

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
**Romano's Italian Restaurant – Littleton, Colorado**  
Thursday, January 9, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

**Attendance:** Beverly Swanson, Shannon Lemons, Simone Windeler, Frances Carbonnel, Michelle Anderson, Mary Jo Hoepner, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Aline Brandau, Brenda Haley, Pat Leech, Sharon Soos, Laura Speer, Beth Geier, Lori Mitchell, Linda Gaber, Sarah Barnes, Suzie Halle, Jacque McIntyre.

**Proxies:** Renee Martig to Linda Gaber; Barbara Terry to Sarah Barnes; Jennifer Glass to Pat Leech; Jon Haugen to Gwen Ka'awaloa; Julie Haugen to Gwen Ka'awaloa; Sally Shaffer to Sarah Barnes; Tammy Fagan to Aline Brandau.

**Call to Order-President** **Gwen Ka'awaloa**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Gwen Ka'awaloa

**Secretary - Approval of Minutes** **Nina Felsenthal**

- September and October Minutes
- **A correction was made to the October Minutes to include the date of October 10, 2014**  
**MaryJo Hoepner moved to approve the minutes for September and October, Michelle Anderson seconded the motion; all were in favor with the exception of Pat Leech who abstained.**

**Treasurers Report** **Sharon Soos**

**RMDS Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison**  
**As of December 31, 2013**

<b>Assets</b>	<u><b>Dec 31, 13</b></u>	<u><b>Dec 31, 12</b></u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/ Savings</b>		
RMDS Scholarship	6,668.88	7,462.33
PayPal	1,417.69	2,606.53
Checking	57,826.03	40,479.89
Money Market	<u>44,319.16</u>	<u>44,319.16</u>
<b>Total Checking/ Savings</b>	<b>110,231.76</b>	<b>94,867.91</b>

More details are available with a written request to the Treasurer.

- Budget for 2014  
**As approved at the BOG in November 2013, we budgeted for a \$5,850.00 loss. It was pointed out that we always budget for a loss, and this is one of the lowest losses we have had in recent years.**

**President Report** **Gwen Ka'awaloa**

- 2013 USDF Convention  
As a Judge, Gwen attended events that really focused on the Judges Portion. USDF is very focused on educating Judges even further, including promoting bringing more GMO's into more areas. Gwen will be sitting on the committee for Adults. This committee has a lot of opportunities that we can bring to RMDS.
- Appointment of Professional's Committee Chair  
**Gwen Ka'awaloa proposed that Simone Windeler be appointed to the position of Professional's Committee Chair. MaryJo Hoepner moved that we make the appointment, Sharon Soos seconded and all were in favor.**

**Vice-President Report** **Aline Brandau**

- 2013 USDF Convention

My experience attending the USDF Annual Convention was informative and motivational; making it apparent to me how much the sport of dressage has grown in America. There were hundreds of attendees from all over the United States. We got to participate in classes held on horse nutrition, joint health (so important in the dressage horse), rehabilitation from injury, artificial insemination, and the fabulously popular kinetics class with our own Kristi Wysocki, explaining the importance of sport horse conformation. Committee meetings were held, discussing how to improve the

USDF, and how to support dressage education. Gwen and I even went to the early morning workout with exercises chosen specifically for riders.

The setting in Lexington is grand for the annual convention as it is horse country and you can see all the farms as you land in the plane. The convention is held in a lovely hotel that is attached to a large mall and a walkway to another shopping center across the block. There are large rooms for the convention to hold a myriad of classes and committees meet to discuss the future of the sport of dressage. We were treated to a fabulous cocktail party where we could meet new friends in dressage and catch up with some old friends from different areas of the country. There was a nice cheese, vegetable, dip, fruit, and cracker table and a lovely table with salmon appetizers and a cash bar. Large round tables, covered with linens were provided where everyone could sit down and visit. This was an elegant way to welcome dressage enthusiasts to relax and have fun.

The Board of Governors meeting went so smoothly most of the people from previous years commented on its success. There were no angry outbursts, or minute details argued. I marveled at the amount of work it would take to hold an event such as this, and was humbled to have been chosen to see it in action. George Williams has showed great leadership. The USEF made an announcement that surprised us all. They have decided to greatly reduce their government, cut positions, and create a smaller, more efficient governing body. In the BOG it was peaceful and orderly, showing that great leadership leads to better efficiency and less in-fighting. We voted on the new USDF secretary and some other minor rule changes. The current secretary was honored and lauded for her great service.

The banquet was an important part of the convention as the people who are recognized in dressage attended, and there were many people honored who put their lives and souls into dressage. One of those people honored was Anne Gribbons and it was fascinating to hear about her past, her accomplishments, and her life from her family. The banquet was steeped in history, and many of the fore-parents of dressage attended and were honored. It was amazing to see this spectacle, and the food served was very nice too. Our Region 5 tried to stick together, discuss our experience, and represent our interests in the global arena of dressage.

I personally got to see one of my best dressage friends win her Gold Medal. It was very exciting, and wonderful to see so many young people from all over the United States taking their careers in dressage seriously. We were fortunate to be attending the convention just after the Inaugural US Dressage Finals was held in Kentucky. There had been some static, and some naysayers among the dressage community who were afraid of failure, and created some unwelcome anxiety among the professionals who believed in the US Dressage Finals. Some of these people stood up and apologized and congratulated the USDF and all the volunteers for making it a huge success.

I think the biggest takeaway I learned on the trip was that to grow dressage, we must continue the task of education of instructors, students, volunteers and show staff. There is a monumental amount of work that goes into running a democratic organization. Registering, voting, tallying, discussing, formulating, creating agendas, goals, and meeting them; all these things take time, money, and dedication. Just like the USDF, we must dream big and continue to hold our great Championships and reward our wonderful members. We must be service oriented, but lead in vision and purpose. We must include all people who love dressage, and take advantage of our differences, to make our organization stronger. I was proud to be part of RMDS and Region 5 because I could see that we are a success, and we are a leading voice in the growth of dressage in America.

- USDF Convention: RMDS Budget and Re-imbusement Policy

Gwen Ka'awaloa and Aline Brandau were both delayed an extra day due to weather. It was thought that RMDS budgets \$1500 per person, and Gwen and Aline both had to pay out of pocket for the Banquet Tickets and the extra night which they were delayed. Aline Brandau is proposing that the purchase of banquet tickets be included in the budget for future USDF Convention Attendees, and that she and Gwen both be reimbursed for the extra expenses which they incurred from being delayed an extra day. It was stated by RMDS members that they believed the budget was \$1,000 per person. The proposed budget for 2014 is \$3,000 total. **Aline wanted to put it to a vote to increase the budget to include the tickets for the Awards Banquet and reimburse for the fees occurred with the weather delays. Pat Leech moved that the issue be tabled until the meeting in March, Sharon Soos seconded it and all were in favor.**

Central Office

January 9, 2014

RMDS Central Office

2942 Park Lake Drive

Boulder, CO 80301

Beth Geier

720-890-7825 phone & fax

[rmds@rmds.org](mailto:rmds@rmds.org)

### Membership

- Registration – 417 members for 2014 – 8 are Centaur only. 13 new horses since October 1, 2013
- Dues now \$65.00 until next year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Members:	1162	1177	1151	1019	1036	1008	1030	945	921	868	797	827	417
Horses:	274	337	207	234	262	246	166	132	132	123	135	59	13
AV	-	-	-	-	-	12	26	15	24	27	25	27	19
BV	230	208	199	179	178	172	205	188	200	190	182	180	84
CS	134	155	137	130	143	126	127	115	124	115	63	52	22
FH	115	103	109	73	74	77	76	75	72	71	65	64	38
GV	77	98	93	92	88	102	105	87	83	65	53	71	30
HP	278	283	267	251	259	260	265	256	226	208	190	176	79
NC	150	151	162	139	137	137	124	107	132	110	93	94	51
OB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	14
PP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	62	38
PR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	18	8
WA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	24	24	28	26	12
WC	64	55	44	34	32	25	25	21	22	31	27	23	14
No Chapter	24	36	34	21	22	16	14	25	14	15	13	12	8
PN	13	14	15	14	13	13	12	inactive	Dissolved				
TS	77	74	91	86	90	68	51	36	Dissolved				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>417</b>
Juniors									134	120	117	120	35
Amateurs									230	239	220	209	76

**Shows:** 43 recognized shows for 2014 - 7 are RMDS only shows. Somerset Farm's shows are no longer level 3 shows- not having the NAJYRC recognition

### Recognized Officials:

- All passed written test for 2013 – good for another two years.
- New td's for 2014 – 1 candidate - discuss parameters.

### Omnibus:

- Attached is sheet showing Omnibus statistics for prior years
- May be late this year as we are having trouble getting people to help proof and to answer back

### General:

- Need help with advertising for everything!!!!!!
- Centaur needs articles coming in

### Office:

- Always here for you.....

**Next Executive Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday odd months) – Romano's Italian Restaurant – 720-344-9530**

**2014:**                      **Jan 9**                      **Mar 13**                      **May 8**                      **July 8-Tues**  
**Sept 11**                      **Oct 9-Budget**                      **Nov 15- BOG**

ONLY 7 RMDS Shows Scheduled for 2014. Somerset no longer doing NAJYRC shows, and will be dropping down to a level two show. It was suggested that the barns who are hosting Schooling Shows might consider hosting an RMDS show as well, in order to increase our numbers.

There was discussion regarding the need to review the policy regarding our RMDS TD's. The discussion was in regards to whether or not we should continue to only require the minimum of three good evaluations as is the current policy, or should all evaluations in the future be sent straight to the RMDS Office so proper guidance and feedback can be given? A proposed policy will be brought to the March meeting for the Board to review.

### **Scholarship Committee Review of Applications**

**MaryJo Hoepner**

1. Following up with last year's winners to make sure volunteer hours are accounted for.
2. 2. Evaluated all the new applications. Presentation will be at meeting for Board to vote.  
EXCELLENT applicants and applications.

MaryJo presented a graph of the candidates that applied for the scholarships. Each candidate was a number and each category to be judged was ranked. After much discussion, it is recommended that the volunteer hours be listed as well as the ranking for volunteerism in the future. **Michelle Anderson made the motion to approve the top candidates in each category. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah Barnes passed unanimous.**

Scholarships were awarded to:

- Leg Up: Jordan Hobbs
- Solid Seat: Arlene Rhodes
- Open Door: Joan Clay

A discussion ensued regarding the Scholarship Committee and the importance of following the policy for Administration of the RMDS Scholarship Program:

- a. When possible, the Chapter President of each RMDS chapter shall appoint one person to serve on the Scholarship Committee. All Committee members must be RMDS members in good standing.  
Any RMDS member may suggest another RMDS member for appointment to the Scholarship Committee.  
Suggestions should be sent to a member's Chapter President.

### **Permanent Committee Reports:**

#### **1. Adult Amateur**

**Jennifer Glass**

We need to find a date and facility for James Shaw that doesn't conflict with any other educational dates we already have planned.

2015: First Session is biomechanics. It was discussed that we need to really encourage the AA to take part in more educational opportunities, including attending, auditing and volunteering at events that will encourage growth and improvement. Take the opportunity to absorb.

#### **2. Awards**

**Shannon Lemons**

#### **2013 Budget**

- Budget \$4500, Actual \$5045
- Overage due to increased postage, increased numbers of mailed trophies and awards
- New vendor had slight increases in cost
- Some reimbursements still pending – for replacement/additional rider plaques requested, postage reimbursements not recorded yet.

#### **Vendors**

- Used new primary vendor for plaques, plates and engraving plates on trophies
- Slight increase in cost of rider plates and 5x7 plaques
- Lots of extra time with the vendor to get things organized on my end, next year should run smooth now that they know what we need
- Time crunch with new vendor, should be resolved with later banquet date, earlier deadline for final corrections in scores.

#### **Final 2013 Notes**

- Added I2 and GP AA trophy, Junior sportsmanship
- Got donors for replacement trophies for 2<sup>nd</sup> level AA, Morgan
- Few corrections, those went out this week.
- Thank you letters to donors sent out

### 2014 Plan

- Add page to website that members can access to see if they have won awards (will list category only, not actual award☺) as there are always issues with lost postcards, etc.
- Deadline for score corrections will be October 1
- Update notebook with pics of new trophies, new vendor information, and update trophy inventory database. 2014 is last year for current AA I1, Iberian, Hanoverian, so will contact “current” donors to see if they wish to update/continue sponsoring these awards.

**Shannon will be writing up a plan to present at the March meeting regarding how we handle trophies that are not picked up at the Awards Banquet (ie: Not shipping out of state, re-imburement by the Awards Winner, etc)**

### **3. Communications**

**Linda Gaber**

In November at RMDS Board of Governors meeting, 2014 Communications budget was approved with increase only for postage required for six Centaur issues.

In January, printed Centaur featured the four-page color 2014 Stallion Spotlight, with special thanks to Production Contractor Bev Swanson. The 2013 Stallion Spotlight featured only one full-page color ad! Congratulations for the new advertising income to start off 2014!

- Centaur

**Beverly Swanson**

The Stallion Insert this year was difficult to obtain advertisement for. We need more help from RMDS members to recruit advertising. We have a 4 page Color Insert this year for Stallion Advertisement. Due to the struggle to obtain advertisement this year, we are going to rethink how we will handle the Stallion Insert next year. The general consensus was we need to focus on what we do have in our area; Trainers and Barns for example. This gives us opportunity to utilize Horse Expo to obtain advertisement. With the changes to Chapters this year (Board Members, meeting times, etc) please let the Central Office know so the Centaur can be updated accurately. Changing from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp has been proposed, and we will be tabling it until March. Simone Windeler has offered to research the capabilities and limits if using Mail Chimp for a group our size.

- Omnibus Production

**Nicole Bizarro**

Omnibus Production was delayed this year due to people not meeting their deadlines on time or not giving timely feedback. Moving forward, Beth Geier is requesting that people be more proactive to respond before the deadline so as not to hold up production.

- Omnibus Advertising

**Beth Geier**

Advertisement Visibility could be improved for Trainers and Barns. It was suggested that we do a pull-out section for Trainers and Barns as a paid advertisement in place of the Stallion insert next year.

- Website

**Michael Petersen**

### **4. Education**

**Jon Haugen**

2014 Education Events

- ‘L’ CE instructed by Bill Solyntjes- February 1, 2014- Larimer County Fairgrounds
- TD/ Show management clinic instructed by Veronica Holt and Heather Petersen- February 15, 2014- Douglas County Fairgrounds.
- Instructors Certification sessions in March, May and the Final in October.
- Scribing clinic- date and location TBD (looking at March in Castle Rock)
- 2014 Events  
May: We need many volunteers and demo riders
- 2015 Freestyle Clinic (L Education)

Gwen Ka’awaloa has proposed that we do a Freestyle Educational Event with Terry Ciotto in January 2015. The Education will be working with Judges to determine how a horse’s movement works with music (which tempo is appropriate for which gait) by training the ear and feel for tempo. Anybody can attend. Jon Haugen is working with Dolly Hannon to create a successful event.

## 5. Junior/Young Riders

**Julie Haugen**

- 2014 Junior Camp
- USDF Junior & Adult Team Competition

Team competition is at the end of June. We are hoping to see a team sent from every Chapter. Each Team gets a color and every team has the freedom of how they represent that color. The only Formal requirement is proper safety gear.

## 6. Marketing

**Sharon Soos**

Merchandise

- RMDS Polo Shirts- 7 shirts remain in Inventory
- Currently gathering information on items to sell at RMDS Sponsored Events
  - Post-it Notes with logo
  - Bumper Stickers
  - Key Chains
  - ???

Rocky Mountain Horse Expo

- Registration submitted by Dec 31, 2013
  - Qualifying for discounts totaling \$140.00
- Volunteers
  - Already receiving offers to volunteer
  - Will be soliciting for volunteers in February
- Will seek brief write-up on each chapter from Chapter Presidents
- Areas of booth focus
  - RMDS & USDF
  - Chapters
  - Breed Shows and Stallions advertised in Stallion Issue of Centaur
  - Recognized and Schooling Shows
  - General Information
  - Advertising Information

RMDS shirts: Many were sold at Championships; we are down to approx 7 shirts left. Sharon is proposing looking for less expensive items that out-of-area people can take home with them. The slogan 'Dressage with Altitude' was proposed to use. Sharon has asked that Chapter Presidents think about doing a write-up for hand-outs at Rocky Mountain Horse Expo about their Chapter and what we do.

## 7. Professional's Committee

**Simone Windeler**

Simone will be reaching out to contact the Professionals in RMDS who are not listed as AA to get them involved in the Professional's Committee. She is looking into having more articles for the Centaur written by Professionals and Trainers, and a Q&A Column. Simone has the idea to set up a year-end award for the students of the trainers. In this way, it highlights the accomplishments of the Trainers by focusing on the Students.

## 8. RMDS Championships

**Beverly Swanson**

- "The Year of the Horse"  
*Horses Come and Bring Success – common Chinese saying on horse paintings*

Marketing Points

The sixth animal in the Chinese zodiac is the horse. Power, beauty, and freedom symbolize the horse in the Chinese culture. In Feng Shui, a horse is used to symbolize movement and power.

The horse also played an important role in the mythology of early China. It was closely associated with the dragon, with both thought capable of flight and of carrying their riders to the "home of the immortals." The ability to fly has been associated with survival throughout all of Chinese history.

AND – the Chinese were the first to invent the stirrup!

Development of this theme, along with RMDS Board members, will lay the foundation for advertising, public relations, and sponsorship opportunities. Gwen K. has approached a designer friend about creating a logo brand for us.

I will be developing marketing materials and prospect lists over the next few months, based on information gleaned from 2013 Show. First package will be for high-end sponsorships, such as Medved, and other car dealerships, to go out within the month. In addition, I will be at NWSS mining for other potential sponsors and advertisers.

Stay tuned and in touch with any ideas you have, particularly if there is a business you think would be interested!

Thank you-

Beverly Swanson

bj@piaffedesign.com

720-401-0357

-Thank You notes were sent out to all our Sponsors. Beverly requests that we order more Thank You notes.

**Region 5 Report**

Heather Petersen

Hope everyone is having a great start to the New Year! Just a few things this month...

We are accepting bids for the 2015 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships through February 10<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interesting is placing a bid for the Regional Championships or has any questions about the process, please contact myself or the USDF office and we'll be happy to help!

The FEI introduced a new Medium Tour on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Part of this new tour will be used in the Great American/USDF Regional Championships and the National Championships. Intermediate B will be ridden at the Regionals and Nationals instead of Intermediate II but you can use both the Intermediate II and Intermediate B tests to qualify this year.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the USDF/Platinum Performance North American Junior/Young Rider Dressage Championships, then your application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid stiffer fees. Final application deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>, though again, the fees are 6 times as much, and absolutely no applications will be accepted after April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to compete for NAJYRC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is [inclay@comcast.net](mailto:inclay@comcast.net) and her phone number is 970.420.0887.

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

**Old Business:**

- **Western Dressage Chair**

**Gwen Ka'awaloa proposed that Frances Carbonnel be appointed to the position of Western Dressage Chair. MaryJo Hoepner moved that we make the appointment, Sharon Soos seconded, and all were in favor.** Western Dressage Association is in its' fourth year. Frances is encouraging that anybody who has an interest in Western Dressage takes advantage of Educational Opportunities to learn more about the sport. There will be clinic opportunities for riders and a "Train the Trainer" clinic. The motto of Western Dressage Association is "We Honor the Horse".

**New Business:**

- **Reading of Chapter Officers**

Gwen Ka'awaloa

RMDS - OFFICERS 2014		
Chapter	Title	Name
Arkansas Valley	President	Brenda Haley
	VP	Faith Narkiewicz
	Treasurer	Sandy Vernon
	Secretary	Kathy Burke
Boulder Valley	President	Sarah Barnes
	VP	Stephanie Boyles
	Treasurer	Beth Geier
	Secretary	Nicole Donohue
Colorado Springs	President	Pat Leech
	VP	
	Treasurer	Jennifer Glass
	Secretary	Claudette Van Pelt
Foothills	President	Lori Mitchell
	VP	Heather Fitzgerald
	Treasurer	Laura Quakenbusch

	Secretary	Linda Gaber
Grand Valley	President	Tammy Fagan
	VP	Megan Gregg
	Treasurer	Susan Gregg
	Secretary	Deb Crooks
High Plains	President	Jacque McIntyre
	VP	Suzie Halle
	Treasurer	Olga Hendrickson
	Secretary	Sheila McCabe
Northern Colorado	President	Renee Martig
	VP	Denise "Didi" DeKrey
	Treasurer	Pat Schultheiss Cole
	Secretary	Kathleen Kilkelly
On the Bit Dressage	President	Jessica Ford
	VP	Connie Woodruff
	Treasurer	Tammy au France
	Secretary	Mary Jung
Pikes Peak Dressage	President	Michelle Anderson
	VP	Heather Petersen
	Treasurer	Erin Ashby
	Secretary	Nina Felsenthal
Platte River	President	Laura Speer
	VP	Peter Soos
	Treasurer	Sharon Soos
	Secretary	Sharon Soos
Wasatch Mountains	President	Sally Shaffer
	VP	Terrece Pearman
	Treasurer	Connie Wright
	Secretary	Amanda Trickett
Western Colo	President	Barbara Graham Terry
	VP	Sue Pietrzak
	Treasurer	Justina Potter
	Secretary	Barbara McElnea

**Names in RED are not on record as Paid Members as of January 8, 2014**

Laura Speer moved that the Officers above be instated into their positions. Beverly Swanson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- **2014 Show Schedule** Beth Geier
- **2015 Educational Proposals** Gwen Ka'awaloa
- **Updating Contracts** Pat Leech/ Aline Brandau

Pat Leech has updated the statements of work to bid out positions. Aline Brandau will then take a look at the descriptions from a legal standpoint and make any adjustments necessary. Pat has requested that we discuss further at the March Meeting what needs must be met to qualify these job descriptions, and what requirements from USEF must be met so that she can write an accurate statement of work for all job descriptions to bid out. Simone Windeler proposes that anyone who bids for Championships/ Regionals must absolutely be a level 4 at the time of bid.

- **Meeting Location Discussion** Gwen Ka'awaloa

Gwen has proposed that we find a new meeting location for the remainder of 2014. Michelle Anderson has done research and found 4 different locations at Park Meadows in Lone Tree, CO that have private or semi-private rooms that will support our group size. Gwen is going to take a day and drive to the locations with Michelle and then propose to the Board which location she feels would best suit our meetings.

**Chapter Presidents:**

**1. Arkansas Valley**

**Brenda Haley**



AVDA's planning meeting for the year will be held Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>. The executive board has already met with show, education and communication chairs to get a start for the general meeting. The planning meeting will be a pot-luck with a training video. It will be held at the home of a member in Penrose.

For 2014 we will have 3 ride-a-tests, one which will be in Nathrop, outside of Salida. Education has already begun working on clinics with our 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> – a cavalletti clinic. We are also in the process of a horsemanship clinic using obstacles. Other educational activities will be discussed at the planning meeting.

We have one schooling show planned so far for October.

As a group we have been invited to participate in rides with Fort Carson Hounds and trail rides from a member's property in the Red Rock Canyon area.

The communications chair is working with last year's chair to revamp our website [www.arkansasvalleydressage.org](http://www.arkansasvalleydressage.org).

We will add a calendar and renew photos, etc.

One of our goals is to have a year awards program in place and a volunteer point system with rewards for volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Haley

AVDA President

## **2. Boulder Valley**

**Sarah Barnes**

## **3. Colorado Springs**

**Pat Leech**

Congratulations to the CSDA Chapter members who had great success with their horses this competition year. CSDA would like to congratulate Joan Stang and her horse Lionheart, on completing the requirements for their USDF Silver Medal at the RMDS Championship show.

CSDA will hold our 2013 Year End Award Banquet on January 25 2014 at the Monument Hill (Woodmoor) Country Club. We are looking forward to congratulating our award recipients, their friends and family for their accomplishments in 2013.

CSDA general membership meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month and all CSDA members and their guests are welcome to attend. The agenda, meeting time, location, and directions are posted on the website at [www.csdressage.org](http://www.csdressage.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Leech

CSDA President

## **4. Foothills**

**Lori Mitchell**

The chapter's first meeting of 2014 is scheduled for next week, Jan 13.

We started an e-newsletter for this year.

Plans are being formed for a 'Day of Education' event in which we will encourage all RMDS members to attend, not just FH members.

Lori Mitchell, President

## **5. Grand Valley**

**Tammy Fagan**

Grand Valley is a great group with many members and individuals that donate their time to make it all work and I am honored to serve as President for a second year. The 2014 Officers are, President: Tammy Fagan, Vice President: Megan Gregg, Secretary: Deb Crooks and Treasurer: Susan Gregg.

Our volunteer stats for 2013 were very good. We had 51 different volunteers that helped with our shows, with a total of 445 hours! That's not even counting all the hours of work completed by our Officers and Committee Chairs on club business and projects.

Our annual Awards Night/Christmas Party was held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Patti Chamberlain, thank you Patti for hosting a wonderful evening. After a great meal, the awards and volunteer committees presented the Year End Awards. The volunteer committee also presented gifts of appreciation to all of the volunteers that attended with special awards for three individuals with the highest number of hours of volunteer work done at the shows. To end the evening we had a fun gift exchange. Please find the results on our web site [gvds.org](http://gvds.org)

The Show and Education Committees are working on the 2014 shows and clinics. We have three schooling and one recognized show scheduled and are currently taking bids for show secretary positions. The bids are due on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. The currently scheduled shows are as follows: GVDS Schooling Show I – May 3-4, 2014, GVDS Schooling Show II - May 31-June 1, 2014, GVDS Fall Recognized Show – Aug. 30-31, 2014, GVDS Schooling Show III Oct. 11-12, 2014. We have several clinics in the planning stage.

GVDS received the ruling from USEF concerning the Jill Solbach Protest of her Stallion "Otto Be Bold" being excluded from competition for safety and well-being of all participants at the competitions. The ruling is in GVDS's favor, USEF did not find any violations of the rules. They did ask that the parties come to an agreement that is satisfactory to everyone and that will ensure Ms. Solbach's Stallion is ready for competition. I replied to USEF that we will continue to encourage Ms. Solbach to work with the GVDS Show Committee on a possible plan for "Otto" to attend GVDS Activities.

Starting in January, the day of the month that our monthly General Meetings are held will change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We meet at the Mesa Mall Community Meeting Room at 6:30pm.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at [tfagandressage@wyoming.com](mailto:tfagandressage@wyoming.com)

Enjoy your horses,

Tammy Fagan

GVDS President

## **6. High Plains**

**Jacquelin MacIntyre**

Happy New Year Of The Horse! We are off to a great start with a fun holiday voting party at Wild Blue Boutique and a new board mission. Our mission is to promote horsemanship, friendship and collaboration between all HP chapter members, RMDS members and their equine partners, and to grow our membership through many different educational and social events.

The event, held at Wild Blue, was a great success. They offered 10% off everything in the store in addition to donating 5% of all purchases back to the Chapter. Camille Griffin baked delicious cupcakes that were almost too beautiful to eat. Thank you Camille!

Speaking of Thank You's, the Chapter wishes to thank Wendy Cibis, outgoing President, Suzie Halle for her service as VP and continued service for the next two years, outgoing Treasurer Judith Weber, and to Meredith Mathers for her service, though brief, as Secretary.

The Chapter also wishes to thank Star Hughes and the Stellar Riding and Pony Club for their generous contribution of the "Vivianna Award". This award goes to the Horse of the Year, Training level, JR/YR. It was donated two years ago in honor of Sarah Jancik's late horse Vivianna.

Please "like" our facebook page if you have not already: <https://www.facebook.com/highplainsdressage?ref=hl> as we post often with relevant information, upcoming events, sales and leases of all things equine.

Our next Chapter meeting will be in February, Date and time TBA.

Happy New Year,

Jacque and Suzie

## **7. Northern Colorado**

**Renee Martig**

We are in the planning stages for several activities. In January or early February we're having a video clinic and potluck lunch with Julie Haugen. Joan Clay will be doing a low cost riding clinic to benefit the Horse Hay Bank in Larimer County.

This month we'll have a vaccination lecture presented by NCDCA member Dr. Hana Van Campen at Colorado State University.

Hopefully in April, Christa Elaine Wood will give a riding clinic on Freestyles. A cross training clinic is also in the works as well as a Ride-A-Test. A 'Get Ready to Show' program will be held in March. We're hoping to have another schooling show in October.

I'm hoping we can get it all in before show season starts.

Happy New Year!

Renee Martig

NCDCA President

## **8. On The Bit**

**Jessica Ford**

## **9. Pikes Peak**

**Michelle Anderson**

Pikes Peak Officers for 2013 ran unopposed and remain for 2014

President – Michelle Anderson

VP – Heather Peterson

Secretary – Nina Felsenthal

Treasurer – Erin Ashby

Awards – Shannon Lemons

Education – Judy Carnick

We held our December meeting at Bingo's Saddle Shop near Penrose and enjoyed a great potluck, gift exchange, and discount shopping that benefitted our chapter.

Our January meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> and we are planning to have farrier Chad Toney speak about shoeing and how it contributes to (or detracts from) movement and soundness. It will be held at IHOP on Barnes and Powers in Colorado Springs at 6:30pm.

February 4<sup>th</sup> will be our chapter awards dinner in the private room at Olive Garden, by the Citadel Mall on South Academy at 6:30pm.

We have an exciting new chapter awards program. This is a recognition program which rewards riders for their personal achievements, regardless of what color ribbon they might have received or how their horse compares to others. Bronze, Silver & Gold medals (similar to military medals rather than on neck ribbons) will be awarded for individual scores at each level in any show judged by at least an "L" graduate. Awardees must have applied by December 31, 2013 using the forms available from our website or by contacting the awards chair Shannon Lemons ([lemons\\_shannon@yahoo.com](mailto:lemons_shannon@yahoo.com))

March 4 we plan a veterinary speaker and in April a lunging/long lining clinic. Our first RMDS recognized show will be in April! Judged by Simone Windeler, it will be held at Gwen Ka'awaloa's facility in Elizabeth, CO. (April 12, snow date April 13)

As always, the most current information for our chapter is available at our website at <http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>.

Michelle Anderson  
Pikes Peak Chapter President

- 10. Platte River**
- 11. Wasatch Mountains**
- 12. Western Colorado**

**Laura Speer**  
**Sally Shaffer**  
**Barbara Terry**

## **Other Business**

## **Adjourn**

**Gwen Ka'awaloa adjourned the meeting at 9:18pm**