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eCentaur

President's Message

Hello fellow RMDS members!

RMDS is one of the larger GMOs in the US, which means our member resources go deep! This community thrives on energy and participation from our members. We would love your input, ideas, feedback, and involvement—that's how we flourish as an organization.

We had a great Awards Banquet this year! Thanks to all who attended and congratulations to all. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this event so successful. Thanks to Shannon Lemons, our Awards Chair, who worked tirelessly to make sure award recipients received wonderful, engraved trophies and ribbons. Thanks to Beth Geier and Dorothy Kapaun for their work in organizing the event, and to Nadia Westra and her team for their tremendous efforts in making the silent auction amazing. And a thank you to everyone who donated items to the silent auction. Thanks to these volunteers, RMDS fundraised more than \$4,500 from the event.

The Omnibus will be coming out soon. This gorgeous print magazine would not be possible without Natalie Fee Mendik's and Nicole Bizzarro's tireless work and dedication to making the magazine a top-notch publication. They are both talented professionals in the publishing world and we are very lucky to have them as our members. Thanks to Natalie and Nicole!

We had our first Board Meeting of 2023, and we are off to a good start. Please join us. Our next meeting is Feb 9th. Email secretary@rmds.org for a Zoom invite. Monthly meetings follow an agenda, and every other month all Board Members provide a written report, updating the activities of their respective Committee or Chapter so that Board Members can stay on top of many aspects of our organization.

At the January meeting, among other matters, the Volunteer Committee

discussed how we might better record volunteer hours and thus better recognize our volunteers. The Board voted to approve the Scholarship Committee's recommendations for scholarship recipients. We also brainstormed ideas to make our 2023 Championship show the best ever.

We welcomed several new Committee Chairs. Please congratulate them, and offer to help out if you can:

- **Katie Knight--Adult Amateur Chair.** She will be working on educational opportunities for our amateurs. Want to help run a clinic? Katie would love to hear from you.
- **Karen Harkin—Scholarship Committee Chair.** Karen and her team accept, review, and make recommendations regarding applications to the Board. Karen would love to have more volunteers help her with this process. Ideally, the Scholarship Committee should have a volunteer from each of our chapters.
- **Nadia Westra—Championship Chair.** Nadia will be focusing on making our Championship show great. We will need a team of volunteers to make this a reality.
- **Judy DeVore and Eleanor Harrison—Volunteer Committee Co-Chairs.** The Volunteer Committee is made up of a small group who are working to recruit, recognize and facilitate great volunteering opportunities and experiences. If you are interested, please join the team.
- **Rebecca Ciota—Communications Chair.** Rebecca produces the monthly eCentaur and manages our social media. She would love writers to assist her.

Please reach out to committee chairs via our website at <https://www.rmids.org/officers>.

Please also check out our calendar. Even though we are in winter, there are many great ways you can get involved, learn, and have fun. We have the Show Management Training, great for everyone who wants to know more about how competitions are run, and the L program continues. There are Clinics and the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. NCDA is hosting their annual used tack sale, a fabulous opportunity to score some great deals.

Let's ride! Sally O'Dwyer
slodwyer@gmail.com

USDF Region 5 Director's Message

Show season is well underway in the southern part of our region and I hope everyone in our northern states are staying warm and getting a little horse time this winter while we get quite a bit more snow than usual!

We are accepting bids for the 2024 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships through February 6th. If anyone is interesting in placing a bid for the Regional Championships or has any questions about the process, please contact myself or the USDF office and we'll be happy to help! The final date for a Regional Championship to be held in 2024 will be October 13th in order to fit into the National Championship time frame, so please keep that in mind when looking at facilities and possible weekends. The Finals will be held in Lexington, Kentucky in 2024.

If you have an educational activity that your barn, group or organization is doing, please let me know so I can add it to the Region 5 educational activity calendar that is sent out with the monthly Regional updates by USDF. We would love to keep everyone as informed as possible. We can also post events on the Region 5 website. Please feel free to send me an email reminder for anything you'd like to see posted.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the North American Youth Championships, then please make sure you take note of the application structure for 2023. The application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 14, 2023 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 14th, the fee is only \$50 per application. Applications submitted between March 15th and April 25th are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 9th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 26th and May 9th. At this point in time, absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 9th. If you plan to compete for NAYC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is jnclay@comcast.net and her phone number is 970.420.0887. The 2023 NAYC will be held at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, Flintfields Horse Park, Traverse City, Michigan – August 7-13, 2023.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

Did you know about RMDS's Conflict of Interest Policy?

The volunteers and staff of RMDS have the responsibility of maintaining a high standard of ethical behavior, in order to protect the organization. RMDS's Executive Board follows a [Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy](#) and sign [disclosure of conflict of interest form](#) when they join the Board.

Remember: RMDS is looking for a Marketing Chair!

Congratulations to the RMDS members awarded a 2023 RMDS scholarship!

This year saw a large field of extremely strong contenders. The RMDS Executive Board voted to award the scholarship to four applicants, dividing the fund's total equally, allocating a \$500 scholarship to each recipient to:

- Beverly Swanson Memorial Adult Amateur Scholarship (Adult Amateur): **Gemma Hanekom**
- Leg-Up Scholarship (Training and First Level): **Rebecca Ciota & Ruth Edith (Edie) Nielsen**
- Junior/Young Rider Scholarship (Jr/YR): **Victoria DeWitt**

The Board also awarded an additional scholarship, the Barbara H. McEInea Scholarship (created by the former Western Colorado Chapter of RMDS) to support RMDS members west of the Continental Divide. This \$1000 scholarship is awarded in 2023 to **Megan Bretey** for the Opening Doors Scholarship (Professional).

The Scholarship Committee would like to congratulate all recipients on their dedication to the sport of dressage and would like to encourage all members to

submit applications for next year's scholarships. Best of luck to all of them and have a wonderful experience on their dressage journey!

Black History Month: Read, Watch, and Listen

By Rebecca Ciota

February is Black History Month, which serves as an annual observance to remember significant people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

For Black History Month, I thought I would provide a "reading" list about current and historical Black Equestrians. This isn't exclusively a reading list. I also include videos and podcasts, so you can learn in whatever medium you prefer.

General

- [Who gets to be an equestrian?](#) by Rita Omokha for *Elle*
 - "In the elite, predominantly white world of horseback riding, Black women face a painful set of challenges."
- [Black Lives Matter: Diversity in Equestrian Sport](#) by Kim F. Miller for Practical Horseman
 - Interviews with Mavis Spencer (showjumper), Randy Ward (eventer), Berry Porter (hunter/jumper), and Genay Vaughn (dressage) on Black riders in (English) equestrian sports.
- [DEI Conversations in Western vs. English Disciplines](#), Black in the Saddle Podcast
 - Many English equestrian sports governing bodies are having conversations about DEI. What about Western ones?
- [Cowgirl Up](#)
 - Short film about a rider trying to be the first African American woman to ride in the National Finals Rodeo.
- [Halter Off](#)
 - Short film about a Black racehorse trainer from West Virginia.

History

- [The History Of Black Equestrian Erasure](#), *All Things Considered*, NPR
 - Audio + Transcript of discussion with Kathryn Mooney about her book *Race Horse Men: How Slavery and Freedom Were Made at*

the Racetrack the erasure of Black equestrians from history - particularly at the racetracks.

- [Selika, *Mystery of the Belle Epoque*](#) and [The Stuntwoman Named for a Continent](#) by Suzanna Forrest for The Paris Review
 - Research about two Black dressage riders and high school masters during the late 19th century in France.
- [The Lesser-Known History of African-American Cowboys](#) by Katie Nodjimbadem for The Smithsonian Magazine
 - 1 in 4 cowboys were Black. The author looks at why that fact isn't reflected in popular culture.
- [Interview with Donna Cheek](#)
 - First Black rider on US Equestrian Team, 1981.
- [Exploited Expertise](#) by Michael Phelps for The Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry
 - A look at how White enslavers used their enslaved persons to care for their horses, which created a considerable amount of horse husbandry expertise among enslaved persons during the Antebellum period in the United States.

Black Dressage Riders

- [UNCOVER: Andrea Davenport](#), Black in the Saddle Podcast
 - “My trainer told me I should take up tennis because I was so bad at jumping.” A Black dressage rider and show manager.
 - [From Reality TV to Wellington Pro](#) by Dressage Today
 - An interview with Philesha Chandler of Chandler Dressage.
 - [Interview with Tegan Vincent-Cooke](#), in the FEI's Para Equestrian Digest
 - British Paralympian Tegan Vincent-Cooke discusses ways dressage can become more inclusive.
 - [Anna Buffini's Emotional "Top Gun Maverick" Freestyle](#), in Dressage News
 - About Anna Buffini's World Cup qualifying ride in Thermal, California.
 - [Day in the Life with Genay Vaughn](#), in Horses 4 Your Consideration
 - An interview with US dressage rider Genay Vaughn.
 - [Interview with Nahshon Cooke](#), video podcast by Artistic Dressage
 - Interview Denver-based dressage trainer Nahshon Cooke.
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