

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: MaryJo Hoepner, Dorothy Kapaun, Nicole Bizzarro, Sally O'Dwyer, Patricia Weed, Shannon Lemons, Eleanor Harrison, Katie Knight, Joan Clay, Rebecca Ciota, Karen Harkin, Beth Geier, Stan Adamson, Pippa Bird, Sharon Soos, Heather Petersen

Proxies: Ginka Kubelka to Heather Petersen; Judi DeVore to Eleanor Harrison;

Call to Order-President

Sally O'Dwyer

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Sally O'Dwyer

President Report

Sally O'Dwyer

Because our club is fortunate to have some very talented, experienced, knowledgeable, and hard-working members, RMDS continues to offer high quality educational programs. Last month, RMDS hosted the second session of the L Judging program. Thanks so very much to Kathy Coors at Roxbury Farm for being so welcoming and gracious in hosting the demonstrations and to Sara Storch-Kay for arranging for riders to demo at both Sessions A and B. Thanks to our demo riders, listed below, for coming out in rough weather and for being willing to be observed and judged by our large group of L students.

Alysia Shah

Jen Bolton

Oriana Allen

Lora Heller

Michelle Woolly

Kathy Coors

Lisa Nasrullah

Anclair Spaulding

Allison Hartman

Thanks to our instructor Dorie Vlatten Schmitz, who is one of the first S judges to have graduated from the L Program to become an S judge. Thanks also to Judy Downer, who served as the apprentice instructor. Once again, the Holiday Inn provided a central location and great accommodations.

RMDS is very grateful to Gwen Ka'awaloa and MaryJo Hoepner, who put together the L program, working tirelessly so we could offer this amazing learning opportunity. They had the vision, organized the program, and are making it happen.

This is no small feat, with more than 60 participants and auditors in attendance. The course takes three entire weekends that are planned out over the year. Gwen and Mary Jo have gone above and beyond.

Much thanks also to Heather Petersen who held an extremely informative Horse Show Management training program. This course was presented to those who are interested in holding shows and for riders who want to better understand how shows are managed.

The Omnibus will be hitting your mailbox soon. This gorgeous print magazine would not be possible without Natalie Fee Mendik's and Nicole Bizzarro's tireless work and dedication to making the magazine a top-notch publication. They are both talented professionals in the publishing world and we are very lucky to have them as our members. Thanks to Natalie and Nicole!

Please know we would love for our members to attend our Board Meetings. Our meetings are on zoom, so it's easy to attend. It's the best way I know to find out what your organization is doing for you! Our next meeting is March 9th. Email secretary@rmds.org for a Zoom invite.

Like many boards and most GMOs around the country, RMDS uses Robert's rules of order to ensure that meetings are fair, efficiently run, and democratic. Attendees are allowed to voice their opinions, and everyone has a chance to speak, if they desire, and everyone can hear the varying points of view. Roberts rules allows the Board to follow the agenda and keep the group moving towards its goals. The Rules help us come to a consensus through voting, which serves as the

final authority of the group. Want to know a bit more? Here is a quickie overview:

<https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/roberts-rules-of-order-cheat-sheet/>

Secretary - Approval of Minutes -

Heather Petersen

February 2023 minutes –Karen Harkin moved that we approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Rebecca Ciota. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Operating Funds as of February 28, 2023

RMDS Checking Account \$ 53,642.69

PayPal Account (as of 2/15/2023) \$ 2,021.49

Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2022

Scholarship Fund

RMDS Scholarship \$ 3,891.29

Barbara H McElnea Scholarship \$ 9,000.00

Total \$ **68,555.47**

Operating Funds as of March 8, 2023

RMDS Checking Account \$ 56,668.96

PayPal Account \$ 577.37

Outstanding Checks \$????

Pending Deposits \$????

Subtotal \$ 57,256.33

Judges “L” Program \$ **25,008.00**

Subtotal Operating Funds \$ **32,248.33**

Restricted Funds as of March 8, 2023

Scholarship Account

RMDS Scholarship \$ 3,891.29

Barbara H McElnea \$ 9,000.00

Payable 250.00

500.00

Pending Deposit

Subtotal \$ **12,141.29**

Total \$ **44,389.62**

Stan asked about Paypal – we keep it at least \$500 so that we don’t get charged fees.

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

If your committee needs any help, Dorothy is here to help!

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 397 members as of 3/1 for 2023 –22 new horses since October 2022.
- See reports with chapter membership totals
- Accepting dues for 2023: \$80

Shows:

- For 2023: 6 RMDS shows: 30 USEF/USDF recognized shows including Championships and Regionals.

Omnibus:

- In the Mail.

Database/Website:

- Working well – let me know of any problems you are having.

- Asking people to donate refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.

Banquet:

- January 13, 2024.

Volunteer:

- Interesting statistic: recorded with RMDS for 2022: 250 people have 3630.5 hours

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events with audit fee of \$50 or more

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday each month) –

2023 S EVENTS:

- TD March 7
- L Program-C March 25-26
- Team Competition June?
- Summer Intensive June 7-9
- Sport Horse Sept 21
- Championships Sept 22-24

Executive Board Meetings:

Reports: March 9, May 11, July 13, Sept 14, Oct 12 (budget)

No reports: April 13, June 8, Aug 10,

BOG Nov 18

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

3/7/2023

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	397	664	714	636	700	725	752	756	779	675	827	797	868	751	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses	22	130	161	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	21	47	40	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	93	146	160	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	34	66	65	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	55	98	89	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	88	144	146	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	35	65	69	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
OB	16	24	30	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	54	73	56	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Chapter	1	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	116	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	397	664	693	616	677	700	723	756	761	675	827	797	868	751	945	1005	983	1004	985	1107	1122	1098
Juniors	17	53	64	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	105	236	240	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	16	14	12	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	5	15	16	12	12	9/2																
Life	40/1	38/1	43	35/1	33/1	32/2																

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Katie Knight

Katie presented a budget as follows for the AA clinic.

Budget			Actual		
AA Clinic Amelia Newcomb			AA Clinic Dawn White O'Connor		
October 2023			May 14-15, 2022		
Income:					
16 @ \$150	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 3,060.00		8 @ \$375
TDF Grant	\$ 1,000.00				
USDF Grant	\$ 1,000.00				
Sponsors					
Auditors-20- \$50 per day	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 280.00		
Total Income		\$ 6,400.00		\$ 3,340.00	
Expenses:					
Clinician	\$ (2,000.00)		\$ (2,500.00)		
1/2 auditor fee	\$ (1,000.00)				
Travel	\$ (600.00)		\$ (527.44)		
Lodging	\$ (250.00)				
Hospitality	\$ (250.00)				
Insurance	\$ (100.00)		\$ (100.00)		
Facility-Windswept Farms	\$ -		\$ -		Lake View
Chairs-\$2 per chair	\$ (40.00)				
Port-A-Potty	\$ (120.00)				
Stabling			\$ (50.00)		
Total Expense		\$ (4,360.00)		\$ (3,177.44)	
NET:		\$ 2,040.00		\$ 162.56	

Discussion of dropping the rider rate to \$125 per ride and dropping the auditor rate to \$50 for the weekend, or \$30 per day for RMDS members. It is requested that riders ride both days. Katie is going to talk to Windswept to make sure there are at least 7 stalls available for 2 nights each, otherwise we might need to consider a different facility.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

Most of the awards stuff has been wrapped up for 2022. There are a few more to distribute but then we're wrapping it up. Shannon attached everything from 2021 to any awards given out for 2022 to get those items distributed. We'll set up a team to do the storage unit and inventory the older trophies.

Communications

Rebecca Ciota

MailChimp changed their pricing model. Someone had been paying out-of-pocket for "seats" (multiple logins), but now we need to pay for "contacts" (people whose emails we store within the system) if we have more than 500 contacts. I purged all non-members, so we sit at approx. 390 contacts HOWEVER Mailchimp doesn't let you downgrade your plan multiple times (which must have been why I couldn't downgrade to the free version). I got nonprofit pricing from MailChimp, which is 15% off.

- So TL;DR: we are now paying \$10 - \$20/month (depending on how many contacts we have) for MailChimp.

Magazine –

2023 RMDS Magazine - Third Issue - PROJECTED			
	Income	Expense	Net
Advertising	\$11,000		
Postage	\$2,728	\$2,028	
Printing		\$9,500	
Production / Design		\$9,000	
Production / Content		\$1,500	
Other (USDF License)		\$150	
Subtotal	\$13,228	\$22,178	-\$8,450

2023 RMDS Magazine - Third Issue - ACTUAL			
	Income	Expense	Net
Advertising	\$11,745		
Postage	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Initial Bulk Mailing		\$417.05	
Printing		\$8,208	
Production / Design		\$8,568	
Production / Content		\$1,200	
Other (USDF License)		\$150	
Subtotal	\$14,745	\$21,543	-\$6,798

The Third Issue of the RMDS Magazine has mailed and should already be hitting mailboxes. We had 45 total advertisers this year, with a total of 13 new. We exceeded our projected budgeted loss by \$1,652. Could have been better, but also not too bad considering we did not have a chairperson to assist with ad placement for this issue. The cost offset really comes down to ads.

Some questions:

Do we want to raise the amount we collect for mailing after the initial bulk mailing? Do we want to phase out lifetime memberships? Raise membership rates to better support the overall budget of the club and the magazine by default? Eliminate the magazine after 2024?

The feelings of the group is that they want to continue with the magazine, but the question can be raised at the RMDS BOG in November.

Website – It’s rolling along, let Beth or Heather know of any updates.

Education

MaryJo Hoepner

We had both show management and TD training sessions. Very good attendance. The sum of both sessions should profit about \$450.

Very successful Session A and B for the L Program. Session C is March 25 and 26 in Loveland. Auditors are welcome.

Many thanks to the riders and to Kathy Coors for offering her lovely barn to host the demo rides for Session A and B.

Session C rides will be at Tomora.

Kathy Simard announced enhancements to the Instructors training offerings. Waiting to see what comes from USDF -- could be an opportunity for auditors who are not instructors for at least one day.

Junior/Young Riders

Lauren Still

2023 Youth Summer Intensive

Status report:

Done:

- Dates confirmed: June 7, 8 and 9 (with check-in the night before on June 6th)
- Venue confirmed: Nighthawk Equestrian Center
- Camp Director assigned: Jewlee Bellah (plans to donate her time for volunteer hours)
- Registration form finalized and uploaded to RMDS calendar

Need to do:

- Marketing: Need to plan and provide to RMDS office.
- Clinicians: We have one clinician tentatively lined up. Email has gone out to RMDS trainers asking who is interested in participating.
- Volunteers: Judi is helping with finding volunteers. THANK YOU JUDI!

- Education: Need to organize.

2023 Youth Calendar

- April ? : Youth In-Person Event, Zoom or Clinic – TBD
- May through August at shows: Youth Show Saturday Socials
- June 7-9: RMDS Summer Intensive – Nighthawk
- October 7&8, 14&15 or 20&21?: Dressage4Kids Youth Clinic –date and location TBD
- November 13: Youth Community Zoom Call – topic TBD

WANTED

- **3 Volunteers** to organize/run Youth Social events at shows throughout the season. Commitment to organizing the social for 1-2 shows each would be perfect. Call/text for more details.
- **3 Volunteers – 1 per day - for the Summer Intensive** to support the Camp Director with overseeing the campers and organizing the daily activities. Call/text for more details.

Thank you all for your support!

Marketing

No report

Vacant

Professionals

Joan Clay

- 1) USDF “L” Program Part I – Session C (March 25-26, 2023)
 - a. Meeting room for Saturday, March 25, 2023 is at the Wingate Hotel in Loveland.
 - b. Demonstration riders for Sunday, March 26, 2023 are currently being assigned. I have rides for Training Level Tests 1, 2 and 3 and First Level Test 1. I need to confirm riders for First Level tests 2 and 3 and Second Level tests 1, 2 and 3 (I need two riders to ride Second Level test 3).
- 2) Whole Rider Project: Lisa El Ramey has submitted a very generalized budget for the Whole Rider Project, but it needs to be refined to reflect local attendance and costs. We also need to determine an appropriate location for the unmounted day and come up with date options.
- 3) 2024 Professionals’ Symposium: I am going to reach out to our RMDS professionals to get ideas for clinicians that they would like to bring in for our symposium.

Scholarship

No report for this month.

Karen Harkin

Shows – Championships

Nadia Westra

Officials have been hired and plans are moving forward. Nadia would like to look at revamping the sponsorship packet with an “order” form.

Ideas?

- Trophy Auction
- Hospitality Cart – golf cart stocked with snacks and beverages, drives around interacting with competitors.
- Happy Hour
- Open “stall” with a GP rider
- Swag

Sponsorship so far:

- Coors - \$15K
- Zoa – product – hospitality cart
- MaryJo Hoepner – Training AA Championships

Volunteer

Judi DeVore/Eleanor DeVore

Report from the Volunteer Committee- March 7, 2023 Judi DeVore & Eleanor Harrison The Volunteer Committee met once this reporting period to discuss paying for an upgraded membership to SignUp.com so that more

volunteer chairs could access the program to post volunteer hours from shows. The committee decided the cost was too high for the services offered so we will continue to use the free SignUp app and have volunteer coordinators submit hours to the Central Office.

In addition, a topic arose as to whether L program demo riders could get volunteer hours. While several people agreed to this, when the topic of Ride A Test demo riders came up, there was some hesitation to offer them volunteer hours as well. Also, there has been discussion as to why GMO chapter officials are not allowed to accrue volunteer hours as part of their position. The USDF website states: "GMO/chapter officials are allowed to earn volunteer credit, as long as the volunteer hours earned are not in the context of the position they hold"

We reached out to Jill Chamblin, Senior GMO coordinator for USDF to help us better understand this policy:

1. We have had several programs sponsored by RMDS recently about the new tests and have had demo riders for these programs for auditors to learn from. Are the demo riders eligible for volunteer hours? If they are a current Group Member and are volunteering, then Yes

2. Also do meetings count which are held for a specific purpose such as a task force or committee that is created to research a particular topic or work on a particular event? If the hours are not in the context of the position held within the GMO, the Yes, they can be logged.

3. If the Education Chair is one of the people working on the arrangements for a particular event, are they eligible for hours they work to arrange for the event? Again, see answer to #2

4. If someone is appointed as the Youth to Youth editor for a communications newsletter, are the hours they spend writing articles for the publication hours that count? Again, see answer to #2

When asked to elucidate further, Jill forwarded the email to Cindi Wylie, chair of the GMO committee and we are waiting to hear back from her. This topic has generated a fair amount of discussion and we hope to discuss it during the meeting this week and hope to have further info from Cindi on the topic.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

No report this month.

Simone Windeler

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

No report.

Stan Adamson

3. BOG - November 18, 2023

Staying at the same facility.

Heather Petersen

4. Banquet –

January 2024, facility all set.

Beth Geier

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

I hope everyone has been enjoying their winter. We have had an abnormal amount of snow in the northern part of the region and some colder temps in the southern part. Show season is well underway or just around the corner for many of you!

If you have an educational activity that your barn, group or organization is doing, please let me know so I can add it to the Region 5 educational activity calendar that is sent out with the monthly Regional updates by USDF. We would love to keep everyone as informed as possible. We can also post events on the Region 5 website. Please feel free to send me an email reminder for anything you'd like to see posted.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the North American Youth Championships, then please make sure you take note of the application structure for 2023. The application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 14, 2023 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 14th, the fee is only \$50 per application. Applications submitted between March 15th and April 25th are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 9th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 26th and May 9th. At this point in time, absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 9th. If you plan to compete for NAYC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is jnclay@comcast.net and her phone number is

970.420.0887. The 2023 NAYC will be held at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, Flintfields Horse Park, Traverse City, Michigan – August 7-13, 2023.

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.

Also, there have been some changes this year to the USEF rules regarding bits, so please double check the USEF Annex A and the USEF Rulebook if you have any questions on what you are utilizing for competitions!

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- Central Office manager applicants – we received 5 applications. We would like to bring those candidates forward to the board for interviews. We will do 6:30 on March 21.
- Email scams – hitting lots of GMOs and USDF and many many many organizations. Make sure the address the emails are coming from are valid addresses. We will never ask you for gift cards. If you get a weird scam thing, please let Beth know.
- Roberts' Rules – very helpful for how to run a meeting, please take some time to review them.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

April 16th is a ride a test with Kathy Simard.

May 13th is the first schooling with Sharon Sarchett.

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

Boulder Valley membership currently stands at 93 as of the end of February 2023.

At our February 13, 2023, meeting we debriefed our two very successful clinics held in December 2022, one a “New Tests” clinic at Nighthawk Equestrian Center with Dolly Hannon, and the second a “no fee” Volunteer Appreciation Clinic at Windswept Farms with Kristi Wysocki. The second clinic received national attention as a terrific idea for incentivizing and rewarding volunteers.

We also reviewed our Awards Banquet, held at Boulder Country Club on January 28, 2023. The banquet was enjoyed by all. New officers for 2023 were introduced and installed:

President	Stan Adamson
Vice President	Shannon Moyes Clark
Treasurer	Dorothy Kapaun
Secretary	Janeen Cochi

We discussed drafting a brochure about our chapter for Sharon Soos to make available at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in early March. VP Shannon Moyes Clark will prepare it. We also encouraged members to volunteer at the Expo. Due to the great success of our Volunteer Appreciation Clinic, we decided to hold another one this year, after the season has ended and all volunteer hours have been recorded. We plan to publicize it as the season begins this year, to incentivize volunteers. We appointed a Planning Committee for the clinic consisting of Dorothy Kapaun, Sally O’Dwyer, Nicole Donohue and Janeen Cochi.

We decided it was already too late to try to field an RMDS-only show this year, and instead asked Nicole Donohue to begin considering good dates in April or May 2024 for such a show. We did decide to try to do a Ride-a-Test this year, and Verena Diaz has offered to host it at her barn. We are seeking a judge for this Ride-a-Test, and will announce a date and get it on the RMDS calendar as soon as details are settled.

I reported that I continue to serve RMDS as a TD, will be taking the training offered on March 7, 2023, and have two contracts to serve as TD at Table Mountain Ranch July 22 and August 12.

3. Foothills

Nadia Westra

The Foothills Chapter starts the year off with the same amazing team we built in 2022.

President – Nadia Westra

Vice President – Jewlee Bellah

Treasurer – Erika Senna

Secretary – Jenee Stewart

Volunteer Chair – Hillary Ryan

Education Chair – Courtney Turner

Education Grants - Marilou Metcalf

Marketing Chair – Rosie Davenport

We are so excited for what 2023 brings! So far, we have had two clinics. One in January with Maureen Sterling and one in February with Heather Beachem. Both were great! Maureen's clinic was smaller and intimate. She really took her time with each ride (we got WAY behind) but it was so special to have that kind of attention. Heather's clinic filled completely and we had a good handful of trailer in riders! So that was fun to engage with new riders from different disciplines.

We now turn our attention to our 4 shows. 2 RMDS shows at Table Mountain Ranch, and our Foothills Dressage Festival I & II. Big changes are coming to the FDF however, with a new date and location. The Colorado Horse Park on August 5th and 6th. We are so excited to have access to such a wonderful facility. Nadia Westra will be the manager again in 2023. We have secured our judges. Doreen Horsey, Brent Hicks, and Angela Thorndike. We cannot thank the On the Bit Chapter for their flexibility and for moving their dates to make this possible. This makes our show count at the Horse Park now 3. The Cure, FDF, and Championships.

Table Mountain Ranch is also upgrading two of their shows to be RMDS recognized! Jewlee Bellah and Sherl Knight will be managing those shows.

We are so excited for 2023 and for an amazing year of learning, showing, and growing the Colorado Dressage community's engagement and FUN!

4. Grand Valley

Karen Harkin

Mud, snow, more mud seems to be all we talk about these days. To assist our members who do not have access to indoor rings, we have and will host open rides at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in the large CW Arena. The February ride had some members taking lessons, others just legging-up their horses. Another ride is planned at the end of March and again in mid-April just before our symposium and spring shows.

We are gearing up for several exciting things in April. We are hosting a GMO Education Initiative: Judge's View of the New Test & Ride-A-Test Clinic, presented by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez on April 15-16 in Delta, CO. On Saturday, April 15, the day begins with a symposium on the new tests and interpretation of the training scale, followed by an afternoon of demonstration rides. April 16 is a day of Ride-A-Tests for any RMDS/GVDS members or RMDS member. All are welcome on either or both days. [Registration](#) opens on March 17.

Our first shows are the following weekend. Prize lists are posted with opening dates for both on March 27.

April 22, 2023- *Schooling Show I*: Judge: Jodi Ely, "S" & "R", WDAA / WDACO / AQHA-western

April 23, 2023 – *Welcome to Spring*: Judge: Jodi Ely, "S" & "R", USEF / USDF / RMDS/ AQHA- English

Our chapter took on a challenging topic about requiring properly fitting helmets for ALL riders including western dressage. After receiving input from WDAA, surveying our western dressage members, and asking six judges who are western dressage judges and have previously judged GVDS shows, we settled on a waiver (thank you Gwen Ka'awaloa for the suggestion). All western dressage riders will sign the waiver regardless of whether they wear a helmet or not. This eliminates the need for the warm-up steward to determine who signed a release compared to who was wearing a helmet. We'll see if it impacts our entries. We hope not as it was done in the interest of safety for everyone.

Several members have attended Heather Petersen's excellent Show Management and TD Trainings. We continue to share important information with our members who may have missed what was disseminated by USEF or USDF. This was very helpful as we updated our prize lists and prepared for our upcoming shows.

5. High Plains

Pippa Bird

- Board Members as follows:
 - Pippa Bird - President

- Gemma Hanekom - Vice President
- Tiffany Brown - Treasurer
- Jenny Slade – Secretary
- Website updating in process
- High Plains Chapter is putting together a End of the Awards - Any suggestions from other Chapters welcomed i.e. should we include Schooling shows etc.
- We have the following upcoming events planned for the High Plains Chapter Members:
 - - A Night a Equine Nutritionist, Colorado Horse Park - April, 2023
 - - Weekend Clinic with Heather Beacham - Mid June at Lost Lake Equestrian.
 - - Ride a Test - April 15th thereabouts looking at Platinum Farms

6. Northern Colorado

Sandra Rosewell

February 19 – NCDA Tack Sale at the McKee Building
 March 25 – Obstacle clinic at Two Spruce Farm in Berthoud
 April 2 – NCDA Ride-A-Test clinic
 May 13 – NCDA Schooling Show I
 June 24 – NCDA Schooling Show II

7. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We are currently working on getting a clinic and other educational opportunities for our members scheduled! Updates will be posted on our website (www.onthebitdressage.com) and on our Facebook page. We will continue to hold our monthly meetings at Altitude Chophouse in Laramie on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm, with the possibility to join via Zoom as well.

8. Pikes Peak

Patricia Weed

PPDS held its monthly meeting in February. After a short business meeting the Education Chair brought us a video presentation of “The 24 Behaviors of the Ridden Horse” which was very well received. The video was informative. It was also quite emotional and centered on one horse that was in the eight-year study. While the outcome was certainly not ideal, it was realistic. Following the video, Dr. Issey of Colorado Equine Vet Services led the question-and-answer discussion with club participants. The chapter hosting sponsored clinic with Petra Warlimont in April, date pending. PPDS members receive a fee discount. The popular Pikes Peak Dressage RMDS Show is April 22nd at Latigo Equestrian Center, Judge: Gwen Ka’awaloa (S Dressage Judge, r Western Dressage Judge.) In 2022, the ride schedule ran from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. We will be hosting our Meet n’ Greet dinner again the evening before the show for PPDS members and show entrants. The new restaurant is ‘The Prime Cut at Latigo’, the club will provide appetizers, the dinner special is Prime Rib or order off the menu. The Show Prizelist is available on the RMDS Calendar.

Next Meeting is March 21st.

7:52 pm Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen