

**RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

September 7, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

**Attendance:** Sally O’Dwyer, Patricia Weed, Karen Harkin, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Heather Petersen, Sarah Murphy, Rebecca Ciota, Jewlee Bellah, Nadia Westra, Judi DeVore, Stan Adamson, Katie Knight, Jewlee Bellah, Gwen Ka’awaloa, Joan Clay, Andrea Osmond, Eleanor Harrison, Gabrielle Hibbert, Kristen Allen, Jessica Reigel, Ruth Edie Nielsen, Nicole Bizzarro

**Proxies:** Ginka Kubelka to Heather Petersen; Sandy Vernon to Katie Knight; MaryJo Hoepner to Heather Petersen;

**Call to Order-President**

**Sally O’Dwyer**

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

**Secretary - Approval of Minutes -**

**Heather Petersen**

**August 2023 minutes – Add Joan Clay to the attendance. Stan Adamson moved that we approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joan Clay. The motion passed unanimously.**

No electronic votes to approve.

**Shows – Championships**

**Nadia Westra**

Sponsorship has been successful! We could raise a bit more last minute, if possible, to try to match the \$15,000 Title Sponsorship. There are plenty of classes to sponsor and ad space for the program.

	<b>Promised</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
<b>Total Sponsorship Dollars</b>	<b>\$23,910</b>	<b>\$21,120</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$6,090</b>
<i>Sponsorship Count</i>	66	45	50	-16
T-Shirt Branding	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	-\$500
Arena Sponsorship	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$0
Dinner Sponsorship	\$1,200	\$600	\$3,700	\$2,500
Championship Class	\$1,900	\$1,800	\$1,000	-\$900
Title Sponsor	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Platinum Sponsor	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Gold Sponsor	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Silver Sponsor	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Bronze Sponsor	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
Full Page Ad	\$1,710	\$770	\$1,500	-\$210
Banners	\$1,200	\$1,050	\$100	-\$1,100
Open Class Sponsorship	\$300	\$300	\$100	-\$200
Golf Cart Banner	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0

Volunteer T-Shirts are being made, thank you Gwen!

I will be cleaning and taking photos of all the trophies. I will work with Heather to get them listed on 32 Auctions online so all can bid.

Shannon Lemons is going to do a Chipotle taco bar for the dinner she is sponsoring.

Chair back are headed to be embroidered. I am picking up additional prizes from the Grey Tail this week and they will go to the embroiderer as well.

CORE (formerly known as KONG) is also donating prizes that I am picking up this week.

ZOA is sending us 20 cases so we have cold ZOA for everyone to drink.

Gwen showed the shirts, they are lovely.

Current Entries:

Sport Horse Show – 15

RMDS Championships and Open show – 188

Heather is in the process of getting online entry deposits to Sarah.

Ribbons ordered and Sarah will bring the ones from storage the Wednesday of the show.

Really really really need volunteers. We have some great incentives for volunteers. Andrea Osmond is donating some calendars, Happy Horse and Right Path also. ZOA Bags for everyone as well.

### Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Operating Funds as of August 31, 2023

RMDS Checking Account	\$ 64,679.78
PayPal Account (as of 6/15/2023)	\$ 3,165.36
Total	\$ 67,845.14

Restricted Funds as of July 30, 2023

Scholarship Fund	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 5,597.29
Barbara H McElnea Scholarship	\$ 8,500.00

Operating Funds as of September 6, 2023

RMDS Checking Account	\$ 63,051.61
PayPal Account	\$ 506.95
Outstanding Checks	\$ ????
Pending Deposits	\$ ????
Subtotal	\$ 63,558.56

Judges "L" Program	\$ 14,789.00
Subtotal Operating Funds	\$ 48,769.56

Restricted Funds as of September 6, 2023

Scholarship Account	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 5,597.29
Barbara H McElnea Payable	\$ 8,500.00
	250.00

Pending Deposit	
Subtotal	\$ 13,847.29
Total	\$ 62,616.85

Discussion of championships – large inflows and outflows will be coming.

### President Report

Sally O'Dwyer

**It's Championship Time!!!! I hope you will join us at the Colorado Horse Park.**

The prize list is out, and there is much excitement. <https://2whitefeet.com/uploads/Calendar/RMDSChamp2023.pdf>

For information about the Sport Horse Championships, see <https://2whitefeet.com/uploads/Calendar/RMSH2023.pdf>

I hope everyone will review our sponsorship packet and decide how they will contribute to the effort.

<https://www.rmids.org/assets/pdfs/2023-RMDS-Championship-Show-Sponsorship-Packet.pdf> | nbsp; Funds allow us offer

great events, clinics, educational opportunities, scholarships, competitions, our banquet and much, much more. Your support allows RMDS to put our mission into action which is to promote dressage in our region. It's a great call to action that I know is close to your heart. Show others that YOU CARE! Any amount helps! Your sponsorship is a way to be more involved in the show, participate, be recognized, and give back to the sport that you love.

RMDS Championships is a great opportunity to see everyone and celebrate. We expect 300 rides! We are also celebrating our 50 (plus two years) of being a club. We will have some terrific events where you can socialize, meet new people, make new friends, and hang out. We are hosting an auction for some of our retired trophies. A dressage trophy would look great on your mantle as a piece of art. If you have been a recipient of a trophy in the past, yours could be available for you to keep forever.

Championships It is our biggest and bestest show of the year. Friends who have attended in the past say it **“is the highlight of their competition year.”** RMDS Championships are our members' version of the Olympics!! This is the first Championships we have been able to hold in a few years due to COVID and the lack of venues. But now we are back, better than ever, so come and ride with us. Attending Championships is a great way to celebrate the progress you have made this year, to pay homage to your relationship with your horse, and to end your show season with a bang. Please know that there will also be open classes offered these are non-championship classes. Championship awards include: A prize and neck ribbon to Champions, Reserve Champions awarded a neck ribbon, ribbons through eighth place. There will also be award ceremonies where you get to prance around the arena! For Championship classes, please log into the dashboard on our website to make sure your scores are properly recorded.

I hope you will plan on coming, even if you are not competing yourself. We need our FANS! And, if you are coming, how about helping by volunteering? Janeen Cochi is our Volunteer Coordinator, and we will have a sign up out soon. Keep checking our website calendar.

I am pleased to report we have two new Chapter Presidents, Andrea Osmond of High Plains and Sandy Vernon of Arkansas Valley. Both are very excited to serve in their new roles and have some excellent ideas to promote dressage and grow their clubs. We may host a Chapter leadership roundtable this winter to get to know each other, share ideas, brainstorm together, and discuss challenges as well.

The Volunteer Committee continues its work on our Volunteer Photo Gallery. The gallery will be a tribute to our volunteers on our website.

The Youth Committee is working on a Day Camp to be held in October. Plans are coming along. We are also looking into hosting a “Newbie” clinic for those considering competing for the first time this winter. The brainchild of Karen Harkin, the Newbie clinic was held by our very own Grand Valley Dressage Chapter. It was a big success, and we are hoping to offer it to the rest of RMDS via Zoom.

We have been updating our Board Volunteer Positions, with the support of the current volunteers, to prepare for upcoming elections in October at the Board of Governors. If you are interested in becoming more involved, perhaps serving on our amazing board, I would love to talk with you. If you have any concerns, suggestions, ideas, or kudos, please reach out to me. This is your club and we want to hear from you.

See you at Champs

#### **Vice President Report**

No report.

**Dorothy Kapaun**

#### **Central Office**

Sarah Murphy

##### **Membership**

- Membership comparison doc sent to Heather; 654 active members, 127 new horse registrations since 10/1/2022
- Accepting dues for 2023: \$80

##### **Shows:**

- All Shows have been turned in results/volunteer hours
- AV changed schooling show to Sept 9th

##### **Omnibus:**

- 12 magazines in stock

##### **Database/Website:**

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

**Banquet:**

- Have contracts for Nov BOG and Dinner Banquet in January from Paper Hartman at the Renaissance.
- Board/Central Office needs to decide on dinner menu for Banquet in January. Will send menu options file to Board in email after September meeting. Let Central Office know choices.

**Volunteer:** Up to date as of 9/1/2023

**General:**

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

**Amelia Newcomb Clinic : Oct 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>:** Riders have been chosen and audits coming in; Katie has a count.

Sport Horse                      Sept 21

**Championships**                Sept 22-24;

**Executive Board Meetings:**

**Reports:** Sept 7, Oct 5 (budget)

**No reports:**

**BOG**                                Nov 18

**2024**

**Banquet**                            January 13

**Region 5 Championships**        Sept

**Permanent Committee Reports Continued:****Adult Amateur****Katie Knight**

We have selected the eight riders for the Amelia Newcomb clinic ranging from intro level to fourth level. We also have a healthy waitlist of riders. Thank you, Gwen and Eleanor, for your help! As of this report, we have seventeen auditors who have paid their fee. We continue to receive requests to audit and expect a healthy turnout.

We have about half of the volunteer spots filled and checking with a few more people. We are looking for donations to assist in providing lunch to the auditors and riders. Thank you again to Nighthawk Equestrian for hosting this clinic.

**Awards****Shannon Lemons**

1. Have sent out both RMDS wide and individual emails for trophy return at Championships
2. Pending new Freestyle AA First level trophy as original donors want it back. Current winner is sponsoring new trophy? Do you need help?
3. New sponsors/trophies needed for this year:
  - A. Freestyle First Level – need to replace – Katie Knight
  - B. Holsteiner – need to replace
  - C. AA 4th Level - Ricky Wasik Memorial – would like to replace.
  - D. Friesian Sport Horse - Currently no trophy
4. New sponsors/trophies needed for next year:
  - A. HM Pony Jr/YR - PS American Girl
  - B. Freestyle 3rd Level - Barbara Gardner Award – Judi DeVore will sponsor
  - C. Appaloosa - Homemade Cookie Award
  - D. Jr/YR First Level - IHO Viviana, Stellar Pony Club
  - E. Jr/YR Third Level -
  - F. Jr/YR FEI Level
5. Volunteer of the year gift ideas? Get with Shannon if you have ideas. Price range is \$20-\$25.
6. Have gotten inquiries regarding if we have enough of certain breeds to support an award
  - I do not have access to this information. These need to go to Central Office to research, or I would need access to the data base.

**Communications/Social Media****Rebecca Ciota**

January 1 - June 30, 2023

Our Audience: RMDS is a USDF Group Member Organization. Formed in 1971 and incorporated in 1977, RMDS supports the sport of dressage in the Rocky Mountain region with chapters in Colorado and Wyoming. Our social media content focuses on our GMO and its members' activities and dressage in the Rocky Mountain Region.

### Facebook Audience

We had **2,422** Facebook followers between January 1st and June 30, 2023. This is about 440% larger than our paying membership at the end of June (around 550 members).

**95% of our Facebook followers are women.** 5% are men. Non-binary individuals are not included in Meta's statistics.

We have equal distributions of followers between the ages of **34-44, 45-55, and 55-65.** (Each demographic comprises about 20% of our followers.) Our top 3 cities are **Denver (5%), Fort Collins (3%), and Colorado Springs (3%).**

### Instagram Audience

We had **231** Instagram followers between January 1st and June 30, 2023. This is about 42% of our paying membership.

**92% of our Instagram followers are women.** 8% are men. Non-binary individuals are not included in Meta's statistics.

30% of our Instagram audience is **between the ages of 35 and 44.** Another 20% are between the ages of 45 and 55. Our top 3 cities are **Denver (7%), Boulder (6%), and Niwot (6%).**

### Results

#### Facebook Results

Between January 1 and June 30, 2023...

- Our Facebook posts **reached 17,685 users.**
- The previous year's trends suggest that we'll see *more* reach from July 31 - December 31.
- **2,449 users visited** our Facebook page.
- **78 new users liked** (followed) us.

#### Instagram Results

Between January 1 and June 30, 2023...

- Our Instagram posts **reached 321 users.**
- **131 users** visited our Instagram page.
- **65 new users followed us.**

Our 5 Most Popular Posts

Training Tip Tuesday: Steffen Peters

Reach: 5,552 users

Comments: 22

2,200% higher than average.

Shares: 28

2,800% higher than average.

Reactions: 283

2,021% higher than average.

Janet Foy Article

Reach: 3,726 users

Comments: 0

Typical: 0-1

Shares: 46

4,600% higher than average.

Reactions: 14

Typical: 3-14.

Championship Announcement

Reach: 1,615

Comments: 4

400% higher than average.  
Shares: 13  
1,300% higher than average.  
Reactions: 62  
443% higher than average.  
Omnibus Ad #1: Windswept Farms  
Reach: 1,314  
Comments: 7  
700% higher than average.  
Shares: 3  
300% higher than average.  
Reactions: 85  
607% higher than average.  
Omnibus Ad #2: Dear Dolly Hannon  
Reach: 1,309  
Comments: 56  
5,600% higher than average.  
Shares: 3  
300% higher than average.  
Reactions: 245  
1750% higher than average.

**Magazine** – Nicole is going to update the media kit as she’s had some interest.

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

#### **Education**

**MaryJo Hoepner**

Working on scheduling TD and Show Management training for 2024  
Also hope to have zoom presentation on new rules since there are so many  
Question on if we’re doing an L program Part 2 for next year? Gwen and Heather talked a bit about some logistics.  
Basics of showing and such like Grand Valley did? Can we get that going?

#### **Junior/Young Riders**

**Jewlee Bellah**

Gabrielle Hibbert is interested in being the co-chair of the committee. She introduced herself. She runs a pony club and has a 4-H group at her farm as well. **Eleanor Harrison moved to approve Gabrielle as a co-chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stan Adamson. Motion passed unanimously.**  
The day camp/clinic planning for October 14th is going well with Gabrielle Hibbert teaching and hosting at Wind Dance Equestrian Center. The budget for this event is attached and I will be presenting it for approval tonight. Upon approval of the budget we will send out a flyer and ask for help with marketing it from the Central Office and social media. Thank you for everyone who has pitched in and helped put this together as I learn the ropes. I'm excited to bring Summer Intensive back for next year!

#### **RMDS Day Camp For Youth**

October 14th, 2023 - 9AM - 4 PM  
Wind Dance Equestrian Center  
1518 Windy Gap Road Loveland CO 80537

The RMDS Day Camp for Youth is for riders of all levels- from those just starting out in the sport of dressage to those who want to sharpen their dressage skills. The day will be packed with lessons and activities to help our campers learn about horsemanship, riding dressage, making new friends & having fun!

**Camp Includes:** Lesson, fun learning stations, horsey crafts, group activities Lunch & prizes!

**Cost:** \$125 / rider payable by RMDS PayPal

Budget for Day Camp		
Instructor Gabrielle Hibbert		600
Facility Bathrooms		250
Day Stalls		0
Lunch and snacks	Donated	
Craft	Donated	
Insurance		150
Total Expenses		850

Participant fee 1,000 \$125 x 8

Profit Net Zero

### Marketing

**Kristen Allen / Jessica Reigel**

Looking forward into getting sponsors for the overall organizations, outside of just Championships. Kristen is going to try to re-work the Championships packet into an organization packet.

How to get the Facebook page like some of the other GMOs? Most interacted posts from some of the other GMOs are those of the success of the members. Kristen is going to try that at Championships.

Working on a Day in the Life of trainers as well.

### Professionals

**Joan Clay**

1. 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.
2. Professionals' Symposium: Still need to work on organizing something for 2024 and/or 2025. Any suggestions for clinicians and formats are welcomed. Heather suggested perhaps teaming with LakeView and Nighthawk to bring in the 2 Bills – Warren and McMullin.

### Scholarship

**Karen Harkin**

#### Scholarship Recipient Progress Report:

**Ruth (Edie Nielsen), Leg-Up Scholarship \$500 (Training and First Level):** Complete. Recipient paid in full by RMDS.

**Megan Bretey, Opening Doors /Barbara H. McElnea Scholarship (\$1000) (Professional):** Complete. Article and photo submitted for payment. Awaiting approval.

**Gemma Hanekon, Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship (\$500) (Adult Amateur):** Complete except for final clinic on September 16. Volunteer hours complete. Will finish her article by September 30.

**Victoria DeWitt, Junior/Young Rider Scholarship (\$500) (J):** Finished her last activity last week. She is working on her article; volunteer hours are complete.

**Rebecca Ciota, Leg-Up Scholarship \$500 (Training and First Level):** Needs to schedule one more lesson with an outside trainer. Article nearly finished; volunteer hours are complete.

### Volunteer

**Judi DeVore/Eleanor Harrison**

\*We've collected photos of volunteers in action for the website

\*We've written volunteer articles for the eCentaur monthly

\*We're working with Janeen Cochi on volunteer recruitment for Championships

\*Working on volunteer appreciation ideas. Try to find ideas outside of the box for those that don't show or aren't riding currently.

Discussion of the \$1000 gift from BVD last year, as the check wasn't labeled as such as being for volunteers, we can only find 2 deposits, one for the website and one for the Championships.

**Appointed Committee Reports:**

**1. Western Dressage**

No report

Simone Windeler

**2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents**

VP – 1 year term

Secretary – 2 year term – Heather is interested

Treasurer – 2 year term – Sharon Soos

Awards – 2 year term – Shannon Lemons

Education – 2 year term –

Marketing – 2 year term –

Professionals – 2 year term –

Volunteers – 2 year term – Judi DeVore will continue with a co=chair

Stan Adamson

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

Heather asked for Delegate information by October 15th

Heather Petersen

**2023 - BOARD OF GOVERNORS DELEGATE COUNT  
18-Nov-23**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Delegates</b>
AV	44	<b>3</b>
BV	139	<b>7</b>
FH	68	<b>4</b>
GV	83	<b>5</b>
HP	161	<b>9</b>
NC	50	<b>3</b>
OB	24	<b>2</b>
PP	86	<b>5</b>
No Chapter	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>Members</b>	<b>Delegates</b>
0-20	1
21-40	2
41-60	3
61-80	4
81-100	5
101-120	6
121-140	7
141-160	8
161-180	9
181-200	10
201-220	11
221-240	12
241-260	13
261-280	14
281-300	15

A Chapter shall annually elect from its membership delegates to the Society's Board of Governors. At a Board of Governors meeting, each Chapter shall be entitled to one (1) vote for every twenty (20) members or fraction there-of. Each Chapter shall notify in writing the Secretary of the Society as to how its voting rights are distributed amongst it delegates.



**4. Banquet –**  
January 2024, facility all set.

Beth Geier/Sarah Murphy

#### **Region 5 Report**

Heather Petersen

We are getting ready to schedule our Region 5 meeting, stay tuned for more information. I'm aiming for October. We will also have another Regional meeting just before convention in November and a meeting during the USDF Convention. Congratulations to our youth from Region 5 who qualified and competed at the North American Youth Championships in Traverse City, Michigan and the USEF Festival of Champions at the end of August at Lamplight in Illinois! We are so proud of your accomplishments. Our Young Riders ended up 4th place and our Juniors ended up in 8th place!

Many congratulations to all of our folks who also competed at the USEF Festival of Champions at Lamplight in Illinois. I enjoyed going this year to cheer everyone on and there were some incredible horses and some fantastic riding! Several folks from Region 5 brought home Championships and top placings, super job!

Good luck to everyone at the upcoming Regional Championships! Many thanks go to the Arizona Dressage Association for hosting Regionals this year.

Don't forget to declare if you're thinking about attending the US Dressage Finals in November.

<https://www.horshowoffice.com/usdf.org/> You need to declare before you compete in the Regional Championships. I look forward to seeing everyone at the USDF Convention in December! We are going to Omaha, Nebraska this year, November 28th - December 1st. All Group Member Organization's (GMO) were asked to designate their delegates for the USDF convention Board of Governors meeting by August 31st and if not determined by that date, the GMO president would become the delegate. If the GMO delegate/president is not able to attend the convention, a proxy for that delegate can be submitted at any time up until the night before the BOG meeting at the convention. The advantage for the GMO is that the delegate will be known and can receive communication from the USDF office earlier. GMO Delegates are included on a list of USDF delegates to receive e-mail communications containing pertinent information on issues that will come before the 2023 BOG meeting at convention. If GMO's have not yet sent in their delegate information, please do so as soon as possible.

#### **Old Business:**

Sharon Soos has all the banners at her house and she'll bring them on Wednesday to Championships.

#### **New Business:**

TD test this fall.

#### **Chapter Reports**

##### **Arkansas Valley Dressage**

**Sandy Vernon**

During our August meeting, Nancy Leonard stepped down as president. The members present voted in Sandy Vernon as acting president for the remaining year.

We currently have 41 members from 9 different Colorado counties. Five of our members live in New Mexico, one member lives in California. Our youngest member is 12 and our oldest is 79.

Our membership is quite diverse, and we are discussing ways to assess and honor the needs and expectations of our group. Proximity is certainly an issue because long driving distance limits participation in our meetings and equestrian activities.

This is what we've been doing.

Diana Carter hosted an Equitation clinic / fun day event in August that was well attended. Members had an enjoyable time riding their horses on her creative agility course. She provided a well appointed buffet, post event.

We also had a social outing last month, driving west into the Wet Mountains to tour a high altitude lavender farm. Not an equestrian event, but we did have time to discuss future plans for our chapter, and share personal horse news and experiences, while walking fields of lavender. It was good bonding time. Lavender is a great calming agent and helps in achieving consensus! I am thinking we should always have a bouquet of lavender at every meeting. After the lavender tour, Tracy Broll hosted lunch for the group in her lovely Westcliffe home.

Upcoming events.

Our fall schooling show is at Pathfinder, in Florence, on September 9<sup>th</sup> (next Saturday). This venue is on the Arkansas River. It is on beautiful park like grounds with lots of shady cotton wood trees and grassy fields. It is a perfect place for an early fall horse show.

Holly Bergay will be returning to us on September 15<sup>th</sup> for instruction and a good time, always.

We are encouraging our members to go to Championships to audit and volunteer.

Amelia Newcomb (our member from California) is coming to Black Hawk in Boulder, for a two day clinic on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to have Amelia here in Colorado. It promises to be a very instructive clinic. Please spread the word for us.

We are experiencing a bit of restructuring since I have come on board. Our members have some fun ideas on keeping our sport and our membership viable here in Southern Colorado. Stay tuned!

### **Boulder Valley Dressage**

**Stan Adamson**

Boulder Valley membership currently stands at 137 as of the end of August 2023.

At our August 14, 2023, meeting, we reviewed our annual Dressage at the Fairgrounds Shows I and II on July 29-30 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont. The show went very well, despite reduced attendance from last year; we discussed possible reasons for this, including the fact that Foothills chapter had a show at the Colorado Horse Park the weekend of August 5-6.

We voiced our appreciation to Janeen Cochi and Marcia Zuger for their work as in person Volunteer Coordinators and the good work accomplished by all our volunteers, including set-up on Friday and take-down on Sunday. We evaluated the two Ford pickups lent to us by Mike Maroone Ford and decided to try to use two electric Lightning models next year, since they are so quiet, and only use a small percentage of their battery charge running all day. We also discussed special appreciation gifts to Mike Maroone Ford and Dan Michaels of Rabbit Mountain Equestrian Center who loaned us his blue-tooth speakers for the freestyles, since the sound system at the Fairgrounds was too boomy and hard to hear for both judges and riders; since the meeting, Stan Adamson and Nicole Donohue have followed up, providing a note and two dozen donuts to the Ford Dealer, and we will give a gift of \$25 in Dan & Barb Michaels' name to the Morris Animal Foundation.

On September 5, Nicole will be requesting from the Boulder County Fairgrounds the dates of June 29-30, 2024, for our Dressage at the Fairgrounds shows.

We reviewed our planned Volunteer Appreciation Clinic with Annie Morris as Clinician at Lookout Ridge Farm in Longmont November 11-12. Janeen Cochi will send out at least one more e-blast to remind members this is an incentive to volunteer.

Shannon Clark will explore holding a bit-fitting and/or another ride-a-test, or a freestyle demonstration and will report best options at our October 9 meeting.

We discussed developing BVD specific job descriptions for the various volunteer positions for our annual Fairgrounds show, specifically focused on Set-up, Announcer, Volunteer Coordinator, Ring Stewards, etc., since there are very specific details pertaining to these shows. We will study the already available job descriptions from USDF and RMDS and modify them to include issues specific to our shows. Janeen Cochi will collate these and collaborate with Nicole Donohue to make sure they are available next year. This is especially important when transitions are made from experienced incumbents to new volunteers.

We will meet again as a club virtually on October 9 at 7 p.m. and will elect new officers for 2024 and appoint our representatives to the November 18 RMDS Board of Governors meeting.

### **Foothills Chapter**

**Nadia Westra**

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

Well, we pulled off a successful show at the Colorado Horse Park. We had over 200 rides per day and over 150 horses entered. We have also been invited back to the CHP next year for the same weekend. While we had some challenges, we learned a lot, and everything went off without any major hitches. We will be seeking ways to make next year better and easier for our small group of volunteers.

Our 2023 show season came to an end with the Foothills Last Chance show. It was a smaller show, but after the FDF show we were more than happy to have a slower day.

We are all getting some much-needed rest after a busy year before we begin planning our winter clinics and ideas for next year.

## **Grand Valley Dressage**

**Karen Harkin**

Grand Valley Dressage Society (GVDS) held a successful schooling show in late August. Despite the heat and with school and sports underway, we had good attendance. Planning is underway for our final schooling show on October 7-8, with an addition of some fun classes, suitable for juniors through adults. We potentially have two or three Century rides at the October show. It has been a while since we've hosted one of those rides and it would be an honor to provide the judging, venue and accolades to the riders.

Several members offered a Dressage for Newbies clinic in July. The goal was to introduce more people to the dressage discipline, break down barriers and stereotypes and connect riders with seasoned competitors to act as mentors. Twenty-four participants enjoyed a half-day of demonstrations and lectures and left with very comprehensive handouts. The Grand Valley Horse Rescue group was so excited after the Dressage for Newbies, that they asked us to come to their facility and help mounted riders to correctly execute an introductory test. This group uses rescue horses, trained primarily by the young riders. We tried to help the organizers understand how to evaluate which riders were ready for a horse show or not. The ten riders and their parents who participated were enthusiastic, gracious, willing to learn and thankful for our help. We have offered our time again, as they may have a few riders ready for our October show. One of our Newbie mentored adult riders entered the August show and earned high score Introductory rider on her first time out!

The awards committee is preparing to order year-end awards, in advance of our Awards and Holiday event scheduled for Friday, December 8.

We have quite a few members who are participating in the RMDS Championships, Regionals, WDAA Worlds and numerous breed championships. We're proud of their achievements and wish them the best of luck.

## **High Plains**

**Andrea Osmond**

**President - Andrea Osmond**

**Vice President - Gemma Hamekom**

**Treasure - Tiffany Brown**

**Secretary - Jennifer Slade**

### **September 2023 High Plains Chapter Report**

- New President Andrea Osmond stepped into position in August 2023. This was announced to the members through Facebook and the website.
- September 16th is the High Plains Social & Sue Martin Clinic - The clinic is full, and we ended up dipping into the waitlist to keep it full with cancelations. We wish the RSVPs were more solid to have a better count on the social and Sue Martin Lecture attendance.
- With Andrea coming on as a board, we are working on getting settled and figuring out:
  - Fall and Winter Clinics
  - Hosting Horse Shows in 2024
  - Adding additional members to our board:
    - Education Chair
    - Volunteer Chair
    - Show Chair
    - Grant Chair
    - Marketing Chair
  - Adding programs for volunteer appreciation & and scholarships
  - Member engagement

**Northern Colorado**  
No report

**Sandra Rosewell**

**On the Bit**

**Ginka Kubelka**

Sadly, we had to cancel our recognized show this year. The footing at the facility couldn't satisfy our standards with the amounts of rain we have gotten this summer. The decision to cancel the show was not taken lightly, but with the safety and well-being of our participants and their equine partners in mind, it was our only option. We are working with the facility management now so we can provide great conditions next year, independent of possible rainfall.

We are also trying to find a better date for our show. It ended up lodged between two very popular Colorado shows, which will make it difficult to fill our show in the future.

Currently, we are looking into possible clinicians for next spring!

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. We will have educational presentations at some of the meetings, so contact us for more information, if interested!

**Pikes Peak Dressage**

**Patricia Weed**

PPDS held its monthly meeting on July 20 at The Prime Cut Grill at Latigo.

Thrilled with the large number of the membership in attendance for a good meal, meeting, and comradery.

Highlights from the meeting:

- In light of the Estes Park Show starting Aug 18 and RMDS Championship week starting Sep 21 we cancelled the August and September meetings. Next dinner meeting is Thursday, Oct 19.
- Discussed possible fall clinic with Dolly Hannon
- Selected a theme for our RMDS Auction Basket
- Discussed Delegates for BOG
- Board elections in December
- Christmas Party December 10, 2pm-5pm at Shannon Lemons' in Black Forest.
- Swag ideas for 2024: Caps standard vs ladies caps, stocking caps, sun shirts, fanny pack, license plate brackets.
- Recap show rules in November
- Possible Vendor End of Year Sale

**Next Meeting is October 5th. Stan Adamson moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judi DeVore. Motion passed unanimously.**

**8:29 pm Meeting Adjourned**

**Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen**