

New Mexico Dressage Association
Regular Meeting
Apr. 7, 2015

Board Members Present: Cindy Kavan-Winfield, Cathy Soller, Barbara Burkhardt, Cindy Begay, Charlene Strickland, Marybeth Perez Soto, Anne Sparks, Virginia Gredell, Donald Simpson, John Collins
Guest: Nance McManus, Western Dressage Chair

Officers' Reports

Secretary: Minutes of Board meeting accepted. Membership meeting minutes amended.

Treasurer: Cindy B discussed progress on the online membership application. For Flagship, she would be the sole contact according to their requirements. Harold is working on the schooling show entry form and membership form. The financial report goes through March, with more income to be added from the last 2 schooling shows. Both shows earned a profit.

Committee Reports

Schooling Shows: Marybeth had the Web site updated for Schooling Show results, and the calendar moved up in the list of links. She had a call from a former member who will fund prizes from Barn Dogs, and will return the Barn Dogs logo to the Web site. Prizes will be given at the June show and November Santa Fe show. Neither Equicenter de Santa Fe or The Downs at Santa Fe are available for schooling shows. **Action:** Marybeth will look at the Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association arena as an alternative. She also asked the Webmaster to move the list of L Graduates closer to Schooling Show Information. John mentioned that Laura Simpson's Lakeview Farm (neighbor to Cherry Tree Farm) will have a Spring Gathering show for eventers Apr. 25-26, and will post the show information on the NMDA calendar. Dressage is planned for Apr. 26 at CTF. Cathy noted that at the CTF show, Laura had invited riders to warm up at her farm, and she asked if our insurance covers offsite incidents.

The Board discussed updates to the arena rental contract, and approved 2 amendments. **Action:** Barbara will update the form. Barbara mentioned maintenance done on the trailer.

Recognized Shows: Donald will post the prize list tonight for the May show.

Membership: Virginia reported 120 members, all submitted and listed in the directory on the Web site. She just added more for 139. Both the Caballo show and Pilates clinic attracted new membership applications. Virginia also has a separate address for memberships. She said the new online membership form is usable, and will add a \$5 fee for members applying that way.

Year-End Awards: Barbara noted that 2 show results have been posted so far for 2015.

Junior and Young Riders: Cindy K reported that Kristen has resigned, but will continue bringing riders to schooling shows. Tesha Fitzgerald may be a candidate for this position, as the mother of a junior rider. Anne, Cindy, and Susan Reed may meet with Tesha to put together a program. Anne reported that she has a new rider (familiar with youth programs) and may involve Dorie Vlatten Schmitz and the American Hanoverian Society Young Breeders Program. **Action:** Anne will contact Tesha.

Education: Anne will start sending emails about articles for members to read. The Pilates for Dressage clinic May 2-3 is full. We need a cleaning crew May 1, starting at 4 PM.

Publicity: John reported sending the schedule to *Horse Around*. For the Trainers Showcase May 17 at 4 Winds, NMDA was invited to host a booth and sponsor a demo of an upper level ride. The Board discussed inviting a local rider, suggesting Taminy Marshall. The Board discussed staffing the booth.

Action: Cindy will talk with Tesha about staffing the booth, and also send an email inviting members to staff the booth. John posted flyers in several sites for the Pilates clinic.

Western Dressage: Cathy distributed a proposal for formation of a Western Dressage Chapter of NMDA. She discussed the proposal with USDF and another GMO and noted that a chapter would create a venue for the Western riders to have their own group, on the way to independence. The chapter would be a way to help them, and still develop their own path. The proposal criteria define the cooperation. Nance said that we have at least 20 current members who ride Western. The proposal will help track numbers of riders. Nance mentioned that Western riders should have the same membership benefits and still enter schooling shows as they do currently. Cathy noted that schooling show entries remain first come, first served, by the submission date. At some point, the number of Western riders entering shows will determine the chapter's moving on to an independent club. Donald commented that it's a membership issue, that we will start tracking in 2016. Cathy said that this proposal explains how we will help at this time. Cathy, Nance, Barbara, and Anne are the committee and will continue the discussion at the May meeting.

Old Business

Voucher program. Anne pointed out that as a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization, Board members are volunteers and cannot legally receive any compensation for volunteer time. We will table the discussion till the May meeting. Cindy K researched other GMOs, and found that most require volunteer service to qualify for year-end awards. That would encourage volunteers for our events. For the May meeting, an ad hoc committee will investigate ideas on reworking the program to reward volunteers for the first two shows. In the interim, Cathy suggested awarding gift cards to volunteers. **Action:** Anne will present ideas to reward volunteers both immediately and long-term. Anne volunteered to investigate options, with Cindy, to act as a 2-person ad hoc committee. John suggested asking members for ideas on rewarding volunteers. Anne mentioned that NMDA should have a volunteer coordinator.

The Board tabled discussion of updating By-Laws and Standing Rules. Only the Board may make changes to Standing Rules; only the President and Secretary may submit changes to the Webmaster for publication. Cindy K will contact Harold. The Board also tabled the member-hosted clinic discussion.

Announcement of Next Meeting: May 5, 7123 Prospect Place NE; look for the orange door.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:15.