

MINUTES
NMDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DECEMBER 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by John Collins, President.

Board members present: John Collins, Rusty Cook, Susan Dezavelle, Marybeth Perez Soto, Kathleen Martin, Donald Simpson, Virginia Gredell, Barbara Burkhardt, Randi Phillips. Board members absent: Rena Haynes, Linda Ettling, Harold Baskin.

1. **Minutes** of the November meeting were reviewed. One minor correction was made. MOTION by Barbara, seconded by Susan to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried. Additions to the agenda included a report on the USDF Convention, and discussion of awards. There was no financial report this month due to the absence of Rena.
2. **Election Results** were reported. There were 57 ballots returned. For 2012 the officers will be: John Collins, President; Susan Dezavelle, Vice-President; Rusty Cook, Secretary; Rena Haynes, Treasurer.
3. **Membership.** Virginia had previously submitted 52 memberships/renewals to USDF. As of this date, membership is up to 83. Several donations to the scholarship fund have come in with membership renewals. Virginia will send test booklets out to all 2012 members.
4. **USDF Convention Report** was distributed by e-mail prior to the meeting by Rusty Cook. It was discussed briefly and is included as an attachment to these minutes.
5. **Youth.** Kathleen Martin has taken over the position of Youth/Young Rider Chair. She would like to have a committee with several members. Members interested in serving on this committee should contact Kathleen. She wants to expand the Youth Information page on the website. Among other things, she wants to add a list of volunteer activities and develop a step-by-step list of how to volunteer. She handed out a draft of a proposal and will work on it some more. There was discussion of a schooling level show for riders new to dressage, to include only Intro and Training level tests, suitability and equitation classes.
6. **Education.** Marybeth had nothing new to report.
7. **Awards.** Barbara had prepared a complete report, which was distributed. There are 16 champions, 10 reserves, and 20 3rd through 6th place awards to be presented. There were 77 horse/rider combinations not in the awards finals because they either didn't compete in enough shows or didn't ride the highest test of a level. There was discussion of the awards to be given for each placing. There are a few things left over from last year, and additional awards will be purchases. MOTION by Susan, seconded by Randi, to allocate up to \$1,500 for awards. Motion carried.
8. **Recognized Shows.** Donald reported that dates are set for 2012. Shows will be in March, May, July, and October as in the past. The October show will include NM State Championships and a Swedish Warmblood Inspection. The State Championships will have two judges, and Donald is also considering requiring two rides, with scores averaged.
9. **Schooling shows.** Marybeth will be the Schooling Shows Chair and will recruit show managers, book venues, and set the calendar. She is considering a couple of new venues. A list of 2011 dates and venues was distributed and dates for 2012 were discussed. John has talked to Earlene Seybold

about helping with the northern venue shows. There was discussion of charging other clubs a recognition fee for points to count toward NMDA year end awards. No decision was made, and this may be brought up again in the future.

10. New Business.

- a. A new newsletter editor is needed due to the resignation of Linda Ettlting. Harold has recommended that the newsletter could become a news page on the website and that we have plenty of room to include as many stories and photos as we wish. Members having suggestions should contact John.
- b. Incentives for volunteers were discussed. Suggestions included discounts for club events and scholarships. Additional suggestions can be directed to John or any Board member.
- c. Barbara is working on a training program for schooling show managers, scribes, and scorers. The tentative date of the third weekend in February was suggested, location possibly at the PRE office, tentative time 3 to 5 PM.
- d. A suggestion was made to hold a 2012 Board meeting in Santa Fe. It might be possible to ride the Rail Runner from Albuquerque and have the meeting at a restaurant close to the train depot. This will be looked into.
- e. Based on experience the past two years, Rusty had a suggestion for getting an additional NMDA member to serve as a delegate to the USDF Convention. We need to choose one GM delegate as we have in the past, and run only one person for PM delegate instead of the four that ran this year, none of whom got elected. It was pointed out that the Colorado club has over 800 members and Arizona has about 600, so splitting our NMDA votes makes no sense.

11. Old Business. The Awards Banquet will be held January 14. The charge will be \$15/person, with the club contributing approx. \$2,000 to help cover expenses. Randi and Susan will send out invitations with RSVP envelopes to be mailed back with payment. They will also work on a program. Kathleen has a video of great dressage horses that could be shown.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rusty Cook, Secretary

Attachment

USDF Convention November 30 - December 2, 2011

Board of Governors

President's Report – George Williams

PM membership down about 600 this year. Total GM members also down. Downturn in economy doesn't seem to have impacted Regional Championships much. Comments on National Championships – will be for open and AA riders. More discussion later.

Executive Director's Report – Stephan Hienzsich

USDF has fared better than some organizations but is still suffering from declining participation. In 2007 there were 36,000 members; currently 30,000. If not planning to compete, many choose not to remain members. Most GMOs do not provide a compelling reason for non-competitors to remain members. GMOs need to promote E-Trak as a member benefit. USDF programming is now on RFD TV. 26 episodes will be aired over this year, featuring video taken at previous symposiums. Dressage radio is carrying info. Website is being updated and USDF is developing apps that are mobile technology friendly. Scores will be available through the website. USDF Connection is available online. E-Trak has been revamped and improved.

USDF will continue to work closely with the Dressage Foundation to help finance programs.

Future Conventions: Dec 5-8, 2012 at Sheraton in New Orleans a couple of blocks from the French Quarter. Rooms \$149/night. Dec. 4-7, 2013 at Haytt Regency in Lexington. Rooms \$139/night.

Dressage Seat Equitation is growing. New qualifying system as of this past Aug. 1.

USEF Report - John Long, CEO

'Tis the season for national affiliates to have their annual meetings and get changes, etc ready for USEF meeting Jan 11. USEF Presidential election in August 2012. David O'Conner will have finished his two terms. Nominations process will begin in Jan. USDF membership down 2%; lifetime horse recordings up 3%. Nearly 2500 competitions licensed in 2011. About 1300 members didn't renew. The reason for both seems to be the economy.

Starting today (Dec.1) only 1 NSAID allowed. Also some other changes in drugs and meds. See info on website.

London Olympics is going to be very expensive; hotel rates very high; tickets not available.

USEF and other National Governing Bodies have formed a Safe Sports Task Force to help prevent child abuse in the future.

There will be some changes in procedures for transfer of horse registrations to prevent some problems that have occurred in the past.

There is increased coverage of equestrian events on TV. USEF is getting out of the business of magazines. Going to go to online magazine 6 times a year using a new Adobe publishing suite with great capability. Ad revenue is expected to climb; publishing cost of \$1.2 Mil will go WAY down.

AQHA and 4-H are working with USEF to develop new initiatives targeting 6 to 9 yr olds.

High Performance – Anne Gribbons

Sees her major job as education. USDF now has a system in place to educate our own riders. They have a meeting with riders at all the major CDIs on both coasts. Competitors who went to Europe had a great experience and learned a lot. Audiences in Europe were critical of scores that seemed too low. Team went for group training before PanAm Games. It helps for team building and bonding. The PanAm games was the first time ever that all team members got individual medals. The venue in Mexico was excellent.

For 2012 – Developing program will include clinics and training camps.

They are trying to build depth in the program. May take 10 years to get to where some of the foreign teams are. It also took them that long.

Competitors in London will spend three weeks before the Olympics. They will be at a lovely farm about an hour and a half from London. They will have a 6-stall barn and an indoor arena to use.

The Dressage Foundation – Clay Teske

Established in 1989. Some 20+ funds have been established. Money goes to designated programs, not overhead. Only 2 paid staff. In 2011 \$169,000 in grants was provided. More could be given if there were more applicants. There are a number of ways to donate and avoid the tax man.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Schubert

Revenue exceeded budget by \$10,000+. Total expenses were \$418,000 below budget. Total net income \$425,000 better than budget. Have \$2.57Mil in investments; made about 3% this year. Investments are mostly bonds so USDF doesn't suffer from extreme fluctuations of the stock market.

Proposed budget from April 2012 thru March 2013 is balanced. Vote to occur in second BOG session.

By-Laws Changes – Chris Trentelman

First proposal – language added to Executive Board section to include the At Large Directors; clarification of the rules of the Executive Director and the Past President. Proposal carried.

Second proposal – to extend ALD terms to 3 yrs instead of 2. Amended to bring another section in line with this change. Amendment carried. Proposal carried.

Audit Committee Report – Charles Smith

Committee reviewed financial statements and management letter. Recommend selection of the same accounting firm as the past two years to certify the financial accounts. Moved, seconded, carried.

Committee Reports

Printed copies of committee reports were distributed. All motions carried. Details available on USDF website.

Discussion of National Championship Show

This was expected to be a hot topic. Motion to limit discussion to 2 min/person. Carried

Proposal to establish a travel scholarship fund. The concept is not far enough along yet to get into this.

Motion to amend – Championship show to occur in spring 2014 instead of fall/winter 2013. Defeated.

Question on what the budget would be for the show. Last draft budget was 2008. That's what we're still working with. Question on why youth and para-equestrians are not included. They may be at some time in the future, after the show is established.

Motion to amend the proposal – first line change “will” to “may”, strike “starting in 2013”, and add on line 2 after “citizens”, “after a budget has been presented to and approved by the BOG”. This would have the effect of delaying the start of any National Championship show. Discussion of getting the concept approved so the National Championship Task Force can get on with fleshing it out and getting sponsorships and details in place. Motion defeated.

Motion to amend – add Jr/YR division, Training Level to Grand Prix. Defeated in electronic vote.

Motion to amend – add Jr/YR division within 3 yrs. Defeated..

Motion to amend – to move show from fall 2013 to fall 2014. Defeated.

Vote on motion to establish a National Championship show – Carried in electronic vote.

Results of ALD Election

Administrative Council: Lisa Goretta. Activities Council: Kevin Bradbury. Technical Council: Carolyn Vandenberg.

Proposed Budget – Passed with no additional discussion.

Reports from other meetings attended

Region 5 had two meetings, Wednesday and Thursday, about an hour each. Jenny Johnson from the Dressage Foundation gave a brief presentation. Over \$240,000 in grants were awarded in 2011. Janet Foy, candidate for At Large Director and a member of our Region, and was recognized by Director Heather Peterson and presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award plaque from the Region. Heather asked for suggestions for this award in the future. The Region still has \$2,400 to pay on its pledge for the USDF building campaign. There is currently very little money in the general fund, and various methods of raising money were discussed. Joan Clay was appointed Regional Secretary, and either Simone Windeler or Beth Geier will be the Treasurer. For the second year there was discussion on possible Region 5 scholarships. There is money in the education fund that has been collected over several years. It was decided to offer more general clinics for riders rather than scholarships that would benefit only a few. Discussion of more equitable distribution of PM delegates across the region; for states with small numbers of members it is very hard to get anyone elected as a PM delegate if more than one candidate is running from that area.. This will be worked on. Kay Lorenzen, Nominating Committee member, has been instructed to get nominations as soon as possible. Discussion of Dressage Seat Equitation and the need to encourage participation. Pros and cons of a Training Level Freestyle were discussed. A qualifying score of at least 65 and a time limit of 3 minutes were generally agreed upon. The Sport Horse Committee is working on revising the score sheet, to come out next time

tests are changed in 2014. It will include conformation scores broken down into sections. The need for more education for TDs who officiate at Sport Horse shows was brought up. Additional training will be offered in the future. Sport Horse Seminars are helpful for choosing the right horse, not just for judges or aspiring judges. Discussion of a possible National Championship show, and it was generally positively received by Region 5 delegates. The 2012 Region 5 Championships will be held in Heber City, Utah Oct. 5-7. There is a beautiful new facility there. The 2012 USDF National Convention will be in New Orleans.

The **TD Committee** reviewed its Mission, Goals, and Objectives statements. Much of the work of this committee has been conducted by e-mail and conference calls throughout the year. Ideas have included development of materials for use by exhibitors and judges on how the TD can be a resource for them. The need for a segment on the role of the TD to be included in the L program was discussed. Other items discussed were how to attract new TDs, the scheduling of Symposiums at the same time as the TD Clinic, the possibility of discounted Symposium fees for licensed officials, development of an online resource for discussion of common problems or situations, and the need for more information on the relationship between the TD report and what happens to the information at USEF.

The **USEF Rules Committee** conducted a long session on proposed rule changes to come up at the USEF Convention in January. These are all available on the USEF website. There will likely be some amendments.

There was a **Four-way Forum** that included Competition Management, TD, Membership, and Judges Committees. A majority of the time was spent discussing suggestions to increase participation, especially among amateurs, including Opportunity Classes, age group splits in some classes, ability level splits, standardized entry forms, pairing those new to showing with veterans, a standardized way for TDs and ring stewards to tell who needs to wear a helmet and who does not, and the half point scoring going into effect.

In the **USEF Dressage Committee** meeting information was given on the Developing Horse Grand Prix that begins Dec. 1, 2011. It is the next step in the Developing Horse program. The US team had a very successful season in European young horse competitions. Scott Hassler will be conducting training sessions around the country in 2012 and they will be open to the public. George Williams noted that there will be a record number of CDIs in 2012. In the Florida situation and others around the country, USEF is going to let the market determine which shows survive. All competitions wishing to hold a CDI submit an application and receive a site inspection. Jeanine Malone said that USEF had not printed the proposed rule changes this year but that they're available on the website. In DR21 more bits will be allowed in national classes to more closely align with FEI. Marianne Ludwig discussed a few changes in judges education including more instruction on equitation and young horses. Jayne Ayers said that clinics will include more instruction on Dressage Sport Horse Breeding. Lisa Goretta stated that new tests are in the works for young horses. A sheet was handed out that goes into detail on directives for rider position and seat, correct and effective use of the aids, and harmony between rider and horse. If this is not available on the USEF website, it can be put on the NMDA website.