

**RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

May 11, 2023  
Zoom Meeting  
Meeting @ 6:30 PM

**Attendance:** Sally O’Dwyer, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen, Stan Adamson, Sarah Murphy, Karen Elliot, Nicole Bizzarro, Kristen, Karen Harkin, Dorothy Kapaun, MaryJo Hoepner, Joan Clay, Nadia Westra, Ginka Kubelka

**Proxies:** Katie Knight to Karen Elliot; Sharon Soos to Heather Petersen

**Call to Order-President** **Sally O’Dwyer**  
**Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Sally O’Dwyer**

**President Report** **Sally O’Dwyer**  
Happy May! It was great to see so many RMDS members in Omaha at the World Cup last month. All of us were thrilled and honored to see our very own Coloradan and former local Rodeo Queen Janet Foy judging, along with Heather Petersen as her scribe at one of the highest levels of dressage competition.  
The RMDS Board knows you are HUNGRY for shows and educational opportunities, and if you check out the calendar at <https://www.rmids.org/calendar>, I know you will not be disappointed! We have something for everyone. I hope you will attend at least one event this month! We have many volunteer opportunities that need filling. Come on out and volunteer. It’s a great way to meet new people and learn more about our sport.  
If you have any questions or suggestions, I would love to hear from you. This is YOUR organization!

**Secretary - Approval of Minutes -** **Heather Petersen**  
**April 2023 minutes –Stan Adamson moved that we approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dorothy Kapaun. The motion passed unanimously.**

There were no electronic votes to approve.

**Vice President Report** **Dorothy Kapaun**  
If your committee needs any help, Dorothy is here to help!

**Central Office** **Sarah Murphy**  
We are currently transitioning to our new Central Office Manager and working hard.  
The computer is back to as close to what it was that we can achieve.  
Working to get the physical storage unit moved – we are aiming for June.

- Next Executive Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month) –**  
**2023 S EVENTS:**
- **Team Competition** June?
  - **Summer Intensive** June 7-9
  - **Sport Horse** Sept 21
  - **Championships** Sept 22-24
- Executive Board Meetings:**  
**Reports:** May 11, July 13, Sept 14, Oct 12 (budget)  
**No reports:** June 8, Aug 10,  
**BOG** Nov 18

**Permanent Committee Reports Continued:** **Katie Knight**  
**Adult Amateur**  
The Amelia Newcomb clinic will be at Nighthawk.

**Awards****Shannon Lemons**

It was discussed that we combine the office storage unit with the awards storage unit in north Colorado Springs. Sarah and Nadia

**Communications****Rebecca Ciota**

Some discussion of going away from a monthly e-newsletter but it's our only main communication stream with those who aren't on social media and such.

**Magazine** – Nothing to report currently.

**Website** – It's rolling along, let Sarah or Heather know of any updates. A couple more places to update the Central Office address as well.

**Education****MaryJo Hoepner**

Working on a freestyle clinic for this winter. Will do show management and TD clinic later in the year for 2024.

**Junior/Young Riders****Lauren Still**

4 or 5 people have paid for the camp, but we need to really get the information.

**Marketing****Vacant**

We're meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to start work on Championships.

**Professionals****Joan Clay**

1) USDF "L" Program Part I – Session C (March 25-26, 2023): A wonderful group of horses and riders demonstrated all the Training, First and Second level tests for the Session C participants and auditors. The demonstration riders received a goody bag and thank you notes were mailed to them as well. Our demo riders are listed below.

Sawyer Gerholt

Olivia Reinsvold (2 rides on 2 horses)

Katie Kearn

Sue Woods

Chris Bruns

Megan Kelleghan

Taylor Allen

Greta Vowell (2 rides on 2 horses)

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) Professionals' Symposium: Still need to work on organizing something for 2024 and/or 2025.

**Scholarship****Karen Harkin**

Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship (500) (Adult Amateur): Gemma Hanekom .

- She took an extra five lessons with her trainer. Had to cancel a scheduled clinic because her horse went lame.
- She hopes her horse will be sound by the end of the year so she can take more lessons and show, otherwise she will "borrow horses".

