than I had estimated.
 - The deadline for rider applications is March 15, 2022. Only 1 rider application has been turned in. but we anticipate they will all submit them closer to the deadline.
 - Participant/auditor applications will go out next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Investigating offering a USDF Certified Instructor/Trainer Workshop Series and Testing on the Western Slope at the suggestion of Annie Morris.

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

The RMDS Executive Board voted at the January 12, 2022 board meeting to award RMDS scholarships to four applicants, dividing the fund's total equally, allocating a \$500 scholarship to each recipient to:

- Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship (Adult Amateur): Stacy Adams
- Opening Doors Scholarship (Professional): Sara Storch-Kay
- Leg-Up Scholarship (Training and First Level): Katy Carpenter
- Junior/Young Rider Scholarship (Jr/YR): Blake Anderson

In addition, the Western Colorado Chapter of RMDS has created a new scholarship, the Barbara H. McElnea Scholarship, to support RMDS members west of the Continental Divide. This scholarship will be awarded annually for ten years. Each year one scholarship winner will be awarded \$1,000. The 2022 recipient is Rhiannon Rowe. The Scholarship Committee requested that each recipient be sent a check for half of their funds, per the bylaws.

Shows – Championships

Currently Vacant

MaryJo Hoepner moved to host the RMDS Championships Sept 30-Oct 2 at the Denver Polo Club unless the Colorado Horse Park becomes available. 2nd by Stan Adamson. Dorothy expressed her concern of the length of

time between Estes and the proposed dates, perhaps another show could come on the calendar. **Motion passed with Heather Petersen abstaining.**

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

No report for Western Dressage.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson

The following RMDS Officers for even-numbered years, were elected at the Board of Governors on November 19, 2022:

- President
- Vice President Bettina Bosma (GVDS)
- AA
- Championships
- Communications
- Jr/YR
- Scholarships

3. BOG - November 19, 2022

Heather Petersen

4. Banquet –

Beth Geier

January 14th, 2023. We are also still trying to get a final confirmation from the hotel.

5. AD HOC Volunteer Committee Report –

Judi Devore

VISION STATEMENT: RMDS IS AN ORGANIZATION RELIANT UPON ITS MEMBERS AS VOLUNTEERS TO BUILD A STRONG DRESSAGE COMMUNITY. TO DEVELOP THIS CULTURE RMDS WILL NURTURE AND ENHANCE THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE BY: • WARMLY WELCOMING AND FOSTERING MEMBER PARTICIPATION • PROVIDING RELEVANT TRAINING, MANAGEMENT, AND RECOGNITION • EDUCATING OUR MEMBERSHIP AS TO THE DIVERSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST YEAR ROUND • ROUTINELY EVALUATING OUR EFFORTS

Report to the Executive Board:

1. Survey results: We had nearly 1/3 of our membership reply to the survey, which was excellent representation as surveys go. The survey uncovered a number of key issues for our committee to work on as well as a lot of positive feedback on how most enjoy volunteering for RMDS. Key issues identified:
 - 48% were unaware of the different volunteer activities available
 - 40% are unaware of opportunities to volunteer outside of helping at competitions
 - 37% are unaware or unsure of where to find volunteer opportunities
 - 72% would appreciate a sincere thank you to make volunteering more rewarding. Comments on this included more respect and appreciation from exhibitors and show management. “Sincere” being the key word. Most did not feel that perks like prizes or lotteries were necessary if the thank you was sincere. An idea from our committee is to have orange vests for volunteers with “You’re welcome” on the back to remind everyone that our organization runs on volunteers who deserve respect.
2. In response to the survey, we have a number of actions we would like to do:
 - Getting Volunteer Coordinator contact information added to all competitions on the calendar of shows that have one. Also identifying the Volunteer Coordinators for each chapter to add to the volunteer page and add to Volunteer Committee emails.
 - Reaching out to other events on the calendar to identify volunteer needs requiring promotion (i.e. clinics, etc.)
 - Facilitating ease for signing up for volunteer activities, promoting the use of sign-up. com, and promotion via other communication channels of Facebook and Twitter

- Developing a list of recommendations from the survey to send to volunteer coordinators based on the survey
- Getting more people aware of volunteer activities available through eCentaur articles and Facebook.
- Website updates: Updating the volunteer page to make it more welcoming to volunteers encouraging participation and clarifying documentation of volunteer hour
- Recommending the Volunteer Committee become a regular committee with a Volunteer Liaison as the chair, A proposed job description for the Liaison with duties of the committee is attached. This committee will not replace individual Volunteer Coordinators but help to provide a framework to assist Volunteer Coordinators in their jobs and provide a resource for communication of volunteer needs throughout the organization
- Development of training and education of volunteers as needed and making access to tools already available more easy to access by members.
- Obtain contact information for all new members to warmly welcome and identify background and interest in RMDS and direct them to volunteer opportunities and resources available.

The Volunteer Committee is responsible for upholding the vision for RMDS. RMDS is an organization reliant upon its members as volunteers to build a strong dressage community. To develop this culture RMDS will nurture and enhance the volunteer experience by: • Warmly welcoming and fostering member participation • Providing relevant training, management, and recognition • Educating our membership as to the diverse volunteer opportunities that exist year round • Routinely evaluating our effort

The Volunteer Liaison will: • Chair the Volunteer Committee, overseeing the committee’s work as outlined below. ◦ Annual Volunteer Plan: Coordinates implementation and development of an annual plan to facilitate volunteerism among RMDS members with input from volunteer coordinators and committee chairs regarding needs. Updates the Board in regard to changes/improvements recommended in the annual plan. ◦ Communication: Coordinates communication with RMDS members regarding volunteer opportunities, including improving/enhancing the volunteer page on the RMDS website, with input from the volunteer committee, volunteer coordinators and committee chairs. ◦ Provides assistance and resources for volunteer coordinators: Facilitates Volunteer Committee assistance for the volunteer coordinators of RMDS shows and events and committees as needed to support their activities. • Update the Board regularly on progress & make recommendations for improvements/changes to the annual plan. • Facilitate updates to the volunteer page and promotion of volunteer activities on the RMDS website and make recommendations for enhancement as deemed needed by the volunteer committee. • Review current volunteer training available through RMDS and make recommendations to the Board. • With the support of the Volunteer Committee, identify volunteer needs and develop new volunteer policies as needed.

The Volunteer Committee will: • Enhance Volunteer Recruitment by (for example but not limited to): ◦ Engaging new members and orient them on how to access volunteer opportunities. ◦ Working with the Chapters/RMDS to promote volunteer opportunities in both the Chapters and RMDS. ◦ Ensuring all volunteer opportunities at all events, shows, clinics, banquets held by RMDS and Chapters are posted year-round via RMDS email, website and social media. ◦ Reviewing the volunteer page on the RMDS website and make recommendations to improve/enhance the page. ◦ Assisting RMDS event organizers with executing on-line volunteer sign ups when needed. ◦ Identifying and promoting non-competition volunteer opportunities (such as making calls to sponsors, writing articles, creating social media posts, providing snacks for volunteers, supporting volunteer recognition efforts, working at events such as the banquets, serving on committees etc.). ◦ Advertising on local volunteer internet recruiting sites for positions that do not require horsemanship skills. ◦ Developing relationships with 4H, the Boy Scouts and local colleges for volunteer recruitment for competitions. ◦ Designing new volunteer recruitment materials. • Ensure Effective Volunteer Training by (for example but not limited to): ◦ Reviewing current volunteer training available through RMDS and making recommendations to the Board for improvements. • Promote Volunteer Recognition by (for example but not limited to): ◦ Researching, developing and implementing ways to acknowledge volunteers. ◦ Working with the RMDS Office to ensure volunteer hours are accurately recorded. ◦ Submitting deserving members to USDF for GMO year-end awards ◦ Managing a budget, under the supervision of the RMDS Treasurer, of \$1,000 (donated by BVD) to use for volunteer recognition in the upcoming year. ◦ Submit a short Volunteer of the Month/volunteer update or other article for E-Centaur. • Identify volunteer

needs and develop new volunteer policies as needed but not specified above. • Work with the RMDS office to ensure volunteer hour accuracy and accessibility to members. • Submit deserving members to USDF GMO for year-end awards. • Manage a budget, under the supervision of the RMDS Treasurer, of \$1,000 (donated by BVD) to use for volunteer recognition in the upcoming year. • Submit a short Volunteer of the Month/volunteer update or other article for E-Centaur. • Survey (either officially or offline) volunteers to measure overall work with the RMDS office to ensure volunteer hour accuracy and accessibility to member volunteer satisfaction as deemed necessary.

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Winter will soon be behind us and with it, the northern part of our Region approaches show season and the southern part is in full swing with shows and events. I hope everyone is enjoying as much horse time as you can. This year looks to be another of a more normal year, though we will still see Covid protocols in place for our USDF/USEF recognized competitions and events. Tack checks will resume, but will still be visual for classes outside of Regional Championships, CDIs and the US Dressage Finals. Be sure to review the new tack and attire changes for 2022 and perhaps consider some wardrobe changes? Our palettes are expanding! Fundraising efforts are once again under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2022 FEI North American Youth Championships. The Championships will be held August 8-14, 2022 at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival in Traverse City, Michigan. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams though thankfully the distance will enable us to drive the horses. We hope we will be able to send 8 riders with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipes. In addition to the transportation to the show, there are the expenses of hotel, 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 or 970-420-0877. If you are interested in competing in NAYC, the application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 15, 2022 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 15th, the fee is only \$50. Applications submitted between March 16th and April 26th are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 10th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 27th and May 10th. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 10th. 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 Dorothy Kapaun at dorothykapaun@yahoo.com 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 15th.

If you have any educational event you would like listed on the Region 5 website, please don't hesitate to let me know and we will get it posted!

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- No old business.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

AVDA has continued to be active through this winter as much as has been possible. We are riding when we can and have been fortunate to continue with our clinics as we prepare for the show season. Our shows will be at Pathfinder Park in Florence on May 21 and September 10. Our show committee has been meeting diligently and we will continue this preparation with our next meeting at Katie Knights next Wednesday. We have done some of our meetings by zoom and some in person. We are hoping to do more in person as it appears that Covid has gotten better. We continue with our clinics with Holly Bergay and they have been attended with enthusiasm. Our next clinic with Holly will be March 20. We also have a member, Tristan Faith, who has put together a clinic series with Amber Clark. Although these clinics are not sponsored by the club, we have been very happy to have these put on by our member. Amber Clark will be present one a month from May through September with a weekend retreat in October.

You can find out more about these clinics on our webpage in an area called "In and Around the Arena" where we post information for our members when the activities are not club sponsored. We are also putting on a Ride a Test just for our members on April 10th. This will be judged by one of our members, Brenda Hailey. Hopefully the weather will get better and Covid will continue to drop in numbers so we can look forward to a wonderful spring filled with riding, learning and friendship. Hopefully you will all continue to ride safely.

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

BVDA met at 7 p.m., Monday, February 21, 2022. After routine business, Sally O'Dwyer brought us up to date on our book club, which is open to any RMDS member (check information on our web site, www.bouldervalleydressage.org or our Facebook page). The book club met on January 3, 2022, to discuss the book *The Girl on the Dancing Horse: Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro*, by Charlotte Dujardin (published September 20, 2018). The next meeting will be on March 14, 2022, when we will discuss *The Mind Gym* by Gary Mack. Please order and join us!

At the RMDS Banquet, our club spearheaded a collection for the Boulder Valley Hay Bank, administered by Colorado Horse Rescue in Longmont; those monies have been sent to CHR.

We debriefed our very successful Awards Banquet held on January 29, 2022, at The Boulder Country Club. Winners will be posted on our website. Along with our Silent Auction, we took a collection for Marshall Fire Relief, which will go to the Boulder Valley Mounted Search and Rescue, with which member Jana Ward is involved. We made some notes about improvements needed for our next banquet, and empowered Sally O'Dwyer and Jana Ward to negotiate a date and contract with the Country Club for the 2023 banquet in January. At the banquet, the club recognized and installed officers for 2022:

- o **President** Stan Adamson
- o **Vice President** Sally O'Dwyer
- o **Secretary** Janeen Cochi
- o **Treasurer** Dorothy Kapaun

These officers began serving January 1, 2022.

Dorothy Kapaun and Beth Geier will continue work on finding clinicians for two or three clinics to be sponsored by Boulder Valley, as we sponsored the Monique Potts Clinic this year. A number of additional members will be contacting local and national clinicians, and will inform us with updates as available.

With the departure of our Volunteer Coordinator Miranda Avila, the club is seeking a new Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, train and support volunteers for all club activities, including our annual Dressage at the Fairgrounds shows. Shannon Moyes-Clark has volunteered to make some improvements to our web site; she will analyze the site and make recommendations to our April meeting.

Nicole Donohue, Show Manager for BVDA, has secured the dates of July 29-31, 2022, for our annual Boulder County Fairgrounds Show. Nicole was only newly back in town, and so was unable to attend; she will report on progress at our April 11 meeting.

We encouraged member to attend the RMDS Show Management Training March 3, 2022. Several members took part in Technical Delegate Training in February.

3. Foothills

Cassandra Dipentino

We have some new team members and we are excited for fresh ideas and to continue to grow the sport of dressage in Colorado. Our positions are as follows:

- President – Nadia Westra
- Vice President – Jewlee Bellah
- Secretary – Jennifer Stewart
- Treasurer – Erika Senna
- Technology Chair – Becca Vasil
- Education Chair – Courtney Turner
- Education Grant Chair – Marilou Metcalf
- Volunteer Chair – Hillary Ross
- Marketing Chair – Rosie Davenport
- Show Chairs – Simone Windeler & Nadia Westra

The USDF Level 2 Foothills Dressage Festival (July 9 & 10) continues to make progress and our 2 RMDS shows are also full steam ahead! We have some new ideas for clinics in the works that include topics like HUMAN nutrition and saddle fitting. We are also planning a silent auction, but we are also thinking of teaming up with the NDCA and attending their sale with our donated items!

We may be a green team, but we're excited to learn and I'm so grateful to have so many talented teammates!

4. Grand Valley

Karen Harkin

We, like our other horse friends throughout the state, are ready for spring. Our New Year's Eve snow finally melted and for a few days we were able to ride outside in late February. That soon changed as a few back-to-back snowstorms put us all back under cover or not riding at all.

Monique Potts did a very well-received member sponsored clinic in late January. Unfortunately, the ground was still snow covered and frozen so all our work was done inside. We hope to have her back soon so we can work on issues that we have when our horses are outside. The Sue Martin clinic was cancelled and replaced by a clinic with Kristin Aggers. Unfortunately, Kristin caught COVID so that clinic was also cancelled. We hope to have both Sue and Kristin here in late spring/summer.

The GVDS/WDACO clinic with Julie Haugen, April 2-3, is filling nicely with a blend of western dressage and classical dressage riders. Julie was a judge at our August 2021 schooling show and was very positive in her comments and fairness in her scores, so she is a sought-after clinician for all our members plus the western slope WDACO members. Auditors should also have an excellent experience with this clinic. For more information see

<https://www.gvds.org/julie-haugen>

We are excited to welcome Emily Donaldson for our GVDS/TDF sponsored clinic April 9-10. Emily is from Pennsylvania and has been named The Chronicle of The Horse "One To Watch" multiple times. She has a depth of experience with young horses, but the clinic will focus on connection. In addition to the clinic sessions, Emily will ride two horses on Saturday with very different connection issues, followed by a Sunday training session with their usual riders to incorporate the work she did the day before. Saturday night will be a "discussion/lecture" available to anyone via Zoom. Watch for more details on our website, <https://www.gvds.org/emily-donaldson>

GVDS redesigned its sponsorship opportunities for 2022, including new donation and in-kind levels and a horse show sponsorship with naming rights. We are excited to welcome Alpine Bank as the sponsor for Summertime Warm-up show June 4, Summertime I and Summertime II shows, June 4-5 respectively. We will be leveraging having such phenomenal judges (Janet Foy and Dolly Hannon) as part of our marketing strategy. What sponsor would not want to stand next to a gorgeous horse, flanked by international and Olympic judges? Maximum photo opportunity that any sponsor will be proud to display.

We've made some additional improvements to our horse show assets as well as to the facility at Mesa County Fairgrounds. Last year we purchased a premium dressage arena. This year we purchased a better trailer in which to store and transport it. Additionally, we installed lasers in the covered show arena at the Fairgrounds. Not only will this decrease the set-up time but will ensure that the arena is set up "perfectly" every time. Subtle of valuable improvements for our members.

GVDS has also announced several new member benefits for 2022:

DRESSAGE TEAM CHALLENGE

To promote camaraderie and team spirit throughout GVDS and across dressage disciplines. Three person teams consisting of a mix of Open, Adult Amateur, Junior and Young Rider. No more than one Open rider can be on a team and no more than two of the same rider type can be on a team (ie. no more than two Adult Amateur riders can be on a team.) Riders can only ride one horse on a team, but a rider can ride on multiple teams on different horses. Three different riders on three different horses compose a team. Each team must be a mix of Classical and Western Dressage riders.

GVDS HORSEMANSHIP AWARD

To recognize a GVDS member who demonstrates outstanding horse care and sportsmanship both on and off the show grounds. Open, Adult Amateur, Junior and Young Riders are eligible. Individuals display outstanding horsemanship by always putting their horse first, before their competition goals, or personal achievements in a non-show environment as recognized by their barn mates at home and at horse shows by their peers, volunteers and show officials. Horsemanship goes beyond simply riding or caring for the horse. It also involves the combination of

both mounted and unmounted knowledge and abilities. Qualified candidates will exhibit comprehensive knowledge of horse care, knowledge of their desired discipline and willingness to share that knowledge to help others to learn.

GVDS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

To increase the sport of dressage amongst younger riders, GVDS will offer financial assistance through a scholarship to eligible youth who demonstrate a commitment to horses, dressage and showing. Youth will be selected based on the scholarship criteria. Scholarships will be awarded annually before the beginning of the show season. Scholarship Recipients are eligible for up to \$50 credit for each schooling show to help with entries and show fees. Scholarship Recipients are expected to perform two hours of “assistance” at the show in addition to their volunteer requirements, show they want to compete for year-end awards.

Our first show is in April and we are looking forward to a safe, fun and successful 2022 for all our member.

5. High Plains

Andrea Price Valenzuela

No report

6. Northern Colorado

Sandra Rosewell

NCDCA Events for spring and summer 2022

- March 26th, 2022 NCDCA Tack Sale! Held at Phantom Hill Farm, Ft. Collins, CO. Contact Didi Dekrey at denisedekrey@gmail.com
- April 9th, 2022 Clinic with Jessica Greer, Phantom Hill Farm. Contact Didi Dekrey at denisedekrey@gmail.com
- Robert Dover Clinic, Kathy Coulson. Contact Melanie Newkirk at Melanie.newkirk@yahoo.com
- May 14, 2022 Ride A Test with Sandy Hotz, Blue Roof Equestrian Center, Contact Didi Dekrey at denisedekrey@gmail.com
- June 11, 2022 NCDCA Schooling Show I at Tomora Training Center. Contact Didi Dekrey at denisedekrey@gmail.com
- June 12, 2022 NCDCA Schooling Show II at Tomora Training Center. Contact Didi Dekrey at denisedekrey@gmail.com

Updates

Robert Dover Clinic is full for riders – we do have space for Wait-List riders. Contact Melanie Newkirk at Melanie.newkirk@yahoo.com . The auditor sign up will be through [Equestrian Entries](#) it will be live shortly.

Website

We are in the process of updating the NCDCA website

7. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We are excited to have Joan Clay coming to Laramie on March 27th to help us learn how to use Franklin Balls to become better riders! We still have a few open rider and auditor spots!

Instead of having a Ride-A-Test, we decided to have a clinic this year at Jane Swanhorst’s facility in Cheyenne. We are still working on the details!

Our recognized show in July will be at the Hansen Arena in Laramie this year. Our judges will be Jeff Moore (S, CA) and Renee Johnson (S, CA). Join us for a friendly and fun show!

At our monthly meetings, we have club members research and present on topics of interest, for example the new rules for show attire, what to consider during a prepurchase exam, etc. We are also excited that Dorothy will join us at one of our meetings this year, so we can get a closer connection to our mother organization and all our members’ questions about RMDS answered! We are always happy to see new faces, so come join us through zoom or in person for one of our monthly meetings! Connect with us through Facebook or our website, onthebitdressage.com.

8. Pikes Peak

Audra Littlewood

PPDS has held two meetings via zoom. Primary topics of discussion have been increasing member participation and promotional items.

PPDS is looking to increase participation of our members by holding social events outside of our regular meeting. This will be a good opportunity for members to get to know each other in a more relaxed setting. The first of these socials will be April 22, after the set up for the April 23 show is complete. We will also have a hospitality tent for PPDS members at shows throughout the season to give the club more of a presence. We are in the process of scheduling a

clinic with Heath Marshall, a natural horsemanship trainer located in Penrose, Colorado. Heath's clinics touch on basics of natural horsemanship, and his facility has an obstacle course for attendees to play with their horses. For promotional items, PPDS has purchased saddle pads to be embroidered with our logo. These saddle pads will be given to high point riders and a randomly selected volunteer at the April show. We will also be purchasing vinyl logo stickers and chapstick for members as a way to promote our club.

Next Meeting is May 12th meeting.

8:54 pm Stan Adamson made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by many. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen