

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Attendance: Sharon Soos, Mary Rae, Susie Reed, Paula Lunberry, Michelle Anderson, MaryJo Hoepner, Simone Windeler, Lori Mitchell, Shannon Lemons, Nicole Bizzarro, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen
Proxies: Kim Lampert to Beth Geier, Inka Spatafora to Beth Geier, Laura Speer to Lori Mitchell, Dolly Hannon to Lori Mitchell.

Call to Order by Simone Windeler at 6:32 pm.

Simone Windeler has received the resignation of Susan Rudman as RMDS Secretary. **MaryJo Hoepner made a motion to accept Susan Rudman's resignation, 2nd by Mary Rae. Motion passed.**

Simone Windeler appoints Heather Petersen as RMDS Secretary until December 31, 2011. This position will be filled during the elections at the 2011 RMDS Board of Governors meeting in November for 2012.

The March 10, 2011 Minutes:

Add Lori Mitchell as attending. There were no other corrections.

Motion made to approve the minutes as corrected by Nicole Bizzarro, 2nd by Michelle Anderson. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report by Sharon Soos

Balance in each account as of April 30, 2011:

Checking Account	\$26,017.35
Scholarship Account	4,012.83
PayPal Account	11,844.15
Money Market	44,439.16

Tax preparation for the fiscal year 2010 total \$850 to the RMDS organization as a whole. Colorado Springs Dressage paid \$125, RMDS itself paid \$325 and all other chapters paid \$50 each.

Membership expenses have seen a large increase for 2011 due to the increase in the USDF fee for group membership that is assessed to GMOs for each member.

Office Manager Report by Beth Geier

- Membership is currently at 787, 12 are Centaur only. 99 new horses registered since September 2010.
- 101 members are Junior/Young riders and 183 members have their adult amateur cards on file with RMDS.
- There was a lot of discussion on how to track the length our members have been members of RMDS. We will ask our members to notify the Central Office if they've held a membership under a different name at any point in time in their tenure with RMDS.
- A write up on the RMDS Technical Delegate program has been completed by MaryJo Hoepner and submitted to the USDF GMO Council chair to be published in an upcoming issue of the USDF Connection.
- There is a request from an applicant in the RMDS Technical Delegate program for a refund of the program application fee. This applicant is unable to continue in the program further. **Mary Rae moved that if an applicant does not continue in the RMDS Technical Delegate program they lose their application fee. Shannon Lemons 2nd the motion. Motion passed.**
- TD reports presented in the Office Manager report looked acceptable with no major issues.

- There was a request from USDF Region 4 to advertise their USDF Adult Clinic with Lilo Fore in our publications. It was recommended by the board that we place the event on the website calendar and in the Centaur calendar.
- Postage went up May 1st, 2011. This will affect the mailing fees for the omnibus and Centaur.
- Next Executive Board meeting will be July 21, 2011 at Romano's Italian Restaurant. This is one week later than normal due to many conflicts with various board member schedules.

Adult Amateur Report by Lori Mitchell

- The AA clinic with Heather Robertson set for June 4-5, 2011 is full for riders but does not have a lot of auditors. Part of the Dressage Foundation grant has been received (\$562.80). The remaining portion of the grant will be forwarded to Lori once the clinic is over and pictures and a survey are submitted to the Dressage Foundation.
- USDF Youth & Adult Team Competition-Lori Mitchell would like to suggest that for 2012 the RMDS Shows Chair work with the Jr/YR Chair along with the AA Chair to organize this event or that a special committee of board members be formed to organize this event. She feels since this is a Regional event that the RMDS Board should have more control.
- Evening with Janet Foy was a successful event. 27 attended plus two volunteers. A profit was made from the event.

Awards by Shannon Lemons

- Shannon has finished a policies/procedure notebook for the awards chair position that includes pictures of all the trophies. She will keep a copy and a copy will be kept in the RMDS Central Office.
- Boulder Valley will continue sponsorship of the 3rd Level Jr/YR trophy.
- A new sponsor is needed for 3rd Level Freestyle.
- A policy has been added that any significant damage will require notification of the donor. For any damage other than any occurring during shipment or while in RMDS possession, that year's winner is responsible for the cost of repair. We do currently have a trophy with some damage and since records of who had this trophy when the damage occurred were not transferred over to the current Awards chair, RMDS will now have to take care of the cost of this repair.
- We will be repeating the requests for nominations/information on new awards in the Centaur so that any new awards can be confirmed at the July meeting.

Banquet & BOG– November 12, 2011 by Lori Mitchell with proxy from Laura Speer

A contract has been received from the Renaissance Denver Hotel but has not been signed. The cost of the event will be \$5140 plus 22% service charge and taxes of 8%. We will submit our tax-exemption certificate to help eliminate this expense. There was a lot of discussion from the board concerning the high expenses of this venue and how we could cut some of the costs. The board asked Lori to explore some other venues including community centers and country clubs such as has been done several years ago. The committee has been asked to look at different non-hotel options for 2012 to help try and keep costs down. At the current 2011 venue, the Board of Governors meeting will cost \$54/pp which will be a total cost before service charge of \$2160, although the budget was set for \$1500. The dinner cost will be \$36/pp plus service charge.

Communications by Nicole Bizzarro

- FACEBOOK – The site is up to 215 fans and has become a lively community in its own right. A facebook link has been added to the RMDS website.

- There was discussion on removal of posts to the Facebook page that might be deemed inappropriate and it was decided that the administrators of the page would make those decision unless unsure, then the board would be contacted.
- Unbridled Rider would like to exchange ads on their homepage for an ad on the RMDS homepage. It was decided by the board to not place ads on the homepage but that instead Unbridled Rider can have an ad in the Marketplace. Currently no materials have been submitted for that ad though it was also offered at the March board meeting.
- Nicole will write a short article for the July Centaur on how Facebook works – how to make Facebook RMDS posts show up on your home page, etc.
- It was decided that RMDS Facebook would like only other chapters and our governing bodies at this point in time.
- OMNIBUS – It was agreed at the last meeting to now have colored tabs. The additional charge to run these for 2012 will be \$548.
- The Comfort Suites in Castle Rock has donated a lot to the RMDS organization and would like some exposure on the RMDS website. **MaryJo Hoepner moved that RMDS comp a marketplace ad for the Comfort Suites Castle Rock on the RMDS website. Lori Mitchell 2nd. Motion passed.**

Education Report by Michelle Anderson

- Judges' Continuing Education for 2012 with Janet Foy has been moved up a weekend to January 21st due to conflict in Janet's FEI schedule. Simone Ahern has donated the use of her facility.
- In-depth FoxVillage dressage show software training was held March 22nd at 8th Heaven Farms. Several attended with little expense.
- Sport Horse Handling Clinic – July 30 with Chad Toney & Kristi Wysocki at the Colorado Horse Park. AM lecture with PM devoted to a 1 on 1 session with interested horses & handlers. 2 demo horses already scheduled.
- Investigating the possibility of the "A" session of the "L" program. Several professionals would also like to do an Instructor Clinic again on teaching and training. Kristi Wysocki is willing to donate her facility. This would likely be a 2012 event.

Junior/Young Riders by Cindi O'Shea

- No report, no proxy from Cindi
- Joan Clay does report that the Junior Camp is up and running and she's looking for more programs and participants.

Marketing by Elaine Haberman

- No report, No proxy
- Nicole Bizzarro will start promoting the new 4 color omnibus tabs on Facebook.
- Heather added that it will help marketing opportunities for RMDS is we change our by-laws to allow a tack exemption from USEF so we can allow Western Dressage classes at RMDS shows.

Nominating Committee by Mary Rae

We are looking for the following positions:

President-2 years, Vice-President-1 year, Secretary-2 years, and Treasurer-2 years.

2 people have requested to be placed in nomination for Vice President, MaryJo Hoepner & Cindi O'Shea. Joan Clay has been nominated for Secretary and Mary Rae has been nominated for Treasurer. There are still no nominations for President. The committee has contacted a few people who are contemplating some of the offices but are checking into their present commitments.

Scholarship by Elaine Haberman

- No report, No proxy
- Verbal scholarship updates were given to the board by two recipients, Michelle Anderson and Shannon Lemons.

Shows by Laura Speer

- Winter Wake-Up-June 11-12 at Tomora Farms in Greeley. Facility is being donated except for stabling. NCD, BizTek and Tomora Farms are sponsors for the show. Entries are coming in now and it looks to be smaller than last year.
- Championships-Sept 22-25. Sponsorships are coming in but more are definitely needed.

New Business:

- The Farrier Relief Fund is holding an event, the Horse Owners' Clinic, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to raise money for injured farriers. It was asked if RMDS could send out an email blast since it was for a very good cause and it would be of interest to our members. The other point raised was there are other good organizations for good causes and if we did one event, were we setting a precedence for other groups and events. It was decided that we would handle each on a case-by-case basis. **MaryJo Hoepner moved that we send an email blast for the event to the membership for no fee and issue a Facebook post for the event also. Michelle Anderson 2nd the motion. Motion passed.**
- Folks have asked if credit will be given for volunteer hours earned at Horse Trials in addition to dressage competitions and events. It was pointed out that eventers can earn hours in many other ways other than horse shows (course building/preparation/etc.) which doesn't encourage them to volunteer at our dressage shows. The decision of the board was not to honor hours earned in other disciplines at this time.
- July 21st is the new meeting date for the next meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Chapter Reports

Mary Rae made a motion to accept chapter reports as written. 2nd by MaryJo after much discussion. Motion passed.

Arkansas Valley

Boulder Valley-NO REPORT

Colorado Springs-

Foothills

Grand Valley-NO REPORT

High Plains – NO REPORT

Northern Colorado

Wasatch Mountains- NO REPORT

Western Colorado- NO REPORT

Mary Rae

Kim Lampert-proxy

Shannon Lemons

Dolly Hannon-proxy

Inka Spatafora-proxy

Cindi O'Shea – NO PROXY

Susie Reed

Linda Nickerson-NO PROXY

Judith Family – NO PROXY

Next Executive Board Meetings - TBA

2011 July 14 - Romano's Italian Restaurant

Sept 8

Nov 12=BOG – RMDS Committee host (2nd Saturday in November)

Michelle Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm. 2nd by Beth Geier. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Petersen, secretary