

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Dorothy Kapaun, Shannon Lemons, Andrea Price-Valenzuala, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Stan Adamson, Joan Clay, Natalie DeFee Mendik, Cassandra Dipentino, Cecilia Cox, Sally O'Dwyer, Melanie Newkirk, Katie Knight,

Proxies: Ginka Kubelka to Heather Petersen; MaryJo Hoepner to Dorothy Kapaun; Nancy Leonard to Katie Knight; Jon Haugen to Melanie Newkirk

Call to Order-President

Dorothy Kapaun

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by Dorothy Kapaun

Secretary

Heather Petersen

Resignation received today for Marketing from Christy Rawlings, she just doesn't currently have time to serve in the position.

Approval of Minutes –July 13, 2021 – **Cassandra Dipentino made a motion to approve the July 2021 minutes as written, 2nd by Katie Knight. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of August 3, 2021 minutes – **Stan Adamson made a motion to approve the August 2021 minutes as written, 2nd by Katie Knight. Motion passed unanimously.**

Results of email votes entered into the minutes:

- None to read into the minutes.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of August 31, 2021

RMDS Checking Account	\$23,552.31	
RMDS PayPal (as of 08/16/2021)	\$ 201.44	Total \$23,753.75 operating cash total
Restricted Funds as of August 31, 2021		
Database/Website	\$ 0.00	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 3,592.29	
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$27,096.04	

Funds as of September 9, 2021

RMDS Checking Account	\$17,549.34	
RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018)	\$ 1,579.45	
Issued checks	\$(4,614.30)	
Disputed Invoices (Hotel-Lunches)	\$????	
Depending Deposits	\$ 6,704.78	Total \$21,219.27 operating cash total
Restricted Funds as of September 9, 2021		
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 3,342.99	
<u>Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	
Payable	\$750.00	
Subtotal	\$ 2,592.29	
TOTAL	\$23,811.56	

Discussion – Sharon is going to present the breakdown the membership income again at BOG. She proposed we look at increasing memberships to help produce a bit more income to cover our expenses. What happens if we have another lockdown with the new variance following Delta? Cassandra also said we need to look at increasing horse membership fees. We discussed raising membership fees \$5 and horses \$20. Beth has highlighted the areas in the standing rules and we will present it at the BOG meeting. We will also look hard at the budget meeting in October.

President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

I would love to give a huge congratulations to those that competed at NAYC, we are very proud of them and congrats to everyone that competed at the Festival of Champions. Elizabeth Petersen did a lovely job on the Dressage Radio podcast.

The decision to cancel the RMDS Championships was very hard and a huge disappoint. We should not dwell on it and look to the future. Good luck to everyone at Regional Championships.

The BOG meeting is November 20th in Denver, we hope to see you there.

Vice President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

No report

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 712 members as of 9/1 for 2021 –; 153 new horses since October 2020
- See Reports with chapter membership totals. We are more than last year's total!
- Sent all the chapters delegate counts but they may shift with a few new members.

Shows:

- For 2021: 4 RMDS shows: 32 USEF/USDF recognized shows which includes Championships and Regionals. 2 for 2022.

Recognized Officials:

- In the pipeline: Stan Adamson, Sharon Soos, Sally O'Dwyer, Micheline Ward

Omnibus:

Database/Website:

- Currently have raised \$23,036.91 as of 9/1. 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.
- Working on Awards reports with CodeGeek.

Banquet:

- January 15, 2022 – confirmed.

General:

- Been working on volunteer hours. 240 members have 4 or more; 14 have 1-3.5 & 442 have no hours
- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) – 2021

Judges CE: Sept 7

RMDS Sport Horse: Sept 8

Executive Board Meetings: Sept 9, Oct 14 (budget)

BOG Nov 20

2022

Banquet January 15

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

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	712	636	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	153	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	40	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	160	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	65	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	89	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	145	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	69	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	37	33																		
OB	30	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	55	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	21	20	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	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	712	636	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	63	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	240	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	12	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	16	12	12	9/2																
Life	43	35/1	33/1	32/2																

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Cecilia Madison

- Clinic with George for April. Beth will work on a facility and talk to Hobby Horse.
- Heather sent Katie's dates to Cecilia and Anclaire but didn't hear back.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

Nothing really for Shannon yet until the end of the month and going into October. If Beth could send an email asking for trophies from this year to be returned.

Cassandra's client who was going to do the Friesian cross trophy is being a bit flaky, so we might need to look for a new person to donate and in the meantime we'll do the ribbons and plaque.

Communications

Sally O'Dwyer

We have had some resignations in the RMDS Committee: Nicole Bizarro has resigned, and we probably have already recorded that Una Schade has resigned.

I am now producing (hopefully, with tech support from Nicole) the ECentaur, and I am managing our social media.

I nominated our Website for a GMO award.

We have had several new writers step forward to contribute to the ECentaur.

I have submitted a social media policy for review at the BOG as I believe we should clarify what is to be posted on RMDS social media, and work more closely with the other board members to ensure we get what is needed out to our followers.

We still don't have Instagram, which, really is ok with me!

I would like to get more contributors to support the communications efforts to cover social media and ECentaur; Hoping to develop some volunteer opportunities around this.

Stan mentioned a second issue of the magazine, but it's currently not viable financially.

Karen asked if Nicole would be available for help with ads for 2022 and Beth confirmed she would be.

Education**MaryJo Hoepner**

Judges CE Tuesday.

We had at least 28 people at the Judges CE. 5 were L program and/or R,S judges.

We do not have the invoice from the hotel yet, so no information on finances. We do have a grant from TDF in case we need it to break even.

The rest were auditors. Janet is such an excellent teacher.

We need to plan a New Test symposium for late next year.

Planning TD /show management for next year.

Considering a volunteer training session in conjunction

Junior/Young Riders**Cassandra Dipentino**

Unfortunately, I have no new news since RMDS Championships was canceled.

Congratulations to the 2021 Region 5 Jr/Yr team for making it to NAYC and good luck at Regional Championships.

Marketing**Vacant Position**

No report

Professionals**Joan Clay****1. 2021 Professional's Education – "The Rider Project" online workshop**

- This online educational program is being rescheduled to fall. Dates TBD.
- Expenses = \$750 for Lisa El-Ramey's time to review videos, prepare materials and present two online sessions.
- Suggested cost for participants = \$50 (would need 15 participants to break even)
- Sharon asked if there was a limitation as to the maximum number, and Joan said there is not.

2. 2022 Professional's Symposium – Lilo Fore Clinic

April 23-24, 2022 at Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO

Scholarship**Natalie DeFee-Mendik**

Reminder emails were sent at the beginning of September to the three recipients who haven't yet completed their obligations: one (who had already been in touch previously) replied that she has completed her volunteer hours and is working on her article. The other two haven't responded. According to RMDS's bylaws, scholarship recipients have until the end of September to complete the scholarship's expectations and receive the balance of their funds.

The Foothills chapter reached out to say that they will be sharing details about scholarship opportunities with their members.

Shows – Championships**??/Heather Petersen**

Discussion of 2022 – the board discussed the new Denver Polo Club facility and using it in 2022 to keep the RMDS Championships closer to home and in our pool of competitors and volunteers.

Appointed Committee Reports:**1. Western Dressage****Simone Windeler**

WDACO held a very successful and full USEF lite show at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on August 14, 2021.

They ended up adding a judge to accommodate all competitors.

The WDAA World show will once again be held at the Lazy E in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Dates are Sep 29 – Oct 3, 2021. They also held a very successful online world show.

WDACO is a fun group and with quite a few educational events and shows planned throughout the year.

Their website is <http://wdaco.org/>.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents**Stan Adamson**

To be prepared for the Board of Governors meeting on November 20, 2021, here are the current nominations required for 2022, an even numbered year:

- Vice President Gwen Ka'awaloa
- Secretary Heather Petersen
- Treasurer Sharon Soos
- Awards Shannon Lemons
- Education MaryJo Hoepner
- Professional Joan Clay
- Marketing (1 Year)
- It may be that Anclaire has resigned but no one is in receipt of the email so Dorothy is going to follow up.

A proposal has been made to add an additional permanent committee on Volunteers. Should a by-law change be adopted to create this new chair, the Board of Governors would also have to state during which years the chairperson would be up for election. Currently, the Volunteer Coordinator (Miranda Avila as of this report) is an appointed position.

3. BOG - November 20, 2021 Heather Petersen
We have the Renaissance

4. Banquet – Beth Geier
January 15th, 2022. Reserved at the Renaissance.

5. Volunteers – Miranda Avila
Members have been approaching me about volunteering and their ideas and concerns. Very good feedback! Sally O'Dwyer was kind enough to write up proposed by-law changes for the BOG meeting to help improve the overall volunteering experience.

6. Region 5 Report Heather Petersen
Congratulations to everyone from Region 5 who qualified and competed at the North American Youth Championships in Traverse City, Michigan and the USEF Festival of Champions at the end of August at Lamplight in Illinois! We are so proud of your accomplishments.
Don't forget to declare if you're thinking about attending the US Dressage Finals in November.
I look forward to seeing everyone at the USDF Convention in December! We are going to Houston this year, December 1st-4th. There will be a USDF Region 5 meeting during the convention and another one virtually before the convention, so you'll have a couple of different opportunities to join in our discussions.
All Group Member Organization's (GMO) were asked to designate their delegates for the USDF convention Board of Governors meeting by August 31st and if not determined by that date, the GMO president would become the delegate. If the GMO delegate/president is not able to attend the convention, a proxy for that delegate can be submitted at any time up until the night before the BOG meeting at the convention. The advantage for the GMO is that the delegate will be known and can receive communication from the USDF office earlier. GMO Delegates are included on a list of USDF delegates to receive e-mail communications containing pertinent information on issues that will come before the 2021 BOG meeting at convention. If GMO's have not yet sent in their delegate information, please do so as soon as possible.

Old Business:

-

New Business:

- By Law and Standing Rule Changes

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

AVDA has had a very active summer with clinics and shows. Also several of our members have been brave enough to trail ride during this hot summer.

We are looking forward to our last show of this season on October 2 at Pathfinder Park in Florence. This will be a schooling show. We had our first recognized show there this summer on June 5. Even though we had a small number of rides we all felt that the show was a success and ran smoothly.

Our members have been busy competing and doing very well in shows this summer. Sage Lau won a bronze medal and Tracy Broll qualified for USDF in Santa Fe. Katie Knight also did well in Estes Park and would have qualified for Santa Fe except for the fact that her two qualifying scores were from the same judge. Any way you look at it AVDA has been well represented. Thank you ladies and Congratulations.

Nine of our members went to Sedalia to watch a lunging and long-lining clinic with Holly Bergay. She will be coming down to our area on September 25 to do a follow up clinic with our horses and riders both in the saddle and on the ground. We have had other clinics that have been sponsored by our club members so we have kept very busy.

Unfortunately with the uptick in Covid we will be going back to Zoom meetings for the immediate future. We really enjoyed getting together in person for that brief period when we felt it was safe. We will continue at this time with our shows and clinics using CDC guidelines of masking when on the ground, except during time in the arena and social distancing when we are unmasked, Sure hope this gets resolved soon so we can go back to our lives!

I hope this finds everyone happy, healthy and staying cool in this hot hot summer.

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

SHOWS: Boulder Valley Dressage Association held two very successful USEF-USDF-RMDS recognized shows at the Boulder County Fairgrounds July 31 and August 1, 2021. Kudos to our Show Manager Nicole Donohue, Show Secretary Heather Petersen, Volunteer Coordinator Miranda Avila, and Office Coordinator Beth Geier, and to all the many volunteers who made this show go smoothly in spite of inclement weather. I served as Announcer, as well as assisting in preparation and setup of two outdoor arenas on Friday, July 30, and providing hospitality for our terrific judges Heidi Berry and Amy McElroy. Show photographer Kathleen Bryan was on hand to record the proceedings. We received sponsorship from Mike Maroone Ford, who provided two pickups for our judges' stands, and Colorado Tack and Supply of Thornton, who provided beautiful, engraved halters for our High Point winners in both shows. 100 horses competed each day. After spending four hours Friday morning setting up the two arenas, when rain threatened, Technical Delegate Deeda Randall from Cheyenne directed a large crew of on-the-spot volunteers to move one of the arenas indoors into our warmup area and shift the other east onto drier footing. This rebuilding of our setup allowed a show to go on which otherwise might have been called due to rain. The positive spirit of all participants made a huge success of this large show despite setbacks. Even with the changes, we remained remarkably on schedule, due to the efficiency of all personnel and the willing participation of all competitors. Many thanks are due to everyone who helped!

BOOK CLUB: Our Boulder Valley Dressage Book Club, led by Vice-President Sally O'Dwyer, met again on Monday, July 12, to discuss *Centered Riding*, the classic guide to dressage training by Sally Swift. The club meets again virtually via Zoom on October 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss the book *Ride Big* by John Haime. Meetings are open to any interested RMDS members. Please check our web site, www.bouldervalleydressage.org, for the invitation and Zoom link.

MEETING & GIFT: We had a board meeting with all members invited on August 9 during which we had a spirited discussion about recruiting and motivating volunteers, prompted by two representatives from Nighthawk Equestrian Center, which have held several large, recognized shows within our bounds this summer. They shared their frustrations with recruiting and managing volunteers, a perennial problem. We will have some constructive recommendation for RMDS to strengthen volunteer management. We encouraged RMDS Volunteer Coordinator Miranda Avila, also a member of our club, to expand to a full Volunteer Committee with members invited to do more for volunteer motivation and incentives. Recruiting, managing, and thanking volunteers is a demanding task, but shows cannot go on without it. We hope to encourage more members to own this need as a personal commitment, not just a hurdle to get over to qualify for year-end awards. Also, since our show went so well, we wanted to share our good fortune and voted to send a donation to RMDS in the amount of \$2,000, with \$1,000 of that earmarked for the Volunteer Committee. We challenge others to do the same!

FUTURE: Our next meeting is October 11 at 7 p.m. We will hold annual elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for 2022, and make further plans for our Awards Banquet which will be held at the Boulder Country Club on Sunday, January 30, 2022.

3. Foothills

Cassandra Dipentino

The Foothill's Last Chance RMDS Show was a success. We filled up within a week or so and had a waitlist which was utilized. We had both English and Western riders from Intro to PSG!! Judge, Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, was amazing as always. We had an awesome volunteer turnout due to the hard work of our Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Black.

We plan to start hosting our "Foothills Firsts" monthly clinic series starting in October. We have secured Kathleen Donnelly to be our first clinician on October 2nd, 2021. Our goal is to provide a monthly opportunity to ride with top trainers, local at first, until we can bring in clinicians from around the country to educate our membership. We may explore grant opportunities in the future, but for now, we are thinking local to build up the clinic series' publicity.

We received approval for the dates for our Foothills Dressage Festival, level 2 USEF show on July 9th and 10th 2022. Planning is in full swing!! We are hoping to make this show a fun and exciting experience for everyone.

4. Grand Valley

Karen Harkin

Grand Valley Dressage Society (GVDS) completed the third of it's four schooling show series at the end of August. Despite the heat and the kids back in school, we had nearly a full show. We continue to be impressed by the new riders are entering the Introductory classes and hope they will join as members in 2022. Many thanks to judge Julie Haugen and her scribe Lynn Ahern for a great show experience for our riders. Lots of positive feedback for everyone, plus a great pair to work with for the GVDS show team and for the volunteers to engage with. We look forward to them returning to Grand Junction in the future.

In June 2022 we will host two recognized shows, preceded by a schooling show. June 3, 2022 will be a schooling show, including western dressage, judged by Dolly Hannon. On June 4, the GVDS Summertime I will offer a power-house judging panel of Dolly Hannon and Janet Foy. June 5 the GVDS Summertime II show with Janet Foy as the judge. We're excited to bring a show with officials of this caliber to the western slope for our western Colorado and Utah riders.

The Education Committee is already planning for 2022. An open Survey Monkey survey is gauging interest in clinicians for 2022. We'll follow that up with a second survey on Zoom and in-person programs for 2022. We want to start 2022 with lots of momentum and great offerings to our members.

The Awards Committee is preparing for the December 4 holiday celebration and year-end awards. The final award approval is complete and award ordering is nearly ready to start with only one more show on October 9-10. After missing last year, we are excited to get together and hope some of our out-of-town members, some of whom will likely be award winners, will join us.

We're beginning to work on our sponsorship packages for 2022. As many organizations are doing budgets for 2022 in the fourth quarter, we want to have our request into them early.

5. High Plains

Andrea Price-Valenzuela

No report

6. New Mexico Dressage

Maureen Mestas

No report

7. Northern Colorado

Jon Haugen

After a quiet, hot summer NCDCA is looking forward to an Oct. 31st Clinic with Sandy Hotz at Blue Roof Equestrian Center. Information on that is coming soon. We are continuing to plan for the Robert Dover symposium in May of 2022. At our general meeting through the winter we will have educational speakers on many aspects of horse care and shows.

8. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

Our show on July 24th and 25th at the Albany County Fairgrounds in Laramie, WY was a success! It was our first recognized show at the fairgrounds, and the new location presented a few challenges. We worked hard to provide good conditions for all the riders! Our main focus for the next few months is to come to an agreement with the Fair Board on how to improve the footing at the Fairgrounds.

Our monthly meetings continue to be held on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at Altitude in Laramie. Check our meeting agenda on our website and feel free to join us if you are interested in what we are offering, or contact us through info@onthebitdressage.com!

9. Pikes Peak

No report

Linda Millisor

10. Western Colorado

No report

Lesley Hill

Next Meeting October 14th meeting.

8:28 pm Stan Adamson made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen