

# MDS Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2009

**I. Call To Order** President Carol Poulin-Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

Members present:

Carol Poulin Taylor, Elizabeth Owens, Cheryl Peaslee, (CMDA members)

Susan Pendleton, Wendy Brunson, (SMDA members)

Stephanie Hatcher (WMDEA members)

Bryn Walsh, Becky Clark, (EMDA members)

(Members at large) None

**II. Secretary's Report** The Secretary minutes were presented by Cheryl Peaslee. A motion to accept as written was made by, Stephanie Hatcher, Elizabeth Owens seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**III. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was presented by Carol Poulin Taylor, prepared by Sandy Welsh. See attached hand out. Motion made to accept by Elizabeth Owens, seconded by Susan Pendleton.

**IV. Membership:** MDS currently has 272 paid members. CMDA has 19, EMDA has 90, SMDA has 110 and WMDEA has 53. More are coming in daily. It is early in the show year.

## **V. Committee Reports**

**Newsletter:** Some members have said that they aren't getting their newsletter. Currently about 120 are being postal mailed. The remainder are e-mailed. A discussion was held if we should postal mail every member a newsletter. We voted to have Cheryl Peaslee mail a card to all members to see if they want the newsletter sent to them by postal mail or e-mail and also to verify their postal or e-mail address. Hopefully all members will respond and we can clear this up. It was also discussed to redo the line on the membership form so it will be very clear next year, which way members want to receive the newsletter. A motion was made to do a mailing to members, to be in the mail no later than May 8<sup>th</sup> to determine how members want to receive their newsletter mailing. Motion by Susan Pendleton, second by Elizabeth Owens, vote all were in favor.

It was suggested to look into Media Mail as a less expensive option of mailing the newsletter.

**Website:** Bryn Walsh said all is going well. She has some new pictures on the web site. She will be updating the Shows and Clinics page. Stephanie Hatcher will send her the 2009 show list from the omnibus. Bryn already has show results from CMDA to be put on the web site and is looking forward to new pictures and events. She will also be putting the ad

and application forms for the Jan Ebeling Symposium on the web site. Cheryl Peaslee will be e-mailing the ad to her this week. Carol Poulin-Taylor suggested putting the MDS Year End Award Rules on the website.

**Omnibus:** Stephanie Hatcher has permission from USEF to print the FEI tests. She is willing to get copies of the tests to anyone who wants them for this year. She still has shows & other advertisers who have not paid yet. She will be mailing bills shortly. Thank you so much Stephanie Hatcher for all your work on the omnibus. It looks great!

**Education:**

Carol Poulin-Taylor has been in contact with Nikki Karlsson & Tony De La Torre of D.L.T. Performance Horses and Equestrian Center in Gray about the Jan Ebeling clinic at their facility.

NEDA has requested a discount for their members to audit and will do advertising in exchange. Questions came up concerning giving NEDA an auditor's discount and not our members. It was decided to give both clubs up to a \$5.00 member discount. Auditor must pay before the Symposium date.

Susan Pendleton who is chair of this committee was concerned about space for people, a small arena, parking, bathrooms, insurance cost. We talked about the concerns and the auditor's fees not being paid directly to MDS. The ad in the newsletter & Horse's Maine should be changed to let auditor know where to send their fees.

A motion was made to approach NEDA to co-sponsorship at DLT Farm in exchange for auditor discount and a discount for MDS members also. Motion by Susan Pendleton, second by Becky Clark. Vote all in favor.

Susan Pendleton, chair of this committee and Bryn Walsh will do follow up and work with Nikki and Susan Pendleton.

**Jr/Yr:** Carol Poulin-Taylor tabled this until Gail McCormack and Sandy Porter-Bean can meet with us to discuss what will be happening. It will be a topic for next year.

**Awards/Banquet:** Beth Brainerd has ordered the ribbons to get an early discount. Paula Foote has volunteered to collect the perpetual trophies.

**Bylaws:** Carol Poulin-Taylor has requested that the Board look at changing the by-laws so the Board can vote on special issues by e-mail. Article VI, section 5: on page 16 of the 2009 Omnibus to change the wording from mail, to "e-mail"

This will be put in the next newsletter so all members have time to respond and make comments before the next meeting, so the Board can vote on this matter.

**Fundraising:** No activity

**Public Relations:** MDS news needs to be out in the public to let others know what we are doing. Stephanie Hatcher will take on writing an article for the Horse's Maine, with Susan Pendleton and Jamie Luke helping her when she is working on the Omnibus.

**VI. Old Business**

**Committee Reports:** For the next meeting we are all to have written committee reports e-mailed to Board members a week prior to the meeting. This should help speed up the meeting.

**Job Descriptions:** Bryn Walsh had a copy of the Vice President & Web master job description done. See attached copy. Everyone thought it looked good.

**Banner:** We talked about two different MDS banners one vinyl and the other canvas. Discussion followed that it would be nice when we go to events to have a banner, as long as it is taken care of and that it will be with someone who will care for it. A motion was made by Elizabeth Owens to have a banner made out of vinyl and to have Laurie Lee spend up to \$54.00. Seconded by Susan Pendleton. Vote all in favor.

**Board Members At Large:** Paula Foote is interested in being a member at large. We will wait till she comes to a meeting to confirm this.

**Questionnaires:** Carol Poulin-Taylor has received 4 responses back so far. The comments included: the desire for more educational opportunities and symposiums, the website kept more current, problems receiving the newsletter, putting MDS news in The Horse's Maine, more prizes given out at the Awards Banquet, keeping the perpetual trophies, developing a JR/YR program and holding another "L" Judges Program.

**VII. New Business:** Sandy Welsh is stepping down as treasurer in January. We discussed who might be willing to take her place. Several names came up and it was asked around the table to talk to people in our clubs who might be willing to do the position. We need to have a name by the next meeting, as we will be voting on a slate of officers then. Bryn Walsh said the treasurer and membership jobs should stay together, dividing these jobs might be harder to do by two people than one. Anyone who would like to do this job please let Carol Poulin-Taylor know.

**VIII. Next meetings are:**

October 1st, 2009 at 6:30pm at the Maine Farm Bureau in Augusta  
January 31, 2010 at 10:00am at the Senator Inn in Augusta

Elizabeth Owens made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Bryn Walsh seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully,  
Cheryl Peaslee