

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2024

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharon Soos, Dorothy Kapaun, Sally O’Dwyer, Patricia Weed, Katie Knight, Stan Adamson, Judi DeVore, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Kristen Allen, Sloane Rosenthal, Gwen Ka’awaloa, Sandy Vernon, Gabrielle Ward, Nicole Bizzarro, Beth Geier, Ginka Kubelka, Nadia Westra, Andrea Osmond

Proxies:

Call to Order-President

Sally O’Dwyer

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Sally O’Dwyer

Secretary - Approval of Minutes -

Heather Petersen

Karen Harkin made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, 2nd by Kristen Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Soos moved to accept the resignation of MaryJo Hoepner as education co-chair as submitted, 2nd by Nicole Bizzarro. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Operating Funds as of January 31, 2024

Wells Fargo RMDS Checking Account	\$ 84,994.52
Wells Fargo PayPal Account (as of 1/17/2024)	\$ 2,871.22
Subtotal	\$ 87,865.74

Restricted Funds as of January 31, 2024

Wells Fargo Scholarship Fund	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,097.29
Barbara H McElnea Scholarship	\$ 7,500.00
Subtotal	\$ 11,597.29
Total	\$ 99,463.03

Operating Funds as of February 7, 2024

Wells Fargo RMDS Checking Account	\$ 78,241.27
Wells Fargo PayPal Account	\$ 572.23
Outstanding Checks	\$????
Pending Deposits	\$????
Subtotal	\$ 78,813.50

Judges “L” Program	-	\$ 13,189.00
Subtotal Operating Funds		\$ 65,624.50

Restricted Funds as of February 7, 2024

Wells Fargo Scholarship Account	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 3,347.29
Barbara H McElnea Payable	\$ 7,500.00
-	\$ 250.00
Subtotal	\$ 10,597.29
Total	\$ 89,410.79

President Report

Sally O’Dwyer

No Report.

Vice President Report

Sloane Rosenthal

Working on a survey for members on what they would like from their RMDS membership.

Central Office

Beth Geier

New and improved membership card on the dashboard that shows the volunteer hours and chapter membership.

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

2024 RMDS EVENTS:

TD	Feb 12
New Rules	Feb 20
Show Mgt.	March 4
Horse Expo	March 15-17
Team Competition	July 20
Summer Intensive	July 17-19
Sport Horse	Sept 18
Championships	Sept 19-22

Executive Board Meetings:

Reports: March 14, May 9, July 11, Sept 12, Oct 10 (budget)

No reports: Feb 8, April 11, June 13, Aug 8,

BOG Nov 16

2025

Banquet **January 11**

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Scholarship

Karen Harkin

Kuddos to Gwen for recognizing our scholarship winners at the awards banquet!

Karen brought forward some suggested changes to the Scholarship Guidelines for the board to vote on.

Section 2. Basis of RMDS Scholarship Awards

Add d. Financial need is based on whether or not the applicant could pursue this opportunity to further their knowledge of and experience in dressage without receipt of the scholarship funds. Ability to complete the applicant's training plan in full with a scholarship will be considered.

Section 5. Obligations of Scholarship Recipients

Add to a. Online training programs are considered an eligible activity.

Section 6. Scholarship Application Period and Award Decisions

Add a.iii. Generally, individual scholarships will not exceed \$500 except for the Barbara McElnea scholarship, which will not exceed \$1000. The RMDS Executive Board will make the final decision, which may differ from the Scholarship Committee's recommendation.

Under Summary: Annual Events

Add to 1. Applications for four to five scholarships is November 30

Add 6. Prepare announcement for eCentaur

Renumber previous 6 to 7.

Under Summary: Monthly

Add to 1. Write report for board "if needed, otherwise written reports bimonthly"

Katie Knight moved to approve the changes to the RMDS Scholarship Guidelines, 2nd by Sloane Rosenthal. Motion approved unanimously.

Adult Amateur

Jodi Lees is confirmed for November 23-24.

Katie Knight

Awards

Sending out the last of the awards over the next few days, waiting on a few things we had to order after the fact.

Shannon Lemons

Communications

I have planned social posts through the 17th and will be sending the Feb newsletter on the 19th. Fun fact: our post about the cold snap on 1/12 had 15 unique shares, 102 likes, and 17 comments! Also can you please send my thanks to Grand Valley, Arkansas Valley, and High Plains for being super communicative and remind anyone else to please send their newsletters or news by 2/17 so I can include them in the newsletter and the next batch of upcoming posts?

Analiese Kovisto

Canva account – High Plains would like to get a nonprofit discount and learned RMDS has an account already but no one knows who has it. RMDS has been using Sally’s account so we’re not sure what’s going on.

Database – 2 items have been completed that were requested by Heather and Beth for service.

- Volunteer hours and the member chapter have been added to the membership card.
- We are also had them work on removing members who don’t have birthdays from the junior standings in the chapter awards reports and move them into the open divisions.

We also need to work with CodeGeek to update our email settings due to new regulations set by Gmail and Yahoo. Heather will get with Graden on this.

Magazine – It is going through the process really quickly. 51 advertisers, about the norm. Might be the earliest it’s out. \$11,200 in ad revenue approximately. Some new advertisers, there are 2 spreads of “we are RMDS” – most submissions we’ve ever had; Many thanks to Natalie for help and Beth as well.

Interview of Jenny Hart for the RMDS Central Office Manager

Discussion of the Central Office pay structure. We advertised it at \$16.50 so we’ll offer for the first 90 days and then do an evaluation with both the person who’s hired and the executive team. From there, we can evaluate the pay and future.

Katie Knight moved to offer the Central Office Manager position to Jenny Hart with the 90 day provision, 2nd by Stan Adamson. Motion passed unanimously.

Education

Moving the freestyle education to this fall.
Symposium – Fall 2025 – looking at dates in November at Douglas County Fairgrounds. Dorothy is going to confirm with them and get a hold on the dates.
We are putting a hold on the L program Part 2 as we transition the chairs of the education committee.

Dorothy Kapaun / Gwen Ka’awaloa

Pressure Proof Clinic April 27-28, 2024

Estimated Budget

Income

Hopeful Attendance

24 riders @ \$200 each = \$4800

40 auditors @ \$45 each = \$1800

\$6600

Low Attendance

16 riders @ \$200 each = \$3200

20 auditors @ \$45 Each = \$900

\$4100

Expenses

50 Chairs = \$200	25 Chairs = \$100
Porta potty = \$200	\$200
Sound System = \$400	\$400
Drinks/Snacks = \$250	\$250
Melissa pymt = \$3840	\$2560
Trailer in fees = \$800	\$560
\$5690	\$4070
Estimated Profit/Loss	
\$910	\$30

Variable expenses dependent on riders who do 2 days (Melissa will receive less)
 In barn riders will not count towards trailer in fees.. however we will not discount their cost. This will balance out some other expenses
 All riders get to attend for both days without an additional fee.
 We will keep it RMDS only until mid-March and then open it up to outside groups to join us for either rider spots or auditors – first come, first serve.

Equine nutritionist who would love to give a zoom and is donating her time. Discussion of attendance and relatively.

Junior/Young Riders

Gabrielle Ward / Jewlee Bellah

1 junior has already signed up for the camp and a few other folks are interested. Everything is on track.

Marketing

Kristen Allen / Jessica Reigel

Kristen had some feedback from Beth and Nicole on the sponsorship packets and working on updates. We are looking for a person who might want to co-chair marketing as Jessica has been traveling a lot for work.

Professionals

Sue Martin / Holly Bergay

Holly said they are planning an educational zoom with Yvonne Ocrant, an attorney who specializes in all things equine. She’s donating her time and they are working on dates. They want to do one session where she talks about how to protect yourself as a professional and another session on how to create/structure a syndicate. Alan Clark for alternative training methods, problem horses, etc. Need to get his pricing and availability.

Shows – Championships

Nadia Westra/Heather Petersen

2024 Championships – We already have folks wanting to donate for the silent auction. Nadia will start working on sponsorships soon.
 Heather has contracted with Una Schade as the show photographer.
 Ribbons have been ordered, prizes are in process.
 Digital program is not sitting well with folks, so we need to look at restructuring things.
 Nicole will email Sharon the ad for championships from the magazine to go out at the Horse Expo.
 Moving away from coolers – stall front bags, bridle bags,

Volunteer

Judi DeVore/Eleanor DeVore

The “Volunteer Now” page is updated, please send your show sign-ups to Heather.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

No report.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

???

No report and no chair currently.

3. BOG - November 16, 2024
Working on looking at alternative venues.

Heather Petersen

4. Banquet –

The room was freezing, we are getting a refund. Apparently there were problems with the food. The auction suffered from the cold as well. We might want to consider a different venue for 2025.

Beth Geier

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Heather answered various questions....

Old Business:

- None
- Chapter roundtable recap.

New Business:

- Tabling the membership growth discussion, Sloane is working on the survey.

Chapter Presidents:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Arkansas Valley | Nancy Leonard |
| 2. Boulder Valley | Stan Adamson |
| 3. Foothills | Nadia Westra |
| 4. Grand Valley | Karen Harkin |
| 5. High Plains | Andrea Osmond |
| 6. Northern Colorado | Laura Speer |
| 7. On The Bit | Ginka Kubelka |
| 8. Pikes Peak | Patricia Weed |

Next Meeting is March 14th.

8:49 pm Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen