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eCentaur

President's Message

There is a bit of a Spring feel to the air! I know it is not here yet; however, the days are definitely longer and the snow is melting faster! While this results in mud, I am still grateful for it. I am also incredibly grateful for all the hard work the RMDS Committees are putting into our amazing organization. I am sure we will all greatly appreciate the fruits of their labors and that we will see some growth in RMDS.

With the new and exciting rules changes to allowable attire, I am sure some of us are very excited to purchase new show clothes. Please be sure to read these changes carefully before making your purchases! There are still things that are not permissible.

I want to remind everyone that the deadline for the George Williams clinic video application is March 15. Please be sure to get your videos over to the Central Office before then. We are hoping to cover a wide range of levels, so don't think you shouldn't apply if you are not riding above a certain level. This is also a fantastic opportunity for auditing! There may also be some opportunities for volunteering, please contact Pippa Byrd if you are interested. Check the Calendar as events are added sometimes.

Live without pretending, love without depending, listen without defending,
speak without offending

Drake

Happy Riding,
Dorothy Kapaun

USDF Region 5 Director's Message

Winter will soon be behind us and with it, the northern part of our Region approaches show season and the southern part is in full swing with shows and events. I hope everyone is enjoying as much horse time as you can. This year looks to be another of a more normal year, though we will still see Covid protocols in place for our USDF/USEF recognized competitions and events. Tack checks will resume, but will still be visual for classes outside of Regional Championships, CDIs and the US Dressage Finals. Be sure to review the new tack and attire changes for 2022 and perhaps consider some wardrobe changes? Our palettes are expanding!

Fundraising efforts are once again underway for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2022 FEI North American Youth Championships. The Championships will be held August 8-14, 2022 at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival in Traverse City, Michigan. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams though thankfully the distance will enable us to drive the horses. We hope we will be able to send 8 riders with their horses, grooms, and Chef d'Equipes. In addition to the transportation to the show, there are the expenses of the hotel, team uniforms, chef expenses, feed, bedding, and oh so much more that they need help with. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877. If you are interested in competing in NAYC, the application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 15, 2022 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 15th, the fee is only \$50. Applications submitted between March 16th and April 26th are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 10th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 27th and May 10th. Absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 10th.

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Dorothy Kapaun at dorothykapaun@yahoo.com and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate

If you have any educational event you would like listed on the Region 5 website, please don't hesitate to let me know and we will get it posted!

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

www.usdfregion5.org

We're Putting the FUN in FUNDRAISER

The newly created RMDS fundraising committee is developing a NEW event to help raise funds for RMDS. Area dressage trainers are donating lessons to RMDS which will be available to purchase by anyone interested in a lesson with that trainer with ALL FUNDS being donated to RMDS.

How will this work? A dressage trainer (does not have to be RMDS member) will donate ONE lesson (or more) to be part of this RMDS lesson fundraiser, when this fundraiser "goes live," people will be able to purchase lessons from different trainers (on a first come first serve basis) with the lesson FEE being paid to RMDS by the buyer. The trainers tell RMDS how much they want the lesson price to be and this is what the buyer will pay RMDS. Upon completion of this fundraiser, RMDS will notify the trainer who purchased the donated lesson. The trainer and buyer will make arrangements for the lesson to be fulfilled (date, time, location)

Trainers: This fundraiser will help promote your training business. By donating a lesson, you support RMDS and your donation could potentially be purchased by a new client. While this fundraiser is active, your business will be promoted on our Website, social media, this newsletter, and in email blasts to our members. You will also receive one hour of volunteer time for each hour lesson donated. There is still time to donate.

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online to purchase the lesson.

When Will All This Take Place? We are finalizing the list of trainers who are donating lessons RIGHT NOW. We expect to go LIVE EARLY APRIL with a page of ALL the trainers who are donating a lesson along with a short bio of each trainer. Once the page is LIVE on the RMDS website, it will be a first-come, first-serve basis for people buying the individual lessons. Buyers will need to use the ONLINE PAYMENT page on the RMDS website (rmds.org/payment) to send lesson money to RMDS with a NOTE in the description box as to WHAT TRAINER YOU ARE PURCHASING A LESSON WITH.

How Will You Know When Fundraiser Is LIVE? Follow RMDS on Facebook – this is the easiest way to find out the latest news about RMDS. Also, check the website and check your email for more info.

All questions and donations can be sent to:

Adrienne Murphy

murphyadrienne@yahoo.com

314-651-0912

[Meet Our New Vice RMDS Vice President, Bettina](#)

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Bettina recently was elected our Vice President. She lives in Eagle County, Co, with her husband, 3 boys, 2 dogs, and four horses..

Here is what she has to say about her dressage journey:

Since I was 6 years old I have had a passion for horses. I started riding in Rio De Janeiro, Brasil, and competed in the jump ring through the junior ranks prior to moving to the US, and continued to show throughout my collegiate career. After a 15-year absence from the Hunter-Jumper arena I have renewed my passion – and have learned everything about Dressage.

Allow me to introduce my horse line-up!:

Hank – Adopted Quarter horse – we retired him at the end of 2021!

White Gold – 31-year-old Warmblood (she is my son’s horse but secretly my favorite!)

Moonshine – Adopted Quarter horse ideal for my 3 young boys.

Dolce – My 7-year-old Oldenburg

Dolce “my show horse” is young and lacks arena experience especially when it pertains to dressage. I’ll admit I am a goal-oriented person by nature-I love the sense of accomplishment. I’m a list maker too, and at any point in time I may have numerous to-do lists in my house, so why should my goals for 2022 be any different. With the winter upon us, we are forced to ride indoors, hence why Dolce is at a barn. My short-term goal is for him to enter the show season relaxed, comfortable and confident in a dressage ring. I need to meet him

sooner rather than later.

RMDS has been fantastic in my dressage journey! I have been introduced to a vast amount of information, numerous great clinics, and a fully supportive community that has been educated with an overwhelming amount of knowledge! In my new role as VP of RMDS, I want to educate and spark enthusiasm in our youth to make dressage more attractive. I am planning many numerous fun events during our show seasons for the juniors making them excited for the show but also getting involved with the community. Stay tuned!

The Volunteer Survey Results Are In

Pictured below is Judi DeVore, Ad Hoc Committee Chair



Thanks for taking the time to complete our volunteer survey. The Board-appointed Ad Hoc Committee heard you and is working to make volunteering the most rewarding possible. Here is a broad overview of the results and some ideas to improve our volunteer program, particularly in the areas of recruitment, appreciation, reporting hours, and training.

According to the survey, members said:

They are unsure how to find volunteer activities and sign up. To improve, the volunteer committee is adding contact information for volunteers to the list of RMDS and USDF shows currently on our calendar. Moreover, many of the shows will have a [sign-up.com](https://www.sign-up.com) link to facilitate the sign-up process. We will also

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such as: serving on the Board or a Committee, helping produce the eCentaur, recruiting sponsors and ads for RMDS magazine or Championship show, and if you are an instructor, donating a lesson to RMDS in exchange for volunteer hours. The Committee recommends that show management, when possible, break down volunteer jobs into two-hour segments so competitors can help when they are also showing.

Being treated well by show management and exhibitors alike is THE most important contributor to a having a positive experience. Everyone at a show can help contribute to be welcoming. Show management can also help set volunteers up for success by having a goodie bag complete with items useful to them on hot or rainy summer days (lip balm, sunscreen, water and meal tickets, sun, or rain protection, etc.) It's also important to make sure volunteers have appropriate breaks throughout long shifts.

When volunteering, there is a lack of clarity regarding position duties and a lack of adequate training. The volunteer committee will post videos describing volunteer jobs on the RMDS website. Direct contact with the volunteer coordinator or a designee to assure the volunteer feels ready for the job is important.

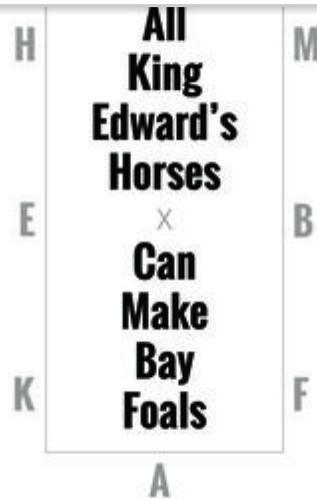
There is some confusion about recording hours. Make sure if you volunteer that you submit your hours. Show volunteer hours are generally captured by the volunteer coordinator. Some chapters use a spreadsheet and submit hours quarterly for the hours their members accrue on chapter activities. However, it is your responsibility to assure you have enough volunteer hours if you want to be qualified for awards or apply for scholarships. Forms to submit hours are on the volunteer page of the RMDS website. You can check to see if you have had volunteer hours accrued by going to your dashboard and selecting the Print option. Volunteer hours are listed there along with score checks.

Thanks for participating in the survey and for volunteering!

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