

**RMDS BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 14, 2015
Stock Show Complex Denver, CO 80207
NW Club-Front**

AGENDA

Call to order at 8:31 am by President Gwen Ka'awaloa.

Beth Geier is appointed as secretary for this meeting in the absence of Nina Felsenthal.
Attendance and delegate count taken by Beth Geier. 42 votes total 37 present – 5 came later

Arkansas Valley-2	Beth Hart Catherine Siemiet Proxy to Brenda Haley
Boulder Valley-9	Robin Gay-3 Votes Grace Maddox Nicole Donohue Proxy to Beth Geier Teresa Butler Annette Alfano Beth Geier Sandra Rosewell
Colorado Springs-2	Pat Leech - 2 votes CiCi Lee- 2 votes
Foothills-4	Kris Cooper Cassandra DiPentino Linda Gaber Laura Quakenbush-10:00
Grand Valley-4	Arlene Rhodes - 2 Votes 9:00 Susan Gregg - 2 Votes -9:00
High Plains-8	Olga Hendrickson - 2 Votes Aline Brandau - 2 Votes Wendy Cibis - 2 Votes-Proxy to Olga H. Sarah Dodge - 2 Votes
Northern Colorado-4	Renee Martig Joan Clay Rose Balfour Didi DeKrey
On The Bit-3	Stephanie Gies Anna Chalfoun Ginka Kubelka
Pikes Peak-4	Kerry Louise Miller 9:30 Sue Borders 9:30 Michelle Anderson Heather Petersen
Platte River-1	Sharon Soos
Wasatch Mountain-0	Sally Shaffer- 0-Chapter Dissolved Barbara Graham Terry- Proxy to Beth
Western Colorado-1	Geier

Guests: Carie Sciss, Mary Rae

Approval of the 2014 BOG Minutes

Beth Geier

Robin Gay made the motion to approve the 2014 minutes as presented. Seconded by Heather Petersen Motion passed unanimously.

President's Message

Gwen Ka'awaloa

What a fantastic year.....

2015 was a very busy year filled with exciting educational opportunities and shows.

RMDS hosted a Professionals Symposium series that was very successful, a USDF "L" program and a Freestyle presentation and then clinic. The "L" continuing education and TD show management clinics at the beginning of the year were well attended and the new test clinic as well. Open clinic days with Christoph Hess were successful as well. I could go on and on, but then we all know there were so many activities offered by RMDS, not to mention the variety of chapter sponsored and private clinics. There was something for everyone available in 2015.

Estes Park was the venue for our Championships and proved to be beautiful and fun in spite of some windy moments. The judges enjoyed the beauty of Colorado and the hardiness of the riders here. We will be back in Estes in 2016 for RMDS and Region V Championships. Details on the venue and expenses involved will be covered by our superb Championship Show Team.

Educational Events for 2016 are in the works for Professionals, Adult Amateurs and of course our Junior/Young Rider program. Suggestions for programs are always welcomed. RMDS hopes to host the 2016 USDF Adult Symposium. At this time we are waiting for date options from USDF. This program is for all adults and the speakers are Betsy Steiner and Kathy Connelly. More to come on this....

Show season dates are a bit of puzzle right now as some shows need to move and others must stay on their designated weekends. Some shows have lost venues and or sponsors and will no longer be part of our schedule. We must find a way to attend the shows we do have or they may end. Venues are always an issue and finding locations willing to host shows is an organizational problem. Hopefully we can find a way to continue forward with some help from our Chapters and members.

As I look forward to attending the USDF Convention I am hoping to get some new ideas on growing our membership. The convention is always inspiring as we have the time to meet and discuss the future of Dressage with people from around the country. We are not alone in the challenges we face and the discussions always lead to some new ideas. The RMDS basket is always popular and I look forward to putting it together each year.

We have a slate of members willing to work on the board and I am excited and hopeful for 2016. Board membership requires time and lots of energy as we are required to pitch in throughout the year. A financial investment is required also since we meet at restaurants and must pay for the space through our meal purchases. The reward for being part of the board is a chance to build RMDS for our members.

Sooooo let's get started and build RMDS for an amazing 2016 season!

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa'

Accept dissolution of chapter

Gwen K'awaloa

Gwen Ka'awaloa read the letter from Wasatch Mountain Chapter of RMDS from 10/16/15 regarding their dissolution. Dissolution of chapter was regrettfully accepted.

First reading of election roster, nominations from the floor

Gwen Ka'awaloa

The slate for 2016:

President (2 years): Aline Brandau

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Vice-President (1 year): Joan Clay

Stephanie Figgins

Treasurer (2 years): Sharon Soos

Secretary (2 years): Heather Petersen

Awards (2 years): Shannon Lemons – NEED a helper

Communications (1 year): Linda Gaber

Education (2 years): Carie Sciss
 Mary Rae
 Marketing (2 years): Una Schade
 Professional (2 years): Sarah Dodge
 No nominations were made from the floor.

Vice-President’s Message

Aline Brandau

First of all, I want to thank the RMDS Board and the RMDS Membership for making these last two and a half years some of the most exciting of my life! I have found each and every person I have worked with to be dedicated horse enthusiasts, with the best of intentions to grow our great sport of dressage. These last years I have attended 3 USDF Annual Conventions, hosted Championships, audited a section of the L Program, organized and attended the Professional's Symposium with Christoph Hess, attended National Dressage Championships in Kentucky, and the World Cup in Las Vegas, and organized some fun meetings for the Junior Young Riders.

Beverly Swanson and I got some great excitement going about Marketing, and ordered some great, new t-shirts and polos for our members to buy. Everyone has enjoyed the new styles, and the opportunity to show their support of RMDS. We have also been working on getting some more personal interest articles written by our members about their experiences in dressage and with horses published in the Centaur. I am currently working on getting a string of articles written by dressage riders who take their horses to a warmer climate to train and show during the winter. In the new year, I will be working on inspiring our members to write about their experiences and share their knowledge in the Centaur.

Last year, I was approached by Gwen Ka’awaloa, and asked to run for President of RMDS. After some thought and discussion, I agreed to run for President in 2016. My goals are to grow the adult amateur program, and support the smaller chapters, who need clinics, and fun events to keep the interest in dressage growing all over Region 5. In my opinion, it would be great to get some shows and clinics organized at the Colorado Horse Park. I want to continue my work with the Professional's Committee, and get great clinicians to come to the Rocky Mountains and, "train our trainers." In addition, I want to show great support for our Junior Young Riders and create a feeling of community and inclusiveness between the Junior Young Riders in each stable. My entire life is devoted to dressage, my students, my family, and RMDS. I hope to be able to serve as President and represent all the members, and their great love for dressage, and their horses.

Thanks, and best regards, Aline Brandau

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of October 31, 2015

RMDS Checking Account	\$40,933.11
PayPal Account (as of 10/20/15)	\$ 489.70
Scholarship Account	\$ 6,669.63
Money Market	<u>\$44,169.16</u>
Total	\$92,261.60

There was a discussion to amend the RMDS Representation to USDF Policy.

RMDS Representation to USDF Convention Policy
 (Revised October 8, 2015 in Draft Form)

- I. Convention Attendees
 - A. The RMDS President will attend the USDF Convention
 - B. The RMDS Vice President will attend the USDF Convention
 - 1. If the Vice President cannot attend the USDF Convention the RMDS Executive Board can elect an Executive Board member to attend in his/her place.
- II. Reimbursement of Expenses
 - A. USDF Convention Registration Fee: Up to \$300
 - B. Hotel Rooms – Up to \$85 per night up to 4 nights.
 - 1. USDF limits the amount to be spent on rooms at \$149 per night plus tax
 - C. Travel Costs – Up to \$400

1. This would cover airfare, car rental, gas, parking lot fees, etc.
- D. Meal Stipend – ~~Up to \$40~~ **Per Diem of \$45** per day up to 5 days
 1. If leaving after 12 noon on the day of travel to the convention, the per diem is one-half of \$45, or \$22.50.
 2. If leaving before 12 noon on the day of travel from the convention, the per diem is one-half of \$45, or \$22.50.
3. RMDS does not reimburse RMDS Executive Board Members for alcoholic beverages

Other expenses may be considered on an individual basis by the RMDS Treasurer and Executive Board. Examples would be: Attendance to the awards dinners if the GMO wins an award and needs representation to pick up the award: Internet connections in the rooms if there is RMDS business going on in Colorado that the attendee needs to stay aware of: Parking of vehicle at host hotel if rental car or personal car is used: **Flight cancellation which results in an additional night for a hotel room for which the airlines do not cover.**

- E. All expenses will not be reimbursed without proper receipt documentation
- F. A RMDS Reimbursement Form (can be downloaded from RMDS website) must be filled out for all reimbursement requests and submitted to the RMDS Treasurer within the same year attended the USDF Convention.

Motion was made by Michelle Anderson to accept the policy as corrected. Didi DeKrey seconded. Passed unanimously.

Sharon has created a budget model to guide Committee Chairmen when putting together a program for approval.

INSERT

Central Office Report

Beth Geier

Membership

- Registration – 773 members for 2015 – 11 are Centaur only. 63 new horses since October, 2015
- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2016: \$60.00 now until December 31, 2015

Shows:

- For 2016: 47 RMDS recognized shows: 39 are USEF/USDF recognized and 8 RMDS only shows
- For 2015: 51 RMDS recognized shows: 41 are USEF/USDF recognized and 10 RMDS only shows
- For 2014: 44 RMDS recognized shows: 38 are USEF/USDF recognized and 6 RMDS only shows
- For 2013: 47 RMDS recognized shows: 35 were USEF/USDF recognized and 12 RMDS only recognized shows. 4 had breed shows. 1 cancelled
- For 2012: 52 RMDS recognized shows: 38 were USEF/USDF and 14 RMDS only and 4 of these cancelled. 6 included breed shows

Recognized Officials:

- RMDS regrets that Jeannette Hillery & Dee Stiers will no longer be available to TD.
- Catherine Siemiet – has retired her USEF TD license and would like to become a RMDS TD. Would it be ok to accept her and she would be following the rules for continuing as a RMDS TD.

The Board of Governors will approve Catherine Siemiet as a RMDS delegate AFTER she takes the 2015 RMDS TD written test and attends the February 6 Show Management/TD Continuing Education.

- Officials for RMDS only recognized shows: All USEF recognized TD's and Judges as well as:

The following "L" graduates **may be used** in the RMDS only recognized shows. These have kept up with their continuing education.

Welcome to the newest **RMDS officials** listed in red.

Simone Ahern *	719-749-9274
Michelle Anderson	(303) 646-1375
Megan Bretey	(970) 250-5812
Julie Burt	719-431-2342
Kathleen Donnelly*	970-310-8729
Wendy Fryke	(720) 314-0974
Beth Geier	303-673-9840
Jessica Greer	970-581-5613
Julie Haugen*	970-290-8360

Sarah Martin *	719-379-3716
Julie McDermott*	(720) 206-8351
Linda Ohlson-Gross *	303-840-9818
KC Parkins-Kyle	303-841-9953
Sharron Sarchet*	(720) 320-4461
Kathy Simard*	720-981-4448
Stephanie Soule*	970-201-0747
Simone Windeler	719-287-2040

You may also **use** the following **RMDS TDS** in the RMDS only recognized shows. These have kept up with their continuing education.

Joan Clay	970-420-0887
Didi DeKrey	970-568-3916
MaryJo Hoepner	719-495-3648
Cat Siemiet	719-942-5311 after February if she meets the above stated requirements

Omnibus:

- Accepting ads-need help in getting more. All tabs are sold.
- Chapters receive one page of a prize list free.

General:

- Chapters receive four (4) free email blasts per year for educational purposes. Should schooling shows count as educational???

A discussion was held regarding the email blasts for chapters.

A motion was made by Teresa Bulter to try, for 1 year: unlimited email blasts for chapter events that are open to all RMDS members. Seconded by Sharon Soos. Motion passed

- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price admission to RMDS events.
- Update data base – will have to bid out –

A discussion was held regarding the merits of updating the RMDS database. This project, when approved, will go out for bid.

- Paid position contracts are up for bid in 2016.

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

2016:

Awards Banquet: January 16 (Saturday)

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

Oct 13-Budget Nov 5 or 19 BOG (Saturday) Nov 12 is the same as the National Finals

Committee Chairman Reports

Education

Jon Haugen

2015 was an extremely busy year for Education. Starting early, RMDS hosted the ‘B’ Session of the L Program presented by Bill Solyntjes and Debbie Riehl-Rodriquez instructed the L Continuing Education Program. Due to weather, the Scoring and Scribing clinic was held in conjunction with the TD/Show management clinic. Heather Petersen taught the combined clinic and Simone Windeler helped with the scribing portion. The New Test clinic to familiarize exhibitors with the 2015 USEF tests also had to be moved because of weather, but Kristi Wysocki did a wonderful job of presenting from video. Continuing into the Spring and Summer, RMDS hosted its first ever Professionals symposium with Christoph Hess. The ‘C’ Session presented by Debbie Riehl-Rodriquez, as well as the D1 and D2 sessions of the L Program instructed by Joan Darnell and Lois Yukins, respectively. Then this fall, Christoph Hess returned for another Professionals Symposium, and the L Program Final officiated by Gary Rockwell and Joan Darnell was held in Late October in Houston.

For 2016, plans are underway for the L Program CE to be hosted by Dolly Hannon, and the TD/Show management clinic to be presented by Heather Petersen and Laurie Mactavish.

I have had a great deal of help in organizing and putting on these programs from both Beth Geier and Heather Petersen, I couldn’t have done near the amount of educational activities without them. I also want to extend a huge thank you to all of the members of the board who have helped to make my term as Education Chair such a wonderful experience.

- 2016 events
 - January 30-Judges CE with Dolly Hannon – Table Mountain Ranch??: Western Dressage and fine tuning the eye for the “middle” horses.

- February 6-TD/Show Management CE – Douglas County Fairgrounds with Laurie Mactavish & Heather Petersen
- April - Instructors CE either Lilo Fore or George Williams Auditors ??

There was a discussion on the pros & cons for the auditors for the professional' days. No decision was made, but good reasons for allowing auditors and not allowing auditors were given by many in attendance. There will be a higher fee for non-members to audit.

Heather Petersen thanked the people that went out of their way to make the “L” program & the “L” testing successful. Jon announced that as a part of 2White Feet, there will be a couple of classes held to familiarize people to the digital scoring system. 2 White Feet hope to incorporate this into their 2016 shows.

Adult Amateur

Didi DeKrey

The Adult Amateur committee is tasked with providing support to the Educational committee, especially for events open to the Adult Amateurs in RMDS. The following report focuses on the activities of the Adult Amateur chair. Many educational activities were offered in the past year for our RMDS members through the Educational committee.

The RMDS/USDF Team Competition was held in June at the Tomora Training Facility in Greeley, CO. Both Junior/Young Riders and Adults are encouraged to attend this fun event. Ribbons were awarded for individual scores. In addition, and perhaps the high point of the event, special prizes were awarded for Best Use of Colors, most patriotic and other fun categories. Happy Horse Tack shop, located in Ft. Collins, donated some fly bonnets. Ft. Collins artist Tony DeKrey donated hand turned whistles and key rings, and I gave some hand crocheted gifts.

In response to requests and input from the Grand Valley chapter, the Adult Amateur helped with the organization and funding of a Freestyle clinic. The clinic was held at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in Grand Junction. The clinic featured Ms. Julie Haugen as the clinician. Participants submitted videos, music preferences, and riding level ahead of time. They were then provided with the process to further develop the embryonic freestyle. The clinic consisted of a lecture and pot luck dinner followed by a one-to-one mounted session.

Member input also showed a desire for more clinics held in varying parts of our RMDS. A team of individuals from several chapters banded together and proposed three different clinics. The proposal was put to the Board, and is currently waiting for the 2016 Calendar to be finalized. Once dates are approved; the team will finalize funding, location and syllabi for each of the clinics.

Please, continue to be involved with your local clubs; interact with fellow chapters; document your volunteering times (use the RMDS form!). Volunteering not only helps the activity, but also can be used to apply towards the scholarships and grants available for us.

- June-Team Competition – June 11 was decided as the date for 2016. Seems to be the only open day in June

The Freestyle clinic co-hosted by RMDS and Grand Valley Dressage Society (GVDS) occurred November 6-7, 2015. Prior to the clinic, the participants submitted videos of themselves and their mounts and musical preferences to our clinician, Ms. Julie Haugen. Julie then reviewed the submittals and prepared a suggested pattern for the horse, music, and riding levels

On Friday evening a potluck dinner was followed by a lecture presented by Julie. The Presentation went over movement requirements per Level, time limits, tempo, rhythm, choreography and other topics. Handouts were given to participants and helpful references and websites were also discussed.

The riding section was held Saturday; each rider had up to an hour to work with Julie. It was held at the Mesa County Fairgrounds, covered arenas. Riders worked with Julie and her assistant on the suggested riding patterns to the recommended music selections. Each rider was given a written copy of the suggested patterns and electronic copy of the music and a video clip taken during their rides.

The following table details actual costs and income for the Freestyle clinic.

<i>Figure 1 Actual Income and Expense</i>	Unit	Total
RMDS AA/Education	\$500	\$500
Budget		
Participants; 8 total	\$100	\$ 800.00
GVDS sponsorship	\$163	\$163
Stalls	\$15	\$15.00

Total Income		\$1478.00
Expenses		
Clinician	\$500	\$500
Facility; Arena only	\$300	\$300
Hotel 2 nights	\$174.	174.82
Per diem/clinicians 1.5 days	\$100	\$150
Mileage (250 @55c/mile each way)	\$137.50	\$ 275.00
Insurance	\$63	\$63
Refund; Stall	\$15	\$15
Total Expenses		\$1,477.82
Profit/Loss		\$ 0.18

Junior/Young Rider

Julie Burt/Joan Clay/Aline Brandau

No report from Julie Burt

Joan Clay did say that she and Heather would like to be aware of any and all juniors, 12 years and older, interested in going to NAJYRC in the future so they might mentor them and guide them better.

Aline Brandau mentioned that the group would like to meet for at least one hour prior to the banquet in January. They did meet at Championships for a pizza party.

Awards

Shannon Lemons

2014 –

1. Positives – slightly under budget, able to get trophies all donated
2. Negatives – more trophy damage when mailing, even with professional packaging

2015 –

1. Virtual Hall of Champions
 - a. Started making lists of everything listed on old trophies to create it
 - b. Use picture of trophy with list of all previous winners
 - c. Can then dispose of old trophies – most will be difficult to repurpose, so possibly sell on eBay or antique sites to support the awards program
2. Trophy replacement/Improvements this year
 - a. Iberian – Thank you Frances Carbonnel who is donating new trophy
 - b. Arabian – Removing clunky wooden base, keep cool ornate vase, purchasing plaque this year
 - c. Hanoverian – No response from previous donor, will continue to try to contact, purchasing new plaque
 - d. AA1st – No response from previous donor, will continue to try to contact, purchasing new plaque
 - e. AAI1 – No response from previous donor, will continue to try to contact, purchasing new plaque
 - f. Lisa Robbins – replacing damaged trophy
3. 2015 Awards
 - a. Postcards and letters out this week
 - b. Recommend reminders about banquet early December so that people don't forget it during the holidays
 - c. Orders all in other than volunteer gifts
 - d. Great response from membership on Junior Sportsmanship Award – three were repeatedly nominated, so I asked the donor to pick one, and we will be awarding a ribbon for honorable mention to the other two😊

2016 –

1. Trophy Replacements for needed for next competition season:
 - a. You've Come a Long Way Baby – Largest Point Spread from lowest to highest scores
 - i. This is a really neat early 1900s Stock Show silver cup that we should keep
 - ii. Original donor is Cariellen DeMuth – ask her or buy new plaque out of RMDS funds?
 - b. High Score Mare 3rd Level and Above –

- i. Original donor Carolyn Schoenfield – ask her or look for new?
- c. Grade Horse
 - i. Original donor Joder Arabian Ranch
 - ii. Many, many of us ride grade horses – who is interested or knows who might be interested in a new trophy for 2016?
- d. AA PSG – Waterloo Perpetual Trophy
 - i. Original donor Lori Oakley, nice Asian style statue
 - ii. Anyone know donor or interested in providing new trophy?
- e. Pony Training Level
 - i. Very nice silver plate with horses, original donor Julie Barringer-Richers and Wild Rose Farm
 - ii. Will ask Julie if they want to contribute a new plaque
- f. Pony Second Level
 - i. New award established at last year's BOG
 - ii. No competitors this year, but who is interested in providing new trophy for 2016 or has an idea who might?

Pikes Peak Chapter will donate the Pony Second Level Award

- g. Open 1st Level
 - i. Pair of brass finish book ends, donated by High Plains
 - ii. Will High Plains provide new trophy?
- h. Open I2
 - i. Beautiful huge glass challis, Graf Bobby Memorial, originally donated by Phillip and Jennifer Oldham. We should keep this beautiful trophy
 - ii. Anyone know the Oldhams? Anyone else interested in providing new plaque
- i. Futurity
 - i. Large silver icer on base
 - ii. Will Foothills contribute a plaque to go with the trophy now that the base is full?

Friends of Veronica Holt will donate this trophy in her memory

- 2. Needed for 2017 competition season
 - a. Freestyle I1/Joint Venture trophy
 - b. Oldenburg
 - c. Saddlebred
 - d. Open PSG/Pregelstrand Trophy
 - e. Open I1
- 3. Financial Issues
 - a. Is there any way to make the Awards Program somewhat self-sustaining?
 - i. We are always trying to find donors for the trophies, but we are not always successful at getting people to donate, and we are coming up on about 4 years where much of the trophy inventory will need to be replaced or updated with new plaques
 - ii. Costs of ribbons, postage, gifts, and trophies will continue to increase a certain percentage each year. On the other hand, we will be decreasing the amount we spend on postage, but we will consequently receive less for reimbursement, and postage is only 5-10% of the budget
 - b. Ideas?
 - i. Rider/horse registration for the Awards program
 - 1. Could be a minimum charge such as \$5/combo
 - 2. Resistance to adding a step for riders/owners, adding to cost of our hobby, particularly for professionals riding multiples
 - 3. Increased work for RMDS Central Office and Awards
 - ii. Line Item on Membership Application
 - 1. \$2 to support Awards program?
 - 2. Would it be difficult to keep track of? Could consider it donations
 - iii. Silent Auction at a show or banquet? Other ideas?
- 4. Questions or concerns?

Suggestion to try and get a sponsor for the ribbons.

Western Dressage Awards was brought up. The Chapters could initiate these awards if they want.

Awards
Budget

EXPENSE ITEM	2014			2015	2016	Proposed
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Proposed	Variance
Postage	\$500	\$305	(\$195)	\$350	\$400	\$50
Supplies -	300	158	(142)	300	350	50
Gifts	400	512	112	525	575	50
Ribbons	1,750	1,613	(137)	1,700	1,750	50
Trophies, plaques, engraving	3,100	2,509	(591)	3,375	3,425	50
Senior glasses	0	396	396	0	0	
Miscellaneous	0	0		0	0	
INCOME ITEM						
Postage Reimbursement	(350)	(222)	128	(300)	(300)	0
Award Sponsor	(200)	0	200	(200)	(200)	0
Late Fees/Donations/replacements	0	0		0	0	
TOTAL	\$5,500	\$5,271	(\$229)	\$5,750	\$6,000	\$250

RMDS Championships

Beverly Swanson & Heather Petersen

My goals as 2016 Championships Show Liaison were to:

- Help obtain sponsorships
- Secure advertising for the Championships program
- Design and order Volunteer and Commemorative T-shirts
- Design and order updated RMDS branded apparel for sale at show
- Encourage stories and photos for the Centaur and e-Centaur
- Write and mail personal thank-you notes to all sponsors/advertisers/contributors

Through the use of Constant Contact, I emailed several solicitations for sponsors and advertisers. I have found that repetitive use of these emails resulted in many responses for both ads and sponsors. The key is to start in late June-early July and continue sending reminders on an upward graduated time scale up until the event. As the e-Centaur publisher, and with my skills, it was possible to do this as a volunteer at no cost to RMDS.

There were many people who stepped up and sponsored classes, awards, t-shirts, program advertising and package inserts, and I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all. I finished hand-writing 44 personal thank-you notes and mailing all on November 5.

Thanks to Aline Brandau, VP, who secured several sponsors, we were successful in covering the cost of the Volunteer T-Shirts and Commemorative T-Shirts with logo sponsors. (Sponsors=\$1250, Cost of shirts=\$1166) There was no cost for getting the logos in print-ready format, as I volunteered the design production. This year we ordered a more stylish commemorative shirt at a nominally slightly higher cost, but constructed of a much more wearable and nicer material in a soft blue, which was appreciated by members. We do still have leftover inventory, and will look at the numbers for re-order next year.

The Centaur received several pictures for publishing in both the October e-Centaur and the November print Centaur, including two inspiring stories of personal triumphs at the show.

New apparel was added to RMDS regular inventory (not Championship income) for sale at Championships. The new clothing is in updated styles, and we expect these to sell out shortly. I will be working with Michael Petersen, Web Designer, to make these available for online purchase as well.

For 2016, I intend to continue with the email marketing as stated above. In addition, I'd like to solicit sponsorships at the Awards Banquet, particularly from those who have achieved this level of recognition, to pay it forward with 2016 donations.

I would also like to challenge each Chapter to sponsor a class (if it is within their budget), and to commit to finding at least one major sponsor/advertiser among their members and/or their geographic area. Major sponsors do receive a great package of publicity, including in some cases, an annual ad contract in the Centaur.

A presentation was given comparing the costs for Estes Park and the Colorado Horse Park.

Estes Park: capacity for 600 horses – 2015 Championships cost \$15,789.00

Colorado Horse Park: capacity for 300 horses – 2014 \$40,571.00 – includes regionals

2013 \$42,000.00 – includes regionals

2012 \$32,000.00

The big discrepancy came from the stall charges: bill by day (CHP) or bill by night (Estes)

September 14-18, 2016 RMDS Championships & Region 5 Championships

Progressive barn party???

Need sponsors for the evening events.

Second reading of election roster, nominations from the floor Gwen Ka'awaloa

The slate for 2016:

President (2 years): Aline Brandau

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Vice-President (1 year): Joan Clay

Stephanie Figgins

Treasurer (2 years): Sharon Soos

Secretary (2 years): Heather Petersen

Awards (2 years): Shannon Lemons – NEED a helper

Communications (1 year): Linda Gaber

Education (2 years): Carie Sciss

Mary Rae

Marketing (2 years): Una Schade

Professional (2 years): Sarah Dodge

No nominations were made from the floor.

Resumed Committee Chair Reports after a short lunch break

Communications

Beverly Swanson, Acting Chairman

Centaur

The Centaur was quite successful this year, with several outstanding articles including:

Christoph Hess Clinic articles from Sarah Martin and Andree Hunt

Andreas Hausberger Clinic report from Beverly Swanson and Suzie Halle

Freestyle Clinic Report from Linda Gaber

Dressage Finals First Person report from Suzie Halle

RMDS Personal Tribute to Veronica Holt

The Trainer's Vault from Simone Windeler covered a wide variety of topics

Several local experts have added content to keep us up-to-date on volunteering, scribing, and other educational contributions.

The Centaur printed version is designed to follow the guidelines of a regular publication, with all content and boilerplate material (calendar, judges, RMDS Board, etc.) kept in the same place. When readers know where to automatically find features, it is much more readable.

Advertisers benefit from the standard layout of the publication, as repetition and regular placement is key to making your name or business remembered. More advertisements are always welcome - please consider an annual business card or advertisement.

The e-Centaur is being used for features that have color photos best suited for online viewing. Also have added a "What's Happening This Month" calendar. The Sidebar is a great source for upcoming deadlines and events that membership needs to know.

We are planning to switch the e-Centaur from Constant Contact to MailChimp, beginning with the February issue. MailChimp is free for under 1000 subscribers, so this will save RMDS \$35/mo.

I'd like to encourage all members, and especially Chapters, to contribute articles to the Centaur. In particular, I'd like to have reports on your annual chapter shows, with pictures, stories, personal notes, high-point winners, maybe first-time show entries.

Communications report from Kerry Louise Boucher

It has been a great pleasure volunteering my time for this position, unfortunately not long into the year I was subject to a life altering event. This forced me to make some big changes in order to provide for my family (both 2 and 4 legged) and between 2 jobs my time for this position was reduced to nothing. I reluctantly resigned from Communications chair last month, having just become a burden to Bev who had already stepped in many times for me over the summer due to my situation.

I wish all the new officers all the best, and hope to fulfill another position at some point in the future when life allows.

OMNIBUS

Nicole Bizarro

I am very much looking forward to working on the 2016 Omnibus. This will be the 14th year I have had the pleasure of putting it together.

In this time, the Omnibus has only improved as a publication, and as a tool for the membership.

We are offering expanded color advertising opportunities and have been able to keep the costs of such ads to a minimum. Last year we sold a total of 51 ads, very close to our all-time high of 60. Hoping for a lot of ads, and specifically color as they both make our publication brighter and more visually interesting, but also because they are so important in offsetting the cost of printing and distributing the Omnibus to our members.

We will be creating a graphic of the training scale for the benefit of the membership to be included in the test section.

Please contact me if you have any concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to make this the best Omnibus ever!

Website

Michael Petersen

Discussion was held regarding the update to the RMDS software that the Central Office uses. It was determined that 'sooner than later' would be best. Bids for a contract will be requested.

Marketing

Aline Brandau

Aline spent a lot of time phoning and emailing to get sponsors in Estes Park for the show. Not very successful as the merchants did not get a large response when they do advertise and they were still recovering from the severe floods.

Scholarship

MaryJo Hoepner

1. All recipients this year have fulfilled their volunteer hours except for one. I have emailed that person to request she turn in her hours ASAP.
2. Deadline for this coming year is November 30. Please assure all your chapter members turn in their applications by that date.

We have received the first application.

3. Since chapter officers and contacts may be changing for this coming year, please send email to m_hoepner@hotmail.com to let me know who the Scholarship contacts are for each of your chapters.
4. Last email blast to solicit applications has been sent.
5. Reminder for the meeting to review applications. As announced at the January 2015 board meeting, the meeting to review applications will be the Monday prior to the January 2016 board meeting. Meeting will be the Falcon area.
6. Request for this coming year -- when Centaur editor receives a report from scholarship recipient, please email Scholarship chair that it was received.

January 11, 2016 is the meeting to go over all the applicants.

Banquet – January 16, 2016

Aline Brandau

The banquet will be held at the Renaissance Hotel – 3801 Quebec – Denver, CO. Aline will determine the vegetarian dish in December. There will be a silent auction, chapter baskets, and tickets for drawing for show entries.

Appointed Committee Chairman Reports

Western Dressage

Frances Carbonnel

No report – Frances has just returned from WDAA National Finals

Professionals

Simone Windeler

I would like to thank Gwen Ka’awaloa for creating this position and giving the professional riders and trainers a voice on the board of RMDS.

During the past two years we have been able to create a special section in the Centaur – the “Trainer’s Vault” a chance for members to ask questions and trainers to answer those. We have had quite a few great articles on various topics that way.

RMDS also decided to hosted the first ever Trainer’s only seminar with Christoph Hess this past May. The idea was to have a closed forum to allow trainers to ask questions, exchange ideas and talk “shop”. The event was a resounding success, all trainers and professional riders that were able to attend came away inspired and with new ideas on training and improving their riding.

A second seminar was held this past October with Mr. Hess which was once again quite successful. A huge “Thank you” goes to Iron Horse Farms and Paragon Equestrian Center as the hosts of these clinics. They make it possible for RMDS to bring world-class trainers to Colorado and keep the events affordable for all participants.

Colorado has a wonderful range of fantastic trainers and judges, many of them with international experience that they happily share with their clients. In recent years competitors from CO have been able to compete at the highest national levels due to our great instructors.

Thank you RMDS for helping promote your trainers and professionals.

Historical

Pat Leech

This year has been one with a focus on organization and preservation of the paper archive. Documents that were loose in folders and stuffed into binders have been sorted and organized into folders in bins. Fragile documents from the first part of the 1970’s have been scanned into electronic documents and saved into commonly available formats (pdf). The scanning of the documents is a highly time intensive and slow so it will take some time to get all four stuffed file bins scanned and saved. Completion of this project will allow for easy access to the documents online instead of manually sorting through the physical paper files.

Files included in the archive include meeting minutes from the first year of RMDS, competition forms (\$5.00 class fees, no office fees), the first Centaurs (one page, hand typed, and then mimeographed), the founding of the first chapters in 1979 (CSDA, Foot Hills, NCDA) and discussions of the first RMDS Championship show.

2016 should be a better time wise and I should be able to complete some articles for the Centaur regarding the early days of RMDS.

By-Laws

Beth Geier

BYLAW:

1. ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

- C. Removal of Chapter Recognition: Any Chapter may lose Society recognition when any of the following conditions exist:
1. The number of Society members represented by the Chapter falls below ten (10) on **April 1 (Change to June 15)** of the current membership year
 2. Whenever, in the judgment of the Executive Board, the best interests of the Society would be served thereby. Loss of Chapter recognition shall require a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board at a regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting. All members of the Executive Board must be sent written notification of the intention to move for the revocation of recognition at least ten (10) days prior to the Executive Board meeting where the vote will be taken.

Motion made by Beth Hart to accept the change. Seconded by Annette Alfano. Motion passed.

STANDING RULE:

SECTION V. AWARDS - YEAR END

A) When determining the number of scores to use, if 80% of the number of scores results in a non-integer number, standard rounding rules will be used: if the fractional part is 0.5 or greater, the number of scores used will be rounded up to the next higher integer; if the fractional part is less than 0.5, the number of scores used will be rounded down to the next lower integer.

OR

B) When determining the number of scores to use, if 80% of the number of scores results in a non-integer number, the number of scores used will be rounded down (truncated) to the next lower integer.

A is mathematically correct, but B helps riders more in a few instances and may be more in line with the spirit of the 80% rule. That's for the organization to decide.

Kerry-Louise Boucher made the motion to accept "A". Michelle Anderson seconded. 40 Ayes, 2 Nays

Motion passed

2. SECTION VII. USDF "L" Graduate Program for RMDS

In an effort to provide quality judging RMDS has established a certification program that will allow USDF "L" Graduate to officiate at RMDS only recognized competitions. May judge through 2nd Level. The requirements are as follows:

- A. Must be certified by the USDF as having successfully passed the USDF "L" judges program.
- B. Must be a RMDS member in good standing and over 21 years of age.
- C. Must be a current member of US Equestrian Federation.
- D. Must officiate at a RMDS recognized competition, dressage schooling show or Eventing unrecognized event, which cumulatively includes a minimum of 30 dressage rides (USDF Intro-USEF 2nd Level or equivalents) once every two (2) years.
- E. Must attend a RMDS, US Equestrian Federation, or USDF recognized continuing education for judges program once every two (2) years
- F. "L" graduates must also undertake 20 hours every 2 years of continuing education as approved by the RMDS Executive Board, 8 hours of which must include scribing (~~delete "and sitting"~~) with a "R" judge or higher.
- G. "L" graduates must also undertake 8 hours of sitting at a competition every 2 years which must be with an "L" faculty member or one of the approved apprentice judges from the USEF "r" program.

Rewrite of F. & G:

- F. "L" graduates must undertake 24 hours every 2 years of continuing education as approved by the RMDS Executive Board; 8 hours of which must include scribing with a "R" judge or higher,
- G. and 8 hours of sitting at a competition every 2 years which must be with an "L" faculty member or one of the approved apprentice judges from the USEF "r" program.

Motion to accept the rewrite was made by Robin Gay, seconded by Heather Petersen. Motion passed unanimously.

3. SECTION XIV. RMDS CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

A. General:

6. Horse and rider combinations, which are champions from previous years and received an RMDS qualifying score in that championship class for Training Level through Fourth Level & Training Level through Fourth Level Freestyle, are not eligible to compete again in Championship Classes at the same level at which they were champions **more than three times.**

Teresa Butler made the motion to accept the change to add: more than three times. Seconded by Joan Clay. 38 Ayes, 4 Nays. Motion passed.

Budget	Sharon Soos			
	2016 Budget	Income	Expense	Net Change
Adult Amateur		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)

BOG Awards	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,500.00	(\$6,000.00)
BOG Banquet	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$0.00
BOG Meeting	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	(\$1,500.00)
Centaur	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 14,000.00	(\$10,500.00)
Central Office	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 11,500.00	(\$9,000.00)
Championship/Breed Show	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 112,000.00	(\$2,000.00)
Clinics/Education	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$1,000.00
General / Interest	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$0.00
Jr/Yr Program		\$ 500.00	(\$500.00)
Junior Camp	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Marketing	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	(\$500.00)
Membership - Dues	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$21,000.00
Membership - Horses	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$5,000.00
Misc. / Donation	\$ -	\$ 2,585.00	(\$2,585.00)
Omnibus	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	(\$3,000.00)
Operating (USDF Conv/Treas Exp) Treasurer/USDF Conv.	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	(\$3,000.00)
Professional Committee		\$ 500.00	(\$500.00)
Scheduling / Insurance	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$400.00
Scholarship	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,000.00	(\$600.00)
Taxes / Legal/ Audit	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,000.00	(\$700.00)
Team Competition	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Website	\$ 650.00	\$ 800.00	(\$150.00)
Total	\$ 201,650.00	\$ 214,285.00	(\$12,635.00)

**Motion made to accept the budget as corrected by Susan Gregg. Seconded by Susan Borders. 34 Ayes 8 Naves
Motion passed**

Old Business

- USDF Convention
- Policy change?? Per Diem?? **A per Diem policy change was discussed, amended and passed under the Treasurer's Report**

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

2015 has been a different year. We lost a great supporter of Region 5 and USDF in general in December of 2014 when Veronica Holt left us. Theresa Hunt and the Technical Delegate Committee worked with The Dressage Foundation to establish a fund in her honor for TDs working on promotion from "r" status to "R". Region 5 and I worked with USDF and the USDF Dressage Finals to create a perpetual trophy in her honor. The US Dressage Finals Grand Prix Open will now have the Veronica Holt Perpetual Trophy and I'm looking forward to being present when it's awarded for the first time. We also lost Lloyd Landkamer this year, who has been a show manager several times over the years at some of our Region 5 shows. He was a personal mentor to me like Veronica was and I know he will be greatly missed.

USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships were held in Scottsdale, Arizona at WestWorld in 2015, hosted by the Arizona Dressage Association. It went well with the wonderful volunteers and show management in place. Next year the Regional Championships will be back in Colorado hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. We really need to get bids in for 2017 soon and I hope we're able to keep as many parts of our Region in the rotation. Here's hoping we can keep the Regional Championships moving throughout our Region to better serve this large area. If you know of a facility we should consider, please let me know.

We fielded a full team of Juniors and a mixed team of Young Riders this year at NAJYRC and they worked hard and did really well! Our NAJYRC Young Riders were Victoria Fernald with Ahmaroo and Lauren Asher with Lysias. They combined with Stevie Gaudreau from Region 6 and worked really hard. Victoria finished 16th in the Team and Individual Test and 13th in the Freestyle.

Our Juniors this year were Megan McCracken with Amazing, Lexy Donaldson with Power Play, Molly O'Brien with Vermeer and Dallas McCullough with Bailar. All of our girls did wonderfully and it was a great group to work with. Megan finished 10th in the Team Test, Molly finished 15th in the Individual Test, Lexy finished 16th in the Individual Test, Molly finished 12th in the Freestyle and Lexy finished 16th in the Freestyle. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make the team and to all our team members. Many thanks to Joan Clay, our coordinator and one of the Chefs, Jackson Gillespie, who served as our Junior Team groom, and all of our parents, trainers, coaches and supporters.

The USDF Adult and Youth Team Championships were held in Region 5 again this year. These were held June 28 in Greeley, Colorado. The show was very well attended and the team atmosphere was great. Many thanks to the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society for hosting the show and all the volunteers who helped put the show on.

This year Region 5 was allocated 5 Participating Member delegates to the USDF Board of Governors meeting. Scarlett Fahrenson, our Nominating Committee member, rounded up a nice diverse roster of 5 individuals to fill those spots. Your delegates are Eva-Maria Adolphi, Joan Clay, Rusty Cook, Scarlett Fahrenson, and Susan Leutwyler. These 5 members were a nice representation of the different states/areas in Region 5. Scarlett also worked hard to get representation for all our eligible GMOs in the Region or proxies to cover their votes.

Our regional GMOs and other organizations within our Region have been very busy hosting lots of educational programs. Here are some of the ones I know of and I'm sorry if some were left out. Please realize how much your GMOs have to offer and support them with your membership!

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – complete USDF L program

November 2014-November 2015

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – USDF Judges' Continuing Education Program

January 2015

Arizona Dressage Association – Musical Freestyle Clinic

February 2015

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – Technical Delegate and Show Management Clinic

February 2015

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – New Test Clinic

February 2015

Utah Dressage Society – Scribing Clinics

March and April 2015

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – Scoring and Scribing Clinic

March 2015

Tucson Dressage Club – A Balancing Act with Dr. Gerd Heuschmann

June 2015

New Mexico Dressage Association – Pilates for Dressage Clinic

June 2015

2 White Feet, Inc – USEF “r” Judges Program

August 2014 and August 2015

New Mexico Dressage Association – Lisa Wilcox Clinic

September 2015

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society – Instructor Clinic and Open Clinic w/ Christoph Hess

October 2015

Utah Dressage Society – USDF Instructor Certification Workshops

October and November, 2015

Central Arizona Riding Academy – Complete USDF L Program

January 2016-October 2016

2015 USDF Convention is in Las Vegas at the Rio. 2016 USDF Convention will be in St Louis.

New Business

- **2016 Show Schedule** **Beth Geier**
Schedule can be found on the RMDS website www.rmids.org
- BOG dates for 2016 were discussed. It was agreed that November 5 would be the best date to have it since Nationals is on the 12th and the 19th is too close to Thanksgiving.

Chapter Reports –

Pat Leech made the motion to accept the reports as submitted. Seconded by Beth Hart. Motion passed unanimously.

Arkansas Valley

Beth Hart

Arkansas Valley had a great year. Membership was up and the new educational membership helped many of our members who aren't riding a lot but want to be part of the association. Thank you RMDS and chapters for your support on implementing the membership category.

We saw many old faces and quite a few new ones at our clinics, schooling shows and ride-a-test. We have a lot of interest in Western Dressage and plan on having Western dressage clinicians in 2016.

On May 2nd we had a schooling show with Mary Joe Hoepner judging. She was wonderfully gracious and we were very appreciative of her time and attention.

We had Sabrina Bablitz in April and Amelia Newcomb in June for our clinics. Both clinicians were fabulous for our group. We had hoped to have more clinics but time and weather weren't on our side.

Our ride-a-test was in July with Kathy Simard. Thank you for all your time Kathy, with 19 riders, it was a very long day! Our final schooling show was in October with Beth Geier. Beth was very patient with me and the riders were very grateful for her instruction. Thank you Beth for coming down and spending the day with us!

Once a month the club had a “Fun Day”, an opportunity for all members to ride together. Beginners to advanced, we work with our horses on groundwork, practicing tests and working on dressage movements. This has been well attended and a great way for our club to become more cohesive.

Many of us are hopeful RMDS would have events in the southeast corner of the woods. A few in our group trek north for clinics, shows and education but it would be wonderful to have RMDS events a bit closer. Travel time is an issue for many and it would be good exposure for us to be able to participate in a larger recognized event.

Our volunteers are phenomenal. We couldn't do our events without them. We are excited about how the fun day, clinics and shows were all well attended. We are blessed to have riders come with their horses from Breckenridge and Salida, Denver to Co Springs from Westcliffe to Pueblo. Those who made the journey, thank you for participating in our events!

In 2016 we look forward to another great year. Come down and join us if you are able. We are an eclectic fun group.

Boulder Valley

Robin Gay

No report

Colorado Springs

Patricia Leech

Colorado Springs Dressage Association (CSDA) had a busy year for our members. We are looking forward to our annual "Shop till You Drop" Event in December, election of officers in November, and our 36th consecutive awards banquet in January.

In 1979, the CSDA Year End Awards program was born when our then awards chair, Marie Cecile Lee (Cici), presented the year-end awards at our first banquet. Kathy Thompson was awarded the Ruth Chase Tyree Perpetual Trophy as the Training Level Champion. She was the Grand Champion High Point winner that year as well.

Over the years, CSDA has continued to expand our Chapter awards program and in 2012, we presented a total of 55 separate trophies, ribbons, and plaques to our members. These awards included riders from Training Level through FEI, horses in the breed and in-hand categories, and non-riding awards to volunteers and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Chapter and the sport of Dressage. These awards are very popular with the membership as they recognize the people whose support and help make competition possible for the riders.

The Awards program has evolved in leaps and bounds; for example, at first there were no Adult Amateur or Junior/Young Riders divisions or freestyle categories included. As new divisions such as Adult amateur and Junior/Young rider were added to shows, we added them to our program and had trophies donated to recognize these achievements. CSDA now presents 35 separate awards and trophies each year.

Foothills

Kris Cooper

Beginning-of-the-year interviews with a diverse membership left us with the following questions:

- How can we find people who are interested in dressage?
- How can we help connect them to the appropriate resources?
- How can we help them to feel welcome?
- When they want to demonstrate what they have learned, how can we introduce them to showing in a helpful and nonthreatening way?
- How can we provide the resources and support to help members keep going or to still be involved?
- How can we help each other?

As a result of the interviews the following events were held:

- A Western Dressage Clinic on April 12 with Frances Carbonnel
- A Ride-A-Test Clinic on May 3 with KC Parkins-Kyle
- A Schooling show on June 7 at Table Mountain Ranch with Stephanie Soule, judge
- An RMDS-recognized show on September 6 at Table Mountain Ranch with KC Parkins-Kyle, judge
- We hope the above events have made some progress in addressing the above questions. As an added bonus, we netted \$2710 to the Foothills bank account!

Two additional RMDS-recognized shows were sponsored by Centaur Rising and held at Anchorage Farm in July and August.

Foothills awarded Lexy Donaldson a \$400 scholarship to help defray the cost of her representing Region V at the Northern American Junior and Young Rider Championships. Lexy gave a presentation about her experience at our chapter meeting on August 3.

Eighteen Foothills members exhibited at the RMDS Championship show, earning nine Championship titles.

Our goals for 2016 are to 1) grow membership; 2) enhance the skills, knowledge and performance of all Foothills members; and 3) facilitate the working together of Foothills professionals to help one another achieve the first two goals. Our 2016 plans include another western dressage clinic, off-season ride-a-test clinics, freestyle and young-rider events as well as a how-to-give-a-seat-lesson clinic.

2016 Foothills Officers

Kris Cooper President 303-847-9862 kris@anchoragefarm.com

Jan Danis Vice President

Nicole Riffe Secretary

Laura Quakenbush Treasurer

Maylou Metcalf Scholarship

Cassandra DiPentino Education

Grand Valley

Arlene Rhodes

This year has been one of growth for our club and a year of first-ers, most of them good!

We have more members this year than in the past several years and it has been good to see returning faces as well as many new ones. Our schooling shows have been very full; one day we had to start a waitlist - this is something we haven't had to do in years. Our full schooling shows gave us enough funds to rent the covered warm-up arena next to the covered competition arena so we had a shady, dry riding area for all the competitors from their warm up all the way through their test. We also added many new junior and young riders this year to the club and the competitions. It's nice to see the next generation learning and enjoying the dressage experience!

Our "first-ers" have been many - we began with a Western Dressage horse-less clinic with Frances Carbonnel in which over half our club attended. This spurred lots of interest in more Western Dressage clinics and attendance at our shows. For the first time ever we had our full series of shows in the new large covered arena at the Mesa County Fairgrounds. The light and space seemed to relax all the horses leading to many favorable comments about the facility. We also offered Prix Caprilli classes at all the schooling shows. This motivated several of the younger competitors to enter the shows. We also had our first PARA rider who participated in the schooling series. It was really nice to see her smiles and see her improvement throughout the season. We had our first side-saddle competitor in our October show - it was fun to watch! In November we had our first co-sponsored clinic with RMDS with Julie Haugen for fun with Freestyles. Eight riders benefited from her talent along with her helper Natalie in getting a freestyle pattern created for each of them in addition to music that matched their horse's gaits. We felt so fortunate to have this great contribution to our club. Many of us are busy working on freestyles now; we're all eager to see what they will look like next year at our first show in May. Our only sad first-er was the cancellation of the recognized show in September due to VS. This was a difficult and disappointing decision to make, but we are looking forward to a USEF/USDF/RMDS/UDS recognized show next year!

High Plains

Olga Hendrickson

HPD was very busy in 2015.

We kicked off the season in February with an invitation all members and guests to participate in a Bake your own Valentine's Day Horse Treats with a Professional Chef in a Professional Kitchen. These horse treats are vet recommended and all organic. HPD provided all the ingredients and baking necessities, and much fun was had by all - and our equine friends appreciated the treats on Feb 14.

HPD hosted a coffee table meet and greet at the first show Dressage for the Cure which was a resounding success. There we gave away dvd's to demo riders of a HPD clinic we hosted with Hilda Gurney back in 2011. The table offered dog treats, homemade cookies, and breakfast items including Duffy's rolls and various breads and danishes. The meet and greet also held a successful raffle of beautiful brushes, picture frames, bridle charms etc... along with donations we have received over the years.

HPD purchased 30 wholesale dressage belts and sold these at all our events this year as a fundraiser. These were wildly popular.

HPD geared up again, for its second annual, co-hosting with Suzie Halle and the kind donation of Stellar Stables by the owners, to bring in Andreas Hausberger, the Chief Rider of the Spanish Riding School, for a three day clinic. This year we were full to capacity with a wait list of 7 riders and 10 auditors. The Chief Rider is considered by many including Charles de Kunffy to be one of the World's best classical riders and trainers, Region 5 is fortunate to have the talent of this great master.

HPD maintained weekly posts of useful / educational information for our members to read on our Facebook page.

HPD increased its FB following by 200% (now reaching not only our community of members but also a worldwide audience of dressage enthusiasts) which has been an enormous help to those members selling horses, and as outreach for member recognition, as well as a way to disseminate important information to our membership.

We took a look at our fiscal responsibility:

HPD advertised, negotiated and arranged delivery for the sale of our dressage court to the Western Dressage Association

Eliminated our vastly expensive storage locker by organizing a clean out day

Held meetings to determine which items to keep and which to sell
Sold items accumulating dust in storage locker so that others who need them could benefit from their use.
HPD put into place non-profit status for our PayPal account reducing high fees charged for collecting auditor/fundraising payments.

HPD required checks be mailed directly vs utilizing PayPal for riders in our clinic saving significant money.

HPD reduced our monthly web-hosting fees through analysis of existing account and reduction of unnecessary add-ons for a significant savings.

HPD is holding Elections on November 17th for 2016.

The slate is:

Kathy Simard - President

Suzie Halle - VP

Lori Keilt - Secretary

Stephanie Figgins - Treasurer

HPD's focus for 2016 is "inclusion" in an effort to improve our outreach to all barns of all disciplines. With the new leadership in place next week 2016 plans will take clearer shape, but tentatively it is HPD's hope for the following inclusive events to come to fruition:

1. Work again with Suzie Halle to co-host the Chief Rider in July.

New Ideas:

2. Community outreach / environmental stewardship - to bring recycling to Colorado Horse Park. Two preliminary meetings have taken place with CHP and also with Waste Management, and follow ups will ensue in 2015. Basically the idea is for interested parties to purchase a recycling can, and decorate it with their own logo for display around the park. These can be RMDS Chapters, barns or individual trainers, or other groups. With the new ownership at CHP we feel environmental stewardship is important, and this is our way to help Colorado stay green. Already one prominent barn has proclaimed "Great idea! We're IN!" and HPD is also looking forward to participating if approved.

3. We are also in talks with a private barn to co-host a clinic for young riders to include auditors. Preliminary discussions have already taken place.

There will be input from our members who come to the November 17 elections meeting, to discuss what they would like to see happen in 2016 which will contribute to what we set our sights on accomplishing in 2015.

We want to thank our outgoing Board for doing such a wonderful job in 2015 and welcome our incoming Board, and look forward to an exciting 2016.

Northern Colorado

Renee Martig

It has been a year of fun-filled events!

We came across some of the trophies that NCDCA had used in the past and decided to offer year end awards for our members. High scores would accumulate points over the summer at our schooling shows. Kathleen Kilkelly worked with Craft Trophy to re-create the previously used trophies and they look great! We have a lovely Cammie Lundeen bronze sculpture we're using for high point and beautiful plaques for 2nd and 3rd place.

- March- Joan Clay presented a very educational Lunging Clinic at Paradise Found Farm and we met at Pat Cole's for a program on understanding rhythm through music.
- April - We had two events, a Ride-A-Test with Julie Haugen and a Cross Training Clinic given by Sarah Barnes. Both events were awesome and well attended.
- May - Spring Schooling Show and we had the last meeting of the summer at the Moot House restaurant.
- June- NCDCA team won the USDF Team Competition.
- July- Western Dressage Clinic with Frances Carbonnel.
- Sept. - Started our regular monthly meetings after summer break.
- Oct. - Fall Schooling Show- Fund raiser to purchase a saddle for 'Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center'. The show was very well attended and we met our goal! The saddle is ordered and will be presented at our Christmas Party.
- Oct. 25 – Halloween on Horseback at Phantom Hill Farm was a lot fun. The costumes were so creative! We played a couple of games and enjoyed a delicious potluck!
- Nov.- Elections for NCDCA Board at our meeting on Nov. 10th.
- Dec.- Christmas Party.

We had a busy year! Thanks to all our volunteers, without them none of this could have happened.

On the Bit

Stephanie Gies, On the Bit Secretary

On The Bit works closely with local, regional, and national organizations to improve the general Understanding of dressage through educational clinics, forums, and seminars. We assist and cooperate with local and regional dressage organizations in matters of common concern, as well as cooperate with other organizations having an interest in training horses, riders, and judges through the principles of dressage. We are the only Group Member Organization in Wyoming with members in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.

On The Bit began 2015 with some lofty goals. We endeavored to host our first schooling show. Additionally, a club priority was to develop a website to increase our online presence and provide information to members and the horse community in our area.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We had 39 members in January 2015, which grew to 42 by the October 2015 membership report from RMDS. Our account began 2015 with \$1,878.28 and as of November 1, 2015, was at \$3,541.81. This increase was primarily due to our schooling show . Additionally, the Lander Combined Training Group (Lander, WY) disbanded and gave us \$500 to continue their dressage efforts.

WEBSITE DESIGN

Premier Bone and Joint Centers (and club members Tom and Kelly Wolfe) generously donated the services of Linden Marketing (www.golinden.com) to design our website. Additionally, Premier Bone and Joint donated the hosting of the website and Tom and Kelly Wolfe purchased the domain name (www.onthebitdressage.com) for the club for three years. Due to their amazing generosity, we have a wonderful website that is very user-friendly and is gorgeous to boot!

SCHOOLING SHOW

The main goal for 2015 was to host a schooling show in Laramie. There was discussion about trying to do a recognized show, but we determined that the costs and expectations were too much for our first show attempt. We decided to host our schooling show May 31, 2015 in the hopes of getting people from the region who wanted to school before the recognized show in Cheyenne June 6-7, 2015. As it turned out, the early date hurt us because of the cold and rainy weather in the weeks preceding the show. We didn't get many entries from out of town, but ended up with 36 rides from mostly local competitors. Stephanie Soule from Grand Junction came up to judge and give a clinic the following day.

In preparation of the schooling show, we had some members attend Kristi Wysocki's *On the Levels* presentation in Boulder. We enjoyed that opportunity so much, one of our members donated the dvd to the club and we hosted our own *On the Levels* viewing. We also did a fashion night to help members who had never shown with attire for recognized and schooling shows. On The Bit had the high selling basket at the 2014 Board of Governor's Banquet silent auction, and with that honor we received a free full-page ad in a Centaur and one email blast. We used both of those awards to advertise our show.

We received \$600 in cash donations and another \$1,475 in prizes, products, and services that made the show successful! We made \$1,015.28 on the schooling show after expenses. We gave prizes to the high point rider in each division, ribbons to the top 3 in each class, and produced a 12 page program. We were very pleased with our first show.

2016

We are very positive about the future of On The Bit. We have a very active club, and while we are young and inexperienced, we are excited to continue to grow and improve. We are always looking for ways to improve ourselves and our horses, while maintaining the enjoyment of dressage.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We have scheduled a clinic with Kristi Wysocki April 30-May 1 in Laramie. We are also working to schedule a Banned Substances clinic with Heather Peterson. Members have expressed interest in education on horse biomechanics, human nutrition, and equine first aid. We will try to schedule these events over the winter and early spring.

SCHOOLING SHOW

We will host another schooling show this year, hopefully in July. We are working towards a recognized show and want to establish a date that makes sense down the road. Weather in Laramie is best in July and August, so we will choose a date that offers a good weekend for the competitors in our area while minimizing any potential conflicts with Colorado shows.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

We would like to do a fundraising event to benefit our club. We have had a lot of initial ideas, but need to do more brainstorming to determine the event that will make the most sense for the club.

PRACTICE SHOW DAYS

We will host three practice show days in early spring to help people and horses get comfortable with the show environment and the stresses associated with showing. We will try to video these events so people can see themselves and will have an informal viewing for constructive criticism and learning for everyone who participates.

VOLUNTEER AT RMDS SHOWS

We are encouraging all our members to volunteer at least one recognized show in 2016. We feel that it is important to give our time as well as learn from those experiences for our future recognized show.

INCREASE MEMBER PARTICIPATION AT RECOGNIZED SHOWS

We had four members from Laramie participate in recognized shows (and likely more from Montana and Nebraska) in 2015. We want to see more of our members showing, which is what our clinics and practice days are designed to encourage.

Pikes Peak

Susan Borders

Pikes Peak Dressage Society had a successful year, punctuated with some unavoidable event cancellations due to weather and personal commitments. Our chapter roster increased to 70 members, and we are pleased to see some new names, especially those of young riders/juniors, amongst those who have joined PPDS.

PPDS is pleased that so many of our members have taken advantage of the excellent educational opportunities offered by RMDS. We encourage our members to continue to attend educational events.

- February – Awards Banquet at Olive Garden Restaurant, Colorado Springs – as always, we were pleased to award Rider Achievement medals to many PPDS members, including our first ever Western Dressage medals!
- March – ‘Ready, Set, Show!’ at Hidden Creek Equestrian Center, Falcon – cancelled due to lack of interest and weather challenges.
- April – RMDS Recognized Show at Kaimana Farms, Elizabeth – thanks to so many PPDS members for volunteering and making this show a huge success. We had a good number of rides and the weather was very kind.
- May – ‘Shop til you Drop’ at Bingo’s Saddle Shop: thanks, as always, to Bingo’s for hosting this event and to the Bingo’s staff for staying after work hours to give PPDS members the opportunity to purchase items at discounted prices, with a portion of the proceeds given to PPDS. This was a successful Pot Luck event and we enjoyed socializing with our members.
- August – Budget Meeting: We discussed the financial standing of our chapter and invited ideas on how we could make better use of the chapter funds and avoid unnecessary expenses in future.
- September – Many PPDS members were involved in the management and operation of the Championships Show in Estes Park, and lots of PPDS members competed, with excellent results. Our chapter meeting this month discussed our RMDS show, provisionally scheduled for April 16th, 2016, again at Kaimana Farms, Elizabeth.

October – Officer Elections for 2016 Board Positions:

President: Michelle Anderson

Vice President: Susan Borders

Secretary: Heather Petersen

Treasurer: Erin Ashby

Communications: Rebecca Fullmer

Education: Nina Felsenthal

Awards: Shannon Lemons

During the summer months, many of our dedicated board members have work commitments which take them out of state and/or unavailable during the week and at the weekends, and with so many other opportunities available, both educational and competitive, the decision was made to not schedule many business meetings and/or events during the summer, and to instead focus on scheduling PPDS educational events during the less busy months.

With this in mind, an educational clinic to be held at Hidden Creek Equestrian Center, Falcon, Colorado, with USDF Gold Medalist Amber Clark was planned and scheduled for October 17th, but unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to the sudden loss of a family friend 7 days before the event, as organizers Sue Borders and Kerry-Louise Boucher were away on the 17th attending a Memorial Service. We plan to reschedule this event to the Spring of 2016.

Our next chapter meeting will be on Thursday 10th December at Hidden Creek Equestrian Center, 6760 Falcon Grassy Heights, Peyton, CO 80831, home of Sue Borders. We will have a short business meeting at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Christmas Party with gift exchange. Further details will be available soon.

Platte River Valley
No report

Laura Speer

Wasatch Mountains - Dissolved

Sally Shaffer-Chapter Dissolved

Western Colorado

Barbara Terry-proxy to Beth Geier

Western Colorado Chapter maintains a bank account at Vectra Bank of Colorado, El Jebel Branch. Our treasurer is Justina Potter. We currently have \$11,462.34 in our account.

Our chapter has had three summer schooling shows, drawing riders from the entire Roaring Fork Valley as well as many from Vail Valley.

Our newly elected 2016 officers are:

President.....Barbara Graham Terry

Vice-President.....Sue Pietrzak

Secretary.....Barbara McElnea

Treasurer.....Justina Potter

Our Chapter maintains a website www.aspendressage.com as an electronic Newsletter. We are linked to the RMDS website.

We invite members and other interested parties to access ongoing up-dates concerning chapter business, calendar of events, electronic entry forms, membership applications, show prize lists, show results, Roster of Chapter Officers, and current Bylaws.

Report submitted by Western Colorado Chapter Secretary, Barbara McElnea

Final Reading of candidates,

Gwen Ka'awaloa

nominations from the floor for executive office

The slate for 2016:

President (2 years): Aline Brandau
Gwen Ka'awaloa

Vice-President (1 year): Joan Clay
Stephanie Figgins

Treasurer (2 years): Sharon Soos

Secretary (2 years): Heather Petersen

Awards (2 years): Shannon Lemons – NEED a helper

Communications (1 year): Linda Gaber

Education (2 years): Carie Sciss
Mary Rae

Marketing (2 years): Una Schade

Professional (2 years): Sarah Dodge

Heather Petersen made the motion to accept the candidates running unopposed. Seconded by Stephanie Gies 41 ayes 1 nay. Motion carried.

Voting was held for the President, Vice-President and Education chairmen.

The results:

President Gwen Ka'awaloa Gwen 28 Aline 14

Vice-President: Joan Clay Joan 35 Stephanie 7

Education: Carie Sciss Carrie 34 Mary 8

At 4:57 pm Joan Clay made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Petersen. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

