

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:35 PM

Attendance: MaryJo Hoepner, Dorothy Kapaun, Ginka Kubelka, Nicole Bizzarro, Shannon Lemons, Andrea Chirich, Catherine Siemiet, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Gwen Ka’awaloa, Karen Harkin, Sillja Knoll, Joan Clay, Katie McGivney, Michelle Stevens, Cassandra Dipentino, Jewlee Bellah, Kathy Simard, Stan Adamson, Natalie DeFee Mendik, Didi DeKrey, Katie Knight, Stephanie Stokes

Proxies: Anclaire Spaulding to Nicole Bizzarro; Arlene Rhodes to Karen Harkin

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka’awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Dorothy Kapaun

Secretary - Approval of Minutes - July and August

Heather Petersen

Nicole Bizzarro made a motion to approve the July and August 2020 minutes as amended, 2nd by Joan Clay. Motion passed unanimously.

Heather went over a few brief updates on what is going on with our sport.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of August 31, 2020

RMDS Checking Account \$34,982.49

RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018) \$ 3,531.39 Total \$38,513.88 operating cash total

Restricted Funds as of August 31, 2020

Database/Website \$ 0.00

RMDS Scholarship \$ 4,592.29

Reserve \$ 0.00

TOTAL \$43106.17

Database / Website Development By CodeGeek

Estimated:

Cost \$66,000 - \$88,000

Timeframe: 8 Months

Payments:

1st Payment 07/22/2019 \$16,500.00

2nd Payment 12/18/2019 \$17,875.00

3rd Payment 02/14/2020 \$17,875.00

4th Payment 04/16/2020 \$17,875.00

Final Payment = ?????

Total \$70,125.00

Estimated Due:

\$88,000 - \$70,125 = \$17,875.00

Donations:

As of 12/31/2019 \$5,735.00

Received in 2020 \$7,014.00

Total \$12,749.00

Payment Terms:

First payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due before work commences
Second payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due 60 days after work commences.
Third payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due 120 days after work commences.
Fourth payment of one quarter (1/4) of the quote is due 180 days after work commences.

Remaining balance is due upon delivery, defined as the date upon which the website is approved on our testing servers, and prior to it being made available to the public via the Internet.

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Well here we are and we are not planning the RMDS Championship Show.

We are looking forward to completing the work on our Database and Website and planning for 2021. Tonight we can set the tone for the Board of Governors Meeting in November. I have heard several ideas on moving forward and making our organization a more productive one for all of our members. So let's listen carefully to some new proposals and do some diligent research so we can move forward and make some changes if needed.

2020 has been an unusual year and we have had to make many changes and reorganize. As we plan for 2021 I hope we can see it as an opportunity to grow.

Let's get started

Creativity involves breaking out of expected patterns in order to look at things in a different way. Edward de Bono
Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people. Leo Burnett

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

I truly enjoyed seeing so many of you competing and/or volunteering at Estes!! The weather was perfect and everyone I met was in high spirits and so happy to be there! It was a wonderful ending to a not so wonderful season. USDF Convention is quickly approaching! Please reach out to Gwen or me with anything that you would like for us to share whether it is how great the organization is or concerns you might have or, the best, new ideas for the organization.

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 636 members for 2020; 109 new horses since October, 2019

Shows:

- For 2020: 6 RMDS shows were held and 2 USDF/USEF shows.
- Most shows cancelled due to Covid have wanted their recognition fees transferred to 2021.

Education:

- Keep an eye on the calendar.

Omnibus:

- Delivered.

Database/Website:

- Progress continues. Very exciting.
- *Build A Byte Barn*-Donors of \$100 and more have received the donation letter. \$15,439.00 raised so far.
- Asking people that have refunds if they want to donate – most say yes.
- Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

Banquet:

- Reservations for Banquet and BOG cancelled. Do you want me to get dates for 2022?

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

2020

Executive Board Meetings: Oct 8 (budget)

BOG Nov 21 - Zoom

2021

Banquet: January 16, 2021 – Zoom or something?

**RMDS MEMBERSHIP -
YEAR-TO-DATE**

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	583	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	85	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	37	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	131	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	42	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	70	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	105	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	52	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	31																		
OB	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	58	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	16	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	1	1	1	3	5	11	12	13	15	14	25	14	16	22	21	34	36	24
CS			-	Dissolved	24	35	47	52	63	115	124	115	127	126	143	130	137	155	134
PN			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	inactive	12	13	13	14	15	14	13
PR			-	-	Dissolved	10	11	18	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TS			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dissolved	36	51	68	90	86	91	74	77
WA			-	-	Dissolved	19	21	26	28	24	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	583	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Juniors	44	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	123	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	11	12	9/2																
Life	35/1	33/1	32/2																

Proposed By Law and Standing Rule Changes for 2020 BOG:

SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE RMDS STANDING RULES REGARDING THE YEAR-END AWRD CRITERIA MADE BY: Julie Barringer-Richers, August, 2020

Below are my recommendations/suggestions to amend the a couple of things in the criteria for awarding RMDS Year-End Awards. As the included statistics on page 2 show, or club is long past needing a lower minimum median score in order to qualify your these awards, and in fact, if you were to look at each of the years listed below, you will see that there is rarely a Top 6 placement that is under 60%, and there is never a Breed or Special Award that is under 60%. I feel strongly that it is time to elevate our expectations so that our rules reflect the very high quality of Dressage training, instruction and competition that RMDS is known for. I would also like to see some additional changes (increases) made to the minimum number of shows required as well as the minimum of fully recognized shows required, but I will save that for another time... Thank you for your time and consideration! Respectfully Submitted, Julie Barringer-Richers Section V. Awards - Year-End C. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle. Change to: The median score must be **58.000%** or higher to qualify for an award. This method of computation will be used for all levels, including FEI and Freestyle. E. Perpetual Trophies 4. Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/ rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) shows, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least 55% at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be 55% or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least 55% or higher to qualify for an award. Change to: Horse of the Year Perpetual Trophies will be awarded at the RMDS annual banquet to horse/ rider combinations based on the median scores from at least three (3) **RMDS recognized shows**, four (4) judges and five (5) rides. Two (2) of the scores must be at least **58%** at the most difficult test of the level and at least two (2) of the shows must **also** be recognized by US Equestrian Federation. The median must be **58%** or higher to qualify for an award. FEI levels will be based on four (4) shows, four (4) judges and four (4) rides. The median must be at least **58%** or higher to qualify for an award. Page 1 Below I have noted RMDS Year-End Results from All Levels & Divisions as well as for All Breed and Special Awards showing any score of from the Top 6 places that are below 58%.

I feel that these statistics support my suggestions above:

2019 Year-End Award results not available on the RMDS website

2018 PSG HOY Adult Amateur 6th Place 56.324% Int. II HOY Open 4th Place 57.794%

2017 12 & Under High Median 4th Place 56.087% PSG HOY Adult Amateur 5th Place 57.737% Int. II HOY Adult Amateur Champion 57.215% Int. II HOY Open 4th Place 57.215% Int. II HOY Open 5th Place 56.684%
2016 4th Level HOY Adult Am. 3rd Place 56.33%
2015 PSG HOY Adult Amateur 4th Place 57.467% Grand Prix HOY Adult Am. Res. Champ. 56.500%
2014 PSG HOY Adult Amateur 5th Place 57.7635
2013 Training Level Pony HOY 6th Place 57.779%
2012 Only 3 total placings in HOY awards under 60%, none of which were below 58% Page 2

Heather made the comment that a Regional Championship is awarded at 57%, so we would make a year end award harder than a Regional Championship Champion? Karen Harkin suggested Beth talk to Julie to see if she would consider 57% for the proposal. *Please note that following the meeting, Beth did contact Julie and she accepted the 57% instead of the 58%.*

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Michelle Stevens/Anclaire Spaulding

No report. Would like a discussion of rolling over budgeted funds to 2021.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

1. Return from 2019 Season
 - a. Still in the process of obtaining trophies back from 2019.
 - b. Inventory of what we have received so far not yet complete, then I will contact those who have not returned them.
2. 2020 Awards
 - a. Those who have been able to show enough to qualify should, in my opinion, receive that award. There are always years that for whatever reason some of us cannot compete, and that doesn't disqualify the efforts of those who did. There are just more of us who could not compete this year, but those who did should be recognized.
 - b. Plan to date has been to do rider plates and plaques. For trophies, horse of the year, special awards, breed awards, the plan is to award if there are enough scores. The trophy will be engraved. Ribbons will be ordered for those with enough scores to qualify, but I suspect it will be very few.
 - c. Budget should be significantly less than previous years, which can only help with the database costs, but I can't even begin to guess what it will be until we see how many actually competed.

Stan Adamson moved that we extend the score deadline 2020 to October 31st. 2nd by Cassandra Dipentino. Lots of discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then continued on whether we change the awards program for 2020, or just leave it as is and move on.

Communications

Nicole Bizzarro

Recap

I was able to re-build the Centaur print files from scratch and get the September issue out on time.

Discovery

In talking to many members I've learned that the Centaur is universally not well received. There is a perception that the publication is full of non-professional writing, erroneous information, and the same information over and over again, and generally folks do not find it of value or read it. That is not what.

I am hearing from members about the Omnibus. Folks do seem to value having the Omnibus contents in printed form and as a resource throughout the year. Financially, the Omnibus nearly breaks even annually. In comparison, the Centaur loses money.

Here are some parts that don't seem to make sense in terms of what it costs the club to produce, print and distribute the Centaur 6 times a year: 6 times a year we put the Membership entry form in peoples mailboxes, 6 times a year we put the board roster in peoples mailboxes, 6 times a year we put the judges and TD roster in peoples mailboxes. This costs the club a lot, but does not add up to value for the club or the members. The

Classified section is underutilized and undervalued. There are just better alternatives on the Buy/Sell/Trade tack pages on FB, and the Classified section in the Centaur makes us look like a dinosaur. The Chapter meeting information was outdated and incorrect and included a url that is not active any longer. I think the whole print Centaur makes us look out of date and instead of reflecting well on the club, I fear it is actually hurting our image and outreach. I discovered that the ad sizes in the Centaur did not match the ad sizes listed in the specifications. The ad sizes in the Centaur do not match the ad sizes in the Championship show program. The ad pricing is not correlating between the publications either, and of course none of these jibe with the Omnibus because of its half page publication size.

It is very difficult to get quality content in a timely manner. Even the board, who are the most invested, struggle with this. And this year has made that all the harder.

Goal

I want to revision the entire RMDS Communication to be of better value in three ways: to the organization as a whole, to its members and to its advertisers and sponsors.

Reset

This stupid and difficult year is perfect for a reset. Change is never easy and an Organization like RMDS is not positioned to pivot quickly, but I do believe that we are suffering from a stagnation due to not changing with the times, the technology and the needs of the three groups we need to consider (those being the Organization, the members, and the sponsors and advertisers). Change is hard and painful, but why ruin a good time? If we can do it now while everything sucks any way we can really set ourselves up for better, smoother sailing in the future.

Proposal

Merge the Centaur and the Omnibus into a new, better product better designed and positioned to serve the three groups, while working seamlessly with the Championship show program and sponsorship outreach. Honor the ad contracts in the existing Print Centaur through the end of 2020, and put out one more issue in November. Then halt the Print Centaur altogether and continue with the newsletter in the e-Centaur format through Mailchimp in electronic format monthly. Una Shade has offered to do this every month, or as needed, if less frequently, for volunteer hours. That saves the club both the paid position cost and the Print Production cost and should be about a 10k saving in a year.

Redesign the Omnibus to be full color 8.5 x 11 glossy magazine format to launch in 2021. We can do this for basically the same expense as the old product. These prices are from the BOG last year and will need updating (I have a request for bid out, but don't have exact figures in yet). This shows the basic idea:

Print costs:

1. Omnibus: Same as last year, same page count, set up, etc: 750 | \$7,287
3. 96 Page + Cover Saddle-stitch option: 8.5" x 11" final size: 750 | \$6,153 or 1,000 | \$6,578
4. 56 Page + Cover, Saddle-stitch option: 8.5" x 11" final size 750 | \$5,063 or 1, 000 | \$5,471

I want to retain the sections and the content included in the Omnibus and supplement it with editorial content and educational content found in the Centaur.

The first issue could be branded as The RMDS Magazine | Omnibus Edition. If we could roll this out in early 2021 and have it in hand by Feb/Mar it could be used as an educational and outreach marketing piece at events (when events are able to happen again). Picture it as an RMDS version of a merger between the USDF Handbook and USDF Yearbook. Awards could include photos of folks and their horses. All ads would be color. All ads run in the Championship Show program would automatically be the right size and format to run in the new hybrid. We could still sell ad space, but we could also offer a tax deductible donation to the higher level Sponsors and Partners where we give them "free" ad space that would run in all the print products that RMDS creates in the calendar year. This would increase the value for those sponsors by changing the perception of buying ad space with no tax incentive, to receiving a tax incentive, promoting their brand and getting "free" ad space as a value added benefits package. I believe this would bring a high level, national brand presence into our publications. This reflects back on us and reflects back out on future partnerships and sponsors. A win, win, win if you will.

If there is the budget to create a second edition at the end of the show season, we could have a "The RMDS Magazine | It's A Wrap Edition" in the fall of 2021. If these publications are the success I envision them to be, they could be produced quarterly. Hopefully when life, showing and events get back to normal again, maybe in 2022?

The Nitty Gritty

There is too much to outline before we decide on a plan of action... but, here are two case studies as examples: The Dressage tests we run in the Omnibus take me a great deal of time to re-format in to the small page size. This will no longer be necessary and be a great time/effort savings.

The membership roster, which we pay a great deal to print and distribute, could be created in a PDF format and emailed to the membership or be made available online with a membership log in.

Additionally, I can make this list non-searchable so that our names and addresses cannot be easily mined for other purposes in a digital format.

So many more details, that are too numerous to outline at this early stage.

The Team

I would be lead designer a production artist doing layout and pre-press.

Beth Geier would have the same role as always.

Natalie Defee-Mendik would have a paid position as editor creating and managing content.

Una Shade would create electronic newsletters and support outreach and communication on Social Media.

Anclarie would do sponsor and partnership outreach for championships, maybe additional outreach to support this first this issue of the new product.

Eleanor Harrison will help with ad sales.

A few other folks have offered, but not committed to a role, and I will update this as we solidify a plan.

Personal pledge

I will lower my hourly rate for my paid position for the (hybrid) Omnibus in 2021 and for any additional print publication produced in 2021 or 2022 as a way of helping to reduce costs and to roll out this change in a difficult fiscal year without adding risk to the organization. And as a way of creating the funding needed for a paid editor position, besides the saving of not doing 6 Centaur issues in 2021.

I will donate the time to create the new look and feel. I will donate my time to redesign the existing marketing materials and sponsorship packets to reflect the RMDS branding, look more slick and professionally produced and to reflect any changes in pricing/structure we agree upon.

Other Considerations

Raise the cost of membership a bit to help offset these costs?

Streamline sponsorship to include the RMDS Magazine issues, however many there will be.

Lower the cost or advertising as a way of promoting additional ads in this competitive and financially difficult market.

Fund the use of sponsored social media content to drive more members and advertisers.

Future Goals

Position RMDS to look more modern and more competitive in this changing market. Create additional income revenue opportunities with no-risk products that could be an e-commerce benefit to the club.

Editor could have a voting position on board

Social Media could have a voting position on board

I do not want to be Communication Chair in the future. I will fill the role, as I do not want to leave void, but I would like to assist the organization as my skill set fits best, and that is as a graphic designer, as I have done for 18 years so far.

A filled marketing position.

Integration

I would like to see sponsorship be for the organization and not just for an event. I would like to see the efforts of those who put so much into these rolls have a greater effect without additional effort. I would like to see the club act as more of a unified organism so that benefits benefit all and so that events and publications are not so much an island trying to fund only themselves, because, of course, they do not exist in a vacuum. I want to see RMDS come up a notch and have all the events and products come up with it. Better is within reach.

Bottom line

Create better products for the same amount of risk and money. Position RMDS for success into a changing and ever challenging future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these momentous changes!

Michelle Stevens moved that we move forward with pursuing the concept and we receive a detailed proposal with financial figures at the October budget meeting so that it can be presented at the November Board of Governors meeting. 2nd by Stan Adamson. Much discussion ensued. **Motion passes with Nicole Bizzarro abstaining.**

Website/Data Base

Status report Sept 3, 2020: RMDS web app project CodeGeek

What we worked on this week:

- We are fine tuning the show import functionality based on the discussions we had this week.
- We are also finishing up the validation rules for the Judges
- We are building out the initial reporting screens for simple reports

What we'll work on next:

- We'll start in on the awards calculations work
- We'll finalize the show import and show entry work

What we need from you and your team:

- Nothing at this point!

Education

MaryJo Hoepner/Pam Phillips

TD Program:

I perceive we need to discuss how to handle the training and certification of new RMDS Technical delegates due to the much abbreviated show year.

The following requirements are expected within one year. There have been an insufficient number of shows to accommodate the one year restriction on apprenticing.

2. To be initially recognized as a RMDS Technical Delegate, the following requirements must be successfully completed by the candidate within one (1) year of acceptance into the RMDS Technical Delegate Training Program:

- a. The candidate must attend a training clinic.
- b. The candidate must complete field apprenticeships consisting of a minimum of three full shows. Each of these shows must be under a different Technical Delegate at either RMDS or US Equestrian Federation recognized competitions. Two must be at a recognized USEF Dressage recognized competition. A minimum of two shows of apprenticeships must be completed under licensed US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegates. Need to pass the evaluation with a minimum of three (3) evaluation scores of 70%. The remaining apprenticeship may be completed under either a licensed US Equestrian Federation Technical Delegate or a recognized RMDS Technical Delegate.
- c. The program will be conducted when the RMDS Recognized Officials and Show Standards Committee Chairperson and the Executive Board determine that an adequate demand exists.
- d. Pass a written exam with a minimum score of 85%.

I suggest we extend this requirement to include next year's show season.

This requirement was extended at the previous board meeting with the inclusion of the continuing education.

I am investigating methods to conduct some training remotely. Everything is scheduled for the first weekend in February.

Junior/Young Riders

Cassandra Dipentino

After unfortunately cancelling our 3 day Intensive, I have started to plan a one-day clinic similar to High Plains's Jr/YR clinic. It looks like to work with everyone's schedule we will look for a date after championships. I look forward to still having a fun, educational, and safe event geared towards our young riders.

I am still working out details regarding this clinic. I now have 3 clinicians who are interested in teaching and am currently working on dates that work for at least 2 of them.

Marketing

Nicole has someone who may be interested.

Vacant.

Professionals

The Professionals Clinic with Lilo Fore is scheduled for April 24-25, 2021.

Kathy Simard / Joan Clay

Scholarship

Natalie DeFee-Mendik

A reminder email was sent to scholarship recipients to send updates on their activities, fulfill volunteer hours, and prepare an article for the *Centaur*.

Lynn Van Voris wrote an article for the upcoming issue of the *Centaur* about her experience utilizing her scholarship funds. Summer Mayo sent an update and is working on an article. She has inquired about further opportunities to fulfill her volunteer hours.

I will send a second reminder, as well as a notice about applications for next year.

Shows – Championships

Anclaire Spaulding/Michelle Stevens

Discussion of where for 2021 RMDS Championships. **Shannon Lemons moved that we ask to join the New Mexico Dressage Chapter for the Region 5 Champions in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 2021. 2nd by Karen Harkin. Motion passed with Heather Petersen abstaining.**

Appointed Committee Reports:**1. Western Dressage**

Simone Windeler

No report.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson

Posting the open positions on the RMDS Facebook page generated a lot of interest, thank you Anclaire. This is the status of nominations as of September 4, 2020. I have inquiries from additional people, but no commitments yet. I will check back with everyone mid-month to make sure I have this all correct. We could end up with contested positions, and we all know that nominations must be open from the floor at the Board of Governors meeting November 21. Many thanks to Anclaire Spaulding and others who have provided guidance and assistance, and to the Chapter Presidents who got the word out to their members.

RMDS Nominees for 2021

- President, for a two-year term
- Vice President for 2021
- Adult Amateur
- Championship Show
- Communications
- Junior/Young Riders
- Scholarships

Dorothy Kapaun, Boulder Valley
Gwen Ka’awaloa
Anclaire Spaulding and **Karen Harkin** (Grand Valley)
Anclaire Spaulding
Christy Rawlings
Cassandra DiPentino
Natalie DeFee Mendik

3. BOG - November 21, 2020

Heather Petersen

Heather will set up the Zoom meeting

4. Banquet –

Beth Geier

Zoom? It was decided to do print recognition and no Zoom call.

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Congratulations to everyone from Region 5 who qualified and competed at the USEF Festival of Champions at the end of August at Lamplight in Illinois! We are so proud of your accomplishments.

This has been quite the different year due to Covid. Colorado finally had a weekend of dressage shows with our Estes Park Dressage I & II. It was very good to see everyone and have a bit of normality. Arizona will have had a weekend

of shows at the end of August as well and I hope they also went well! Fingers crossed that things settle a bit this winter and we can have a more consistent and normal show season for 2021.

We sadly had to cancel the 2020 USDF Region 5 Championships in September in New Mexico, but we're looking forward to another opportunity to return to Santa Fe and the HIPICO Santa Fe facility in 2021. Please mark your calendars for September 16-19, 2021 and plan to join us. It is a wonderful venue and a great area to visit.

I look forward to seeing everyone for our virtual USDF Convention this winter! There will be a USDF Region 5 meeting or two and these will be open to all current USDF members, so if you haven't join us in person for a convention, please consider joining us virtually!

All Group Member Organization's (GMO) were asked to designate their delegates for the USDF convention Board of Governors meeting by August 31st and if not determined by that date, the GMO president would become the delegate. If the GMO delegate/president is not able to attend the convention, a proxy for that delegate can be submitted at any time up until the night before the BOG meeting at the convention. The advantage for the GMO is that the delegate will be known and can receive communication from the USDF office earlier. GMO Delegates are included on a list of USDF delegates to receive e-mail communications containing pertinent information on issues that will come before the 2020 BOG meeting at convention. If GMO's have not yet sent in their delegate information, please do so as soon as possible.

I always encourage all of you to attend the convention. It will look a little different this year, but what a great opportunity to dip your toes in the mix without the travel!

We still are also looking for a person to serve on the USDF Nominating Committee for Region 5 – please!

Here are the goals and objectives of the Nominating committee:

Goals

1. Secure nominations for regional Participating Member (PM) delegates and the USDF Executive Board.
2. Ensure that all GMO members are represented on the Board of Governors by GMO delegates.
3. Educate the membership about the candidates and oversee the election process.

Objectives

1. Procure nominations for the following USDF Executive Board positions by June 1: Administrative Council At-Large Director (ALD), Technical Council ALD, and Activities Council ALD.
2. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15.
3. Obtain GMO delegate and proxy appointments when designated by each GMO.
4. Educate the membership about candidates and oversee the election process.
5. Notify GMOs who failed to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests that they lost their votes at the Board of Governors meeting.

The person who would serve for Region 5 would help obtain Region 5 PM delegates yearly - we help them by asking folks at each convention if they are interested in serving for the next year; they would also follow up with GMOs who don't send in their delegates or proxies. This is a few phone calls and emails in October and November. They also confirm Regional Director Candidates as well and help guide others who may be interested in running for USDF President, VP, secretary, treasurer. There are also a few conference calls throughout the year and we also ask that they attend the USDF Convention each year.

Please let me know if you know anyone who may be interested so we can follow up with them, or have them contact myself!

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

No new business except to mention the October 8th budget meeting.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

Starting to plan for 2021 and a few more events to wrap up 2020. A saddle fitting clinic, a few under saddle clinics. We are meeting in person, but outside and with masks and social distancing.

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

While working on the decision whether to hold our scheduled August 29, 2020, dressage show at the Boulder County Fairgrounds with COVID-19 protocols in place, the decision was made for us when Boulder County cancelled all events at the Fairgrounds through August 31. We informed our membership and the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, and contacted all volunteers, officials, vendors and club officers of the cancellation.

We do intend to hold the scheduled August 30 Clinic with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez at Nighthawk Equestrian Center. Please see the RMDS Omnibus and our web site for information on this event, and please pay close attention to the stipulations regarding protection from COVID-19. Please studiously adhere to all the constraints such as no spectators, limiting the number of helpers who accompany you to the clinic, and paying strict attention to any mask protocols for the clinic. We want everyone to have fun and learn, but safely.

The BVDA Board has also cancelled our annual awards banquet, held normally in January of the following year (2021), due to the limited number of shows available and the necessity of avoiding large group gatherings. We voted on August 10 not to give year end awards for 2020, but instead, in light of the unprecedented conditions this year, to acknowledge and celebrate on our web site all riders who were able to compete during this show season. If you have questions, please contact Julie Barringer-Richers, Awards Chair for BVDA, or Beth Geier in the RMDS Central Office.

We have a regularly scheduled meeting August 10 at 7 p.m. and hope that members will participate via Zoom virtual meeting. We also encourage all former members to renew their membership in RMDS, whether competing or not, to support the work of our club in these trying times. RMDS is developing a new web site and database, which is costly, and we also encourage members to participate in the "Build a Byte Barn" fundraiser to support these efforts (see the current RMDS web site to participate).

Enjoy time with horses—they bring us great solace during this pandemic with all its associated stresses.

3. Foothills

Cassandra Dipentino

We are incredibly happy to report that we were able to successfully hold our Last Chance Show on August 30th!! Our show filled up shortly after the Estes Park USDF show. I must say it was quite the new experience as president of Foothills as well as dealing with all the new COVID protocols. We learned so much and all the volunteers we had helped make the show run smoothly. I was sad to hear that MaryJo Hoepner could not be our TD. It was pretty cool having Heather Petersen step in, she's kind of a celebrity, right?! We learned so much about how to safely run a show in this "new normal". Huge THANK YOU to Simone Windeler for running a great show.

Moving forward we are starting to plan the "virtual show" that we discussed last meeting. We also have some ideas for clinics over the off season.

Hope we have a more normal show season in 2021!!

4. Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

Our August schooling and recognized shows had to be cancelled due to the large wildfire in our area. The firefighters used the Mesa County fairgrounds facility as their command base. This weekend, Sept 6, the use of the fairgrounds has ended so equestrian events may again be held there. We have our October 3/4 schooling show scheduled there and it is set to open this week.

The Mesa County Health Department found many new COVID cases were from travelers coming in to Mesa County. The newest outside event regulations require that all outdoor public events limit participants to nine western slope counties. Several of our members are not in this group of nine counties so it was very sad to send out our prizelist for October with this limitation.

Fortunately we will be able to hold our Dolly Hannon clinic at a private residence on Sept 26/27 in Mesa County -

and all are welcome!

We are considering not doing Year End Awards this year with the limited shows and not being able to enjoy the presentations in a big group format. We may do certificates and save our funds for a big ceremony next year. We are all hoping and praying next year will be closer to normal.

Our monthly GVDS meetings continue on the Zoom format and we have had more attendance at these meetings from those outside of Mesa County who are in our club. We voted to continue this format for the time being.

After the October show, the next item for our club will be the request for nominations for officers for next year. A few new faces have begun to volunteer for next year to bring some added energy, vision and expertise. We hope to have a program/educational event organized for the January/February months.

5. High Plains

Stephanie Stokes

No news to report.

6. New Mexico Dressage

Maureen Mestas

No report

7. Northern Colorado

Didi DeKrey

September is NCDAs time to review the summer's happenings and look forward to the General Meetings and Presentations.

This last season we held three mounted events. Our season began later than usual – just like everyone else! We started in June with a Ride a Test with Julie Haugen. It was so popular that we held it over two full days rather than one. Classical, Eventing, and Western Dressage riders all benefited.

Then came our July Show/Clinic event with Dolly Hannon. Again, a great turnout and positive learning experience; despite the heat! Dolly being the consummate teacher was a fountain of knowledge and exercises for all! Our August Show/Clinic with Kathy Simard was combined into an exciting day! We are so pleased to see juniors and Young Riders participating! Auditors were given opportunities to learn and ask questions during the rides.

The NCDAs webpage has lots of great photographs taken at the events – feel free to browse! Points for NCDAs members from the three scored events have been compiled to compute Year-End awards.

Feel free to join us anytime! General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month; September through May. Good company and interesting topics.

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/myNCDA>

Or visit our webpage: <http://noco-dressage.org/>

8. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

Our RMDS show on July 18th at Spur Ridge in Laramie was a great success! Everything went smoothly and all competitors were following the new Covid rules perfectly. We are sure hoping that by next summer we are far enough back to normal to have our fully recognized show again!

At our September meeting we had Dr. Carey Edwards from a local vet clinic visit us for a seminar on horse nutrition. It was a great presentation and we learned a lot! And we even had a distant member join us on zoom. It always makes me happy when we hear from members beyond our local crew.

Our last event this year will be a groundwork clinic with a Clinton Anderson Ambassador on Oct. 3rd. Let me know if you are interested in participating or auditing.

Please check out our website for any updates or connect with us through Facebook!

9. Pikes Peak

Shannon Lemons

We have had a few meetings using the Zoom platform, but so far have not been able to get together yet. Various events ended up cancelled due to county mandates or facility concerns, but we will keep trying! If you have an idea, please let us know!

It seems that folks are riding, though, and it was great to see so many people at Estes Park! Hopefully after this terrible blip of weather we will get our beautiful Indian summer and can enjoy outside again☺.

10. Western Colorado

Lesley Hill

We have had very little Dressage action on the Western Slope lately.

Due to continuing COVID restrictions, and then the ferocious Grizzly Creek Fire which blanketed our area with three weeks of evacuations, smoke and heat, combined with closed highways on both ends we have nothing to report. We are hopeful all members and their horses are safe back at home and breathing easily. Happy for some rain.

Next Meeting is October 8th budget meeting.

9:25 pm Stan Adamson made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Katie Knight. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen