

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

March 15, 2012

Attendance: Sharon Soos, Pete Soos, Cici Lee, Jennifer Glass, Cathy Van Berg, Elaine Haberman, Mindy Maguire, Lori Mitchell, Shannon Lemons, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen, Nicole Bizzarro, Patricia Leech, Michael Petersen, Kim Lampert, Celeste Warren, Kelly Hendricks, Julie Haugen, Laura Speer, Whitney Haugen, Joan Clay, Simone Windeler

Proxies: Michelle Anderson to Beth Geier, MaryJo Hoepner to Heather Petersen, Wendy Cibis to Lori Mitchell, Inka Spatafora to Beth Geier, Hana van Campen to Joan Clay, Jamee Amundson to Lori Mitchell, Susan Rudman to Lori Mitchell, Kim Lampert to Beth Geier

Call to Order by Lori Mitchell at 6:30 pm.

Lori asked for everyone to go around and introduce themselves.

The January 12, 2012 Minutes:

Motion made to approve the minutes by Patricia Leach, 2nd by Julie Haugen. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report by Sharon Soos

Balance in each account as of February 29, 2012:

Checking Account	\$35,188.82
Scholarship Account	\$6,136.33
PayPal Account	\$846.00
<u>Money Market</u>	<u>\$44,439.16</u>
Total:	\$86,610.31

We are about on comparison at this point with 2011. We are actually a little up on the balance sheet. Any questions or comments can be addressed to Sharon. At the end of 2012, it will be 5 years since we've last performed an audit, so we need to budget for one in the 2013 budget and hire a firm to perform an audit on the 2012 finances.

Bid Approvals –

Centaur Production & Editing – contract effective with the May, 2012 issue

Only one bid was received from Cathy Van Berg of Van Berg Graphic Design. The details of the bid are as follows:

- \$600 for Layout and Print Production, \$200 for Article Acquisition and Editing, total of \$800.
- Considerations:
 - The Centaur is ready for another face lift. Cathy will design and implement a layout favorable to the RMDS Executive Board in the first few months following the award of the Centaur contract.
 - Cathy is a dressage rider and member of RMDS who has a fundamental understanding of the sport. She has also come to know many of the trainers, judges, and members of RMDS, and can call on them for help with questions, ideas, articles, and specifics. Cathy has a good working relationship with the "Proofing Committee," the Central Office, and Spradlin Printing. These factors make the Centaur more accurate and "in keeping" with the standards of dressage.
 - Cathy's qualifications: Cathy finished her degree in Graphic Design in May 2011 with a 4.0 GPA. She won "Best Piece in Show" for an identification system she and the Internship team

designed for Arapahoe Community College. Her abilities in graphic design are readily applied to the Centaur, and make for a visually more attractive publication.

- Cathy prefers a Centaur style that's clean, professional, and friendly. Since the demographic for the majority of RMDS members is the Adult Amateur, she believes this style appeals to most of the membership. This makes the Centaur engaging and easily readable.
- Cathy is dependable and professional. She has shown consistent reliability in her history with RMDS. There has never been a delay in the publication of the newsletter, nor a delay in communication with involved parties. Cathy enjoys her responsibilities as the Centaur Editor and hopes to continue to serve in that role for RMDS.
- Only a few questions were presented from members present addressing details of the new layout and the amount of white space in the current layout. Nicole Bizarro asked how many hours per month Cathy spends working on the Centaur. Cathy estimates she spends about 24 hours per month.
- **Beth moved we accept the bid we received for the production of the RMDS Centaur from Cathy Van Berg for \$800 per month, 2nd by Nicole Bizarro. Motion passed unanimously.**

Omnibus Productions – 2013/2014 Omnibus

Only one bid was received from Nicole Bizarro Designs. The details of the bid are as follows:

- Description: Description: 250-260 page black and white Handbook with card stock tabbed dividers printed on white paper and 3-hole punched. Tabs indicate section breaks. Fees also include Front Page and legal size Entry Form. Omnibus is produced once per year. Target delivery dates: Final files to printer the first or second week of January. Copy and Ad deadlines for RMDS is Nov 15.
- Pricing below assumes that the content changes will include changes to the Tests in 2013, but not the following year, 2013. Pricing is based on the efficiencies of working with the current contact person. If the efficiencies are decreased due to a change in client contact, this proposal may need alteration. For efficiency, pricing assumes that, as before, there will be the intent to provide prize lists and copy edits in final format in batches to avoid piecemeal delivery as much as is possible.
- Estimated Time for Omnibus determined from production records of past several issues.

2013 Omnibus - includes Global Test Change

	Low	High	Average
Design/Production/Project Management	\$ 3,939 –	\$4,243	\$4,091
Changing Test Section - All Tests	\$ 1,200 –	\$1,500	\$1,350
Ad Trafficking and Coordination	\$ 1,376	\$1,430	\$1,403
Estimated Direct Costs	\$200 –	\$250	\$225
Total Estimated Design Fees/Direct Costs 2013	\$ 6,715 –	\$7,423	\$7,069

2014 Omnibus - includes Minimal Test Changes

	Low	High	Average
Design/Production/Project Management	\$ 3,939 –	\$4,243	\$4,091
Minimal changes to Test Section	\$ 400 –	\$500	\$450
Ad Trafficking and Coordination	\$ 1,376	\$1,430	\$1,403
Estimated Direct Costs	\$200 –	\$250	\$225
Total Estimated Design Fees/Direct Costs 2014	\$ 5,915 –	\$6,423	\$6,169

- There was some discussion of the bid.
- **Simone Windeler moved we accept the bid for the omnibus production from Nicole Bizarro Designs, 2nd by Laura Speer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Winter Wake-Up

There was a lot of discussion of whether RMDS should continue hosting the Winter Wake Up. We have lost our main sponsor for the last couple of years, who gave us \$3000 each year and even though the facility is donated, it's still tough to say if the show will break even or make money. Platte River Valley has stepped forward and would like to have the weekend for 2013 if the board decides to put the Winter Wake

Up on hiatus for 2013. **Heather Petersen made the motion to suspend the RMDS Winter Wake Up for the 2013 competition year and allow Platte River Dressage first dibs to hold a recognized show for that weekend in 2013, with reconsideration for the Winter Wake Up considered at the July 2013 RMDS Executive Board meeting. 2nd by Beth Geier. Motion passed with abstentions from Heather Petersen and Simone Windeler.** RMDS will table the consideration of the show management bid for 2014 until March of 2013.

Western Dressage Liaison Report by Kelly Hendricks

I had the pleasure of meeting a few of the Board Members of the WDACO-Western Dressage Association of Colorado- at the horse expo, and watch a brief clinic with three riders. The mission of the Western Dressage Association of America of which WDACO is an affiliate-“is to inspire and enlighten western riders and their horses to a higher level of horsemanship and partnership through the use of dressage and to create an educational environment and competitive format within the horse industry for the Western Dressage horse and rider.”

The local group’s president is Mary Bunn, who I enjoyed talking with about the organizations start, goals, and future plans. It seems as though the discipline of Western Dressage is growing, and interest in clinics, shows, and learning opportunities is overwhelming. WD offers a place in the Western riding world for the rider to learn and practice the principles of classical dressage and training, while as their slogan says “celebrating the legacy of the American West”. The organization recognizes that different breeds of horses may go naturally better in a slower tempo- but still adhering to the training scale with regards to rhythm. Reading the Object and General Principles of Western Dressage as released by the USEF, the terminology is incredibly similar to Dressage.

This may seem like a very sticky area for most Dressage purists- but maybe instead of thinking of it as something negative, it might actually be a complement. They are recognizing the value in ages of time tested theory, practice, and tradition. They are not discounting traditional dressage by trying to compete against it or change it. They are opening a door to Western Riding to use the principles of Dressage to bring their horses along in a way that is proven. Classical Dressage has many years of development as compared to any type of western riding.

This appears- notice I say appears- to open a door to many who may have been too afraid, intimidated, or even confused about dressage as a discipline. Maybe they have a limited budget, or prefer to ride different breeds of horses, or simply have a wonderful horse that has always been ridden Western and are intrigued by the methods of dressage and want to have the ability to judge the success of their training by showing. If anything- it is an opportunity to boost the participation at shows by offering a class for this discipline to people who may have otherwise never been interested.

So in short- think about it this way. There is nothing worse than watching, experiencing, or participating in training that is not good or helpful for you and or your horse. That can be said for all disciplines. Maybe, just maybe this is a start to something helpful for the horse.

I will plan to attend a schooling show this spring offering the new class and possibly talk with a few participants to get their input. And I also intend on auditing a clinic by the start of the summer to get a better understanding of the discipline. Please don’t be put off by any of this information as I am really working on having an open mind and trying to get a better understanding of it!

- There was much discussion among those present at the meeting of the differences in western dressage judging and gaited horses judging.
- It was noted that the Western Dressage folks haven’t started their own shows yet, but hopefully in the next few years. Kelly will try and attend one of their meetings in the near future. Again, there was much discussion of differences between dressage and western dressage.

Office Manager Report by Beth Geier

Membership

- Membership is currently at 593, 1 are Centaur only. 56 new horses registered since October 2011.
- Free email blast for chapters – 2 per year to start for educational events only. **Lori Mitchell moved that RMDS give each chapter 2 email blasts per year for educational events only for the rest of 2012, with the policy being revisited at the January meeting in 2013. 2nd by Julie the psychic Haugen. Motion passes unanimously.**

Shows

- Beth presented show evaluations for competitors to fill out and there were a few suggested modifications. **Julie Haugen motioned to approve the modified competition evaluation form, 2nd by Nicole Bizarro. Motion passed unanimously.**

Recognized Officials

- Added Gwen Ka’awaloa as a sport horse judge – r
- Kristi Wysocki Sport Horse Judge to ‘R’ & FEI Para Dressage 3*
- Rusty Cook and Heather Petersen – FEI Level 1 Dressage Stewards

Omnibus

- All ads and prize lists are now paid for in the 2012 omnibus.
- Media Mail Problem - \$2.87 with binder & \$5.15 priority flat rate without binder.
- Bulk rate this year was \$.68 per omnibus (385 - \$261.45)
- Extra copies are: Innards \$14, binder \$8, postage \$5.50 for \$27.50 for the whole package.
- Binders – we have about 145 left. There was discussion of the current binders and then we visited the various bids that Beth has received. We send out approximately 200-300 binders to members per year, so we would be ok ordering 1000 if we continue with the binders. **Nicole Bizarro moved to accept the quote from Dilley Manufacturing for \$4.74 per binder for the plastic overlay style. 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed with abstentions from Beth Geier and the proxies she is holding.**

General

- The Central office has a new phone but there is now no fax machine at the office. If you need to fax something, call Beth ahead of time and she will give you her husband’s business fax number.
- Chapter Bylaws need to be on file with the Central Office: We have AV-2007; BVD-2011; CSDA-2012; FH-2012; GV-2011; HP-2011; NCDA-2011; PPDS-2012; PR-2011; WA-2009; WC – no copy on file.
- Paid positions up for bids this year in July have a submission deadline of June 15.
 - 2013/2014 Junior Camp – this will postponed until the September meeting.
 - Website Maintenance and hosting – effective August 1, 2012
 - Central Office Manager – effective August 1, 2012
- Tentative meeting schedule for this year...
 - March 15
 - May 10
 - July 10 - Tuesday
 - September 13
 - October 11 – Budget planning
 - Board of Governors Meeting November 10th

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Members:	1162	1177	1151	1019	1036	1008	1030	945	921	868	593
Horses:	274	337	207	234	262	246	166	132	132	123	56

AV	-	-	-	-	-	12	26	15	24	27	20
BV	230	208	199	179	178	172	205	188	200	190	133
CS	134	155	137	130	143	126	127	115	124	115	56
FH	115	103	109	73	74	77	76	75	72	71	46
GV	77	98	93	92	88	102	105	87	83	65	48
HP	278	283	267	251	259	260	265	256	226	208	130
NC	150	151	162	139	137	137	124	107	132	110	72
PP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
PR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6
WA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	24	24	19
WC	64	55	44	34	32	25	25	21	22	31	18

No Chapter	24	36	34	21	22	16	14	25	14	15	11
PN	13	14	15	14	13	13	12	inactive	Dissolved		
TS	77	74	91	86	90	68	51	36	Dissolved		
TOTAL	1162	1177	1151	1019	1036	1008	1030	945	921	870	593
Juniors									134	120	53
Amateurs									230	239	145

Adult Amateur Report by Beth Geier

March 17:

Symposium is on **Teaching the Rider to Feel** by Sarah Martin. 8am-5pm

- Terri Baker is donating the facility, Stellar Farms-Parker as well as providing the morning coffee & bagels.
- Lauren Rudman is doing the food. We have to guarantee 20 lunches @ \$7.00.
- 9 horses – 2 are demo horses-one will be painted & one is western
- 23 auditors so far
- At the moment ahead by \$150.

Adult Camp:

Thinking about it, will know more shortly (after this weekend) and will email to you all.

Awards by Shannon Lemons

2011 Wrap Up

Missing trophy resolved and late fees were paid. We could only charge \$45 in late fees due to previous agreements.

2012 Plans

- Shannon has reworked the trophy release and presented it for approval.
- **Beth Geier moved we approve the amended trophy release (18 and over) effective 2013, 2nd by Shannon Lemons. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Items to bring before the Board at the next meeting – for trophies a letter will go out instead of postcard discussing written authorization for pick up of trophy if they are not going to be present and adult signatures.

Communications by Nicole Bizzarro

- Nicole has sold a bunch of market place ads recently and email blasts – we need one place where we can send people where all advertising options are present in each publication. Nicole would like to redesign side bar in Centaur and create ad link on website.
- She would suggest we consider raising/adjusting advertising rates to cover increased expenses. She will bring a proposal to one of the next few meetings.
- Email blasts – currently mostly horse related – can we expand to horse people services – skin care, etc.; Sharon will check auditor letters regarding advertising... this will be re-visited at the May meeting.
- Centaur – will put a proof of centaur proposed changes.
- Website:
 - Visible Changes:
 - Added logos for chapters and national organizations.
 - Still need logos from Northern Colorado and Platte River chapters.
 - Behind-the-Scenes Changes:
 - Improved login system and overall site integration for editing the calendar, services, and classifieds listings.
 - New Business:

- Suggest (re-)revisiting the Website Guidelines for the bid process. The new guidelines for 2012 are inconsistent, self-refuting, and discourage qualified bids. History... My bids in 2006 and 2008 contained the following statement: "I will still maintain full, unrestricted rights to any code and/or software developed for, or in support of the site, unless otherwise explicitly agreed upon in writing." The guidelines posted to the website on or shortly after March 8, 2010, and used as the basis for my 2010 bid include the following statements:
 - 6. RMDS is granted the right to use and modify, for the purpose of the organization, all code and software developed for the site not already covered by an existing license agreement."
 - "12. Webmaster maintains full-unrestricted rights to use in any manner, any and all code and/or software developed for or in support of the site. In specific circumstances and through mutual agreement in writing prior to beginning work, RMDS reserves the right to request exclusive rights to code and/or software developed for a specific purpose."

The guidelines for 2012 were modified at some point and contain the following statements:

- "6. RMDS is granted the right to use and modify, for the purpose of the organization, all code and software developed for the site." (same as 2010)
- "1. RMDS maintains ownership of the site and all code and/or software developed for and/or in support of the site, except for any third party software as identified by the Web Master in 6(a)." (new for 2012)
- "2. Web Master maintains full unrestricted rights to use in any manner, any and all code and/or software developed for or in support of the site as long as the Web Master is a contractor with RMDS. At any time the Web Master ceases to serve in this capacity, he/she forfeits all rights to the use in any manner, any and all code and/or software developed for or in support of the site..." (modified from 2010)

The statements in the new guidelines are inconsistent and self refuting because they say both RMDS maintains ownership and the web master maintains full unrestricted rights. The statement that RMDS maintains ownership is in conflict with RMDS being granted the right to use (if owned, no one needs to grant the right to use to the owner...). Additionally, why is it OK for the web master to have unrestricted rights to use the code/software while contracted with the organization, but once that relationship ends it suddenly becomes a bad thing?

My recommendation is to remove statements 1 and 2 under Mutual Agreement and either replace them with a generic statement to the effect that the ownership of code developed will be determined as part of the bid, or simply leave this issue out of the guidelines and deal with it on an individual basis during the bid process.

<soapbox>

For a non-profit organization such as RMDS, not in the business of producing or selling software intellectual property or competing for customers online, to place such restrictions on potential webmasters will, in my opinion, discourage many highly qualified individuals from agreeing to serve. Ultimately, this will result in RMDS paying significantly more to attract qualified individuals for this position. In my capacity as webmaster over the last 7 years, RMDS has been the beneficiary of custom software designed originally for other sites, just as much as other sites may have benefitted from work performed originally on the RMDS site. Such emphasis on exclusive ownership is a distraction from the actual mission of the RMDS organization – ask yourselves how RMDS has been harmed, or could possibly be harmed in the future, with the current, open arrangement. Then consider all the ways RMDS has benefitted by being on the receiving end of this arrangement.

</soapbox>

- **Beth will fix the guidelines and get them out for everyone else who might bid.**

Education Report by Michelle Anderson, proxy to Beth Geier

"L" Judge Continuing Education 2012

Held January 28 at Sun Prairie Farm in Peyton with Janet Foy as instructor.

PROs:

44 participants and 13 demo riders (14 rides), Simone donated use of her facility and arranged all demo rides, and we made a profit of \$1,482.72! (Including USDF grant check for \$200)

CONs:

COLD! Electric heaters would have overloaded the electrical system, kerosene would have required rental and either transport or delivery as I don't own a truck. Too much food – planned to headcount but many went out for lunch to warm up elsewhere (can't blame them!)

NEXT YEAR:

Either build lunch cost into fee (another \$5/person) OR depending on location, provide drinks and snacks only and advise all to plan lunch out.

ANOTHER OPTION: Hold entire clinic in a hotel room using the Through the Levels DVD and also local rider tests. I have verified with Sharon VanderZiel at USDF that this IS acceptable. We could request rider permission and have Susan DeSylvia assemble a DVD collection of rides. We would need to pay Susan for her services, minimal if these are rides she already taped for clients. We can also use the "Through the Levels" DVD and mute the commentary.

Also, the club might consider the purchase of an easily portable PA system for this type event. The one I rented was a bit large and cumbersome but effective. Perhaps we could recoup some of the cost by renting it to the chapters as well.

Michelle has already engaged Kristi Wysocki for next year's education, location TBD pending a decision on live rides vs. DVDs.

Discussion on live horses versus video tapes, heated lecture area then the arena, etc. Table until May meeting when Michelle can be here for this discussion, though most wanted to see live demonstration horses so improvements could be made and seen for different scores with the same horse/rider combination.

Technical Delegate / Show Management Education

Held at Staybridge Suites in Park Meadows Feb. 11. Deeda Randle covered TD and Heather Petersen covered show management.

There were a few no shows due to weather and road conditions but also 1 or 2 who paid at the door. Profit was \$145.60 less Heather's pending reimbursement for assembly and mailing of another show manager notebook.

Due to the small turnout I notified all attendees that they could have soup or chili from the "L" program (frozen after that event) or bring their own and that seemed to work just fine.

Future Events

I have been discussing an instructor's only seminar with Christophe Hess to be held at Kristi Wysocki's barn in Elbert. Unfortunately his availability was for dates between RMDS and USDF Region 5 Championships. Still considering this but may need to consider a different clinician and location.

This would be held on weekdays, perhaps Monday & Tuesday, so as to not interfere with show commitments. We might also consider M/T for Pros only and W/TH open to Jr & AA.

Discussion of national level type symposium with all committee chairs

Junior/Young Riders Julie Haugen (and Jon)

- Julie Haugen has submitted a bid for the Jr camp to be held at Tomora in July. – Beth Geier moved we approve Julie as camp director with her proposed budget based on 12 campers. 2nd by Shannon Lemons. Motion unanimously passed.
- Julie was looking to secure an assistant camp director and Kelly Hendricks stepped up during the meeting.
- Julie has met with parents of potential campers and other to develop an agenda for the camp and she's contacting various people to assist as educators at the camp.
- Julie and Jon have started the process of acquiring donations for high point awards at the Team competition and she is designing an email blast for the USEF High School Letter program.

Marketing Sharon Soos

Our booth at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo was a success and well visited based on the depletion of the give-away and the various materials. Each area of the booth had a them and a central focus: 1) Membership and Sarah Martin Clinic; 2) Chapter Information; 3) General RMDS Information; 4) Scholarship Programs; 5) Breed Shows.

Approximately 400 out of the 500 Sticky Notes and all of the Centaurs (100 copies) and the USDF Connection (100 copies supplied by USDF) were given out.

The response to the request for photos was fantastic. Over 85 photos were received. Some were used as part of the display and other others were places in sheet protectors and in a 3-ring binder for visitors to browse. It was wonderful to see the reaction of visitors when they recognized someone, or even themselves.

Our volunteers were great and definitely added to the success of the event.

We also passed out a document at the Expo and tonight at the meeting concerning advertising with RMDS, "Why Advertise with RMDS".

Sharon is working on getting a shirt order form together and getting it on website and out in the Centaur. Pete modeled one of the shirt styles for us and Sharon presented the other options. Sharon is working on have the shirts shipping directly to the purchaser or she will have them ship in bulk to herself pass them out to folks if she's going to see them in the near future.

Sharon also presented the media packet, but mentioned a few changes that needed to be made. Nicole asked that we need to get an electronic copy for websites and publications and such.

Scholarship by MaryJo and Heather

MaryJo PROXY to Heather Petersen

All 4 scholarship recipients have been notified of their awards and those who did not receive scholarships were also notified. The 2012 recipients were featured on the cover of the March Centaur with brief biographies and pictures of each person with their horses.

Checks will be sent after this meeting to the 2012 recipients. Reports from a couple of the recipients have already come in detailing the start of their year and reminder emails have been sent to the others for a brief update. Each person will also be submitting an article to the Centaur at some point this year.

We are hoping to work with Marketing on promoting the use of the Scholarship donation line on the RMDS entry blank and we will hopefully get an article written for the Centaur on this topic for publication this summer.

Shows by Susan Rudman

PROXY to Lori Mitchell

RMDS Winter Wake-Up

Susan has been communicating with Colleen McFadden regarding sponsorship of this show. They have supported this show in the past to insure it took place for the Jr/YR's. Now their family has decided to donate monies directly to the Region 5 FEI Yr/YR funds instead of supporting the show for the JR/YR's. Do we need a sponsor? For how much? Facility is donated. Those present at the meeting answered that sponsorship would definitely be very nice and any amount is always helpful. Since the show will not take place in 2013, it will give the show committee a chance to build up sponsorship for possibly bringing the show back in 2014.

Championship Shows

Have been speaking with members from various aspects of RMDS to see what they would like at the Championship Show. Without prompting, they would like to see more social events.

Executive Shine will be at the Championship Shows. Will be in touch with them as date draws closer.

Susan is putting out feelers for a Zumba instructor. In considering a day & time, Friday after the dinner appears to be the best option. As discussed during the meeting, the board felt that Friday after dinner was not a good option, but instead perhaps an early morning session to help riders "warm-up" before their rides and we could tie it in with a breakfast sponsorship.

Sponsorship Packet has been redone and will wait for final changes/approval before I approach other possible sponsors. There are more changes that need to be made to the updates. It will be sent out to the board for approval in mid-April.

Susan spoke with Wendy Cibis of High Plains and she believes their chapter will indeed sponsor something. Will decide when we have the revised packet. Thanks High Plains!

Appointed Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee by Laura Speer

- Need nominees for Chairmen for 2 years: Vice-President (1 year), Adult Amateur, Awards, Championship Show Committee, Communication, Education, Junior/YR, Marketing, Scholarship
- No one currently nominated but some people interested in the positions.
- There was discussion mentioning concerns regarding VP 1 year term and the direction of the VP after their term. Should we put a term limit on the VP position? Half the time we can't even get anyone to run for the position. More discussion on the perks of board positions, and using those to get more candidates, in other words, letting candidates know that there are perks to being on the board...

Banquet & BOG– November 12, 2011 from Laura Speer

- Laura has secured the same place for 2012 but before we make a firm commitment, unloading and loading must be done in an hour – from 5pm until 6pm. We need to adjust this time or find another location. We need minimum 3 hours for set up. Laura will contact the hotel and see if we have some room for different scheduling.

USDF Region 5 Update by Heather Petersen

- The USDF Spring Executive Board meeting is coming up soon – April 27-29, 2012 in Lexington, Kentucky. It is usually a very busy schedule and this year they have paired it up with the Rolex **** event, so we'll also be out trekking around watching some pretty cool horses go.
- The next USDF convention will be December 6-8, 2012 in New Orleans, LA. Looking forward to seeing everyone there. There will not be a symposium in 2012, but we will have a horse health symposium in 2013 when we meet in Lexington, Kentucky.
- One bid was received for the 2013 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships. That bid was from Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. It was sent out to a committee of 5 people from 4 states representing competition management, licensed officials, competitors, and the Regional Director. I will be submitting their opinions and their position statement to USDF on March 23rd.
- **2013 USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions**
Please note: the application is now available online for you to apply to host a 2013 USEF Developing Programs and NAJYRC Qualifying Competition. This is for competitions dated January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013. Please visit the USEF website to apply or to learn about the requirements. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2012. Contact [Hallye Griffin](#) at USEF for more information.
- We currently have 21 horse/rider teams declared to qualify for the 2012 NAJYRC teams.
- Nominations are being accepted for Participating Member delegates in all regions until **April 15, 2012**. Nominations for USDF President, Treasurer, and Regional Directors in regions 2, 4, 6 and 8 will be accepted until **June 1, 2012**. USDF President, Treasurer, and Regional Director (2, 4, 6, and 8) nominations will also be accepted from the floor of the Board of Governors meeting at the annual convention in New Orleans, LA. All nominations, in addition to any inquiries regarding nominations,

should be sent to nominations@usdf.org. If you are interested in being a Participating Member delegate, please email Kay Lorenzen at kaylorenzen@cox.net.

Old business:

- D&O Insurance – we need to add the following: Boulder Valley – VP Stephanie Boyles; CSDA – President Patricia Leech, VP Mindy Maguire, Secretary Elaine Haberman; Pikes Peak – Secretary Shannon Lemons; Julie Haugen made the motion to amend D&O list previously approved at the January 2012 meeting with the previously mentioned additions, 2nd by Lori Mitchell; motion passed unanimously.
- Membership pins – Simone will pursue and get numbers for next meeting. About \$2 per pin – RMDS membership for consecutive years – about \$3000-\$4000 based on previous years. Something special for life members? Simone will research some different options.

New Business:

- USDF Convention Policy – **Lori made the motion to table discussion on the USDF Convention Reimbursement Policy, 2nd by Joan Clay, Motion Passed unanimously.**

Chapter Reports: Simone Windeler made the motion that all chapter reports be accepted as written, 2nd by Sharon Soos, Motion Passed unanimously.

Arkansas Valley

Jamee Amundson – Proxy to Lori Mitchell

The Arkansas Valley has been enjoying a lot of nice weather and an upswing in activity. The show committee has been actively planning two Ride-A-Test shows to be held at Palomino Gaits facility in Canon City, CO on May 19th and October 6, 2012. The Ride-A-Test clinics will be set up exactly like a horse show with entry forms, classes, and ribbons. Each rider will get a 10-minute lesson after each ride. These shows will offer a Western division. The show committee is currently arranging for officials and setting a budget.

Our marketing chairperson, Marcy Wadlington, has been very active re-designing the club's website. Visit www.arkansasvalleydressage.org to see the excellent work she has done.

The first educational meeting was held on February 21st at the Penrose Library. Jamee Amundson gave a seminar to club members entitled "Dressage 101" where she explained the various memberships, types of dressage shows, age divisions, levels offered at shows and other special classes and special type of dressage shows.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20. It will be a board meeting. The meeting on April 17th will be an educational meeting where Jamee will present the equipment and apparel rules for dressage competition. Happy Half-halts!

Boulder Valley

Kim Lampert

Our chapter is pleased to announce our new board member Stephanie Boyles as Vice President. Assisting her with her awards duties we welcome Julie Barringer-Richers back as our awesome awards chair! So start amassing those year end points! Our first activity for 2012 is our hugely popular Ride-A-Test at Singletree Farm this April 28th. It is followed by our show, the Spring Fling, also at Singletree on the 29th. Our big social event of the spring will be our Volunteer party April the 14th hosted by Somerset Farms. If you are a volunteer, have volunteered or are interested in volunteering at any of our Boulder County shows this coming year please join us in thanking all of those who make our shows happen! The party is open to everyone who makes the shows happen! April 14th, 5:30pm at the Somerset indoor arena. Hope to see lot's of you there! Our current Boulder Valley Chapter membership is 126.

Colorado Springs

Patricia Leech

I know that there have been many concerns and questions about what is happening with CSDA during and since the Chapters split in January. I believe the worst of the upheaval has been dealt with, leaving the CSDA board eager to move the chapter membership in a more productive, open and transparent direction. I am using this opportunity to let everyone know what is going on and what the CSDA board is working on for the future of the Chapter.

First and foremost, CSDA is strong, financially sound and there are no plans now or in the foreseeable future to dissolve the Chapter for any reason. The latest membership count provided by RMDS has 55 individuals selecting CSDA as their Chapter of choice. This number continues to grow as people renew their memberships this spring. It is very exciting to see many members renewing and selecting CSDA after having been gone from the membership lists for the last several years.

The sale of the four USEF competition licenses previously held by CSDA was completed as of February 14, 2012. CSDA is no longer involved in any way with these shows and volunteer hours worked by CSDA members at these competitions will not count toward fulfilling any CSDA Year End Award requirements.

Due to the timing of the competition license sale, the board feels that there is no way we can organize and host quality USEF/USDF recognized competitions in 2012. The board has committed to try to organize two schooling shows and one RMDS recognized competition this year and is working to get USEF/USDF recognition for two competition dates on separate weekends for 2013 and beyond. The CSDA membership and board will finalize the dates, ratings, show names and details at the March 20 CSDA meeting.

The CSDA website at www.csdressage.org has undergone a complete makeover and now includes updated information about the Chapter. One of the new features included in the new website is the CSDA Forum where members can log in and talk about dressage, showing, the Chapter, and general horse related topics. Check out the forum, post your introduction, and let us all know more about who you are and what you are doing. Another section of the forum is for classified ads, which are free to all CSDA members. Feel free to post items you have for sale or list items that you would like to purchase. The website will be the primary tool that CSDA uses to let the membership know about upcoming meetings, clinics, educational events, and competitions.

CSDA has also done a survey of the membership this spring to determine what the membership expects from CSDA and what they want the board to provide. The board will be taking this feedback and discussing the results at the March 20 membership meeting.

Educational events are also in the planning stages for 2012. While we do not have any firm commitments for clinics or events at this point, please check the CSDA website periodically for updates to the schedule.

The CSDA Year End Awards program is also undergoing a major update as we look at making the process of qualifying and winning an award much easier for the membership. One thing we have found by doing an inventory of the year-end trophies is that several of them are missing. If you have or know of someone who has a CSDA Year End Award trophy that was not awarded at this year's banquet, please contact Joan Stang at (719) 633-7549 to arrange for the trophy's return.

With all of the changes happening to CSDA in the last few months, the board is now shifting our focus to providing the membership with what they tell us they want – quality clinics, competitions, and educational events. While the issues around the sale of the USEF competition licenses were very disruptive at the time, in the long term having additional competitions in Southern Colorado will be a major plus for competitors in this area by providing more opportunities to earn qualifying scores at all levels closer to home.

The next CSDA general meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on March 20 at the Old Colorado City Library Branch, 2418 West Pikes Peak Ave Colorado Springs, CO 80904. All CSDA members and their guests are welcome to attend what is expected to be a very full business meeting agenda. Directions are up on the website now and the agenda will be posted about one week prior to the meeting.

Foothills

Lori Mitchell

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2012 at Capricorn Farm, Golden

The board has decided to once again support RMDS Championships with a \$500 Arena Sponsorship for Arena 3. Susan Rudman and Heather Petersen were notified. Lori will get the check from the Treasurer at the next meeting and get it to the RMDS Central Office.

The Foothills Scholarship of \$500 will again be awarded this year. The Scholarship Committee and Board updated the criteria for the scholarship to include financial need and if you had received any type of scholarship or grant from another organization, including RMDS you are not eligible to apply. The deadline for the application is March 30, 2012 and the scholarship will be awarded on April 16, the day after "tax day".

Heather Robertson clinic is scheduled for May 19-20 – registration form and info on the Foothills website. We currently have four confirmed riders. Heather will only come for six riders, and the chapter cannot break even without 8. Waiting to discuss at next meeting.

Ellen Storeim did fabulous flyers for the Heather Robertson Clinics, Ride A Test with Dolly at Roberts Ranch (June 16, registration form on Foothills website) and the flyer for the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo for the Chapter.

Grand Junction

Inka Spatafora – PROXY to Beth Geier

Treasury: Our treasury is in pretty good shape. We finished out the last year without losing too much money. The club was very worried about all our recognized shows and the overall low attendance at shows. We ended up canceling all of those recognized shows and had schooling shows in their place.

Show Management: This year we have 1 fun show, 3 schooling shows and 1 recognized show. We all agreed to hold one recognized show so that riders do have a chance to qualify with USEF/USDF/ RMDS here in the Grand Valley. Three of these shows have a clinic with the judge. These clinics are very popular with our riders. Our first show is on March 17-18, 2012. The entries are very light.

Communication: We just got done updating our Website. It has totally new look. We also have a new person in charge of our newsletter. She does a really nice job and everyone just loves it.

Education: At each GVDS meeting we have a guest speaker. Each program usually takes about 1 1/2. New for this year is the Western Dressage. So far we have 3 clinics scheduled. Two are with local western trainers and one with a trainer from the Front Range. We are very excited about these clinics and hope to spread the word of dressage in other disciplines. There is also talk about a JR/YR clinic here on the Western Slope. More planning has to be done.

Fundraising: We have a silent auction planned for our May show.

All in all we are doing well and have overcome some of the problems that we were facing last year. This is a very active club and we welcome any input.

High Plains – no report Northern Colorado

Wendy Cibis – PROXY to Lori Mitchell

Hana van Campen – PROXY to Joan Clay

Joan Clay has agreed to serve as proxy for NCDCA at the next RMDS meeting on March 8, 2012.

A survey of the NCDCA membership was conducted in 2011. Brigitte Schmidt prepared the following summary of the results. “The survey respondents were mostly older adult amateurs who have been members of NCDCA for more than five years. Only 2 jr/yr responded. Respondents were from various locations which may speak to the distances of our membership--from Estes Park to SD and MT. Most however seem to attend horse activities in Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley. Most seem to be active with lessons, clinics and shows. When it comes to questions about NCDCA many said the organization is doing well and indicated time constraints and other conflicts limited (and will continue to limit) their involvement. Most indicated keeping the recognized show date if it made money for the club. Suggestions for increasing volunteers focused on benefits such as reduced clinic or entry fees. Being more assertive in requesting help was also mentioned. It appears members would enjoy educational offerings and social functions. “ Education, economy and having fun while enjoying the beauty of dressage were values expressed by members.

Taking heed from the survey, the NCDCA board and members have discussed a list of activities for 2012 which they hope will suit many members .

- The first educational and social function was viewing 2 DVDs, Suzanne Von Dietze’s “Back-to-Back” and Steffen Peters schooling Ravel. Rae Ann Cook provided commentary for both presentations.
- The next activity planned for March 25, 2012 is an educational and social event, “Visit with the Trainers”, featuring dressage riders/trainers/ instructors, Jessica Greer and Joan Clay. They will be covering the Training Scale and featuring horses of different breeds and levels of training to emphasize the value of dressage for any horse. Jessica and Joan are planning on attending Dressage at Devon in September and will also describe their plan to reach this goal.

- It was decided to survey the members as to their preference for having a schooling show vs a "Ride-a-Test". The latter had quite a bit of interest on the part of members attending the board meeting. Therefore, NCDA will be featuring a "Ride-a-Test" on April 7th with Kathleen Donnelly as the judge/instructor and held at Mimi White's Stone Gate Ranch. Offering a schooling show is still an option for this year.
- Given the great response to the Halloween Party in October, we are planning to hold the social and horse activity "Dance with Your Horse". This, no "dance-holds" barred event will occur on May 6, 2012, hosted by Rae Ann Cook at Phantom Hill Farm.
- The USDF recognized show has been relinquished as NCDA has lost money on this event for 2 consecutive years. The feedback from the volunteers was generally negative.

Joan Clay did an excellent job of updating the NCDA mission statement and sent it for inclusion at the Horse Expo.

Platte River

Officers for 2012 are President & Secretary--Laura Speer and Sharon Soos treasurer. VP position is open and hopefully we will have a volunteer to fill it soon. Sharon and Laura are going to work on getting more members. Our next meeting we will be discussing events for 2012.

Laura Speer

Pikes Peak –

Simone Windeler –

Our first event – Lunging clinic:

PPDS held its first event for its members at Norris Penrose Event Center on Sun, March 4th. A total of 15 riders were lunged by Judy Carnick, Heather Petersen and Simone Windeler. Everyone worked on improving their seat, better breathing and overall balance. Simone Windeler also did a long lining demo with Shannon Lemon's young horse. We had a great turn-out (over 30 people!) and everyone enjoyed the clinic.

Upcoming Events:

We will have a booth at the 2012 Horseman's day in Falcon on Mar 24th. We had 500 pens donated with Pikes Peak Dressage Society on them and a whole bunch of candy to pass out too. Simone Windeler will represent PPDS and dressage in a round table discussion with other disciplines during the day.

We are planning a clinic with Gary Rockwell for May 5-6. For information on riding, please contact Heather at slush@drgw.net or 719-683-8435.

Info about our club:

We are working on getting our awards program and volunteer hours program rolling. We already have several members who earned hours at the lunging clinic. ALL local shows will count for volunteers this year for the club's awards program. Supporting all shows in our area is essential to the dressage community and the integrity of the sport in general.

You can find more information about events, our officers and how to join our group at www.pikespeakdressage.org or like us on Facebook.

Our next meeting will be on Mar 28, 2012 at 7 pm at the Elephant Bar in Colorado Springs.

Wasatch Mountains – no report

Linda Nickerson – NO PROXY

Western Colorado – no report

Judith Family – NO PROXY

Patricia Leech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. 2nd by Laura Speer. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Petersen, secretary