

## RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

**Attendance:** MaryJo Hoepner, Dorothy Kapaun, Shannon Lemons, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Miranda Avila, Stan Adamson, Ginka Kubelka, Joan Clay, Anclaire Spaulding, Natalie DeFee Mendik, Cassandra Dipentino, Cecilia Cox, Sally O'Dwyer, Nadia Westra, Maureen Mestas, Karen Harkin, Nicole Bizzarro, Linda Millisor, Jewlee Bellah, Jon Haugen, Gemma Hanekom

**Proxies:** Stan Adamson to Dorothy Kapaun when he left the meeting;

### Call to Order-President

**Dorothy Kapaun**

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

### Secretary

**Heather Petersen**

Approval of Minutes –May 13 2021 – **Stan Adamson made a motion to approve the May 2021 minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Soos. Motion passed unanimously.**

Results of email votes entered into the minutes:

- None to read into the minutes.

### Treasurers Report

**Sharon Soos**

Funds as of June 30, 2021

RMDS Checking Account \$26,853.88

RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018) \$ 1,713.59

Total \$28,567.47 operating cash total

#### **Restricted Funds as of June 30, 2021**

Database/Website \$ 0.00

RMDS Scholarship \$ 3,592.29

Reserve \$ 0.00

TOTAL \$32,159.76

Funds as of July 12, 2021

RMDS Checking Account \$25,378.54

RMDS PayPal (as of 12/19/2018) \$ 142.98

Issued checks \$?????

Total \$25,521.52 operating cash total

#### **Restricted Funds as of July 12, 2021**

RMDS Scholarship \$ 3,592.29

Reserve \$ 0.00

Uncashed Issued checks \$250.00

Payable \$750.00

Subtotal \$ 2,592.29

TOTAL \$28,113.81

Highlights – discussion of reimbursements moving out of income and into expenses, benefits the organization in our fiscal reporting.

### President Report

**Dorothy Kapaun**

As we all know, the shows are filling fast and causing people to be furious! Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the volunteer positions. I know the positions are almost always filled, but not until the organizer has stressed far too much. In reading over the reports, I reread NM's approach with showering the volunteers with goodies. I also remember the times I would Jump Judge at the Horse Park all those years ago. I still have the coffee cups I received on two occasions and still use the key chain. I looked forward to the pastries and coffee that was awaiting

me on my arrival to the Course Country course. I realize this add some cost and even more time to organizing the shows, but it is something that should be considered in my opinion. It shows the volunteers their time and efforts are truly appreciated.

'There is no finer sensations in life that which comes with victory over one's self. Go forward to a goal of inward achievement, brushing aside all your old internal enemies as you advance.'

VASH YOUNG

This prompted some discussion of increasing the volunteer hour requirements and possibly increasing the requirement from 4 hours to more.

The discussion of what it takes to run a horse show, finances, volunteers, etc.

#### **Vice President Report**

No report

**Gwen Ka'awaloa**

#### **Central Office**

Beth Geier

##### **Membership**

- Registration – 698 members as of 7/1 for 2021 –; 133 new horses since October 2020
- See Reports with chapter membership totals. We are close to last year's total.

##### **Shows:**

- For 2021: 6 RMDS shows: 33 USEF/USDF recognized shows which includes Championships and Regionals. 2 for 2022.

##### **Recognized Officials:**

- In the pipeline: Stan Adamson, Sharon Soos, Sally O'Dwyer, Micheline Ward
- Much discussion of the TD program did ensue.

##### **Omnibus:**

##### **Database/Website:**

- Currently have raised \$23,036.91 as of 7/1. 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.
- Working on Awards reports with CodeGeek.

##### **Banquet:**

- January 15, 2022 – confirmed.

##### **General:**

- Hobby Horse Farms-Longmont – East of I-25. Wants to do clinics etc. for dressage
  - Has 3 arenas 2-out 1-in
  - Room for 30/35 trailers
  - Has 8-10 stalls available
- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.

