

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharon Soos, MaryJo Hoepner, Ginka Kubelka, Dorothy Kapaun, Nicole Bizzarro, Sally O’Dwyer, Gwen Ka’awaloa, Nadia Westra, Patricia Weed, Shannon Lemons, Eleanor Harrison, Katie Knight, Joan Clay, Rebecca Ciota, Pippa Bird, Natalie Mendik, Stan Adamson, Judi DeVore, Karen Harkin

Proxies:

Call to Order-President

Sally O’Dwyer

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Sally O’Dwyer

Secretary - Approval of Minutes -

Heather Petersen

September 2022 minutes – Joan Clay needs to be added to attendance, October 2022 minutes – Correction to spelling of the Russ Fawcett’s name. **Dorothy Kapaun moved that we approve the minutes as corrected, 2nd by Sharon Soos. The motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Operating Funds as of December 31, 2022

Wells Fargo RMDS Checking Account	\$ 69,966.46
Wells Fargo PayPal Account (as of 12/15/2022)	\$ 542.30

Restricted Funds as of December 31, 2022

Wells Fargo Scholarship Fund	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,891.29
Barbara H McElnea Scholarship	\$ 9,000.00
Total	\$ 84,400.05

Operating Funds as of January 10, 2023

Wells Fargo RMDS Checking Account	\$ 79,153.90
Wells Fargo PayPal Account	\$ 521.82
Outstanding Checks	\$????
Pending Deposits	\$????
Subtotal	\$ 79,675.72

Judges “L” Program **\$ 24,927.80**

Subtotal Operating Funds **\$ 54,747.92**

Restricted Funds as of October 10, 2022

Wells Fargo Scholarship Account	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 4,891.29
Barbara H McElnea	\$ 9,000.00
Payable	250.00
Pending Deposit	
Subtotal	\$ 13,641.29

Total **\$ 93,317.01**

Omnibus still has to come out, which is about \$20K, \$25K is set aside for the L program as well.

President Report

Sally O’Dwyer

I am honored to be your next president and look forward to working with the amazing RMDS Board, Chairs, Chapters, and Members to continue promoting dressage in our region. I’m a big believer in collaborative work--together we can

achieve great things. Being part of something bigger than ourselves allows us to connect with other likeminded people on a similar journey, enjoy our passion more, and encourage one another.

A little about me: I'm outgoing and enjoy meeting people. During my career I led a large nonprofit that served vulnerable and impoverished populations. I managed a large staff and a cadre of about 4,000 volunteers. I have experience dealing with challenging situations and troubleshooting. I also was responsible for handling administrative work such as managing board meetings, outreach, budgets, event planning, donor relations, grant writing, fund raising, and quality assurance.

Please let me know how RMDS can help you. I will be reaching out to the Committees and Clubs over the next few months to learn more about the work that you do and to get to know you better. I already know that RMDS is fortunate to have many members with tremendous talent, expertise, and experience. I can't wait to meet you!

This coming year is going to be fabulous. RMDS Championships are back! Our calendar is loaded with events, activities, shows and training opportunities. I hope you will make it a goal of yours to sign up, attend, and get involved. We will need lot of volunteers to run these opportunities. I have made some of my best friends ever through volunteering. I hope you will too.

USDF Convention: last month, RMDS was well represented by our volunteers at the annual convention in Kentucky. RMDS is one of the larger GMOS—Group Member Organizations (of USDF) in the US. The convention brought together GMO volunteers from across the nation.

The most fruitful experience at the convention was spending time meeting people, chatting, and swapping ideas and lessons learned. I enjoyed the GMO roundtables, where people from the many GMOS attending shared best practices on how they manage fundraising, volunteers, competitions, clinics, and much more.

There were several committee meetings and a couple of educational sessions, including a presentation given by our very own Gwen Ka'awaloa on emergency preparedness in the event of a rider injury. There was a presentation about the new tests and proposed new rules were reviewed. Congrats to Heather Peterson, who was re-elected at the convention to serve as Region 5 Director.

The highlight was attending the Gala Dinner, where Gwen was awarded Volunteer of the Year for the entire country. We are very lucky to have her in RMDS. USDF President George Williams presented the awards. Many awards went out to RMDS members.

January: Start Planning now—how will you improve your knowledge and dressage skills this month?

I highly recommend that members consider taking the **Scribe Training** offered by Grand Valley Dressage. I took this one-day course from Amber Benson in Grand Junction and by the time it was over, I was ready to scribe. The course offered practical information in the morning and in the afternoon, we used our new skills to role play with a judge and competitors riding tests. Volunteering as a scribe is very exciting and will help you understand what the judges like to see! I spent the weekend out in Grand Junction, met some amazing ladies and enjoyed the breathtaking beauty of the area. Consider carpooling with others.

Our next **RMDS Board Meeting is on Jan 12th**. All members should attend at least one meeting to learn more about this organization, get to know the leadership team, and find out how you might get involved. If you would like to attend via zoom, simply email us at rmds@indra.org.

Get out and train. On the weekend of Jan 28th, the Foothills Chapter Winter Clinic Series is hosting Maureen Sterling. This a terrific opportunity to learn new skills, get some great ideas and tips, and have a new set of eyes evaluate you.

RMDS Banquet: The banquet is coming up soon! Meet new people, support fellow riders, enjoy a great meal among old friends, and shop at our silent auction. Click here for all the details: <https://wp.rmids.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Banquet-Flyer.pdf>. Volunteers are needed to help set up the banquet and with the silent auction. If you would like to volunteer, please let our Central Office know at RMDS@indra.org

Omnibus: We need advertisers for the omnibus. **We really need everyone's help.** Please reach out to those you know that could benefit from advertising their product or service to our members. We have our media kit that you can send them for all the details.

https://www.rmids.org/assets/pdfs/RMDS_MediaKit2023.pdf

Please let them know that we really appreciate their support and that this print magazine will be in everyone's hands throughout this year and after, especially with the new tests that are included in this publication.

RMDS is a great organization—it's yours and mine. I look forward to working with you all to continue our tradition of providing great training educational, and competition opportunities and a wonderful welcoming community.

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

If your committee needs any help, Dorothy is here to help!

Central Office

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 250 members as of 1/1 for 2023 –7 new horses since October 2022. 70 Amateurs and 13 juniors.
- See reports with chapter membership totals
- Accepting dues for 2023: \$70 until later in the month, then it is \$80

Shows:

- For 2023: 7 RMDS shows: 24 USEF/USDF recognized shows including Championships and Regionals. Cheyenne is a maybe – have not received fees – Santa Fe with Maureen Mestas is a no at the moment.

Omnibus:

- See Nicole Bizzarro's report.

Database/Website:

- Working well – found a couple more glitches that we need to work on.
- Asking people to donate 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.

Banquet:

- January 14, 2023 – as of January 8, we have 140 attendees.

Volunteer:

- Interesting statistic: recorded with RMDS for 2022: 250 people have 3630.5 hours

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.
 - **Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) –**
 - **2023 RMDS EVENTS:**
 - **Banquet** January 14
 - **Show Mgt.** Feb 7
 - **L Program-B** Feb 18-19
 - **Horse Expo** Feb 23-26
 - **TD** March 7
 - **L Program-C** March 25-26
 - **Team Competition** June?
 - **Summer Intensive** June 7-9
 - **Sport Horse** Sept 21
 - **Championships** Sept 22-24
 - **Executive Board Meetings:**
 - **Reports:** Jan 12, March 9, May 11, July 13, Sept 14, Oct 12 (budget)
 - **No reports:** Feb 9, April 13, June 8, Aug 10,
 - **BOG** Nov 18

- 2024
- Banquet

January 13?

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

1/10/2023

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Members:	250	664	714	636	700	725	752	756	779	675	827	797	868	751	945	1030	1008	1036	1019	1151	1177	1162
Horses:	7	130	161	109	159	161	91	93	59	63	59	135	123	132	166	246	262	234	207	337	274	
AV	10	47	40	39	39	36	39	25	29	26	27	25	27	24	15	26	12	-	-	-	-	-
BV	61	146	160	138	151	162	159	182	168	171	180	182	190	200	188	205	172	178	179	199	208	230
FH	24	66	65	51	56	70	57	73	79	76	64	65	71	72	75	76	77	74	73	109	103	115
GV	33	98	89	78	80	77	91	95	71	55	71	53	65	83	87	105	102	88	92	93	98	77
HP	48	144	146	117	162	164	169	149	156	151	176	190	208	226	256	265	260	259	251	267	283	278
NC	24	65	69	57	64	75	69	77	77	89	94	93	110	132	107	124	137	137	139	162	151	150
OB	9	24	30	40	37	38	49	43	42	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PP	40	73	56	62	87	77	89	63	70	63	62	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Chapter	1	1	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
NM		dissolved	37	33																		
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WC		dissolved	21	20	23	25	29	22	18	19	23	27	31	22	21	25	25	32	34	44	55	64
TOTAL	250	664	693	616	677	700	723	756	761	675	827	797	868	751	945	1005	983	1004	985	1107	1122	1098
Juniors	13	53	64	54	66	73	80	86	88	95	120	117	120	134								
Amateurs	70	236	240	140	217	205	195	163	152	176	209	220	239	230								
Education	10	14	12	11	14	18	21	17	16													
Business	3	15	16	12	12	9/2																
Life	40/1	38/1	43	35/1	33/1	32/2																

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Adult Amateur

Katie Knight

I am happy to be voted in as chairperson for Adult Amateurs. I am currently competing at First Level on Fancy Cami, my Holsteiner mare, so this is close to my heart. At this point, I am taking in information and beginning to explore venue and clinician possibilities. I am also researching funding opportunities. President Sally O'Dwyer and I have spoken. She answered the majority of my initial questions. Beth Geier provided insight on additional queries. I was also able to speak with Pippa Bird, last year's chairperson. Pippa provided a wealth of information on contacts for clinicians and venues. I will continue to work on this through February and be able to provide proposals and budgets soon. I am open to suggestions and am easily reached (unless I am on a horse), so please reach out if you have any thoughts or suggestions.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

I have all the items for banquet except for a couple of trophies people are supposed to bring to the banquet (new ones). Picked up the programs today. Things are quite ready.

Communications

Rebecca Ciota

Social Media has been focused on 1) Reminding people to renew their membership, 2) Asking people to sign up for the banquet, and 3) Advertising the RMDS media kit for advertising in the Omnibus. January's Centaur was lengthy because of the two messages plus a lengthier article. Also, the Centaur snuck up on me because of the end-of-December chaos. So I didn't get a great chance to reach out to chairs or chapters for info, but look out for my emails for February and onward for information to put in the Centaur. Going forward, we're still looking for a Marketing Chair as well as volunteers to help with content creation - particularly for our Youth-to-Youth feature as well as other articles for the eCentaur. I'm happy to have people help with social media as well; since that's a fun intro to RMDS communications.

Magazine - Not a lot to report other than we could use more ads and will work with the already passed deadline if there are still advertisers who would like to have a presence in this years publication.

Education**MaryJo Hoepner**

Upcoming

Session B L Program February 18,19

Session C L Program March 25,26

Show Management Training February 7 Pre register to get Zoom link

Technical Delegate Training March 7 Pre register to get Zoom link

Junior/Young Riders**Lauren Still**

No Report

Marketing**Vacant**

No report

Professionals**Joan Clay**

1) 2023 Activities

- a. I will support the education committee in putting on the “L” program as needed. I have secured a hotel room block and meeting room for Part I – Session C (March 25-26, 2023) at the Wingate in Loveland. I will also be able to help organize demonstration riders for the C session at Tomora Training Center.
- b. Lisa El Ramey has submitted a proposal for a 2-day program entitled “The Whole Rider Project” which might be an interesting educational program for both amateurs and professionals. Gwen Ka’awaloa and I are willing to work together to develop a budget proposal if this activity is something the RMDS Executive Board is interested in exploring. The proposal is attached separately.

2) 2024 Professionals’ Symposium: I need to look into clinician availability. Suggestions will be welcomed.

Whole Rider Project Proposal:

WHOLE RIDER WORKSHOP OUTLINE

The Whole Rider Workshop is a 2 day program which does not require horses for the first day.

The WRW is built from the Seat Retreat concept, but allows participation on a larger scale. Participants will spend the entire day immersed in learning body awareness, anatomy, and physiology along with riding methodology and concepts.

The first day can accommodate up to 60 participants. The day will begin with a discussion on riding methodology and rider anatomy and physiology. From there the participants will be broken down into group of a maximum of 10. These groups will rotate through yoga, personal training, massage, performance coach/sports psychology, nutrition, and work on props to create awareness and identify trouble spots.

Day 1 will need to be hosted in a location that allows for individual learning rooms or areas to not interfere with other groups work. This location will not require any stabling or equine facilities. Along with the individual areas/rooms there should be an area large enough to gather all participants and staff for the initial introduction before breaking into groups. This same area can be utilized for the included lunch and for the final Q & A.

Day 1 will be approximately an 8 hour day.

Day 2 will be open to a maximum of 10 riders and their horses from Day 1. This day will need equestrian facilities.

Day 2 will consist of one on one lessons with myself and each rider can choose from any 3 experts of yoga, massage, personal training, nutrition, or performance coach/sports psychology. Day 2 could allow for auditors if riders are open to having their lessons observed.

Day 2 for each participant will take approximately 4 hours.

RECAP

Day 1

- 60 participants (max)
- All Day
- No Horse Required
- Includes Lunch and learning material/swag

Day 2

- 10 horse/rider participants (max)

- 1/2 Day
 - Stabling Included
 - Participation in Day 1 required
- www.theriderproject.org

Scholarship

Karen Harkin

The RMDS Scholarship Committee met on December 14, 2022. The committee members were: Natalie DeFee Mendik, outgoing Chairperson; Karen Harkin, incoming Chairperson; Heather Petersen; Mary Jo Hoepner. The Committee reviewed six complete and well-done application packages. There was a nice mix of applicants requesting scholarships for a variety of uses. The budget only allowed for five recipients, including the Barbara McElnea Scholarship for western slope members. One applicant was excluded as that person was a recipient in 2022. The others were new applicants.

The Committee is recommending the following for scholarships:

For the Junior/Young Rider \$500 Scholarship, the Committee recommends Applicant A: This individual had 14 volunteer hours; two strong letters of recommendation from her regular trainer and a clinician; clearly understands the cost of the sport to her parents as the oldest sibling in the family; and intends to utilize her scholarship to cover show fees and potentially a clinic.

For the Opening Doors Scholarship (Professional), the Committee recommends Applicant B: The individual resides west of the Rocky Mountains so would be eligible for the Barbara McElnea Scholarship of \$1000. This individual had 16 volunteer hours; presented a solid budget; plans to train with a front range trainer on her own horse as well as 'train the trainer/instructor' time with her chosen instructor; she had recommendation letters from a mentor and a student.

For the Leg-up \$500 Scholarship (Training and First Level), the Committee recommends Applicant C: This individual has 8.75 volunteer hours; as she does not have horse transportation and recognizes that her horse does not do well in strange settings, she is requesting a membership to an online educational platform and funding to audit clinics; she presented two strong letters of recommendation from her regular trainer and the requested on-line instructor.

For a second Leg-up \$500 Scholarship (Training and First Level), the Committee recommends Applicant D: This individual has 20 volunteer hours and is newly chairing an RMDS committee; she presented a solid budget and very realistic expectations of what she hopes to glean attending lessons and clinics to help boost her skills and confidence; she also presented two strong letters of recommendations from her regular trainer and the barn manager where she keeps her horses.

For the Adult Amateur \$500 Scholarship, the Committee recommends Applicant E: This individual has 16 volunteer hours; she expressed a strong desire to participate in a nationally known clinician and possibly some additional lessons; her budget factored in equine transportation to the clinic as she currently has none; she presented three strong letters of recommendation from her regular trainer, a veterinarian, and a peer. The Committee was impressed by the realistic and heartfelt applications and hope the Board agrees with the recommendations.

There was discussion of changing the policies that if an applicant a grant the previous year, that would be a consideration if there were multiple applicants. Receipt of a grant the previous year will be a factor in current year consideration.

Judi DeVore moved to accept the recommendations of the scholarship committee, 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner.

Discussion included the concerns from a member regarding conflict of interests. The current vote on these applicants – one of the applicants is the instructor of a member of the scholarship committee and that member of the committee abstained on that vote. **Motion passed with Karen Harkin and Rebecca Ciota abstaining.**

A member of the board raised concern over conflict of interest regarding an incident a few years ago. We do have a conflict of interest policy in place and a hearing process in the standing rules. It was difficult to address without any details. The organization has plenty of conflict of interest policies in place.

Shows – Championships

Nadia Westra

Officials have been hired and plans are moving forward. Nadia would like to look at revamping the sponsorship packet with an “order” form.

The website needs to be updated and Nadia has been added to the Championships email address. Heather has now updated the website.

Ideas?

- Trophy Auction
- Hospitality Cart – golf cart stocked with snacks and beverages, drives around interacting with competitors.
- Happy Hour
- Open “stall” with a GP rider
- Swag

Sponsorship so far:

- Coors - \$15K
- Zoa – product – hospitality cart

Volunteer

Judi DeVore/Eleanor DeVore

1. Why volunteering and tracking hours matters:
 - a. To qualify for RMDS year end awards
 - b. Earn recognition through USDF volunteer awards program <https://www.usdf.org/clubs/gmo/gmo-volunteer-incentive-program.asp>
 - c. To qualify for scholarship opportunities
 - d. To highlight what occurs within our membership-driven club and honor outstanding volunteerism.
Recommendation: Develop a volunteer award system that recognizes exceptional volunteers. Research what USDF and other clubs are doing. Develop regular articles highlighting the various committees within RMDS for the e-Centaur to promote involvement. Spotlight articles to be sent to Rebecca Ciota for publishing.
2. Review/update current volunteer policy: <https://www.rmds.org/recording-your-volunteer-hours>
 - a. Should Chapter and RMDS business meetings count toward volunteer hours? Discussion of USDF volunteer incentive program and their requirements and should we be different?
 - b. If meeting hours should count then does there need to be a revision to the number of hours required to qualify for awards? Current rule states: *Riders or their representative are required to have a minimum of 4 recorded volunteer hours earned in the current competition year in order to be eligible for year-end awards.*
Recommendation: Continue to require 4 hours at an event for RMDS show recognition but include meeting hours spent at RMDS membership and committee meetings toward a RMDS Volunteer Award system yet to be developed.
3. Recording of hours. Make a hub for easier “on-line entry” of hours. An umbrella Sign-Up.com subscription with RMDS would help us gather volunteer hours in one spot instead of each volunteer coordinator/meeting chair having to submit them separately to the central office. Sign-Up.com Gold level would allow us 10 administrators (enough for one administrator for each club) to generate sign ups under the RMDS entity where a master report for all shows/clinics/events could be generated on a quarterly basis for RMDS central office.
Recommendation: Gold Level Sign up subscription would allow RMDS to have an umbrella system for sign-ups. This would allow easier on-line **RMDS Volunteer Meeting Minutes** Jan 10, 2023 entry of volunteer hours. Each chapter would need an administrator to initiate sign ups for the chapter for recording of meeting/committee hours, etc. Gold level allows up to 10 administrators and would be a cost of \$269/yr or around \$34 per chapter. Sarah Barnes would be willing to put together a program on how to use sign ups for this purpose for each chapter. It was decided to table this and meet with Heather on some thoughts she presented in regards to logistics.
4. RMDS Program Proposal guidelines state that one price must be established for participants and auditors and no special group can obtain additional discounts. If this is the case, we cannot not allow discounts to volunteers for clinics and events as a reward for volunteering a certain number of hours? Does this need a request for rule change? Recommendation: Identify the source of this rule and see if it can be modified. The policy was reviewed and determined that it doesn’t state chapters are applicable.

5. Website needs updating: Volunteer Now button has last year's information. Still need a Marketing Chairperson and an outline of what that person does to post on the volunteer section
Recommendation: Eleanor will look at the website and see about updating information to send to Heather for updating the volunteer section. Ask all committees at the Board meeting Thursday what they need help with so we can update the volunteer section with those needs.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

WDACO is planning several events and shows this year.

Here are the dates:

Feb 23 -26 – Horse Expo

June 24/25 – clinics Musical Freestyle and Ride A Test, Douglas County Fairgrounds

Aug 11 – clinic topic and location TBA

May 6 – show, Northern Colorado

Aug 12/13 – show Summer Sizzler, Douglas County Fairgrounds

The WDAA World show will once again be held at the Lazy E in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Dates are Sep 26 – Sep 30. The 2022 was very successful with over a 1000 test ridden, 233 horse rider pairs, and 55 breeds represented.

WDACO is a fun group and with quite a few educational events and shows planned throughout the year. Their website is <http://wdaco.org/>.

2. Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents

Stan Adamson

Nadia nominates Stan Adamson to continue as chair of the committee, 2nd by Pippa Bird. Motion passed with Stan Adamson abstaining.

3. BOG - November 18, 2023

Heather Petersen

Will confirm with hotel after the banquet if it is the desire of the board to remain at the same venue. It was discussed to have heat in the bathrooms.

4. Banquet –

Beth Geier

As of 1/8 - 140 people have signed up – 5 people so far have ignored the deadline

Nadia has received over \$9,000 estimated value of items.

Thank you:

Nadia Westra – auction chairman

Shannon Lemons – awards chairman extraordinaire

Heather Petersen-video set-up

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

The Holidays have wrapped up and we're into a new year! I'm going to repeat a bit of the information from my December message as I didn't get it sent out to the GMOs, it was only published in the USDF email newsletter. There were some important things that I just want to make sure folks are aware of.

Congratulations to our GMO award winners at the Convention:

- Region 5 GMO Volunteer of the Year – Kathleen Martin – Santa Fe Dressage Association
- GMO Website Award – Honorable Mention (less than 75 members) – Santa Fe Dressage Association
- Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant – Ginny Sorenson – Utah Dressage Society

A few key things from the Convention this year:

- The 2023/2024 USDF Budget was approved at the Board of Governors, as was a By-Law change regarding electronic notification of the USDF Board of Governors meetings.
- There was a lot of discussion of promoting the USDFBC Sport Horse programs. Those interesting in adding these classes for our breeders, please reach out and we'll help you with more information on the programs. The Sport Horse committee will also be hosting a Sport Horse Seminar and Judges Training Program in June with Kristi Wysocki

and Sue Mandas at DG Bar Ranch in California. They will also be holding at least one handlers' clinic and a Sport Horse Development Forum as well.

- The USDF Test App has been updated for the iPhone and will soon be released in Android. It has gone to a subscription method sign up.
- The USDF Regional Championships will have a new split in the freestyle divisions for the 2023 Championships. The Adult Amateurs and Jr/Young Riders will be in one class and the Open riders will be in a separate class.
- Changes are coming down the pipe for the USDF Certified Instructors Program and those changes will be rolled out in 2023, stay tuned for some exciting things!
- The USDF Schooling Show program is showing some growth, but we'd love to have more shows and riders participating! It's easy to participate and the awards are pretty amazing... check out the USDF website for more information.

The 2023 FEI North American Youth Championships will be returning to Flintfields Horse Park in Traverse City, Michigan and the USEF Festival of Champions will be returning to Lamplight Equestrian Center in Illinois as well shortly after NAYC. The dates of the 2023 USDF Region 5 Championships are September 29-October 1 and we will be at West World in Scottsdale. Qualifying started August 29th and continues through September 4, 2023. Bid documents are now available for hosting the 2024 Great American USDF Region 5 Championships and are due to USDF by February 6th. I'd love to hear from any interested parties as soon as possible so we can help you with the bid process and anything you're going to need for those bids. All Regional Championships will continue to be held by early October since the Champions and Reserve Champions of the Jr/YR (Training-Fourth Level), Adult Amateur and Open divisions will feed into the Nationals Championships through the nomination process. There are also wild card spots for those who obtain high enough scores in the Championship classes.

If you are getting ready to show for the upcoming season, here are a few reminders:

- Make sure the name on your horse's coggins matches their registered name that they show under. This is a USEF general rule and quite a few folks sadly don't pay attention to the need for all documents to have the horse's name match.
- USEF Show pass – the rules regarding USEF non-members at competitions have changed significantly for the 2023 competition year. I've pasted below the FAQ sent out from USEF to hopefully answer any questions folks may have.
 - **Q. Currently riders competing in Academy, Walk-Trot, and Opportunity classes are exempt from USEF membership. Will these exemptions remain in place in 2023?**
 - A. Yes, any classes or sections that are currently exempt from membership will continue to be exempt.
 - **Q. Will the online show pass system at USEF communicate with show management software systems?**
 - A. Yes, the USEF Show Pass information will be available live, in real time through the USEF API to show management software.
 - **Q. Will the USEF API indicate whether someone is ineligible for a Show Pass if they have already paid for one for that year?**
 - A. Yes, the USEF API will return information that the person is ineligible.
 - **Q. Are riders, owners, and trainers all eligible for one Show Pass per competition year?**
 - A. No. While riders and owners are eligible for one Show Pass, trainers and coaches are no longer eligible to participate under a Show Pass and must be an Active USEF member.
 - **Q. Are parents that sign as the trainer or coach for their minor child exempt from membership and/or show pass?**
 - A. No, anyone that signs an entry blank or acts as a trainer or coach must be an Active USEF member and is not eligible for a Show Pass.
 - **Q. Are foreign competitors (citizens of other nations) with proof, in English, of current membership in good standing of their own National Federation required to pay a Show Pass?**
 - A. No, non-US citizens who are members in good standing of their National Federations with proof, in English, of current membership in good standing of their own National Federation are exempt from payment of the Federation Show Pass fee.

Finally for this month, I'd like to congratulate Kirsten Romig on receiving the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Award for Region 5 from the Dressage Foundation. Kirsten is a member of the Paso del Norte Dressage Society. She will spend a week training with and shadowing Dr. Bessie Babits. Kirsten said, "I am unbelievably honored to receive this exceptional gift. This

grant means I can invest in training for me and my horse for one week with my favorite trainer, Bessie Babits, without worrying about my job or how I may feed my livestock, myself, and other strays for the rest of the month. Not only will I be relieved of monetary worries, but I get to follow my dream of becoming a rider with ‘feel.’”

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- D&O Insurance reading of chapter officers into the record:

Chapter	Title	Name
Arkansas Valley	President	Nancy Leonard
	VP	Katie Knight
	Treasurer	Sarah Murphy
	Secretary	Debbie Hood
Boulder Valley	President	Stan Adamson
	VP	Shannon Moyes Clark
	Treasurer	Dorothy Kapaun
	Secretary	Janeen Cochi
Foothills	President	Nadia Westra
	VP	Jewlee Bellah
	Treasurer	Erika Senna
	Secretary	Jennifer Stewart
Grand Valley	President	Karen Harkin
	VP	Judi DeVore
	Treasurer	Susan Gregg
	Secretary	Arlene Rhodes
High Plains	President	Pippa Bird
	VP	Gemma Hanekom
	Treasurer	Tiffany Brown
	Secretary	Jennifer Slade
Northern Colo	President	Sandra Rosewell
	VP	Didi DeKrey
	Treasurer	Lynn Ahern
	Secretary	Kelly McGhee
On the Bit Dressage	President	Ginka Kubelka
	VP	Kelly Wolfe
	Treasurer	Tom Wolfe
	Secretary	Anna Chalfoun
Pikes Peak Dressage	President	Patricia Weed
	VP	Mary Jo Hoepner
	Treasurer	Elaine Thomas
	Secretary	Heather Petersen

Sharon Soos moved to approve the roster of chapter officers, 2nd by Stan Adamson. Motion passes unanimously.

- USDF Convention Attendance counting for volunteer hours? It was a no due to the fact it’s meetings per USDF.

- Sharon Soos brought forward tax preparation for 2022 taxes. Chapter and the organization. Melissa Mullin had done the chapters for 2021 and Dorothy Kapaun did the main organization. Dorothy is happy to continue to do the RMDS taxes and if Melissa doesn't want to continue, she will do the chapters also. **Sharon Soos moved to accept the services of Dorothy Kapaun for the 2022 RMDS tax return, who has submitted a no-cost estimate, 2nd by Katie Knight. Motion passed with Dorothy Kapaun abstaining.** Sharon or Beth will follow up with Melissa in regards to chapters and we'll discuss it at the February meeting.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Nancy Leonard

AVDA has been staying very busy as we continue to do clinics and prepare for our show season. We have tentative dates for our 2 schooling shows, May 20 and September 16. As we are still looking at locations these dates could change. We have had clinics each month including clinics on Working Equitation, Dressage and Liberty. We are planning on a Ride a Test on April 16. We have clinics from Juan Gonzales scheduled for Jan, 29, February 12 and March 12. We have a Liberty Clinic that many of our members will be attending in February. We feel very fortunate to have had these opportunities in the winter. Our Show Management team had their first meeting today at Katie Knight's home where we are eager to get started putting together our 2 schooling shows. I am continually amazed and thankful for our club and how we pull together to support each other with our varied horse activities. We are working on getting more young people involved in our club and hope some of these activities will help draw them in. We are also very grateful that we live in an area that has allowed much winter riding this year. This comes with fire risks for the summer but we will hope that everyone remains safe as do our horses. We hope that you all have had opportunities to find different ways of working with your horses while remaining a strong dressage club. Thank you and Good Riding!

2. Boulder Valley

Stan Adamson

Since the RMDS Board of Governors meeting in November, Boulder Valley Dressage held two important clinics:

1. A "New Tests Clinic" with Dolly Hannon explaining the new USDF/USEF dressage tests in the quadrennial cycle of test revisions. The clinic was held at Nighthawk Equestrian Center, Longmont, Colorado, on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Dolly used excellent demo riders recruited by Nighthawk to demonstrate the changes in the highest test at each level from Training to Fourth. The clinic was co-sponsored by BVD and Nighthawk, and was sold-out with about thirty auditors.
2. BVD provided a Volunteer Appreciation clinic on December 10-11, 2022 at Windswept Farms in Lafayette, Colorado. From the net proceeds of our July 2022 Boulder County Fairgrounds shows, we were able to provide this free clinic to our most active volunteers. Our clinician was FEI 4* judge Kristi Wysocki, from Whidbey Island, Washington. We very much appreciate Sloane Kuney Rosenthal and Windswept Farms for donating their venue for this clinic.

We are currently taking reservations for our 2022 show season Awards Banquet to be held January 28, 2023, at the Boulder Country Club. We are looking forward to the 2023 show season, with a repeat of our very popular Boulder County Fairgrounds shows in late July.

3. Foothills

Nadia Westra

The Foothills Chapter starts the year off with the same amazing team we built in 2022.

President – Nadia Westra

Vice President – Jewlee Bellah

Treasurer – Erika Senna

Secretary – Jenee Stewart

Volunteer Chair – Hillary Ryan

Education Chair – Courtney Turner

Education Grants - Marilou Metcalf

Marketing Chair – Rosie Davenport

We are so excited for what 2023 brings! So far, we have two clinics scheduled. One in January with Maureen Sterling and one in February with Heather Beachem. We are trying to incentivize becoming an RMDS member by allowing

Foothills Chapter RMDS members free auditing for these clinics. We are also covering the facility rental fee for riders. We want to give back to the riders who supported our shows!

Details and sign up can be found here:

Maureen: <https://www.striderpro.com/a/7srVUAYKIk2g7FDYc-mWfw>

Heather: https://www.striderpro.com/a/dUD0XcHGe06_9LQyg_1Dcw

We really like the Strider platform to manage signup!

We are also putting on our 4 shows. 2 RMDS shows at Table Mountain Ranch, and our Foothills Dressage Festival I & II. Big changes are coming to the FDF however, with a new date and location. The Colorado Horse Park on August 5th and 6th. We are so excited to have access to such a wonderful facility. Nadia Westra will be the manager again in 2023. We are still ironing out the final details like judges. We cannot thank the On the Bit Chapter for their flexibility and for moving their dates to make this possible. This makes our show count at the Horse Park now 3. The Cure, FDF, and Championships.

Table Mountain Ranch is also upgrading two of their shows to be RMDS recognized! Jewlee Bellah and Sherl Knight will be managing those shows.

We are so excited for 2023 and for an amazing year of learning, showing, and growing the Colorado Dressage community's engagement and FUN!

4. Grand Valley

Karen Harkin

Grand Valley Dressage Society (GVDS) ended 2022 with a lovely year-end dinner on December 3. Seventy guests enjoyed a catered meal, musical entertainment, and an awards ceremony. We were excited to celebrate Judi DeVore as our Volunteer of the Year, Megan Bretey as the Overcoming Adversity winner, and a new award, the Horseman of the Year, was presented to Tiffany Ray. The Dressage Team Challenge was also a new award, with the winning team of "Eddie and The Shrimps" (Krista Nobilo and Sir Edward WS, Carrie Washburn and Suntan Lotion and Karen Harkin and Sandro Malta) taking top honors.

Plans are underway for several exciting educational opportunities for both GVDS and RMDS members. On January 28, Amber Benson will conduct another scribe training. We held one last year and have had requests to repeat the training. The training on January 28 from 1-4pm is at the Ridgeline Community Center in Spyglass Ridge in Grand Junction but will also be available via Zoom in case of bad weather or for out-of-towners who want to take advantage of this training. Judi DeVore, jdevore@gvds.org is the contact person to sign up.

We are also hosting a GMO Education Initiative: Judge's View of the New Test & Ride-A-Test Clinic, presented by Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez on April 15-16 in Delta, CO. On Saturday, April 15, the day begins with a symposium on the new tests and interpretation of the training scale, followed by an afternoon of demonstration rides. April 16 is a day of Ride-A-Test for RMDS/GVDS members. All are welcome on either or both days. Judi DeVore, jdevore@gvds.org is finalizing the registration form.

This year we are adding an additional USEF/USDF Level 1 show in April as another way for western Colorado and Utah members to qualify for regionals. We are also repeating our popular June show weekend. And this year we are expanding our offerings for AQHA riders/horses, as that has been a request from our members. This may gain us some new members too.

April 22, 2023- Schooling Show I: Judge: Jodi Ely, "S" & "R", WDAA / WDACO / AQHA-western

April 23, 2023 – NEW Welcome to Spring: Judge: Jodi Ely, "S" & "R", USEF / USDF / RMDS/ AQHA- English

June 2, 2023 – Summertime Warm-up; Judge: Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez "S" & "R",
RMDS / WDAA / WDACO / AQHA – Western

June 3, 2023 – Summertime I: Judging Panel: Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez "S" & "R", & Dr. Gail Hoff-Carmona, "S" & "R",
USEF / USDF / RMDS / AQHA-English

June 4, 2023 – Summertime II; Dr. Gail Hoff-Carmona, "S" & "R", USEF / USDF / RMDS / AQHA-English

August 26-27, 2023 – Schooling Show II, Judge: Marie Mahoney, "R" & "R", WDAA/WDACO/AQHA-western

October 7-8, 2023 – Schooling Show III – Amy Jablonsky, "L"

5. High Plains

Pippa Bird

- New Board Members as follows:
 - Pippa Bird - President
 - Gemma Hanekom - Vice President

- Tiffany Brown - Treasurer
- Jenny Slade - Secretary
- High Plains Dressage will be donating a Basket to the RMDS Banquet. Jenny Slade will be bringing it with her to the banquet
- Website is being updated by Una Schade
- Quarterly Flyer will be distributed via email and Social Media to all Chapter Members with upcoming events to help engage more members and encourage new members
- We have the following upcoming events planned for the High Plains Chapter Members:
 - A Night with the Vet, Colorado Horse Park - Monday, January 23, 2023
 - Day Clinic with Heather Beacham, Creekside in Parker - Sunday, February 19th, 2023
 - Note: High Plains is Sponsoring a Member to ride. Members need to apply.
 - Natalie Hinneman Clinic/Sarah Dodge - Dates to be verified (March)
 - Ride a Test - Dates to be verified (April) - Cavaletti Work - Dates to be verified (April)

6. Northern Colorado

Sandra Rosewell

No Report

7. On The Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We finished off the old year with a Holiday Party at Tom and Kelly's lovely house. We had lots of delicious food and drinks, as well as a good time together!

All our officers have been re-elected for their positions for this year:

Ginka Kubelka – President
 Kelly Wolfe – Vice President
 Anna Chalfoun – Secretary
 Tom Wolfe - Treasurer

The main event this year is going to be our fully recognized show on August 12 & 13, which will take place at a new and from now on permanent facility for our show. We are still working on other educational opportunities for our members! Updates will be posted on our website (www.onthebitdressage.com) and on our Facebook page. We will continue to hold our monthly meetings at Altitude Chophouse in Laramie on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm, with the possibility to join via Zoom as well.

8. Pikes Peak

Patricia Weed

PPDS held its annual Holiday Party on December 18th hosted by Shannon Lemons at her home in Black Forest. The activities were: Horse Cookie Decorating, White Elephant Gift Exchange, and PPDS Year-End Awards which was reinstated after many years. We asked attendees to bring items for PPDS Basket for the RMDS Banquet which the chapter had not participated in for several years.

A short meeting was held during the event. The elected board members are:

- Patricia Weed, President
- MaryJo Hoepner, Vice President
- Heather Petersen, Secretary
- Elaine Thomas, Treasurer
- Patricia Weed, Communications

Committees:

Awards: Shannon Lemons
 Education: Judy Carnick
 Volunteer coordinator: Open
 Jr/Yr.: Open

The chapter is hosting a clinic with Petra Warlimont in early April for PPDS members. Details coming soon.

The popular Pikes Peak Dressage RMDS Show is April 22nd at Latigo Equestrian Center, Judge: Gwen Ka'awaloa

Next Meeting is February 9th.

8:32 pm Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen