

## Minutes-10-14-2020

Call to order 1:00PM

In attendance:

Barbara Burkhardt-President

Winnie Fitch-Treasurer

John Collins-Vice President

Sarah Turner-Membership Chair

Maribeth St Cyr-Secretary

DJ Collins-Member

Susan Reed-Youth Chair

A card was passed around for Ann Bresson, volunteer extraordinaire for all to sign.

Officer Reports:

Secretary: Minutes were corrected based on email responses and in person corrections

Winnie moved to correct the minutes as corrected, Maribeth seconded. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer:

Checking account has \$12169.6

Education Fund \$4544.78

CD \$6139.59

Refund from State Fair and from USDF were received

Insurance premium is expected to be refunded as well, an amount over 1000.

Winnie will be visiting the accountant after the first of the year.

Maribeth moved to accept treasurers report, Barbara seconded. All approved

Vice President: nothing really to report.

Membership:

Final count for 2020 membership is 68.

Barbara reminded the board that only new members get a new test book. Additional books are \$10

John reminded us that the member guide has the tests in it.

Member at Large-not present

Youth Chair: Susan is still working on gathering info on the Equestrian Athlete Program for students in high school students.

The program allows students that work 300 hours at a barn with a mentor that signs off on their time to receive a "letter" of sorts from USEF. They can alternatively ride in 3 recognized shows.

They qualify for scholarships to college if they complete the program.

Shows: 2021 Calendar is up on the website. We have 4 schooling shows and 2 clinics.

Proposal for Virtual Schooling show (Maribeth) see attached document:

Discussion is as follows:

Sarah asked about anyone being able to enter any virtual show. Anyone would be allowed to enter the show but non- members would have to pay the fee which would be revenue for the club.

As a note, the PDF entry form has been replaced by a Google form

Winnie had a couple of questions, does this include Western Dressage? Yes it does

Winnie confirmed that Paypal is a secure method of receiving payment.

As another side note: Paypal is not required as there is a payment button on the website that allows the entries to enter their credit card numbers.

Winnie asked about people without an arena, it is recommended that members consult each other and contact members that do have an arena.

A short course will be allowed for Intro and Training Level

Barbara was concerned that it would be a lot of work. She asked why we wouldn't encourage our members to use an outside company to do their tests.

Maribeth responded that doing that does not create revenue for the club and decreases member engagement. Sarah responded that as a member she didn't want to participate in a show from a company. That she is a member to engage in the club and wants to show with the club.

After discussion regarding the tasks involved, Maribeth moved that we put on our first Virtual Schooling Show in the next two months.

Winnie seconded, Sarah, John, Maribeth and Susan voted yes and Barbara abstained.

There was a brief discussion about forms and logistics regarding managing the virtual show and how best to assure that the membership can access everything regardless of technological aptitude.

New Business:

Susan has volunteered to be the TDF for the Dressage Federation for our GMO.

USDF convention is virtual this year and free to all members. Sarah suggested that we mention it in our communication that anyone can attend.

There was a brief discussion about holding a general membership meeting next year once the quarantines lift next year.

John stated that Cherry Tree Farm would be available for riding tests for the virtual show.

Barbara asked if we needed to have a meeting in November since the show calendar is done already.

She suggested that we skip the November meeting unless something comes up.

Meeting adjourned 158pm

## **Proposal to approve Virtual Dressage Shows sponsored by NMDA**

A google search shows 8 pages of virtual schooling shows available all over the country, most are from GMO's just like ours maintaining their schooling show calendar thru the use of virtual shows.

Notably, SFDA and NMD-RMDS are NOT offering any. We would be able to attract members of their clubs.

A few organizations will allow us to sponsor a show but they charge a fee and keep all of the proceeds. One will give us 10% of one show if we put it on as a fundraiser.

Example-Western Pennsylvania Dressage Associations rules: see handout

How it would work:

Show date is listed on NMDA website. Deadline for entries is included.

Members record their videos of their tests per guidelines

Members fill out fillable PDF of entry form. Member creates an email that includes the link to their YouTube video and the entry form. Member pays entry fees through PayPal including their name and the show date on payment memo.

Parents that are concerned about their children on YouTube can make the videos unlisted on YouTube, this way only someone can see it is if they have a link. After the judge views the test it can be removed by the parent if they choose. This protects the privacy of minor riders.

After deadline, show manager verifies each entry has been paid.

Show manager sends YouTube link to judge with test form for that rider. The form is fillable on a computer.

Judge sits in her pajamas and watches YouTube videos. She fills out test form on her computer. Lacking a scribe, she can either stop the video at each movement or she can record her comments of the ride first and fill out the form afterward.

Each form is emailed from the judge to the show manager for scoring.

\*Alternative to filling out forms on the computer-after the deadline, tests are printed and riders and horses names are written on them. Tests are mailed to judge in a packet. Judge fills out forms and mails them all back to show manager. Show manager scores tests.

After receiving all of the forms, the show manager determines winners and ribbons. Test forms and ribbons are mailed to members.

Scores and placements are listed on NMDA website.

#### Advantages:

The only cost is the judge and postage. Judge's can be paid their regular fee or they can be paid "per test" The "per test" fee system guards against losses from a low turnout in the initial stages. Nathalie (our judge from the "Ride a test" event) is willing to charge per ride. If we pay the judge \$10 or \$15 per ride the club keeps the remaining fee. Fees appear to be about \$30 for each test.

Members that previously were unable to participate in shows due to lack of trailer or a horse that doesn't do well in strange places can participate.

#### Challenges:

Some members aren't comfortable with the technology.

Not everyone has a dressage arena.

#### Things to do prior to first show:

Paypal button would need to be added to NMDA website (Harold has confirmed this is possible)

Fillable PDF would also need to be added to website for entry form.

Judges willing to participate would need to be contacted.

