

**RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**January 14, 2016**

**Darcy’s Bistro & Irish Pub – 303-770-0477**

**4955 S Ulster St #103**

**Denver, CO 80237**

The room is reserved beginning at 6:00 pm

(See directions at end of agenda)

**@ 6:30 PM**

**Attendance:** Gwen Ka’awaloa, Michelle Anderson, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen, Nicole Bizzarro, Kristann Cooper, Linda Gaber, MaryJo Hoepner, Aline Brandau, Beverly Swanson, Carie Sciss, Sharon Soos, Sarah Dodge, Sandra Rosewell, Una Schade, Joan Clay, Stephanie Figgins, Lori Keilt, Didi DeKrey, Katherine Simard, Rosemary Balfour

**Proxies:** Barbara Terry to Heather Petersen, Pat Leech to Didi DeKrey, Shannon Lemons to Heather Petersen

**Call to Order-President**

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm**

**Secretary -Approval of Minutes**

**Heather Petersen**

September minutes need the date corrected and Beth had several suggestions. **Kathy Simard moved to approve the minutes as corrected, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.**

October minutes – **Kathy Simard moved to approve the minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Treasurers Report**

**Sharon Soos**

Funds as of December 31, 2015	
RMDS Checking Account	\$43,123.20
RMDS Paypal	\$ 7,821.74
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 6,669.63
<u>Wells Fargo Money Market</u>	<u>\$44,169.36</u>
TOTAL	\$101,785.93

Presentation of the Event Budget Worksheet, lots of discussion of how to prepare a budget. Several chapter folks asked for templates for their treasurers to use.

**President Report**

**Gwen Ka’awaloa**

Welcome everyone to the first 2016 Executive Board Meeting.

We have a full agenda tonight and I am hoping we can move through it efficiently as a team so we can begin to plan out the year. With this group we can plan a fantastic year. The calendar is full but we still have room for more exciting dressage oriented education and riding goals.

With our new Marketing chair I am hopeful that we can raise the sponsorship participation and plan a special RMDS/Region V Championship show in September. With so many educational events I am hoping we can tap into some new participation from our membership.

I want to thank everyone here for participating in the organization that is RMDS. Your time and ideas will help the organization grow. We are all striving to make the organization more efficient and to grow our membership. We are lucky to have such a special group of people.

Each meeting this year will have an agenda that we need to follow, however we will also be open to suggestions and plans for the future. The organization will grow through the participation of the Executive Board. We must be leaders by example...

As president I do not believe in micro management, however as I have discovered guidance and assistance has slipped in hand overs to new committee chairs. Therefore I am hoping we can start this year with a more cohesive working agenda. We all need to help one another in order to reach a level of success. As a group we need to make ourselves available to assist and to offer our experience and knowledge. The success and growth of RMDS is dependent on everyone here... let's go team!

There was discussion about posting the agendas for upcoming meetings on the website before the meeting so the general membership would know what was going on.

USDF Convention Report – In 2015 we worked with lectures from the AAEP group and had a lot of discussion on the National Championships. For now the Championships will remain in Kentucky until a more suitable western location can be found. The restructuring of the Adult Committees goals to help the membership, including a calendar for reference and a possible book club. Improving education for USDF Certified Instructors and working on Judges' education and support.

### **Vice President Report**

**Aline Brandau/Joan Clay**

From Aline: What a great year it has been serving as the Vice President of RMDS. Thank you for your support building this great organization and encouraging the great sport of dressage. Joan Clay will be taking over my position this year, and I am glad she will be playing a leading part on the RMDS Board. Joan and I have known each for many years as she was a working student for my dressage coach, Bonna McCuiston when I was growing up in Indiana! The dressage community is a tight knit group, and there are wonderful trainers and riders who have dedicated their lives to teaching and riding dressage. Joan is one of those people! She has also been President and Vice President before, so she, "knows the ropes."

Gwen and I attended the Annual USDF Convention December 2-5th, 2015; It was in Las Vegas, and as such, was a fabulous venue. It just so happened that there was a veterinarian conference being held at the same time, so we had some amazing presenters, such as Dr. Richard Mitchell, who gave an informative presentation on the maintenance and care of the competitive sport horse.

When I asked my instructor Bonna what had made her join her local dressage group in the mid 1970's, she said that she joined because the focus of dressage was the health and wellbeing of ALL horses. Bonna said she had seen so much abuse of the horse under uneducated trainers that she wanted to be part of an organization that wanted to support the horse and provide correct training to the horse, and the rider. It is truly amazing what USDF has become since that time! Working in conjunction with USEF, there are extensive rules and regulations to support the horse, encourage proper showing and training procedures, and protect the horse and dressage for future generations. In the convention, there is a special session on the new rule changes in the USEF, and dressage riders and trainers are all welcome to come and discuss the new rules which protect the horses and their health and well-being.

At the annual convention this year, the USDF BOG had a very important debate on whether to move the Finals to the West as originally planned. This issue was a perfect example of why it is so important to have our representative attend the USDF Annual Convention. From the outside, it seems like a good idea to move the Finals around the country. But after enough information concerning budgets and economic feasibility were discussed, we were made aware of the dangers of moving such an expensive show in its infancy. It generally takes a show of that caliber many years to make any money. In addition, the venues were very difficult to establish, as there are very few that can sustain a show of that magnitude. In the end, after a great deal of debate, it was decided the prudent thing to do is to keep the Finals in Kentucky, and keep looking for an appropriate place to move it out West.

The Regional meeting was very informative. Heather Petersen makes a great leader for all the trainers and riders who attended and discussed holding educational events, shows and clinics that support dressage in our community. There was a fabulous presentation on the science and treatment of back lameness with Dr. Grant Myhre. As we all know, one of the most essential aspects of dressage is a good, strong, aligned back. There were also presentations on gastrointestinal diseases, back lameness, chiropractic and acupuncture, joint health, and drug/medication issues with the dressage horse. The great Dr. Hillary Clayton gave a lecture on footing, and the importance of correct footing for the horse when training dressage. The annual convention is

a wonderful event that brings our sport together, creating a common goal and moving forward to create better riders and happier horses.

Thank you so much for letting me serve as Vice President the last two and a half years! I have grown as a dressage rider and trainer and will be forever grateful to RMDS. I will stay on as a marketing assistant to Una Schade, and help Sarah Dodge with her endeavors as the Professional's Chair. I will also assist in supporting the junior young riders. I look forward to this New Year! My goal is to encourage grass roots participation in dressage, and to be an example of inclusiveness and graciousness in our sport.

## **Central Office**

**Beth Geier**

### **Membership**

- Registration – 219 members as of January 5th – 6 new horses since October 1, 2015

### **Shows:**

- For 2016: 47 RMDS recognized shows: 37 are USEF/USDF recognized and 8 RMDS only shows

### **Omnibus:**

- See Nicole's Report

### **General:**

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events as long as ½ price covers the cost of materials supplied.
- Paid position contracts are up for bid in 2016. To be decided in March:
  - Centaur,
  - Omnibus,
  - 2017-2018 Championship Management

### **Next Executive Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday odd months) –**

#### **2016:**

**Awards Banquet:** January 16 (Saturday)

**Executive Board Meetings:** Jan 14 March 10 May 12 July 12 (Tuesday) September 8

Oct 13-Budget Nov 5 BOG (Saturday)

## **Permanent Committee Reports:**

### **1. Scholarship**

**MaryJo Hoepner**

- Please schedule the next scholarship review meeting for the Monday before the January 2017 RMDS Board meeting.
- Currently there is no rule regarding same person being awarded multiple scholarships either in the same application year or in subsequent years. Do we need a restriction? Or allow the selection process to determine scholarship winners. Discussion about not limiting our options in the future for leaner years and keeping flexibility. Discussed cutting the number of scholarship but it's a great marketing tool and there is definitely a need.
- We had requests for holding the review meeting using wifi connections, etc. We need to investigate holding this review via internet. This may or may not work since personal financial information is included in the applications and we have the responsibility to control access.
- The review meeting was held at Guadalajara in Falcon, Monday, January 11, 2016. (This meeting was announced a year ago at the January board meeting). Heather Petersen, MaryJo Hoepner, and Michelle Anderson reviewed the applications. The results will be voted on during the January 16 RMDS Board meeting.

Decision process on awarding of scholarships:

- Jr/YR – discussion of candidates. The committee recommends approval of candidate #8 for the scholarship. **Una Schade moved to approve #8, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Simard. Motion passed unanimous.**
- Leg Up – We will remove applicant #3 from consideration because they were application #8 also and have already received a scholarship. Discussion of the candidates. The committee recommends approval of candidate #2 for the scholarship. **Kathy Simard moved to approve #2, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Solid Seat – The committee recommends #4 as they were the only candidate. **Michelle Anderson moved to approve #4, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Soos, motion passed unanimously.**
- Open Door – Discussion of the candidates. The committee recommends candidate #5. **Joan Clay moved approve #5, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carie Sciss. Unanimous with the exception that Kathy Simard abstained.**

## 2. Adult Amateur

**Didi DeKrey**

Time to shake off the Holiday ennui and move forward on events for this year! I am garnering the team to finalize the plan for RMDS Adult Amateur clinic offering(s). We should have something for the board to approve by next meeting.

The Team competition is set for June 11, and will once again be hosted at Tomora Training Center in Greeley, Colorado. Beth Geier will be our Secretary and I will be the Manager. Our judges are Ms. Julie Haugen and Ms. Julie McDermott. USDF provides the ribbons for Team placings. Donations for fun prizes are always welcome! Should be fun to see what everyone comes up with as a theme for the colors – will we see Purple Pooh Beaters or Pink Bling again? Come and see!

The USDF is bringing the Region V Adult Clinic to Longmont, Colorado in October. The event will be October 8-9 at Reverie Farms. Ms. Kathleen Connelly and Ms. Betsy Steiner are the featured clinicians. I know we will be able to provide fine demonstration riders for this clinic. As more information comes, we will keep everyone in touch! Didi will work with Sarah Dodge on some test/clinic ideas pairing our professionals with our AAs. Looking at doing 1 clinic – possibly June 25-26 since no shows. Looking at Front Range. Will have a final proposal at the March meeting. There was discussion of ride-a-test formats and what would appeal for that time of year. Looking at using a local person or people.

We are fortunate to have so many shows, clinics and seminars throughout our region. Check the RMDS website, your Omnibus and local Chapters to stay abreast of everything happening in your areas!

## 3. Awards

**Shannon Lemons**

Shannon is currently buried in boxes and awards for the banquet on Saturday.

## 4. Communications

**Linda Gaber**

- There was an easy transition to chair of Communications Committee/Centaur Editor for 2016, with both December E-Centaur and January printed Centaurs produced with Production Contractor Bev Swanson and delivered to members on time.
- Final Omnibus edits, ads and show prize lists were processed and sent to the printer. Members are scheduled to receive their 2016 Omnibus by mail end of this month.
- The January and February Centaurs are advertising for contract proposals from professionals for RMDS paid positions, with bids due Feb. 28. Paid positions open for bid are printed and E-Centaur production, Omnibus production and 2017/2018 Championship Show Management.
- Bev Swanson has successfully registered RMDS on MailChimp for this year's E-centaur issues, and will be giving them a new and exciting look for 2016.

**Centaur**

**Beverly Swanson**

Going to mailchimp is free – Constant Contact was \$30-35 per month. This will save us some expense this coming year. Una is going to help Beverly add some color and formatting.

**Omnibus  
2016 Specifications**

Nicole Bizzarro

<b>P R I N T E R</b>	JAZ Print and Promo/Jen Zawistoski — All digital printing
<b>Q U A N T I T Y</b>	Internal Binder Pages: 800 sets of 277 pages – 5.5” x 8.5” Last Page Folded Form: 800 – 11” x 8.5” folded to 5.5” x 8.5” Blank Sheet: 800 – 5.5” x 8.5” Bank Tabs: 800 sets of 6 – 6” x 8.5” Catalog Envelopes: qty for mailing (may change slightly) – 7.5” x 10.5” Catalog 2-Color Covers: 400 – 5.5” x 8.5”
<b>S T O C K</b>	Internal Binder Pages: 60# White Offset Last Page Folded Form: 60# White Offset Blank Sheet: 60# Natural Offset Bank Tabs: 110# Index Offset Catalog Envelopes: 28# White Wove Catalog 2-Color Covers: 110# Index Offset
<b>I N K</b>	Internal Binder Pages: Black only - 2 sides (EXCEPT 10 PAGES IN FULL COLOR) Last Page Folded Form: Black only - 2 sides Blank Sheet: No Printing Bank Tabs: CMYK - 2 sides Catalog Envelopes: Black only - 1 side Catalog Covers: 2-Color 1 PMS plus black
<b>P R O O F S</b>	PDF and Laserprinted Proofs
<b>B I N D E R Y</b>	Collate all pages, Fold Form, 3-hole drill and band in sets: 800 Qty
<b>C O S T S</b>	Address sort, inkjet onto envelopes drop at USPS: 500 Qty 800 sets each All Internal Pages plus Tabs includes collate, drill. Only stuff and mail envelopes that you have a mailing label for. Remaining sets and envelopes can be delivered to the central office separately. (RMDS Endicia Used - no postage included) Note: Remaining Sets will be banded, boxed and delivered in bulk to RMDS, but are not to be stuffed in envelopes. No covers printed this year. Does not include postage.

- Omnibus 2016 to printer Jan. 11
- Omnibus 2015 to printer Jan. 4
- Omnibus 2014 to printer Jan. 10
- Omnibus 2013 to printer Jan. 6
- Omnibus 2016 printing and finish work \$6,940
- Omnibus 2015 printing and finish work \$6,824
- Omnibus 2014 printing and finish work \$6,055
- Omnibus 2013 printing and finish work \$5,783
- Omnibus 2012 printing and finish work \$6,175
- Omnibus 2011 printing and finish work \$6,623
- Omnibus 2016 no. of pages 277
- Omnibus 2015 no. of pages 259
- Omnibus 2014 no. of pages 230
- Omnibus 2013 no. of pages 240
- Omnibus 2016 no. of Advertisers 52
- Omnibus 2015 no. of Advertisers 51
- Omnibus 2014 no. of Advertisers 53
- Omnibus 2013 no. of Advertisers 60
- Omnibus 2016 no. of hours 78.25
- Omnibus 2015 no. of hours 86.50

Omnibus 2014 no. of hours 84.75

Omnibus 2013 no. of hours 100.5

## 5. Education

Carie Sciss

- January 30<sup>th</sup> – There will be a judges/L program continuing education program with Dolly Hannon at Table Mountain Ranch.
- February 16 – There is a TD and Show management continuing education program with Laurie Mactavish and Heather Petersen. The TD's will meet with Laurie from 8:30 to 12:15 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Immediately afterwards, show managers and secretaries will meet with Heather from 12:45 to 4:30.
- Request for videoing of the judges' continuing education from the Western Slope. Do we go with a person just videoing or go with a professional person? Can we recoup the amount it would cost? \$875 with live horses. **Kathy Simard moved we not consider videoing this year. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Una Schade. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 6. Junior/Young Riders

Julie Burt

No report

## 7. Marketing

Aline Brandau/Una Schade

The marketing department of RMDS has had a good year. We got some nice, new shirt designs made, and the new items were a big success with competitors and volunteers in dressage. As the marketing chair, my goals were to introduce some fun, new pieces of merchandise into the market for RMDS members to enjoy. These new items help promote RMDS, and are good for morale. Another goal of mine is to create an updated web presence for RMDS. Finally, I would like to work on fundraising events, so that RMDS can offer large, monetary prizes to our top competitors.

I believe a new, interactive, attractive website is needed and I am hoping the new Marketing Chair, Una Schade, can help RMDS in that endeavor. I also recommend that marketing take a bigger role in the emails that communicate with our members. Our image needs to be upgraded, and the emails need to be attractive and engaging, and more frequent. In the world today, internet marketing is the way most people interact. I have met with Una Schade, and she has some great ideas concerning the RMDS image on the internet and at shows. I am very excited to see her grow the marketing presence of RMDS.

One of the great things about Una is that she is a professional marketer. It is what she does as her business, and I have told her I will assist her in the New Year to make the RMDS events more inclusive and spectacular. I spend a lot of my time with the Arapahoe Hunt Club and the Polo Club members. Una and I discussed having some fundraisers for RMDS and creating a fund for awards. Monetary awards can bring more business and more competitors into RMDS shows.

It was great to work with Beverly Swanson this year. She has an incredible work ethic, and is professional and fun. She arranged for the new shirts to be ordered and help organize the transportation of the shirts to the championships. Whenever I needed anything, she was there, and I greatly appreciate her effort and care. Sharon Soos was very helpful, as always, and graciously sat with the merchandise for days, selling and chatting with people attending championships. Sharon always keeps track of our inventory, and has a wonderful talent for detail. She is a pleasure to work with and a true friend. Even though she was showing her horse at championships, she still found the time to help RMDS in the front office. I want to thank all of these great women for helping me, and RMDS. Aline.

From Una:

I am really excited to be on the RMDS team and look forward to helping it grow with all of you! A lot of what I will discuss revolves around learning the organization better so I can understand our strengths and weaknesses in advertising to build a plan for upcoming events and publications.

We need to add ALL of the ways companies can advertise or donate to RMDS on the Advertise page. I think we should also rename the link to reflect Advertise/Donate. <http://rmds.org/Advertise/Home>

- If we are 501c, or a tax deductible charitable organization we need to place that on the website more prominently so that potential donors can find it easily.
- Do we do “giveaways” for members? Companies could donate products and we could do a contest/giveaway to members.

Do we have a centralized list of advertisers in upcoming Centaurs/e-Centaurs? Is there a limit on advertisers per issue? Do we limit advertiser type to a certain quantity? (Example: only 1 car dealership, 1 feed store, 1 tack store, 1 vet per issue?)

Do we advertise in any publications or online sources to try and promote RMDS and Dressage currently?

Discussion of how do we reach people? Facebook – outside of the normal dressage forums and such. Could we do a freestyle evening benefit?

Who has our full-size logo?

As soon as we have any events scheduled, let me know so I can assist in getting the word out and trying to get advertisers/sponsors/participants as well as help build creative collateral.

I think we should make a Thank You post on RMDS Facebook to say thanks to everyone that donated an item (and specifically name each of them and tag them where we can) to try and get more interest in donating things in the future. I can do this if I get the list of all donations/donators.

The formatting on the Bronze Medal page seems off <http://rmds.org/Awards/Bronze>. *Fixed during meeting.*

The Gold Medal page seems to be missing content <http://rmds.org/Awards/Gold> *Fixed during meeting.*

I feel we should do a survey to see what our membership base would like to see more and less out of RMDS.

Instead of requiring 16 hours of Volunteer time for Scholarships; require 2 meetings and 8 hours of volunteerism. This will get the member body more involved with the group, which in the long run will get them more invested... and in turn want to volunteer more. *This was discussed and ruled out by the discussion as it would make things difficult for our members in other states who are not close to chapters and hours away from a place they could attend a meeting.*

We need to create a Google+ page, this will not only help with Google rankings but also target more people that prefer the Google+ network over Facebook.

We need to make sure to include all email messages as a Facebook post as well. People read email out of necessity (not always a fun thing) and go to Facebook because they want to. You have 2x the chance to get your message to members this way.

- Continue emailing, in fact increase emails. Rule of thumb for email marketing is email them until they unsubscribe. They will not unsubscribe if your emails are at all relevant to them. Once they unsubscribe, they are not someone that would read your message anyways, no matter how few and far between you communicate with them.

The front slideshow on the website seems stagnant; not enough current material to make us seem relevant in today's market. *Discussion that an email needs to be sent out to the membership to get new photos with basic one or two line tag lines. We cannot use the awards photos as we only have permission for their use in the awards presentation.*

**Most importantly, never hesitate to reach out to me with a question or for input or assistance. And I will do the same!**

Sponsors I have gotten for the Silent Auction:

- Boulder Baby Co. | Shampoo/Conditioner/Lotion Pack.
- Performance Equine Sports Therapy | Massage/Bodywork Session.

- Horse Head Broncos Wreath | Shannon Dahmer.
- Wendel Veterinary Services | Teeth Float
- Wendel Veterinary Services | Chiropractic Session
- Dezirees Photography | Equine Photo Shoot + 3 Digital Photos included
- Una Schade Photography & Design | 5 page Website Design

## 8. Professional Trainers/Riders Committee

**Sarah Dodge**

I am really looking forward to working with RMDS as the new professional committee chairperson. I would like to see the RMDS professionals have a stronger connection to the organization. There are many areas in which I think the professional community can work with RMDS to help promote, grow, and improve dressage in Colorado. I feel that it is the duty of all dressage trainers to take ownership of the direction of dressage sport in our community. I am interested in increasing the professional presence within RMDS through Centaur articles, through increased advertising in the Centaur and Omnibus as well as the RMDS website. In addition, I would like to invite more professionals to take an active role in supporting the dressage community. For example, I would like to encourage more class or award sponsorship at shows, dinner sponsorship at the RMDS Championships and increased participation in RMDS events.

In 2016 we have both the Professionals Clinic with George Williams April 18-20 (see budget), and the USDF Adult Clinic with Betsy Steiner and Kathy Connelly (open to AAs and Professionals) October 8-9. I look forward to supporting these two great events as well as helping to plan future events.

### 2016 George Williams Budget

#### Expenses

Insurance - \$142

USDF University credit - \$35

George Williams Air – \$650

George Williams Fee - \$1500 per day x 3 days = \$4500

Facility Fee - \$150 per day x 3 = \$450

Hotel (2x3x\$125) - \$750

Food Sarah/George/Organizer - \$300

Boxed Lunches Monday Tuesday – 16 x 2 x \$14 = \$448

Copy/printing - \$50

Misc - \$100

Supplies - \$100 (coffee/cups, etc)

Porta Potty - \$160

Total Expenses - \$7685

#### Conservative Income

8 demo horses Monday/Tuesday - \$1680

12 participants Monday/Tuesday - \$1680

Anonymous donation - \$2000

Professionals RMDS Budget - \$500

8 riders Wednesday - \$1200

12 auditors Wednesday - \$720

Total - \$7780



**General Information:**

8 horses Monday/Tuesday

8 horses Wednesday

Monday/Tuesday Demo Horses - \$210

Monday/Tuesday Participants - \$140

Wednesday Riders - \$150

Wednesday Auditors - \$60

**MaryJo Hoepner moved to approve the budget as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joan Clay. Motion passes unanimously.**

**9. Shows – Championship**

**Beverly Swanson**

Planning to contact all 2015 Award recipients for donations to RMDS 2016 Championships. Will be working with Marketing Committee (Una Schade) to seek out sponsors. More to come as the year progresses... Heather discussed the judges, things in the works for 2017 with the facilities, the new manager of the Estes Park facility and potential sponsorship dinners/opportunities.

**Appointed Committee Reports:**

**1. Western Dressage Liaison**

**Frances Carbonnel**

**No report**

**2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents**

**Sandy Rosewell**

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

Sandra Rosewell stepped forward to chair the committee. Will be sending a request to the chapter presidents for help with suggestions.

**3. Historical Committee-Archives**

**Pat Leech**

**No report**

**4. BOG – November 5, 2016**

**Heather Petersen**

Heather will continue as chair of this committee and will be looking at National Western Complex for a room.

**5. Banquet – January 16, 2016-Renaissance Denver Hotel**

**Aline Brandau**

This year I was the RMDS Banquet Chair and so far, I have been exceedingly pleased with the Renaissance Denver Hotel and their ability to host our Awards Banquet. Debra Hoover is the event manager and a pleasure to work with on this rather formidable undertaking. She has kept the price the same, and really worked to keep us coming to her hotel as an event.

The hotel has a perfect location, and the updates to the interior have been beautifully done. The staff is gracious and welcoming. The Awards Banquet was planned for the week that the stock show is in town, so there were only a few rooms available for overnight guests. Debra said that if we want more rooms next year, we need to let her know right away and she will reserve more for RMDS.

As for the food at the banquet, I made sure the vegetarian dish was a sumptuous vegetable lasagna. The other choice was penne with pomodoro, and I felt that the lasagna was a better choice. The chicken picatta, and the

steak are both nice selections and I think that the Renaissance gives us excellent service, and a great choice of food at a good price.

I want to thank Simone Windeler for donating her projector for the banquet. It would not be as wonderful an event without it, and the price to rent one is very high. Thank you Simone!

I also want to thank Una Schade, our new Marketing Chair. We have already started working together, and she made a lovely, holiday invitation to send out to our members for the awards banquet.

I think her talents and tenacity will be a wonderful asset to RMDS. I believe it is important for the Banquet Chair to work closely with the Marketing Chair, so that our members can be communicated with efficiently, and more clearly in the New Year.

After speaking with Laura Speer at length, I believe I have a good idea of her desires to be the Banquet Chair for this upcoming year. She would like the banquet to be held in November. In addition, she would like the price to be raised from 40 to 50 dollars. If RMDS wants to hold the Banquet in January then she will be unable to organize it.

I have enjoyed being Banquet Chair and hope the banquet is fun and a great success for everyone. I will not be able to be a chair this year as I must focus on my business and building my new house.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization. It has been a pleasure, and I hope we continue to have our banquet in a great location, with great food and fun.

Currently have 184 attendees. Looking at January 7<sup>th</sup> for 2017. We will have a block of rooms and we would not conflict with Stock Show. 14<sup>th</sup> is not available at this point but Beth is working with the hotel to secure the dates. Beth Geier said she would be the banquet chair for 2017. **Heather Petersen moved we approve January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 2<sup>nd</sup> by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passes unanimously.**

Silent auction – Beverly is taking it all and coordinating. Email anything else you get to Beverly. Sample bid sheet passed around to everyone. Opens at 5:15pm. Auction closes at 8pm. Una will handle Paypal. Purpose is to help defray the cost of the banquet.

## Region 5 Report

## Heather Petersen

I hope everyone is having a great Holiday season! We had a great week at the USDF Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were a lot of you. We had one of the highest attendances for Region 5 for the meetings and the awards dinner ever! It's always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. Our 2 regional meetings went very well and a lot of great information was exchanged. The weather was cooler for Las Vegas, but comfortable in the evenings with a light coat. I have to admit I definitely took advantage of the destination and did the most tourist activities at this convention then I've done in years. I enjoyed the roller coaster, wine cellars, the NASCAR parade, the Ferris wheel High Roller, the fountains at Bellagio, shopping and dinner at many great restaurants of the strip in the local part of Las Vegas. We had our own person cab driver the whole week and he was fantastic about taking us to some fun and unique spots. The hotel was pretty nice and I even spent a few dollars in the slot machines and at the Texas Hold'em table.

Some key things to come out of the convention this year:

- We will continue the \$200 reimbursement grant for those attending the USDF Convention as USDF Region 5 PM Delegates for the 2016 USDF Convention in St Louis.
- The budget was presented as balanced and was approved. The finances of USDF are looking very good and we are doing well as an organization.
- PM membership is up. GMO member is down a little but overall USDF membership is doing very well.
- USDF National Championships continue to be very well received and more rave reviews this year. We were at approximately the same number of entries for 2015 as we were for 2014. Bids are soon going to be open for the management of the 2017-2019 Finals.
- The USDF Board of Governors voted to keep the Finals in Kentucky for the time being and not move West until such time Region 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 can come forward to the BOG with an adequate venue that meets the needs of the show in terms of weather, footing, stabling and several other factors.

The awards banquet was very fun again this year. Congratulations to everyone on their medals, their Horse of the Year standings and their All Breed Awards. We had a lot of awards winners this year!

Discussion of the new scribing training for the digital scribing.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**1. Approval of officers for D&O Insurance**

Beth Geier

RMDS - OFFICERS 2016		
Position	Name	Phone
Chapter	Title	Name
Arkansas Valley	President	Beth Hart
	VP	Nancy Leonard
	Treasurer	Candace Bridgers
	Secretary	Renee McMillen
Boulder Valley	President	Sandra Rosewell
	VP	Kristi Cooper-Camp
	Treasurer	Beth Geier
	Secretary	Nicole Donohue
Colorado Springs	President	Pat Leech
	VP	Laura Backus
	Treasurer	Cici Lee
	Secretary	
Foothills	President	Kris 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	Kathy Simard
	VP	Suzie Halle
	Treasurer	Stephaie Figgins
	Secretary	Lori Keilt
Northern Colo	President	Denise "Didi" DeKrey
	VP	Rosemary Balfour
	Treasurer	Ann Mears
	Secretary	Kathleen Kilkelly
On the Bit Dressage	President	Jessica Ford
	VP	Kelly Wolfe
	Treasurer	Tammy au France
	Secretary	Stephanie Gies
Pikes Peak Dressage	President	Michelle Anderson
	VP	Sue Borders
	Treasurer	Erin Ashby
	Secretary	Heather Petersen
Platte River	President	Laura Speer

	VP	Peter Soos
	Treasurer	Sharon Soos
	Secretary	Sharon Soos
Western Colo	President	Barbara Graham Terry
	VP	Sue Pietrzak
	Treasurer	Justina Potter
	Secretary	Barbara McElnea

**MaryJo Hoepner motions to approve the list of chapter of officers. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Soos. Unanimously approved.**

#### **Chapter Presidents:**

**MaryJo Hoepner Moved to approve all chapter reports as submitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle Anderson. Motion passes unanimously.**

#### **1. Arkansas Valley**

**Beth Hart**

**No report – No Proxy**

#### **2. Boulder Valley**

**Sandra Rosewell**

The Boulder Valley Dressage Awards Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, January 31st at the Boulder Country Club. We currently have 21 items to be auctioned.

2016 BVD Shows

- Ride A Test – May 7 – Reverie Farms
- Spring Fling – May 8 – Reverie Farms
- So Long to Summer – August 28 - Somerset

Board officials were voted on for 2016 and include the following:

- President: Sandra Rosewell
- Vice-President: Kristi Cooper-Camp
- Secretary: Nicole Donohue
- Treasurer: Beth Geier

Next BVD Meetings:

Jan 31, 2016 Banquet

Feb 8, April 11, June 13, Aug 8, Oct 10, Dec 12

#### **3. Colorado Springs**

**Pat Leech**

**No Report -**

#### **4. Foothills**

**Kris Cooper**

The Foothills Chapter will be home to four RMDS-sanctioned shows in 2016:

date	name	sponsor	location	judge
June 12	Spring into Summer Show	Foothills Chapter	Table Mountain Ranch	Michelle Anderson
July 10	Centaur Rising Dressage Show I	Centaur Rising	Anchorage Farm	Kathleen Donnelly
August 14	Centaur Rising Dressage Show II	Centaur Rising	Anchorage Farm	Jessica Greer
August 27	Last Chance Show	Foothills Chapter	Table Mountain Ranch	TBD

In 2016 we intend to 1) grow membership; 2) enhance the skills, knowledge and performance of all Foothills members; and 3) facilitate the working together of Foothills professionals to help one another achieve the first two goals. Our 2016 plans include a western dressage clinic, one or more ride-a-test clinics, and a how-to-give-aseat- lesson clinic.

Please visit our website at <http://www.foothillsdressage.org/>

And like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FoothillsDressage/>.

2016 Foothills Officers  
Kris Cooper President 303-847-9862 kris@anchoragefarm.com  
Jan Danis Vice President  
Nicole Riffe Secretary  
Laura Quakenbush Treasurer  
Maylou Metcalf Scholarship  
Cassandra DiPentino Education  
Jan Danis & Linda Gaber Shows  
CC Ross & Linda Gaber Communications

## 5. Grand Valley

### Arlene Rhodes

GVDS ended the year with a fun awards night/Christmas party in early December. About 30 people were there to share gifts and applaud our high point winners. In addition to the regular activities we had about 25 Breyer horses donated to the club and these were auctioned off by a silent auction. These donations brought in \$235 for our first fund drive of the new competition year. Another fundraising event we have planned is to order tee shirts with sponsor logos that we will give to show volunteers and also offer to sell to members. Megan Bretey offered to lead this project.

Next year's plans include an additional day for a schooling show, the day after our fully recognized Friday/Saturday show in the fall. Most of our members participate in the schooling show series so four schooling shows will give lots of opportunities for our members to enjoy their horses in GVDS competitions. We had a great freestyle clinic this fall, so we are looking at expanding our year end awards to better recognize the freestyle competitors we know will be increasing in 2016!

We've changed our meeting night to the third Monday of the month so we could keep our free, centrally located meeting room at Canyon View Church at 736 24 1/2 Rd in Grand Junction. Our first meeting of the year will be February 15th. We will be finalizing our year end award requirements and our schooling show prize list.

Our officers for 2016 remain the same from 2015:

- President: Arlene Rhodes
- Vice-President: Pat White
- Secretary: Deb Crooks
- Treasurer: Susan Gregg

Our show secretary for all our 2016 shows will be Dee Closson.

## 6. High Plains

### Katherine Simard

2016 ushers in a new board with the New Year! We are very excited to have Suzie Halle staying on as our VP and welcome Lori Keilt and Stephanie Figgins as our secretary and treasurer respectively. We have held two meetings with new and old board members attending. Our meeting are at Las Brisas in Greenwood Village and are nicknamed "Mexican, margaritas, and meetings"! Please come and join us on Tuesday evenings at 6PM the second Tuesday of the month or check the High Plains Dressage Facebook page. As a chapter we are sending out Happy New Year cards to our 2016 members to invite them to participate or to at least follow us this year.

We are currently working on a Dressage Youth Day at Iron Horse Farm in Elizabeth February 21st with a snow date of the 28th. Our instructors are Julie Barringer Richers and Greta Vowell. This is a youth outreach clinic to kids in the High Plains area who are interested in some exposure to dressage. In addition to lessons, we will have educational lectures and a Q and A with Sharon and Grant Schniedman.

We are hoping this low key friendly environment will inspire interest in dressage and membership in RMDS.

We are also working on a meeting that would be at Littleton Equine Medical Clinic in the spring. We are hoping for a private "evening with a vet" focused on our dressage horses. We have put in the request and are eagerly awaiting a response.

We have other exciting things in the works but this is our outlook for the new few months!

## 7. Northern Colorado

**Didi Dekrey**

NCDCA 2016 Board: President – Didi DeKrey, Vice President – Rose Balfour, Treasurer – Ann Mears, Secretary – Kathleen Kilkelly, Delegates – Renee Martig and Julie Haugen

Our Christmas Party was hosted by Shelley and Jake Jansen at their lovely home in east Fort Collins. Italian fare from a local restaurant supplemented by pot luck goodies filled the air with enticing aromas. Laughter and lively conversations about (what else?) our equine antics spilled out from the walls into the crisp night. Two highlights – besides all the wonderful food, spirits and people – topped the evening.

Due to a successful fund raising at our fall 2015 Schooling show, NCDCA purchased a new dressage saddle from Happy Horse. Renee Martig presented the new saddle to Liz Dekock of the Hearts and Horses Program in Loveland.

This past year we also revived and revitalized some trophies to reward members participating in NCDCA and RMDS events. Scores were kept for members that rode in our Spring Schooling show, the RMDS Team show and our Fall Schooling show. Brandi Chapman and Brandi's Buddy were Champion, Kathleen Kilkelly and Ted were Reserve Champions and Rose Balfour and Maya won the Distinguished Award.

This next year will also have these beauties up for competition to all our members – just jump in to the Spring Schooling show – April, the RMDS Team competition in June, and the October Fall Schooling show!

A special shout out to two of our Junior Members: Ms. Raissa Chunko and Ms. Whitney Haugen both completed their Bronze Medals! Congratulations!

Our own Joan Clay was active in the RMDS world by representing us all as a Delegate at the USDF Convention in Las Vegas and in the coming year as the newly elected Vice President for RMDS.

Other members hit the show circuit, some qualifying for year-end awards, or just enjoyed clinics, trail riding and their horses in general!

Plans for 2016 events include a Cross Training clinic and a Freestyle clinic, two schooling shows, and? Stay tuned!

## 8. On The Bit

**Jessica Ford**

**No Report -No Proxy**

## 9. Pikes Peak

**Michelle Anderson**

Pikes Peak Chapter meeting schedule for the next few months are still TBD but plans are well underway for our annual RMDS show. The date is April 16 with a snow date of April 17. Kaimana Farms in Elizabeth will once again host the show and I will be judging my first RMDS show as an "L" graduate. We offer a wide range of classes including traditional USDF tests, Western Dressage and USEA tests – there is something for everyone! Please plan to join us for a great Spring warm up for your show season!

For the most current information on our chapter activities visit our website at <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

## 10. Platte River

**Laura Speer**

**No Report - No Proxy**

## 11. Western Colorado

**Barbara Terry**

**No Report**

**Michelle Anderson moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned 9:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Petersen  
Secretary