

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
September 10, 2015
Darcy's Bistro & Irish Pub

Attendance: Jon C Haugen, Heather Petersen, Nina Felsenthal, Robin Gay, Beth Geier, Didi Dekrey, Renee Martig, Sharon Soos, Kris Cooper, Beverly Swanson, Aline Brandau, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Mary Jo Hoepner, Kerry-Louise Boucher, Susan Borders, Bill Borders, Simone Windeler, Jim Cooper

Proxies: Barbara Graham Terry to Simone Windeler, Pat Leech to Didi Dekrey, Arlene Rhodes to Didi Dekrey

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Secretary - Approval of Minutes

Nina Felsenthal

Renee Martig motioned that we approve the July Minutes as submitted. Robin Gay seconded and all were in favor.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

RMDS Checking	\$46,343.61
RMDS Paypal	\$4,158.14
RMDS Scholarship	\$6,602.63
<u>RMDS Money Market</u>	<u>\$44,169.36</u>
TOTAL	\$101,273.74

Documents available-

- Current Year vs Prior Year Profit and Loss Statement
- Current Year vs Prior Year Balance Sheet
- Approved Donations

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 781 members for 2015 – 89 new horses since October 1, 2014
- 2016 members accepted after October 15
- Delegates for BOG – Sent to chapter presidents & treasurers

Shows:

- TD Reports: Big Sky, Centaur Rising I & II, Last Chance
 - There was discussion regarding the Dressage in the Big Sky Show, and how to help them improve it moving forward. It was decided that the show manager must attend the TD/Show management continuing education in February and the TD needs to come a ½ day early or they need to hire a professional manager and secretary (both positions).

Recognized Officials:

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

It was suggested that the TD Test be given in October, and allow them 30 days to complete it.

Omnibus:

- Ready to begin receiving ads Sept 15
- Already have one color tab

Bylaw Changes:

- Separate document

Proposed Bylaw Changes:

Article IV: Membership and Representation

C. Removal of Chapter Recognition: Any Chapter may lose Society recognition when any of the following conditions exist:

1. The number of Society Members represented by the chapter falls below ten (10) on **April 1 (Change to June 15th)** of the current membership year.

Proposed Standing Rule Change:

Section XIV General: Horse and Rider

6. Horse and Rider combinations, which are champions from previous years and received an RMDS qualifying score in that championship class for Training Level through Fourth Level & Training Level through Fourth Level Freestyle, are not eligible to compete again in Championship Classes at the same level in which they were Champions **more than three times.**

Robin Gay motioned that Materiale Championship would be re-evaluated in one year to determine if we want to add it to the Championship Standing Rules. Mary Jo Hoepner seconded and all were in favor.

There was discussion about increasing the ongoing education of 'L' judges, by requiring more sit time during the program, or re-visiting how much time they need to maintain their eligibility as an 'L' judge. It was suggested that perhaps RMDS host a "group-sit" for graduates of the 'L' program every year.

General:

- Russ Fawcett Award
 1. Sue Gentle
 2. Sarah Martin

Sarah Martin was voted by the majority to receive the Russ Fawcett Award for 2015.

- Need help with advertising for everything!!!!!! Received a full page ad for the Championship show program

– inside front cover.

- Centaur needs articles coming in

Office:

- Christoph Hess....
- Always here for you.....

Permanent Committee Reports:

1. Adult Amateur

Didi DeKrey

Mary Jo Hoepner motioned to approve the Freestyle Clinic for 2015 as submitted and Sharon Soos seconded. Heather Petersen brought up a point of discussion to suggest that it be provisionally approved with the addition of a snow day, and that the two dates for the clinic do not conflict with the BOG. Beverly Swanson suggested that we attempt to move the BOG from November 14th to the 21st. A vote was then taken that decided to maintain the BOG on the 14th (see below: BOG). It was then decided to approve the Freestyle clinic as long as they could be on a date that didn't conflict with the BOG, strongly suggesting the 7th.

Robin Gay moved and Heather Petersen seconded that the three AA clinics be tabled until the October budget meeting since no one had received the adjusted budgets prior to the meeting to review. Motion passed.

2. Awards

Shannon Lemons

Hello Board Members!

Unfortunately, I am unable to get away from work again in order to attend tonight. My apologies that I have been unable to attend meetings this year; I don't see the situation changing in the near future, though I will certainly attend BOG and the Awards Banquet. I will certainly understand if you wish to have someone with fewer commitments and the ability to attend meetings take over the Awards Chair.

Three trophies will be replaced this year to be awarded for the 2015 show season. I have one sponsor secured and have contacted the two other previous donors who are still active in RMDS to see if they wish to continue sponsoring these awards. I will be collecting trophies at Championships next week; we have tried to make sure everyone knows that trophies can no longer be mailed in and must be returned in person. I have made one or two exceptions for people who have contacted me for trophies that are not going to be at risk of being damaged in transit. As a reminder to anyone who may ask you, all trophies are due to me by October 1, with late fees and/or forfeiture of awards assessed on late returns. Both my main vendor and I are looking forward to having time to complete the awards with more time this year ☺

In 2016, I plan to work on the "Hall of Champions" idea for the website, where we list all previous winners, to include pictures of retired trophies and all the winners on those trophies, as well as winners on additional plaques that have been added over the years (so that trophies we elect to keep in circulation do not need to have plaque after plaque going along with the trophy). Another project will be an attempt to try to value some retired trophies we have in our inventory to see if sale of any of these would be useful to supporting the awards program until such time as we have a permanent storage location (rather than in storage totes in my garage ☺).

In 2016, the following trophies will either need to be updated (i.e. with a new plaque to keep them in circulation) or replaced with new trophies and new sponsors:

1. **You've Come a Long Way Baby** – Awarded for largest point spread between highest and lowest scores. This is a really unique silver trophy from the early days of the National Western Stock Show that was awarded to “Best Lady Rider”. It was donated by Cariellen DeMuth, and I think it’s history and unique nature make it one we should try to keep in our awards program. There is currently a 12 year plaque attached to it, so exchanging this for a new plaque would be easy enough.
2. **High Score Mare 3rd Level and Above** – The originally trophy was never returned in 2012, so we replaced it with a plain silver bowl. Originally donated by Carolyn Schoenfield.
3. **Grade Horse of the Year** – This is an abstract horse head on a base with plates originally donated by Joder Arabian Ranch. The plates on the base are full. We could look for new sponsor/trophy or add a plaque.
4. **Adult Amateur PSG/Waterloo Perpetual Trophy** – This is a unique Asian horse statue with a plaque for multiple winners. Originally donated by Lori Oakley. Due to its unique nature, we should probably keep this one in circulation and see if Ms. Oakley would like to continue sponsoring it.
5. **Pony Training Level** – Pretty silver horse plate donated by Julie Barringer-Richers/Wild Rose Farm. Another unique one we should keep in the program.
6. **Open First Level** – Brass horse head book ends with a plaque listing multiple winners. Originally donated by High Plains Chapter.
7. **Open I2** – Large etched glass challis/Graf Bobby Memorial. Another really beautiful and unique piece, originally donated by Philip and Jennifer Oldham.
8. **Futurity Trophy** – Technically this is a Championships trophy only, originally donated by Foothills chapter, Sherry DeLeon and Triple Hema. There is space for 2015 but no more room on the base plates of the trophy.

If you don't see one you'd like to sponsor for 2016, don't worry, there are 8 more for 2017 ☺ !!!

3. Communications

Kerry-Louise Boucher

Hi everyone,

As summer comes to an end I hope everyone has had the chance to show, clinic and ride to their hearts desire on the sunny days.

Unfortunately I don't have much of a report, some big changes happened in my life over the summer making me MIA for a few months. Things are smoothing out now and I am looking forwards to having more time for well, everything!

Bev has done a fabulous job with the Centaur in my absence and been so understanding of all my time away. Thank you Bev. :)

- a. Centaur
- b. Omnibus
- c. Website

Beverly Swanson
Nicole Bizarro
Michael Petersen

4. Education

Jon Haugen

- a. Report on:
 - i. "L" D1 & 2 Sessions
- b. Upcoming Events
 - Christoph Hess October 3-5

There are currently 8 riders signed up for the Professional Rider Sessions on Saturday and Sunday, and 7 riders signed up for the rider sessions on Monday. Auditor slots are beginning to fill up, and it is expected that it will be completely full.

There was discussion to require more Western Dressage Education for our 'L' graduate judges, since Western Dressage tests are now allowed at shows. It was suggested that we do an 'L' graduate continuing education program that focuses on Western Dressage, and would be open to all RMDS members who wish to audit. Dolly Hannon has offered to help with this education.

Mary Jo Hoepner motioned that the 'L' program Continuing Education in January dedicate half of the day to focusing on Western Dressage. Sue Borders seconded, and all were in favor.

5. Junior/Young Riders

Julie Burt

- a. 2015 Clinic Series

6. Marketing

Aline Brandau

7. Professional Trainers/Riders Committee

Simone Windeler

8. Scholarship

Mary Jo Hoepner

2 reports from recipients received
3 inquiries about this coming season
Please make sure your chapters are promoting opportunities

9. Shows – Championship

Beverly Swanson

Volunteers are still desperately needed for Championships, especially for scribes on the weekend. 10-15 people a day are still needed in order to fill all volunteer slots. There was discussion about the lack of support for Championships throughout the organization. As of this meeting, sponsorship dollars for championships sat around \$6,000. The majority of chapters stepped up to help support championships, but not every chapter did. In order to hold a successful Championship Show in the future, we need more involvement throughout our GMO, and members who are willing to step-up and help make this successful.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage Liaison

Frances Carbonnel

No Report

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Olga Hendrickson

Need nominees for 2 years: Vice President (1 year), President, Treasurer, Secretary, Awards, Education, Marketing, Professional.

3. Historical Committee-Archives

Pat Leech

BOG – November 21, 2015

Heather Petersen

After some discussion about the BOG, a vote was taken regarding the date on which it should be held. Originally, November 14th had been determined, and a conference room at the National Western Stock Show facility was reserved. Five (5) were in favor of trying to move the BOG to the 21st, and one (1) abstention from voting.

4. Banquet – January 16, 2016-Renaissance Denver Hotel

Aline Brandau

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Old Business:

New Business:

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Beth Hart

2. Boulder Valley

Robin Gay

3. Colorado Springs

Pat Leech

4. Foothills

Kris Cooper

1. Our RMDS-recognized show was held on September 6 at Table Mountain Ranch with KC Parkins-Kyle as judge. We had a total of 35 exhibitors and 61 rides, five in western dressage classes. Jan Danis was our show manager. We owe a big thank you to our many Foothills volunteers.

2. Two additional RMDS-recognized shows were sponsored by Centaur Rising and held at Anchorage Farm in July and August.

3. Foothills awarded Lexy Donaldson a scholarship to help defray the cost of her representing Region V at the Northern American Junior and Young Rider Championships. Lexy gave a presentation about her experience at our chapter meeting on August 3.

4. We also had a presentation from Seth Swary of the University Of Denver Center for Performance Excellence.

5. Our new education chair is Cassandra DiPentino.

Kris Cooper

President, Foothills Chapter

303-847-9862

kris@anchoragefarm.com

5. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

The VS outbreak peaked in August and several members were concerned about the wisdom of holding the early September show when the outbreak was strongest in the Mesa County area where the show would be held. A few clinics in the area were cancelled as well due to many people choosing to not move any horses for a few weeks. After thoughtful discussion of the risks the GVDS Board voted to cancel our one recognized show for the year. So, no show to report on!

We have been working with Didi Dekrey on the Freestyle Clinic she is proposing for November for the western region clubs. Many members expressed interest in this event.

We plan on holding our last schooling show which will be in October and we will be using the two covered arenas at the Mesa County Fairgrounds. We have our awards night planned for December 5th.

6. High Plains

No report

Olga Hendrickson

7. Northern Colorado

NCDA has had a lot of members participate in shows this season as well as attending the clinics that have been offered. Thanks to these great learning experiences the quality of riding has improved along with higher scores.

On October 18th at Tomora Training Center in west Greeley, we'll be hosting a schooling show for the benefit of 'Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center'. We will use our profit toward a child size dressage saddle from Happy Horse Tack. It will be a fun show with a costume class, western dressage and a gaited dressage class. The judge for the day is Julie Burt. We encourage everyone to come (even if not riding) to learn more about 'Hearts and Horses' and drop a dollar or two in the donation can. We'll be serving refreshments and having a silent auction.

This show will be the last opportunity for NCDA members to earn points toward 'yearend' awards. We have lovely perpetual trophies to present at our Christmas Party.

Nominations are being accepted for the NCDA board with elections at the November meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Martig, NCDA

Renee Martig

8. On The Bit

No report

Jessica Ford

9. Pikes Peak

No report

Susan Borders

10. Platte River

No report

Laura Speer

11. Wasatch Mountains

No report

Sally Shaffer

12. Western Colorado

No report

Barbara Terry

Mary Jo Hoepner motioned that the Chapter Reports be accepted as submitted, Nina Felsenthal seconded and all were in favor.

Robin Gay motioned to adjourn the meeting, Sharon Soon seconded, and all were in favor. Gwen Ka'awaloa adjourned the meeting at 9:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Nina Felsenthal

RMDS Secretary