

**Maine Dressage Society
Board of Directors Meeting
January 27th, 2008**

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.

II. **Those in attendance were as follows:**

Betsy Hudson	EMDA	Willette Brown	at large
Beth Brainerd	WMDEA	Carol Poulin-Taylor	CMDA
Elizabeth Owens	CMDA	Dot Bourassa	CMDA
Laurie Lee	CMDA	Cheryl Peaslee	CMDA
Pat Martin	WMDEA	Cassi Martin	WMDEA
Wendy Brunson	SMDA	Susan Pendleton	SMDA
Sandy Welsh	at large	Bryn Walsh	EMDA
Rebecca Reed	EMDA		

III. **The Secretary's report** was read and a motion was made to accept by Sandy, seconded by Beth.

IV. **The Treasurer's report** was read, the balance in checking is \$4,227.29 and the balance in American Funds is \$10,027.88 (as of 12/31/07) total cash on hand equaling \$14,255.19. Outstanding bills not included in the above balance are \$2100.00 (Senator Inn) and estimated income from the banquet not included above is \$1500.00. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report by Beth and seconded by Pat.

V. **Old Business -**

A. Omnibus – The omnibus is done except for the slate of officers and the possible adult amateur award. The omnibus is ready to go to print, and will be done at Office Depot for \$1700 with a 25% off coupon. It will go to print tomorrow and will take 7 to 10 days, and should be in the mail by February 10th. The omnibus this year brought in approximately \$3100 from ads, \$1000 from shows, and \$600 from additional sales. In the future we will need to streamline advertising for the omnibus, as it is too much for one person to take on. Carol suggested forming an omnibus committee, which could hold omnibus meetings separate from board meetings. We will work on forming an omnibus committee to be headed by Sandy.

B. Banquet – Beth has included a horse registration and banquet budget for the past few years for our reference. There has been some confusion regarding whether or not we are replacing rider medals with pins or making both available. The original intention was that the pins could be worn on a lapel for display, where as the medals cannot be worn for display. Sandy questioned why can't we give both and pin and medal, Willette feels we should keep medals because it's worded "Rider Medals".

It was suggested that we change the wording to “Achievement Award” and give pins. Dot suggested a certificate to give along with the pins. Laurie made a motion to strictly go with pins, and a certificate, to be called an “achievement award”. Medals will be available while supplies last for a cost of \$5 including postage. Pins will be available for purchase by previous medal winners at a cost of \$5. The motion was seconded by Carol, and all were in favor.

We took a moment to thank Beth for all her work with the banquet. She reported that the Senator was very easy to work with this year, and that the cost for the banquet is not enough that we need to raise horse registration fees to meet costs.

C. Newsletter - There have been some issues of late with printing for the newsletter and getting it on the website. There have also been issues with some members not receiving a copy of the newsletter. It needs to be clearer on club memberships forms for the members to check off if they want the newsletter via snail mail or the internet. We also need to be sure that all club membership forms are included in each edition of the newsletter. Clubs need to get their club news to the newsletter editor along with their current membership forms for each edition. The next deadline for clubs to submit their info for the newsletter is Feb. 1st. Other deadlines for the newsletter will be May 1st, Aug. 1st, and Nov. 1st. Cheryl Peaslee has volunteered to take over as newsletter editor, thank you Cheryl!

D. Website – It’s up and running! The hosting expense is \$115, with a domain name fee of \$9.95.

E. Membership – Sandy reports that membership rosters are in and up to date. Sandy caught a mistake by USDF, our November roster was not online, and we should be seeing 186 members online shortly. Last year our roster was 325. We have seen an increase in junior memberships from EMDA, which is in part due to the increase in quadrille teams in the area. As a reminder, to be eligible for a quadrille award, all members of the team need to be MDS members, and have horse registrations.

Carol found in the GMO handbook from USDF, some guidelines to focus on in the area of membership service and retention. We need to keep a positive attitude toward the membership process and the members. For retention, we need to try and make the renewal process a positive one, and send out renewal notices in a timely manner.

The ‘early bird fee’ was again discussed. Some members were not able to get membership forms until after the Sept 1st deadline, leaving them unable to get the discounted price. We originally called the ‘early bird fee’ a fee for omnibus postage, as those late memberships missed the bulk omnibus mailings. Carol has looked into other clubs deadlines for membership, and some have very late deadlines. It was questioned if we can have a flat fee for memberships, as in \$25 to MDS before Sept. 1st and an additional \$10 after Sept. 1st. It was then questioned if we can charge an additional \$10 after Jan. 1st for omnibus postage rather than a late fee.

The GMO year is Dec. 1st to Nov. 30th. Initial club rosters are due to USDF by Nov. 1st. If the initial roster is late, there is a penalty fee incurred. Rosters should be sent in quarterly but monthly is recommended. Willette suggested a membership deadline of Oct 1st, so that roster's get out to USDF by Nov. 1st. Each club needs to be responsible for updating membership forms and getting them out to their members, the website coordinator, and the newsletter editor. Willette feels that we should move forward with the membership deadline for the clubs to be Oct. 1st, memberships to MDS by Oct. 15th, and then after Jan 1st charge an additional \$10. Laurie made a motion to accept the membership fee of \$25 by the deadline of Oct 1st, to MDS by Oct 15th, and to charge \$35 for memberships received after Jan 1st. Each club will be responsible for getting their membership forms to their members, the web, and the newsletter by the deadlines. Beth seconded the motion and all were in favor. It was decided that we cannot change the \$10 fee issues that we had this year and we will just let it go. If members join more than one club, they need to pay only one fee to MDS/USDF.

- F. Trophy Fee** – Beth proposes we 'axe' the trophy fee. Our budget has been sorted out and is in order. We have taken the trophy fee out of the omnibus, and if it needs to be addressed in the future we will raise horse registrations. Elizabeth motioned to accept and Beth seconded.

VI. **New Business** –

- A. Budget** – The budget prior to 2007 has proven to be too hard to calculate. We netted \$4622.24 in 2007. The proposed net for 2008 is \$5000.00. In the 2008 budget we have money for clinics, and are looking for grants to help as well. There has been a \$500 convention fee included. Willette felt that going to the convention was the best thing and should be included in the budget each year. Next year the convention will be in Denver, we will need to define how someone gets chosen to go. We will add this to the agenda for our next meeting.
- B. Reporting to the IRS** - Willette will bring information to the next board meeting as to what we need to do for the IRS, so we can accomplish that.
- C. Jane Petrin Perpetual Trophy** – Jane is a past president of SMDA, and has been a very active member of MDS for many years. She has been diagnosed with cancer, and has undergone chemotherapy. SMDA held a successful benefit clinic, and MDS would like to honor her by awarding a trophy in her name. The Jane Petrin Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the high point vintage rider each year.
- D. New Awards Division – AA (Adult Amateur)** – We need something in the omnibus to define what is an adult amateur. Members will be able to declare their status on their horse registration form. Sandy and Beth will re-write the adult amateur rules from USEF to apply to our GMO and include them in the omnibus. Bryn made a motion to accept the adult amateur award division and let Sandy and Beth define the rules. Rebecca seconded the motion.

- VII. **Election of Officers 2008** – There was a clarification of term limits, it was said that we have 2 year term limits and that every 2 years we could revisit and the same person could serve. It was also said that it never went out to the general membership for a vote so does not stand. It was then said that getting rid of term limits did go out to the general membership and the by-laws are incorrect. This needs clarification in the by-laws. The elections were held and our officers for 2008 are:
Carol Poulin-Taylor, President; nominated by Laurie, seconded by Elizabeth, all were in favor.
Bryn Walsh, Vice President; nominated by Laurie, seconded by Carol, all were in favor.
Cheryl Peaslee, Secretary/Newsletter; nominated by Sandy, seconded by Beth, all were in favor.
Sandy Welsh, Treasurer/Membership; nominated by Beth, seconded by Pat, all were in favor.
A huge THANK YOU to Willette for all her hard work!!
Rebecca made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Elizabeth.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Reed
Secretary