

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2018

Darcy's Bistro & Irish Pub – 303-770-0477

4955 S Ulster St #103

Denver, CO 80237

The room is reserved beginning at 6pm

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Gwen Ka’awaloa, Michelle Anderson, Sharon Soos, Joan clay, Didi DeKrey, Beverly Swanson, MaryJo Hoepner, Kathy Simard, Stephanie Figgins, Tiffany Busch, Cassandra DiPentino, Michelle Stevens,

Proxies: Heather Petersen to MaryJo Hoepner; Ginka Kubelka to Michelle Anderson; Una Schade to Beverly Swanson, Arlene Rhodes to MaryJo Hoepner, Anclaire Spaulding to Tiffany Busch, Linda Gabor to Cassandra DiPentino

Members: Beth Geier, Jewlee Barber, Melinda Goblirsch

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka’awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

Introductions

Secretary - Approval of Minutes - January 2018 meeting

Beth Geier

MaryJo Hoepner made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected (page 2 Line 10 delete repetitive word ‘fee’) 2nd by Stephanie Figgins. Motion passed unanimously.

Paid Positions Bids:

- Centaur Production and e-Centaur Production: These bids were taken together.
 - Beverly Swanson
 - Melinda Goblirsch

Both bids were discussed. Melinda was willing to drop her hourly rate some, but it was still to high for us to consider at this time.

Kathy Simard made the motion to rehire Beverly Swanson as the Centaur and e-Centaur production with a discussion regarding production quality. 2nd by Tiffany Busch. Motion passed. 1 opposed

- **Omnibus Production**
 - Nicole Bizzarro

MaryJo Hoepner made the motion to accept Nicole Bizzarro’s contract. 2nd by Beverly Swanson Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as March 1, 2018	
RMDS Checking Account	\$47,460.60
RMDS PayPal (as pf 12/18/17)	\$ 7,812.88
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 5,036.63
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$43,823.00</u>
TOTAL	\$104,103.11

Reminder that Expo happening this week-end. Number of booths are down. Discussion with people running Expo and the lack of interest appears to be a nation-wide trend.

President Report

Gwen Ka’awaloa

- Spring is here, almost and we are finishing plans for clinics and symposiums.
- Shows are about to start with RMDS and USEF/USDF recognized shows beginning in April. Schooling shows have already started as well as clinics.

- As we move forward we need to stay on track with our goals and to make sure that RMDS provides for our membership. Perfection is not really achievable but we must strive to keep on track with goals that enhance our group while maintaining the goals set by our parent organization, USDF. ***(We must not do anything that goes against their rules)***
- We need to put a group together to start planning for our part in the USDF Convention. RMDS should host a night with cocktails and such. Let's make one work. ***(Gwen asked Tiffany Busch to chair this committee and inquire if we could have the Wednesday night cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Tiffany said she would work on this.)***
- Volunteers and participation at shows are something we need to work on. Ideas are needed as well as incentives.
- Horse Expo is this weekend and I am hoping some of the Executive Board will be able to attend and help.
- We are all busy so make sure you get help to achieve the goals that you are working on in your committees. Lots of hands and ideas mean that the work is easier for all. ***(Heavily encourage you to reach out to members to help your committee)***

Vice President Report
No report

Tiffany Busch

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 491 as of 3/1 members for 2018
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2018: \$70.00

Shows:

- For 2018: 3 additional schooling shows: AVDA in Florence, CO
- Discussion about a possible two more schooling shows that might become RMDS shows in 2019.
- Working on Volunteers for 2018 Championships go to: <http://signup.com/go/OXFZnZx>

Omnibus:

- See Nicole Bizzarro's report
- Gross ad income: \$11,550.00
- Printing: \$7,992.00
- Production: \$5021.25
- Net Loss: \$1,463.25

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.
- Bids due for July meeting for Website, Central Office

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

2018:

Executive Board Meetings: March 8 May 10 July 12 Sept 6 (1st Thursday) Oct 11 (Budget)

BOG Nov 3

2018 Championships: September 20-23.

2018 Awards Banquet: January 5, 2019

**RMDS MEMBERSHIP -
YEAR-TO-DATE**

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	491	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	12	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	31	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	110	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	38	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	64	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	92	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	50	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
OB	30	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	55	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	20	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS		7/1/17	24	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
PN									Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
PR			6/30/16	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TS									Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA			Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	491	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	47	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	108	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	13	21	17	16													

Permanent Committee Reports:

1. Adult Amateur

Anclaire Spaulding/Michelle Stevens

Things are progressing nicely with the AA Clinic on April 21/22 with Bill McMullin.

- Flight is booked
- Hotel is booked
- Insurance is done (per Beth) *(In the works)*
- I'm going to do fun prizes for everyone.
- Maybe a fun discussion to know each other's game.
- We can do a dinner Sat night but I haven't reserved a spot yet. *(Discussion that each person pays own way)*

9 riders at the moment for both days. No auditors yet.

2. Awards

Shannon Lemons

Beth reported that postage amounts were coming in. There were two people that sent notes that they no longer want to have the plates mailed to them. A list will be started with these names listed for the future.

3. Communications

Beverly Swanson

I'm BACK.....

Thank you to everyone for hanging in with me while I went through my recent nerve problem and back surgery. I'm almost recovered and hope to be back riding my Elle very soon.

Centaurs: Feb - Mar Centaurs

Thank you to Michelle Anderson and Sharron Sarchet for their reporting on the Melissa Creswick clinic. Loved the "Pearls of Wisdom!"

Thanks to Beth Geier, I think we finally have the Judges/TDs/Instructors page correct. If anything changes, let the Central Office know!

Several extra copies of March were printed for handouts at the Rocky Mtn Horse Expo.

Chapter Reports

Chapters, you really came through for March - looking forward to reports on your shows and events. Please remember to send your reports to Central Office and Centaur on the months that we print (odd #). For e-

Centaur months (even #), we focus on events, so if you have anything scheduled in the following month, please let us know! I will always send you an e-mail reminder.

April - May Centaurs

Pat Van Buskirk will be sending in a report on the High Plains Youth Clinic, and we hope to have a lot of pics of the younger set honing their skills. My sources tell me this is going to be VERY well-attended this year. For May, we'll get a report on the "Circles in the Sand" clinics from NCD, and I would need a volunteer to report on the Bill McMullin AA clinic (Anclaire?).

Omnibus

Nicole Bizzarro

P R I N T E R: JAZ Print and Promo/Jen Zawistoski — All digital printing
 Q U A N T I T Y: Internal Binder Pages: 800 sets of 272 pages – 5.5" x 8.5"
 Last Page Folded Form: 800 – 11" x 8.5" folded to 5.5" x 8.5"
 Blank Sheet: 800 – 5.5" x 8.5"
 Bank Tabs: 800 sets of 6 – 6" x 8.5"
 Catalog Envelopes: 400 – 7.5" x 10.5" (CATALOG - OPEN END)
 S T O C K: Internal Binder Pages: 60# White Offset
 Last Page Folded Form: 60# White Offset
 Blank Sheet: 60# Natural Offset
 Bank Tabs: 110# Index Offset
 Catalog Envelopes: 28# White Wove
 I N K: Internal Binder Pages: Black only - 2 sides (EXCEPT 7 PAGES IN FULL COLOR)
 Section A - 22 pages
 Section B - 32 pages (1 color)
 Section C - 82 pages (6 color)
 Section D - 102 pages
 Section E - 24 pages
 Section F - 10 pages
 Last Page Folded Form: Black only - 2 sides
 Blank Sheet: No Printing
 6-Bank Tabs: (12 pages)... 8 of which are 4/C process and the other 1/Color.
 Catalog Envelopes Q: 400: Black only - 1 side
 P R O O F S Proofs: PDF and Hard copy (one-off) proof
 B I N D E R Y Collate all pages, Fold Form, 3-hole drill and band in sets: 800 Qty
 Mailing: Mailing List to come
 Address sort, inkjet onto envelopes, drop mailing portion at USPS in Parker, CO.
 Remaining to deliver to RMDS (Beth's house in Boulder)
 C O S T S 800 sets & 400 envelopes. No covers printed this year.
 (RMDS Endicia Used - no postage included) \$7,617

2018 Omnibus to printer	Jan 8	printing and finish work	\$7617
2017 Omnibus to printer	Jan 5	printing and finish work	\$6790
2016 Omnibus to printer	Jan 11	printing and finish work	\$6940
2015 Omnibus to printer	Jan 4	printing and finish work	\$6824
2014 Omnibus to printer	Jan 10	printing and finish work	\$6055

Michelle Stevens suggested we add a page showing a pyramid of the organizations.

Website

Michael Petersen

No report.

4. Education

Michelle Anderson/MaryJo Hoepner

L Continuing Education

2018 session was held at the Longmont Public Library. We had 8 "L" graduates and 4 auditors attending. The Dressage Foundation sent a check for \$179.66 to cover some of our losses but not all loss is allowed to be covered by their grant monies, so RMDS still incurred a loss of \$272.21 for this event.

At this time there are no firm plans for the 2019 session and we need to discuss whether holding this annually is financially feasible. We might want to consider the PPDS planned New Tests Clinic as our "L" CE for next year also.

(For 2019, possible to have the L CE as part of the Janet Foy New Test Clinic. Date to be determined)

Melissa Creswick Clinic

We had 17 rides across 2 days. Unfortunately 3 ride times available were not filled. We also had 12 auditors for one or both days. Total loss was \$190.76. Both riders and auditors commented on the lessons learned working with Melissa and many are already planning to ride with her in the Boulder Valley clinic this summer.

TD / Show Management training

We had horrible weather but a wonderful group.

Deeda Randle was our TD instructor. Provided information on new rules and discussed situations that arise at shows and prior to shows that must be resolved. Many of these are not specifically covered in the rules but resolutions must be ascertained by addressing multiple rules and their intents.

Simone Windeler taught the show management portion. She provided books that covered new rules and issues to be addressed by show management.

Attendees: MaryJo Hoepner, Didi DeKrey, Laura Speer, Ginka Kulbelka, Mary Lynn Munn, Kelly Boyd.

Beth Geier was registered but due to weather was unable to attend.

Income: \$284

Deeda Expenses: \$126.00 mileage, \$96.04 hotel

Simone Expenses: \$100.00 + printing

Group sit time for L Graduates

Group sit time with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez is scheduled for Sunday, May 27 at the Paragon show. There are currently 6 paid attendees with a 7th pending. We need at least 8 to cover costs. I do not plan to apply to USDF to have this certified as one of their CE programs since it should fill and that would save the \$40 application fee.

Scribing Clinic

Approved to hold this at the Foothills Last Chance Show. Michelle will teach it. Gwen is judging so we can carpool and as a result costs should be limited to copying. Flyer coming soon.

New Business

Pam Phillips is willing to run to finish Michelle Anderson's term starting in June.

Proposed standing rule changes to "L" CE requirements for judging RMDS shows to be covered separately.

USDF "L" Graduate Requirements

To complete program

Sit Time with ANY R or S judge at USEF/USDF recognized show

Scribing with ANY R or S judge at USEF/USDF recognized show

To maintain "L" status

Safe Sport Complete Safe Sport online program

Continuing Education 8 (eight) hours EACH YEAR either classroom, sit time or scribing

RMDS "L" Graduate Requirements to judge RMDS recognized shows

Continuing Education

Classroom CE	8 hours every TWO years
Sit Time	8 hours every TWO years, MUST BE with judge from L faculty OR approved apprenticing list, MUST be at USEF/USDF recognized show
Scribing	8 hours every TWO years with R judge or higher (no designation of show recognition)

Proposed Changes

Sit Time With any R judge or higher with no designation of show recognition

Advantages of Proposed Changes

Allowing sit time at any show allows professionals who are L graduates to complete this requirement at a show where neither they nor their clients are riding.

Eliminates need for RMDS to organize and run group sit time sessions.

Sit time at schooling shows will actually expose L graduate to a judging scenario (horses & riders) more similar to those they encounter themselves than sit time at a USEF recognized show.

The proposed change will be suggested as a Standing Rule change to be voted on in November at the Board of Governors' meeting

5. Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

I am in the process of confirming clinicians for the Summer Intensive. I have contacted 4 trainers and am working down my list. Already have one deposit from the form that was published.

Dolly Hannon is confirmed to teach the first day. Several new ideas will be looked at for the Summer Intensive

High Plains Youth Clinic was a success and I let the chapter know that if they have any issues putting it on next year I would be willing to make it an RMDS event vs a chapter event and helping out more. *9 people last year – 17 this year*

I spoke with the kids at the youth clinic about the Social Media group idea and I received positive feedback about doing a “closed group” on Facebook where our kids and their parents can form relationships. This would be a safe way for these riders to connect with each other outside of shows and clinics. A “closed group” is always monitored by the administrator and people who are not associated with RMDS would not be admitted to join the group.

General consensus suggested trying the closed Facebook page.

6. Marketing

Una Schade

- I am finishing up the **2018 Marketing Packet**. This will be a completely comprehensive packet of all marketing opportunities for 2018. I have been extremely busy with work and other obligations so have not completed it as quickly as I would have liked. I will have it completed by the end of March. This will still allow us to target Championship Sponsors much sooner than we have in recent history.

The goal of this packet is to reach out to sponsors once and garner a yearlong sponsorship commitment from them. It will hopefully save time and energy in garnering sponsors throughout the year.

- **We are looking for people willing to reach out to potential sponsors** to try and help make this daunting task more manageable. If you are willing to help reach out to sponsors, please let myself or Andrea Chirich know!



Mailchimp Email Campaigns

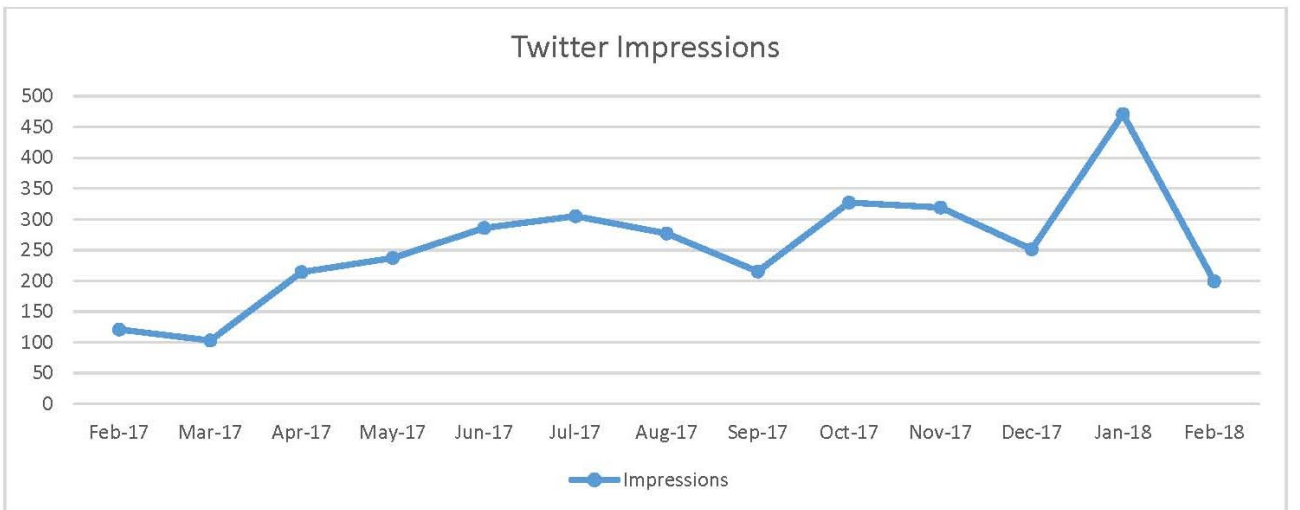
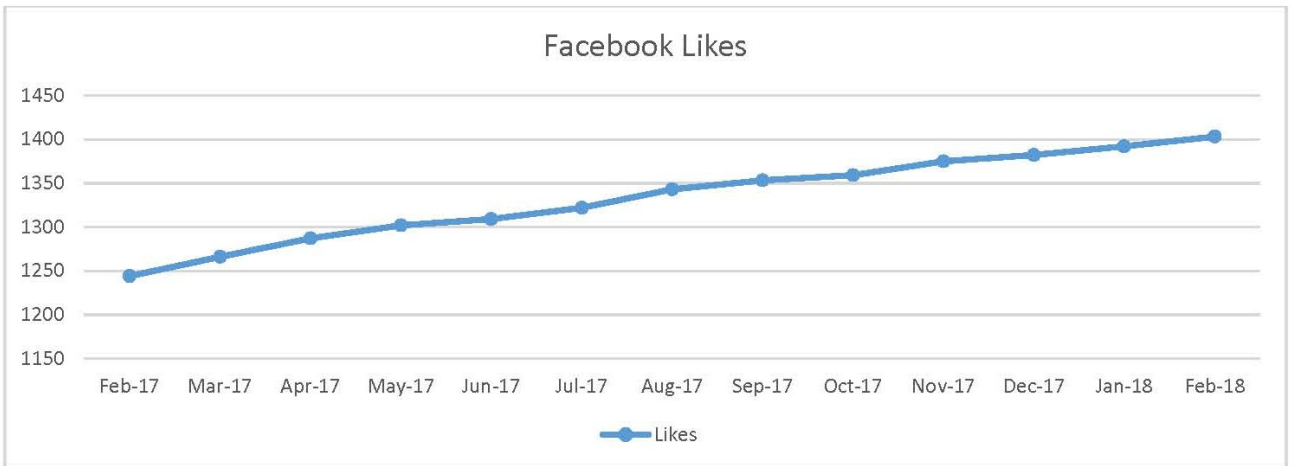
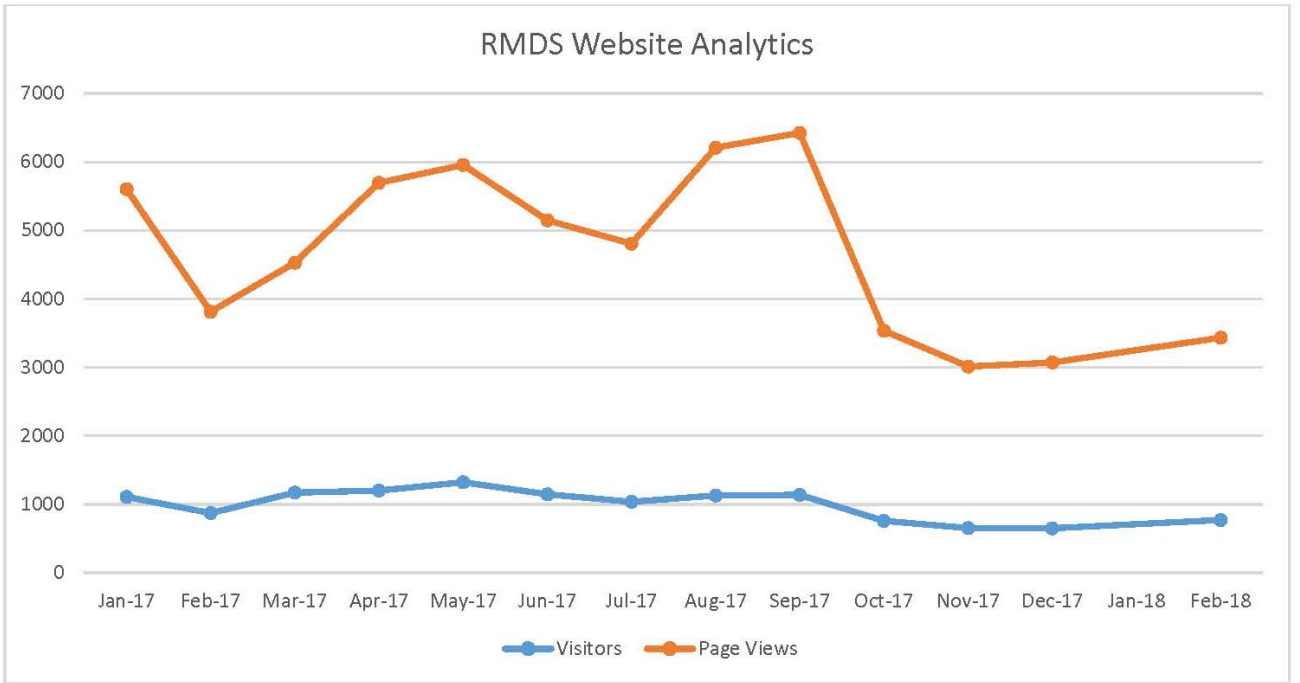
Member list of 884

RMDS Members

Created Jun 16, 2016 2:14 pm



913	40.8%	1.8%
Subscribers	Opens	Clicks



7. Professionals

Kathy Simard / Joan Clay

Plans for the 2018 Professionals' Symposium are still being worked on. Advertising has begun. Joan and I will be presenting a script to the board at this meeting to use when calling the professionals listed with RMDS and personally invite them to attend. We are expecting to get mostly voicemails. However, if we actually get a real live trainer to speak to, we are also going to give them the opportunity to give us some feedback about the committee. Hopefully, this will increase attendance.

- ***RMDS has use of the indoor arena and the lounge for the two days***
- ***Beth will check with Heather about Lilo's plane reservation and look into hotel reservations for Lilo & Sarah***
- ***Gwen said she will be the chauffer for Lilo.***
- ***Joan & Kathy have put together a script to use when they call each instructor/teacher listed with RMDS.***
- ***Joan Clay & Kathy Simard will not be applying to ride so will be the selection committee for the riders.***

8. Scholarship

MaryJo Hoepner

Requests for check to be sent to recipients forwarded to Central office and treasurer in the amount of \$650 for each of the three recipients.

Email notifying applicants sent.

Now we start attract applicants for this coming year. And look forward to written reports of recipients.

Winners for 2018 are: Gaylen Davis, Joan Clay and Michelle Anderson

9. Shows – Championships

Andrea Chirich/Una Schade

The Championship Liaisons are gearing up for 2018. Many businesses are laying out plans for their 2018 advertising budgets, and we want to be a part of their advertising plans. First quarter, 2018, is a critical time to reach out to potential partners and get them on board with sponsorship. We have strategized ways to increase our sponsorship involvement for championships, and ways to make it much easier for all of our RMDS membership to offer sponsorship opportunities to the business they know and frequent.

We will have a chart available that clearly shows the different sponsorship levels for championships, and what each level provides. This will make it much easier for potential sponsors to see the value of different packages, and select the visibility they want and the spending level they desire. The chart is wonderful for businesses that we frequent, from feed stores to doctors' offices, to help us build on those relationships each of us has with in our communities.

To help us reach more potential sponsors, and therefore secure more sponsorships, we are creating Sponsorship Committees that will target specific business categories. We've all heard of the best way to eat an elephant.... and that is the best way to reach potential sponsors as well. Many businesses will be asked in order to find those that want to be sponsors. By creating a few Sponsorship Committees that target a specific category of business, we can reach more businesses with less effort and more success.

Each type of committee has a form letter/email, tailored to the business they are in, and how sponsorship will benefit their particular business.

Please consider joining one of these committees and reaching out to a few of the businesses in your community.

Sponsorship Committees

- Trainers
- Boarding Facilities
- Feed Stores
- Tack Stores
- Veterinarians
- Barn Building businesses
- Equestrian Organizations
- Farriers
- Equine Massage/Rehab/Physio therapists
- Equine Transport Companies
- Construction Companies

- Car Dealerships
- Horse Trailer manufacturers and dealerships
- Gyms
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Real Estate Agents
- Tractor Dealerships and Manufacturers

Process to follow:

Target specific business categories.

- Please keep track of all contacts made, their contact information, and business title if applicable.
- Provide list of contacts made, all contact information, and whether or not a sponsorship was taken via a live Google Spreadsheet that is shared with all committee members.
- Main contacts for all committees are: Una Schade (unaschade@gmail.com) and Andrea Chirich (ajc2314@gmail.com).
 - Una and Andrea will follow up to ensure forms, payment, and artwork is received from sponsors.
- Provide sponsor with RMDS form and complete the information as to the package they want, and information as to camera ready artwork for their ad.
- Collect completed form, artwork, and check; or have the sponsor mail the form, check, and artwork to Heather Petersen (slush@drwgw.net).

Address, e-mail and specific formats required for artwork are all available on the bottom of the sponsorship application form.

ALL: contacts to potential sponsors and contact info to Una Schade and Andrea Chirich

ALL: Forms, artwork and checks to Heather Petersen.

Andrea wanted to know if the committee could offer a discount on the 2019 RMDS membership as incentive to get ads & sponsors. The Board felt that to use membership is not a good idea as we send some of the dues to USDF & to the chapters. A great thought but need to find another idea.

MaryJo Hoepner will donate a 'Laurel Birch' bag.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

WDACO held its Annual Awards Banquet in Parker on Saturday, March 3. They had several very nice awards that were handed out to riders at different levels and different divisions.

WDACO finances the awards partially through donations but also through recognizing fees from shows. In an effort to make this more wide-spread they have decided to drop the recognition fee from \$25 to \$15. Any show – schooling or recognized can get recognized. They do require the judge to be at least a L graduate with some training in Western Dressage but have no requirements beyond that.

I did get a chance to talk to several members. Most were not aware that they can attend RMDS events at the RMDS member rate, so it was great to re-iterate that.

The guest speaker was Carol Crisp from Promise Ranch Therapeutic Riding in Franktown. Promise Ranch is always looking for volunteers (with or without horse experience) and they make an amazing difference in the lives of many people. They have a special fund-raising event going on in March – Brackets for Good Denver, which supports many organizations like Promise Ranch. You can find out more on their website www.prtr.org.

WDACO is a fun group and have quite a few educational events and shows planned for this year. Their website is <http://wdaco.org/>.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Need nominees for 2 years: President, Vice President, Scholarship, AA, Communications, Jr/YR, Show Chair
Tiffany Busch will contact the chapter presidents for someone to head up the committee.

3. BOG - November 3, 2018

Heather Petersen

Looking into another site otherwise it will be at the Stock Show complex.

Awards Banquet Report

- The Awards Banquet was held January 13, 2018 at the Renaissance Hotel with 148 reservations made and paid.
- The silent auction was awesome again this year with great thanks to **Una Schade**.
- Una, along with **Stephanie Figgins**, helped check people in for the banquet and then collected money from all at the auction using all the latest venues for payment.
- **Heather Petersen** put together a fun display of photos taken during the whole 2017 show season.
- **Shannon Lemons** was super organized this year and was set up early on. Wow!
- **Julie Barringer-Richers** was an excellent moderator and kept it going very smoothly and efficiently this year.
- THANK YOU ALL!!

2018 Banquet

Income:

Reservations-148	\$ 6,376.00
Auction	\$ 5,349.00
Refund	\$ 957.57

Expenses:

Facility-Deposit	\$ (900.00)
Meals	\$ (7,196.40)

NET: \$ 4,586.17

We have signed a contract with the Renaissance for next year on Saturday, January 5, 2019. A group of rooms will be set aside until the middle of December for \$119.00. Meals will go up \$1.00.

Many people would like to have more social time.

- **Stand & be recognized but do not go up and get ribbon or trophy**
- **Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres – Beth will check into the various prices for doing this.**

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

I know a lot of us in Colorado are happy we have had some smaller snow falls and we would sure appreciate more moisture soon (at least at this point in mid-February!), but at least the weather is warm and we are getting lots of riding in!

Fundraising efforts are once under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 201 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held August 1-5, 2018 at Old Salem Farm, North Salem, New York. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams as most likely we will have to fly the horses in order to avoid 3 days of driving on either side of the competition. If we drive them, this will very much mean we will have to arrive to the competition quite early in order to give them enough rest before they show. We hope we will be able to send 8 riders with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipes. In addition to the transportation to the show, there are the expenses of hotel, team uniforms, chef expenses, feed, bedding and oh so much more that they need help with. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877 or our Fundraising Chair, Kathy Gillespie at kpagillespie@msn.com or 303-921-5253. If you are still interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2019, the last intention deadline is May 15th but the less expensive deadline is May 2nd, so be sure to get in your intentions soon.

Regional Championship bids for 2019 have been received and we should know soon where the competition will be held, though only one bid was received for Region 5. USDF will announce the locations of the 2019 Regionals in May.

I hope everyone is planning on attending the Regionals in 2018 in Scottsdale, Arizona at WestWorld. It's a beautiful venue with lots of fun things to do. It should be a great show hosted by the Arizona Dressage Association! If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Eva Maria Adophi at adolphi@redrock.net and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate nominations are due in to the USDF office no later than April 15th.

Be sure to support the convention in Salt Lake City

New Business:

- Prior to this meeting, the committee chairmen met to create their job description so a new person will have guidelines.
- DSIR VIP Tickets – No VIP for 2018. We raffled several off. CHP will honor them for auditing package valued at \$160.00.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Beth Hart

A 2018 budget has been proposed. New chairs are learning their jobs and delegating tasks in order to reduce burn out. Insurance policy is up to date.

We have most of the details ironed out and are looking forward to our 1st schooling show on April 28th. Judge will be Kathy Simard. Clinic on the 29th

Our 2nd show will follow on June 9th with Simone Windeler judging. We are planning a clinic with her on the 10th Dolly Hannon will be giving us a 2 day clinic June 30th and July 1st, to be held at Latigo's facility.

Our last schooling show will October 6th with Sharron Sarchet judging. Clinic on the 7th.

We have some fun clinics with Joseph Newcomb, "the in hand guy" and his sister Amelia will be coming in April to Wetmore. Contact www.arkansasvalleydressage.com for more information.

Hopefully groups will get together to attend RMDS events this year, with volunteering a priority.

Meetings have had a good attendance the past few months with an average of 10-12 members attending.

Enthusiasm is high, and we have decided to have monthly meetings because of the interest and fun. Currently meetings are on Saturdays at different members' homes and we will changing that back to Thursdays with spring almost here!

2. Boulder Valley

Sandra Rosewell

No report

3. Foothills

Linda Gaber

No report

4. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

No report

5. High Plains

Stephanie Figgins

This past Sunday we hosted our 3rd annual highly anticipated High Plains Dressage Youth Clinic! We were joined by USDF Certified Instructors, Joan Clay and Julie Burt with an educational Q & A Session with Joan Clay on the Jr/Young Rider Program. We had 17 riders and 2 auditors, supported by their parents, trainers, and the HPDS board! A special thanks to Cassandra DiPentino, Sara Storch and Rochelle Constanza for supporting their kids and this wonderful clinic. Also a huge thanks to Iron Horse Farms and Westmanton Stables for offering their beautiful facility. Lastly, a thank you to Pat Van Buskirk and VBFarms.com for their volunteerism and advertising of Total Equine Foods. We look forward to another successful year in 2019!

High Plains Dressage is also excited to announce we will be offering a Ride-A-Test clinic on April 8th. Spots filling quickly!! Location is at Julie Burt's Stables in Parker. This is a great opportunity to assess your test riding skills as you prepare for the 2018 show season. Riders will get to go inside the mind of a judge to understand what a judge looks for and how to improve your score in the test! Applications now accepted online at highplainsdressage.org

Lastly, don't forget about our second annual Adult Clinic, held in Parker Colorado on June 23rd. We are looking forward to a fun and casual day of learning with Kathy Simard and Joan Clay!

6. Northern Colorado

Didi DeKrey

NCDCA 2018 Board: President – Didi DeKrey, Vice President – Rose Balfour, Treasurer – Andrea Chirich, Secretary – Jackie Rosellen

Our guest for the January meeting was Ms. Lauren Harmon of *Instill Harmony*. Lauren is local to Ft. Collins and gave us a presentation about integrative bodywork for horses and humans. Lauren uses a gentle intuitive form of healing that blends Rolwing, Craniosacral, Principles of Osteopathy, energy work and movement.

We then pushed aside the tables and imagined our feet as pancakes, walked in circles, down the diagonal, paired up for balancing and generally had a fun and informative time!

Our board is eagerly anticipating the upcoming Circles In The Sand clinic open to any and all. It's unique format of lecture with demonstration riders, then clinic riding, and culminating in a coached Ride A Test is sure to give both mounted and unmounted participants a big boost! And, it's very cost effective!

General meetings are the second Wednesday of the month (September through May) at the McKee Building at The Ranch, Loveland, Colorado.

7. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We recently started having short presentations on topics of general interest to our members at our monthly meetings. The first presentation was discussing whether there is evidence for higher colic risk during the winter months. Anna provided so much interesting information! We will continue to have presentations at our meetings throughout the year, so feel free to contact us for information on upcoming topics!

In order to have a good start into the show season, we will have a movie night with potluck on April 24, where we will watch the On the Levels DVD. Guests are welcome!

We are currently working on bringing Kathy Simard to Laramie for a clinic in late spring or early summer. Please check our website or facebook page for updates!

The highlight for our chapter this year will be our first RMDS recognized show in August. The prizelist should be available on our website (www.onthebitdressage.com) soon!

We are always happy to see new faces, so if you would like more information or are interested in joining any of our events, connect with us through Facebook or join us at our meetings every first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at Altitude Chophouse in Laramie, WY!

8. Pikes Peak

Tiffany Busch

We have planned a RMDS show for April 14th 2018 being held at Latigo Trails Equestrian Center in Elbert, CO with judge as Michelle Anderson.

We feel like we are well prepared to start into a year full of educational events, clinics, and a RMDS show in April. March Meeting will be an evening of volunteer information with the new requirements this year in RMDS. It will be held at Bourbon Brothers off of I-25 and all members are welcome to attend. Please keep an outlook for all the years' events and meetings for the chapter.

For the most current information on our chapter activities visit our website at our Facebook Page and <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

9. Western Colorado

Heather Lafferty

No Report.

8:42 pm

Tiffany Busch made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Michelle Stevens. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Geier, acting secretary