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e-Centaur **April 2019**

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[GVDS SCHOOLING
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[HIGH PLAINS CLINIC
WITH DOLLY HANNON
MAY 11-12](#)

[FOOTHILLS CHAPTER
RIDE-A-TEST
MAY 18](#)

Rescheduled Board Meeting: April 4th at 6:30 pm.
We'll be meeting at Armando's in Parker (right by E470 and
Parker Road).



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well I think most of the RMDS membership is glad to see March go away. We worked hard to help our horses and other animals through the Bomb Cyclone. Then we dug out of the mud to get them exercised and fed again. I have heard many stories and viewed several pictures of friends helping their horses through this tough winter month.

April hopefully brings warmer days and maybe a little less hectic weather pattern. It also is the start of the clinic and show season. Check out our calendar as we have clinics to prepare you to show and ones that will help you set your goals for the warmer months.

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months. First we must look at proposals for a new Database and Website. This is of primary concern as we move forward technologically in the 21st century. Next we have to work out the 2020 Championships. More details to come. Then we need to get started on the 2020 education calendar. The theme here is we have many expenses and as a 501(c)(3) we do not have unlimited funds to operate. Therefore ***we need to get sponsorships*** - lots of them. If the membership can help us work on the funding then we can complete our goals in the next few months.

I would like to thank all of the Board members for their hard work. Without you we could not even stay above water in keeping RMDS functional for our members. Most of the Board members have additional jobs outside of the equestrian industry and it takes time to work with RMDS to help our membership. Time is something we are always lacking.

I am writing this message from the beautiful islands of my home state, Hawai'i. As I try to vacation I find the messages and needs of RMDS cannot be ignored. This is part of the job and I am lucky enough to have a board that can work through the issues and keep me informed. While here I will also have the opportunity to give back to my US Pony Club members from Lio Lii on Oahu, as I will be judging a small horse show. This chance to give back the knowledge I have gained through my training and education is the culmination of what I have strived for all these years.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

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GVDS Sponsored Lunge Clinic a Huge Success! Here's How We Received the Grant

By Arlene Rhodes, GVDS President

In my career in management and as president of the GVDS chapter I have never applied for grant that was so user friendly as the USDF National Education Initiative Grant. Truly the most complicated part of the process was finalizing the idea, the clinician, the date and the venue!

There is one click to the site with information and the application itself for all the different areas that the grant will support:

<https://www.usdf.org/education/nei.asp>

The questions on the application for the adult clinic grant that we applied for are straightforward and the guidelines are explained in the application itself. The liaison from USDF/NEI that emailed me information, Isabella Baker, was able to answer all my questions very quickly and her reminder emails and documents were extremely helpful.

There was a minimum of paperwork for the event itself, and the followup is just a simple financial reconciliation form between budget and actual revenue/expenditures.

The only minor problem I had with the application form is that I didn't have a writeable pdf application on my computer. I did save the form when I was partly finished but it was not writeable. When you reopen the application of course you have a blank writeable pdf. I

only had to re-enter the information I didn't complete, then I printed and scanned all the pages to send it to USDF by email attachment.

The financial support we obtained allowed us to invite the equestrian community in our area to audit for free! We were so happy to see others from different disciplines learning about the benefits of safe and correct lungeing and seat lessons. If you are a GMO club with USDF and have an idea, a USDF certified clinician, and a venue, plan ahead 120 days and ask for this grant!!!

NOTE: Read all about the clinic in next month's Centaur!

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