

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2020

Armando’s Ristorante Italiano

The Wine Room

720-851-6770

9355 Crown Crest Blvd,

Parker, CO 80138

The room is reserved beginning at 6:00pm

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharron Soos, Heather Petersen, Gwen Ka’awaloa, MaryJo Hoepner, Beth Geier, Joan Clay; Pam Phillips, Ginka Kubelka, Katie McGivney, Didi DeKrey, Beverly Swanson, Jane Swanhorst-Rigolsby, Natalie DeFee Mendik; Anclaire Spaulding; Shannon Lemons; Cassandra DiPentino; Lori Keilt;

Proxies: Kathy Simard to Joan Clay; Maureen Mestas to Heather Petersen; Arlene Rhodes to Heather Petersen; Simone Windeler to Heather Petersen; Stan Adamson to Gwen Ka’awaloa; Dorothy Kapaun to Heather Petersen; Nancy Leonard to Heather Petersen

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka’awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Secretary - Approval of Minutes - January

Heather Petersen

MaryJo Hoepner made a motion to approve the January 2020 minutes as amended, 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.

Results of email vote to the RMDS BOG Delegates following January meeting regarding the elections for Secretary and Treasurer: Sharon Soos and Heather Petersen were re-elected as treasurer and secretary respectively.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of February 29, 2020

RMDS Checking Account	\$306.21	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$17,147.17	Total \$17,453.38 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of February 29, 2020

Database/Website	\$10,452.00
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 5,792.29
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$43,823.00</u>
TOTAL	\$77,520.67

Cash operating is so low due to the payments we’ve been making on the database/website re-design.

President Report

Gwen Ka’awaloa

We had a very busy February. L Education, TD/Show Management and the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. The Database and Website are moving forward and the donations to help build it are still coming in. We are looking forward to the Adult Amateur Clinic in April and the Professionals clinic too. Then the show season begins with Dressage for the Cure. We have a change of Venue and Dates for the RMDS/Region V Championships in 2020. Marketing had its biggest push this year as RMDS invested in the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo to promote our sport, it was very well received. Demo riders did an awesome job showcasing dressage and we had several hard working members helping set up and tear down the dressage arena each day. More details later.

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

I want to acknowledge what amazing leaders our GMO has!! Gwen Ka'awaloa put together an outstanding Educational Performance at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo! Heather Petersen has spent countless hours searching for a facility for Championships and has been able to get us an outstanding facility! Let's give a HUGE Congratulations to both of them!

I want to remind our Chairs and Co-chairs that they can reach out to me if they need assistance with any of their undertakings, although I will be much more available after April 16.

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 534 as of 3/7 members for 2020; 65 new horses since October, 2019
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2020: \$75

Shows:

- For 2020: 8 - RMDS recognized shows: 37 - USEF/USDF recognized
- Added 1 RMDS show:
 - June 20 – Pikes Peak RMDS Dressage Show – Latigo Trails, Elbert, CO
- Added 4 USEF Shows:
 - May 9-10 – Swing Into Spring! I & II – Hipico, Santa Fe, NM
 - October 17-18 – Fall Flaunt It I & II – Hipico, Santa Fe, NM

Education:

- The Central Office supported the Judges CE and the TD/Show Management as well as the demonstration at the Expo. You missed excellent education, if you did not attend.

Omnibus:

- Is at the printers and should be coming soon. Goes into the bulk mail tomorrow.

Database/Website:

- Have been involved in several conference calls as the process continues. Very exciting.
- *Build A Byte Barn*-Donors of \$100 and more have received the donation letter. \$11,892.00 raised so far.
- Asking people that have refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.
- Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

Banquet:

- Renaissance Hotel is booked for January 16, 2021

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) – 2020

Executive Board Meetings: May 14, July 7, Sept 8, Oct 8 (budget)

BOG Nov 21

2021

Banquet: January 16, 2021

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

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	533	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	65	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	33	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	119	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	36	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	60	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	99	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	48	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	31																		
OB	38	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	54	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	14	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS			-	Dissolved	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			-	-	Dissolved	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	533	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	35	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	105	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	11	12	9/2																
Life	33/1	33/1	32/2																

Bids:

Omnibus – Same terms as previous contract - \$65 per hour with a range of 75 hours for the low and 100 hours for the high. **MaryJo Hoepner moved to approve the bid submitted by Nicole Bizzarro. 2nd by Pam Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.**

Centaur – Same terms as previous contract - \$550 per issue for print issues and \$100 per issue for the e-Centaur. **Joan Clay moved to approve the bid submitted by Beverly Swanson. 2nd by Ginka Kubelka. Motion passed unanimously with Beverly Swanson abstaining.**

Championship show – Same terms as previous contract - \$15 per office fee, \$10 per office hour and \$500 per competition arena per day. **Cassandra Dipentino moved to accept, 2nd by Natalie DeFee Mendick. Motion passed unanimously with Heather Petersen abstaining.**

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Michael Stevens/Anclaire Spaulding

AA clinic with GW is upon us - April 4th and 5th. We have 10 riders and 2 alternates. So far, we have about ~25 auditors. I will have chairs for auditors. Auditors need to bring a sack lunch. Michelle will order lunches for the riders and George.

The group on the western slope wants us to consider giving 1 spot away to them at the next clinic because they have very few events on that side of the mountains. I said I would bring it forth to the board.

Discussion of how the coronavirus will affect the clinic. We are less than the 50 CDC maximum gathering recommendation, so we will proceed. Refunds will be considered on an individual.

Natalie DeFee Mendick is going to coordinate an article on how to improve the quality of the application videos so that our folks can be a bit more educated in their applications in the future.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

1. Corrections to FEI and Training Level for 2019 season
 - a. Trophy plates have been corrected and will be placed on the trophies when they are returned.
 - b. New ribbons, 5x7 plaques were ordered and mailed.

- c. Cost of the corrections, including the ribbons and plaques as well as postage to mail them all out (did not request reimbursement) is approximately \$600, which will put us over budget.
2. New Intro Level Trophies
 - a. As discussed and voted in January, we will add an Intro Level to Junior/Young Rider, AA, Pony, and Open Divisions.
 - b. Have sponsor for AA division, please consider sponsoring one of the other divisions whether by your chapter or with a friend or two. If no sponsor is found, we will provide a ribbon and plaque but will not purchase trophies through RMDS. Trophies generally cost \$200-\$350 when the perpetual plaque cost is included, so an additional \$1000 to the Awards budget is too big of a hit at this time.
3. Awards criteria for database set up
 - a. Made some edits to clarify Intro, what is included with riders with multiple levels or multiple horses.

Arabian Award – keep it purebred, or change it to a ½ Arabian and full Arabian award. **MaryJo Hoepner moved we change the award to ½ Arabian and purebred Arabian combined, 2nd by Pam Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.**
 Friesian Award – keep it purebred or change it to cross and purebred? It was decided that if someone would like to sponsor it, we will create a Friesian Sport Horse award. We will then determine which breed registries will be included in the award.

Communications

Beverly Swanson

February e-Centaur

Brick Byte Barn updates, new ads. Thank you to Una Schade for the Awards Banquet recap.

March 2020 Centaur

Had to use some previously published material because of **LACK OF CONTENT!** Thank you to Katie McGivney for her clinic article and Kelly Boyd for her overview of the new USDF Schooling Show rules. Chapters, thank you all for contributing your reports!

Again I would really appreciate everyone who has a regular contribution to please mark your calendars to send me your content (by the 8th of the month). Chapters, this means I need your reports **ONLY** for print issues - the ODD number months.

PLEASE encourage your students, fellow RMDS members, or other horsey friends to contribute - remember, you earn two volunteer hours for writing articles.

Apr-May 2020 Centaurs

We will have an article and slide show of the Dressage Exhibition at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. Our president, Gwen Ka'awaloa, worked her butt off to put together this very educational 3-day presentation, and I was there to take hundreds of photos.

We will also have a short write-up on the High Plains Junior clinic - I encourage **ANYONE** who was there to send any comments and especially pics before Mar. 20.

I would like to get pictures and an article on the upcoming George Williams clinic, if someone would volunteer. I may be able to go up for one day, but I could really use an assistant writer or photographer on this.

Communications

We need help with more content and finding articles and stories.

Omnibus

Nicole Bizzarro

Going to the mail tomorrow.

Website/Data Base

Status report March 2020: RMDS web app project

CodeGeek

- **In progress:** Ron & Megan continue to work on writing up the detailed outline of required functionality to be built. We've completed the scope for the website and content management system, the member

sign up forms, and the member and horse back-end management. We're making good progress in scoping the Scores, Awards, and Reporting functionality.

- **In progress:** The CodeGeek team of Ron, Megan (Project Manager), Isaiah (Lead Developer) and David (Developer) are wrapping up the planning phases and architecture phases for the membership signup and management sections.
- **In progress (new):** The programming team has started writing code based on the wireframes we've shown you.
- **In progress (new):** The Designer has given us initial designs for the website homepage and we've provided her with internal feedback. We're expecting to see a new round of designs early next week.
 - CodeGeek will continue to schedule meetings to review the wireframes and designs with the RMDS team.

RMDS

- We are just about ready to share some initial design ideas with your team, so we'll need to get something on the schedule soon.
- We will likely need continued demos and Q&A sessions surrounding the scores and awards portion of the app as we move forward.

Timeline notes

- As we've discussed previously, this is a complex web application and will take about 6+ months to build from where we are now. We now have an anticipated launch date in early-to-mid September, in time for your end-of-year awards calculations.

Beth and Sharon would like them to stay with Paypal as the payment system.

Education

MaryJo Hoepner/Pam Phillips

Judges Continuing Education

Participants 7 (had 8 signed up but one did not attend and did not pay)

Auditors 4

Income \$1,128.02

Total Expense \$(1,387.98)

We are waiting for the Dressage Foundation Grant money

This year it was held at the Renaissance and it was a nice venue.

We need to discuss whether to continue this training on a yearly basis or skip a year.

A thought of pushing out to 18 months, or doing a joint session with trainers with someone like Bill McMullen (S and USDF certified instructor).

TD / Show Management training

17 Show Management

13 TD training

8 books created and sold

Total Income: \$1,230.00

Total Expense: \$(134.88 + \$545)

Net: \$550.12

Do we need volunteer training? (i.e., scribe training and/or training in general?)

Lori suggested a Lunch and Learn with different tables to learn and then an overall session with scribing.

Cassandra offered TMR as a location.

Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

She apologizes for being somewhat absent. She coliced.

Camp – Sara Storch, Gigi Brittain, and reached out to others. Kelly Boyd is of interest from those who attended the High Plains camp.

Trying to change up the format so each kid gets 2 lesson a day, then ride-a-test on Saturday.

Raissa will talk about her Aachen experience. Heather Petersen will come talk on Thursday about USDF and USEF Youth opportunities.

Marketing

Christine Casillas

Gwen Ka'awaloa did a presentation at the Horse Expo of Dressage through the levels and it went really well. Many thanks to Taryn and Greta for stepping up and bringing their FEI horses and all of our other demo horses. It left a good impression and we had many ask to be demo horses next year and/or clinic with Gwen. Gwen will be doing a clinic at the Expo next year.

Sharon said that we weren't on the list for having a booth for the Expo, they recognized that they had messed up and gave us a wonderful premium spot and they bent over backwards for us. We do have a few leftover polos that we will be selling. The banner of all of our sponsors went over very well and we will continue with that.

Professionals

Kathy Simard / Joan Clay

The Professionals Clinic with Lilo Fore is scheduled for April 25-26, 2020. Tomora is our host facility. Expenses are tracking at less or the same as originally budgeted. This means that even with the loss of our anonymous donor, we are looking at about a \$450 profit if we have about 20 auditors.

Flyers for both auditors and demonstration riders have been going out to the professionals listed with RMDS. Be sure your instructor is on the list and encourage them to attend! The event is also listed on the calendars. We sent out another email reminding the professionals of the upcoming deadlines. At the time of writing this report, we currently have 7 rider applications and 5 auditors. We may extend the deadlines. But we are hoping this last email gets people to commit.

It has been suggested that we ask Ashley Holzer to be our presenter for the 2021 symposium. I have sent two emails to Kathie Robertson at USDF asking for Ashley's contact information. I keep getting an out of office reply. I will keep trying. Warning...Ashley may be quite pricey. I don't know what we have paid anyone beside Lilo. So how much is too much? Another thought is keeping it local with Janet Foy fresh off the Olympics. Maybe a focus can be what we Colorado/Region 5 trainers need to do to bring up our game? How we rate around the country and the world? Possibly have a discussion on the topic. The mention of Bill McMullin earlier as well for a combined event.

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

At the January 2020 meeting, the RMDS Executive Board voted at the recommendation of the RMDS Scholarship Committee to approve the 2019 scholarship awards to five applicants; each scholarship award is \$400 for an overall total of \$2,000 in education funds. Recipients are:

- The Leg Up Scholarship: Summer Mayo and Nadia Westra
- The Solid Seat Scholarship: Lynn Van Voris and Danielle D'Augostino
- The Opening Doors Scholarship: Frances Carbonnel

Shows – Championships

Anclaire Spauling/Michelle Stevens

Heather discussed the decision to move the Championships to Hipico in Santa Fe, New Mexico and some of the things we needed to discuss in terms of staff, volunteers, housing, etc. Not everything was settled, but we will continue to work through the logistics over the next couple of months.

We briefly discussed 2021 RMDS Championships and if they should be held in September in the USDF Region 5 Championships in New Mexico. It was decided to table this discussion further until May.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

No report.

Simone Windeler

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

President, Vice President, Adult Amateur, Championships, Communications, Scholarship, Jr/YR

No report currently.

Stan Adamson

3. BOG - November 21, 2020

Renaissance in confirmed. The food is going to be spiced up.

Heather Petersen

4. Banquet –

January 16, 2021. Trevor Warner will be our auctioneer hopefully.

There was discussion of the MC. Asking for out of the box ideas for the May meeting for how we can do things differently.

Beth Geier

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

I know a lot of us in Colorado would sure appreciate spring arriving soon, and it would be nice if the wind would settle some as well! Thank gosh for indoors, but I'm quite done with the cold and snow. Looking forward to some of our spring trips to Texas and Arizona to do some showing and get warm.

Fundraising efforts are once under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2020 FEI North American Youth Championships. The Championships will be held August 4- 9, 2020 at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival in Travers City, Michigan. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams though thankfully the distance will enable us to drive the horses. We hope we will be able to send a 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. If you are interested in competing in NAYC, the application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 17, 2020 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 17th, the fee is only \$50. Applications submitted between March 18th and April 28th are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 12th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 29th and May 12th. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 12th.

Regional Championship bids for 2021 have been received and we should know soon where the competition will be held. We have a great committee from our USDF governance representatives that are reviewing the bids and giving their feedback to the USDF site selection committee. USDF will announce the locations of the 2021 Regionals in May.

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.

If you have made plans to travel to Las Vegas in April, enjoy a great World Cup! It should be a fantastic roster of riders and amazing competition. Las Vegas is a fun city and remember, what happens in Vegas, usually stays in Vegas... unless your friends tell! Mark your calendars because the World Cup will be back in the United States in 2023 in Omaha again - Another wonderful venue and town.

Old Business:

- Venue change – Parker Adventist – 6pm until 9pm booked. Conference center that offers zoom conferencing. **Beverly Swanson moved that we approve the change of venue for the meetings starting in July, 2020. 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously with Gwen Ka'awaloa abstaining.**

New Business:

- Approval of RMDS Competition prize lists? **Heather Petersen moved that all RMDS only recognized competitions send their prize list to the RMDS Central Office and a committee would be appointed yearly to review them and approve them or give the management corrections before approval, 2nd by Gwen Ka'awaloa.** Discussion of who

would look them over. **Motion passes unanimously.** A committee of Joan Clay, MaryJo Hoepner and Heather Petersen was appointed by the executive board to do the prize list approvals for 2020.

- Overlap of judges/clinicians. There was discussion that those holding clinics with judges who were also judging in the area within 30 days needed to let the Central Office know of the clinic participants so shows could be notified of those participants to ensure the judges didn't get in trouble for judging those that were in the clinics within 30 days.
- USEF membership renewals – Amateur cards. With offset renewals, how are we handling midyear renewals? Discussion of the new database features and how to handle the new USEF rotating membership year.
- Treasurer questions from High Plains regarding 1099s and W9s. Sharon Soos and Beth Geier will work on something to send out again to the new treasurers in addition to what Beth sent out at the beginning of the year.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

The Arkansas Valley Dressage Association has been busy getting prepared for its first Riverwalk Schooling Show Series on April 11 at Pathfinder Regional Park in Florence, CO. The prize list is up on the website at www.avdaddressage.org.

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

The Boulder Valley Dressage Association held its annual Awards Banquet on January 26, 2020, at Nissi's Performance Venue in Lafayette. We had the largest attendance in recent years, with more than seventy members and friends present. Julie Barringer-Richers put together a great slide show and presented our awards. We also elected our slate of officers for 2020:

President: Stan Adamson

Vice President: Lesya Ukrainchuk

Secretary/Treasurer: Dorothy Kapaun

Our bi-monthly meeting in February was postponed from February 10 to the 24th due to slick roads. Julie Barringer-Richers will be presenting on "Preparing a Musical Freestyle." The meeting had been scheduled to be at Lookout Ridge Equestrian Center but had to be moved to Beth Geier's home because of scheduling conflicts.

We now turn our attention to the summer show season. We will continue our show season at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in 2020 with a schooling show June 6, and clinic on June 7, with judge/clinician Kathy Simard, and an RMDS recognized show August 29 and a clinic August 30, with judge/clinician Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez.

We also want to say a big word of appreciation to outgoing BVD Board members Sandi Rosewell and Beth Geier, who have both served BVD off and on for many, many years. Their contributions to the vitality of our club have been great, and we look forward to continuing to work with them in various capacities in the future!

3. Foothills

Cassandra Dipentino

No report

4. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

No report

5. High Plains

Stephanie Figgins

- Youth Clinic was a huge success and had a wonderful turnout.
- Questions on financials asked under new business.

6. New Mexico Dressage

Maureen Mestas

FUNDRAISING:

NMD-RMDS Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Members are currently fundraising for the upcoming 25 April USDF Schooling Show and the 9-10 May NMD-RMDS Swing Into Spring! I and II Shows. Sponsors pledged to date total \$1,855.00 in dollar donations. Approximately \$1,000.00 of in-kind services and goods donations have been pledged.

EDUCATION:

Hell Canyon Farm presents four annual clinics with Jeremy Steinberg at Hipico Santa Fe. HCF donates auditor proceeds to NMD-RMDS. Auditor fees are \$20 for a 1-Day Pass and \$30 for a 2-Day Pass. Jeremy's 2020 dates are:

- 11-12 April

- 6-7 June
- 5-6 September
- 31 Oct – 1 Nov

NMD-RMDS is currently working on the budget, grant applications and faculty for a USDF/TDF 3-Day Symposium in the Spring 2021.

COMPETITIONS:

NMD-RMDS has three USDF Schooling Shows for 2020:

- 25 April – Spring Fever! at Hipico Santa Fe
- 30 August – Beat the Heat! at Goose Downs, Galisteo NM
- 7 November – Enchanted Fall! at Enchanted Horse Dressage Center, Caballo NM

NMD-RMDS has four USDF Recognized Shows for 2020:

- 9-10 May 2020 – NMD-RMDS Swing Into Spring! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe
- 17-18 October 2020 – NMD-RMDS Fall Flaunt It! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe

NMD-RMDS is currently working with Hipico Santa Fe and 2 White Feet to possibly host and support the 2020 USDF Region 5 Championship, if approved to make the move to Santa Fe. Advance planning, budgeting and contracts are being discussed in anticipation of a decision to hold the event at Hipico Santa Fe.

NMD-RMDS; Hipico Santa Fe; and 2 White Feet, Inc., have submitted a bid for the 2021 USDF Region 5 Championships.

VOLUNTEERS:

NMD-RMDS currently has a volunteer network of 14 committed, energetic volunteers for education events and shows. We are seeking to grow this network to 20 before the May 2020 shows.

YEAR END AWARDS:

The Advisory Group on Year End Awards and Recognition is planning the award system; recognition of distinguished contribution and achievement; and a gala event at the Drury Plaza Santa Fe Hotel in downtown Santa Fe. This beautiful, award winning 4-Star hotel has offered to host the event at a substantial discount for event space and catering.

GMO CHAPTER WANTS & NEEDS:

NMD-RMDS successfully raised the funds needed for a Premier Wellington Dressage Court, Letter Boxes and Flowers for the first show of the 2020 season. *Our deep appreciation to Gilly Slater and Via Nova Training Center!*

7. Northern Colorado

Didi DeKrey

Our February meeting featured Dr. Bruce Connally addressing Equine Behavior. Dr. Connally was very informative and an engaging speaker.

March’s presentation will be on Surviving Traumatic Events, and getting back into the saddle. This presentation will be by Jill Cantor Lee, LPC. Jill is a trauma therapist who uses a holistic counseling experience. Jill also is an accomplished dressage rider, having earned the Bronze and Silver medals and competed internationally.

Our April meeting will be a presentation on Barefoot trimming.

The weekend of April 11 and 12 is our first Schooling Show and “Bring Your Tests” Clinic. Ms. Cindy Canace ‘S’ is our judge/clinician. Both the show and clinic are available on Equestrian Entries website for entry. Prize lists and information is on our website.

Feel free to join us anytime! General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month; September through May. Good food, good company and interesting topics at Mimi’s Café, 1450 Fall River Road, Loveland, Colorado.

8. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We are heading into a busy spring and summer at On The Bit! Currently, we are working on finding dates for an educational seminar on horse nutrition in Laramie. Another topic that was sparking interest at our meetings was groundwork with horses. In order to address that, we will have a groundwork clinic with a Clinton Anderson ambassador in April, as well as a movie night in preparation for the groundwork clinic in March.

On May 2nd, we will host another Kentucky Derby Party together with the organizers of Laramie Jubilee Days.

Hopefully, this event will be as much fun as last time, but a smaller organizational and financial burden for our small active group in Laramie.

As a “warm-up” for our show, we will offer a Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly on June 28th in Cheyenne. Jane Swanhorst is generously letting us use her beautiful facility. Information and entry forms will be available on our website www.onthebitdressage.com soon.

The highlight of the year will be our fully recognized show on July 18th and 19th in Laramie, WY. We purchased temporary stalls, so we will be able to offer stabling this year. We are looking forward to another great show with many happy competitors. Our judges will be Ulf Wadeborn (S, CA) on Saturday and Agnieszka Majewska (S, FL) on Sunday. To assure that everything will go smoothly, we will have Heather Petersen as our show manager.

We were finally able to find an eager volunteer to take care of our online presence again. Our website and facebook page have been a little neglected over the last couple years, so we are excited to communicate everything that is going on to everyone who is interested again soon!

Our monthly meetings have been moved to the first Thursday of the month. It seems like we have seen an increase in members present at our meetings since that change. We are still meeting at 7 pm at Altitude Chophouse and Brewery.

If you have any questions about our events or our meetings, please email us under info@onthebitdressage.com or message us on facebook!

9. Pikes Peak

Shannon Lemons

We had a great planning meeting last month with good attendance – thanks everyone!

This month, Gwen Ka’awaloa will do a revamp of her USDF Convention presentation on show attire – what is legal and allowed, what might be unwise. Everyone is welcome to join us Thursday, March 26th at 6:30 at Latigo Trails meeting room. Thursday is their buffet at the restaurant, or you can order off the menu.

In April, Custom Saddle representative, Shannon Cole, will do a presentation on saddle fit and tack care. Please come get the down low on why some saddles fit some horses and not others! Wednesday April 22 at 6:30pm, location TBD.

In May, we hope to have FEI judge Janet Foy come share some stories of her world travels while judging dressage.

Pikes Peak Dressage is pleased to present our RMDS Show Saturday, June 20th at Latigo Trails. We are also considering a tack sale, so come look

10. Western Colorado

Lesley Hill

The snow is finally melting (or sliding off the roof) and it’s starting to look like spring may come to the mountains.

Our executive committee met recently and we have begun some new projects. One particular new venture this year; the WCC board has decided to offer each of our members a small stipend towards a training opportunity of their choice. This financial support from the WCC aligns with our mission to promote education for all members, and helps to support vibrant and diverse clinic opportunities in our small valley. We hope all our members will take advantage of the gift.

We look forward to welcoming Kathleen Raine on April 11 and 12 (thank you to Marina Nilsen and Healthy Horse Boutique for organizing this clinic) and are gearing up for lots more fun as the weather warms up.

Please continue to check our website at westerncoloradodressage.com and our Facebook page for updated info on clinics and happenings with the WCC.

Happy riding!

Next Meeting is May 14th.

9:00 pm Shannon Lemons made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Gwen Ka’awaloa. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen