

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Panera Bread until 8:00pm

Darcy's Bistro & Irish Pub – 303-770-0477

January 8, 2015

Attendance: Nicole Bizzarro, Sue Borders, Kerry Louise Boucher, Aline Brandau, Julie Burt, Frances Carbonnel, Kris Cooper, Didi DeKrey, Robin Gay, Beth Geier, Jon Haugen, Olga Hendrickson, MaryJo Hoepner, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Pat Leech, Renee Martig, Heather Petersen

Proxy: Simone Windeler to Heather Petersen, Laura Speer to Robin Gay, Beth Hart to Pat Leech, Barbara Graham Terry to Heather Petersen, Nina Felsenthal to Gwen Ka'awaloa, Shannon Lemons to Gwen Ka'awaloa.

Guests: Sarah Dodge, Bill Borders, Jim Cooper

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Gwen called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Appointed Beth Geier, temporary secretary

Secretary - Approval of Minutes

Gwen Ka'awaloa in place of Nina Felsenthal

MaryJo Hoepner moved to approve the October minutes as submitted. Heather Petersen seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report

Beth Geier in place of Sharon Soos

Funds as of December 31, 2014

RMDS Checking Account	\$39,888.13
Paypal Account (as of 12/17/14)	\$ 7,545.67
Scholarship Account	\$ 7,097.63
Money Market	\$44,169.36
Total	\$98,700.79

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

The 2014 USDF Convention was cold, good convention and a lot was accomplished. Region 5 was organized and attended many meetings. Colorado had, in quite a while, an Instructors' testing that had 100% pass rate. USDF membership appears to be stable and there is a good cash flow. 2015 USDF Convention will be at the Rio in Las Vegas. 2016 will be in St. Louis.

Vice-President Report

Aline Brandau

After a full year with the RMDS Board I have to thank all of you for greatly enriching my life and expanding my horizons. I still remember growing up with no money and wanting to do this sport. I would travel with my instructor, Bonna McCuiston all over the Mid-West to attend shows that were infrequent and far between. Because I owed her everything, her obstacles became mine. I knew in my heart I was too pragmatic, and financially conservative to ever dream of a life that involved dressage. So I glommed onto Bonna. She had a wonderful dream, and was not afraid of the artists, clinicians and judges who all seemed intimidating and overwhelming to me as a 12 year old. If I worked long and hard enough as a groom, I knew I could watch the clinics, cool out and bathe the horses, and maybe ride a little. As a result, if there was a nasty horse to groom or ride, that became my job. As is usual with horse crazy folks, I fell even more in love with horses because of this. I was needed, and I was called upon when things got dangerous. Horses were never really nasty, they just seemed nervous, and needed time and a rock solid person to lead them. I loved the effect I could have on horses, which I never could attain with people. Horses listened. Horses learned. Horses came around eventually. This skill turned into my first job with horses, breaking and training horses for a local hunter/jumper farm.

I stayed in that position for twelve years, and this is when I started to instruct people in dressage. Janet Royer owned the farm where I worked and we became best friends. She supplied all the horses, tack, and students I needed to start my own business. I was 15 years old and she was 25 at the time. I have always had a thing for older women! While I was training at Arbutus Hill Farm, I kept taking lessons from Bonna and the clinicians she brought in for us. I kept my business a secret as, in those days, no one under the age of 40 could teach dressage! I worked grooming, and cleaning Bonna's house. My father finally decided to help me and gave me two lessons a week. But owning a horse was out of my reach. I always leased horses, or rode horses no one wanted to ride, until the horses became easy to ride, and properly trained in dressage. My dream was

to go over to Germany and study with the greats, but I never truly wanted to let go of myself that much. I have always been afraid of success. I do not like to lose control. I want to know what I have and where I want to go and how to get there. I do not like people putting me on a pedestal. Because of this, it has been difficult for me to show in dressage. I have had to humble myself and just get myself out there. Private clinics have never been a problem for me. I have been discussing dressage with clinicians since I was 12 years old. But actually squeezing myself into those white breeches, and "presenting my horse" has been difficult. I always liked to be the supporter, the coach, or just the groom! I was born a dressage Mom, and it has been a totally different experience to show my own horses.

