

# **RMDS Board of Governors Meeting**

Nov 14th, 2009  
Palmer Lake

**Called to order at: 8:35 am**

**Present:**

Delegates:

Cat Siemiet – Arkansas Valley  
Nicole Donohue (holds 4 votes) – Boulder Valley  
Julie Barringer-Richers - Boulder Valley  
Loni Gaudet - Boulder Valley  
Beth Geier (holds 6 votes) - Boulder Valley  
Colleen McFadden - Boulder Valley  
Greta Barringer-Richers - Boulder Valley  
Jeannette Hillery – Boulder Valley  
Simone Windeler – Colorado Springs  
Elaine Haberman - Colorado Springs  
Tami Fredrich - Colorado Springs  
Heather Petersen (holds 3 votes) - Colorado Springs  
Mindy Maguire - Colorado Springs  
Mary Jo Hoepner – Colorado Springs  
Dolly Hannon (holds 2 votes) - Foothills  
Lori Mitchell – Foothills  
Tara Hough – Foothills  
Lisa Binse (holds 2 votes) – Grand Valley  
Susan Avery - Grand Valley  
Donna Dubois - Grand Valley  
Alex Curnutte – High Plains  
Michelle Anderson - High Plains  
Mary Buckley - High Plains  
Gwen Ka’awaloa - High Plains  
Cindi O’Shea - High Plains  
Susan Rudman - High Plains  
Lauren Smith - High Plains  
Sharon Soos (holds 2 votes) - High Plains  
Libby Stokes - High Plains  
Cathy Van Berg - High Plains  
Debbie Wilke (holds 2 votes) - High Plains  
Laura Speer (holds 6 votes) – Northern Colorado  
Tri State – votes held by Beth Geier  
Wasatch Mtn – votes held by Laura Speer  
Western Co – votes held by Beth Geier

Also attending but not voting: Pat Leech, Marlene Maseberg, Heather McEntee

**Proxies:**

Jeannette Hillery, Susan Gregg, Sally Shaffer, Barbara McElnea, Marsha Novicki, Pamela Hoffman, Elaine Thomas, Elaine Haberman

**Approval of Minutes from last meeting Nov 2008 BOG**

Change on page 5 – correct the amount of loss from Winter Wake Up show.

Page 2 – correct spelling of Rusty Cooke – to Cook.

Page 2 – championship correct tailored to trailered

*Motion to approve Cindi O’ Shea, 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Barringer Richers. Minutes are approved as changed.*

**Nominations**

President – Alex Curnutte, Simone Windeler

VP – Mary Jo Hoepner, Cindy O’Shea

Treasurer Sharon Soos

Secretary

**Treasurers Report – Sharon Soos**

Current total in our accounts: \$82,672.41

Capital Campaign – we have less than \$6,000 to still send to USDF by the end of 2010.

Money Market account did not earn any money this year in comparison to almost \$900 last year. Championships earned an estimated \$3,000. Current income for 2010 (ads etc): Centaur \$6,162. Membership \$2,050. Omnibus for 2010 2,654. Currently P & L states a loss of \$14,031.13 if we simply use cash in and cash out. However if we take the money according to bookkeeping we state a profit of \$1,441.00 We are currently undergoing an audit from an outside bookkeeping firm. Discussion ensued on how to make it public.

The national organizations normally state to the membership that the audit has been completed and that it is available for the cost of printing and postage. A decision on how to publish the audit findings was made as a by-law change later during the meeting.

**Office Manager Report by Beth Geier:**

E-mails need to be current with Beth at the Central office. Please make sure that you do not block RMDS in your own e-mail program. Membership has been 945 for 2009 which is a decline from the past years.

TD reports have been positive, only 1 show had a problem that has been solved.

Central office takes care of RMDS officials (L graduates and TD’s).

There was a discussion about RMDS policy regarding the pony measurement stick. Since we did have some issues this year we have now a stated policy. Show management is to contact the central office regarding renting the stick. A rental fee and a damage deposit are required.

Chapter directors were under the RMDS D&O insurance for 2009 and we will have this insurance again 2010. Beth suggests that we need a person to help with acquiring advertising for both the Omnibus and the Centaur. Less than 10% of our membership have no e-mail so the e-mail blasts are a great way to reach the membership and have been successful. Heather suggests we add an Aug meeting for 2010 since now Sep is after championships.

### **Adult Amateur – report by Lori Mitchell**

Very good response from the Amateurs that rode with Leslie O’Neal Olsen in May. Clinic went very well and actually made a little money (\$197). The AA probably comprise most of our membership and Lori hoped to reach out to this group. Susan Rudman rode in the clinic and had a wonderful experience. She wants to thank Lori for organizing it. Also thanks to Freedom Farms for donating the facility. Auditing is always a challenge even if you bring in a big name. The group agreed that Lori did a great job stepping into this position, she also did a wonderful job helping out wherever RMDS needed help. Lori would like some feedback from the AA to help her bring in clinicians and design the program for the year. Team championships will probably be held again.

### **JR/YR Coordinator – Colleen McFadden**

Lots of fundraisers were held to support Region 5 team. Autumn Hill hosted the YR clinic. Also junior camp was held again and made a small profit. Autumn Hill also held a Jr/YR team competition which was a great success. Julie Barringer-Richers and Gwen Dordick started the Boulder Valley Youth Connection to reach out to young kids interested in dressage. ColleenMcFadden has been working on a comprehensive list of colleges that have equine programs and also the scholarships that are available. Costs of shows have been compared by Colleen and she found that many in-state providers did a better job and were more reasonable than out of state show management.

**Julie Barringer-Richers:** Jr/YR and Adult team competition was a lot of fun. There were adult and kids teams competing separately. Clinic with George Williams was awesome. Youth council is working on a youth clinic to address below FEI level riders. Young adult program through USDF is available for those that are over 21 to 28 years of age.

### **Awards – Lauren Smith**

This year’s budget was \$4,320.79. This was Lauren’s first year as the awards chair. She is hoping for some comments and feedback to run this better. She would like to have some sub committees to help. Lauren felt that the postcards were daunting and it might be better to do this via e-mail and the website. A central location for the banquet might be a good idea. For some reason there is negativity surrounding the awards chair and Lauren hopes to change that.

### **RMDS shows – Debbie Wilke**

We show a spike in entries for 2007 most likely because we had Region 5 championships. We assume that we have more out of state entries in RMDS championships plus more of our CO members showing up in those years because they also show in the Region 5. Having a statistical break down allows us to give more information to our sponsors and advertisers.

### **Heather Petersen – for Two White Feet as the contractor of RMDS run shows**

The Winter Wake Up show has now been moved to June 7 and 8 at Autumn Hill who generously donated most of the facility.

*Championships:* Sport horse competition was down in comparison to 2008. Show program paid for itself. We had increased numbers overall vs 2008. Overall the show made about \$3,000.

For 2010 we are required to have a stabling night service. The costs will be covered by the competitors. Championship warm-ups will no longer allow schooling horses. Trailers will not be allowed for championship entries so all horses need to have a stall either day or night stall for the show. We are working on getting more seating to the championship rings. We will continue party down at the barn rather than up top. Judges for next year are: Lilo Fore, Maryal Barnett, Paula Lacy, Janet Curtis, Natalie Lamping, Loris Henry, Trena Atkins.

### **Communications Report – Susan Rudman**

We have great people running the various communications forums with in RMDS – Omnibus – Nicole Bizzarro, Website – Michael Petersen, Centaur – Cathy Van Berg. Once again Susan stresses the importance of advertising and the membership trying to help with soliciting some advertisement.

Both the Omnibus and the Centaur lose significant amounts of money. Alex Curnutte suggests a sub committee to develop other options.

*Motion Tara Hough – Start a committee to explore the various options to deal with financials of the Centaur and the Omnibus. 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Curnutte. Motion passes.*

Susan Rudman resigned as communications chairman at this point.

### **Education – Heather Petersen**

RMDS continuing education for judges will be presented by Dolly Hannon at the Ft Collins Equestrian Center on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. TD cont education will be in Castle Rock Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a L program testing in 2010. Major symposium for 2010 or 2011 planned but no clarity on location or the clinician.

*Motion Beth Geier – Heather Petersen offered two seats at the dinner table with Steffen Peters and the proceeds are to go to the scholarship fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan Rudman. Motion passes.*

### **Marketing – Heater McEntee**

Heather presents some ideas for marketing and wants to start with a survey to get some ideas on how and what to target.

### **Scholarship – Loni Gaudet**

Scholarships were awarded to 4 recipients in both 2009 and 2010. For 2009 we gave \$500 each and for 2010 we gave \$400 each. Loni is suggesting a change of our policies which she is putting before the board. As the program was put into place, Loni found that some elements of the policy were not practical. For 2010 we are also going to require proof of volunteering.

The recipients for 2010 are: Mary Decker, MaryJo Hoepner, Rachel Motzinger, Judy Carnick.

### **Second Reading of Nominations**

President – Alex Curnutte, Simone Windeler

VP – Mary Jo Hoepner, Cindi O’Shea, Susan Rudman

Treasurer - Sharon Soos

Secretary –

Communications chair – Cathy Van Berg

### **USEF Conflict of Interest Policy**

Discussion ensued if we should adopt this policy or how we can formulate our own policy. Since this policy exist we should be operating under these rules already.

*Motion Colleen McFadden RMDS adopts the Code of Ehtics and Conflicts of Interest Policy as written. 2<sup>nd</sup> Heather Petersen. Motion has passed with two opposed.*

### **By-Law Changes**

## **2009**

*For discussion and possible changes* at the Board of Governors’ Meeting - November 14, 2009

Use the 2009 Omnibus for reference.

**RED** – Proposed change

**BLUE** – RMDS Executive Board recommendation

## **PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES**

(Need 2/3 vote) - page E-11 Article XIII, A.

### 1. Page E-6 VII Officers-D. 2: **Pat Leech**

Upon assuming office in January, the President shall appoint (with the approval of the Executive Board) an auditor who shall be charged with reviewing the financial records of the previous year. A full audit of the financial records must be performed with every change of Treasurer or at least every five (5) years. The auditor shall report the findings to the President and to the Executive Board.

Change – ADD the following to the last sentence

The auditor shall report the findings to the President and to the Executive Board **who will make the results available to the membership by publishing the audit findings in the Centaur and on the RMDS Web Page.**

Not supported - financial transparency already exists, as this information is available to every member upon request.

2. Page E-7 VII Officers-F: **Pat Leech**

Change: Reword the final sentence as follows:

The Secretary shall... and distribute immediately following each meeting a summary of the minutes of each meeting to all delegates of the Board of Governors, Executive Board members, Committee Chairpersons, and the editor of the Centaur **and will publish a copy of the minutes of each Executive Board meeting and the Board of Governors meeting in the Centaur and on the society web page.**

Not supported - Minutes are already on the website.

3. Page E-7 VII Officers-G: **Pat Leech**

Current Rule:

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have the responsibility of reporting to the Society and the Executive Board with regard to all financial matters involving the Society. The treasurer shall make known to the Executive Board, such recommendations and/or suggestions as to the manner in which the financial affairs of the Society are conducted. He/She shall prepare a budget for the Society, which shall be presented to the Executive Board prior to the annual Board of Governors meeting. The Treasurer shall provide a summary of the Society's finances to any member upon request.

Change: Reword the final sentence as follows:

The Treasurer shall provide a **current statement of the Society's finances to any member in good standing upon request and shall publish a year end statement for the current year and the budget for the upcoming year in the January edition of the Centaur and on the society web page.**

Not supported – available at the BOG or per written request

4. Page E-8 IX Executive Board-D: **Pat Leech**

D. The Executive Board shall have responsibility for the general management of the affairs of the Society.

Leave this rule intact and insert the following rule and renumber the remaining rules in this section.

Change: Add the following rule:

**E. Signatory authority for the RMDS checkbook will reside with the President and Treasurer and both signatures will be required for all checks written for the Society. All**

expenditures in excess of \$500.00 will require review and approval of the Executive Board before they are paid.

Not supported – we already require two signatures; expenditures are approved through the budget at BOG already; only any additional expenditures need to be approved by the Executive board

5. Page E-11 XIII Amendments to Bylaws & Standing Rules: **Pat Leech**  
Add Item D:

All proposed changes to the RMDS By-Laws and Standing Rules must be published as submitted and without change in the Society’s newsletter at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting date of the Board of Governors and in each issue thereafter until the meeting date. i.e. if the Board of Governors meeting is in November, the proposed rule changes will be published in the August, September and October issues of the newsletter.

Not supported – logistically very difficult and could possibly limit how we can respond to changes of USEF and USDF

### **PROPOSED STANDING RULES CHANGES**

(Need majority vote) – page E-11 Article XIII, A.

6. Page E-12 I. JUDGES: **Executive Board**-housekeeping  
Change & add:

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society (RMDS) shall develop and maintain a list of recognized dressage judges. **Two (2)** categories of individuals are eligible to be recognized as judges at RMDS recognized shows

- A. Any judge recognized by US Equestrian Federation or any FEI or foreign judge holding registration for judging dressage in his/her own country is recognized by RMDS.
- B. Any USDF “L” Graduate or any judge recognized by the USDF who is in compliance with the RMDS “L” Graduate Judges recognized officials program (**Section VII.**) shall be recognized by RMDS

Recommended since there are only two categories

7. Page E-12 II. TECHNICAL DELEGATES: **Executive Board**-housekeeping

The Society shall develop and maintain a list of recognized Dressage Technical Delegates. Two (2) categories of individuals are recognized as RMDS approved Technical Delegates. **The duties of the RMDS Dressage Technical Delegate at RMDS approved shows are equivalent to those of the US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegate as outlined in the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book.**

- A. Any US Equestrian Federation or FEI approved Dressage or Combined Training Technical Delegate or Steward may officiate at RMDS only recognized competitions.

- B. Any approved RMDS Technical Delegate who is in compliance with the RMDS Technical Delegates program (**Section VI**) for continuing recognition may officiate at competitions recognized only by RMDS.

DELETE & Place up in description: C. The duties of the RMDS Dressage Technical Delegate at RMDS approved shows are equivalent to those of the US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegate as outlined in the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book.

Recommended since clarifies how the paragraph reads

8. Page E-13 III RMDS Recognized/Approved Competitions-K.1. **Executive Board**-housekeeping

K. At RMDS only recognized shows; all US Equestrian Federation rules regarding competitions shall be followed with the following exceptions:

1. DELETE: RMDS requires having medical personnel, as defined by US Equestrian Federation, (Article 1211.5) on the show grounds. The telephone numbers of the nearest emergency facility and an ambulance service must be posted at the show office.

Recommended since it puts us back in compliance with USEF rules and is redundant as stated

9. Page E-13 III RMDS Recognized/Approved Competitions.K.2: **Pat Leech**  
ADD:

The distance between RMDS Recognized Competitions **held on the same date** shall be a minimum of 50 miles.

Recommended since it clarifies

10. Page E-13 III RMDS Recognized/Approved Competitions K.: **Heather Petersen**

Add 4.

RMDS does not require a veterinarian be present for pony measurements. Pony measurements may be conducted at RMDS ONLY recognized competitions by the technical delegate and the presiding judge with a USEF approved and numbered measuring stick. A veterinarian may be used instead of a judge if the competition desires, but it is not required.

Recommended since it saves money



11. Page E-16 V Awards – Year-End A.8.b.: **Executive Board**-housekeeping  
Delete: Adult/Amateur classes or divisions are open to riders who have reached their 21st birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year and who enjoy Amateur status as defined in the current US Equestrian Federation Rule Book. A current US Equestrian Federation Amateur Card shall be required as proof of amateur status.  
Replace with: **Adult/Amateur classes or divisions are open to riders who have reached or will reach their 22nd birthday of the current calendar year. A current US Equestrian Federation Amateur Card shall be required as proof of amateur status.**

Recommend a change to be in compliance with USEF

12. Page E-19 V Awards – Year-End F.4.e. **Executive Board**-housekeeping  
DELETE and replace:  
Scores from open **and championship classes** will count towards year-end awards. **Classes for specific breeds will not count.**

Recommend because it makes us compliant with similar USDF policies

13. Page E-24 XIII Compensated Professional Services B. **Pat Leech**  
Any official of RMDS who serves in a paid position may not vote on issues pertaining to that position.

Change - Reword as follows

**Any individual or immediate member of their family who is in a contractual relationship or holds a compensated position between themselves and RMDS or one of its chapters may NOT hold a position on any of the following governing boards:**

1. **RMDS Executive Board**
2. **Chapter Executive Board**
3. **RMDS Board of Governors Delegate**

Not recommended – the exec board will present a policy regarding conflict of interest

14. Page E-28 XIV RMDS Championship Show C.1. **Pat Leech**

Add:

- d. **All qualified entries for the RMDS Young Horse and Mature Horse Sport Horse Breed Championship classes will be shown individually on the triangle, a score sheet will be completed by each officiating judge, and the average of the scores will be used to place the participants. The highest placed horse from each division (Young Horse or Mature Horse) will be the division Champion, while the second highest placed horse from each division will be the division Reserve Champion.**

Recommended but need to strike the last sentence

**Extraordinary Standing Rule Change:**

15. Page E-13 K.

ADD: 4. RMDS only recognized shows will be run in accordance to USEF Dressage Competition Level One rules.

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## **Actual voting and results on above proposed By-Law and Standing Rule changes**

1. Pat Leech amends: who will notify the membership that the audit findings are available upon request from the Central Office. Motion has passed. 49 yea, 1 nay
2. Pat Leech amends: and will make a copy of the minutes available to the membership. Motion has passed 50 yea
3. Pat Leech amends: current statement of the Society's finances to any member in good standing upon request. Motion has passed: 47 yea, 3 nay
4. Motion has failed. 50 nay
5. Pat Leech amends: drops add item D and we are changing in Article 13, B – replace the words: Delegates of the BOG with “membership”. Motion passed. 50 yea
6. Motion passed
7. Motion passed
8. Motion passed
9. Motion passed
10. Motion passed
11. Motion passed
12. Motion passed
13. Motion failed.
14. Motion failed.
15. Motion passed.

### **Presentation of the Scholarship Awards**

All recipients gave a short speech on their background and how they are planning to use the scholarship money. A check of \$400 was handed out to each scholarship recipient.

### **Budget**

We collect \$55 per member but part goes to USDF and part goes to each chapter. Therefore our net income is about \$26,000 and our expenditures are about \$46,500.

***Motion: Heather Petersen – use the championship funds and income from Lendon Gray clinic (about \$3600) plus use the difference from the general fund to pay off the remainder to the Capital Campaign Fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> Gwen Ka'awaloa. Motion passed.***

***Motion to approve the amended budget Colleen McFadden, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cindi O'Shea. Motion passed.***

The detailed numbers of the budget are available to any RMDS member in good standing by contacting the Central Office.

### **Old Business:**

Laura Speer states that most of the meeting at the USDF convention 2008 was spent talking about the budget. The feedback for the location in Denver was great. They liked the location and the outstanding volunteers. If you have any concerns or opinions please contact your representatives.

### **New Business:**

2010 Show Schedule – Beth passed out the schedule and it will be put on the website.

*Motion by Heather Petersen to recognize the RMDS shows as a AQHA official show and pay the fees as needed. 2<sup>nd</sup> MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passes.*

2011 championships – possible change of venue.

Opportunity classes – how should we recognize them?

*Motion Heather Petersen: Opportunity classes should count towards RMDS year-end awards if the horse and rider and owner have RMDS membership. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dolly Hannon. Motion passed.*

Penrose chapter requests another year of being inactive or dissolve the chapter.

*Motion Beth Geier: We should dissolve the Penrose Chapter. 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan Rudman.*

The remaining funds need to be dispersed according to their bylaws and RMDS bylaws after they pay for their 2009 tax preparation. *Motion passed.*

### **Nominations for officers**

President: Alex Curnutte, Simone Windeler

Vice President: Mary Jo Hoepner, Cindy O’Shea, Susan Rudman

The above candidates gave a short statement about their plans in case they are elected

Secretary:

Treasurer: Sharon Soos

### **Elected:**

New president for RMDS: Simone Windeler

Vice President: MaryJo Hoepner

Treasurer: Sharon Soos

### **Appointed:**

Communications chair for a one year term: Cathy Van Berg

Nominated for secretary: Susan Rudman – Susan Rudman has been elected.

### **Chapter reports**

*Dolly Hannon makes a motion to accept reports as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan Rudman. Motion passed.*

### **Arkansas Valley**

Held 3 shows in 2009. The shows did well. The club is reaching out to the community and getting known. The last show gave \$250 profit to Renee's Friends Fund. The club plans to buy their own dressage arena and also to invite a clinician.

### **Boulder Valley**

Had a busy and successful 2009. Put on two recognized RMDS shows also co-sponsored the Youth and Adult Team competition. They held many educational events that were well received. They are planning to once again hold two RMDS shows in 2010 as well as schooling shows in the Ride-A-Test format.

### **Colorado Springs**

Held two fully recognized shows in 2009. Dressage for the Cure gave close to \$8,000 to Renee's Friends Fund. Several educational events were held. They are planning on two fully recognized shows in 2010.

### **Foothills**

Held regular meetings and has a healthy account. Held some educational events. Sponsored attendance for Ellen Storeim to attend the AA clinic.

### **Grand Valley**

No written report.

### **High Plains**

Had a big beginning and a big end to the year. They co-sponsored the Rocky Mtn Horse Expo. Sharon Soos did an outstanding job with this. In Nov they sponsored the Hilda Gurney symposium which was a great success. Bank account is health and they are planning another symposium for 2010.

### **Northern Colorado**

Held schooling shows and a fully recognized show in WY, which was a success in spite of the weather. Also hosted the Jan Ebeling clinic. Planning another big clinician for 2010. The recognized show will be held at the Ft Collins Equestrian Center in 2010.

### **Tri State**

Held a successful schooling show in Riverton and had a clinic with the judge, Marina Davis the next day. The distance to educational events and clinics is always an issue for this wide-spread membership.

### **Wasatch Mountain Dressage**

Is the newest chapter for RMDS. Sponsored a clinic for Jr/YR. Clinicians come to the area on a regular basis. Has a Facebook page that is well received.

**Western CO**

Has a healthy bank account. Held 3 well attended schooling shows. There are regular clinics available that are not sponsored by the chapter but well attended by chapter members.

*Adjourned 5:04 pm.*

Respectfully submitted by: Simone Windeler, RMDS secretary