

NMDA General Membership and Year-end Awards Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2018 **The Marriott Uptown** **11 a.m. 1:35 p.m.**

Board members **present:** Susan Reed, Teresa Heine, Winnie Fitch, Kathleen Martin, and Valerie Simpson, Gina McKay, and Maureen Mestas.

President Teresa Heine introduced the meeting by reiterating the need to fill the vacant treasurer's position on the Board and the liaison position of Awards/Mini-grant coordinator. The vice-president's position is vacant at this time with two candidates announcing: Barbara Burkhardt and Gina McKay. Past-president Susan Reed will serve for one year.

High point adult amateur award was given to Valerie Simpson in Basic Level Western Dressage.

The Sue-ann Kirkby traveling trophy for 1st level adult amateur with highest scores of the season went to Darbie Cummings-Hurst.

Board member Winnie Fitch personally presented an award she called the "Ethel" award to 2017's high-point youth rider, Azlynn Tittman. Winnie and John Collins shared anecdotes about Ethel Ortenburger, NMDA member now deceased, stressing her indomitable spirit and love of horses and horse-related activities.

The annual general membership meeting began at 12:25 with comments from board members. President Teresa Heine updated the attendees on scheduled and planned schooling shows and the May rated show which will be co-sponsored with the Arabian Horse Association of New Mexico.

President Heine summarized scheduled clinics for the year including Pilates in May with author Janice Dulac and Developing Collection in September with Dr. Hilary Clayton and Judge Bill McMullin. Kathleen Martin gave a summary of her plans to have a clinic for freestyle judging.

Some standing rule changes were shared including the reduction from 8 to 4 volunteer hours required for adults to qualify for year-end awards. The requirement for youth was reduced to zero.

Maureen Mestas, youth and education chair, shared her thoughts regarding her new mission on the Board: one of her goals is to help more young people get involved with horses and dressage by reaching out to community social programs such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters; her other goal is to combine youth activities and education for all with individuals sharing their strengths, particularly with the young. Ms. Mestas is having an "open" clinic with instructor Rachel

Savaadra in February and encouraged enrollment. Horses are available for use in this clinic. She asked that people contact her with ideas, constructive criticism, or questions.

Treasurer pro-tem Winnie Fitch explained the duties of the treasurer and estimated the time commitment to be about 3 hours monthly not including attendance at monthly meetings.

President Heine turned the meeting over to comments from the audience with particular attention to personal goals for the NMDA in 2018.

All members present said a little about themselves and their history with horses. Many said they'd like to see the NMDA continue to grow and have more young people involved.

New members introduced themselves. Thilo Hoffman and wife Dawn Hall have moved recently to the East Mountains from Florida. Thilo is a farrier who says the southwestern footing is better for the horses' hooves. Dawn and Thilo both ride dressage and keep horses.

Joanne Kagan and husband Mark are from the East Coast and now live in Santa Fe. They have a young Friesian-Arab mare named Rococo Arabesque purchased from Corrales breeder Kathy Towery. The Kagans are training "Bess" in dressage.

Maureen Mestas's husband Brian Nenninger introduced himself as an avid follower of the hounds. He also takes dressage instruction when possible.

With two sections of raffle give-aways completed, the meeting ended at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Martin, secretary.