

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

January 17, 2013

Attendance: Lori Mitchell, Beth Geier, Michael Petersen, Heather Petersen, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Michelle Anderson, MaryJo Hoepner, Joan Clay, Sarah Barnes, Nicole Bizzarro, Linda Gaber, Jennifer Glass, Patricia Leech, Laura Speer, Sharon Soos, Peter Soos, Cat Siemiet, Jon Haugen

Proxies: Simone Windeler to Heather Petersen; Renee Martig to Joan Clay; Sally Shaffer to Lori Mitchell; Shannon Lemons to Heather Petersen; Tammy Fagan to Heather Petersen; Wendy Cibis to Lori Mitchell; Julie Haugen to Jon Haugen

Call to Order by Lori Mitchell at 6:40 pm.

We have an application for a new chapter – On the Bit Dressage – Jessica Ford – basically Wyoming centered at this point. **MaryJo Hoepner moved we accept the application for the new chapter, 2nd by Laura Speer. Motion passed unanimously.**

The October 20, 2012 Minutes:

Sharon Soos made a motion to approve the October 10, 2012 minutes as corrected, 2nd by Sarah Barnes. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report by Sharon Soos

Balance in each account as of December 31, 2012:

Checking Account	\$43,319.89
Scholarship Account	\$7462.33
PayPal Account	\$100.00
<u>Money Market</u>	<u>\$44,439.16</u>
Total:	\$95,201.38

Discussion of \$800 profit in PayPal account and what to do with it. We will leave it in general funds for the moment. Not a lot of Tax regulations written for 2012 concerning audits so the RMDS audit will not start until the federal regulations are set. Fixed asset concerns that have come up with the sale of the arena. Searching the history of capital equipment and fixed assets and Sharon will be researching by calling members for more history on items. Patricia mentioned the trophies, and how that affects what the chapters might also have.

Western Dressage Liaison Report by Kelly Hendricks

No report

President's Report by Lori Mitchell

USDF Convention in New Orleans - RMDS is one of the most progressive and organized GMO's out there. I attended a GMO Roundtable and was amazed that other GMO's out there cannot do recognized shows because the lack of qualified management, GMO's that cannot find the money to get insurance for their Directors and Officers. One GMO had 800 members in 2011 and 450 in 2012. RMDS is heading in the right direction. We aren't any different than any other GMO out there when it came to complaints about the organization either. Top two complaints of every GMO was, the same volunteer base all the time and not anyone new stepping up and politics. There is a GMO Marketing Guide that we have access to and we should look at implementing some if those ideas, which I know Sharon Soos, RMDS Marketing Chair is currently doing. There were no bylaws or standing rule changes at the USDF level this year, so the USDF BOG was short and without any great discussions.

RMDS Policy and Procedures – Last year when I took office and saw that we didn't have such policies and procedures in place where anyone could easily access them I took the USDF published Policy and Procedures and updated them

to accommodate the RMDS structure. My goal was to have the board approve and then place them on the website along with a master copy in the Central Office. We would then update as necessary. There was some concern about this process and that I was not following our own Bylaws and Standing Rules. I did discuss this with other GMO leaders at the USDF Convention along with some USDF personnel. No one saw any issue since these are Operating Policy and Procedures and do not have anything to do with the Bylaws or Standing Rules as stated in our Omnibus. Some other GMO's are now going to follow our idea even. We will be continuing the process of approving the Operating Policy and Procedures this year.

Centaur Meeting – I met with Linda Gaber, RMDS Communications Chair; Nicole Bizzaro, Interim Editor; and Beth Geier, Central Office in Boulder regarding the new E-News format for the Centaur. More on that from those parties reports.

RMDS Board Chairs – First, thank you for either stepping up to a chair position or continuing to serve as one. RMDS cannot do it without you and your dedication. I do want to encourage all chairs to assemble a committee. It will be helpful to you on the workload, it is much more fun and beneficial to all to work as a team and have more ideas shared. The chair will still remain responsible for the report to the RMDS Board and any communications. Once you have a committee please report the names and contact information to the RMDS Central Office and include that information in your next report to the board.

RMDS Board Meeting Changes – Please make sure to get your reports to Heather Petersen, RMDS Secretary on time so that they may be sent out to the board for review before the meeting. This is what is done at the USDF level and I am hoping that we can shorten our meetings and only deal with the necessary business. If you do not submit a report we will then have to take the time for you to present the report in person at the meeting and therefore take additional time. We will see how this works and move forward from there. I am also asking that on each report submitted that you have one or two lines at the bottom of the page that gives gratitude, thanks, kudos, positive feedback about a fellow board member, chapter member or RMDS contracted personnel. Before you start rolling your eyes, I am just trying to create a more positive experience here and we all need to be a bit nicer to one another. With Gratitude to Linda Gaber who has stepped up to the Communications chair position and has done a great deal to get the new ideas and format up and running. Linda knew nothing of the organization or how the chair position worked but has made great strides in helping Nicole and RMDS get it done. She has been editing and proofing not only the Centaur but using her red pen on the Omnibus also. Thank You Linda.

Review of RMDS Executive Board Policy on Program Proposals:

Patricia Leech moved that we make the changes noted in blue below (via email, if necessary; regardless of time constraints), 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed unanimously.

7. In cases where the EB/Committee determines that the program or project cannot be implemented in its original form, due to excessive costs or other factors, a revised format for the program or project must be recommended to and reviewed by the EB. Final approval of any changes to the originally approved format must be presented [via email, if necessary](#), for approval to the Board (either EB or BOG) that originally approved the program [regardless of time constraints](#).

Jennifer Glass moved to approve the RMDS Executive Board Policy on Program Proposals, 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously

2013 Executive Board Retreat by Gwen Ka'awaloa

Gwen needs some background information on what we've done and would like to do and she has a few new ideas. She will meet with MaryJo, who planned the previous retreat and will have more to present at the next meeting.

Office Manager Report by Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 441 members as of 1/2/2013 – 23 are Centaur only. 16 new horses since October, 2012.

Shows

- Recognition for 2013
 - 39 USEF/USDF Shows; 14 RMDS only shows. 6 have Breed Show In Hand Classes
 - Several have added Western Dressage classes and the new USEF Rider Tests.

Recognized Officials

- TD Reports: Have had a few inquiries regarding the RMDS TD program.

Omnibus:

- Have been working with Nicole on this – more under communications report.

General:

- Kayce has worked out really well. Approximately 23-24 ads, majority were new people. 3 didn't come through. Very good arrangement.
- Chapter Bylaws need to be on file with the Central Office
- P&L statements from chapters need to be completed by the end of January.

Office:

Rental items – If you want to rent a measuring stick or dressage arena, notify the office sooner rather than later.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months) – Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

2013:	Jan 17 (3rd Thurs)	March 14	May 9
	July 9 (changed to Tuesday)	Sept 12	October Retreat
	Nov 9-BOG – Need to change		

Junior Camp Director

Julie now has a conflict as she is also on the board. Our options are A) go against bylaw; b) Julie has said she will find another person; C) put it out to bid. What is the direction we are going with it? It was decided we would let it ride as Julie is looking for a new director/assistant director. We will amend the existing contract once we know the new parties.

Adult Amateur Report by Jennifer Glass

No report. Still figuring out what is already in the works. Plans but no information. Working on a time to get together with Beth Geier.

Awards by Shannon Lemons

PROXY TO HEATHER PETERSEN

2012 Wrap Up

- Few items remaining:
 - Corrections on a few plaques – order in but still waiting for them
 - Donor of FS GP wants different header plate and names on base of trophy – order in
 - Insurance reimbursement pending for trophy returned from last year's winner
 - Donor checks pending – JR/YR Trophy, Youth Awards
- No damage occurred in mailing out of trophies ☺

2013 Plan

- Update trophy pictures and policies in procedures manual
- Add picture of trophy to each trophy box

Expense report

PURPOSE: Awards

STATEMENT NUMBER: _____

PAY PERIOD: From _____
To _____

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION:

Name _____
Department _____

Position _____
Manager _____

SSN _____
Employee ID _____

Vendor	Year	Description	Postage	Supplies	Gifts	Ribbons	Plaques, plates	Update, replace	Misc.	Total	
Various	2012	Postage Reimbursement	\$ (1.50)							\$ (1.50)	
Team Direct	2012	Deposit for Ribbons				\$ 853.98				\$ 853.98	
Lemons	2012	Postage	\$ 477.54							\$ 477.54	
Lemons	2012	Trophy Boxes		\$ 414.38						\$ 414.38	
Team Direct	2012	Remainder of Ribbons				\$ 697.86				\$ 697.86	
Lemons	2012	Replace RFMA, SH Mare trophy						\$ 75.47		\$ 75.47	
Lemons	2012	RFMA Gift			\$ 88.75					\$ 88.75	
Lemons	2012	Volunteer Gifts			\$ 346.21					\$ 346.21	
Lemons	2012	Trophy Repair Supplies, Boxes		\$ 114.15						\$ 114.15	
TPVS	2012	Postage Meter for notification	\$ 108.00							\$ 108.00	
Premier	2012	Plaques, plates - new*			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,522.30	\$ 197.80	\$ -	\$ 2,720.10	
Milnes	2012	Sponsor						\$ (170.00)		\$ (170.00)	
Various	2012	Postage Reimbursement	\$ (267.17)							\$ (267.17)	
		Pending	\$ 35.00				\$ 75.00		\$ (170.00)	\$ (60.00)	
			\$ 351.87	\$ 528.53	\$ 434.96	\$ 1,551.84	\$ 2,597.30	\$ 103.27	\$ (170.00)		
										Subtotal	\$ 5,457.77
										Advances	
										Total	\$ 5,457.77

APPROVED: *Plaque for new GP trophy, plate for trophy base, and new Jr/YR silver plate and plaque

NOTES: _____

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

Awards Budget

2012 To Date, 2013 Proposed

EXPENSE ITEM	2012 To Date			2013 Proposed		
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance
Postage	\$400	\$621	\$221	\$400	\$0	(\$400)
Trophy replacement/update	300	273	(27)	200	0	(200)
Supplies	550	529	(21)	200	0	(200)
Gifts	300	435	135	350	0	(350)
Ribbons	1,700	1,552	(148)	1,600	0	(1,600)
Rider plaques/plates, engraving	2,900	2,597	(303)	2,700	0	(2,700)
Miscellaneous	350	110	(240)	0	0	
INCOME ITEM						
Postage Reimbursement	(350)	(269)	81	(350)	0	350
Award Sponsor	(150)	(290)	(140)	(100)	0	100
Late Fees/Donations	(250)	(95)	155	0	0	
TOTAL	\$5,750	\$5,463	(\$287)	\$5,000		(\$5,000)

Communications by Linda Gaber

RMDS Centaur online is being prepared for transmission by Feb. 1, 2013 to members via their email address. Goal of change is to reduce Centaur production expenses, and offer new communications/education options and services to members and advertisers.

The new online full-color article and advertising options, sizes and fees will be determined as we go, and with some guidance from USDF's 2013 Media Kit. Especially interesting to us, who plan and produce Centaur, is USDF membership demographics, which can help us know who and what to target for new advertisers, articles and members. Their data show:

- Top three breeds: Warmbloods, Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses
- 31% chose horse-related items and clothing as gifts (Centaur holiday gift guide?)
- 98% read their USDF Connection every month
- 37% own more than five acres of land (Hay, pasture care, other agricultural, and real estate how-to-buy horse property articles?)
- 81% purchase tack and grooming products frequently (Best of member polling and list yearly?)
- 23% plan to purchase arena footing in the next five years (How to choose new footing article?)
- 28% plan to purchase farm equipment in the next five years (Ag machinery, repair, retailer's info?)
- Your other ideas and suggestions for articles and who to write them?

Chair Done List:

- January – Wrote or edited eight articles for February online newsletter; coordinated and communicated February contents with graphic designer Nicole Bizzarro. Communicated with members planning to write articles.
- December – Proofread and edited 2013 Omnibus sections; proofread and edited January Centaur, wrote USDF annual conference recap article and provided photos; met in Boulder with Nicole, Lori Mitchell and Beth Geier to plan Centaur transition to six online issues.
- November – Proofread and edited December Centaur; wrote Leg-Up Scholarship Report.

Need to make some things more prominent on the website, accurate advertising rates need to be coordinated by office and other involved and posted on the website. We will be implementing the media kit in actuality on the site.

Theme issues in mind for the Centaur or articles/events you want us to cover? A best of type issue, thought of November being a congratulatory issue.

Are we still soliciting at the same rates as the media kit asks Sharon? Beth believes these to be the current rates with the Centaur information being changed to 12 issues instead of 12 months.

Report from Nicole Bizzarro:

- Centaur – I've done the last 2 issues in print and we'll be moving onto the electronic version for February. Constant contact - \$252 per year which is the non-profit rate after discount. How much do we want to charge for a click through full color ad? We had been thinking \$100, but should we be more along the lines of \$50 when they could send out an email blast? Let's start at \$50 for one issue and go from there.
- We need to add a page to the website – on the left sidebar – “Advertise with RMDS”, spells out more what the publications are.
 - Need thumbnail of Championship show program.
- Should we make the electronic e-Centaur into a smart phone app?
 - More like a bulletin, making tailored to people but delivers the news.
 - How often can we send things out using Constant Contact? As often as you like over the 12 month contract.
 - Are Nicole's rates the same? Yes, same as Cathy each month...whether on paper or e-Centaur.

Issues: Linda has come up with AP style guide changes to be approved for the BOG in 2013.













In the omnibus - How to qualify for Championships – still refers to Intro numbers instead of letters. Beth will look at this and prepare Standing Rule changes if needed for the 2013 BOG.

Do we revisit paying Nicole for 10 hours of as-needed design work per year? Beth will do the needed work currently...

Website:

No news is good news... Some stats for 2012:

133 different pages-url	Viewed
/	92,804
/Calendar/HomePage	16,335
/Awards/HomePage	5,685
/Marketplace/Services	4,682
/Publications/HomePage	3,836
/ScoreCheck/HomePage	3,731
/Organization/Membership	3,549
/Championships/HomePage	3,461
/Marketplace/HomePage	3,207
/Main/HomePage	3,125
/Organization/HomePage	3,089
/Site/Login	2,073
/Publications/Centaur	1,903
/Marketplace/Classifieds	1,788
/centaur/get.php	1,518
/ScoreCheck/Level	1,218
/membership/membership.php	1,158
/Organization/Instructors	1,062
/Organization/Chapters	1,022
/Organization/OtherInstructors	989
/Organization/Officials	934
/Organization/Suspension	869
/Organization/Officers	722
/Calendar/Edit	688
/Awards/Bronze	658

Countries			Pages
	United States	us	160,596
	Germany	de	1,614
	Ukraine	ua	1,536
	China	cn	898
	Canada	ca	564
	Russian Federation	ru	449
	France	fr	363
	Great Britain	gb	315
	Romania	ro	257
	Poland	pl	245
	Hong Kong	hk	168
	India	in	144

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2012	1,369	2,879	12,701	51,045	2.35 GB
Feb 2012	1,355	2,887	12,055	46,850	1.36 GB
Mar 2012	1,443	3,197	13,580	53,581	1.59 GB
Apr 2012	1,616	3,412	13,190	56,891	2.06 GB
May 2012	1,817	4,106	17,431	68,576	2.30 GB
Jun 2012	1,609	3,658	16,353	68,809	2.26 GB
Jul 2012	1,702	3,713	16,521	69,411	1.73 GB
Aug 2012	1,807	4,095	17,369	77,027	3.39 GB
Sep 2012	1,691	4,010	16,921	74,152	3.62 GB
Oct 2012	1,260	3,055	12,070	54,540	1.76 GB
Nov 2012	1,243	2,885	10,075	48,734	1.45 GB
Dec 2012	1,253	2,976	10,175	46,494	1.80 GB
Total	18,165	40,873	168,441	716,110	25.70 GB

RMDS Computer:

The RMDS Central Office computer died at the end of November and I was asked to purchase / build a new machine. The \$1200 payment covers the following items. The completed machine was delivered to Beth on Nov 30, 2012.

Hardware:

- Motherboard: P8Z77-V LK LGA 1155 Z77 ATX Intel Motherboard
- CPU: Core i3 3225 3.3GHz LGA 1155 Boxed Processor
- Memory: Ballistix Sport 16GB DDR3-1600 (PC3-12800) CL9 Memory
- Hard Drive: 1TB 7,200 RPM SATA 6.0Gb/s 3.5" Internal Hard Drive DT01ACA100
- Optical Drive: 24x SATA Internal Desktop DVD Burner GH24NS72
- Case: Three Hundred Two ATX Mid Tower Case
- Power Supply: EarthWatts Green Series 350W ATX 12V Power Supply

Software:

- Windows 7 Home Premium
- Microsoft Office Professional 2010

Labor:

- Clean installation of Windows 7
- Installation of Office 2010
- Installation and testing of the RMDS database
- Updates and testing of the scripts used to upload scores to the website
- Miscellaneous installation and configuration of other software

Education Report by Jon Haugen

"L" Judge Continuing Education 2013 – Saturday January 12

- Jon is arranging for demo riders. We hope to have all from within Stellar Stables so we don't have to deal with trailers and outside horses. Terri Baker (the owner) will be away that weekend but Anna Wood (trainer) is our onsite contact. They have a PA/speaker system in the barn which will save RMDS that cost.
- Porta potty is arranged and Beth has sent the check.
- To date we have 23 registrants for a total of \$1200.00 in income.
- Gary will be staying with Kristi Wysocki in Elbert so we have no hotel costs for him that day, only meals. Kristi will be bringing him to the session so as a courtesy will not be charged if she stays for the day.
- USDF funding grant has been submitted and approved and promotional materials received from them. The grant is for \$200 which we may keep regardless of profit or loss, or additional funding if for some reason we experience a loss.
- Michelle is handling lunch as she lives closer than Jon. This will likely be deli trays or sub sandwiches but we have received some requests for a gluten free option, so will investigate this possibility. Also will bring in whatever Gary would specifically like
- Gary did not come for the L – Kristi did it instead. 29 reservations, 19 showed up, 3 registered day of. \$1690 income, \$1890 with USDF grant - \$1250.90. then change fee of \$150 for Gary.
- Issue of refunds for those who request refunds since it wasn't Gary. One in a contested PayPal. Typical policy not to refund, but extenuating circumstances.
- Much discussion regarding refunds, break down in communications...
- **Gwen moves that we stay with current policy of no refunds, 2nd by Sarah Barnes. Discussion: we can send notes to those who had requested refunds and explain why we can't. Motion passed unanimously.**

Technical Delegate / Show Management Education 2013 – Saturday February 9

- Heather Petersen engaged for show management and Veronica Holt for TD.
- 4 Registration for the full day @ \$50 has been received to date. 2 for ½ half day.
- Veronica can't be there, so looking for a new person. Cat Siemiet will check her schedule and Jon will go from there to some of the other local "R" TDs.

Symposium with George Williams 2013, Feb 23-24 (Feb 22 w/instructors only)

- Symposium location will be Tomora Training Center in Greeley.
- Region V grant approved for minimum amount requested with promise of additional if we incur a loss.
- The Dressage Foundation grant application has also been approved for \$1,000. Please note that we ONLY receive these funds to cover only losses, not to enable us to make a profit.
- Rider & auditor applications are posted on the website
- All riders selected: Ashley Eberhardt, Whitney Haugen, Gigi Brittain, Julie Haugen, Nicole Roach-Reinsvold, Katherine Simard, Jennifer Kirch, and Jessica Greer. 14 applications with 15 horses. 6 alternates. One withdrew name, one never submitted video.
- Board members are ½ price unless they are doing it for continuing education.
- Jon asked Pinnacle Sport Horse for gift certificate to raffle at George Williams Symposium.
- **Laura Speer moved we give L graduates ½ credit for the hours they attend the George Williams symposium, 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously. Heather Petersen was not in the room at the time.**
- **Heather Petersen moved we reconsider the motion just passed, 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. More discussion on why – George is not a judge and we have not previously approved L program educational sessions that are not taught by judges.... Yes – 9; No – 11. The motion will not be reconsidered.**

Junior/Young Riders by Julie Haugen

PROXY TO JON HAUGEN

- I Completed the Ad for the Omnibus for the Youth camp and am currently looking for people that are interested in camp director or assistant director positions.
- Please contact me with any Ideas for or people that you may know that would be interested in those positions.
- Team challenge is Sunday after camp.

Marketing by Sharon Soos

Preparation ongoing for the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. We will need volunteers; we'll do a double booth as we've done the last few years. We will use the promotional items we have left over from previous years so there will be no added expense for those this year. Ideas for other information we should have available were discussed.

Scholarship by MaryJo and Heather

1. Scholarship committee met and compiled rankings for scholarship applicants. The recipients will be voted on at tonight's meeting.
2. Scholarship committee has a recommendation for volunteer hours to be discussed.
3. What is the future of scholarships for 2013? How many? How much? How do we promote? Etc.
4. Are there board members interested in being a part of the Scholarship Committee?

Leg Up Scholarship

- One applicant well qualified.
- **Sarah Barnes moved that we award the scholarship to the applicant, 2nd by Peter Soos. Motion passed unanimously.**

Solid Seat Scholarship

- 3 applicants. Vast differences between the applicants.
- MaryJo and Heather suggested that one be dropped from consideration because they are the same person who was just awarded the Leg Up Scholarship. Executive Board agreed.
- **Joan Clay moved that we award the scholarship to applicant #3, 2nd by Gwen Ka'awaloa. Motion passed unanimously.**

Open Door Scholarship

- 3 applicants. 2 applicants stand out from the other one.
- MaryJo and Heather suggested that we award two scholarships in this category since we had no applications for the Junior/Young Rider scholarship category and there are 2 very deserving professionals in this category with marked applications.
- **Gwen Ka'awaloa moved that we award scholarships to applicants #6 and #7, 2nd by Michelle Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.**

RMDS Championships by Laura Speer

Signed contract the contract (along with Lori Mitchell and Heather Petersen) tonight at the meeting and received the deposit today from Sharon. Heather will send the completed package to the Horse Park tomorrow.

Appointed Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee by Sarah Barnes

Lori Mitchell appointed Sarah Barnes to head the Nominating Committee for 2013. Chapter presidents will serve on the committee to find executive board – pres, VP, sec, treasurer.

Banquet & BOG– November 12, 2012 from Laura Speer

Baskets:

Foothills #1 first aid kit	\$160
Foothills #2 Emergencies Bucket	\$80
Grand Valley	\$75
NCDA	\$100
Pikes Peak	\$65 – was reimbursed to bidder
Boulder Valley	\$90
Arkansas Valley	\$30
Platte River	\$290

High Plains	\$150
CSDA	\$180
Total from Baskets:	\$1155

Thanks to all the Chapters – the chapter who brought in the most, Platte River was awarded a free page ad in the print issue of the Centaur and a free email blast for a chapter event.

\$330 made from the donated wine bottles.

\$885 sold in raffle tickets.

\$764 from other auction items.

Therefore RMDS gathered \$2954 from all the banquet auctions.

169 paid dinners

Volunteers who reported hours to the RMDS Central Office in 2012 were awarded several prizes, included 2 1 day passes to the top 2 volunteers to the George Williams Symposium. Those winners were Raissa Chunko and Pauline Foss.

With the recent tax refund from the hotel, the banquet and BOG was covered in full with a positive bottom line of \$940.

Lots of thanks to the Banquet Committee: Shannon Lemons, Heather Petersen, Lori Mitchell, Sharon Soos. The work these folks do behind the scenes is amazing. Also, thanks to Julie Barringer-Richers and Dave Mitchell for co-hosting and to all of the donors and sponsors and the folks who gathered the donations! Without everyone helping, this event would not be successful (and fun)!

People like the location and the fact that the banquet is in the same spot. So that will stay the same for 2013 but here are some changes already in the works:

- New dinner menu
- Auctioning only the chapter baskets and announcing silent auction winners (save some time)
- A person stationed outside the banquet room to prevent early entry of folks not setting up.

Any other ideas and suggestions or help is welcome.

- Allow people to reserve tables for a cost?
- USDF National Championships is the same weekend in 2013. Consider moving it a week later? Laura will check with the hotel on moving one week later. It is really not feasible to move earlier due to engraving and ribbon orders.

USDF Region 5 Update by Heather Petersen

Hope everyone is having a great start to the New Year! Just a few things this month...

We are accepting bids for the 2014 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships through February 11th. If anyone is interesting is placing a bid for the Regional Championships or has any questions about the process, please contact myself or the USDF office and we'll be happy to help!

Auditor registration is now open for the Nutrena/USDF Region 5 Adult Clinic Series with Hilda Gurney. The clinic will be hosted by the Arizona Dressage Association at Central Arizona Riding Academy in San Tan Valley, Arizona April 20-21. The reviews we're received from other Regions on this clinic have been excellent. If you can, put it on your calendar and don't miss this great educational weekend. The theme for this series of clinics is harmonizing with Your Horse. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged and USDF members save \$20 if they pre-register.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the USDF/Platinum Performance North American Junior/Young Rider Dressage Championships, then your application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by April 1st in order to avoid stiffer fees. Final application deadline is April 30th, though again, the fees are 6 times as much, and absolutely no applications will be accepted after April 30th. If you plan to compete for NAJYRC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is jnclay@comcast.net and her phone number is 970.420.0887.

Old business:

Conflict of Interest Papers – all board members need to have these turned into the Central Office by tonight’s meeting.

New Business:

Appointment of Chapter Officers so they are covered for D & O Insurance
Lori read the list from the Central Office:

RMDS - OFFICERS 2013		
Chapter	Title	Name
Arkansas Valley	President	Catherine Siemiet
	VP	Brenda Haley
	Treasurer	Sandy Vernon
	Secretary	Kathy Burke
Boulder Valley	President	Sarah Barnes
	VP	Stephanie Margulis
	Treasurer	Beth Geier
	Secretary	Kathie Hibbard
Colorado Springs	President	Pat Leech
	VP	Anna Worley
	Treasurer	Rebecca Hutton
	Secretary	Claudette Van Pelt
Foothills	President	Lori Mitchell
	VP	CC Ross
	Treasurer	Laura Quakenbusch
	Secretary	Heather Fitzgerald
Grand Valley	President	Tammy Fagan
	VP	Megan Gregg
	Treasurer	Susan Gregg
	Secretary	Deb Crooks
High Plains	President	Wendy Cibis
	VP	Suzie Halle
	Treasurer	Judith Weber
	Secretary	Stephanie Leahey
Northern Colo	President	Renee Martig
	VP	Denise "Didi" DeKrey
	Treasurer	Pat Schultheiss Cole
	Secretary	Kathleen Kilkelly
On the Bit Dressage	President	Jessica Ford
	VP	Connie Woodruff
	Treasurer	Eric Holt
	Secretary	Pam Clarke
Pikes Peak Dressage	President	Michelle Anderson
	VP	Heather Petersen
	Treasurer	Erin Ashby
	Secretary	Nina Felsenthal
Platte River	President	Peter Soos

	VP	Laura Speer
	Treasurer	Sharon Soos
	Secretary	Laura Speer
Wasatch Mountains	President	Sally Shaffer
	VP	Terrece Pearman
	Treasurer	Connie Wright
	Secretary	Amanda Trickett
Western Colo	President	Barbara Graham Terry
	VP	Sue Pietrzak
	Treasurer	Justina Potter
	Secretary	Barbara McElnea

Maryjo Hoepner moved that we appoint this list of people to their positions. 2nd by Jennifer Glass. Motion passed unanimously.

July meeting date: It was suggested we move it to Tuesday for that month only – July 9th as in previous years. **MaryJo Hoepner moved we move the July RMDS Executive Board meeting to July 9th, 2nd by Sarah Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.**

RMDS Data Base Discussion

Pat leech was appointed for the discussion since Rebecca Hutton was unable to attend the meeting. They are asking to export the RMDS data and formatting for research. Her expert has asked for a list of requirements that RMDS has. Several board members asked what is the problem that these experts have with the current database and has to be fixed. Jon Haugen moved we table this data base discussion until a proposal is brought before the board, 2nd by Gwen Ka’awaloa. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Arkansas Valley

Our members are looking forward to a productive and fun year ahead. It all begins with our annual potluck and planning session next Sunday where we will try to mesh our personal horsey goals with our club's yearly goals. Ride a Test; clinics; and schooling shows are sure to be on our list of events. My personal goal as president this year is to increase membership and enthusiasm!

Catherine Siemiet

Boulder Valley

Boulder Valley Dressage held its annual awards banquet on Saturday evening, January 12th at the Boulderado Hotel in downtown Boulder. Board members, including Stephanie Boyles, Stephanie Margulis and Julie Barringer-Richers worked hard to organize a fun evening, including great door prizes, fun table decorations, and a slide show featuring BVD members. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to honor award winners and thank volunteers for their service throughout the year. A special thank you was due to our outgoing board president, Kim Lambert and outgoing VP Stephanie Boyles.

Sarah Barnes

The new board for 2013 includes Sarah Barnes (incoming president), Stephanie Margulis (formerly treasurer, now VP), Kathie Hibbard (staying on as secretary) and Beth Geier (taking over as treasurer).

Our first meeting of the year will be Monday evening, February 11th, when we will discuss plans for the upcoming year. Sarah, who is concurrently serving as president of the Boulder Valley Eventing Association, is hoping to coordinate opportunities for educational activities that might appeal to eventers as well as dressage riders. She also hopes to reach out to other local RMDS chapters to co-sponsor activities, such as ride-a-tests and a forum on the new rider tests. Another goal for the year will be to involve more Boulder Valley Dressage members in helping to organize and run the club, along with volunteering at shows.

Colorado Springs

Patricia Leech

CSDA would like to congratulate another one of our members on their riding accomplishments in 2012. Chantal Simoneau, with her horse Gepetto, has completed the requirements for her USDF Bronze medal.

The CSDA Year End Awards Banquet will be held this year on January 13 2013. We will be presenting 35 different awards, including three new trophies donated this year, to our members. Please check the CSDA website after January 14 for a complete list of this year's winners.

For 2013, the CSDA board will be focusing on educational programs, clinics, and fund raising as we begin providing the programs the membership has requested. These programs will be designed to encourage and engage our membership base to participate more actively in the Chapter.

We will be holding our first educational event on January 15 2013 with a presentation by Joyce Reynolds of the Nihzoni Health Center. Check the CSDA website for time, date, and location.

CSDA general membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month and all CSDA members and their guests are welcome to attend. The meeting time, location, and directions are posted on the website at www.csdressage.org.

Foothills

Lori Mitchell

The Foothills Chapter will be meeting for the first time in 2013 on February 4, 2013. We will discuss our 2013 events at that time, we will have more to report for the March RMDS Board meeting.

Grand Junction

Tammy Fagan PROXY to Heather Petersen

We ended the year with a Christmas Party hosted by Patti Chamberlain and her Husband Bob. Their home was beautifully decorated, the food, and company was great and a white elephant gift exchange gave the party a little flair, we all had a wonderful time. Thank you Patti and Bob! Our outgoing President, Inka Spatafora took a few minutes during the party to announce the election results for our 2013 officer team. President - Tammy Fagan, Vice President - Megan Gregg, Treasurer - Susan Gregg, and Secretary - Deb Crooks.

Our General Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the Month, the first meeting of the year is Jan. 10th , 6:30pm at the Mesa Mall Community Meeting Room it will include a pot luck dinner. Everyone is welcome, bring your ideas and a dish, we would love to have you. I have a full agenda planned for the meeting and am excited to get working with the new officer team and a great group of members.

Our Awards Banquet is coming up on Jan 26th, 6:30pm at Carrino's Restaurant, it will be an enjoyable evening. We have four schooling shows and one recognized show scheduled for this year starting in March.

I am happy to serve as your new president, please feel free to contact me.

tfagandressage@wyoming.com or our web site www.gvds.org. All we need now is a little bit of warm weather. Enjoy your horses.

High Plains

Wendy Cibis PROXY to Lori Mitchell

High Plains had our final meeting of 2012 in November where we held elections for 2013 officers. The officers elected for 2013 are as follows:

President.....Wendy Cibis

Vice-President.....Suzie Halle

Secretary.....Stephanie Leahey

Treasurer.....Judith Weber

We are focusing this year on identifying ways to engage our members to volunteer at RMDS events. We also discussed timing of having a Hilda Gurney clinic, possibly early in the year so it benefits the coming show season.

Having the one of the largest chapters continues to pose the challenge of whether to try to engage more than just the core of members who seem to always get involved. Between the board of Governors meeting and our final meeting of the year, we had a lot of brainstorming and I think we have some good energy and ideas for 2013.

Northern Colorado

Renee Martig PROXY to Joan Clay

The following NCDA activities were accomplished from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2012:

a. The NCDA Halloween Party was held at Rae Ann Cooks Phantom Hill Farm on Sunday Oct. 28th. Eleven riders and their horses showed up in costume and several juniors attended. Games on horseback were led by Joan Clay. Another delicious potluck lunch made for another successful social event.

- b. Part 2 of NCDAs Dance with Your Horse given by Christa Elaine Wood, national Grand Prix free-style champion, was held at Renee Martigs home on Saturday November 17, 2012. Volunteers, Renee Martig and her mare, Katarina, Rae Ann Cook riding and Annette Alfonz on Mikey provided videos of their horses walk, trot and canter. Christa then demonstrated how the beats per minute were determined at each gait for each horse. Several music selections during the videos and Christa commented on the suitability of the music for the horse. This was an excellent educational opportunity as well as a social event.
- c. NCDAs elections were held. The slate of officers for 2013 is Renee Martig, NCDAs president, Didi DeKrey, vice-president, Kathleen Killkelly, secretary and Pat Cole, treasurer. In addition, Renee volunteered to take primary responsibility for NCDAs facebook pages. Didi will update NCDAs website.
- d. The NCDAs Christmas Party was hosted by Pat Cole in her home on December 12, 2012. Attendance was excellent. The new officers were announced and our volunteer of the year award recipient, Kathleen Killkelly, was presented. Raisa Chunko and Joan Clay spoke about Raisas accomplishments this year winning Junior First Level Championship. We also discussed plans for 2013 to include a schooling show or Ride-ATest, another trail ride and various clinics.
- e. We hope to have as good a year as was 2012!

Pikes Peak –

Michelle Anderson

Happy 2013 from the new Pikes Peak president. I'd like to welcome our new and returning board members:

- Vice President Heather Petersen
- Treasurer Erin Ashby
- Secretary Nina Felsenthal
- Education Judy Carnick
- Awards Shannon Lemons

Many thanks to our outgoing president Simone Windeler for hosting our holiday party at her beautifully decorated for the season home. Those who were able to attend during the busy holiday season had a very enjoyable evening and very much appreciate Simone's hospitality!

The primary focus of our small but growing chapter is fun and educational events for all. Towards that end we have some exciting plans for 2013. Among these are another clinic with Gary Rockwell, a trailer safety session, and a preparation-to-show meeting where we will have the opportunity to pick the brains of an "L" graduate, an "r" dressage and sport horse judge and an FEI Level 1 steward. We are so very fortunate to have this depth of experience and knowledge within our chapter.

The most current information for our meetings and events is published on our website, pikespeakdressage.org.

Platte River

Peter Soos

We start the New Year with 3 goals for 2013.

1. To retain our membership from 2012 and work to expand it.
2. To focus on our members and support the way in which they want to participate. Whether it's showing, participating in Educational opportunities, volunteering or "please do not call".
3. To maintain and encourage a stress free environment within our chapter.

Our officers for 2013 are:

- President – Peter Soos
- Vice President – Laura Speer
- Secretary – Laura Speer
- Treasurer – Sharon Soos

Wasatch Mountains -

Sally Shaffer PROXY to Lori Mitchell

We held our Annual General Meeting on November 17th, 2012, where we confirmed the following people as officers of the Chapter for 2013:

- Sally Shaffer: President
- Terrece Pearman: Vice President
- Amanda Trickett: Secretary
- Connie Wright: Treasurer
- Linda Nickerson: Communications Director

We are excited to have some new blood on the board and look forward to their contributions to an active and fun chapter in 2013.

We discussed various options for activities in 2013 at the AGM. We have come to the conclusion that we will not be running a recognized show this year, but we are working on several ideas for clinics and other activities. We would very much welcome input from our larger membership as to what they would like us to do for you!

One of our big pushes for 2013 will be to get our website up and running. To this end, we would really appreciate you, our chapter members, sending in pictures of you and your horses—at home, at shows, candid shots, and formal shots... whatever you have permission to use and think we would all enjoy seeing and celebrating. Linda Nickerson, who is an experienced web designer, has kindly agreed to pull all of this together for us. Her email address is mail@snowypeaksranch.com.

We have set a regular schedule for chapter meetings—they will now be held quarterly, on the third Thursday of every third month. The first meeting will be on January 17th at 7pm at Sally Shaffer's house. All members and guests will be very welcome to come discuss ideas for the coming year and enjoy a very delicious pot-luck dinner! Please call or email for directions.

Western Colorado

No Report and NO PROXY

Barbara Terry

Joan Clay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 pm. 2nd by Linda Gaber. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Petersen, secretary