#### **Next Executive Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) – 2021**

**RMDS Championships:** Sept 3-5

**RMDS Sport Horse:** Sept 8

**Executive Board Meetings:** Aug 5, Sept 9, Oct 14 (budget)

**BOG** Nov 20

#### **2022**

**Banquet** January 15

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

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	698	636	700	725	752	756	779	694	827	797	868	773	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	133	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274
AV	40	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	157	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	64	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	88	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	142	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	68	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
NM	33	33																		
OB	30	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	54	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC	21	20	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
No Chapter	1	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1162</b>
Juniors	63	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	228	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	12	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	16	12	12	9/2																
Life	43	35/1	33/1	32/2																

**Permanent Committee Reports Continued:**

**Adult Amateur**

**Cecilia Madison**

Cinic with Katie Johnson for the AAs – working on dates.

**Team Competition – June 27, 2021 - Table Mountain Ranch**

- 46 rides – cancelled due to deluge Friday & Saturday – too wet to be safe

Income	\$1,500.00
Refunds	\$ (240.00)
Misc	\$ (21.68)
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$1,238.32</b>

- net \$1238.32 all but 4 rides donated their fee to RMDS.

**Awards**

**Shannon Lemons**

Working on trophies for Friesian Cross and Intro. They are in progress and will be there for this year.

**Communications**

**Nicole Bizarro/Sally O'Dwyer**

Would like to submit an article from Ecentaur and the Website for national GMO USDF awards due by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Website needs updating—the most recent Ecentaurs need to be added. Heather noted that someone needs to send them to her in a pdf format for her to get them posted as they don't come through well in her email and if that was done, the website would be up to date.....

Ashley of Black Magic Dressage has offered to write an article for the Ecentaur—on how to impress the judge. We still do not have an Instagram page. Not sure how to fix this.

Suggest that we create and distro position descriptions for each board chair position. This would help to promote collaboration between chairs and encourage new volunteers to take charge of their positions or sign up for a position.

Ecentaur—Una resigned and the last two Ecentaurs were put together by Nicole with content from me. With the approval of the Board, I am happy to be responsible for publishing of the Ecentaur. Nicole is willing to help me get on top of the software requirements, etc

Nicole had some article ideas for a Century ride and a few other things.

Heather would you be interested in working with me to write an article about a “call to action?” to get people to understand how important it is to contribute, get involved, and be part of the RMDS? More talk ensued about volunteers and how to reward volunteers.

Other stuff:

I think the RMDS would benefit greatly by increasing the number of volunteer hours required by members to be eligible for awards.

Regarding revenue, suggest we communicate and educate members regarding the cost to manage the club and put on shows to encourage additional giving/donating. Members don't understand the cost expended by the club for shows etc. Could we hold a 50/50 raffle at shows?

### **Education**

Judges Continuing Education

Tuesday September 7

Janet Foy facilitator

At the Renaissance Hotel, Quebec Str, Denver

**MaryJo Hoepner**

### **Junior/Young Riders**

I am excited to report that our 2021 Jr/Yr Summer Intensive was a huge success!! We had a waitlist of 2 riders this year which we needed to pull both in due to scratches. We ended up with 12 riders (only 6 were my students) and 13 horses!! The riders were mostly from Colorado, but we had 1 rider from North Carolina and 1 rider from New Mexico.

I reformatted the schedule this year to emulate the D4K (Dressage for Kids) Winter Intensive Training that Lendon Gray puts on in Florida every Jan-Mar. Two of our riders this year had also gone to the WIT program which is why I made the changes that I did.

We ended up with Gigi Brittain on Thursday, Petra Warlimont on Friday, and Jessica Greer on Saturday. We had assigned scribes to stand with the clinician to take notes of the lesson. The other riders were required to watch all the lessons and take notes for themselves. The feedback that I have received so far has been really positive.

Day 1: Thursday

Gigi Brittain taught private and semi-private lessons. Kim Cavanagh gave a presentation about Rider Symmetry at lunch. Sophia Still and Charlotte Feddersen did a presentation about their experiences at WIT after dinner. Then we played around in the “sandbox” with the girls doing various dressage tests on foot, including the GP Special in a quadrille formation!! Then they tried their “hands” at jumping the x-country courses. We have learned that this is the best way to get them all to sleep on the first night...lol!!

Day 2: Friday

Petra Warlimont taught 13 private lessons starting at 7am!!

