

**RMDS BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 2, 2019  
Renaissance Hotel Stapleton**

Call to order at 8:30 am by President Gwen Ka'awaloa.

<b>Arkansas Valley-2</b>	Renee McMillen	1	Yes	
	Katie Knight	1	Yes	
<b>Boulder Valley-8</b>	Janeen Cochi	1	Yes	
	Beth Geier	1	Yes	
	Nicole Donohue – Proxy to Dorothy Kapaun			
	Stan Adamson-proxy to Beth Geier 10:45-1:55	2	Yes	
	Dorothy Kapaun	3	Yes	
	Nicole Bizzarro	1	Yes	
	Cassandra DiPentino-proxy to Anclaire Spaulding 12:15	3	Yes	
<b>Foothills-3</b>	Barbara Progress	4	Yes	
<b>Grand Valley-4</b>	Ellen Siebert	2	Yes	
<b>High Plains - 9</b>	Lori Keilt	2	Yes	
	Kathy Simard	2	Yes	
	Anclaire Spaulding	1	Yes	
	Sharon Soos	2	Yes	
	<b>Northern Colorado-4</b>	Didi DeKrey	3	Yes
	Katie McGivney	1	Yes	
	RaeAnn Cook – proxy to Didi DeKrey	0	Yes	
Denise Morrison-proxy to Didi DeKrey	0	Yes		
<b>On The Bit-2</b>	Ginka Kubelka	2	Yes	
<b>Pikes Peak-5</b>	MaryJo Hoepner	1	Yes	
	Heather Petersen – proxy to Gwen Ka'awaloa	1	Yes	
	Patricia Weed-proxy to Shannon Lemons	0	Yes	
	Shannon Lemons	2	Yes	
	Elaine Thomas	1	Yes	
<b>Western Colorado-2</b>	Lesley Hill- Proxy to Gwen Ka'awaloa	2	Yes	
	Total votes present: 39			

**Board attending without votes**

Gwen Ka'awaloa- proxy from Heather Petersen  
Una Schade  
Michelle Stevens  
Beverly Swanson  
Natalie DeFee Mendik

**Guests:**

**Approval of the 2018 BOG Minutes**

**Beth Geier**

No corrections brought forward.

**Motion made by Stan Adamson to approve the 2018 minutes. Seconded by Sharon Soos. Motion passes unanimously.**

**President’s Message**

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

RMDS has had a very active and busy year. We have also started the process to build our new Database and Website. Yes we are moving forward and into the modern age.

The RMDS and Region V Championships were the most successful we have had in years. This is due to the great team we have and our wonderful volunteers.

Plans for 2020 will be discussed and I believe everyone will benefit from the Education that we are offering. Thanks to all our committee chairs and co-chairs.

Our finances will take a big hit due to the investment in the Database/Website. Here is where we need the most help from our membership. Sponsors, Advertisers and Donors. Check out our Build a Barn and buy a Byte campaign.

As we move forward we have some suggestions to discuss that will help us save money and time. Changes are always hard and we need to review each suggestion and the possibilities.

Everyone here who took the time and effort to come today has a voice in the decisions we make for RMDS. Remember the years of decisions that led to changes with our membership and ultimately were reviewed and used as guidelines with USDF. RMDS has always been a leader.

It is hard to sit in the middle of the country and lead the way. But RMDS has done so time and time again. Thru different leaders and Committee Chairs we have proceeded forward and grown. I am proud of the team members who have given time, energy and inspiration.

Let us move positively forward today and see the future we can have.

***“Great things never come from comfort zones”***

**First reading of election roster, nominations from the floor**

**Beth Geier**

**The slate for 2020:**

- Vice President (1 year): Dorothy Kapaun
- Awards: Shannon Lemons
- Education: MaryJo Hoepner and Pam Phillips
- Marketing:
- Professionals: Kathy Simard and Joan Clay

**Vice-President’s Message**

**Dorothy Kapaun**

Hello, I have enjoyed my VP duties thus far. Championships were quite long days, but very enjoyable! My next duty as VP is to attend the USDF Convention in Savannah. I have begun to prepare for this by learning about the many committees that make up. USDF and trying to familiarize myself with the roundtable topics that I may be attending. I hope to return more knowledgeable and ready to put that knowledge to use.

**Treasurers Report**

**Sharon Soos**

Funds as of October 31, 2019

RMDS Checking Account	\$34,160.07
PayPal Account (as of 10/20/15)	\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$34,260.07
Scholarship Account	\$ 6,192.29
Reserve	<u>\$43,823.00</u>

Discussion of how the reports work and what they say, how to read them.

## Central Office Report

Beth Geier

### Awards

- Izabelle Durbin still owes for broken trophy that needs to be replaced – got a flurry of emails but no payment after I sent her the decision to place her on the suspension list.

### Database/Website

- Recently spoke to Ron Zasadzinski about the update-should be getting the “plan” soon.

### Education:

- ‘L’ grads –If it passes at BOG, must also be current on the USDF list.
  - April 1 is USDF deadline to be sure all your credentials are current
    - Current Membership
    - Continuing Education up to date
    - Safe Sport completed
    - Must be “with distinction” to judge FEI levels at a schooling show
  - USDF says the judge must be on the USDF “list” at time of the show.
- Fall of 2019: TD test. (every 2 years)
- Need some more RMDS TD’s – please encourage people as this is a good way to give back to the sport.

### Membership

- Registration – 700 members for 2019; 159 new horses since October, 2018  
See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting 2020 dues today at \$65. \$75 after Jan 4

### Omnibus:

- Accepting Advertisers now.

### Shows:

- 46 shows submitted results for 2019
- Online scores listed correctly – FEI rankings might be off.
- Score checks were completed by Oct 10. Hope everyone did it.
- Prize lists may be placed on the RMDS calendar-no charge. Send as a pdf. To the Central Office.

### General:

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

### Upcoming Dates:

#### 2020

**2020-2019 Awards Banquet:** January 4  
**Executive board Meeting:** January 9  
**Executive board Meeting:** March 12  
**2020 Adult Amateur:** April 4-5 – Reverie Farms  
**2020 Professionals:** April 25-26 – Tomora Equestrian  
**Executive board Meeting:** May 14  
**Executive board Meeting:** July 7  
**2020 Championships:** Sept 23-27  
**Executive board Meeting:** October 8-Budget

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

10/27/2019

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

## Committee Chairman Reports

### Adult Amateur

**Anclaire Spaulding/Michelle Stevens**

#### Adult Amateur Clinic

Presentation and discussion of the AA budget for the clinic with George Williams to be held April 4-5, 2020 at Reverie Farm-Longmont, CO

Una Schade moved to approve the budget as presented; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cassandra DiPentino Motion passed: abstained: Anclaire Spaulding & Michelle Stevens

#### TEAM COMPETITION

2020 date is June 21st. Table Mountain can do it again at this point in time.

This competition is no longer supported by USDF; it will be an RMDS only competition, not recognized as an RMDS show. We will be allowed to have English and western mixed teams for 2020.

### Awards

**Shannon Lemons**

#### 1. Budget

a. 2018 Awards – including income and expense received or paid in 2019

i. Budget was \$6500 expense, \$400 income

ii. Actual was \$7467 expense, \$438 income

b. 2019 – Increased budget request by \$1000 since we were over budget last year to \$7400 expense, \$600 income

#### 2. Trophy Returns

a. Trophy broken last year has still not been paid for – that rider is on suspension list

b. Requesting a few minutes at banquet – every year people act surprised that the trophies are due back even though it is on the agreement they sign and receive by email, reminder in

- Centaur. Speaking about it at the banquet probably won't change anything, but maybe telling them one more time will help!
- c. Returns were better this year, still a few stragglers but only one very late. People still are only polishing silver about half the time, so for new trophies, I recommend not silver unless it's easy to polish as I will be the one having to do it 😊
  - d. Three trophies damaged – one will likely have to be replaced, others are more minor.
3. Banquet
    - a. Need banquet tables set up by 1:00pm and at least a couple of guys to help unload at noon, please! 17 tables please
    - b. Trophies will be left on the display tables and the plaques and ribbons handed out as they are presented.
  4. Trophy replacements needed this season:
    - a. High Median rider <12 – will contact Kylie Lourie
    - b. Single High Score – no previous donor. Anyone? Or can add plaque out of budget for Awards for about \$85. Silver champagne icer.
    - c. AA 3<sup>rd</sup> Level – Heather Petersen to provide new - previous is champagne ice bucket
    - d. JR/YR 4th Level – Will contact Julie Barringer.
    - e. Open Training Level – Gwen Ka'awaloa
    - f. Open 4<sup>th</sup> Level – previously Foothills/Sue Martin (Halasz) – will contact Sue
  5. Trophy replacements for 2020 – keep these in mind.....
    - a. Older and Better – Cool Asian style silver plate, Cariellen DeMuth
    - b. High Median 3<sup>rd</sup> Level and above – Jablonovsky, donated by Amy Jablonovsky
    - c. Sport Horse Stallion – previously Kristi Wysocki
  6. Possible award structure change
    - a. Should open division be Open riders only, not including Juniors and AA? As of now there is no Open only division

***Motion: Katie Knight made a motion to discontinue the 12 & under award MaryJo Hoepner 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes unanimously.***

***Motion: Katie Knight made a motion to change the Open Division to exclude the Adult Amateurs and the Junior/Young riders starting with the 2021 awards. 1 abstain. Motion passes.***

## **Communications**

## **Beverly Swanson**

The Centaur has again completed a successful year of informing our members of events, reports on clinics, personal and educational articles, and a steady advertiser base. I believe we had a good balance this year of education for both professionals and amateurs.

Highlights include:

- New Test Clinic reports
- Scholarship awardees reports
- Lunging Clinic report from Grand Valley (special thx for this chapter's contributions this year)
- Biomechanics articles from Frances Carbonnel and Michelle Anderson
- and our Mounted Patrolman Embracing Dressage!
- Plus a little fun - our breeches survey, and our horse anatomy lesson.

All Chapters did a great job of getting reports in this year! I believe this is one of the best places to share info with each other, as we are so far apart geographically.

I was excited to have such a great response to the request for people to share their Championship stories and pictures - it's important to recognize members and their accomplishments as much as possible, and these were great examples.

Other updates include a small "facelift" to the font faces used, plus the addition of a "read more" click thru on the e-Centaur to get more content on-screen.

We have two new propositions upcoming for 2020: the poster of events to insert into the January issue, and the possibility of including an online version of the Omnibus.

Here are the results of the generic preliminary Online Omnibus survey:

There is considerable support for an online version, but still a significant number who prefer the print version.

Further research into how to charge for and market advertising is still needed.

A couple of comments I received:

From a member:

*I like the print version because I carry the book with me to shows with the tests*

From an advertiser:

*Is this being considered for the 2020 year? I just spent a lot of money to advertise and would not have done that for an online version or if people have to download a PDF. I do hope if changes are made advertisers would be contacted with an option of a refund because it's no longer the format we paid for.*

## **OMNIBUS**

**Nicole Bizarro**

It has come to my attention through the email survey that there is a move to push the Omnibus into a digital format in the future.

I will plan to be available to offer information on the way the Omnibus is now, and some historical perspective of why. I will be able to address the ins and outs of the creation of the Omnibus and its print production and expense. I will bring suggestions for ways to potentially reduce costs. I will also outline some of the digital options and the advantages and pitfalls of the digital format.

I hope to highlight pedagogical purpose, brand presence, membership expectations, informed information and consensus gathering, print advantage expense, digital limitations and advantages, and privacy concerns.

I have been helping to create the content and shape of the Omnibus since 2002. I am more than happy to help guide the creation of the Omnibus in the future into the form that best meets the vision of the board and the RMDS organization and the needs of its membership.

Looking forward to a collaborative discussion and hope for the clarifying resolution that this meeting can facilitate.

### **A presentation by Nicole Bizarro was given as to the pros and cons of going digital:**

#### **General Specifications**

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 Indicia Used - no postage included)

## **2019 Omnibus Report**

### **Why is the Omnibus the cost that it is?**

It is a very custom product. The main pages are digitally printed in black and white, as that does price out less than offset printing at this point. The color ads we wanted to offer to our membership are printed in a separate run and then hand collated into the sections. This cost is less than printing the whole thing in color. The tab sections were added to create ease for the user, and are another line item expense that needs hand collating. The sections themselves are hand collated, as is the specially folded entry form at the very back. Once all these pages, tabs and sections are printed and collated; they are then drill punched with three-ring binder holes. These along with envelopes are then couriered to Parker for the initial bulk mailing to the membership, as the non-profit indicia is based out of Parker. This format has allowed RMDS to print additional pages during the year to replace errors or update invalid information. It has been many years since we have had the need to do this, but the modular format of the Omnibus was originally intended to allow for this flexibility.

### **What can we do to reduce cost in print?**

First, I would like to clear up what I think was misleading in the email survey. "Please indicate your preference - this survey is just to get an idea of the percentage of people that want online or print. We will continue to offer the print version, as always, but if we can eliminate some of the printing costs while offering additional features, that would be SUPER!" If we siphon off a few dozen or even a hundred Omnibus numbers without changing the very custom format, we will not save significantly in cost. The main reason this is an expensive project is that we create a hyper-custom product in a very small number to begin with. With print the savings is in scale, and we don't have that.

Here are some options:

1. Omnibus: Same as last year, same page count, set up, etc: 750 | \$7,287
2. Omnibus: Same as last year, - REMOVING second D, and its tab (94 pages - ish): 750 | \$6,074
3. 96 Page + Cover Saddle-stitch option: 8.5" x 11" final size: 750 | \$6,153 or 1,000 | \$6,578
4. 56 Page + Cover, Saddle-stitch option: 8.5" x 11" final size 750 | \$5,063 or 1,000 | \$5,471

### **Things to consider about the print version of the 2020 Omnibus**

RMDS and I are currently in a signed contract to produce the 2020 Omnibus as a specific product.

To change this in the middle of the contract period would break the contract and create a great deal of uncertainty as to my role. The membership and advertisers are not expecting an immediate change to the Omnibus product and it would create chaos around ad space already sold and reasonably expected to be a certain way. There is already ad space sold, and we have already had feedback that certain advertisers would not be interested in advertising in another product format.

I highly recommend that we produce the 2020 Omnibus in accordance with the existing contract. I am open to a decision to cut the test section to save expense. But, fundamentally, think that we should have an ample period of time to come up with a good plan for how to replace the Omnibus in physical form if that is what the board and delegated wish to do. I would like to point out that I am contracted to create the content of the Omnibus and that my job does not change in that respect in the product at completion is sent to a printer or to a website as an online PDF. I am not the printer and do not profit from the printing. The Omnibus, unless RMDS eliminates it entirely, still needs to be laid out and created by a graphics professional, and I am happy to do that however that final product gets produced.

***Motion: Beverly Swanson made a motion to produce the 2020 Omnibus as is, including the tests. Katie Knight 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2 abstain. Motion passes.***

**Motion: Beth Geier made the motion to form a committee to study any Omnibus changes for 2021 Omnibus to be formed in January 2020 and conclude by July 2020 with Nicole Bizzarro and Beverly Swanson as leaders. Michelle Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2 abstain. Motion passes**

## Website

Work to build the Buy a Byte Barn, currently listing all sponsors on the home page. A page will go into the omnibus depicting the barn without any names.

Update from Code Geek:

- **In progress:** Ron continues to work on writing up the outline of required functionality to be built, including screenshots. Ron has met with Beth a couple of times to discuss our questions, and will have a few more questions to discuss with Beth next week.
- Once Ron finishes the outline of required functionality, then review with Beth & Heather, Ron will refine based on their feedback. Anticipated completion in late November.
- Then revisit the total estimate for the project and provide a refined budget. Goal is to complete this phase by end of November, or early December at the latest.
- **New, in progress:** the CodeGeek team of Ron, Megan (Project Manager), Isaiah (Lead Developer) and David (Developer) are in the planning phases and are currently working on the web application architecture based on what we know already.

## RMDS

- **Beth: Deliver a copy of the Access system to Ron, status: DONE**
- **Heather: has sent Ron several example CSV files of show results, status: DONE**
- **Michael has sent Ron a master admin login for the website, and SSH credentials for the server, status: DONE**
- All, re: Design preferences & desires - please send me a few examples of websites you like. 2-5 websites would be great, no need for more than that. If you could deliver that anytime in November that'd be perfect.

## Timeline notes

- As we've discussed previously, this is a complex web application and will take another 6+ months to build. We are anticipating launch during Q2 2020.

## Education

**MaryJo Hoepner/Pamela Phillips**

2019 saw many educational activities for RMDS.

We had:

TD / Show management training - Heather Petersen

Heart Saver & First Aid Certification-Gwen Ka'awaloa

RMDS Judges 'L' graduate & Professionals Continuing Education Biomechanics of Horse & Rider

For 2020 we have:

February 1 Judges Continuing Education (USDF approval applied for) Denver Renaissance Hotel

February 22 TD / Show Management Heather Petersen teaching. Location to be confirmed

Planning –

Freestyle Clinic

DSHB Handling Clinic

In addition, watch the RMDS calendar for educational events held by the Adult Amateur Committee as well as local chapters.



**The slate for 2020:**

Vice President (1 year):	Dorothy Kapaun
Awards:	Shannon Lemons
Education:	MaryJo Hoepner and Pam Phillips
Marketing:	
Professionals:	Kathy Simard and Joan Clay

**Junior/Young Rider**

**Cassandra Dipentino**

The 2019 Jr/Yr Summer Intensive was another success!! We had nine participants this year with both new and returning riders. Our clinicians were Julie Haugen, Joan Clay, and Kathleen Donnelley. They all kept in communication and built on to the previous lesson. Thursday morning Uliana's father, Bruce Connally gave an emergency veterinary presentation. Friday afternoon Raissa Chunko graciously joined us for lunch to talk about the Young Rider program, Dressage Seat Medal Finals, and gave a lovely braiding demonstration to everyone. The students did various activities such as making custom helmet bags, horse cookies, and a dance party on Friday night. I want to give a huge "thank you" to my assistant Jewlee Bellah for helping me make this camp a success.

There was a \$51.67 profit this year, without the \$500 budget I am provided to work with. That went towards the Jr/Yr fun events at Championships. The relay race was put together by Raissa Chunko and Joan Clay. After the race Lesya Ukrainchuk put together a horse decorating contest. The one thing I want to change for next year is that we let all the kiddos get some food before they get ready for the relay/other activities.

We have some ideas for next year's summer intensive to hopefully increase the interest level and have riders gain even more knowledge in the short time we host them. This would include possibly teaming up with Lendon Grey for a clinic, I am in communication with her right now. The other idea I have is having 2 clinicians per day which will increase the cost of registration.

**RMDS Championships**

**Heather Petersen / Beverly Swanson**

**Anclaire's Report for BOG Championships Committee**

Championships was a huge success this year and we ended up with a nice profit. We had a ton of riders and I think everyone had fun. We did dinner each night, Wednesday Saturday and then breakfast burritoss on Sunday morning. For those that did not attend, please come next year! It was a great week.

Lessons learned and Future Ideas:

- Make sure to have a PA system in the Central Park Pavilion (DU sports psychologists were great but no one could hear).
- Start working on the large vendors in January when they review budgets
- Breakfast burritos on Sunday were a big hit but I didn't like them. I will find a different vendor for next year. Maybe the burrito truck guy.
- Armando's Italian was a big hit and we ran out of food. We will use them next year. Armando is great.
- Anclaire will delegate different board members to contact sponsors next year.
- Thank you notes they are taking some time. I might ask for help next year.
- Anclaire is thinking of different events and vendors to bring in for next year. Possibilities: ice cream social, progressive appetizer barn party, games where the barns must interact and get to know each other more. Maybe a costume party??? I like the idea of the dog contest that Heather does at Estes.

**Heather's Report for BOG Championships Committee**

Championships was indeed a huge success this year. It was wonderful to have Anclaire on board and our lovely hospitality person, Hannah. Many things worked quite well and both competitors and sponsors seemed very happy. We had a few new and unique sponsors, like Coke and Gay Barrett, which competitors really liked.

We still should have a final grant also coming from USDF since we were in compliance with all the requirements of our contract with them.

We had the most entries for Sport Horse that we have had in 9 years and the championships show itself also saw the most entries in about 6 years. The Horse Park worked with us and gave us the permanent stabling and also they gave

us a heck of a sponsorship rate for a few things that really increased our profit margin. We need to be thankful to them.

2020 is in the works and we are almost complete in hiring our officials. Judges will be on the website when they are finalized. TDs are Sally Davenport and Victoria Powers. Host hotel is set up again with the Comfort Suites Castle Rock (officials really like the area). We are working to figure out which stalls we will have. We had signed the contract with the knowledge we would have the tent stalls, but Marion is working to give us the permanent stalls if possible. We will know in a couple of months. We do need a volunteer coordinator. This is a paid position. Interested parties need to talk to Heather.

### Resumed Committee Chair Reports after a short lunch break at 12:00 pm.

***“You’re off to great places, today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way” Dr Seuss***

***“In order to carry a positive action, we must develop here a positive vision” Dalai Lama***

### Marketing

### Una Schade

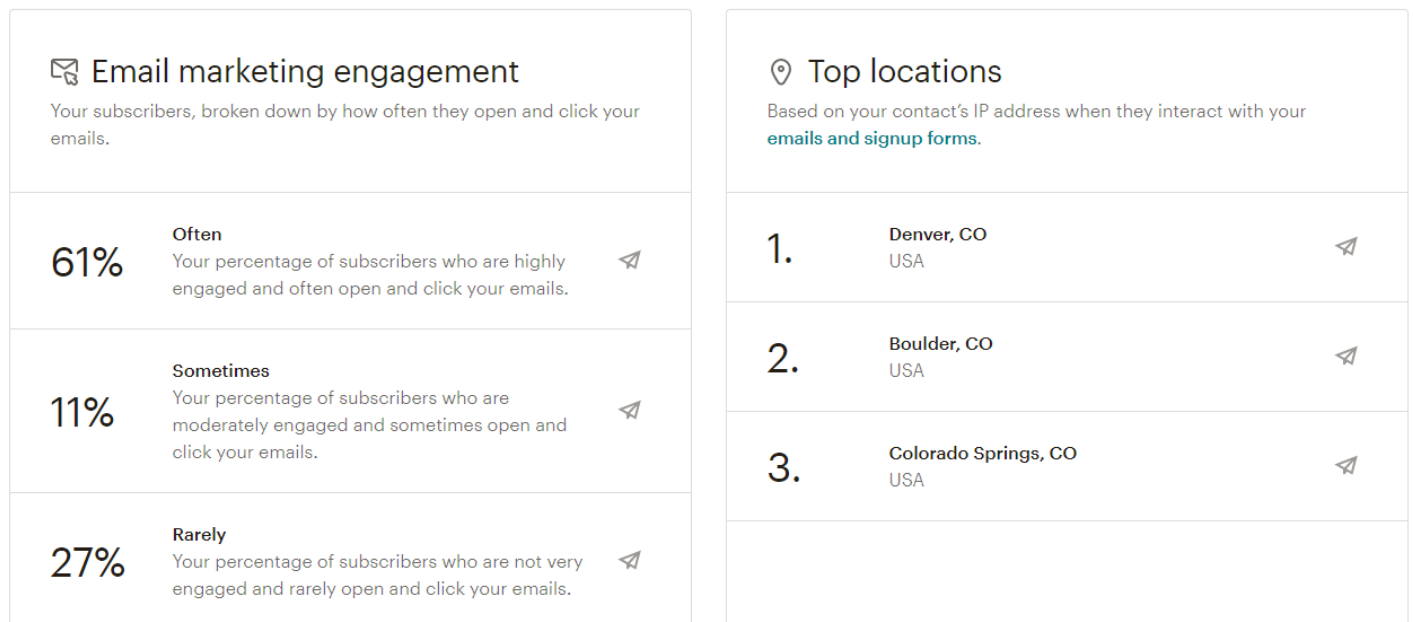
Una spoke to Christine Casillas during the lunch break about Marketing and Christine has accepted the nomination.

- We have started gathering items for our silent auction at the year-end awards banquet! Let’s try to beat out previous years with donations and funds raised. If you are available to help pickup/store items for this year’s auction that would be great. I am moving in December and all help will be much appreciated.
- September 2019 we had the most website visits we have had in over a year.
- We have 109 more Facebook likes this year than last year EOM September.

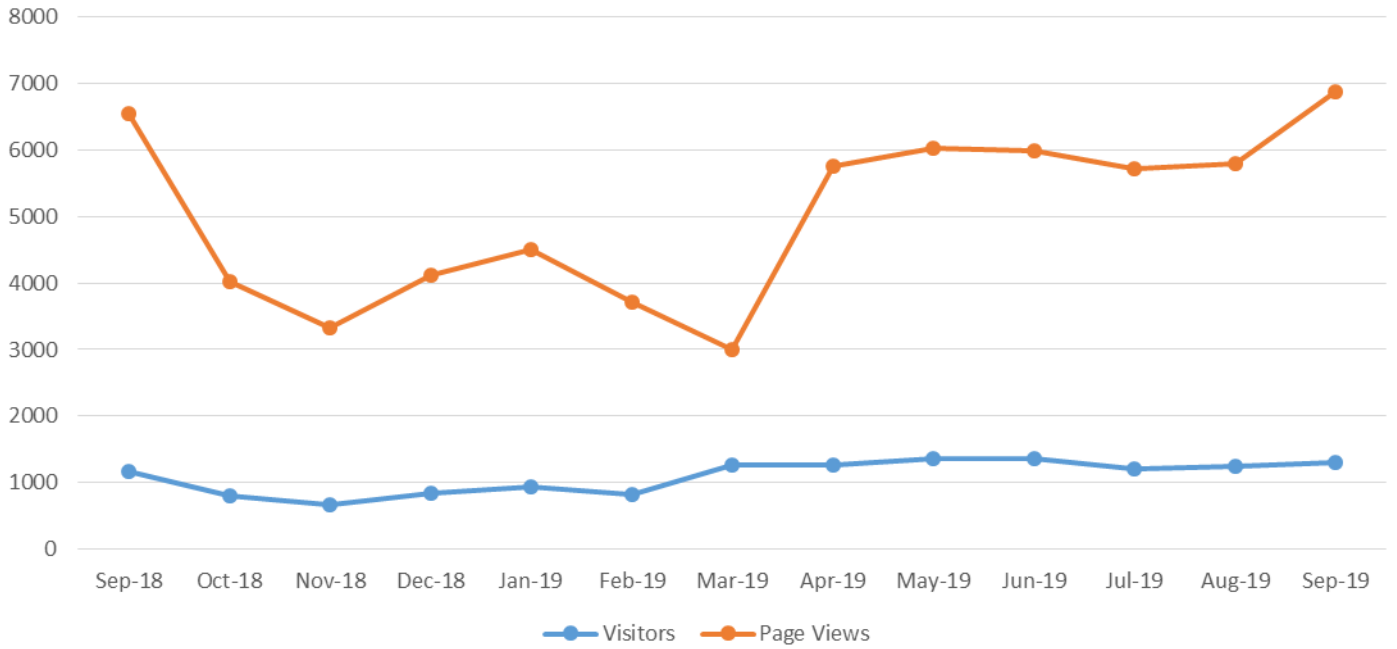
## RMDS Members

This audience has **1,204** contacts. **1,096** of them are subscribers.

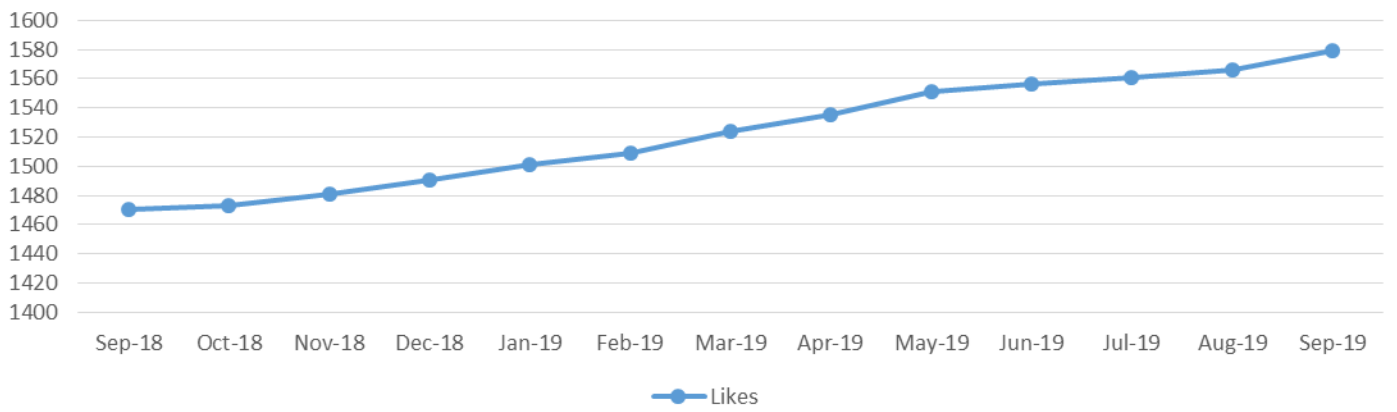
### Engagement



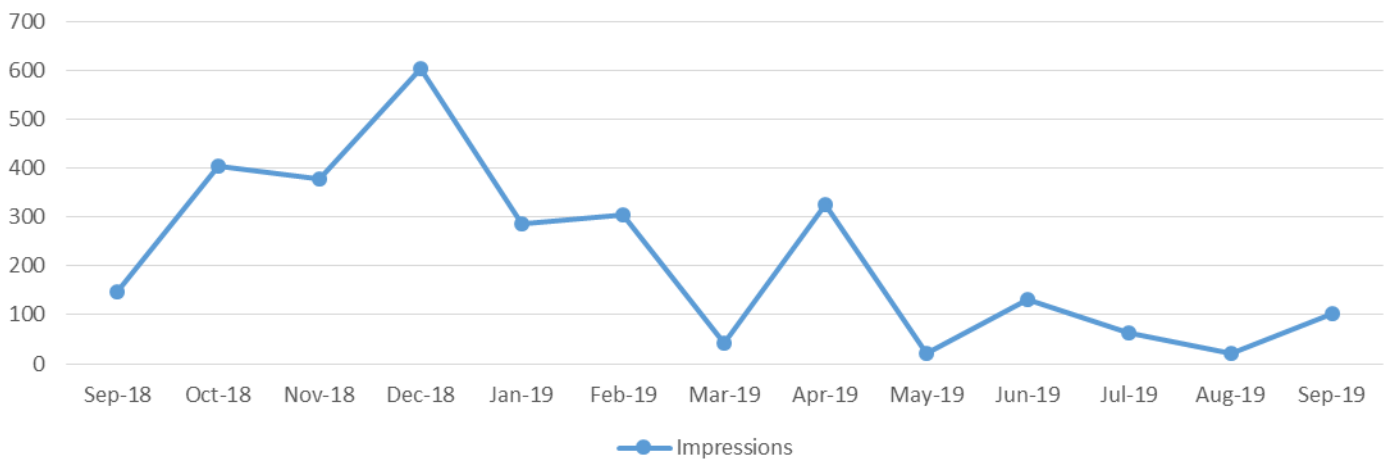
### RMDS Website Analytics



### Facebook Likes



### Twitter Impressions



**SUMMARY OF 2019 EVENTS:**

The 2019 Professionals’ Education Event was held in conjunction with the annual RMDS Judges Education. The dates were January 12-13, 2019. January 12th was open to all membership and was a Heart Saver and First Aid Certification class with Gwen Ka’awaloa and an additional instructor for the CPR portion. It was held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and we had a full room of participants. The day was both fun and educational. January 13th was for RMDS “L” graduates and Professionals. It was focused on biomechanics presented by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez and Kathy Simard. We were able to use some of the materials from the USDF “L” Program. But unfortunately found the videos to be in dire need of updating. Even though, the day was educational, fun and even a little silly at times!

Joan put together a USDF Certified Instructor workshop in March of 2019. This workshop focused on preparing candidates for their Second Level testing. There was interest and attendance from trainers around the region. We invited professionals to participate as riders, auditors and even as scribes for Sarah Geike. Unfortunately, our second instructor was unavailable to specifically work with the auditors. This meant backing off a bit on the promotion of the auditor side of the weekend. Joan and Beth Geier did amazing work to put this together! We fell short of the required number of participants for USDF and to break even with the budget. USDF stepped in to help. The USDF Instructor Certification Committee is now working under the premise that it cannot simply rely on GMOs to pop up and host events as needed. Many changes are coming down the pike including more regular workshops and testings.

The party hosted by the professionals at Championships was once again a success. The use of a party planner was helpful and Anclaire did a great job. We suggest keeping the sponsorship at \$100 and trying to get as many trainer sponsors as possible going forward. We also suggest changing the marketing materials to reflect this. The Friday night party requires the biggest budget. \$2500 versus the next amount being \$1200. We get a lot of positive feedback. But it also requires a lot of work! We begin decorating two hours before the event using many of our own or our client’s decorations! Still not an ideal situation for your pro committee who need to assist clients showing. We also suggest that because this is the highest dollar amount party, that some portion of the money go to the championship show coffers for future championship shows as the cost of showing and venues continues to rise. As an aside, no live music or DJ was used this year and no one seemed to miss it.

**2020 PLANNED EVENTS:**

Lilo Fore will return for the 2020 Professionals Symposium! The dates are Saturday and Sunday April 25- 26, 2020. The event will be held at Tomora Training Center in Greeley. We are hoping that the event being on a weekend will bring in more auditors. Also, we have moved it north of Denver this year! We will be advertising it to more of the region as well. Lilo is a big draw and we hope all these things combined will mean more professionals attending!

*Sarah Martin has agreed to be the moderator; USDF will accept this symposiums judge’s continuing education; flyers will be sent out after January 1.*

**Scholarship**

**Natalie DeFee Mendik**

The 2019 RMDS Scholarship was awarded to four recipients at \$500 per scholarship in the following categories: Leg Up Scholarship, Solid Seat Scholarship (2 recipients), and Opening Doors Scholarship. The RMDS executive board voted to allocate \$2,000 in scholarship funds for 2020. Guidelines for scholarships can be found at <http://rmds.org/Organization/Scholarship>. The deadline for 2020 scholarship applications is Nov. 30, 2019.

Members interested in serving on the scholarship committee should contact Natalie DeFee Mendik.

**Appointed Committee Chairman Reports**

**Western Dressage**

**Simone Windeler**

It was announced that WDAA will allow schooling shows to be approved by them.

**Banquet – January 4, 2020**

**Beth Geier**

Renaissance Hotel – 3801 Quebec Street – Denver, CO

A block of rooms have been set aside until December we under Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. This is also a stock show week so reserve as early as possible so you get your rooms. Let Beth know if no rooms are available up to Dec 20. She can have the hotel open up more in the block.

Reservations are a must – no late reservations. Dinner prices the same this year to \$47 per dinner.

Any questions, please contact Beth Geier – 2942 Park Lake Drive – Boulder, CO 720-890-7825  
[rmds@indra.com](mailto:rmds@indra.com)

Una Schade is doing the silent auction and is looking for donations as well as help in picking up the donations. Each chapter, please, donate a basket for the auction.

Raffle for show entries as well this year.

#### Historical

Somewhat defunct.

#### ByLaw and Standing Rule Changes:

##### BYLAW:

None

##### STANDING RULE:

### SECTION VII. USDF “L” Graduate Program for RMDS

In an effort to provide quality judging RMDS has established a certification program that will allow USDF “L” Graduates to officiate at RMDS only recognized competitions. May judge through 2<sup>nd</sup> Level. The requirements are as follows:

- A. Must be certified by the USDF as having successfully passed the USDF “L” judges program.
- B. Must be a RMDS member in good standing and over 21 years of age.
- C. Must be a current member of US Equestrian Federation, **USDF, & current with Safe Sport certification.**

**Beth Geier made the motion to accept the changes Una Schade 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes unanimously.**

- D. Must officiate at a RMDS recognized competition, dressage schooling show or Eventing unrecognized event, which cumulatively includes a minimum of 30 dressage rides (USDF Intro-USEF 2<sup>nd</sup> Level or equivalents) once every two (2) years.

DELETE: E. “L” graduates must undertake 24 hours every 2 years of continuing education add: to be composed of:  
1. Classroom Continuing Education (CE) - 8 hours in a RMDS or USDF recognized CE session  
2. Sit Time – 8 hours with a North American “R” judge or higher at a show of RMDS or USDF show recognition.  
3. Scribing - 8 hours with an “R” judge or higher at a show of RMDS or USDF show recognition.  
Alternative CE to the above (USDF eTrak, other judges’ education programs, etc.) must be approved in advance by the RMDS Executive Board.

ADD: E. ‘L’ graduates must be current on the USDF ‘L’ graduate approved list at the time the Omnibus goes to print **and** at the time of the competition for which you have been hired.

#### Delete the blue areas and add the red areas.

Motion was reworded to read: ‘L’ graduates must be current on the USDF ‘L’ graduate approved list at the time the Omnibus goes to print **and** at the time of the competition for which the ‘L’ graduate has been hired.

**Beth Geier made the motion to accept the changes Nicole Bizzarro 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes unanimously.**

#### Budget

Sharon Soos

2020 Budget	Income	Expense	Net Change
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Adult Amateur	\$4,210	\$4,510	(300)
BOG Awards	\$600	\$8,000	(7,400)
BOG Banquet	\$10,000	\$8,500	1,500
BOG Meeting		\$1,500	(1,500)
Centaur	\$5,000	\$15,000	(10,000)
Central Office	\$3,000	\$13,000	(10,000)
Championship/Breed Show	\$130,000	\$130,000	0
Donations		\$2,500	(2,500)
Education/Clinics	\$9,000	\$9,000	0
Jr/Yr Program		\$500	(500)
Junior Camp	\$3,500	\$3,500	0
Marketing/Expo/Merchandise	\$200	\$900	(700)
Membership - Dues	\$45,000	\$23,100	21,900
Membership - Horses	\$6,600		6,600
Miscellaneous	\$500	\$500	0
Omnibus	\$15,000	\$16,500	(1,500)
Operating (USDF Conv/Treas Exp)		\$3,500	(3,500)
Professional Committee	\$6,700	\$7,000	(300)
Scheduling / Insurance	\$2,500	\$2,000	500
Scholarship	\$1,500	\$2,000	(500)
Taxes / Legal / Audit	\$225	\$1,000	(775)
Team Competition	\$2,300	\$1,000	1,300
Website/Database	\$5,300	\$55,000	(49,700)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$251,135</b>	<b>\$308,510</b>	<b>(\$57,375)</b>

- Discussion of how the budgeting sheets work and packet material.
- Allocate \$500 to Juniors, Amateurs and Professionals.
- Adult Amateur - There was a discussion regarding increase of the allotment as well as allowing for a roll-over of funds. Decided to not change any of this.
- Awards – most of the income is postage reimbursement-\$400.00. Expense (\$7,000.00) reduced since it hasn't met those figures last year.

- BOG Banquet – hopefully the silent auction will actually help us show a good profit but not putting into the budget at this point in time.
- BOG Meeting - \$1500 expense.
- Centaur – numbers fairly similar to budget in 2019 for income, but expenses such as postage is going up.
- Central Office – Email blasts
- Championships – Regionals for 2020. Hoping to break even.
- Donations – Dressage Foundation, RMDS Scholarship Fund, Region 5 Jr/YR, delete USEF Affiliate membership.
- Education/Clinics – programs come before the board for approval as they are proposed.
- Junior Camp – Looking to break even, though it tends to make a little money.
- Marketing/Expo - hats – dressage with altitude to sell and have available at shows.
- Membership dues – \$45,000 income, \$22,500 expense. \$23,100 profit. Right on previous years.
- Horse dues – right on numbers from previous years.
- Misc – pass through funds often times from people paying RMDS instead of who they were supposed to pay.
- Omnibus - slight loss in 2019. Ads covered most of the expense..
- Operating (USDF Convention/Treasurer expenses, CoHoCo,)
- Scheduling/Insurance – show recognitions, insurance for club and chapters if asked for it. Event insurance, D&O.
- Scholarship – RMDS donations and outside donations plus what we give out.
- Taxes/Legal/Audit - Chapters are down but income is what chapters each pay. \$625 is what the preparer pays.
- Team Competition – usually makes a decent amount.
- Website/Database – scheduled to upgrade in 2020 so large financial loss.

***Motion made to accept the budget as corrected by Beth Geier. Seconded by Katie Knight. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Motion made by Lori Keilt. Seconded by Stan Adamson. To have a conversation at the 2020 RMDS BOG about potential sharing/licensing of intellectual property rights of the database/website with other GMO's and organizations. Motion passes unanimously.***

***“A great horse will change your life. The truly special ones define it “... Author unknown***

#### **Old Business**

- USDF Convention

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

Gwen Ka’awaloa and Dorothy Kapaun will be going to Savannah, GA. Please donate items to Gwen for the RMDS basket. Get to either Dorothy or Gwen by Thanksgiving.

#### **Region 5 Report**

**Heather Petersen**

I hope many of our folks from Region 5 are able to join us in Savannah this year for the convention and/or Awards Banquet. This is a beautiful part of the country and we are thankful for the Southern Hospitality.

2019 has been a very good year for our Region. We had a large variety of educational opportunities to choose from all over our region and lots of shows as well. I had my first opportunity to show in our region outside of my home state of Colorado. I took a lovely trip down to Tucson, Arizona in March and enjoyed a wonderful show hosted at the Pima County Fairgrounds. If you have some time, please consider travelling outside of your local area and enjoy some of the other offerings in our Region.

The USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships were held in Parker, Colorado at the Colorado Horse Park, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. The show went well. There were some windy days, but the temperatures were quite nice. Many thanks to the show management, the volunteers, competitors and

sponsors. There were great competitors' events that were very well attended and the USDF Championship classes were larger than expected – USDF had to send some extra ribbons for the show! Next year the Regional Championships will be back in Colorado hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society as there were no bids received and RMDS was able to put something together in order for our Region to have a Regional Championships. We also had a very very good turnout for the USDF Breeders Series Championships – the largest turnout we've had in many years. Thank you once again to everyone who helped make both competitions successful.

The bid process for the 2021 USDF Region 5 Championships opens very soon. I very much hope we're able to keep as many parts of our Region in the process and hope that the championships will continue with a rotation to another great facility and GMO. Diversity is important and since our region is so large, it's very important to host the Regionals in various areas. Here's hoping we can keep the Regional Championships moving throughout our Region to better serve the membership. If you know of a facility we should consider, please let me know.

The North American Youth Championships were held this year in New York at Old Salem. Sadly due to the distance, our Region 5 riders made the decision not to finish the qualifying process and not to go. We will know soon where 2020 NAYC will be held and hopefully more fundraising can be done to help support sending both a Junior and a Young Rider team this next coming year.

We had quite a few combinations attend the USEF Festival of Champions at Lamplight in Illinois and represented Region 5 very well! Congratulations to everyone who participated and thank you for your hard work.

The USDF Junior / Young Rider clinic was held October 19-20 at Reverie Farms in Longmont, Colorado with George Williams. We had 13 applications and 8 riders were chosen to ride. Many thanks to Reverie Farms and Nancy Davis for donating the facilities for this clinic.

This year Region 5 was allocated 5 Participating Member delegates to the USDF Board of Governors meeting. Eva Maria Adolphi, our Nominating Committee member, rounded up a nice diverse roster of 5 individuals to fill those spots. Your delegates are Eva-Maria Adolphi, Joan Clay, Rusty Cook, Sarah Lindsten and Kay Lorenzen. These 5 members are a nice representation of the different states/areas in Region 5. Eva Maria also worked hard to get representation for all our eligible GMOs in the Region or proxies to cover their votes. If you are interested in being a PM delegate for 2020, please don't hesitate to contact Eva Maria. The convention will be in Omaha, Nebraska.

And lastly, a few of updates from some of our GMOs and what they've been up to this year.

The Heart Mountain Dressage Club in Wyoming held three non-sanctioned open dressage shows: spring, summer, and fall. We had record entries for our shows this year, and even had to turn some riders away. Our largest show is the summer show. Next year we plan to make this a two day show, since it is so popular. (This will bring us one step closer to perhaps hosting a sanctioned show in the future.) The judges have made positive comments about the quality of the rides they are seeing, so we are encouraged that our riders are improving.

Unique to our club, we offer membership, training, and show divisions for Western Dressage, which is growing in popularity.

We offered about 8 mounted clinics in 2019, and 2 that were unmounted. We use mostly local trainers because that is what we can afford. Needless to say, that is a pretty thin group to choose from in this area. In spite of that, our clinics were pretty well attended.

We offered about 8 short, educational seminars on both dressage and horsemanship. Those are not as well attended. We are thinking of changing that to fewer but longer and more in-depth offerings for education for 2020.

Our club has grown in membership over the past two years. We have increased our publicity, which has given



us more recognition in "cowboy" country. Participation in Western Dressage is growing and helping our membership. We have also determined to plan our program calendar well in advance of the riding season. This assures prospective members that their membership has worth it, and gives people time to plan their calendars with our events in mind. This also has helped us in recruiting volunteers. Our youth are nearly non-existent, but we have one trainer that is starting to grow this piece and our club is optimistic we will benefit from her business growing over the next few years.

This was the first year that we actually created a budget and stuck to it. We are fiscally healthy, and even received a small grant from our local recreation district. We plan to submit a new grant request to the same in 2020 for \$5000.00 so that we may purchase a cargo trailer for storage and transportation of our equipment and supplies.

Our biggest need at this time: Good, affordable instructors for our clinics. Most of our riders are "hobby" riders who cannot afford the cost of travel AND ride charges for well credentialed instructors. That leaves us dependent on local talent, which is scarce. Many of our best are nearing retirement and don't have the stamina to do clinics all day. Help in this area from Region 5 or USDF would be much appreciated.

The New Mexico dressage Assn. has been in existence, in one form or another, since 1972 - the same year USDF was formed. The main challenge of our GMO is the spread out and sparse population of our state. Thus our shows are often small - but at the same time friendly. Challenges aside, we are a like-minded community intent on promoting the philosophies of dressage riding.

Since Western Dressage became a US Equestrian division in 2014, we have offered WD tests in our schooling shows. In fact, our schooling shows are approximately 50-50 traditional and Western Dressage. It is a reality that without W D we would not have enough entries to support our schooling shows.

A consequence of offering so many test classes (Intro thru 4th level traditional and Intro thru level 4 WD, plus JR, A/A and Open) means there are literally dozens of classes with only one or two rides per class/test. In this situation, blue and red (1st and 2nd place) ribbons have little meaning. What we have done is actually in line with dressage philosophy: We award "percent ribbons". With the idea that dressage competitors are aiming to get good scores, not out to "beat" each other, our blue ribbons are for scores "62 % and higher", red is "59 % to 61 &", and yellow is "58% and below." These ribbons have not only been welcomed but preferred - to the "usual" 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., because they represent a personal milestone, not a ribbon for being the only one (or two) in a class.

NMDA usually puts on 7 or 8 schooling shows a year - in 2020 we plan to cut this to 5 or 6 in the hopes of having more entries per show. With slightly less than 100 members, NMDA may be small but we are enthusiastic.

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society had a very good 2019. We started the year with our USDF Judges' Continuing Education Program and combined this year with our Professionals Continuing Education taught by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez and Kathy Simard. It was very informative and well attended. It was also held in conjunction with a Heart Saver and First Aid Certification taught by Gwen Ka'awaloa. We then moved onto our TD and Show Management continuing education program in February, taught this year by Heather Petersen. In March we had our usual booth at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo and we also hosted a USDF Instructor Certification Intensive Workshop on Preparing for Second Level Certification. In June we hosted a well-attended Jr/YR Summer Intensive Camp. We wrapped our summer with the Great American/USDF Region 5 and RMDS Championships. The Sport Horse Breeding competition had the most number of horses we have had in many years and it was great to see this aspect of our shows growing again.

2020 so far shows to hold many educational events again, including our TD/Show Management clinic on February 22, an Adult Amateur clinic with George Williams April 4-5 at Reverie Farms in Longmont, Colorado and a Professionals clinic with Lilo Fore April 25-26 at Tomora Training Center in Greeley, Colorado. We are also honored to host the Great American/USDF Region 5 and RMDS Championships again September 24-27.

The Santa Fe Dressage Association had a great 2019 starting with a 2.5 day symposium on the 2019 USDF tests. *Riding Through the Levels* was facilitated by Bill McMullin and Bill Warren, internationally-known dressage teachers and trainers. The "Bills," working with riders and horses from novice to Grand Prix, made their New Mexico debut teaching together with generous support from The Dressage Foundation and the

USDF National Education Initiative.

In July, the SFDA hosted two days of Level 3 recognized shows at Hipico Santa Fe with 105 horses present, 3 courts, and plenty of camaraderie.

The SFDA is exploring logistics for holding three consecutive days of Level 3 shows in July 2020 to help satisfy the need for more recognized shows in New Mexico.

It is also contemplating other educational opportunities for the membership and the large, growing dressage community in central New Mexico.

The Santa Fe Dressage Association's original four founding board members expanded the board to eight members, doubling its size. Lots of growing interest in the area for dressage! We're pretty excited about this.

## New Business

- **2020 Show Schedule**

**Beth Geier**

Schedule can be found on the RMDS website [www.rmids.org](http://www.rmids.org). Junior camp & Team competition will be held in June. Championships is September 23-27. Junior camp in June.

- Additional shows added and discussed. Updating the website with the 2020 RMDS Championship sponsors.
- ***Motion made by Stan Adamson seconded by Nicole Bizzarro to have 1000 4" color stickers of the RMDS logo to hand out with the Omnibus. Motion passes unanimously.***

## Arkansas Valley

**Renee McMillen**

We at AVDA have had a progressive fun year. Our River Walk Series of Schooling shows were very successful. The attendance at these shows has increased dramatically. We welcomed Classical dressage, Western Dressage and Gaited Dressage.

Our members have worked together to create a bond of support and encouragement to all those who participate in our shows and at our club meetings.

Due to the increase in show attendance the club purchased Fox Village to assist in our scheduling and scoring. We are very appreciative to Simone Windeler for guiding us through the learning process of using this software.

We had two Junior /Young riders attend Championship and bring home two blue ribbons.

We have trainers in our club who are supportive of each other and of the club and its members.

In 2020 we hope to continue with the River Walk Schooling Show Series. The club is looking to host clinicians throughout the year for the educational benefits to our members.

We are diverse club of eventers, western, classical dressage and trail riders.

This year we bought swag items to show support for our club, hats and coffee mugs, which we offered for sale at our shows and meetings.

Overall, 2019 has been a successful year for our club membership and support.

## Boulder Valley

**Stan Adamson**

The Boulder Valley Dressage Association was under the leadership of Stan Adamson (President), Sandra Rosewell (Vice President), Dorothy Kapaun (Secretary) and Beth Geier (Treasurer) for calendar year 2019.

We continued to hold shows at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont for a second year.

- Our June 29-30 Dressage at the Fairgrounds USDF/USEF recognized shows were judged by Lilo Fore from Santa Rosa, California, and Mike Osinski, from Seattle. We had long show schedules on both Saturday and Sunday, with lots of enthusiasm from riders and their helpers. We very much appreciate our many volunteers who made the show possible. Show logistics were provided by Two White Feet and our officers and volunteers.
- Our September 14-15 RMDS recognized Dressage Festival, also at Boulder County Fairgrounds, consisted of a show judged by Gwen Ka'awaloa, and a clinic on Sunday with Clinician Sandra Hotz. Once again, we celebrate our many volunteers, and show staff, including manager Nicole Donohue, show secretary and office manager Beth Geier, and announcer Stan Adamson.
- We also very much appreciate our many show sponsors including Colorado Tack and Supply (Thornton) and Longmont Ford, among others.

We held bi-monthly business meetings (even numbered months). On October 14, we also had a great educational presentation by Nancy Harrison, PT, on "Alignment of Horse and Rider," that showed and

demonstrated with rider Eleanor Harrison and her horse Diderick ways to obtain proper alignment in the saddle, with the body building blocks aligned for optimal health and performance.

Our annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2020, at Nissi's Event Center in Lafayette, Colorado.

Our plans for next year include an educational presentation in February by Julie Barringer-Richers on "Preparing for a Freestyle."

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.

Our officer slate for 2020 is: Stan Adamson, President; Lesya Ukrainchuk, Vice President; and Dorothy Kapaun, Secretary-Treasurer. This slate will be presented to the membership in January of 2020.

## **Foothills**

### **Linda Gaber**

Colorado's Foothills Chapter members enjoyed a rewarding year. They produced a successful dressage show, supported RMDS with advertising and volunteers, and continued their Western and classical dressage education through activities they organized for all riders.

We have exceptional volunteers. Starting at the RMDS booth at the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, members donated their time and expertise at chapter dressage shows and our USDF Region 5 and RMDS championships in Parker, CO.

They also are working to gain equine-related education. They attended clinics with our own member Dolly Hannon 'S' and Western dressage 'R', Janet Foy 'S'. One member wanted to help keep her fellow riders alive by completing the Heart Saver and First Aid Certification with Gwen Ka'awaloa, 'R', among other programs. We reward all our members who met their volunteer hours' requirement with a \$100-chapter Educational Grant toward their expenses.

The chapter continued to make Table Mountain Ranch in Golden, CO, its primary event site and hosted its annual Ride-A-Test warmup before our June show. This was followed by a focus on riding accurate figures and patterns, and the unique but valuable LandSafe Clinic. Attendees asked for a follow-up of this powerful program, which the chapter hopes to arrange in the future. TMR and FH also hosted the annual Youth Summer Intensive. Members saluted our Education Co-Chairs Jewlee Barber and Lauren Still with 2019 RMDS Volunteer of the Year awards, in appreciation for their work arranging this superior lineup of 2019 events.

As usual, the annual Spring Into Summer Dressage and Western dressage show was a success, with thoughts of running two arenas in the future to accommodate all interested riders. Stay tuned.

Unfortunately, like many barns and events, the August Last Chance Show was cancelled because of the rampant vesicular stomatitis virus spread primarily by flies. The safety of horses was paramount.

Many thanks to our officers and many volunteers this year for producing and supporting our other appreciated programs: President Linda Gaber, Vice President Cassandra DiPentino, Secretary Nicole Riffe, Treasurer Laura Quakenbush, Education Co-Chairs Lauren Still and Jewlee Barber, and Education Grant Marilou Metcalf.

Newly elected 2020 officers are President Cassandra DiPentino, Vice President Lauren Still, Secretary Nicole Riffe, Treasurer Laura Quakenbush, Education Co-Chairs Lauren Still and Jewlee Barber, and Education Grant Marilou Metcalf. Simone Windeler 'L' graduate is our show manager and show secretary.

Among the events scheduled for 2020 are our two RMDS-recognized shows, Spring Into Summer on June 7 with judge Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez 'S' and Last Chance on Aug. 30 with Julie Haugen 'r'.

The Level Up! Clinic is rescheduled in the fall with Julie focusing on preparing riders to compete at a higher level. Enter the shows and view the prizelists online at <https://www.theeleganttrider.comentry-form-foothills.html> or under events on the FH website [www.cofoothillsdressage.org](http://www.cofoothillsdressage.org). Like us on Facebook, too.

Join us to start 2020 on Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m. at Mimi's Café, 14265 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO 80401-3211. Check chapter news at [www.cofoothillsdressage.org/](http://www.cofoothillsdressage.org/) for latest details.

## **Grand Valley**

### **Arlene Rhodes**

This has been a productive year for our club and many of our members.

We had four full show weekends despite the VS issues in the fall. We held an educational clinic on lungeing and seat instruction with Joan Clay and found a great format that we will repeat so that as many members as possible can participate and learn. We used the USDF educational grant for the clinic and plan to do so again!

Our local members held clinics with their favorite instructors all year long. Many of our members attended and did well at the World Finals for Western Dressage, as well as the RMDS Championship and USDF Regionals. We had youth and adult amateurs who won their divisions and many more were in the placings. We have at least three members who qualified for and are attending the USDF Dressage Finals in KY. It is fun to watch and cheer for our local celebrities!

In addition to show achievements we were glad to welcome many new riders to our shows, and several very young riders - we had four different leadline exhibitors this year - the future of dressage!! Many members celebrated personal milestones - from a young girl's graduation out of lead line to her first independently ridden class, to an older horse and rider achieving their second level scores towards their bronze medal after years of work.

We have a Pilates for Dressage clinic with Janice Dulak to look forward in April 2020 plus our regular four weekends of shows. We did have to say goodbye to our show secretary extraordinaire, Dee Closson, but she has agreed to continue to help us with some of the show organizational efforts she can do remotely in Minnesota.

Our dressage community here in the Grand Valley is a hardworking and fun group that thrives on education and good sportsmanship. We are looking towards more of the same in 2020.

## **High Plains**

### **Stephanie Figgins**

High Plains Dressage is excited to continue our same board volunteers for 2020! Please join us in thanking the following volunteers for their dedication to the High Plains Dressage Board: Stephanie Figgins as President, Julie Burt as Vice President, Lori Keilt as Secretary, and Ellen Seibert as Treasurer. We always welcome any new board positions and have an open door policy at our monthly board meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

2019 was an exciting and challenging year for High Plains Board. Thank you to all our members and volunteers for making these events possible!

- On April 7th we hosted a Ride-A-Test with guest Judge Gwen Ka'awaloa at Paradox Ranch (Formerly Iron Horse Farms). Riders and horses participated in a full day of learning and testing and are excited to jump into the summer show season! Thank you Gwen for your wonderful coaching and teaching to help riders excel in the show arena!
- In May, High Plains hosted a 2-day clinic with Dolly Hannon at Greenie Mountain Farms in Parker. Participation was overwhelming and riders commented on a wonderful learning opportunity for themselves and their mounts. Thank you Dolly!!
- Our Youth Clinic had to be cancelled this year due to weather. There was an unexpected snow storm that was great for skiing, but bad for trailering horses. We are looking forward to offering this highly anticipated clinic again in March of 2020. Open to riders 6-21 years of age. Keep an eye out for more details!

We are excited for a new year with various educational events on the horizon. Keep an eye out for announcements and dates as we are planning for the 2020 year and please visit our website at [highplainsdressage.org](http://highplainsdressage.org) or call Stephanie Figgins at 720.480.7044 for more details!

Meetings held on the second Tuesday of every month -- 5:30PM at 6796 Ponderosa Dr. Parker, CO

## **Northern Colorado**

### **Didi DeKrey**

Northern Colorado Dressage Association (NCDA) encompasses the northern end of Colorado. Our members hail from Loveland, Greeley, Fort Collins and elsewhere.

Our General Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month, from September through May. The meetings feature a presentation topic and guest speaker.

NCDA Board members and others involved in "special projects" meet throughout the year. NCDA stays active outside the meetings with three schooling shows. The schooling shows enable our members to gain points towards our annual Championship, Reserve Championship, and Award of Distinction prizes. Additionally, all of our shows were WDACO recognized for their yearend awards. This year also included Overall High Point award for each show.

This April Schooling show was paired with a clinic featuring Ms. Dolly Hannon. The May show was well attended and brought people from Wyoming and throughout Colorado. The July show wound up being

re-scheduled to September – due to the VS outbreak. It was a small show, so riders were able to spend some extra time in the arena with our judge.

Congratulations to our year end winners!

Silja Knoll and Holloway's Misty; Champion

Felix Duerr and Soleado; Reserve Champion

Andrea Chirich and A Bugs Life; Award of Distinction

Show High Point winners were: Felix Duerr and Soleado, Silja Knoll and Holloway's Misty – May and September.

Plans for next year include the Presentation topics and guest speakers plus three schooling shows. At least two of our shows will be a show/clinic combination. Plans are in the works for the third show. Ms. Cindy Canace (you may remember her as one of the judges for the Championships) is coming for April Clinic/show 2020. Ms. Kathy Simard will be our judge/clinician in May 2020.

In keeping with the spirit of our Mission Statement to foster a regional dressage community, all riders of any discipline, all horse lovers, are always welcome at our meetings and events!

Follow us on FaceBook and check us out on the web: [noco-dressage.org](http://noco-dressage.org)

### **On the Bit**

### **Ginka Kubelka**

This year has been a big year for us. After we brought Joan Clay to Laramie, WY, for a well-attended clinic in June, we had our first USEF/USDF and RMDS recognized shows on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Spur Ridge Equestrian Community in Laramie as well. The shows were a great success! We had so much fun with amazing competitors, great judges, a lovely TD, perfect show management, wonderful volunteers, and generous sponsors. The feedback we received from competitors encouraged us to have another fully recognized show in 2020. Thank you all!!!

To be able to accommodate more competitors at our show in 2020, we purchased temporary stalls, so we will be able to offer more onsite stabling next year. Please consider us when you are planning your show season! It is a laid-back show with a friendly atmosphere, cooler temperatures (at least if you are coming up from Colorado) and good footing. We are looking forward to seeing you!

On The Bit Dressage will continue 2020 with the following officers:

President: Ginka Kubelka

Vice President: Kelly Wolfe

Secretary: Anna Chalfoun

Treasurer: Tom Wolfe

We will have a holiday celebration in December instead of a regular meeting. We will start again in January with our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Altitude in Laramie. Feel free to join us, or contact us for more information!

### **Pikes Peak**

### **MaryJo Hoepner & Shannon Lemons**

Officers for 2020:

Shannon Lemons-President

MaryJo Hoepner-Vice-president

Elaine Thomas-Treasurer

Heather Petersen- Secretary

Many events are being planned for 2020. Chapter meetings will be included on the RMDS website.

### **Western Colorado**

### **Lesley Hill**

2019 has been a busy and productive year for our small but lively chapter. We committed to our mission to promote Dressage education in our rural valley and have reaped the benefit of a wealth of knowledgeable trainers. Thanks to the support of our wonderful members, we have had nearly 20 clinics in the Roaring Fork Valley this past year. Stellar clinicians included Catherine Haddad Staller, Kathleen Raine, Roy Toppings, Bent Jensen, Kristi Wysocki, Dr. Gerd Heuschmann ( twice) and Christoph Ackermann ( three times)! Clinics were fully subscribed for ride times and well attended by auditors. Maree McAteer hosted ongoing working equitation clinics every other Monday for the entire summer. Apart from a few unforeseen gifts from Mother Nature ( snow, fires, landslides, road closures) all scheduled

events went well. We thank all equestrians who make the commitment to Dressage in our valley.

Going forward, we will continue with our educational focus and hope to expand upon our clinics by adding seminars and evening discussions to the schedules. For the first time in many years, we did not host our yearly series of schooling shows. Instead, we concentrated our efforts on our members' wishes for more knowledge and trainer support. We will reassess our showing decisions at our end of year board meeting to make sure we continue to be in sync with our membership.

Our new website looks great and is a wonderful upgrade. For more chapter info, please visit us at

<https://www.westerncoloradodressage.com>

Happy riding!

***“It is the horse’s gift to connect us with Heaven and our own footsteps” Ronni Sweet***

Final Reading of candidates,

Beth Geier

**The slate for 2020:**

Vice President (1 year):	Dorothy Kapaun
Awards:	Shannon Lemons
Education:	MaryJo Hoepner and Pam Phillips
Marketing:	Christine Casillas
Professionals:	Kathy Simard and Joan Clay

***Motion made by MaryJo Hoepner to accept the slate as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle Stevens. Motion passes unanimously.***

At 4:00 pm ***Sharon Soos made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ginka Kubelka. Motion passes unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Geier