

**New Mexico Dressage Association**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**Mar. 21, 2015**

Board Members Present: Cindy Kavan-Winfield, Cathy Soller, Barbara Burkhardt, Charlene Strickland, Donald Simpson, Anne Sparks, John Collins, Virginia Gredell

Cindy opened the meeting with showing the DVD, "On the Levels." Members watched and discussed Intro, Training, and First Level segments.

Anne mentioned the Anna Quint clinic April 8-12. She alerted members about the process to change NMDA bylaws.

Cindy discussed the Pilates for Dressage clinic and adding the potluck and viewing of the DVD. Anne reported ideas for Junior and Young riders.

Cindy introduced Nance McManus, who has information on Western dressage activities, such as the Sept. 10 show at State Fair. Nance invited spectators to attend, and riders to enter. Nance is also organizing the workshop. Judging Western Dressage for "L" Graduates, with S judge Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez at Four Winds Equestrian Center, Sept. 26-27. It will include video viewing afterward, which will be open to all.

Cindy asked for opinions on Western dressage, "taking the temperature" of the NMDA members present. Barbara mentioned that Western riders now contribute to shows, and may eventually form a separate club. Comments included the impact of Western entries in schooling shows. Western dressage is evolving, and is a division of USEF. A show of hands resulted in about half the members present expressing that Western dressage at our shows is OK as is.

Opinions: The opportunity of us helping the discipline is positive, to encourage riding in any way.

As a GMO we follow our parent organization, USDF. We offer Western dressage now as an option, a division, as a component of our GMO.

Our education focuses on classical dressage. We support Western, they can enter our shows, and revenue from these entries supports NMDA.

What about other GMOs? Cathy reported she has researched Region 5 GMOs' Web sites, and that 5 others allow Western at their shows. Only 1 GMO offers year end awards. Our Western division can later form its own group if the impact on schooling shows is too much.

What about judging Western dressage? Nance said that the Western Dressage Association of America is looking forward to becoming independent and so is fast tracking USEF judges into WDAA certification. The Sept. workshop is a step forward.

At the Arab show this weekend at Expo, 24 Western dressage riders were entered Mar. 22.

Should NMDA limit Western riders at schooling shows? Members debated the impact, with Cindy noting that the first show of 2015 had 50 rides in all and 9 Western, with a show's maximum number (rarely reached) set at 60.

What is the critical mass and statistics, where Western riders will form a separate group? Nance noted few states have their own group. A group doesn't need a specific number, but would need to build an infrastructure. Right now there is not a group of Western riders showing all the time.

Members present voted on a motion to allow the President to create an ad hoc committee to investigate further the numbers and percentages of Western dressage entries. The motion passed.

The committee will gather data. Cathy explained that the committee can keep the membership informed, through the Board's regular communications. She also invited members to submit feedback and suggestions to the Board on Western dressage entries at our schooling shows.