This night we had a BBQ and invited the parents to a presentation from Joan Clay regarding the NAYC program. Paige Smith and Raissa Chunko brought their horses down in the pouring rain to give a demonstration of what the future might look like. Paige did very well ridden and quite strategic PSG test in our indoor which is 30x50!! Raissa did a long lining/in hand demonstration to show that horses can do so much more than be ridden. They both were amazing during the Q&A sessions after their demonstrations. Afterwards Raissa gave a very professional presentation about her trip to Aachen, Germany. Joan Clay then gave a presentation and Q&A regarding the NAYC program.

Over the past 3 SI “camps” I have included a clinician who was either one the NAJYRC team, coached a student to the team, or is involved with the team. We had each of them do a presentation/Q&A for the riders at lunch but, like permission slips, the information doesn't always make it home to the parents?!?! I felt that this route was

MUCH more successful as it brought the parents in to get the massive amount of information needed to support the goals of their children. I plan to continue this in future SI camps.

Day 3: Saturday

Jessica Greer had been contracted to do a Ride-A-Test. Unfortunately, the weather did not agree with my plans. She graciously ended up giving 12 private lessons to the riders.

Some of the feedback that I received from the riders was that they felt that the clinicians were in a perfect order. Gigi pinpointed issues, Petra worked them through said issues, and Jessica brought it all together.

Volunteer Time:

I want to be sure that volunteer time is given to Joan Clay, Raissa Chunko, and Paige Smith for the Friday night demos and presentations. Also, Gretchen Begg volunteered her time to help wherever needed throughout all 3 days.

Scholarship/Grant requirements:

Sophia Still has completed her requirement to Foothills by presenting her experience at WIT and writing an article for the Centaur.

I have forgotten if Raissa was supposed to present her trip to Aachen to the SI camp but just in case she has fulfilled this.

Financial Stuff:

Original net profit was \$1725.88 then Gigi donated her fee of \$600 to the program so we ended up with a profit of \$2325.88!!!

I have included the budget/p&l charts.

Personally, I feel like this program is starting to become what I had envisioned since I became the RMDS Jr/Yr Chairperson. We may even need audition tapes next year!!

#### **Marketing**

No report

**Christy Rawlings**

#### **Professionals**

**Joan Clay**

##### **1. 2021 Professional's Education – "The Rider Project" online workshop**

The date for the first session is Monday, August 16, 2021 (time TBD – will be in the evening). The date/time for the second session will be in September or October. Details to follow.

Expenses = \$750 for Lisa El-Ramey's time to review videos, prepare materials and present two online sessions.

Suggested for participants = \$50 (would need 15 participants to break even)

##### **2. Professional's Support for 2021 RMDS Championships**

I will be sending out an email to all RMDS professionals to encourage everyone to sponsor classes since we will not be hosting the professional's dinner.

##### **3. 2022 Professional's Symposium – Lilo Fore Clinic**

April 23-24, 2022 at Tomora Training Center, Greeley, CO

#### **Scholarship**

**Natalie DeFee-Mendik**

One of the 2021 Jr/YR scholarship recipients completed her volunteer hours and wrote a super article (with photos) for the *RMDS Magazine*.

#### **Shows – Championships**

**Anclaire Spauling/Heather Petersen**

Anclaire is diligently working on finding sponsors and such for RMDS Champs show in Grand Junction. A few issues have come up:

1. Not many of the eastern slope trainers are taking their students to the show.
2. Anclaire does not know the trainers on the western slope except for Julie Burt.
3. Many who sponsored in 2019 on the eastern slope are not interested in sponsoring in 2021 because the show is not on the front range.
4. Right now, Anclaire has about \$1850.
5. Anclaire needs help with obtaining sponsors

T-Shirts: when do we need to order by?

Dinners: who shall we ask to cater Friday night? Karen or Judi, help?

Discussion of cancelling for 2021, but the board decided to keep it going to serve our membership that isn't going to Regionals. Target budget for sponsorship if we aim for the percentages of previous years is \$7000-\$8000. Concerns still expressed on travel and expenses.

**Shannon Lemons moved that we move forward with the 2021 RMDS Championships. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miranda Avila. Motion passes with Sharon Soos and Heather Petersen abstaining.**

**Discussion of 2022:**

Heather has been working with HIPICO Santa Fe to obtain dates for hosting a show September 15-18 in 2022. She said either 2 White Feet would take the license or RMDS could have the license if they wanted to host the RMDS Championships in conjunction with the USDF Region 5 Championships.

**Miranda Avila moved RMDS take the ownership of the 2022 Region 5 Championships that are tentatively scheduled in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the HIPICO Santa Fe facility. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cassandra DiPentino. Motion passed with 1 person abstaining (Heather Petersen).**

**Appointed Committee Reports:**

**1. Western Dressage**

No report

Simone Windeler

**2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents**

Stan Adamson volunteered to head the committee again for 2021.

Treasurer, Secretary, Awards, Education, Marketing, Professionals, Shows

Need nominees for 1 year: Vice President

Treasurer – Sharron willing to continue; Secretary – Heather is willing to continue; Awards – Shannon is willing to continue; Education – MaryJo is willing to continue but will let someone else have it if they'd like; Marketing – we need to look for someone; Professionals – Joan can continue; Shows – Anclaire is considering but will let us know after Championships this year. VP – Gwen can continue as well but if someone else is interested, that's good too!

Stan Adamson

**3. BOG - November 20, 2021**

We have the Renaissance

Heather Petersen

**4. Banquet –**

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Reserved at the Renaissance.

Beth Geier

**5. Volunteers –**

The June RMDS team competition was shaping up nicely with volunteers, though a big push was needed right beforehand to get enough. However, the show was unfortunately canceled due to the rainy weather flooding the arenas. All of the volunteers were thanked profusely. Several reached out to me to share their disappointment in the cancellation of the show and not being able to volunteer.

Miranda Avila

**6. Region 5 Report**

Summer is here and shows are thankfully rolling along again this year. Colorado has had lots of nice rain and is quite green. The horses are definitely enjoying the grass. Shows are filling well, and frequently have wait lists. We have had 8 shows so far fill on opening day and most of them filled within a few hours. It's been quite a change from the past 12-15 years!

The 2021 USDF Convention will be December 1-4 in Houston, Texas! Coming visit Region 9! The host hotel is right downtown and there will be plenty to do and explore outside of meetings and educational programs. Region 9 is getting ready to roll out the red carpet and this will be a great city to enjoy after the pandemic of the last year.

Heather Petersen

We have 3 Juniors and 1 Young Rider for the 2021 NAYC in Traverse City, Michigan. We're very excited to have a great group of kids going to represent Region 5. It's an expensive venture and they could use your help. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at [jnclay@comcast.net](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877. These young adults work very hard, as do their parents, trainers and friends and every little bit of support is greatly appreciated.

The qualifying period for the 2021 USEF Championships Programs for Young Horses, Developing Horses, Children, Ponies, Young Riders, Juniors and U25 Grand Prix will close at the end of July. We wish all our intended competitors good luck in their endeavors for those championships as well.

We are looking forward to having a central Great American/USDF Regional Championships at HIPICO Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be fun to have a new venue for the show. I've run a show there this year and it's going to be really a great show. We have linked the Regional Championship prize list to the Region 5 website, so be sure to check out [www.USDFRegion5.org](http://www.USDFRegion5.org).

Several important **DEADLINES** are coming up:

- USDF National and Regional GMO volunteer nominations, as well as GMO award nominations, are due to the USDF office by August 31.
  - GMOs can submit nominations for [Newsletter Awards](#), [Website Awards](#), and [Photography Awards](#). Don't forget that all nominations are due to the USDF office by **August 31**. No more submitting hard-copy nominations! See the nomination forms for detailed information.
  - Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year nominations can be submitted by any participating member, group member or the Region Director.
  - One deserving group member will receive the [Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant](#) to attend the 2021 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention in Houston, Texas. The grant includes full convention registration and partial reimbursement for travel expenses. Applications due by **August 31**
- GMOs must return their GMO Delegate/Proxy Authorization form to the USDF office to appoint representation to the Board of Governors meeting at the USDF Annual Convention.

If you have news you'd like to share, please let me know, we're happy to get it out and about for you.

#### Old Business:

- 

#### New Business:

- 

#### Chapter Presidents:

##### 1. Arkansas Valley

No report.

Nancy Leonard

##### 2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

On June 7, 2021, we hosted a great Zoom program about "What to Put in Your First Aid Kit for Shows," with Dr. Bruce Connolly, DVM. Bruce included a great handout that summarized the program and provided a check list for horse exhibitors of items to always have with you in your horse trailer, plus other vital information. With Bruce's permission, we plan to make copies available in the Show Office for our July-August show at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont.

A week later, we held our regular monthly board meeting via Zoom, and covered routine business. We have received a nice sponsorship for our High Point winners in this month's show from Colorado Tack and Supply in Thornton: embroidered or engraved show pads or bridles. The final determination will be made by the owner this month. We also received confirmation that Mike Maroone Ford (formerly Longmont Ford) will be providing new pickups on loan for the use of the judges and scribes at the July show. Later, Miranda Avila reported that her company had donated thirty clip on, reel-type badge holders for our volunteers at the show, another generous contribution.

On July 9, our Show Committee met to make final plans for the July 31-August 1 show at the Fairgrounds. Heather Petersen, Show Secretary, joined us for the meeting and let us know we have 100 horses registered for each of the two days! Nicole Donohue, Show Manager, reported she had confirmation that the Fairgrounds can provide us with

additional warm-up space, which will allow us to build two temporary arenas in the large Jack Murphy Arena in front of the grandstand. That will permit us to run two rings simultaneously and keep the schedule doable for such a large field. We discussed many other details, but our decision to go ahead with the cost of \$660 dollars for the additional space will be more than offset by the large number of participants. We will be abiding by USEF and Colorado protocols for COVID-19, and will require waivers before people can obtain a wrist band allowing them to enter the competition area.

The success of the recognized shows at Nighthawk Equestrian Center, Longmont, plus the BVDA Fairgrounds show means we have recovered following the worst of the COVID-10 pandemic. We wish all RMDS GMOs and all our members and horses a bill of good health for the balance of 2021!

Our Board would like to encourage members to volunteer for Nighthawk shows and other shows within RMDS's geographic bounds. Volunteers are our life blood! For those who've done so, thanks for your service.

### **3. Foothills**

**Cassandra Dipentino**

So far, the 2021 show season has been quite interesting!!

We had a successful RAT on June 5<sup>th</sup> and a full show on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to another full show in August.

We plan to start hosting our "Foothills Firsts" monthly clinic series starting in October. Our goal is to provide a monthly opportunity to ride with top trainers, local at first, until we can bring in clinicians from around the country to educate our membership. We may explore grant opportunities in the future, but for now, we are thinking local to build up the clinic series' publicity.

Another exciting addition to the Foothills calendar is our first Foothills Dressage Festival. A level 2 USEF show tentatively scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. We are awaiting USEF approval and confirmation of a second judge. We have accepted Laura Quackenbush's resignation as Foothills Chapter Treasurer after many years of service. Nadia Westra was nominated to fill the position and unanimously voted into office during our July 12, 2021 Special Board Meeting.

We would like to have a hyperlink to our Foothills shows prize list on the RMDS calendar if possible.

### **4. Grand Valley**

**Karen Harkin**

Grand Valley Dressage Society (GVDS) has been busy in the past two months.

GVDS hosted a sold-out schooling show on June 4 and a nearly sold-out recognized show on June 5-6. Melissa Creswick judged the schooling and recognized show. Sharron Sarchet joined Melissa for the second day, creating a surprise panel for the exhibitors. Debbie Moloznick was the TD. Both Debbie and Melissa gave us some great feedback, most of which will be implemented for future shows. We did a post-show survey for exhibitors, again gleaned some excellent ideas. It is from this feedback that we decided that in 2022, we will hold two shows rather than just one show. We also debuted our new Premier dressage arena! We were thankful for the covered warm-up and show arena, the misters and the fans, to keep our horses and riders cool on a hot weekend. And our decision to begin each day with the national anthem was a hit with our exhibitors and officials. We are working toward having a flag presentation in the future.

We had a member sponsored clinic with Sue Martin and are planning for our Jennifer Roth clinic in August, a USDF/GVDS sponsored clinic. Dr. Susan Schneider is graciously donating her Montrose facility for the Jennifer Roth clinic. All riding spots are filled, but space is available for auditors.

Although we continue to offer Zoom programs, we noticed that our attendance is dwindling. We're not sure if it is Zoom fatigue, or the longer days, or the summer schedules than many people have. We are presenting an excellent Zoom program on Preventing Ulcers and Colic During Show Season, presented by Dr. Megan Lamb on July 26.

### **5. High Plains**

**Andrea Price-Valenzuela**

No report

### **6. New Mexico Dressage**

**Maureen Mestas**

Membership Total: 34

Financial: Operating Account Balance: \$ 19,177.95

Show Account Balance: \$ see above



JR/YR Scholarship & Grant Account Balance: \$ 500.00

Donation Pledges Outstanding (Monetary and In-Kind): \$ 10,200.00

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Board of Directors Best Practices Manual is finalized. We follow RMDS By-Laws, however, this Best Practices Manual contains information for operational and procedural guidelines for the Board for matters such as: Quorum and voting; Nominating and interviewing new Board members; Committees; Accounting best practices; Accounting and non-profit record keeping; Fiscal decision and ratification; Annual Business Plan ratification; Annual Program management; Annual Donor and Sponsor Development Plan; and Annual Event Planning. The Board will retain its Pro Bono attorney for 2022 for assistance with contracts and other operations.

**2022 DRESSAGE SHOW MANAGEMENT:** The Board of Directors accepted three bids for show secretary and two bids for show management for 2022. Susan Peacock at showsecretary.com was chosen for the 2022 season. Jay Chabucos was chosen for show management for 2022. The Board also continued in its retention of Clayton McElvain of CM Footing to consult on footing and arena design at HIPICO for the remainder of the 2021 and for all of the 2022 show season. The Board is also continuing its use of an expert advisory group for consulting on show and special event matters for 2021 and 2022.

**FUNDRAISING :** NMD-RMDS Board of Directors currently has a fundraising goal of \$25,000.00 by 1 August to support the 16-19 September 2021 Great American Insurance Group/United States Dressage Federation Region 5 Dressage Championships and Open Show. NMD-RMDS is the Presenting USEF/USDF Licensee.

**MAY SHOW REPORT:** NMD-RMDS had a full, 2-Ring show at HIPICO Santa Fe on 15 and 16 May. Revenue from the show was 20% over our projected goal. All proceeds from the May show are earmarked for the Region 5 Championship and Open Show and NMD-RMDS Year End Awards.

**GMO MEMBER RECRUITING & RETENTION:** NMD-RMDS continues with its monthly membership drive activities.

**SPONSORS:** The Show Committee is continuing to reach out to potential sponsors for the upcoming Region 5 Championships and Open Show. Sponsorship and fundraising campaign for October shows are underway.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:** NMD-RMDS has had an overwhelming response to its Call for Show Volunteers campaign. As a Thank You to each of our Volunteers at our 2021 shows, NMD-RMDS gives out a gift bag with donated items.

**JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER PROGRAM:** NMD-RMDS offers scholarships and grants to age-qualified riders based on USDF/USEF guidelines. Funds for the 2021 JR/YR Program have been donated by the Jack Kagan Foundation and the Hell Canyon Farm Young Rider Fund. A written application and interview with applicant and parent(s)/guardian are required. Beneficiaries must report on their use of the funds and update their application for each subsequent year if they wish to reapply. Funds and opportunity awards are based on need. Scholarships are for education-based and mentorship opportunities (Mentors must be USEF Safe Sport trained and approved). Grants are for competition opportunities.

**YEAR END AWARDS:** NMD-RMDS finalized its 2021 Year End Award Program and will start announcing the qualification requirements in July. There are many great categories in which an NMD-RMDS member may win great prizes, trophies, recognition and more! Our Volunteer awards include categories that acknowledge all our fabulous volunteers for 2021 – both members and non-members.

#### **EDUCATION:**

NMD-RMDS' HOOF IT UP! University for members is available. Members earn credits for online learning through USDF; Dressage Today; Independent Online Trainers; Riding and Auditing approved clinics; earning USDF Bronze, Silver or Gold medals; NMD-RMDS Volunteer opportunities; and other approved independent online and in-person education. There will be year-end awards for credit levels and demonstrated proficiency in areas of dressage training, competing, horsemanship, management, health care and nutrition.

A working group is submitting grant applications for a 2022 3-day Symposium with a working title of *Biomechanics and Collection*. A panel of an USDF certified trainer and an internationally recognized biomechanical/locomotion expert will work with riders and horses in clinic riding setting, as well as discuss off-site presentations, on how to evaluate and solve training issues that keep a horse and rider from progressing up the levels. Auditors are welcome and NMD-RMDS members receive HOOF IT UP! University credits.

The Hell Canyon Farm 2021 Jeremy Steinberg Dressage Clinic Series that benefits NMD-RMDS Education Program will have its clinics at Hipico Santa Fe:

31 July – 1 August

4-5 September

30-31 October

27-28 November (pending)

More 2021 dates may be added by Jeremy. We are also excited to re-open the clinics to auditors! A portion of auditor proceeds goes to NMD-RMDS.

**COMPETITIONS:**

**Recognized Shows**

CURRENTLY BEING RESCHEDULED FOR SUMMER 2022 - WDAA AQHA Recognized Western Dressage Show, Hipico Santa Fe

Each day is a USEF, WDAA and AQHA licensed show

16-19 September USDF Region 5 Championships & Open Show, Hipico Santa Fe

16-17 October 2021 – NMD-RMDS Fall Flaunt It! I and II, Hipico Santa Fe

If COVID prevents holding in-person recognized shows, NMD-RMDS will host online shows with USDF Judges, ribbons and awards. Both in-person and online show results for NMD-RMDS members go toward NMD-RMDS year-end awards.

**USDF Schooling Shows**

7 November at Enchantment Dressage, Caballo NM – a USDF recognized Schooling Show that is also an NMD-RMDS 2021 Schooling Show Championship in which riders from NMD-RMDS, NMDA and SFDA who have participated in a schooling show for 2021 and received a minimum score of 55% may compete for Schooling Show Champion awards.

**GMO CHAPTER WANTS & NEEDS:**

A summer show Thank You party for our Volunteers and Sponsors in July! And another dressage court purchase - a capital fundraising effort is underway. We also will complete our 2021 membership fee rebate of \$10 to each member.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** 25 July 2021 at San Marcos Café, Santa Fe. All NMD-RMDS and RMDS members may attend

**7. Northern Colorado**

**Jon Haugen**

In May, NCDCA hosted a full schooling show on May 15th, with a Clinic on May 16th, both judged and instructed by Sharron Sarchet. A number of new exhibitors came and joined us for this show, and we also saw another new bunch of new friends at the June Show. Simone Windeler was the Judge for a nice full day of rides at Tomora Training Center on June 26th. Next we are looking forward to an Oct. 31st Clinic with Sandy Hotz at Blue Roof Equestrian Center.

**8. On The Bit**

**Ginka Kubelka**

The Ride-A-Test with Kathleen Donnelly in Cheyenne was a great success! 11 riders presented their tests and received valuable feedback from our judge. Everyone enjoyed their rides in a relaxed atmosphere. It felt good to get together, ride, watch others ride, have lunch together, and talk about horses! A big Thank You! to Jane Swanhorst for providing her beautiful facility and to The Butcher Block in Laramie for the delicious pulled pork for our lunch! Check out the pictures on our website [www.onthebitdressage.com](http://www.onthebitdressage.com)!

Our show on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Albany County Fairgrounds in Laramie, WY is coming up quickly, and we are busy getting everything ready! We are excited that we can have a fully recognized show again this year and are working hard to make it a successful and happy weekend for everyone. We hope to see you there!

We will continue to hold our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm on Zoom or at Altitude in Laramie. Check our meeting agenda on our website and feel free to join us if you are interested in what we are offering, or contact us through [info@onthebitdressage.com](mailto:info@onthebitdressage.com)!

**9. Pikes Peak**

**Linda Millisor**

No report

**10. Western Colorado**

**Lesley Hill**

No report

**Next Meeting September 9th meeting.**

9:37 pm Heather Petersen made the motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shannon Lemons. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen