

RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
Darcy's Bistro & Irish Pub – 303-770-0477
September 11, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Gwen Ka'awaloa, Aline Brandau, Pat Leech, Olga Hendrickson, Michelle Anderson, Beverly Swanson, Frances Carbonnel, Simone Windeler, Heather Petersen, Jon C Haugen, Sharon Soos, Laura Speer, Beth Geier, Robin Gay, Nina Felsenthal

Proxies: Lori Mitchell to Pat Leech, Shannon Lemons to Heather Petersen, Brenda Haley to Aline Brandau, Sally Shaffer to Heather Petersen, Mary Jo Hoepner to Michelle Anderson, Barbara Terry to Sarah Barnes, Sarah Barnes to Robin Gay (and therefore Barbara Terry to Sarah Barnes to Robin Gay), Jacque McIntyre to Olga Hendrickson, Renee Martig to Jon Haugen

Call to Order-President

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Meeting called to order at 6:42pm

Reflection:

"Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful" ~ Joshua Marine

Secretary - Approval of Minutes

Nina Felsenthal

- July Minutes

Sharon Soos motioned to suspend the approval of minutes until the October Meeting, Robin Gay seconded, and all were in favor with the exception of Laura Speer, who abstained.

Treasurers Report

Sharon Soos

Funds as of August 31, 2014

RMDS Checking	43,258.45
PayPal (As of 4/17/14)	3,202.97
Scholarship	6,538.88
Money Market	<u>44,259.16</u>
Total	97,259.46

Documents Available as of August 31, 2014:

Current Year vs. Prior Year Profit and Loss Statement

Current Year vs. Prior Year Balance Sheet

Please contact Sharon Soos with any further inquiries.

President Report

Gwen Ka'awaloa

Gwen presented a video of Debbie McDonald riding her Freestyle at the 2005 WEG, as a reminder of why we are all here, and the unified goal we all have.

Entries to Championships are low, primarily due to the VS outbreak. Many barns are under quarantine and horses cannot leave and/or return to their premises. Several Board Members have gone above and beyond to ensure the success of obtaining Championships Sponsors, Volunteering and giving of time and money to ensure financial feasibility. Gwen would like to express her tremendous THANKS to those involved, and is encouraging that everybody please reach out to help find people who are willing to fill volunteer slots. We still have a tremendous need to fill.

There was discussion regarding Show Etiquette, and the treatment of all involved. It was suggested that signs discussing "Show Etiquette" be posted near every warm-up arena, as a reminder to participants and volunteers alike. Frances Carbonnel volunteered to look into creating signs, and presenting them to 2 White Feet for approval before Championships.

Vice-President Report

Aline Brandau

VP Report on Championships

I will be bringing Asian lanterns and an Asian themed horse sculpture to help decorate our "Year of the Horse" theme in the show office at Championships. Gwen, Beverly and I have been working to get some food for our competitors for each

night of Championships. So far, Gwen is sponsoring Wednesday night. This is a huge expense and goes over, above, and beyond what her job is to do for RMDS. Of course, we thank her for her generosity and tenacity to make this a great Championship for us all.

Thursday night we can order pizza to be delivered from the great restaurant "Colonna's" in Parker. They are known for their amazing pizza and I am in contact with the owner concerning this party, as well as possibly using them for a fundraising event for our Junior Young Riders. I hope to be able to get most of this paid for by an anonymous donor who has contacted me, and has offered to help create some fun at Championships.

We have a dinner planned for Friday night, where competitors will enjoy beef and chicken fajitas, as well as chips and dip. A dj will play music, and Gwen will welcome competitors and chat a little bit about RMDS. I am hoping we can make this a special night, where people want to stay awhile, meet other competitors and visit. Gwen has purchased a wonderful banner with our lovely artwork celebrating the Year of the Horse. This banner will welcome competitors, and make our presence known, and it will also be auctioned off.

Saturday night I am hoping to get a nice salad/sandwich spread from McAlister's Deli. They have offered to give us \$500, but we told them we are in need of food for the competitors, so I am in talks with their Marketing Representative concerning throwing a nice party on Saturday night with fancy sandwiches, like Muffuletta, Black Angus Roast Beef, and Southwest Turkey Melts, as well as a taco and cobb salad to accompany the sandwiches. In addition, I am looking into a classical guitarist to play for a couple of hours so people want to come together and sit for some time.

I encourage all the board members and RMDS leaders to attend these parties. Please introduce yourself to people and welcome the competitors as if they are in your home. We are hosting these parties, and I would like to see better attendance and more recognition that these events are special. It will only benefit our shows in the future, and improve and maintain our reputation as being the greatest show venue West of the Mississippi! Thanks for all your help and effort in making this Championship season great.

Sincerely,
Aline Brandau, JD
VP RMDS
720-323-0578

UPDATE: Colonna's was unable to provide for Thursday night, but Tonti's will be donating instead. They will be providing six different types of Chef-Inspired pizzas, along with salads.

Championships: Year of the Horse!

Beverly Swanson

Current dollar amount as of Sep. 9: \$7600. Includes ads and sponsors; Food donation and gifts not included in current dollar amount.

Thank you to the Chapters who stepped up and donated: High Plains, Wasatch, Foothills, Boulder Valley, Pikes Peak. And thanks to the members who spread the word! And extra thanks to Gwen and Aline for all their hard work, time and money they have selflessly donated to RMDS Championships.

Gwen, Aline and I have reviewed all of the facets of producing the Championship Show when we also host USDF Region 5. Although we will not have Region 5 next year, we are actively seeking ways to cut the expenses of Championships and the Awards dinner, making both more accessible and less costly for the organization.

We have worked countless hours, driven for miles, emailed, called, and chased down \$\$, and paid out of our own pockets for supplies, gas, et al. RMDS as a whole needs to recognize that we are a small community of members and we simply cannot raise a large amount of money from this area. Deep pockets for dressage are just not located in the Rocky Mountain region, and we cannot continue to rely on the same donors year after year.

Dressage is not an audience-friendly sport to anyone in Colorado but us. Even at its peak attendance, we do not represent a large enough demographic draw to entice donors outside of our immediate circle.

Therefore, I suggest that for next year we have a serious look at what we can afford and adjust our expectations accordingly.

Beverly Swanson

Jon Haugen will be stepping in as Office Assistant

Heather Petersen is requesting a second rental car to transfer all the judges and TDs to and from the Show Grounds.

The added qualifying show on the morning of September 17th currently has 28 horses and 5.5 hours of ride times.

There was discussion regarding RMDS sponsored dinners. In order to complete the dinners, we need drinks, napkins and cutlery for 400-500 people (total) to be provided either by donation or by approving RMDS to purchase. Olga Hendrickson has offered to pick-up anything we need to purchase from Costco, and submitting the receipts for reimbursement.

The T-Shirt and Bow Wow Bedazzled Bandana Bonanza contests will be held on Saturday.

Cavalía donated two tickets to the High Point Freestyle rider, and possibly additional memorabilia for prizes/ auction items. Auction items: Original Signed Artwork for Championships by Stephanie Gallegos , Banner with Championship Logo, Schleese saddle from Mimi Junick (including a free fitting from Schleese)

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

Reflection

Gwen Ka'awaloa

"One of the most important keys to success is having the discipline to do what you know you should do, even when you don't feel like doing it. ~Unknown

Central Office

Beth Geier

RMDS CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT

Executive Board Meeting

Sept 11, 2014

Membership

- Registration – As of today: 773 members for 2014 (827 in 2013) – 11 are Centaur only – 95 juniors 176 adult amateurs
- Need all corrections to membership data by Sept 30.
-Please double check your show scores to ensure accuracy!
- October 15, start accepting renewals for 2015

Insurance:

- Refunded Foothills for clinic that was cancelled – not sure about show yet.

RMDS Shows:

- Cancelled: Centaur Rising 1 & 2, BVD So Long to Summer, Foothills Last Chance
- Added: X Halt Salute-Sept 17

Centaur & Omnibus:

- Sent application to USDF for Newsletter awards: 1st person experience: (Suzie Halle's article on the Spanish Riding School & for the General Interest: Anna Blake's article on "The Art is in the Transition"
- Sent application to USDF for the website award.
- Sent request for permission to print tests to USDF/USEF
-New tests will be sent out with the omnibus
- Need ads!!

Volunteers for Championships:

- Many slots still need filling!!
- Be sure the amount on the lunch ticket is enough for 1 sandwich & 1 drink-\$8.00??
-There was discussion about lunch tickets. Volunteers will be instructed to use their tickets to purchase sandwiches ONLY; drinks and chips will be provided in the Show Office.

General:

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

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

2014: Oct 9-Budget Nov 15- BOG

2015: Jan 8 March 12 May 14 July 7 or 9?? September 10 Oct 8 Nov 21 BOG

Proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule Changes for 2015

Beth Geier

PROPOSED BYLAW & STANDING RULE CHANGES FOR 2014

BOG 11/15/14

BYLAWS:

1. Add the following membership: proposed by Laura Speer Page E-3-4

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

A. Membership:

- e. EDUCATION MEMBERS are persons who have paid their annual individual dues and assessments as specified in the Standing Rules of the Society. (Non-competing member)

2. Delete audit-replace with financial review proposed by Sharon Soos Page E-6

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

D. President:

2. Upon assuming office in January, the President shall appoint (with the approval of the Executive Board) an auditor who shall be charged with reviewing the financial records of the previous year. A full **audit (delete audit) financial review** of the financial records must be performed with every change of Treasurer or at least every five (5) years. The auditor shall report the findings to the President and to the Executive Board who will notify the membership that the **audit(delete audit)** findings are available upon request from the Central Office.

3. Suggested by a discussion somewhere. Page E-7

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

A. Permanent Committees:

1. There will be nine (9) permanent committees: Adult Amateur, Awards, Championship Show, Communication, Education, Junior/Young Riders, Marketing, Professional Trainers/Riders and Scholarship.
2. **The Chairpersons for the Awards, Education and Professional Permanent Committees will serve terms of two (2) years beginning January 1 of even numbered years.**
3. **The Chairpersons for the Adult Amateur, Championship Show, Communications, Junior/Young Riders, Marketing, & Scholarship Permanent Committees will serve terms of two (2) years beginning January 1 of odd numbered years.**

STANDING RULES:

4. To comply with Bylaw Rule change #1, if passes Page E-19

SECTION VIII. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

A. Membership classes are defined in the RMDS By-Laws. The membership application and dues should be sent to the RMDS Central Office. The Society's membership fees shall be as follows:

Individual	60.00
Additional Family member	45.00
Life	750.00
Education	45.00

5. To change fee. Page E-19

- E. The Society newsletter, Centaur, is available as a separate subscription for an annual fee of **\$30.00**.

6. To comply if above passes. Add Page E-20

SECTION IX. MEMBER BENEFITS

C. **Education Members Benefits (Non-competing):**

1. A group member of USDF
2. Education members will receive the Centaur only – no Omnibus.
3. Will be eligible for RMDS member discounts at RMDS events.

4. A non-competing membership-scores will not count towards year-end awards or qualifying for Championships.
5. Not affiliated with a local chapter.
6. A card providing proof of RMDS education membership shall be provided to each member at no charge.

Permanent Committee Reports:

1. Adult Amateur

Heather Petersen

Adult Amateur Report - September 2014

**Working on location for New Test Clinic in February since Petra is moving to a new farm. She's worried about parking so we will be looking at it after Championships then exploring a couple of other farms that have offered to donate.

**Details are facilities confirmed for Part 2 of the USDF L program and I will be sending in the application after Championships to USDF for approval, as well as emailing a budget out to RMDS for approval at the Budget meeting in October. Will do that step first before requesting USDF approval. Emails are out to instructors for each session - 2 confirmed, waiting for response back from others.

Thanks,
Heather

Second Session for the L program is set! Heather will be bringing a proposed budget to the October meeting.

2. Awards

Shannon Lemons

Awards Chair Report

September 10, 2014

Trophies –

1. Trophies will be collected at championships. We have made public the expectation that trophies no longer be mailed, but as this is the first year of that requirement, there may be some “growing pains”.
2. I will be at championships to take possession of trophies.
3. This year’s notification letter to trophy winners will also clearly state that trophies will not be mailed out and need to be picked up at the banquet. We will still mail plaques and ribbons – if there is any pushback from not mailing the trophy with folks not reimbursing postage for these mailings, I hope that the savings from not sending out huge boxes will offset that difference.

Banquet –

1. I’ll be touching base with the vendor this week so that we are set up and they will be ready for the large orders when they come through.
2. This will be their second year, so I hope for a lot more streamlined production 😊
3. 12 tables, please, and it did work better for me to have the ballroom closed off until dinner 😊

Awards –

1. Chapters – I need volunteer of the year nominees for your chapters and suggestions for RMDS VOTY.
2. Russ Fawcett winner nomination also needed.

Apologies for my absence again – I realize that I have not been to meetings regularly as in past years. My life outside of RMDS has changed dramatically, and the increased demands at work and home make it unlikely that this will change next year. I will only put myself forth to continue on with Awards if the board can accept that I am unlikely to be able to attend board meetings on a regular basis.

Happy riding!

Shannon Lemons

Decisions for the Russ Faucet Memorial Award will be made at the October Budget Meeting, pending nominations.

3. Communications

- Centaur
- Omnibus Production
- Website

Linda Gaber

Beverly Swanson

Nicole Bizzarro

Michael Petersen

Jon Haugen

4. Education

Education Report

September 2014

Submitted by Jon C. Haugen

• Instructor Certification

The final for the Instructor Certification is scheduled to be held Oct 25/26, the weekend will be held again at Phantom Hill in Fort Collins.

• 'L' Program

Have received 15 participant applications, 9 from within the state.

October 25 and 26 is final testing for the Instructor Certification, and horses are needed! If you are able to volunteer your horse for this event, please contact Jon Haugen.

5. Junior/Young Riders

Julie Haugen

6. Marketing

Sharon Soos

If there is any information (Clinics, show info, etc) that anybody would like displayed at the Marketing Table at Championships, please get it to Sharon ASAP.

7. Professional's Committee

Simone Windeler

Simone has reached out to an Eventing Trainer to write an article about Cross-Training.

8. RMDS Championships

Beverly Swanson

See Above

9. Scholarship

MaryJo Hoepner

Scholarship Committee

Nothing new to report.

Only a few more opportunities to volunteer before application deadline.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Nominating Committee- Chapter Presidents

Michelle Anderson

Need nominees for Chairmen for 2 years: Vice President (1 year), Adult Amateur, Awards, Championship Show Committee, Communication, Education, Junior/YR, Marketing, and Scholarship

2. Banquet & BOG- November 15, 2014

Laura Speer

3. Western Dressage Liaison

Frances Carbonnel

There is a Western Dressage Schooling Show scheduled for Saturday the 27th, and other classes will be offered for Traditional Dressage. A Working Equitation Show is scheduled for Sunday the 28th, by RMIHC (Rocky Mountain Iberian Horse Club)

Region 5 Report

Heather Petersen

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

Brenda Haley

Avda Report for September, 2014

Avda had a successful clinic with Amelia Newcomb from CA in July. No meeting was held in August. Our meeting in September had only 5 members show up which was upsetting since it was the meeting before our show planned for Oct 4th. Discussion was held regarding the future of AVDA. The current board wants to resign and is seeking members for replacement. We will be sending an "SOS" email to members encouraging feedback and making personal calls. We have a full clinic coming up in one week on obstacles with Anna Blake. Most of the participants are non club members. We hope to encourage new membership and enthusiasm toward our club.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Haley, AVDA Pres.

- 2. Boulder Valley**
- 3. Colorado Springs**
- 4. Foothills**

Sarah Barnes
Pat Leech
Lori Mitchell

The Foothills Chapter had our meeting in August 11

We sponsored \$250 toward Championships along with trying to organize members to volunteer as a Foothills group. Email was sent to Show Liaison, Central Office and Management to notify, it took over two weeks to be acknowledged, after another situation was discussed that brought this up.

We have a full slate for nominations for our 2015 Foothills Board which will be voted on at October meeting.

2015 Clinic for Foothills to organize were discussed

Dolly Hannon again asked for the RMDS Board to allow the membership to suggest judges for Championships. The chapter feels that the same judges are always used.

Submitted by,
Lori Mitchell

Foothills President

- 5. Grand Valley**
- 6. High Plains**

Tammy Fagan
Jacquelin MacIntyre

High Plains Chapter Report 9/11/14

High Plain's clinic on July 19-21, 2014 with Andreas Hausberger Chief Rider from the Spanish Riding School was a success. It was well attended with riders in all levels and many auditors. We hope to have him back again next year.

We have a Stable to Store meeting on September 25, 2004 from 6-8 pm at Cinderella Ranch in Parker. Our end of year celebration is October 23, 2014.

- 7. Northern Colorado**

Renee Martig

NCCA Report

Not much happening up here in NCCA - land. The VS has closed many barns and prohibited activities. Hopefully the cooler weather will lessen the fly activity and eventually kill off the buggars!

We have a schooling show planned for October 5th, right now it's a 'wait and see' situation. Hoping to have our annual 'Halloween on Horseback' toward the end of October.

That's it for now.

Renee Martig
NCCA

- 8. On The Bit**
- 9. Pikes Peak**

Jessica Ford
Michelle Anderson

Pikes Peak Chapter Report

September 2014 Executive Committee Meeting

In addition to sponsoring a championship class at RMDS/Region V Championships, Pikes Peak will be awarding \$50 to the highest scoring PPDS member ride at the championship show (some exceptions apply).

Our long awaited Lungeing & Long Lining Clinic will be held on Saturday, October 4 at Penrose from 10am to 2pm.

Please see the chapter website for more details:

<http://pikespeakdressage.org/Main/Home>

Election of 2015 officers and BOG delegates will also be held at the October meeting.

We are hoping to schedule a yoga session for members in November on a weekday night sometime after National Championships and before Thanksgiving.

Our holiday party/gift exchange/horse cookie baking will be at Simone Windeler's house on December 14 beginning at 4pm.

Winter meeting educational ideas being discussed are a review of the new dressage tests for 2015, more yoga, a driving clinic and a cavaletti clinic. We now have Heather's new indoor arena in Elbert available for "mounted" sessions. The chapter awards dinner will be at our February meeting.

Our 2015 PPDS RMDS Show will again be held in Elizabeth at Kaimana Farms on April 11. This year "r" Gwen Ka'awaloa will judge with Simone as show manager, Heather as secretary and MaryJo as TD.

Michelle Anderson

Pikes Peak Chapter President

10. Platte River

11. Wasatch Mountains

12. Western Colorado

Laura Speer

Sally Shaffer

Barbara Terry

Nina Felsenthal motioned to approve the Chapter Reports as submitted, Beverly Swanson seconded and all were in favor.

Other Business

Hand-out for 2015 Budget Meeting on October 9, 2014

-Gwen is proposing a 4-6 hour meeting. It is being proposed that we start at 4pm, ending between 8 to 10pm. She is asking that before the meeting, we all take the chance to brainstorm about how we can continue to do the same activities we have been doing, but make it more affordable so more members and their families can attend and participate.

Adjourn

Beverly Swanson moved to adjourn the meeting, Pat Leech seconded and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm