

FATHOM NMDA FEBRUARY MINUTES

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ACTION ITEMS ✦

- ☐ **Email AI notes to Diana; then Diana review/finalize Feb minutes and send to board**
Sarah Turner
- ☐ **Upload COIs to USDF for rated shows**
Maribeth St Cyr
- ☐ **Recruit volunteers for rated shows; contact members who offered**
Maribeth St Cyr
- ☐ **Find scribe for Mar WDAA schooling show**
Maribeth St Cyr
- ☐ **Confirm w/ Lexi re: vendor table at rated show**
Cindy
- ☐ **Send Janet Foy contract w/o mileage; ask expectations; then add travel/stipend**
Cindy
- ☐ **Email neurosurgeon contact to Cindy**
ApacheWorks
- ☐ **Update Standing Rules per approved changes**
Kimberly Fredenburgh
- ☐ **Coordinate w/ Caitlin to improve volunteer messaging and social media**
Maribeth St Cyr
- ☐ **Make FB page public; add Kim as co-admin; enable spam controls**
Diana Corbin
- ☐ **Make FB page public; add Kim as co-admin; enable spam controls**
Cindy
- ☐ **Email Jeffrey re: partner shows; confirm dates; then coordinate banner/table/cupcakes**
Maribeth St Cyr

MEETING SUMMARY ✦

Meeting Purpose

Review club activities, approve clinic budgets, and vote on standing rule changes.

Key Takeaways

- **Janet Foy Clinic Budget Approved:** The board approved a budget of up to \$900 for food per clinic, waiving the \$200 standing rule cap. This investment is justified by the clinic's high value and the availability of funds in the education account.
- **Year-End Award Rules Revised:** Key changes were approved to improve competition and align with USDF standards:
 - **Championships:** A horse/rider pair can now win a championship at the same level twice.
 - **Progression:** A pair winning a championship cannot then win an award at a lower level.
 - **Score Minimum:** The minimum average score for an award was raised from 55% to 60%.
- **Volunteer Requirement Tabled:** A proposed volunteer hour requirement for year-end awards was tabled for the year. The board will instead focus on improving member communication and engagement, starting with making the club's Facebook page public.
- **Eventing Award Tabled:** A proposal for an eventing year-end award was also tabled. The board will first engage directly with the eventing community at their shows to assess interest and needs.

Topics

Standing Rule Changes

The board voted on several standing rule changes to improve the year-end awards program and streamline operations.

- **Year-End Awards:**
 - **Championship Wins:** A horse/rider pair can now win a championship at the same level up to **two times**.
 - **Progression:** A pair winning a championship cannot then win an award at a lower level. This applies only to championships, not reserves, to avoid penalizing riders who need to drop a level.
 - **Score Minimum:** The minimum average score for an award was raised from **55% to 60%**.
 - **Kirkby Perpetual Trophy:** Language describing this trophy will be removed from the rules.
- **Volunteer Requirement:**
 - **Proposal:** Require 4 volunteer hours for year-end award eligibility.
 - **Rationale:** Address the club's "desperation" for help and the unsustainability of the current workload on the board.
 - **Concerns:**
 - **Amy:** Called it "forced labor" and a barrier for adult amateurs.
 - **Sarah:** Questioned its effectiveness, noting low participation last year.
 - **Kimberly:** Cited the increased administrative burden and risk of losing members.

- **Danny:** Was unaware of non-show opportunities (e.g., phone calls), highlighting a messaging failure.
 - **Outcome:** Tabled for the year. The board will focus on improving communication and member engagement first.
- **Eventing Year-End Award:**
 - **Proposal:** Create a simple year-end award for eventing tests to attract eventers and boost show participation.
 - **Concerns:**
 - **Cindy:** Argued awards should fill a demonstrated need, not be created to attract riders.
 - **Maribeth:** Doubted eventers' interest in joining the dressage club.
 - **Outcome:** Tabled. The board will first engage directly with the eventing community to gauge interest.
- **Ribbon Scoring:**
 - **New Rule:** Blue ribbons for 64%+; Red ribbons for 60–63.99%. Yellow ribbons will be phased out.
- **IRS 1099 Threshold:**
 - **Decision:** Remove the IRS 1099 threshold rule from standing rules, as it is a government regulation that the club must follow regardless of its bylaws.

Janet Foy Clinic Budget

The board reviewed the budget for the May 30–31 Janet Foy clinic.

- **Key Costs & Decisions:**
 - **Mileage:** The standing rule caps mileage at \$350. Cindy's initial estimate was \$594.50.
 - **Decision:** Cindy will ask Janet Foy for her expectation. If she requests mileage, the board will consider a higher amount, noting the savings from her not requiring a hotel.
 - **Food:** The standing rule caps food expenses at \$200 per clinic.
 - **Decision:** The board voted to waive this cap and approve a budget of up to **\$900** for food per clinic.
 - **Auditor Fees:** Proposed at \$30/day or \$50/weekend, including breakfast and lunch.
 - **Rationale:** The included food justifies the higher-than-average fee. This will be advertised to attract auditors.
 - **Total Estimated Cost:** ~\$3,819.50 (with high mileage).
 - **Projected Loss:** ~\$1,950, which the board deemed acceptable given the clinic's value and the education fund's balance.

Club Operations & Outreach

- **Rated Shows:**
 - Officials are secured for all shows.
 - Certificates of insurance will be uploaded to the USDF website this week.
 - A bit-her for the March WDAA show is needed.
 - **Vendors:** The club will not charge vendors for rated shows. Danny Saldana will be invited to sell jewelry.
- **Volunteer Engagement:**
 - **Problem:** The club struggles to attract volunteers, despite frequent calls in the president's message.

- **Solution:** Improve communication and outreach.
 - **Facebook:** Make the page public to increase visibility for non-members. Kimberly Fredenburgh will help manage it.
 - **Social Media:** Engage Caitlin to develop a strategy for Instagram and TikTok to reach younger members.
- **Future Clinics:**
 - The board discussed adding one more 2-day clinic in the fall, considering clinicians Sue Martin (CO) or Rachel. No decision was made.

Next Steps

- **Cindy:**
 - Send Janet Foy the clinic contract, asking about mileage expectations.
 - Email Danny Saldana for his neurosurgeon's contact info.
- **Diana Corbin:**
 - Post the approved January minutes to the website.
 - Review the website for missing minutes.
- **Kimberly Fredenburgh:**
 - Coordinate with Diana Corbin to make the club's Facebook page public.
- **Maribeth St Cyr:**
 - Upload insurance certificates to the USDF website.
 - Find a bit-her for the March WDAA show.
 - Engage Caitlin to develop a social media strategy.
 - Attend eventing shows (e.g., Double Diamond) to engage with the eventing community.
- **Danny Saldana:**
 - Email Cindy his neurosurgeon's contact info.