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eCentaur

President's Message

Congratulations to all that journeyed to the Region 5 Championships! Thank you for representing RMDS so very well. Next year the Regional Championships will be at West World in Scottsdale, Arizona. Hopefully, it will come back to Colorado in 2024!

While our recognized show season has come to an end, the RMDS calendar is still full of many events! October and November have many clinics and schooling shows to choose from. November also holds the Part 1 Session A of the "L" Program. If your club is hosting an educational event, please let the Central Office know so that it may be included on the Calendar.

RMDS will be holding its' Board of Governor's meeting on November 19 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver. PLEASE consider joining us. This is the meeting where many thoughts and ideas are discussed and new Board and Committee positions are filled. If you would like to join us and have a topic you would like to have discussed, please contact Heather Petersen or me so that it can be added to the agenda. I hope to see many of our members there!

There are two Board positions that are up for election, the President (2 years) and Vice President (1 year). We also have the following Committee Chair positions that are up for election. Adult Amateur, Championship Show Liaison, Communications, Junior/Young Riders, Scholarship, and Volunteer. These are Committees and can have Co-Chairs and members. The Committee Chair does not have to do the job alone but is encouraged to recruit members to help them.

"A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms."

ZEN SHIN

Dorothy Kapaun, RMDS President

USDF Region 5 Director's Message

I hope everyone has a successful Regional Championship competition if you've attended one of the nine Regional Championships this year! I was so excited to have attended 3 different Regional Championships this year, including our own Region 5 Championships, but unfortunately, Covid caught up with me and kept me home from Santa Fe this year. Still, it's always fantastic to watch the success of our competitors and the dedication to our sport.

The USDF convention is just around the corner and we are finally back in person! Join us in Lexington, Kentucky, the home of USDF, the US Dressage Finals, the United States Equestrian Federation, and many amazing thoroughbred farms. Be sure to check the convention schedule and attend the Region 5 meetings, along with the Board of Governors, and learn more about how your USDF works. The information and schedule will be posted at www.usdf.org/Convention/. Our first regional meeting will be virtual and will be held in November. We'll touch on a few points we covered at our July regional meeting and talk a bit about the convention agenda as well.

Your Participating Member Delegates to the USDF Convention for 2022 are Joan Clay, Cecilia Cox, and Sally O'Dwyer. These ladies will be representing our Region during the voting portions of the Board of Governors meetings, in addition to representatives from each GMO. If you have an opinion on any things of import, please reach out to the delegates and let them know your thoughts. – their contact information can be found at <https://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/nominating/delegates.asp>.

We will have the USDF Region 5 Jr/YR clinic with George Williams at Nighthawk Equestrian Center in Longmont, Colorado on October 15-16, 2022. Spectators will be allowed this year and we hope that you'll join us. Thank you very much to Karen Whitman, Eleanor Harrison, Kim Luther, and Gedeon LaFarge for the donation of your lovely facility for this clinic. Congratulations to the folks who were selected to ride – Audrey Allen, Bailey Armbrrecht, Emilia Deyarmond, Ryler Horansky, Megan Kelleghan, Elizabeth Petersen, Sophia Still, and Olivia Williams. The alternates named for the clinic are Isabelle Veed and Emma Glass.

We will be holding a meeting for those interested in representing Region 5 at the 2023 North American Youth Championships in Traverse City, Michigan. Fundraising efforts are a key part of the process and folks want to get started a

bit earlier this year. If you are thinking of joining in the qualifying process, please plan to attend the meeting. The meeting will be November 1st at 7pm (MDT). Contact Joan Clay (jnclay@comcast.net) or myself (slush@drwg.net) for the Zoom call information!

There are many fun things on tap for education with our GMOs in the near future, so please be sure to check your local calendars and participate in these great opportunities! One of the upcoming events is a clinic with Amelia Newcomb on October 22-23 at the beautiful American Ranch in Prescott, Arizona. The Northern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Dressage Association will be hosting this clinic. For more information, please contact Sherry Tekamp at dtekamp@gmail.com.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

L Judge Program Update: Waiting list for participants and auditing still available

For more information, please contact Gwen Ka'awaloa at this email address: kaimana_co@hotmail.com, subject 'L' Program.

Dates:

A session – November 5 -6, 2022 Instructor Joan Darnell

B session – February 18 – 19, 2022 Instructor Dorie Vlatten Schmitz

C session – March 25 – 26, 2022 Instructor Debbie Rodriguez

Scholarship Deadline FAST

Approaching

RMDS scholarship application deadline is November 30

Are you looking for ways to fund your dressage educational opportunities?

RMDS members are eligible for annual scholarships in four categories: Adult Amateur, Junior/Young Rider, Professional, and Intro/Training/First Level.

For more information, please see <http://rmds.org/Organization/Scholarship> or contact the RMDS Scholarship Chair, Natalie Mendik at 412.558.0249 or scholarship@rmds.org.

Yippee! New Tests Are Out

<https://www.usdf.org/competitions/competitors/tests.com>

Attend the RMDS Board of Governors on November 19th!

embersh:

The Board of Governors (BOG) will be held at the Renaissance Hotel on Quebec street in Denver. Lunch will be provided, so let Central Office know if you would like to attend so we can have a meal for you. The BOG is an annual event where RMDS conducts important business, elects new Board and Committee members, and reviews Standing Rules and Bylaws. This meeting is in-depth and we will review how things went last year, and plans for next year.

All members are encouraged to attend and learn how RMDS operates. Remember, this is your organization! While all are invited to attend--only delegates can actually vote. The Chapters are required to send delegates to the meeting. This in-person meeting will allow you to meet our members and

bring ideas to the Board. Please know that your input will be heard--we want to know what you think.

What Exactly is the BOG and who represents members?

Participating Member (PM) delegates represent the interests of all Chapters of RMDS. The Participating Members (PMs) are selected by their Chapters. Delegates have a good understanding of the needs and interests of their respective clubs and share this information at the BOG. During the BOG General Assembly, delegates vote on various governance matters (ex: committee proposals, proposed budget), and elect Officers and Committee Chairs.

At the BOG, you will learn about:

The leadership of RMDS

How RMDS operates

The great work your club is doing for you!—we will discuss the past years and achievements made

What is proposed for next year

Our committees—what are they? Who are the Chairs?

Suggestions, recommendations, ideas, and concerns from the Chapters

New proposals

How you might get involved

Our terrific members—make some new friends

For more information or to RSVP and order lunch, please contact the Central Office.

Volunteer Opportunity Feature: Marketing

RMDS has several terrific volunteer opportunities available, including individual(s) to head up our marketing efforts. As the Marketer for RMDS, you are not expected to know it all, nor work alone. The Marketer will collaborate with the rest of the Board and Committee Chairs to ensure that we grow our assets and take advantage of opportunities to fundraise, where possible.

Maybe you are wondering “*What do marketers do?*” as this field is very broad

and details can seem fuzzy. Specifically, RMDS wants volunteers who can showcase RMDS to entities that will support, sponsor, and donate to the organization. These entities are members, prospective members, like minded organizations, businesses—particularly horse-related, dressage professionals, and others. RMDS already has a database of prospects and current donors, so the Marketer is not starting from scratch

The Marketer, with the help of the Communications Chair, tells our story to help raise funds for RMDS. We need volunteers to help create advertising campaigns, develop fundraising ideas, and recruit sponsors for our Championship show.

This position would be a great opportunity for someone interested in giving back to the dressage community, learning new skills, and meeting other dressage fanatics. This position is also a great opportunity to build a great resume, or even start upon a new career!

For more information, please contact our Central Office

RMDS Horse Heroes: An Interview with Beth Geier

By Rebecca Ciota

How did you get into dressage? I rode as a child, but stopped riding in college and then went on to raise a family. 25 years later, I found a pony for my children. My husband said if I could find a place to put it, I could get it for them. Well, I found a place in about a day. One thing led to another, and I decided I wanted my own horse.

I started off doing combined training, but I gravitated towards dressage because I found it to be a challenge and I developed a strong rapport with my trainer, Sarah Martin, who I found wanted me to be an independent rider and always found a way to explain to me ways to improve.

What was your career before becoming the RMDS Central Office

Manager? I worked for a finance company, as a bookkeeper. I was self-taught and I love bookkeeping. It led me to be the RMDS treasurer for years; I set up the bookkeeping system that RMDS still uses, and, RMDS's accountants seem to approve.

What does the average week look like for RMDS's Central Office

Manager? My average week includes answering phone calls and emails, responding to questions, updating memberships, and doing reports. I find it's important to have a Central Office for RMDS so that we always have a place to take questions, even if we pass them on to another part of the group.

What is your favorite memory from your time with RMDS, either

volunteering or working? My favorite memory was starting the computerized membership system. My trainer Sarah Martin was president of RMDS and got me involved. Back then, members weren't hearing if their memberships were up-to-date for months. I thought, "It can't be *that* hard!" At the time, computers were just coming online and so, I recruited member Greg Darnell to start up a computerized membership system. That system lasted 30 years – and we just upgraded.

What are you looking forward to in retirement? I'm looking forward to continuing to ride my horse at home for as long as I'm able to, and I hope to stay active within RMDS, but no longer in a leadership role.

Is there anything else you would like to share? Don't stop your dressage education. Learn from everyone, good or bad. Work towards solutions, rather than waiting for others to fix it. Finally, never give up. I was 70 years old and 5 years post-accident when I earned my USDF Silver Medal.



Beth Geier says "Never Quit. I earned my Silver Medal When I was 70 years young."

Beth Always Has a Smile to Share



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