

Annual NMDA General Membership Meeting

January 18, 2020

The meeting was opened at 12:15PM by President, Barbara Burkhardt who introduced the 2020 NMDA Board of Directors and thanked the Board for their service:

John Collins, Vice-President and Awards Chair. John also organized the annual Awards Banquet.

Secretary and USDF Coordinator is Maribeth St. Cyr.

Treasurer is Winnie Fitch who also manages a lot of schooling shows.

Membership Chair is Sarah Turner who also represented NMDA at the USDF Convention.

Youth Director is Susan Reed.

Member at Large is Valerie Simpson.

Harold Baskin is our Webmaster

Nance McManus is the Western Dressage representative.

Barbara recapped 2019:

NMDA had 98 members, put on 7 schooling shows and several clinics.

The schooling shows averaged 28.4 rides/show.

We had 23 volunteers who put in a total of 276 volunteer hours.

NMDA gave out \$346.00 in mini-grants.

To keep the lines of communication open, Barbara is sending out frequent emails to the membership.

Barbara asked Winnie to give the annual Treasurer's report:

NMDA spent \$17,801.84 in 2019

NMDA's income was \$16,381.00 in 2019.

NMDA had a slight loss during the 2019 fiscal year, but we are still financially healthy.

The fees that we pay to USDF went up from \$20.00/member to \$24.00/member, but we have not raised membership costs.

Barbara then pointed out that NMDA makes money on schooling shows and we have not had to raise either our entry fees or our dues. This is in part because of donations to our Education Fund. Barbara thanked all those members for their donations.

For 2020 we have scheduled 6 schooling shows and 2 Pilates clinics and perhaps a fun day for 4-H and junior riders.

This year we are participating in the 'USDF Schooling Show Awards.' This is sponsored and awarded by USDF. Riders need to nominate their horses with USDF and NMDA has to apply for show recognition from USDF. We will apply for that recognition for a minimum of 4 shows as riders need scores from at least 3 shows to be eligible for an award. They can earn scores at any USDF recognized show in our region.

We will also have 3 Saturday and 3 Sunday shows this year as we have exhibitors who cannot show on Sundays and some who cannot show on Saturdays.

Barbara then thanked and praised the Western Dressage riders. She pointed out that our shows are about half WD riders and we could not hold our shows without them.

The WD members may wonder why they have to pay dues to USDF—NMDA is a GMO of USDF, and we are required to have each member, regardless of discipline, pay dues. Our total membership also gives us a voice at the Annual Convention.

Western Dressage is dressage and many of the training articles in the USDF magazine apply to both Traditional Dressage and Western Dressage. The tack may be different but the principles are the same.

Barbara finished with a plea for volunteers. By volunteering as a gate person, scribe, runner, scorer you can learn a lot about how our shows differ from other horse shows and observe different training strategies. Helping at a clinic is a good way to audit for free. Volunteers can also earn mini-grants to use for a clinic or other educational activity. We have lots of scribes and will try to give each one an opportunity. We do need gate people and office workers.

We have a Chapter of Rocky Mountain Dressage Society—New Mexico Dressage. While we are concerned that the similar name may confuse people, we always welcome more rated shows in NM. NMDA specializes in schooling shows, the stated mission of the new chapter is to have more rated shows, clinics and schooling shows in the northern part of the state. Barbara asked that members also support SFDA's rated shows.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Winnie Fitch