

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sally O’Dwyer, Patricia Weed, Karen Harkin, Beth Geier, Sharon Soos, Heather Petersen, Sarah Murphy, Kristen Allen, Rebecca Ciota, Jewlee Bellah, Nicole Bizzarro, Gwen Ka’awaloa, Ruth Edie Nielsen, Nadia Westra, Joan Clay

Proxies: MaryJo Hoepner to Heather Petersen; Stan Adamson to Dorothy Kapaun;

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

June 2023 minutes –Karen Harkin moved that we approve the minutes, 2nd by Sharon Soos. The motion passed unanimously.

No electronic votes to approve.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Operating Funds as of June 30, 2023

RMDS Checking Account	\$ 40,291.36
PayPal Account (as of 6/15/2023)	\$ 2,811.90

Restricted Funds as of July 30, 2023

Scholarship Fund	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 5,597.29
Barbara H McElnea Scholarship	\$ 8,500.00
Total	\$ 57,200.55

Operating Funds as of July 10, 2023

RMDS Checking Account	\$ 45,542.11
PayPal Account	\$ 508.71
Outstanding Checks	\$????
Pending Deposits	\$????
Subtotal	\$ 46,050.82

Judges “L” Program

\$ 14,789.00

Subtotal Operating Funds

\$ 31,261.82

Restricted Funds as of July 10, 2023

Scholarship Account	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 5,597.29
Barbara H McElnea Payable	\$ 8,500.00
	250.00

Pending Deposit

Subtotal

\$ 13,847.29

Total

\$ 45,109.11

President Report

Sally O'Dwyer

Championship planning is underway. We are very excited about this, our biggest event of the year. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions prevented our celebrating our 50th anniversary, so we are going to celebrate our 50th plus two-year anniversary at this year's championships. We are expecting 300 riders! Please save the date, Sept 22-24th, and plan on coming.

Hosting Championships requires help from our members. Please support our efforts to reach out to potential sponsors. Sponsors can include members, equine businesses, and professionals. If you know of an entity that would be interested in advertising to horse owners and competitors, would you please email us and let us know at championships@rmds.org. There are many ways you can support the event, and RMDS by sponsoring the show.

<https://www.rmds.org/assets/pdfs/2023-RMDS-Championship-Show-Sponsorship-Packet.pdf>

How about sponsoring a class to show your support for RMDS and our competitors? We would love to have all the classes sponsored by those who love and support RMDS and dressage in our region. Perhaps you would like to sponsor that class that was particularly challenging for you or one that you were a champ at? Maybe you would like to sponsor a class that you aspire to ride in? The donation to sponsor a championship is \$100. If you would like to sponsor a class, just go to our website, use our PayPal, designate the class you wish to sponsor,, pay the \$100 and click "send". It's that easy. <https://www.rmds.org/payment> and <https://www.rmds.org/championships>.

Profits from Championships help to support the many competition and educational activities that we host. These events include competitions, trainings, our scholarship program, and our youth, professional, and amateur clinics, camps and more.

Vice President Report

Dorothy Kapaun

No report.

Central Office

Sarah Murphy

Membership

- Registration –
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2023: \$80

Shows:

- No results for Cheyenne shows from June 10 and 11; emailed Deeda twice. Heather contacted Mike during the meeting so hopefully he will send them this evening.
- Millbrook cancelled Aug shows as did the New Mexico group.
- AV changed schooling show to Sept 9th

Omnibus: 38 magazines in stock

Database/Website: Working well – Let me know of any problems you are having

Banquet:

Volunteer: Hours coming in; need hours from FH June 25th show

General:

- Chapters receive free email blasts for educational and event purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events with audit fee \$50 or more.
- Amelia clinic – 4 paid auditors so far.

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

2023 RMDS EVENTS:

Amelia Newcomb Clinic flyer has been sent: applications and audits coming in; Katie has a count

Sport Horse Sept 21

Championships Sept 22-24; 4 paid sponsors

Executive Board Meetings:

Reports: July 11 , Sept 7, Oct 12 (budget)

No reports: Aug 1,

BOG Nov 18

2024

Banquet January 13

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:**Adult Amateur**

No report

Katie Knight**Awards**

We collected all the retired trophies, some of which are quite cool, for the championships auction. Nadia has them in her garage and will clean them and get some hype about them out.

My only other item is that I will NOT be at the Foothills show because it filled too fast, so folks can bring trophies to Estes Park or RMDS championships. Otherwise they will have to bring them to my house in Colorado Springs - reminder that all trophies are due by September 30 or a \$25 late fee and lose membership privileges so please don't make me hunt you down!

Shannon Lemons**Communications**

I have scheduled all but one of the Omnibus ads to go out on Facebook.

I am pushing advertisers/sponsorships via social media for our Championships.

We have started included a volunteer spotlight, thanks to Judi and Eleanor, in the Centaur.

Rebecca Ciota

Website – It's rolling along, let Sarah or Heather know of any updates. Heather is working with Code Geek to get the Central Office contact information updated.

Education

Nothing to currently report.

MaryJo Hoepner**Junior/Young Riders**

We are once again back to receiving no communication from Lauren and it's time to start looking for someone who will be active in the position. Sally has written her a letter that will be sent to her letting her know we are moving forward with finding a replacement. **Sally O'Dwyer moved that we remove Lauren Still from the Junior/Young Rider chair. 2nd by Sharon Soos. There was a bit of discussion. Motion passed with Joan Clay abstaining.** Jewlee is willing to be a co-chair. Joan will pitch in behind the scenes until a co-chair is found. **Sally O'Dwyer nominates Jewlee Bellah to be the Junior/Young Rider chair. 2nd by Nadia Westra. Motion passed unanimously.**

Sally and Jewlee has have been discussing holding a 1 day clinic for our youth. Sally spoke with Gabby Hibbert and she's willing to host a 1 day event in her indoor arena. She has pony club and 4-H groups as well so a bit of a feeder for the clinic.

Lauren Still**Marketing**

Things discussed:

- Championships
 - Create email for an email blast to all members to go out ASAP
 - Separate Facebook posts for each sponsorship offering in our packet (Rebecca?)
 - See updates on Nadia's spreadsheet for updated info on sponsor outreach and additional companies/people to contact
- Jess to call California Dressage Society and learn about their marketing successes
- Association Sponsorship Packet (Maybe Grand Prix, Intermediate, Prix St George levels? Too cheesy? 😊)
 - Digital Marketing – offer banners and links on our website
- Pop-ups, etc
 - Social Media Posts (with hashtags to sponsors)
 - Direct Mail Offerings (sponsor to pay for postage/materials)
 - Banners and/or presence at horse shows
- i.e. dealership can bring a demo truck

Kristen Allen / Jessica Reigel

- Newsletter educational articles and/or advertisements
- How to increase social media activity
 - TikTok videos at horse shows and post on FB/Instagram
 - More to come here
- Survey
 - How/when did RMDS get member info with # of horses owned, etc?
 - Propose to have members fill out survey before membership is activated so we have updated demographics each year
- Treasurer Assistance with
 - Yearly operating costs
 - What surplus do we need? Help us to create a dollar target to raise
- If we had a surplus, what would we do with it?
- Scholarships? More educational opportunities for members?
- Banquet
 - How do we get more bang for our buck here?
 - Live auction in addition to silent auction?
- Kristen to reach out to PCK gala team and learn how they made that event so successful

Professionals

Joan Clay

- 1) Whole Rider Project: Lisa El Ramey has submitted a very generalized budget for the Whole Rider Project, but it needs to be refined to reflect local attendance and costs. We also need to determine an appropriate location for the unmounted day and come up with date options.
- 2) Professionals' Symposium: Still need to work on organizing something for 2024 and/or 2025. Any suggestions for clinicians and formats are welcomed.

Scholarship

Karen Harkin

Unfortunately, I am sad to say that two of our recipients had some terrible luck and had to regroup and chart a different path. We have another recipient who is having difficulty finding trailer-in lessons or clinics in the Northeast part of Colorado.

Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship (\$500) (Adult Amateur): Gemma Hanekom

- Gemma had the best of intentions to complete the use of her scholarship funds according to her training plan. Unfortunately, her beloved Axel had to be retired.
- After some regrouping, Gemma used the RMDS scholarship to continue taking dressage lessons, on a barn friend's horse with Heather Beacham and also some schoolmasters with Holly Bergay!
- Gemma completed 16 volunteer hours.

Opening Doors /Barbara H. McElnea Scholarship (\$1000) (Professional): Megan Bretey

- Megan's horse, Ilani, died unexpectedly in March. Megan also needed to reorganize her training plan.
- In May she used a client's horse for a week of intensive training with Julie Burt in Paonia. She plans to use the remaining scholarship money to spend another week with Julie before RMDS Championships.
- Megan completed 16 volunteer hours.

Leg-Up Scholarship (\$500) (Training and First Level): Rebecca Ciota

- Completed a clinic with Nahshon Cook and a trailer-in lesson with Ginny Giles.
- Rebecca has been unable to get into any other clinics as a rider.
- Rebecca is looking for other opportunities for trailer-in lessons within an hour of Fort Lupton. Any ideas for her?
- Rebecca has completed 61 volunteer hours.

Leg-Up Scholarship (\$500) (Training and First Level): Ruth Edith (Edie) Nielsen

- Completed 12 volunteer hours.
- Edie utilized all her scholarship funds with the Amelia Newcomb Strides membership, and an additional month of training with Sara Storch Kay.

- Edie and Trystan completed their goal to compete at Dressage for the Cure at First Level, earning some good scores and a high score award.
- Edie has completed her article with photos which were sent to Natalie DeFee Mendik.
- Check request has been sent for second half of the scholarship.

Junior/Young Rider Scholarship (\$500) (J): Victoria DeWitt

- Completed 12 volunteer hours.
- No recent update received from recipient other than she showed at Dressage for the Cure (reported in May).

Shows – Championships

Nadia Westra

Sponsorship is well underway. But we still need to sell the dinner events and a few more T-Shirt sponsorships. Class sponsorship is still very available and a great way to support the show! \$18,090 in promised sponsorships so far with \$1300 paid. All arenas have been sold, along with the title sponsorship. Janeen is working on setting up a volunteer signup and finding local housing for those that might want it.

Volunteer

Judi DeVore/Eleanor DeVore

The Volunteer committee is working on monthly articles and photos for the Centaur. We are also generating ideas to get chapters involved in promoting volunteerism. Lastly, we are coordinating with the Championship committee to provide incentives and information to potential volunteers for the RMDS Championship show.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Simone Windeler

WDACO held their Musical Freestyle and Ride-A-Test clinics at Douglas County Fairgrounds and had a good turnout. Aug 11 – show preparation clinic topic at Douglas County Fairgrounds 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

No report

3. BOG - November 18, 2023

Heather Petersen

Staying at the same facility.

4. Banquet –

Beth Geier/Sarah Murphy

January 2024, facility all set.

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Summer is here and shows seem to be doing very well this year, even with all the rain up north. Colorado still has a lot of shows that are filling either on opening day or within a few days of opening day. The demand for shows hasn't decreased this year and that's good news as we head in to continuing tougher times with higher prices for diesel and many other staples such as shavings and hay and nationwide inflation. I hope educational activities and shows are flourishing in other parts of our region too.

We are very excited to be heading to the 2023 USDF Region 5 Championships in Arizona this year. We cannot thank Arizona Dressage Association enough for their hard work in this endeavor. The 2023 dates will be September 29 – October 1 at West World in Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2024 the Regionals will be heading back to Colorado for the first

time in 5 years and will be hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society at the Colorado Horse Park September 19-22.

The 2023 USDF Convention will be November 29 - December 2 in Omaha, Nebraska. The host hotel is right downtown, connected to the event center where the FEI World Cup was held, and there will be plenty to do and explore outside of meetings and educational programs. Cirque du Soleil will be in residence at the event center, so perhaps plan an evening watching their amazing performances.

All breed declarations for USDF Year End awards are due for horses by August 1st without late fees, so if you're interested in awards and have a new to you horse, don't forget to get them turned in! Here's the link:

<http://www.usdf.org/docs/awards/all-breeds/DeclarationForm.pdf>

We have 3 Juniors and 4 Young Riders on our nominated entry for the 2023 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 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. Congratulations to our riders (in alphabetical order) who are heading to NAYC: Audrey Allen, Taylor Allen, Megan Kelleghan, Katherine Nayak, Elizabeth Petersen, Kali Riddell, and Olivia Williams.

The qualifying period for the 2023 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.

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 2022 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.

A couple of cool educational events coming up:

- The USEF Dressage Program Clinic with Christine Traurig at PW Dressage in Evergreen, Colorado June 8-9, 2023. Auditing is available by contacting Petra Warlimont at pwarlimont@msn.com.
- The USDF Region 5 FEI Jr/YR Clinic with George Williams will be September 16-17, 2023 at Nighthawk Equestrian Center in Longmont, Colorado. For more information, please see www.usdf.org.

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:

- No old business.

New Business:

- No new business

Chapter Reports

Arkansas Valley Dressage

AVDA has been busy with clinics and preparing for our September 9th schooling show. Our Riverwalk show will be at Pathfinder Park in Florence, with Sharron Sarchett judging. Please join us! We were so disappointed that the rain washed us out of our first show, but certainly not alone in dealing with the weather.

Nancy Leonard

Our last clinic was with Holly Bergay. As always, we had a wonderful time with her and can't wait to ride with her again.

An ongoing topic of conversation at our meetings is drawing a younger crowd to the sport of dressage. How do we make this more accessible? How do we create more interest? We are reaching out to other horse clubs in our area to talk about dressage (both classical and western). A comment continually raised is cost. We dropped the cost of our show classes and are exploring the virtual shows as we introduce this beautiful sport to more riders. We are posting our shows and clinics in different venues (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat). We are open to any suggestions!

AVDA member Sarah Murphy is the new "Beth" and will be taking over Beth's position at RMDS. We love her warmth and humor, and are proud of her.

Boulder Valley Dressage

Stan Adamson

Boulder Valley membership currently stands at 131 as of the end of June 2023.

At our June 12, 2023, meeting we spent the bulk of our time reviewing plans for our annual Dressage at the Fairgrounds Shows I and II on July 29-30 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont, following a show planning meeting May 22.

Janeen Cochi will be our Volunteer Coordinator for the July show, with Shannon Clark helping out in person on July 30.

We reviewed our Volunteer Appreciation Clinic Annie Morris as Clinician at Lookout Ridge Farm in Longmont November 11-12. This event is an incentive to volunteer, rather than a reward after the fact as it was last year.

We voted to sponsor an arena with our banner at Championships this year, at a cost of \$500, in celebration of the fact that we're back in action with Championships!

We discussed the bit-fitting clinics that have been held in our bounds this year, and talked about sponsoring another one, or another ride-a-test, or a freestyle demonstration. We will take up this topic again at our August 14 meeting. We will meet again as a club virtually on August 14 at 7 p.m.

Foothills Chapter

Nadia Westra

Our first show at Table Mountain Ranch, the Foothills Spring into Summer Show, was postponed due to RAIN on June 4 to June 25th. However, it was a smashing success and was full! All the riders enjoyed the show, and we had beautiful weather! Sharron Sarchet was a wonderfully kind and adaptable judge as always. Sharon Soos was our replacement TD, Joan couldn't make the new date, and she was thorough and very helpful!

We now set our sights on our big show at the Colorado Horse Park which opens TOMORROW July 10th. We expect a huge turnout and have had a ton of interest! We are excited, albeit a tiny bit nervous to run such a big show. But with Heather's help we are confident it will also be a success.

Grand Valley Dressage

Karen Harkin

The Grand Valley Dressage Society's (GVDS) June show weekend, sponsored by Alpine Bank, offered an RMDS show with AQHA western, WDAA and WDACO recognitions under the watchful judge Debbie Riehl Rodriguez; a USDF/USEF Level Two show had Debbie paired with Dr. Gail Hoff-Carmona for a panel judged show; and another Level Two show with Gail judging alone. These three stand-alone shows provided an opportunity to qualify several riders for RMDS Championships and Region 5 Championships all in a single weekend. We also offered, for the third year in a row, a USDF Benefit Class. Turnout was a bit lower for the two Level Two shows, as it was a busy weekend in our area for graduations and weddings and a few unfortunate scratches.

Despite the sweltering heat, GVDS is offering a free Dressage for Newbies clinic on July 22. We've seen an uptick in Introductory and Training Level Classical dressage and Western dressage Introductory, Basic, and Level One riders. Many are junior/young riders but equally as many are new-to-dressage adults. Taught by GVDS members, we'll cover topics such as understanding the dressage court and letters, warm-up and show ring etiquette, dressage geometry using demonstration riders, understanding basic figures, memberships in various organizations, how to complete online and paper entries, understanding and selecting appropriate tests, "special rules", where and how to find answers to questions, and tack and attire. We've invited many other equine groups in the area and hope to attract some new members. Attendees will leave with a "mentor" if they desire.

Our next schooling show weekend is August 26-27. We will close out the year with a schooling show weekend in October.

Looking forward to the RMDS Championship with a solid representation from GVDS.

High Plains

No Report

Pippa Bird

Northern Colorado

No report

Sandra Rosewell

On the Bit

Ginka Kubelka

We are currently working on the last bits and pieces to make our recognized show in August a success! We will have stalls or runs with sheds, delicious food, a friendly crew of volunteers, and a nice and cool indoor arena. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate a little better than last year!

For the fall we are planning to host a clinic in Cheyenne. We're still working on the details for that.

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. We will have educational presentations at some of the meetings, so contact us for more information, if interested!

Pikes Peak Dressage

Patricia Weed

PPDS held its monthly meeting in June, some highlights from the meeting:

- PPDS to sponsor 2 Championship classes and a banner
- Recap show rules in the fall
- Look to sponsor clinic with Petra Warlimont or Janet Foy in the fall

Our guest speaker was Jim Quick, Certified Journeyman Farrier of Niwot, CO to discuss "Barefoot Dressage Horses."

Jim was informative, obviously well versed in the subject of should dressage horses be allowed to work barefoot.

He gave an excellent and thoughtful presentation about the pros, cons and variables. That discussion generated many questions about shoeing dressage horses in general. Since his farrier business is now mainly dressage horses, it was a great discussion. Jim also has a great sense of humor and many years of stories to use in his discussion.

Next Meeting is August 1st.

7:54 pm Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen