

RMDS BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 15, 2014
Renaissance Denver Hotel
3801 Quebec Street – Denver, CO 80207

Meeting was called to order at 8:00AM by Gwen Ka'awaloa

Attendance and delegate count:

There was discussion about giving Sandra Roswell's proxy to Grace Maddox, so that BVD would not lose their vote. Sandra was in a bad car accident and is not able to attend. Heather Petersen motioned to allow Grace Maddox to carry Sandra Roswell's Proxy, Julie Haugen seconded, and all were in favor.

Arkansas Valley-2:

Beth Hart
Brenda Haley

Boulder Valley-9:

Sarah Barnes: Proxy to Beth Geier
Danielle Culver: Proxy to Beth Geier
Nicole Donahue: Proxy to Robin Gay
Chole Rackley: Proxy to Beth Geier
Kristi Cooper-Camp: Proxy to Grace Maddox
Robin Gay
Beth Geier
Sandra Roswell: Proxy to Grace Maddox

Colorado Springs-3:

Pat Leech: 2 Votes
CiCi Lee

Foothills-4:

Kris Cooper
Lori Mitchell
Marilou Metcalf

Grand Valley-4:

Cheri Isgreen: 3 Votes
Tammy Fagan: Proxy to Cheri Isgreen

High Plains-9:

Jacquelin McIntyre: 8 Votes
Sheila McCabe: Proxy to Jacquelin McIntyre
Suzie Halle: Proxy to Jacquelin McIntyre
Wendy Cibis: Proxy to Jacquelin McIntyre
Una Schade: Proxy to Jacquelin McIntyre

On the Bit-2:

Tammy Au France
Connie Woodruff

Northern Colorado-5:

Renee Martig

Joan Clay
Jon Haugen: Proxy to Renee Martig at 2:05pm
Julie Haugen
Didi Dekrey

Pikes Peak-4:

Kerry-Louise Miller
Sue Borders
Shannon Lemons
Heather Petersen

Platte River-1:

Laura Speer

Wasatch Mountain-2:

Sally Shafer, 2 Votes: Proxy to Joan Clay

Western Colorado-2:

Barbara Graham-Terry: Proxy to Beth Hart
Barbara McElnea: Proxy to Beth Geier

Approval of 2013 BOG minutes

Beth Geier

Shannon Lemons motioned to approve the 2013 BOG Minutes as submitted, Lori Mitchell seconded and all were in favor. Minutes will be reviewed one more time for spelling errors only.

First reading of election roster with nominations from the floor

Gwen Ka'awaloa

The slate for 2015:

VP	Aline Brandau
Adult Amateur	Heather Petersen and Didi Dekrey
Awards	Shannon Lemons
Communications	NEEDED
Education	Jon Haugen
Junior/YR	Julie Burt
Marketing	Aline Brandau
RMDS Show Liaison	Beverly Swanson
Scholarship	Mary Jo Hoepner

It was strongly encouraged that more Members step up to take positions with RMDS

The slate for 2015:

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of October 31, 2013

RMDS Checking Account	\$38,678.67
Paypal Account	\$ 4,083.14
Scholarship Account	\$ 5,903.88
Money Market	<u>\$44,259.16</u>
Total	\$92,924.85

The balance in RMDS Checking has continued to drop down year after year. There was discussion about the possibility of moving \$20,000 from the Money Market Account into the Checking Account in order to

ensure enough funds are held in the Checking Account. We are moving towards doing Financial Reviews in place of audits; Audits are now costing upwards of \$10,000, whereas Financial Reviews are costing \$4,000. We were found to be in conformity with proper Accounting Principles during the latest Financial Review. Budget will be presented and voted on after lunch.

Central Office Report

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 773 members for 2014 – 11 are Centaur only. 63 new horses since October, 2013
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- **Accepting dues for 2015:** \$60.00 now until December 31, 2014

Shows:

- For 2015: 42 RMDS recognized shows: 33 are USEF/USDF recognized and 9 RMDS only shows maybe 6 more
- **Do we want to add: X-Halt Salute (RMDS only recognized) on the same day as the Championship Breed Show??**
- For 2014: 44 RMDS recognized shows: 38 are USEF/USDF recognized and 6 RMDS only shows maybe 2 more
- For 2013: 47 RMDS recognized shows: 35 were USEF/USDF recognized and 12 RMDS only recognized shows. 4 had breed shows. 1 cancelled
- For 2012: 52 RMDS recognized shows: 38 were USEF/USDF and 14 RMDS only and 4 of these cancelled. 6 included breed shows

Recognized Officials:

- Officials for RMDS only recognized shows: All USEF recognized TD's and Judges as well as: The following "**L**" **graduates** in the RMDS only recognized shows. These have kept up with their continuing education.

Simone Ahern *	719-749-9274
Julie Burt	719-431-2342
Kathleen Donnelly*	970-310-8729
Beth Geier	303-673-9840
Jessica Greer	970-581-5613
Julie Haugen*	970-290-8360
Sarah Martin *	719-379-3716
Linda Ohlson-Gross *	303-840-9818
KC Parkins-Kyle	303-841-9953
Kathy Simard*	720-981-4448
Stephanie Soule*	970-201-0747
Simone Windeler	719-287-2040

You may also the following **RMDS TD's** in the RMDS only recognized shows. These have kept up with their continuing education.

Joan Clay	970-420-0887
Didi DeKrey	970-568-3916
Jeannette Hillery	303-494-7718
MaryJo Hoepner	719-495-3648
Mindy Maguire	720-301-0089
Dee Stiers	970-618-2033

Omnibus:

- Accepting ads-need help in getting more. All tabs are sold.
- Am getting great help from Aline Brandau with help obtaining ads

- Chapters receive one page of a prize list free.

General:

- Chapters receive four (4) free email blasts per year for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

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

2015: Jan 8 March 12 May 14 July 7 (Tuesday) September 10 Oct 8-Budget Nov 21 BOG

Committee Chair Reports

Education

Jon Haugen

2014 was a busy year with the annual L Program CE and TD\Show Management clinics, and wonderful Biomechanics clinic, and the Instructor Certification workshop in March, Refresher in May and Final in October. The Instructor Certification Final had 7 participants and we had a 100% graduation. The IC program also had a profit of \$670.27. Congratulations to Beth for all of her hard work putting this together and making it a success.

2015 will be an even busier year than 2014 for Education. Starting January 10-11, the L Program B Session will be held at the Larimer Fairgrounds and Tomora. Jan 31st will be the L Program CE. The TD/Show Management clinic this year will be held on Feb. 21st, and I’m looking into adding a section for scribing to this clinic. Feb. 28th will be the Next Test Clinic, a morning of live horses demonstrating the 2015 Tests, and insight from Kristi Wysocki. March 14-15 will be the L Program C session. June, August, and November will be the D1, D2, and Finals of the L Program.

Jon Haugen, Education Chairman

Adult Amateur

Heather Petersen

I took over the Adult Amateur position mid-year by appointment, but it’s definitely been a busy year for RMDS for education as a whole and I’ve enjoyed helping with things already scheduled and developing some things for next year.

Jon Haugen, as Education chair, ran a great clinic in April aimed for the adult amateurs and the general RMDS population – “Biomechanics of the Horse and Rider”. This seminar was taught by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez and was well attended. Great reviews were received from those who were present.

Several other seminars and workshops were offered by RMDS, and though they are not necessarily only for the Adult Amateur, they were definitely of great benefit to the Amateur population. More promotion will be the goal for the future to let our amateurs know that the Judges’ Continuing Education seminars, the L program A, B and C sessions and many of the other general programs offered by RMDS are wonderful learning opportunities for the entire membership population, not just professionals. Many of our USEF r, R, and S dressage judges are still Adult Amateurs and a 42% of the USDF L graduates in this country are also Adult Amateurs.

I helped Jon set up the L program sessions A, B and C that started this month. We had great attendance for the A session and we hope to increase that and general awareness of the program for the B and C sessions since these are the only sessions open to auditors. This program is highly admired internationally and has helped the US produce what most countries consider are the best judges in the world. We hope more people will take advantage in this education in the principles of dressage.

I have also finalized the L program Part 2 that will start in May and continue through to the testing in November. We will be accepting 10 participants and we are offering some additional great instructors and testers – Joan Darnell, Lois Yukins and Gary Rockwell.

Scheduled for February is a great educational opportunity that is open to all RMDS membership and non-members but offers our Adult Amateurs a great insight into the upcoming competition year – the New Test Clinic. Kristi Wysocki (USEF S Dressage Judge) will be teaching this session and as she was one of the folks who authored the new tests that were released November 3rd, it will be great to have her knowledge of the changes to the tests and what those changes will have the judges looking for at shows and how your daily training will be influenced by the changes or how the changes can help with your daily training.

We are also working to organize the USDF Junior and Adult Team competition for this summer – a great way to bond with your horse and have a little more fun than the average horse show offers.

We welcome your ideas and feedback for educational opportunities. Please let us know what you would like to see and we will work to help provide those opportunities to you.

Congratulations also to all of our local Adult Amateurs who qualified for and competed at the USDF National Championships – it is fun to be a part of this great show that offers a National opportunity for our Adult Amateurs to showcase their talents and hard work.

Thank you,
Heather Petersen

PROPOSED BUDGET – “L” Dressage Judge Program Colorado – D1/D2/Final

Contact person/organizer : Jon Haugen / Heather Petersen
Location: Parker, CO & WestWorld, AZ

D1 (total est. expense \$3625)

___1___ Instructors @ \$750_/day x ___2___ days	\$ ___1500___
Lodging @ \$ ___133___/night x ___1___ instructors plus a helper?	\$ ___400___
Transportation	\$ ___500___
Meals @ \$ ___50___ per day x 2.5 days x ___1___ instructors	\$ ___125___
Facility rental @ \$ ___ for entire weekend	\$ _____
Coffee breaks & lunches for participants & instructors	\$ ___400___
Equipment rental - Bleachers	\$ ___\$500___
Postage, telephone calls, dressage tests, misc. supplies	\$ ___200___
Other (be specific) _____	\$ ___000___

D2 (total est. expense \$3625)

___1___ Instructors @ \$750_/day x ___2___ days	\$ ___1500___
Lodging @ \$ ___110___/night x ___1___ instructors plus a helper?	\$ ___400___
Transportation	\$ ___500___
Meals @ \$ ___50___ per day x ___1___ instructors	\$ ___125___
Facility rental @ \$ ___ for entire weekend	\$ ___
Coffee breaks & lunches for participants & instructors	\$ ___400___
Equipment rental - Bleachers	\$ ___\$500___
Postage, telephone calls, dressage tests, misc. supplies	\$ ___200___
Other (be specific) _____	\$ ___000___

Examination (total est. expense \$7550)

___2___ Examiners @ \$ ___750___/day x ___2___ days	\$ ___3000___
Lodging @ \$ ___133___/night x ___2___ examiners (2/3 nights)	\$ ___800___
Transportation	\$ ___1000___
Meals @ \$ ___50___ per day x 2.5 days x ___2___ examiners	\$ ___250___
Facility rental @ \$ ___150___ per day x ___1___ days	\$ _____
Coffee breaks & lunches for participants & examiners	\$ ___400___
(Lunch for participants on their own – plenty on grounds)	

Equipment rental - bleachers	\$ 400
Postage, telephone calls, misc. supplies	\$ 200
Organizers Airfare/hotel/meals (2 people)	\$1500
Other (be specific) _____	\$ 000
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TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSE	\$ 14800
\$2000 moving forward from A-C	-\$2000
Total cost of cover	\$12800
COST PER PERSON, based on 10 participants	\$ 1280 rmds members
	\$1350 non-rmds members

Junior/Young Rider

Julie Haugen

This year my position as the Chair of this committee was delinquent. Many ideas I had never came to fruition and although I was very involved in supporting the USDF Junior/ Young rider programs, I did not follow it into the RMDS level. I did learn a great deal about the programs and the wonderful people involved in them. However, it is for this reason I am choosing to step down. I do want to aid the future of the committee, but feel I do not have the time and energy to be the head of organizing and following through with the necessary activities for the youth of the region. In speaking with people throughout the year, I have learned many people have the same problem. Julie Burt has shown interested in being the Chair and we have discussed ideas for next year. I have let her know that I will help her with organizing and following through with the ideas next year.

Julie and I thought we would begin looking into a clinic series throughout the year at various locations. We are thinking that more short clinics may have a broad appeal and for both of us are more realistic to organize. Some of these activities will be classic riding clinics, while others will be non-mounted. We are also looking into a team building, non-riding camp through YMCA. She also wants to organize activities for the Jr/Yr riders during various shows throughout the year. We want to educate and support our youth in the area. It is our hope to improve their comradery and connection to each other.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

A. Policies

a. Trophy delivery

- i. Trophies will no longer be mailed to recipients; they must pick them up or make arrangements to have someone do so at the banquet, or make other arrangements afterwards.
- ii. Even with the requirement of professional packing and shipping, multiple trophies being damaged each year, which prompted this decision earlier in the year.
- iii. Some confusion among membership, but working on getting that settled.

b. Saddlebred trophy

- i. Received a call from donor, stating that the "arrangement" was that the painting would be returned to her each year it wasn't awarded
- ii. Anyone aware of this? Do we honor it?

B. Awards Inventory

a. Senior glasses –

- i. Purchased 6 dozen new this year since old stock exhausted
- ii. Should last about 3 years

b. 2014 Retiring trophies

- i. Iberian
 1. Have a donor for new trophy

2. Retired trophy – anyone know El Canto Lusitanos? Give it back to them? Last winner? Keep for eventual display?
- ii. Hanoverian
 1. Will contact previous donor – see if she would like to keep this trophy going or use a new one.
 2. Again, what to do with old trophy if we retire this one. Give it back to donor? Last winner? Keep
- c. 2015 Retiring trophies – We must have donors for these as there are 8 retiring after 2015
 - i. You’ve Come a Long Way Baby – This is a really unique trophy (from 1912 National Western) that we should probably keep (Cariellen DeMuth)
 - ii. High Score Mare 3rd Level + (Carolyn Schoenfield)
 - iii. Grade Horse – Joder Arabian Ranch?
 - iv. AA PSG – Waterloo Trophy, unique Asian style statue, should probably keep (Lori Oakley)
 - v. Pony Training – Nice silver plate (Julie Barringer-Richers)
 - vi. Open 1st – High Plains, bronze horse head book ends
 - vii. Open I2 – Graf Bobby Memorial, beautiful large glass chalice, should probably keep (Phillip and Jennifer Oldham)
 - viii. Futurity – Foothills, Triple Hema?
- d. The ongoing dilemma of retiring trophies.....
 - i. Which do we keep, which do we replace?
 - ii. If we want to keep and can’t contact original donor, do we add another donor to it or just cover the cost of keeping it, such as adding another plaque
 - iii. Do we keep original plaques with the trophy (where they might get lost) or try to come up with another solution, ie somehow attach small engraving of original plaque winners to trophy each time we add a plaque?
 - iv. What do we do with those we want to replace? Give to donor (what if we can’t contact?), leave with last winner? Keep for eventual display (where to keep and maintain)?
 - v. Keeping old plaques without trophies, keeping lots of old trophies and continually adding plaques could get cumbersome. For example, we already have several very old champagne buckets, not to mention the very large and likely very expensive silver punch bowl with engraved cups (AA 2nd level retired trophy). What do we do with these?
 - vi. Do we want to make this a case by case situation or set a standard policy?
- e. New Awards
 - i. Pony 2nd level
 1. Last year the board voted to accept two new awards where we have only 2-3 competitors and sometimes none. Our bylaws require 6 competitors for new horse of the year awards to be established other than “special” awards.
 2. I don’t believe we can hold other levels to a different standard, and Pony 2nd level was denied the year before because there were fewer than 6 competitors. There is interest and we are consistently getting competitors in the Pony 2nd level division.

C. Budget

- a. Unexpected expenses:
 - i. Additional special gift for the year, \$235
 - ii. 1/3 more rider plaques than last year, \$150
 - iii. Senior glasses purchase, \$400
- b. Expected savings
 - i. Decreased postage from not mailing trophies should save around \$300
 - ii. No significant cost of repairs or replacements not covered by donors.

iii. Many of the additional rider plaques were requested by members and we should be reimbursed for them, \$90

c. Expect that will meet budget, barely☺

D. For 2015

- a. Make sure to send out email reminders to trophy winners before championships
- b. Adding to information on trophy boxes that 9x12 plaques are considered part of the trophy and must be returned – many were not returned this year
- c. Start looking for donors for the next year, when we will have 8 trophies retiring
- d. Update Awards Manual to include new vendor information, updated trophy inventory, any caveats to donation (i.e. Saddlebred)
- e. Expect fewer new rider plaques (no Regionals in Colorado)

Shannon Lemons

Awards Chair

EXPENSE ITEM	2013			2014	2015	Proposed
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Proposed	Variance
Postage & mailing supplies	\$500	\$909	\$409	\$500	\$550	\$50
Trophy replacement/update	200	386	186	250	300	50
Supplies	150	281	131	300	300	0
Gifts	250	425	175	400	400	0
Ribbons	1,600	1,694	94	1,750	1,850	100
Rider plaques/plates, engraving	2,700	2,770	70	2,850	2,950	100
Miscellaneous	0	0		0	0	
INCOME ITEM						
Postage Reimbursement	(350)	(362)	(12)	(350)	(400)	(50)
Award						
Sponsor	(200)	(366)	(166)	(200)	(200)	0
Late Fees/Donations	0	0		0	0	
TOTAL	\$4,850	\$5,737	\$887	\$5,500	\$5,750	\$250

-There was discussion about returning the Saddlebred Trophy to Sally Hoffman, who donated the Painting. The trophy will be on hiatus status, not retired, but will be in Sally's possession until such a time that the Trophy can be awarded again.

-In regards to retiring trophies (and avoiding retiring trophies) we will be utilizing space on the website for a "Hall of Champions" so that we can continue to utilize these trophies by only creating new plaques to send to current winners, without the worry of sending multiple existing, full plaques.

-There was discussion about continuing to feature a trophy in every issue of the Centaur and e-Centaur, to create awareness among the RMDS Membership.

Beth Geier made a motion to waive the rule of 5-6 competitor minimum to add a pony 2nd level award as interest and competition at this level continually increases, Grace Maddox seconded and all were in favor.

Many thanks go to many people for the 2014 Championships. It is a group effort to get everything done and to make it a success.

As the Show Liaison, I have worn many hats, some more successfully than others. The position is a bit of a catch-all, so I have tried to fill in and get things done where needed. This has included hospitality at the show, answering questions, solving problems, designing ads at no cost for advertisers who needed help, and a myriad of other tasks. Over 50 handwritten thank you notes have been completed this week and are in the mail (100 new color notecards with envelopes were printed this fall at a cost of approximately \$35).

Advertising in the show program was good this year, but sponsorship - particularly the acquisition of large donors - is lacking. Because dressage is not a big draw in the local community (compared to the Grand Prix jumping, for instance), sponsors need to be pursued at a personal level. This means every member needs to seek out possible donor sponsors for the dinners, arenas, and barns. The connection really needs to be personal. Should a Marketing Chair be elected for 2015, sales for Championships should be part of that position's responsibility.

Beverly Swanson
Show Liaison

-There was discussion about putting the Sponsorship Dollars raised by other GMO's into the Centaur to make RMDS members aware of how much money other GMO's raise for Championships. There was additional discussion of making RMDS members aware of the BOG through invitation to come sit and learn, with the intention of inspiring and encouraging more involvement within the membership.

-Sponsorships: There was discussion about doing a Freestyle Expo with RMDS Dressage Riders to show Sponsors what we do and potentially raise support. How can we continue to raise awareness about our Sponsors and encourage RMDS Members to show their appreciation to our Sponsors?

-We met all the requirements at Championships for a USDF Grant and we will be receiving an extra \$1,000.00.

Reflection

Gwen Ka'awaloa

"Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

Communications

Linda Gaber

The printed Centaur and the E-Centaur continue to be members' No. 1 source of local dressage news, feature articles, calendars, education and advertising. In 2014, as Centaur Editor, I and our production contractor, RMDS member Beverly Swanson, produced 172 printed pages in six issues and numerous four-color pages in six online e-mailed editions. Clearly, our members and Board read and support their newsletters. Among the articles written by members this year were:

- Secrets From the Trainers' Vault: managed by Professional and Trainers Liaison Simone Windeler
- Clinic Reports - Kyrklund Symposium by Virginia Williams; Jean Luc Cornille by Beverly Swanson; Session A USDF 'L' Education Program by Linda Gaber in December Centaur
- Training Advice - Winter Riding Exercises by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez; Long-Distance Lessons Using Skype by RMDS Solid Seat Scholarship Winner Arlene Rhodes; Safe Trail Riding by Cheri Isgreen
- Volunteering - by Lori Mitchell
- Events - First National Dressage Finals in 2013 by Sarah Martin (Article on RMDS riders at the 2014 Finals in December Centaur); How to Put on a Schooling Show by Beverly Swanson; RMDS Region 5 Championships participation information and final scores

- Scholarships and Awards - Carol Lavell Gifted Fund recipient Shannon Lemons; The Dressage Foundation grant to the Spanish Riding School by Suzie Haynes Hallé

To support our two Centaurs, RMDS subsidizes them. Yes, the E-Centaur introduced in February 2013 saves RMDS about \$9,000 annually in postage and printing expenses. However, there is not enough advertising income to cover the two newsletters' expenses of approximately \$14,500 in 2014, for a loss of about \$9,000. For 2015, losses are budgeted at \$12,400.

The story is the same for the Omnibus. Advertising revenue does not cover its costs, with an estimated 2014 \$15,500 income, \$18,000 expenses and \$2,500 loss. The 2015 budgeted shortfall is \$5,000, with an estimated \$10,000 in income and \$15,000 in expenses. You see the same picture in other printed media, such as newspapers and magazines. It simply is cheaper to produce them online, plus there are many other (Internet) advertising avenues available to businesses with Facebook, web sites, e-mail and more.

However, the Centaurs' strength is that they provide advertisers a targeted equine audience. And, there also are some potential remedies to decrease the RMDS subsidy to its newsletters: increase advertising sales (with more click-thru ads on the RMDS web site and E-Centaur) or raise rates in both newsletters, add an advertising salesperson, reduce the number of issues and content, or convert the printed Centaur to an online version, for some or all issues.

Other suggestions have been to sell advertisers into themed issues promoting: Clinics; Trainers/Instructors; Barns/Boarding; Horses for Sale, plus sale services like video presentations and sale web sites; Equine Services: Farrier, Tack, Photography, Horse Transport, Vehicles, Trailers, Clothing for Horse and Rider, Artists,; and others.

More revenue-generating ideas include asking the Marketing Committee to coordinate ad sales for the two Centaurs, Omnibus, and Championship program and show.

These and other ideas may be discussed by future Boards.

More good news is that in 2013, the Communications Committee team made it easier for advertisers to do business with RMDS. Now in use is an updated advertising link on ECentaur and the RMDS web site providing complete self-service information and forms for advertising in E-Centaur, Omnibus and the Championship program.

As I leave as Editor and Communications Chair, I urge you to continue to share your horse-related knowledge, enthusiasm and experiences in the Centaurs, and to encourage businesses to support these valuable newsletters.

Omnibus

Nicole Bizzarro

-Many ads have been sold, but we are not close to breaking even yet. Members really need to be seeking out sales for advertisements. All Trainers, Barns and Boarding Facilities are encouraged to purchase a quarter page advertisements to help spread the word about their services.

**Website
Centaur**

**Michael Petersen
Beverly Swanson**

Both the print and electronic version of the Centaur are doing well. I do not expect any price increases from Spradlin or Constant Contact at this time.

As our wonderful Communications Chairperson, Linda Gaber, is resigning, RMDS will need someone to fill her extremely capable shoes. This means someone who can get content: articles and reports on what's happening both locally and nationally. We need someone who has their ear to the ground and can keep members up-to-date on events, clinics, etc. as well as have a feel for what members like to read about,

e.g. personal stories, clinic experiences, etc.

If RMDS would like to do an additional advertising insert in 2015, Linda and I both recommend either a Trainers insert or a Horses for Sale insert.

Beverly Swanson
Centaur Publisher

-We always have a need for more advertising and article submissions. Please encourage the members of your chapters to continue sharing what they are doing through Centaur Articles.

Marketing Professionals

**Sharon Soos
Simone Windeler**

The professional trainers/riders liaison was created last year to give this group a voice on the board.

In the past year I have mainly reached out to the professionals within RMDS to help create a new "Trainer's Vault" for the Omnibus. The idea there is to share personal tips and tricks on training horses and riders, mainly focused on a certain topic.

Most recently, Sarah Dodge has spearheaded an effort to bring together trainers at a roundtable to share ideas.

Especially in the summer months all trainers and professionals get very busy with shows and events, so it has been difficult to have them share their knowledge.

I hope to renew interest in this great opportunity to present oneself to the dressage community and have people learn more about a particular trainer and their methods.

I encourage all trainers and professionals to contact me with questions, concerns and ideas.

Scholarship

MaryJo Hoepner

We have had several inquiries about submissions for this year. Hopefully everyone inquiring will submit requests.

Deadline is November 30. So please encourage any and all to apply.

MaryJo Hoepner, Scholarship Chairman

New address: Heather Petersen, 22750 County Rd 37, Elbert, CO 80106

Banquet

Laura Speer

The VS outbreak didn't adversely affect the banquet as expected. This year we have 164 reservations—only 3 less than last year—and still way above the attendance numbers when it was a rotational banquet.

During the past year, the cost per person and the venue have been a constant item of discussion during the regular board meetings. Here are a few facts to help address this topic.

- 1) Several years ago High Plains Chapter asked the board to approve a budget for the BOG separate than that of the Banquet so the cost per person did not have to cover the BOG. That is still the case today. The budget is \$1800. Last year we paid a little over \$1600. This year it will be closer to the budget. The room is free if you purchase food. Next year, we have already agreed to cut the budget by eliminating breakfast. (\$15 per person) Lunch is \$25 per person. There is no tax on this event because we do not charge to attend. Denver hospitality tax requires you to NOT charge for food or the event to be non-taxable even if you are a non-profit organization. Since we charge for the banquet, we are taxed at \$28%. Keep in mind, hospitality charges apply in other cities at other rates.

- 2) The room for the banquet is also free with dinner service. The breakdown for the evening is such:
 Sirloin dinners are \$31 per person, chicken and ravioli are \$27 (plus the 38%
 Cash bar is \$95 per hour (3 hours)
 Audio & sound package is \$500
 As you can see, we are barely squeaking by at \$40 per person. The silent auction items and the chapter baskets help with the expense. The past few years have seen enough income from the auctions to offset some of the cost of the BOG, too. This year, probably not as I did not get as many auction items.
- 3) Points of discussion:
 *hold the BOG somewhere else and/or on a different date
 *have children's meals (this hotel can provide for \$13 per plate)
 *hold the banquet somewhere else

Discussion?

Laura Speer, Banquet Chairman

-There was discussion about separating the BOG and the Awards Banquet, continuing to hold the BOG in November, and moving the Awards Banquet to January. In order to help save costs for RMDS, it was suggested that Chapters provide a per diem for delegates for lunch. There are several options available that would allow us to hold a meeting for less than \$200, and some free options.

-Jon Haugen motioned that we separate the dates of the BOG and the Awards Banquet, Grace Maddox Seconded, all were in favor.

-The new location for the BOG 2015 is TBD. We will be looking closely at keeping the location as central as possible to make it easily accessible for all RMDS members.

-There was discussion about changing the Banquet from a Dinner Ceremony to a Luncheon.

-Beth Geier motioned that we keep the Banquet at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver in the evening, and include the child's dinner meal option. Julie Haugen seconded. All were in favor.

-Pat Leech motioned that RMDS move the Annual Awards Banquet to January/February of the following year, with dates TBD pending Hotel availability. CiCi Lee seconded. All were in favor.

Western Dressage

Frances Carbonnel

Michelle Anderson motioned that we accept the written reports of our Committee Chairs as is. Kerry-Louise Miller seconded. All were in favor.

Second reading of election roster, nominations from the floor Gwen Ka'awaloa

VP	Aline Brandau
Adult Amateur	Heather Petersen and Didi Dekrey
Awards	Shannon Lemons
Communications	NEEDED
Education	Jon Haugen
Junior/YR	Julie Burt
Marketing	Aline Brandau
RMDS Show Liaison	Beverly Swanson
Scholarship	Mary Jo Hoepner

By-Laws

Beth Geier

Education Members:

There was discussion about creating a new Membership category for “Education Members” at a \$45 fee. The purpose of this category is to support RMDS Members who do not show. They will receive a Membership at a discounted rate, and if they choose to show, their show scores will not count for RMDS. They would not have a Chapter affiliation; however they would be eligible to attend local chapter events. If they later decide they would like to upgrade to a full membership with a Chapter affiliation, they are eligible to do so, and their scores will then count towards RMDS.

Heather Petersen motioned that we approve By-Law Change for Education Members, Laura Speer seconded. The following votes were represented:

Yay-19

Nay-11

Abstain-5

Motion Passed.

Laura Speer motioned to amend the Section IX Education Member Benefits to reflect:

1. A group member of USDF
2. Education Members may access the Centaur online and will receive e-Centaur. No Omnibus
3. Will be eligible for RMDS member discounts at RMDS events.
4. Scores will not count for RMDS
5. There will be a Chapter Affiliation.
6. A card providing proof of RMDS education membership shall be provided to each member.

Julie Burt motioned to approve Section IX as amended, Heather Petersen seconded, and all were in favor.

Beth Geier motioned to delete the Centaur Only membership, Tammy Au France seconded, and all were in favor.

Heather Petersen motioned accept the Education Membership at the proposed \$45 fee, Beth Hart seconded, and all were in favor.

Article VII:

Motioned to replace ‘audit’ with Financial Review, and delete ‘audit.’ Beth Geier motioned to accept, Julie Haugen seconded, all were in favor.

Article VIII: Committees

Proposal on paper (change Marketing to #2): Beth Geier motioned we accept the change, Tammy Au France seconded. All were in favor.

Budget

Sharon Soos

There was discussion about creating a line item for the Professional’s Committee at \$500.

Heather Petersen motioned that we budget \$500 expense for the Professional’s Committee, Joan Clay seconded. Heather Petersen motioned to accept the Budget as proposed, Julie Haugen seconded, all were in favor.

Reflection:

“All I pay my Psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay, and he listens to me everyday.”

Old Business

- USDF Convention

Gwen Ka’awaloa

Gwen was asked to sit on the ‘Adult’ committee (NOT AA). She helped approve a video clinic series with Kathy Connolly and Betsy Steiner. This year the USDF Convention will be in Boston, with both Gwen and Aline attending.

- Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

New Business

- 2015 Show Schedule
- X Halt Salute Show Approval

Beth Geier

In 2014, we decided to add an additional show (X Halt Salute) before Championships to allow a last chance show for qualifying scores, for those who were unable to get their scores due to the VS Outbreak. The show was very successful, making RMDS money and bringing in more competitors and qualifiers to Championships. It is proposed that we add the show into the RMDS Championships Show Schedule for 2015.

Beth Geier motioned to approve ‘X Halt Salute’ as a permanent show for RMDS, and Renee Martig seconded. All were in favor except for Beth Geier, Heather Petersen and Shannon Lemons who abstained. Jon Haugen was not present for the vote.

- 2nd Level Pony Class and Award at Championships

Beth Geier motioned that we add a 2nd level Pony Championship Class to the Championship Show, and Tammy Au France seconded. All were in favor except for Beth Geier, Heather Petersen and Shannon Lemons who abstained. Jon Haugen was not present for the vote.

- Colorado Horse Development Authority

Joan Clay

Joan Clay attended a meeting with the Colorado Horse Development Authority with a tremendous turnout from the Equine Community, including the Colorado Horse Council. There was much discussion about how to increase membership and involvement, issues with the spread of and prevention of disease, and how political lobbying affects our sport. Joan will be following up to provide the minutes from this meeting to help keep RMDS up to date about events happening in our area.

Chapter Reports –

Arkansas Valley

Brenda Haley

Our January meeting involved planning for the year and our calendar was set as follows: Feb: Master of Hounds from Fort Carson Hounds gave a presentation. A few members did participate and rode with them in following hunts. March: Pot Luck and video – lots of fun, wine and great food!

April: Show prep clinic at Patch Ranch – was very informative and several members later either rode in the arena or went on the trails.

May: Cavaletti clinic with Simone Windeler – one of our highlights of the year!

June: Ride at Test – cancelled due to lack of entries

July: Amelia Newcomb clinic at Patch Ranch – lots of auditors, great lessons

September: Agility clinic with Anna Blake – several non-members participated showing an interest for this – possible new members draw.

October – Schooling Show – cancelled due to lack of entries

November – Elections

December – Christmas party planned.

We have discussed goals and needs for the future and are optimistic about getting new people involved and growing our membership. Our board will be mostly new people and with their fresh enthusiasm and the support of the “oldies” AVDA has a lot of potential.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Haley

Boulder Valley

Sarah Barnes

Boulder Valley Dressage had a relatively low-key 2014. Our major event of the year was our Spring Fling Show and Ride-a-Test in April at Singletree Farm. Stephanie Soule judged the show and Jan Goodrich-Spear judged the ride-a-test. Attendance was good for the show and especially enthusiastic for the ride-a-test. Unfortunately, due to the VS outbreak, we had to cancel our second show at the end of August. Members took advantage of various RMDS educational opportunities throughout the year, including the USDF “L” program’s continuing education session in January, the USDF Instructor Certification workshops in the spring and session “A” of the USDF “L” program in October. Members who attended these educational activities received partial refunds on their auditing fees, courtesy of BVD. Boulder Valley Dressage members also participated in numerous shows throughout the season and we are looking forward to honoring them at our annual awards banquet in January.

Supervision of the BVD website is now in the capable hands of Meredith Reiff, who took charge over the summer. She is doing a great job of keeping the site fresh and inclusive, as well as informative. The newsletter now appears only on an occasional basis, due in part to the lack of an active editor, as well as the revival of the website as an up-to-date source of information.

Boulder Valley Dressage would like to acknowledge the contributions to the club from the facility owners and trainers who host our events, the board members who help to organize them and especially the volunteer-members without whom we could not put on any of our activities.

Special thanks to:

Singletree Farm – Jan Treadwell, Nell Foxworth and Karen Whitman

Show Manager – Nicole Donahue

Show Secretary – Beth Geier

Board members -- Sarah Barnes, Stephanie Boyles, Nicole Donahue, Beth Geier, Julie Barringer-Richers, Meredith Reiff

A very special thanks goes to Kathie Hibbard, selected as BVD’s volunteer of the year. Due to a misunderstanding about responsibilities in connection with our awards banquet last year, we found ourselves in a difficult situation at the last minute, with no one to take charge of planning the event. Kathie stepped up, located a great venue, negotiated the contract and worked with the rest of the board to insure

a successful evening. We could not have done it without her. In addition, she is always an active presence at our meetings, contributing energy and enthusiasm to whatever we're planning or discussing. She is also an contributor to the Boulder County horse community beyond dressage, lending her support to several other organizations. She can most often be found trail riding her magnificent mule, Mille.

Thanks Kathie!

Our officers for 2015 include: Robin Gay (President), Kristi Cooper-Camp (VP), Nicole Donahue (Secretary) and Beth Geier (Treasurer).

Colorado Springs
Foothills

Patricia Leech
Lori Mitchell

Chapter is in good financial standing with over \$5500

Ended year with 76 members, up from previous years

Quarterly Meetings are well attended, with usually 10-15 members

Scholarships were awarded to four members this year, three Jr/YR and one AA. New Scholarship program will be determined for 2015.

Last Chance Show was canceled due to VS Outbreak.

2015 Foothills Board

Kris Cooper, President

Jan Danis, VP

Nicole Riffe, Secretary

Laura Quakenbush, Treasurer

Committee Chairs:

Jan Danis, Show Chair and Manager

Marylou Metcalf, Scholarship Chair

Report Submitted by, Lori Mitchell, President (2010-2014)

Grand Valley

Tammy Fagan

The GV Chapter is made up of a great group of members that donate their time to make it all work. It's been an honor to serve as President for the last two years. Due to my work commitments I can no longer continue as President. We will have our Election of Officers at the November 18th, 2014 General Meeting. The 2015 Slate of Officers are, President: Arlene Rhodes, Vice President: Pat White, Secretary: Deb Crooks and Treasurer: Susan Gregg.

Our volunteer stats for 2014 were very good. We had 33 different volunteers that helped with our shows, with a total of 237 hours! That's not even counting all the hours of work completed by our Officers and Committee Chairs on club business and projects.

Our annual Christmas Party/Awards Night will be held on December 6th in the Sage Room of the Mesa County Fairgrounds Community Building. After a meal, the Awards Committee will present the GV Year End Awards and the Volunteer Committee will present gifts of appreciation to all of the volunteers that attend with special awards for three individuals with the highest number of hours of volunteer work done at the shows. To end the evening we will have a gift exchange. Please find the Year End Results on our web site gvds.org

The Show Committee debated having a recognized show in 2015 because of substantial losses every year on that show for several years in a row. We had a happy surprise at the last meeting. Two of our new members volunteer for the fundraising committee to help defray the losses, so we decided to go ahead

with a recognized show. We have had a significant increase in the Western Dressage division at our schooling shows so decided do the Fall Combo. The completed 2015 Show schedule is as follows: GVDS Schooling Show I – May 2-3, 2015, GVDS Schooling Show II - June 13-14, 2015, GVDS Fall Combo - Western Dressage Show – Sept. 4, 2015, Recognized Show – Sept. 5-6, 2015, and Dressage Clinic with judge Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez Sept. 7-8, 2015. GVDS Schooling Show III Oct. 10-11, 2015.

The Education Committee besides the scheduled a 2-day Clinic with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez after the September recognized show is working on New Test and Judges View Clinics.

Our monthly General Meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We meet at the Mesa Mall Community Meeting Room at 6:30pm, when available.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at tfagandressage@wyoming.com

Enjoy your horses,

Tammy Fagan

GVDS President

High Plains

Jacquelin McIntyre

Northern Colorado

Renee Martig

On the Bit

Jessica Ford

On the Bit Dressage has elected new officers and we are excited for the New Year. Our biggest plans involve fundraising towards the purchase of a full size dressage arena so that we can put on a recognized dressage show in the future.

For 2015 we are planning a schooling show to practice getting all of our volunteers and officers ready to organize a show. We hope to be able to work towards a RMDS sanctioned show in 2016 and most of our efforts in 2015 will be organized with this goal in mind. We are also focused on continuing our education and growing our members with a positive attitude towards our future!

Here is OTB report. My computer has crashed. :(so on the phone it is.

Jessica Ford

Pikes Peak

Michelle Anderson

2014 was another great year of building a bigger better chapter and fun educational events.

In January we enjoyed a wonderful presentation from farrier Chad Toney, February was our chapter awards dinner where 9 members were recognized for their achievements in the show ring. In March we had an entertaining interactive presentation from veterinarian Shayna Warner DVM.

Our first annual RMDS recognized show in April was held in conjunction with a used tack sale and with sponsorships, entries, tack sale proceeds & many volunteered services we realized a profit of just over \$700! Our 2015 show is scheduled for April 11 with Gwen Ka'awaloa judging.

Our summer club activity yields to our members' busy show schedules but we did sponsor 2 classes at RMDS/USDF Reg V Championships and also gave a cash award to our highest scoring chapter member, Ashley Eberhardt. In addition, thanks to the kind donations from many members, I believe we have an outstanding basket available for bidding at tonight's awards banquet!

As the cold weather arrives we are once again planning some fun events, including our holiday party and gift exchange which will be hosted by Simone Windeler on Dec. 14 and will include baking homemade horse cookies.

I will be stepping down as President at the end of this year but we have a full slate of candidates for our election meeting on Nov. 18, some of whom are attending BOG as chapter delegates this year. Pikes Peak Chapter is in good hands!

For the most current information from our chapter visit our website at <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

Michelle Anderson
Pikes Peak Chapter President

Platte River Valley
Platte River really hadn't been active this year. With the decline of interest and struggling to make the required minimum members, we could possibly ask to fold. There will be a meeting immediately after the BOG to address this issue.
Laura Speer, President

Laura Speer

Wasatch Mountains
Our main purpose is to oversee the ethical financial stability of our Chapter. We therefor donate membership funds back to any non-profit Dressage Show that our membership might participate in. To this end we donated funds to The Region 5 Championships, RMDS Championships and the Utah Dressage Society Annual Show.
Sally Shaffer
President
Wasatch Mountain Chapter

Sally Shaffer

Western Colorado

Barbara Terry

Beth Geier motioned that we accept the written reports as submitted, CiCi Lee seconded, and all were in favor.

4:00 PM	Final Reading of candidates:	Gwen Ka'awaloa
VP	Aline Brandau	
Adult Amateur	Heather Petersen and Didi Dekrey	
Awards	Shannon Lemons	
Communications	NEEDED	
Education	Jon Haugen	
Junior/YR	Julie Burt	
Marketing	Aline Brandau	
RMDS Show Liaison	Beverly Swanson	

Scholarship

Mary Jo Hoepner

Nominations from the floor:

Kerry-Louise Miller volunteered to take the position as Communications Chair.

Vote:

Adult Amateur-

DiDi DeKrey 19 votes

Heather Petersen 11 votes

Pat Leech motioned to accept the slate of candidates as nominated, Sue Borders seconded, all were in favor.

CiCi Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting, Pat Leech seconded, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned by President Gwen Ka'awaloa at 4:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Nina Felsenthal

RMDS Secretary