

Maine Dressage Society
Minutes to Board meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2010

I. Call To Order at 10:05 by President Bryn Walsh

Members present

CMDA: Elizabeth Owens, Carol Poulin-Taylor, Cheryl Peaslee, Heather Webster

EMDA: Bryn Walsh, Tammi Brown, Becky Clark, Betsy Hudson

SMDA: Bobby Murray, Wendy Brunson, Susan Pendleton, Gretchen Shantar

WMDEA: Beth Brainerd, Pat Martin, Stephanie Hatcher

Paula Foote

II. Secretary's Report – Cheryl Peaslee

Minutes from September 22, 2009 meeting was edited to add the email, in which we voted to buy Tammi Brown, our treasurer, software to do our bookkeeping. The total of the software was \$65.00.

Motion to accept the minutes as written with the e-mail addition was made by Beth Brainerd. 2nd by Becky Clark. Vote was unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report – Tammi Brown read the treasurer report. \$16537.91 is in the checking account and \$10231.35 in the American Fund Account. It was asked to have a printed report for the Board at the next meeting. Beth Brainerd made the motion to accept as read, Becky Clark 2nd. Vote was unanimous.

- A) Returned check fees; discussion about the fees on NSF checks made out to the club. Should we have a fee for the club as well as the bank fee? Members will not be able to participate in any event if their check has not been cleared or if their NSF check has not been taken care of. Some members felt the fee was too much. A motion was made by Tammi Brown to charge a \$30.00 fee for each NSF check in the future to take effect immediately. 2nd by Bobby Murray
Vote was 10-3-0

IV. Membership Report – Tammi Brown

A) Club compliance; Date change for memberships all renewal memberships for each club should be in by December 15th. The treasurers of the clubs need to have all memberships list and fees in to the MDS Treasurer by January 1st or a late fee will be added for each renewing member. Carol Poulin-Taylor handed out the USDF form spelling out how our membership list should be handled. (A copy of this form is enclosed.) This form spells out when the membership fees are due to USDF. Discussion on the need to set an early date when MDS needs to send in the club roster to USDF, early renewal needs to happen so we do not get a late fee from USDF. All clubs should change their membership forms to comply with these dates. Heather Webster wanted to know why the late fee was charged to new members? This may discourage new members from enrolling in clubs. Gretchen Shantar made a motion that all NEW MEMBERS will not be charged a \$10.00 late fee. Stephanie Hatcher 2nd Vote all in favor.

- B) Multiple club membership/ Tammi Brown talked about the fee members of multiple clubs pay. They only need to pay MDS a onetime fee. Clubs need to spell on their membership forms that the member only pays the club fee to the 2nd club. The MDS treasurer will let the 2nd club know if the member is enrolled in the first club. Each club needs to inform their members and change their forms. Clubs need to send the USDF fee's to the MDS treasurer everyone has to be a member of USDF.

All club Treasurers need to be sending the right fees to the MDS treasurer. Bobby Murray made a motion that members do not have to pay the MDS fee to the 2nd club if they join 2 clubs. 2nd by Beth Brainerd. Vote was unanimous.

- C) Farm Bureau membership; What are the dues and when are they do? Tammi Brown had that information for us. They are due in April and the fee is \$100.00.

V. Committee Reports

A) Newsletter – Cheryl Peaslee

1. Revisit cost, exposure, delivery, etc; The cost for printing and postage is around \$1200.00 per year. Bryn Walsh wanted to know how do we make money? USDF has a rule that the club has to provide a copy in some form. How do we transition to a non- mail form of the news letter. Some members do not have an e-mail address and want a hard copy form. If the member provided an e-mail address, then they should be able to download a copy from the MDS web site. If they do not have access to a computer, then a copy could be mailed to them. Only a few members did not have an e-mail address on their membership form. This will save a lot of time and money for the club. Bryn Walsh will announce to members how they can get their newsletter at the banquet after this meeting. Then we need to “Go Green”

- B) Website – Bryn Walsh is waiting to update yearend stuff and waiting for FEI test to add to the web site. The cost of the MDS Web site is \$44.95 for each quarter. She is looking for a lower cost to do the web site.

- C) Omnibus – Stephanie Hatcher is still getting changes. She is trying to get the FEI test from the USDF, so they can be added to the omnibus. She is looking for help to get more ads for the Omnibus. The omnibus will be at the printer March 1st. All ads must be in within two weeks. Bryn Walsh expressed some frustration that we need more communication about the ad process and to have ready forms for the ads. Why is the dead line changing? Please send all communication to Stephanie Hatcher’s home e-mail address. We need to have all ads to her by Feb 15. This will be the last ad dead line for this year. She would like next year to have a final ad dead line of March 15, 2011. To be printed by April 1st. Bobby made a suggestion that we look to the membership to get help with soliciting ads and the legwork that goes with setting up the Omnibus. Do we send ad money to the MDS treasurer or Stephanie Hatcher? It should go to the MDS Treasurer. Digital ads send to Stephanie Hatcher. Motion for 2011 was to have all payments and articles in to Stephanie by December 1st and to the printers by January 1st.

D) Education-

1. L Judge Program- update, budget, attendance numbers, etc. Gretchen gave an update. We have been approved by USDF and have 3 judges. All of the slots for participants are filled, with six people on a waiting list. We are still accepting silent auditors apps. She gave an update on what had she had to do for submitting items to USDF. We have 23 auditors to date. We will be charging \$50.00 for both days for silent auditors because of the handouts and other expenses. If no handouts are available for Sunday the fee will be \$25.00 for that day. We should break even or make a small amount of money. NEDA is still planning to do part B. A thank you was given to all who have been helping. We have the proof of insurance. Everything seems ready to go next weekend. Food vendor is all set and hopes to have extra food on site and a store is nearby.

Banner: Do we have the banner? Laurie Lee is getting the banner. Need to approve the money as the pricing has gone up. We had voted up to \$55.00 for the cost of the banner. When she contacted the printer they quoted her \$66.00. We hope to have it for the L program.

2. Christopher Hess Clinic at Pineland; Does MDS want to co-sponsor? Date is in May. The clinic is sponsored by NEDA. They would like us to co- sponsor the clinic. Plans are still in the works Bobby Murray gave the update. Jen of NEDA wants to include Maine members. Elizabeth Owens suggested we get more info before we decide on this matter. Bryn Walsh asks that we need to look at where clinics are held and not all events should be held in southern Maine. Gretchen Shantar will send Bryn Walsh the email from Jen and info will be forward to MDS board members.

E) JR/YR: need to change By-Laws for Jr. members to make sure if the seat is not filled that it is still open for the next year. We will revisit this at the April meeting.

1. Sponsorship- tabled until next meeting in April per Beth Brainerd's request

F) Awards – Beth Brainerd had a member request that she wants the vintage rider split from training level; she did not want to compete with the younger riders. Beth does want the “Horse of the Year” divided into three awards. Training level & 1st level ** 2nd, 3rd, 4th Levels ** FEI The reason is, the score get harder as you go up the levels this will make it fair for the upper Levels. A motion was made by Beth Brainerd and 2nd by Elizabeth Owens to make “Horse of the Year” into the three Levels. Vote was unanimous

Beth needs to order new medals for next year. The cost will be around \$500.00, Board members were in favor of this.

Discussion on perpetual trophies: This needs to be revisited and a plan needs to be put in place. Trophy's have been broken and are hard to track down for the next year. Beth wants someone else to take over doing this job. Should we give out a picture of the trophy and store the original?

G) Banquet – Beth Brainerd NSF fee will be added to the horse registration form.

Insurance Policy for L Judge will be done one at a time, because of date for policy renewal. For events, all people at the event have to be covered. If clinics are not in Omnibus, Beth Brainerd needs to know so she can cover the event.

H) Public Relations- Horses Maine, NEDA articles (Stephanie Hatcher, Susan Pendleton, Jamie Luke) Bobby Murray wanted us to know that MDS is getting noticed for what we are doing here in Maine. Could someone volunteer to put something into the Horses Maine about the Omnibus? Stephanie Hatcher said she is willing do this.

VI. New Business

A) Board member recruitment: Bryn Walsh wants suggestions on how to get new people to come to the MDS board meetings? Recognition is huge to get people at meetings. Bobby Murray suggested that this should be talked about at come local clubs meetings. Please bring someone from your club to the next meeting or let the Board know what we can to get your members to come to a meeting.

A member at large position is still open! Know anyone willing to fill this position?

B) Part II L program: Bryn suggested we keep an open mind that MDS may want to do this in the near future.

C) Scholarship (Professional, AA, individual clubs, etc)

D) Convention Report: Bryn reported with a copy of the convention minutes to share with us of the USDF annual meeting and that our Maine basket , which she put together, was won by a member from New York.

VIII. Next Meetings

Proposed: Tuesday, April 20th @ 6:30 PM @ the Maine Farm Bureau in Augusta

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Tammi Brown will check on the meeting dates with the Maine Farm Bureau.

Heather Webster informed us that the Down East Horse Association, which holds show at Skowhegan Fair Grounds, wants to do a dressage schooling show this year. They want to know if MDS wants to be a part of this. She will give Bryn Walsh contact info.

Adjourned the meeting at 12:28 Becky Clark motion, Beth Brainerd 2nd. All in favor

Respectfully submitted by

Cheryl Peaslee

Email votes Feb 22,2010 Art work for cover of Omnibus.. See attached sheet.

Vote for Omnibus without FEI test. April 4, 2010 See attached sheets.