Opening Doors Scholarship (\$1000) (Professional): Megan Bretey

- Her horse for which she would have done additional training died in March, following a nine-month lameness.
- Her original plan was to take her horse to train in Denver for a week.
- Instead, she is taking a client's horse to a trainer closer to Grand Junction.
- She will ride this horse in lessons, teach the instructor, ride some of her in-training horses as well as her finished grand prix horse.

Leg-Up Scholarship \$500) (Training and First Level): Rebecca Ciota

- Completed her volunteer hours
- Completed a clinic with Nahshon Cook
- Considering lessons with local professionals rather than clinics OR
- Considering working with a sports psychologist for performance anxiety

Ruth Edith (Edie) Nielsen

- Completed her volunteer hours
- Utilized all her scholarship funds with the Amelia Newcomb Strides membership, lessons and an additional month of training.

Junior/Young Rider Scholarship (\$500) (J): Victoria DeWitt

- Utilized half of the scholarship for Dressage for the Cure Show

### **Shows – Championships**

**Nadia Westra**

#### **Need to Do's**

- Share the packet far and wide!!!
- Inventory the trophies for the auction.
- Secure DJ or live music.
- Meeting with RMDS marketing crew.
- Hotels
  - Best Western & Holiday Inn in Castle Rock – can probably get us two blocks of 10 rooms at each they will call me back ASAP.
  - Also have a call in to Holiday Inn in Parker
  - We have a DJ!!!

#### **Ideas!**

- Trophy Auction
- Hospitality Cart – Golf cart stocked with snacks and beverages. Drives around interacting with competitors and reminding them of events.
- Happy Hour
- Open “Stall” with GP rider
- SWAG – Talk with Kristen for coolers for next year.

### **Volunteer**

**Judi DeVore/Eleanor DeVore**

Volunteering is in full swing for the summer shows. Sign ups are on facebook and on the RMDS website. We also will be highlighting a volunteer or writing an article about volunteering for the Centaur every month.

We are working on getting volunteer awards through various chapters. More on that in the coming months.

## **Appointed Committee Reports:**

### **1. Western Dressage**

No report this month.

Simone Windeler

### **2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents**

Stan Adamson

### **3. BOG - November 18, 2023**

Staying at the same facility.

Heather Petersen

### **4. Banquet –**

January 2024, facility all set.

Beth Geier/Sarah Murphy

## Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Summer is here and shows are full swing, as are many educational programs, clinics and fun horse activities. I hope many of you were able to join at the World Cup in Omaha. It was an incredible show and some amazing horses and riders. I'm very much looking forward to returning to Omaha for the 2023 USDF Convention November 29 – December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The town had great restaurants, lots of fun things to do and the Convention will have some fantastic educational events, along with informative meetings and the annual Awards Banquet.

Our USDF Executive Board Spring meetings have also just concluded as they were held during the World Cup and it's wonderful to see all the programs coming forward from our various committees. There are some interesting rule changes coming forward for consideration that we spent a lot of time discussing, so please take the time to consider them and provide your feedback to both USDF and USEF.

The deadline for Participating Member Delegate nominations was **April 15**. Our region will have 5 PM delegates for the 2023 USDF Convention. Elections will be held very soon! Our Group Member Organizations need to start the process of appointing or electing who they are going to be sending to the convention as GM delegates.

As of May 1st, our potential candidates for the 2023 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships August 8-13 in Traverse City, Michigan will be finalized. As I write this, we have 8 riders who have declared (3 Juniors and 5 Young Riders). If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at [jnclay@comcast.net](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877. This competition is a reasonable distance for us to travel by trailer, which makes things much more feasible, but we still need your help in order to be able to. If you're a rider, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR DECLARATIONS!

We are excited to announce that the 2024 Great American USDF Region 5 Championships will be coming back to the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado September 19-22. It will have been 5 years since Colorado will have hosted the Regionals. It's fantastic to have Arizona as our host for 2023 and get our rotation for the Regional Championships back on track!

### Old Business:

- No old business.

### New Business:

- Kristen asked about embroidery place their school uses and will research costs for Championships stuff.

**Boulder Valley Dressage Association** - Boulder Valley membership currently stands at 122 as of the end of April 2023.

At our April 10, 2023, meeting we thanked VP Shannon Moyes Clark for preparing our brochure for Sharon Soos to use at the 2023 Horse Expo at the National Western Stock Showgrounds in March.

We got a report from our Ride-a-Test planning Committee and confirmed the Ride-a-Test for April 29 at Verena Diaz' Pferdehof Dressage in Berthoud, with Gwen Ka'awaloa as judge. I'm happy to report that the Ride-a-Test filled almost as soon as it was announced and was a very successful event.

Our Volunteer Appreciation Clinic Planning Committee reported that the event has been confirmed with Annie Morris as Clinician at Lookout Ridge Farm in Longmont November 11-12. We are promoting this event proactively this year, letting our members know they can qualify for it by toting up volunteer hours. This makes the event an incentive to volunteer, rather than a reward after the fact as it was last year.

Show planning for our annual Dressage at the Fairgrounds Shows I and II on July 29-30 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont are proceeding, with a planning meeting scheduled for May 22 at 7 p.m.

We will meet again as a club virtually on June 12 at 7 p.m.

### **Foothills Chapter -**

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 kick off the show season with some sad news. Table Mountain Ranch was purchased by developers and boarders have about 22 months left at TMR. We will continue to host shows at TMR during this time. At minimum, through the 2023 season, but hopefully through 2024 and 2025 as well. The developer came to the Cure show to meet some of the boarders and to see how passionate we are about the sport of Dressage, so he understands the importance of staying open and seeing the 2-year lease through.

Despite the heavy-hearted news, we are looking forward to the show season, and are excited about our 4 shows and CHAMPIONSHIPS!

The Spring into Summer show is open and filling. But there are still rides available. We have partnered with the wonderful Horse Show Office for entries, so please sign up there.

Our big news is that the Foothills Dressage Festival I & II are now partner shows with the National Dressage Pony Cup! So please spread the word and be sure to enter all your ponies and small horses for beautiful ribbons and qualifying year end scores.

**Grand Valley Dressage Society** had a very busy April. We had an excellent symposium, A Judges View From C, followed by a ride-a-test. Debbie Riehl Rodriguez provided the overview of the new tests, followed by demonstration riders (three per level) at Training, First, Second and Third level. Nearly 40 people attended the Saturday classroom and live learning sessions. The next day 12 riders, training through third level, rode their test of choice. The reviews from the weekend were outstanding. All the riders who were either demonstration riders or ride-a-test participants, participated in the April shows the following weekend and reported higher scores and better judge's comments after this event. Many thanks to Judi DeVore for organizing the show and to Mary Duke and Dusty Healey for being outstanding hosts at their Stirrup Cup Farm.

Mid-April we had our first horse show weekend. A sold-out schooling show on Saturday attracted some of our regional western AQHA riders who are not members. We hope they consider joining RMDS as we are offering AQHA English and western classes this year. We also tried a Level One USEF/USDF show on Sunday. Not as large a turn-out as we hoped but it was our first attempt at offering a recognized show early in the year. We will evaluate its success/failure and decide if we want to offer it again in 2024.

Our June show weekend opened for entries this week. Sponsored by Alpine Bank, Friday features an RMDS show with AQHA western, WDAA and WDACO recognitions under the watchful judge Debbie Riehl Rodriguez. Saturday's USDF/USEF Level Two show has Debbie paired with Dr. Gail Hoof-Carmona for a panel judged show. Sunday's Level Two show has Gail judging alone. Three stand-alone shows with an opportunity to qualify for RMDS Championships and Region 5 Championships all in a single weekend.

We'll be slowing down for a few months but preparing to close the year with a schooling show weekend in August and October.

**On the Bit** - At our last meeting, we had a local vet give a presentation on EMS, which was great and educational. We hope we can offer more fun opportunities to learn in this format.

We had to move our show back to the Hansen Arena, where we had it last year. This facility worked well for our show, but the footing became a challenge after heavy rain. We are working on getting the footing improved.

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.

**Next Meeting is June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Stan moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nadia Westra, motion passed unanimously.**

**7:15 pm Meeting Adjourned**

**Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen**