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# eCentaur

## President's Message

Why are we members of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society? What benefits does this membership provide to us? What does our membership require of us? The first thing that comes to mind is the community that is RMDS. The many people that have come into our lives because of the membership. The friendships that are built at a show or educational event.

Being a member of RMDS has many benefits. First is this amazing monthly newsletter that informs you of what is happening in our organization and a new feature, introduces you to one of our Young Riders interviewed by our Young Rider Juliet Mendik! Then there is our incredible Omnibus with photos of so many of our members, the shows, and advertisements by many of our wonderful sponsors. Membership also gives us the ability to participate in clinics with top riders and judges. The RMDS Website gives us valuable information, links to other organizations, and the ability to look back on our history through the old Centaur Editions. RMDS provides several educational events throughout the year. Then, of course, there are the shows and our Championship Competition at the end of the year. Let's not forget about the Awards Banquet!!

So, what is required of RMDS members? Of course, we must pay our dues. If you want to be considered for a year-end award, you must volunteer at least 4 hours per year. However, RMDS is like many other things in life, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. So, if you would like to become more involved, reach out to the Chair of the committee that interests you the most or to anyone on the board and we will be so very happy to welcome you.

**"We are more fulfilled when we are involved in something bigger than**

- John Glenn

Happy Riding,  
Dorothy Kapaun

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## USDF Region 5 Director's Message

Summer is here and shows are in full swing, as are many educational programs, clinics, and fun horse activities. I've been blessed this spring to attend some very good quality programs and I'm looking forward to more shows and programs this summer.

Our USDF Executive Board Spring meetings have just concluded and it's wonderful to see all the programs coming forward from our various committees. The new tests for next year are going to be super, and the educational offerings at the 2022 USDF Convention will be fantastic. I hope you can join us this year in Lexington, Kentucky! I cannot wait to see everyone face-to-face. I like Zoom, but nothing beats sitting down in person and sharing ideas, drinks, and (gasp!) hugs.

The deadline for Participating Member Delegate nominations was April 15th. Our region will have 5 PM delegates for the 2022 USDF Convention. Elections will be held very soon! Our Group Member Organizations need to start the process of appointing or electing who they are going to be sending to the convention as GM delegates.

As of May 10th, our potential candidates for the 2022 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships August 9-14 in Traverse City, Michigan will be finalized. As I write this, we have 12 riders who have declared (7 Juniors and 5 Young Riders). 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](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877. This competition is a reasonable distance for us to travel by trailer, which makes things much more feasible, but we still need your help in order to be able to. If you're a rider, **PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR DECLARATIONS!**

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

[www.usdfregion5.org](http://www.usdfregion5.org)



## Congratulations Gwen Ka'awaloa, our new S Judge

Huge shout out to our very own Gwen. Gwen has been working tirelessly to promote dressage through her many roles in RMDS. And now, she is now an S Judge, which is a huge accomplishment and is great news for our dressage community. Thank you Gwen for your many years of dedication. Gwen is interviewed about her journey by the dressage radio network. Click on the link to hear her story.

## RMDS Positions Open

Every two years, contracts for RMDS positions come up to be rebid or replaced. The positions are:

RMDS Central Office Manager

RMDS Magazine

RMDS Championship Show Management

Information regarding each position may be found on the RMDS website: <https://www.rmids.org/policies>

The contracts are due by June 30, 2022. Send to the RMDS Central Office [rmids@rmids.org](mailto:rmids@rmids.org) & Dorothy Kapaun [dorothykapaun@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothykapaun@yahoo.com)

The contracts will be reviewed and selected at the July 14, 2022 Executive Board meeting. Please plan to attend to further promote your contract and to answer any questions that may arise.

## George Williams Clinic Recap

We had an amazing clinic with master trainer and coach, George Williams. Many thanks to Heather Petersen for organizing, and to Hobby Horse Farms for hosting. George is a world-renown Grand Prix rider and coach, clinician, and volunteer. In fact, he is the current president of USDF! During his career, he rode and trained at the Tempel Lipizzans for 20 years. He was a competitor with the US Equestrian Team and now currently travels to teach clinics and is the US Equestrian Dressage Youth and Pipeline Coach. George has worked tirelessly to promote dressage in the US, and in an interview with Sidelines magazine, he said that he believes it's very important to give back to the sport. Based in Wellington, Florida, and Charlottesville, Virginia, he operates Williams Dressage with his wife Roberta. Dressage is a family affair for the Williams--his daughter Noel is a Grand Prix rider like her dad. For more info about George Williams and his life dedicated to dressage, click here: <https://sidelinesmagazine.com/weekly-featured/dressage-getting-to->

While George has had an extremely illustrious career, working with top riders in the nation, he is a low-key, unassuming, no-fuss kind of man. He is soft-spoken, supportive, encouraging, kind, and approachable. No question is too "dumb" for him. In fact, he encouraged both riders and auditors to share their ideas and questions with him. He took the time to explain in layman's terms the foundations of dressage.

### **Clinic Takeaway: Contact and Connection**

During the Clinic, George explained the difference between Contact and Connection, commenting that this is something that coaches talk about a lot with their students.

**Contact** is just that--just what it sounds like, which is pressure on the rein. When the horse accepts contact, the horse will yield to it and the rider can then bend and turn and the rider can perform simple movements.

**Connection** is much more about engaging the power of the hind legs so that the horse is stepping forward to the bit. You must have contact before you can have connection. During the clinic, George asked the riders to ride their horses "into the bridle," and to avoid pulling on the reins. Connection has more to do with throughness and the use of the horse's back. When the horse gets fussy in the mouth, people often think it's a contact problem, but it can actually mean that the horse is no longer pushing from the hind legs.

Thanks to George for the outstanding coaching. Pictured below are our auditors, George and Heather, lunchtime with Diangy and Mary, and George coaching. It was a great day and everyone lucky enough to be there learned much.

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## Join Us for Our First Annual RMDS Lesson Fundraiser

Our first-ever Lesson Fundraiser is now LIVE! Here is your chance to try a new trainer (or even purchase a lesson with your regular trainer) and help RMDS! Money from this fundraiser benefits both the RMDS scholarship fund as well as our general organization fund. There are many lessons still available to purchase and we encourage everyone to visit the [RMDS website](#) to learn more. A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who donated and to those who have already purchased lessons!

### List of Donated Lessons in Alphabetical Order

LAURA BACKUS  
MEGAN BRETEY  
JUDY CARNICK  
JOAN CLAY  
CAROL CUNEFARE  
SHANNON DAHMER

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JESSICA GREER  
DOLLY HANNON  
GABRIELLE HILBERT  
MIMI JUNICK  
AMANDA MOORE  
GLEND A NEEDLES  
AMELIA NEWCOMB  
MONIQUE POTTS  
JESSICA SCHUERING  
INKA SPATAFORA  
JENNIFER THURSTON  
SIMONE WINDELER

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Omnibus Correction (on page 17): Stan Adam's phone number is:  
303.818.1876  
Stan is the Nominating Committee Chair & Boulder Valley President  
ALSO, please note:  
May 21 AVDA River Walk RMDS Show CANCELLED

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