

MINUTES
NMDA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM by John Collins, President.

Board members present: John Collins, Rusty Cook, Susan Dezavelle, Barbara Burkhardt, Randi Phillips, Virginia Gredell, Donald Simpson, Rena Haynes, and Marybeth Perez-Soto. NMDA members present: Christine Small, Kelly Goatcher, Charlene Strickland, Lily Luman, Cindy Kavan-Winfield, Kathleen Martin, Winnie Fitch, Susan Reed, and Kathy Mueller. Guest present: Willa Huser.

John thanked all Board members who have served this year. He gave special thanks to Denai Meyer who had to resign mid-summer due to health issues, Susan Dezavelle who took over duties of Vice-President, and Marybeth Perez-Soto who assumed the duties of Schooling Shows Chair. He also gave special thanks to this year's schooling shows managers and noted the need to train more managers. He introduced Board members and mentioned highlights of their contributions to NMDA this year.

1. **Minutes.** Barbara wanted a statement added to the October Minutes regarding USDF Handbooks for sale. MOTION by Barbara, seconded by Susan to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.
2. **Financial Report.** Rena handed out financial summaries. Significant additions this year included \$1,000 from the General Fund for the Scholarship Fund, with additional donations of \$110.

General Operating Fund balance	\$15,496.92
Scholarship Fund balance	\$ 1,110.00
Certificate of Deposit balance	\$ 5,302.79
Total Cash assets	\$21,909.71

Income for this month included \$1,090 from the October Cherry Tree Farm schooling show, \$210 for 2 junior and 4 individual memberships, \$20 for an advertisement, and \$1.44 in interest. Expenses were \$492.10 for the schooling show, \$780.48 to send a representative to the USDF Convention, \$500 deposit for the awards banquet, and \$126.34 for meeting announcement mailing.

Our income is down significantly this year due to the cancellation of three schooling shows. However, we are still maintaining a small positive net income for the current year. We are also maintaining more than a six month cash reserve. While USDF raised the group membership fee we pay for every member from \$17 to \$20, NMDA has not increased our membership fee. This year we established a scholarship fund which was initially funded from NMDA general operating fund. In future years we expect the Scholarship Program to be funded with donations. MOTION by Susan, seconded by Barbara, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

3. **Membership.** Virginia reported 34 members have joined or renewed so far for 2012. If PM members need a membership card they can print it online. There is a space on the membership application for donations to the scholarship fund.
4. **Youth.** Sean has moved to California. Kathleen Martin has taken over the Board position. There is still only one scholarship application, and the deadline is Dec. 1. There is complete information on the NMDA website. Several youth members showed at the Arabian Youth Nationals, and some helped pass out flyers. We got a couple of new members as a result.
5. **Education.** Marybeth reminded the group that USDF makes grants for educational events. She is working on several ideas for 2012. John pointed out a good article in the USDF Connection magazine.
6. **Schooling Shows.** Marybeth reported that even though several shows had to be cancelled, those held were successful.
7. **Recognized Shows.** Donald reported that we will again have recognized shows in March, May, July, and October.
8. **New Business.**
 - a. Number of shows. The consensus of opinion was that we should aim for 6 NMDA schooling shows and 4 recognized show weekends. There will also be 2 Arab-sponsored schooling shows in mid-June and October, 1 sponsored by the Watermelon Mountain Pony club in May, and 1 sponsored by Juan Tomas Hounds in August. The Board will come up with a schedule so there is one show a month, and a schooling show within 2 weeks prior to each recognized show. Other ideas were to have a Welcome to Dressage show for beginners, and possibly offer eventing dressage or western dressage at schooling shows. A youth or beginner show could be combined with a tack swap.
 - b. Saturday shows. Although schooling shows have typically been on Sunday, Saturdays might work better for some and avoid conflict with church or getting ready to go back to work on Monday. Saturdays would work better in the summer due to length of days, and venues at Cherry Tree Farm and Luna Rose don't require arena setup, which has usually occurred on the Saturday preceding a Sunday show.
 - c. The possibility of northern and southern show managers and committees would split responsibility and give more people a chance to run shows. Membership will leave this up to the Board.
 - d. Incentives for show management. Suggestions were to offer credits to apply to future schooling shows, or having the club pay part of entries in recognized shows, or apply a credit to an educational event.
 - e. Volunteers. More volunteers are needed for all activities. There was discussion of requiring volunteer hours to qualify for year-end awards, or requiring a small payment in lieu of volunteering. Show manager orientation might help people feel more comfortable in managing schooling shows.
 - f. Scholarship. Discussion on opening this up to adults and to apply to L-program or trainer certification training, or other educational pursuits. A proposal was to reserve one scholarship for youth and another could be for anyone. The Scholarship committee will review all suggestions.

- g. Newsletter. Linda Ettling is resigning as of Jan. 1. We need to take a fresh look at the newsletter and perhaps put more news on a page of the website. The website also needs a new look and might be redesigned to make it easier to navigate.
- h. Elections. Ballots for the officer election will go out shortly and will be combined with the election for volunteer awards. There is only one nominee for each officer position. John will prepare a list of all volunteers and Susan will prepare and mail the ballots. Awards will be given to the top five volunteers. MOTION by Susan, seconded by Winnie Fitch, to extend ballot receipt date until Nov. 30. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Following the business meeting, the video "Build Your Seat" was shown and those present were invited to try the iGallop machine provided by John.