Applying for the Vice President position with RMDS was another one of those, "just do it," moments. I can't believe I waited this long to get involved with our local dressage community! I can tell you that part of the reason is that I experienced the board members in Indiana, and I thought they were aloof and unhelpful. Once I decided to become a delegate, I was impressed by how personable the RMDS members were at the Board of Governors. One of my favorite things about Colorado is that there are a lot of dressage trainers. Growing up there were about three trainers in all of Indiana. Bonna and I discussed this at the last USDF Annual Convention. She told me that it has been very frustrating to her, and she believes it is one of the main reasons why the sport has not grown in the Mid-West.

I have two goals this year that are very important to me as the Vice President of RMDS. I would like to ensure that the Professional's Committee is successful in supporting and engaging all dressage trainers who want to be involved with us. I would also like to grow our marketing presence, and become more active in bringing in funds from sponsors and from advertising. I would like to create more of a seamless stream of communication between advertising sales and print creation.

I believe we can grow our sport by supporting trainers in education and encouraging an exchange of ideas and training practices. Sarah Dodge and I recently met with many different dressage trainers. Sarah has asked me to interface with RMDS, so that we can start holding trainer meetings, and scheduling clinics for trainers to increase educational opportunities. I discussed this with Simone Windeler, our Professional's Committee Chair, before she went to Germany. She said she could not attend the first trainer's meeting, but I was allowed to "run with it."

I called Beth Geier and got the RMDS Trainer contact list. Sarah did not feel comfortable using the list until she had the first meeting, to see if trainers were even interested in forming a group. After the first meeting, Sarah told me that she would love to work with RMDS to make the trainer's meetings a success. At the USDF Annual Convention, Sarah Martin approached Gwen, Beth, Heather and I, and we discussed our ideas regarding the Professional's Committee. Sarah suggested we have a yearly meeting, possibly coinciding with the Regional Championships, so that we might better communicate and make plans for the trainer's educational events. I suggested that we have Christoph Hess as our first Trainer's Series Clinician. Sarah Dodge had asked me if Hess was a possibility, as she would like to help to organize and market this event. I am excited about these new developments, and I think we can utilize more trainer input. My goal is to make our shows more exciting and rewarding by including trainers in the planning stages, which will give us a broader base of support and more marketing power.

My other goal this year is to become more involved in marketing RMDS to our members and the outside world. I was on the phone quite a bit marketing, but I would like to have a better chance for follow through this year. I need to have more impact on getting ads and sponsorship. It has been shown that people commit to something between the 8th and 12th time they are approached with an idea. In other words, marketing takes a lot of phone time and face time. I cannot just hand off the order, comments, and contacts. I have to make sure the people I am talking to regarding ads or sponsorship get connected with our publications and activities. I would like to have more contact with Beverly Swanson and Beth Geier regarding marketing this year. I look forward to it!

My long term goal is to eventually be more active in supporting our Young Rider Program. If I had an indoor arena, I would gladly host a camp for young riders. My goal is to have an indoor arena in five years. The impact of Bonna McCuiston and her constant support of me inspires me to want to give to this sport in a big way. After attending the USDF Annual Convention, I am convinced I want to include them in my will. Big changes occur when many people are willing to give what they can and commit to furthering dressage in the United States. RMDS has had a huge impact on my enjoyment of the community of dressage. I thank you so much for allowing me to serve as Vice President.

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 398 members for 2015 – 4 are Centaur only – 4 are Education. 14 new horses since October 1, 2014
- Dues now \$65.00 until next year

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Members:	398	773	827	797
Horses:	14	63	59	135
AV	17	26	27	25
BV	87	171	180	182
CS	20	47	52	63
FH	33	76	64	65
GV	32	55	71	53
HP	76	151	176	190
NC	53	89	94	93
OB	20	33	22	-
PP	37	63	62	44
PR	6	11	18	14
WA	6	21	26	28
WC	7	19	23	27
No Chapter	4	11	12	13
Education	4			
PN				
TS				
TOTAL	398	773	827	797
Juniors	130	95	120	117
Amateurs	66	176	209	220

Shows: 40 USEF/USDF recognized shows for 2015 (3 less) - 6 are RMDS only shows (1 less).

- Added a show: June 26, 2015 Showing on a Shoestring-Heber City, UT

Recognized Officials:

- TD Test will need to be taken in the Fall of 2015

Omnibus:

- Have collected \$11476.50 so far. \$125.00 still outstanding.

General:

- Received \$1200.00 sponsor for the Instructor Clinic
- Need help with advertising for everything!!!!!!!
- Centaur needs articles coming in
- The Dressage Foundation-Century Club donation-\$100.00

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

2015: Jan 8 March 12 May 14 July 7 (Tuesday) September 10 Oct 8-Budget Nov 21 BOG

A motion was made by MaryJo Hoepner to approve sending \$100.00 to the Dressage Foundation for the Century Club.

Seconded by Kerry Boucher. Motion approved - unanimous

Permanent Committee Reports:

1.Scholarship

MaryJo Hoepner

1. 5 RMDS members met to evaluate the scholarship applications at 5 p.m. Monday January 5. We reviewed 6 applications. The summary and recommendations will be discussed at the board meeting Thursday January 8

2. For planning purposes, the next scheduled meeting to discuss and evaluate scholarship applications will be the Monday prior to the January board meeting of 2016. Meeting will be in Falcon.

3. Recommendation -- that each chapter's Scholarship representative solicits applications for the 4 categories.

Four Categories were presented for approval for scholarships: The committee was: MaryJo Hoepner, Heather Petersen, Bill & Sue Borders, Kerry Boucher. There were six applicants. One applicant applied for two different scholarships. **Robin Gay made the motion to approve the applicants as presented. Seconded by Aline Brandau. Winners were approved. Jon Haugen abstained.**

Leg Up winner: Sarah Jean Reega

Solid Seat winner: Elizabeth Jo Leverock

Open Door winner: Andree Hunt

JR/YR winner: Whitney Haugen

The Board suggested that Joan Clay might write an article on "How to fill out an Application"

2. Adult Amateur

Didi DeKrey

Looking out at the snow blowing across the pastures, I sigh and wonder how my "ponies" and I will ever be ready for riding – be it at clinics, shows, or on the trails! Such is the way winter always is in our beautiful Rocky Mountain region!

Of course, there are upcoming events to get us in the saddle again. New tests will challenge riders and mounts and to get ready the RMDS Education Committee is providing a *New Test Clinic* presented by FEI Judge Kristi Wysocki in February.

Other RMDS events that are open to us include:

TD and Show Management clinics in February (I've been to both and plan to again)

The *L judge Continuing Education* – open to all as auditors (January and March)

Freestyle Judging Clinic (January)

Check out the January issue of *Centaur* for the upcoming calendar and articles!

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. I have been involved with horses all my life, nothing super glamorous, started with pony rides and trail rides until I bought my first mare as a teenager and began riding Hunter/Jumper. I've been in love with Dressage for many (not saying how many) years, and am a firm believer in the communication it provides between horse and rider – no matter what your preferred style may be.

The last several years I have been active with my chapter (Northern Colorado Dressage Association) acting as our Vice President and fall schooling show secretary. I recently completed the RMDS Technical Delegate program and have enjoyed the insights of national show officials around the country. This year begins full-time retirement status, so feel free to call me! I have been talking with some of you, my fellow AAs, and hope to speak with more. I am interested in your hopes, your hesitations, your excitements, and your ideas! I hope I can encourage a two-way communication between us all. Our Board is providing various venues for us all to be involved and progress towards our goals.

Please, continue to be involved with your local clubs; interact with fellow chapters; document any of your volunteering times (use the RMDS form!). Volunteering not only helps the activity, but also can be used to apply towards the scholarships and grants available for us.

Gwen suggested that the chairman of the Adult Amateurs encourages all AA's to attend clinics as they are all amateur friendly.

3. Awards

Shannon Lemons

2014 Awards –

All corrections, requests for additional copies of awards, awards not picked up have been sent out.

I am still getting incorrect address returned postcards from notifications sent out in October! So I am concerned that there may be some ribbons and plaques lost in the mail somewhere and it may literally be months before we know of the problem. Recently, I received an envelope with a plate back from 2013!

It will be very important that people check the addresses with the central office – suggest that we add that to the score check reminders so that corrections are made before labels are printed.

2015 Project –

Create a web page on RMDS site to highlight retired trophies in photographs and with lists of their previous winners – this will eliminate the need for maintaining multiple large plaques with trophies that we keep.

Trophies that are replaced – some are quite valuable. Will approach original donors where possible. Otherwise, what about trying to sell some of them on eBay to help fund the awards program?

Instead of going onto eBay, it was suggested to provide a fundraiser for the trophies and have an auction among the members. Present the trophy at the Championships, open it up for bidding, and present it at the Awards Banquet. Frances Carbonnel volunteered to help with this project.

4. Communications

Kerry Boucher

Happy New Year everyone. I hope the holidays were relaxing for you all and that we are all ready for a new year to start! As I start my journey as the Communications Chair I am really looking forwards to contributing my time to such a great organization. RMDS is such a BIG part of our close knit dressage community. I look forwards to getting to know everyone a little better over the next 2 years of office!

Looking ahead through the year there are ample opportunities to audit or participate in RMDS educational events. Anyone who is interested in taking notes, pictures and then writing a short article on their experience please get in touch with either myself or Beverly. We'd love to get your experience in the Centaur for others who may not have been able to attend, to 'live vicariously' through!

I'm looking forwards to a productive year with RMDS.

Gwen discussed that the March issue of the Centaur will be dedicated to Veronica Holt and her accomplishments.

Heather Petersen told us Region 5 is sponsoring the Veronica Holt Perpetual trophy to be presented at National Championships to the winner of the open Grand Prix division. She asked if RMDS would like to help towards this trophy.

Robin Gay made the motion to donate \$250.00 towards the plaque and base of the trophy. MaryJo Hoepner seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Dressage Foundation will be offering a grant for educational opportunities for technical delegates in Veronica's name.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| a. Centaur | Beverly Swanson |
| b. Omnibus | Nicole Bizarro |
| The Omnibus is at the printer's and should be out by the end of the month. | |
| c. Website | Michael Petersen |
| Gave statistics that the average hit on the website for trainers is 77 per month. | |

5. Education

Jon Haugen

- 2015 will be another busy year for education with plenty of opportunities for all to learn.
- Jan 10-11 will be the 'B' Session of the "L" Program. This session will be presented by Bill Solyntjes at the Larimer County Fairgrounds and Tomora.
- Jan 31, Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez will instruct the USDF "L" Program CE focusing on judging the freestyle. Again at the Larimer County Fairgrounds.
- Feb 21 is the TD/Show Management clinic given by Heather Petersen and Laurie MacTavish. This will take place at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.
- Feb. 28, Kristi Wysocki will present the New Test Clinic at Lookout Ridge in Longmont.
- March 14-15 at Iron Horse Farm (pm) and the Douglas County Fairgrounds (am) will be the 'C' Session of the "L" Program, presented by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez.
- May 30-31, Aug 1-2, will be the "L" Program D1 and D2. The Final will be in Arizona on Oct 31-Nov 1.
- I'm also trying to find a date, probably in March, for a scribing clinic.

5 a. Programs Report

Heather Petersen

New Test Clinic – February 28, 2015:

- Contract received back from Kristi.
- Approximately half the demo horse slots are full. If anyone is interested, please let me know.
- Registrations slowly coming in. Was just published in Centaur, so that will help. Will also do email blasts after the completion of the L program B session this coming weekend.
- Have reserved chairs with a Longmont rental company. Lookout Ridge has nice sound system we can use.

2015 L program Part 2:

- We have filled all 10 slots.
- 6 participants are RMDS members, 4 participants are non-members. 6 participants from Colorado, 2 from Montana, 1 from Texas, 1 from Minnesota.

- Wait list established. Currently have 2 folks from outside of our Part 1 program on the wait list.
- Final approval of participants will be given from USDF after the C session, so good to keep our wait list in case approval is not given for any of the 10.
- Contracts have been sent out to all the instructors and examiners.
- Working with Show Management of show where the finals will take place to get discounted group rates in association with the horse show. Will reserve a room at that point for the written exam, hopefully at one of the host hotels.

Professional Clinic-May 15-16 with Christoph Hess

Site for the clinic was discussed. **Motion made by Heather Petersen to have it at Iron Spring Farm for \$200.00 per day in Elizabeth, CO seconded by MaryJo Hoepner. Approved unanimously**

Committee to select riders: Beth Geier, Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, Heather Petersen. Only RMDS members who are trainers may attend.

6. Junior/Young Riders

Julie Burt

2015 Clinic Series: suggested clinics included: Star Hughes /Vaulting at Stellar Farm; a seat clinic: lunge on the horse and then how to lunge a horse; Ride-A-Test; Show preparations. Any suggestions??

7. Marketing

Aline Brandau

- Worked on getting ads for the Omnibus.
- Helping Sarah Dodge to get cohesiveness among the trainers.
Suggestions were made to encourage participation among the trainers and cooperation: articles in the Centaur with a link to Sarah Dodge's email; encourage trainers to attend the meetings.

8. Professional Trainers/Riders Committee

Simone Windeler

Discussed earlier – The Christoph Hess clinic for RMDS members who are trainers.

9. Shows – Championship

Beverly Swanson

Heather Petersen asked if RMDS would like to put in a bid for the Region 5 Championships for 2016.

Robin Gay moved that RMDS does submit the bid for 2016. Aline Brandau seconded. Motion passed. Abstain: Heather Petersen, Jon Haugen

Appointed Committee Reports:

- 1. Western Dressage Liaison** Frances Carbonnel
No report
- 2. Nominating Committee** – Chapter Presidents ??? a chapter president NEED
Need nominees for 2 years: Vice-President (1 year),
President, Treasurer, Secretary, Awards, Education,
Marketing, Professional

Olga Hendrickson volunteered to head up this group.

- 3. Historical Committee-Archives**
No report
- 4. BOG – November 21, 2015** NEED
- 5. Banquet – January 8, 2016-same place** Laura Speer

I have been going back and forth over the banquet and have decided that I can no longer chair that committee. I just don't have the time or will power over Christmas (and the winter) to give to the event if it is held in January. Also, my husband is working long hours which leaves me with the farm & livestock to attend to myself (and we all know how miserable that can be in the winter and with short daylight hours.)

Deb Hoover, the Renaissance Catering Manager, can be reached at 303-399-7500. She said the first Saturday in January was available which would be January 2, 2016. After that, she said the hotel was booked through February. The next chair could check with her again to confirm the 2nd or check on another date (the next weekend?) in case there have been changes to their schedule and another date has opened up.

On the Bit Dressage (the WY chapter) was the winner of the media package with a winning bid of \$200. The banquet auction made \$1200! Over \$600 was made for the Scholarship fund. I will follow-up with a complete P&L statement--just haven't had time over the holidays and with the cold & snowy weather.

I will miss being a part of RMDS as the Banquet Chair and wish the next chairperson all the success and fun that I had organizing this super event!

Laura's resignation reluctantly accepted.

Moved to Darcy's Pub & Grill

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Hope everyone is having a great start to the New Year! We've had a lot of snow at my new home, some cold days and a few very nice warm ones too. I do love having an indoor though, gives me very few excuses and allows me to enjoy my horses almost every day. Just a few things this month...

We are accepting bids for the 2016 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships through February 16th. If anyone is interesting in placing a bid for the Regional Championships or has any questions about the process, please contact myself or the USDF office and we'll be happy to help! The final date for a Regional Championship to be held in 2016 will be October 16th in order to fit into the National Championship time frame, so please keep that in mind when looking at facilities and possible weekends.

If you have an educational activity that your barn, group or organization is doing, please let me know so I can add it to the Region 5 educational activity calendar that is sent out with the monthly Regional updates by USDF. We would love to keep everyone as informed as possible. There are many wonderful clinics and symposiums being offered all over our region that folks can audit or ride in.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the USDF/Platinum Performance North American Junior/Young Rider Dressage Championships, then your application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by April 1st in order to avoid stiffer fees. Final application deadline is April 30th, though again, the fees are 6 times as much, and absolutely no applications will be accepted after April 30th. If you plan to compete for NAJYRC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is jnclay@comcast.net and her phone number is 970.420.0887.

- A reminder that PM delegates for the 2015 USDF convention are now being sought. There is \$200 reimbursement available.

Old Business:

Banquet dates for 2015. Since Laura Speer resigned, Beth Geier will look into dates available. We do need to find a chairman.

New Business:

D & O insurance for the chapters.

All chapters are covered except Colorado Springs chapter. Need 50% of the officers to be members of RMDS. Names in red are not current with RMDS as of January 8, 2015.

RMDS - OFFICERS 2015		
Chapter	Title	Name
Arkansas Valley	President	Beth Hart
	VP	Faith Narkiewicz
	Treasurer	Candace Bridgers
	Secretary	Renee McMillen
Boulder Valley	President	Robin Gay
	VP	Kristi Cooper-Camp
	Treasurer	Beth Geier
	Secretary	Nicole Donohue
Colorado Springs	President	Pat Leech
	VP	Laura Backus
	Treasurer	Jennifer Glass
	Secretary	Claudette Van Pelt
Foothills	President	Kristi Cooper
	VP	Jan Danis

	Treasurer	Laura Quakenbusch
	Secretary	Nicole Riffe
Grand Valley	President	Arlene Rhodes
	VP	Pat White
	Treasurer	Susan Gregg
	Secretary	Deb Crooks
High Plains	President	Olga Hendrickson
	VP	Suzie Halle
	Treasurer	Virginia Williams
	Secretary	Sheila McCabe
Northern Colo	President	Renee Martig
	VP	Denise "Didi" DeKrey
	Treasurer	Pat Schultheiss Cole
	Secretary	Kathleen Kilkelly
On the Bit Dressage	President	Jessica Ford
	VP	Kelly Wolfe
	Treasurer	Tammy au France
	Secretary	Stephanie Gies
Pikes Peak Dressage	President	Susan Borders
	VP	Kerry-Louise Boucher Miller
	Treasurer	Erin Ashby
	Secretary	Heather Petersen
Platte River	President	Laura Speer
	VP	Peter Soos
	Treasurer	Sharon Soos
	Secretary	Sharon Soos
Wasatch Mountains	President	Sally Shaffer
	VP	Terrece Pearman
	Treasurer	Connie Wright
	Secretary	Amanda Trickett
Western Colo	President	Barbara Graham Terry
	VP	Sue Pietrzak
	Treasurer	Justina Potter
	Secretary	Barbara McElnea

Motion made to accept the chapter reports as presented by Robin Gay. Seconded by Renee Martig Motion passed.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Beth Hart

The club gathered together in December for our annual yearly party event. It was well attended and much fun and great food for all.

On January 3rd, the old and new board will be meeting to transfer all documents and answer any questions.

On Saturday January 25th, the club will be meeting to work on our show, clinic, etc. schedule for 2015. We have the show schedule for RMDS and will work around its schedule as much as possible.

2. Boulder Valley

Robin Gay

- Our newest official members are:

Pres: Robin Gay

VP Kristi Cooper-Camp

Sec Nicole Donohue

Treas Beth Geier

-Some others that are working on things are:

Meredith Searcy-- communications (web-site) Danielle Culver-- Scholarships (her new job has added some time restraints to her schedule, so please give her lots of notice and Congratulations to her on her new job!!) She has also talked about

working to create info for new members on filling out your first entry form, I will follow up with her and assist her in getting this progressed.

-This spring we will be starting off with our Ride-a-test and Spring Fling, both located at Singletree Farm in Boulder. Debbie Riel-Rodriguez, who is an "S" judge, will be doing Sunday!! -This presents a great opportunity for a first show outing for many of trainer, young horses and students in a friendly atmosphere with a well-known and respected judge.

-BVD also is working to encouraged its members to take advantage of the many educational opportunities currently out there by offering its members a 50% reimbursement for their auditing fees up to \$45.

-At our last meeting we had some wonderful ideas including trying to start some sort of a "buddy" system to encourage more some of our more experience members to be willing to take new members or even new boarders at their barns "under their wing" and help guide them in learning the ropes. We feel that this will not only make great friendships, but might make getting involved a bit more user friendly.

3. Colorado Springs

Pat Leech

No report in attendance

4. Foothills

Kris Cooper

Report given at meeting. in attendance

5. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

-Grand Valley Dressage Society has a new Board for the 2015 year. Arlene Rhodes, President, and Pat White, Vice President, are newly elected officers. Deb Crooks as Secretary and Susan Gregg as Treasurer are our returning elected officers.

-We have a couple of new things going on this year that we are looking forward to that may of interest. Our club members strongly support training clinics and we have a large growing Western Dressage contingent have been entering our schooling shows. In fact, our high point award for the schooling shows often goes to a Western Dressage rider. We decided that when we hold our RMDS/USDF/USEF recognized show on September 5 and 6, we wanted to include activities in which a majority of the membership could participate. So, on Friday, September 5, the day before our recognized show we will hold a Western Dressage only show. We will be planning special awards for this event in the coming months. Our Judge for the weekend will be Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez and she has graciously offered part of her fourth day to teach lessons for a clinic. Every club member will be able to find an activity that weekend to interest them - either through entering, volunteering or spectating!

-Our second news item for next year is the expected completion of a second covered competition arena at the Mesa County fairgrounds. This second covered arena is to have superior footing and its own warm up arena. The newly built stabling, plus two large covered arenas have enabled Mesa County to be a venue for several regional and national equestrian events. All the 2015 GVDS schooling shows and as well as our recognized show will be held in this new arena. We are very excited to have such excellent facilities in our area.

6. High Plains

Olga Hendrickson

President: Olga Hendrickson

Vice President: Suzie Halle

Treasurer: Virginia Williams

Secretary: Sheila McCabe

-First Meeting: January 12, 2015 1 pm Stellar Stables Parker, CO

-Tentative plans for this year's events will be defined at pending meetings. Last year events included:

Farm-to-Stable Baked organic cookies for our horses

Tack Shack, Wild Blue and Cinderella Ranch Meetings and Shopping

Ran the auditors portion of Christine Taurig Clinic

Ran clinic for riders and auditors of Andreas Hausberger

7. Northern Colorado

Renee Martig

Our election was held at the November meeting and there were no new nominations. Our current board agreed to remain in place for another year.

Renee Martig- President

Didi DeKrey- Vice President

Kathleen Kilkelly- Secretary

Pat Cole- Treasurer

Julie Haugen- Committee Chair

-Our vice president, Didi DeKrey was elected as Adult Amateur Chair at the RMDS BOG November 15th 2014. Didi is looking forward to working with Jon Haugen on more programs for the Adult Amateurs.

We appointed Julie Haugen as our Committee Chair Officer and fifth board member. Julie will oversee the planning of events for NCDA. She presented an idea of holding a Ride-A-Test in the spring followed by three schooling shows throughout the year with accumulating points for year-end awards. The USDF Team Competition will be included as one of the shows for NCDA members.

-This spring we hope to finally have a cross training clinic with Sarah Barnes. We're also offering a sign-up sheet for members interested in trail riding. A network to send an email if someone wants to organize an impromptu ride.

-We hope our members will take advantage of all the educational opportunities that will be held in our area.

-That's all for now. Happy New Year!

8. On The Bit

Jessica Ford

No report no proxy

9. Pikes Peak

Susan Borders

- We would like to introduce our 2015 board members:

President - Susan Borders

Vice President - Kerry-Louise Miller

Secretary – Heather Petersen

Treasurer - Erin Ashby

Education - Nina Felsenthal

Awards - Shannon Lemons

Communications - MaryJo Hoepner

- Many thanks to Simone Windeler for hosting the chapter Christmas Party and gift exchange at her beautiful home in Black Forest in December.
- We begin 2015 with our chapter awards meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m. Our chapter awards programme recognises riders for their personal achievements for scores earned at any show, including schooling shows, judged by an 'L' graduate or higher. Bronze, Silver and Gold medals are awarded to riders who achieved the necessary scores in their tests and applied for awards.
- We encourage all our members to take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities offered by RMDS this year. Of particular interest is the Introduction to New Tests Clinic with Kristi Wysocki, Saturday, February 28th in Loveland. Some of our chapter members are eager to attend this clinic and learn more about the new 2015 tests.
- Looking ahead, Pikes Peak Dressage Society is hosting their second annual RMDS recognized dressage show on Saturday, April 11th, at Kaimana Farms, Elizabeth, CO. Judge – Gwen Ka'awaloa.

Please visit our website, www.pikespeakdressage.org for further information on our meetings, shows and events.

10. Platte River

Laura Speer

No report proxy to Robin Gay

11. Wasatch Mountains

Sally Shaffer

No report no proxy

12. Western Colorado

Barbara Terry

No report proxy to Heather Petersen

**Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Robin Gay seconded by Didi DeKrey. Passed
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM**

Addendum to meeting: dates agreed upon for the remainder of the year.

We will try in March coming at 5:30 for the meeting to see if that helps with the traffic.

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

2015: Jan 8 March 12 May 14 July 7 (Tuesday) September 10 Oct 8-Budget Nov 21 BOG

**Respectfully submitted,
Beth Geier, acting Secretary**