

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530

July 11, 2011

Attendance: Pete Soos, Sharon Soos, Laura Speer, Michelle Anderson, MaryJo Hoepner, Simone Windeler, Lori Mitchell, Shannon Lemons, Cathy Van Berg, Beth Geier, Heather Petersen, Mary Rae

Proxies: Susie Reed to Beth Geier

Guests: Leslie O'Neal Olson

Call to Order by Simone Windeler at 6:36 pm.

Simone Windeler has received the resignation of Cindy O'Shea as RMDS Jr/YR Committee chair due to her new job's commitments effective July 19th, 2011. **Beth moved to accept Cindy O'Shea's resignation, 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed.** Simone will not be appointing a person to fill this position at this meeting. An email blast will be sent to the general RMDS membership to look for interested parties and a person appointed at the September meeting.

Simone Windeler has received the resignation of Elaine Haberman as RMDS Scholarship Committee Chair and Marketing Committee Chair due to health issues effective July 19th, 2011. **Simone Windeler moved to accept Elaine Haberman's resignation, 2nd by Beth Geier. Motion passed.**

Laura Speer nominated Sharon Soos to fill the term as Marketing Committee Chair. Sharon Soos accepted the nomination. Simone Windeler appointed Sharon Soos to fill out the Marketing Committee Chair through 2012.

MaryJo Hoepner and Heather Petersen nominated themselves to split duties of Scholarship Committee Chair through 2012 with MaryJo being listed as chair and Heather as assistant chair. Simone Windeler appointed MaryJo Hoepner and Heather Petersen to head the Scholarship Committee through 2012. Applications for scholarships will be sent to Heather and MaryJo will be the voting member on the RMDS Executive Board.

The May 12, 2011 Minutes:

Remove the d out of Paula Lunberry's name. There were no other corrections.

Motion made to approve the minutes as corrected by Sharon Soos, 2nd by MaryJo Hoepner. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report by Sharon Soos

Balance in each account as of June 30, 2011:

Checking Account	\$35,179.99
Scholarship Account	4,628.92
PayPal Account	2,370.83
Money Market	44,439.16

Spending on membership expenses is higher this year due to a raise in the USDF GMO membership fee. Membership is down a little under \$3000 on income side.

Office Manager Report by Beth Geier

- Membership is currently at 845, 12 are Centaur only. 123 new horses registered since September 2010.
- Chapters earning a total of \$25,000 or more per year (not including expenses) must file a Charitable Solicitation Report. It was suggested that RMDS do this for the chapters and pass on the \$10 fee, but as only CSDA was affected, CSDA has elected to continue doing it themselves.
- Advertising – chapter member putting false information on website regarding a chapter. It was decided to leave this up to each chapter to handle at this point in time.
- Shows have cancelled due to EHV. Some shows did not send cancellation notices and people showed up for the shows.
- Two RMDS recognized shows have been added:
 - August 5, 2011 Wasatch Back Dressage Festival III
 - August 12, 2011 Dressage at Sun Prairie I
- Centaur Rising Show #2 has been postponed to September 11th
- CSDA show Sept 10th has been cancelled due to lack of management.
- Several RMDS show TD reports were presented. There were no major concerns at the shows except for some footing issues at the Centaur Rising Dressage Show I.
- There was discussion of some footing issues at the Centaur Rising Dressage shows. There was discussion of sending a letter of concern before or after the next show on behalf of the RMDS. **Mary Rae motioned to have the central office send a letter expressing concern over the footing to the Centaur Rising Dressage Shows, 2nd by Shannon Lemons, motion passed.**
- Centaur – 8th Heaven Farm is up for sale and they have paid for a one year ad contract in the Centaur (with discount - \$972). They have used 8 months of the advertising contract for a value of \$630. The question that was raised is do we give them a refund for the remainder of the year since they will no longer be advertising. Beth would like to charge them the full undiscounted rate of \$90 per month and then refund the remainder of the fee. The refund would be \$252. **Simone Windeler moved the 8th Heaven Farm be refunded \$252 for the remainder of their ad contract, 2nd by Heather Petersen, motion passed.**
- Colorado Horse Rescue would like free or discounted advertising. **Mary Rae moved that RMDS would list their events on the website calendar and in the Centaur free of charge, 2nd by Shannon Lemons, motion passed.**
- There are two nominees for the Russ Fawcett Memorial Award to date. This award will be decided on at the September Board meeting.
- The next meeting will be September 8th, 6:30 pm, at Romano's Italian restaurant/pizzeria

Adult Amateur Report by Lori Mitchell

- The AA clinic with Heather Robinson has been postponed to Labor Day weekend September 3-4, 2011. A new venue had to be found due to the unavailability of the previous venue on the new date. Lori currently now has 5 Adult Amateur riders signed up and two Open division riders on the waitlist. Heather will come for a minimum of 6 riders. It's \$210 total to ride for both days. Stabling is \$35 per day.
- The Dressage Foundation is ok with the date change and will proceed with their funding of the clinic.
- There are going to be some additional air fare charges since we had to purchase a new ticket, but a portion of the original ticket was recoverable.
- Capricorn farms will host the new dates. They don't have a sound system and we need to get one. The farm is charging a ½ page in the Centaur for the rental of the facility.

- We need more auditors. We currently only have 3 auditors signed up. Susan Rudman is doing the food for the clinic.
- Region 5 USDF AA/Youth competition: RMDS needs to have more control over the show next year. The current organizer is not communicating with people, things are not being accomplished as they should and yet RMDS and USDF are in the name of the show. Lori believes that the event should be organized by the AA Chair and the Jr/YR Chair since that's what the event is all about. The Education Chair could organize the educational portion on the competition held the evening before the show. The Lazy J Bar S facility will host the competition. see report

Awards by Shannon Lemons

- A proposition for a new Intro level award has been received.
 - It would require 2 divisions - Open and AA/Jr.
 - It would require tracking scores for the Introductory classes, which we currently do not track, thus resulting in some database programming costs.
 - The member who suggested the new awards is not interested in sponsoring the awards or funding the awards, so it would require RMDS to find a sponsor for both and/or purchase two new trophies.
 - Alternative suggestion of using medallions instead of trophies for this category as it would be significantly less expensive than purchasing trophies.
- **Beth Geier moved that RMDS offer 2 Introductory Level trophies, one for the Open division and one for a combined Jr/AA division. 2nd by Lori Mitchell. Lori Mitchell and Shannon Lemons voted yes. The rest of the Executive Board opposed the motion. Motion fails.**
- Shannon still needs 3rd/4th level freestyle trophies.
- Shannon found a missing trophy and will retire it since it's been already replaced.
- Shannon asked that RMDS start running score check reminders in Centaur. Beth and Cathy have already done this. October 10th is final day to submit any score corrections to the Central Office.

Banquet & BOG– November 12, 2011 from Laura Speer

- The RMDS Board of Governors meeting and Banquet will be held November 12th at the Renaissance at Quebec and I-70.
- BOG will have a light continental breakfast, a plated lunch and a cookie break.
- The Banquet will have a cash bar and hors d'ouerves during the art show. Dinner will be a choice of chicken Marsala, Portobello steak, and slow cooked beef with salad and dessert.
- The hotel is turning out to be more expensive than originally planned and unfortunately we will be charging \$38 per person to help cover the BOG.
- Last year the RMDS board voted to use \$1500 towards the BOG meeting expenses. The committee would like to request the same for 2011 with the anticipation of using fewer funds. Since this amount was budgeted by the BOG for the meetings, there is no need to take a vote.
- The committee would like to change the venue for next year. They would like to start looking now for locations towards the I25/I225 area since most of those locations were already booked for 2011 when they started the process this year. They will get feedback from potential banquet goers through a survey of some sort.
- Laura suggested that any chapter that doesn't bring a basket is charged a fee to help offset costs or make contributions to the scholarship fund. Simone would prefer to remind all chapters to bring baskets.

- Room rates for the Renaissance are \$99 and this includes free covered parking. The room rate reserved under RMDS and it includes a block of 10 rooms. Many people asked Laura to look into getting more rooms in the block since there are traditionally more rooms used.
- Art show participants that sell their work have been asked to donate 10% of sales to RMDS.

Communications by Nicole Bizzarro – no proxy

- FACEBOOK – The site is up to 253 fans and has become a lively community in its own right. 1139 post views in the last 30 days.
- See report....
- Age group of 45-55 year old women is pulling ahead of the 55+ years old women in terms of fan numbers.
- We are gearing up for the start of the Omnibus season with the addition of a color tab for the first time. We have a new rate sheet to reflect this addition. The board needs to help Sharon and the marketing group in getting all of these tabs sold.
- The new rate sheet for the Omnibus was presented and is available from the central office.
- The Centaur January issue will be the stallion issue. Some folks that we need to approach include Frances Carbonnel, Laura Speer, Linda Nickerson, Wendy Fryke, Paula Marsh, Stephanie, Crooked Willow, Plum Creek, Hassler Dressage/Harmony Sport Horses, CSU, The Haugens, Mimi Junick
- 7th is the monthly deadline for Centaur submissions – get your stuff in timely please. We need more chapter reports.

Education Report by Michelle Anderson

- The RMDS Sport Horse clinic has been moved to Kaimana Farms in order to save expense. The cost is \$200 vs \$800. We currently have 4 demo horses and 8 people signed up. Reduced rates have been received from all at this point. Glen is doing the catering. The net loss is still at \$500-\$600, but that is much better then if it was still at the Horse Park.
- Michelle has contacted Debbie Reihl-Rodriguez to do an A session of the L program. We do have USDF permission to do just the A session and we will schedule it for sometime early next year.
- A Professionals clinic is still in works and Kristi Wysocki is still willing to donate her facility.
- A possible Robert Dover clinic was mentioned in Colorado Springs for the Fall of 2012

Junior/Young Riders Chair resigned – no report

- Beth's update on camp: It went well. Bill Chunko was an awesome parental volunteer, Natalie Roach was phenomenal. It was a Super facility for camp. 2 boys and 10 girls participated for 12 total campers, which was a good number. We hope to have a financial report for the September meeting.

Marketing no report due to change in guard

Nominating Committee by Mary Rae

- We are looking for the following positions: President-2 year term, Vice-President-1 year term, Secretary-2 year term, and Treasurer-2 year term.
- 2 people have requested to be placed in nomination for Vice President: MaryJo Hoepner & Cindi O'Shea. Mary will contact Cindi to see if she still wishes to be continued on slate for VP due to job commitments.
- Heather Petersen has been nominated for Secretary.
- Mary Rae has been nominated for Treasurer.

- There are still no nominations for President. The committee has contacted a few people who are contemplating some of the offices but are checking into their present commitments. Mary will have Beth do an email blast and coordinate Centaur blurbs. Mary feels people don't realize that you don't need to be in the show world in order to be on the board.

Scholarship no report due to change in guard

We need to get reports from folks for their periodic updates that are part of the scholarship requirements. Jessica Sheppard has sent letter to Simone Windeler and Elaine Haberman. She has had a few set backs in her scholarship pursuits due to training issues and her family's struggling finances. She's now working other jobs, which has caused her not to be able to do some of the showing that she had planned. She is asking if she could please volunteer at the RMDS Championships and use the scholarship to pay for the Nancy Smith clinic at 8th heaven farms. Simone will respond in a positive manner regarding her change in scholarship intentions.

MaryJo Hoepner had some questions on scholarships and volunteering. Since there has been an abbreviated show season due to the virus, would we allow people to use hours from non-RMDS competitions? The board reiterated that chapter shows and RMDS run shows will count and then also other chapter or RMDS sponsored events will also count.

Shows by Laura Speer

- Winter wake-up come and gone...
 - The show was smaller this year due to EHV but we were able to not lose a great deal of money due to continued sponsorship.
 - Should we do it again next year? NCDA is giving up the weekend so RMDS will continue the show and stay in Greeley since the Roach family is willing to continue with donating arenas and just having RMDS pay for the stabling.
 - Should we partner with a chapter or not and if so which chapter? **Laura Speer moved that RMDS will run the show with no Chapter partnership, 2nd by Beth Geier. Heather Petersen and Simone Windeler abstain, motion passes.**
- Championships-Sept 22-25. Sponsorships are coming in but more are definitely needed. Championship classes especially need to get additional sponsors.
 - Laura Speer is the volunteer coordinator.
 - We need to post the prize list on the website.
 - There have been some requests to split the FEI championship classes of Intermediare 2 and Grand Prix from just Open to Open and the Jr/AA combined division. **Laura Speer moved that RMDS split the FEI championship classes of Intermediare 2 and Grand Prix from just Open to Open and the Jr/AA combined divisions. 2nd by Heather Petersen. Motion passes.**
 - The same request to split out the RMDS Championship classes for Freestyles. It was decided since RMDS is trying to conform to the USDF Regional Championships and such that we would leave the freestyles as are.

USDF Region 5 Update by Heather Petersen

- USDF Region 5 is fielding 2 full teams to the NAJYRC Championships at the end of July. We have 5 RMDS members attending the Championships.
- There are currently 2 nominees for the USDF Region 5 Life Time Achievement Award and it has been decided that we will award the award to both nominees since they have made significant contributions to the Region in their tenure here.

- USDF Convention and Symposium is November 30-December 4, 2011 in San Diego, California. Registration information is available at www.usdf.org.

Old business:

No old business to cover at the time.

New Business:

The Paragon Dressage CDI*** has sent a letter requesting sponsorship from RMDS for their upcoming competition August 20-22, 2011. MaryJo Hoepner moved the Paragon Dressage CDI*** gets a half page ad in the Centaur April through July for 2012, one free email blast for 2011 and one free email blast for 2012, \$2000 for 2011 and \$2000 for 2012 and a press release from RMDS to the USDF Connections, Dressage Daily and the Chronicle of the Horse discussing the support of the RMDS for this venture. 2nd by Mary Rae. Simone Windeler and Heather Petersen abstain. Motion passed.

Chapter Reports:

Arkansas Valley

The Arkansas Valley Dressage Association has had limited activity in the last few months. The weather hasn't been real conducive to riding. The last two schooling shows have been cancelled. The first one was canceled due to lack of entries and the second show also had limited entries but was cancelled primarily because Pathfinder Park, a county owned entity, was closed due to the virus. However, members are looking forward to a clinic with Anna Blake from Falcon, Co. Brenda Haley is working on the particulars of the clinic which we plan to hold in the fall.

Mary Rae

Boulder Valley – no report

Kim Lampert – NO PROXY

Colorado springs – no report

Shannon Lemons

Foothills

Dolly Hannon – NO PROXY

The Foothills Chapter had a recent meeting at McGraths Fish House in Golden. During the meeting the Foothills Scholarships were presented to the two recipients, Laura Quakenbush and Linda Gaber. Both were awarded \$500 and will use that money for education for themselves and their equine partners. Both will do articles on how they used the money for the Centaur. Last Chance Show, September 18th at A Rising Star in Arvada is moving forward this year and Dolly Hannon is organizing the show and taking the roll of Show Manager. We can only run one arena at the facility, so if anyone plans on doing that show – sign up early! Looking to have a clinic on horse conditioning and like subjects with Maryal Barnett, but no date has been set yet.

Grand Junction – no report

Inka Spatafora – NO PROXY

High Plains – no report

Cindi O'Shea – NO PROXY

Northern Colorado – no report

Susie Reed – Proxy

Platte River

Laura Speer

Not much going on for the summer – everyone is showing. Sharon started our checking account. Laura Speer's Pampered Chef Benefit Party earned \$60 for the club. Our first clinic had to be cancelled due to EHV and the clinician (Ms Leslie O'Neal Olson) was ill. The next clinic was with Dolly Hannon and everyone had a blast riding with Dolly! (Thank you!). Meetings will resume in September.

Wasatch Mountains – no report

Linda Nickerson – NO PROXY

Western Colorado – no report

Judith Family – NO PROXY

MaryJo Hoepner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm. 2nd by Michelle Anderson. Motion passed.

Nov 12=BOG – RMDS Committee host (2nd Saturday in November)

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Petersen, secretary