

MDS January 25, 2015 Board Meeting

Attendance: Bryn Walsh EMDA, Rebecca Reed EMDA, Pat Martin WMDA, Cassi Martin WMDA, Beth Brainerd WMDA, Kathleen Fox NMDA, Heather Webster CMDA alt, Carol Poulin-Taylor CMDA, Elizabeth Owens At-Large, Lauren Taylor NMDA, Michele Marden EMDA.

Meeting called to order at 10:09AM

Secretary's report: Sent by Pat Martin via-email. No corrections made. Kathleen Fox makes a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Second by Beth Brainerd. All in favor.

September Treasurer's report: Sent by Kathleen Fox via e-mail. E-mail vote to accept the report from the September meeting did not happen. CMDA insurance amount in question was \$204 owed for show insurance. All clubs are otherwise current for 2014. Motion to accept September meeting treasurer's report by Pat Martin. Second by Beth Brainerd. All in favor.

Current Treasurers report: Sent by Kathleen Fox via email. E-mail revisions sent from Carol Poulin-Taylor, revisions made by Kathleen Fox. Amount of \$60 in question was for horse registrations. Report shows the club finished the year at the projected deficit according to the budget. Motion to accept Treasurer's report from Beth Brainerd, Lauren Taylor seconds. All in favor.

2015 chapter club insurance payments for shows and clinics are due in April. Beth will e-mail Kathleen with amounts for 1015 and Kathleen will send bills to chapter clubs. Current insurance price per show is \$51, clinics are \$43. Prices may increase for 2015.

Membership report: Bryn Walsh. Currently 65 individual memberships and 9 supporting memberships. Bryn is very happy with the new system where she receives membership information and money first, and then she sends out to the chapter clubs.

For supporting memberships at the moment neither the chapter clubs nor MDS make money. From the \$40 for membership, \$20 goes to USDF, \$10 to chapter club, \$10 to stay with MDS. Supporting membership is an additional \$10 which goes to the chapter club. Bryn questions if the supporting membership cost should change to \$20 so that MDS keeps \$10 and the chapter club keeps \$10. So far Bryn has not sent supporting membership money to clubs before clarification.

Currently, when an individual joins more than one chapter, they pay an additional \$10 which goes back to club.

Discussion over how we want to continue for 2015. Decision is that MDS will keep \$10, each chapter club \$10, USDF\$ 20. Supporting memberships will stay at \$10 with money going back to chapter club. This will be revisited again at the April meeting for a rule clarification.

Bryn notes that membership will be processed monthly going forward.

Clarification asked about membership costs for active board members. Currently, the board of directors does not need to pay the \$20 for USDF if they attended all board meetings of the year prior.

Bylaws committee report: No news.

Newsletter report: Next deadline 3/1. Then every three months. 6/1, 9/1, 12/1.

Website: Suzanne Crowell volunteered a year ago. Carol Poulin-Taylor reports that she was almost done creating a new website at last meeting. Suzanne is not present today; website will be tabled until April meeting. Send any information in the interim to Rebecca Reed, who will post it on the website. Website is currently using Verio as domain registrar and Applied Innovations for hosting. Domain name is currently due to be updated which will happen prior to April meeting.

Facebook page: No updates. Need a cover photo picture. Elizabeth Owens suggests photo of awards table with ribbons. Rebecca Reed volunteers to take it.

Omnibus: Cassi Martin reports it is finished and ready to send. Grand total income from show listings- \$1160. Grand total income from advertiser's- \$2075. Cost of production- \$2178.99. Profit of \$1269.01. Many of the show listings and advertising monies have yet to be paid. Cassi requests that in the future show listings need to not say the specific day and year, but rather they say "one month prior" for opening date, or closing date "the Monday before". Rebecca Reed suggests sending proof's out to advertisers and listings prior to publication.

Clinics: Rebecca Reed has sent an e-mail to George Williams. Carol Poulin-Taylor suggests Lilo Fore. Rebecca will send an e-mail to Lilo. Puckerbrush has offered to host.

Jr/YR: Pat Martin informs that two Maine youth are at the Winter Intensive Training program in Florida with Lendon Gray. Maggie Davis and Ali Perkins are there.

Awards: No news.

Banquet: Due to meal complaints from last year, a more expensive plan is picked for this year. 2014 horse registrations total \$1140. Banquet attendee reservations total \$2850, 95 total reservations at \$30 per person. Proposed venue change was discussed to the Elks club. Findings were that the menu doesn't offer as many options. Comparisons made for overall costs and found projected price difference of \$553.13 less than the Senator Inn. Food and linen prices at Elks are subject to change. Elks requires having a beverage bar, if alcohol available this may require security, which would mean additional costs. Elks is not as flexible with a head count as the date closes in. Discussion over if we can offset costs for the banquet? Currently horse registration monies go to covering banquet costs. Idea is proposed to use any profits from the omnibus to go towards an educational event or offset banquet costs in hopes to give advertisers more incentive to place ads. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

PR: No news

Finance: No news

Grievance committee: Reports granting of AA status after requesting required documentation from applicant.

New business:

Non Profit status- Application is done. Discussion is held whether or not to dissolve MDS and start a new club to file for 501c. If we apply now as MDS, we may be liable to back taxes. We can dissolve, and

immediately form a new organization to apply as a new 501c. We'd need a new EIN. It's a \$10 cost to dissolve articles of incorporation, \$40 to apply as new. We would need to open a new bank account. Funds would need to be gifted to the new nonprofit organization according to our by-laws. 1023EZ form is for new clubs. IRS doesn't look as closely at this form.

The other long form has a back log, and has a question as to if it's been longer than 27 months since you have formed and are applying for nonprofit status. If we dissolve, the old club could still be liable three years back. The IRS may or may not look at this. \$450 is the new applicant cost, old cost was \$850. Would be a faster result to apply as new.

Question raised as to how the bank account would work...closing and opening of new. We will wait to open new acct until we have new EIN. We may have to take them by-laws, or charter statement etc. Carol Poulin-Taylor will ask the accountant about the bank account.

Carol Poulin-Taylor makes a motion in filing for 501c3 that we take the step to dissolve the old MDS and incorporate a new MDS in filing that application. Pat Martin moves that we amend the motion to add a name change to The Maine Dressage Society. Kathleen Fox seconds the motion.

Convention review- Lots of new 2015 dressage tests discussion. The GMO basket was a hit. Not a lot of voting happened at the BOG. Region 8 meetings went well; most discussion surrounded the USDF Adult Amateur clinics that are sponsored for each region. This year's will be in western NY. Kathy Connolley and Betsy Steiner will be the clinicians.

Nominating committee- This is a nominating year. Need to form a committee for September 2015 elections. New officers will start 1/2016. We need presidential nominations. Candidates for president need to attend meetings, keep in touch with committees. Cassi, Bryn and Carol will work on nominating committee. Options will be presented at the April meeting. All current offices other than president are willing to stay in office.

Board member check in:

NMDA Kathleen Fox, Lauren Taylor

EMDA Rebecca Reed, Bryn Walsh, Michele Marden

WMDA Pat Martin, Laura Brainerd, Beth Brainerd, Cassi Martin alt.

CMDA Carol Poulin-Taylor, Suzanne Crowell, Heather Webster alt.

At large, Valerie Parent, Laurie Lee, Elizabeth Owens

Proposed meetings: April 14, 2015 at 6:30PM Maine Farm Bureau. Sept 8, 2015 6:30PM at MFB.

Kathleen Fox makes a motion to adjourn at 12:00PM, Second by Pat Martin, Beth Brainerd.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Reed