

## **UTAH DRESSAGE SOCIETY**

February 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Millcreek Library, 2250 E Evergreen Ave, Salt Lake City, Utah

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### **BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Carol Kounanis, President

Lucy Knorr, Secretary

Alison Child, Treasurer

Christine Celestino, Director of Membership

Sari Stevens, Director of Communications

Cathleen Torlina, Director of Events

Lara Oles, Director of Education

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Christie Bogle, Newsletter Editor

Eva Adolphi, Special Advisor

Sally Shaffer, guest

ABSENT: Corrine Cody, Director of Competitions and MJ Babcock, Vice President

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:40 p.m.

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**

#### **1. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Alison Child provided the board with a one-page summary of the budget like the one handed out at the banquet. Carol Kounanis also handed out a snapshot of January that highlighted activity within the month and showed funds available so that the board could discuss the merits of each version. Eva Adolphi commented that what was most important was what is on hand. Alison Child will continue to provide the one-page summary each month and Carol Kounanis and Alison Child will discuss the format further. UDS did well this year on the Omnibus as discussed below.

#### **2. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Christine Celestino reported that there are 129 members, 16 Jr. Young Riders, and three Para-riders.

#### **3. ADVISOR REPORT**

Eva Adolphi found several items to keep for a historical file dating to 11/8/1970. She gave the copies to Christie Bogle for use in the newsletter.

#### **4. JR. YOUNG RIDERS REPORT:**

Christine Celestino noted that 18 attended the last meeting, including parents. They outlined a Ride-a-Test clinic and a Vet clinic. The Jr. Young Riders would also like to audit the Freestyle clinic. Other activities discussed were holding an overnight horse camp, social activities, holiday activities, and attending the banquet. They are considering not doing the tack sale again this year at the Annual Show because there was a concern that people may be running out of tack.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. WEBSITE DESIGN**

Carol Kounanis was happy to report that from the sneak preview of the new site it looks good. The site is bare bones ready and will need photos. Once it's ready, an email will go out to notify membership. The rules that are currently on the old site will also be updated.

### **2. OMNIBUS STATUS**

They are here! UDS did well with the Omnibus this year with Carol Kounanis being able to save on design fees at \$9.13 per copy to produce this year compared to \$16.71 per copy to produce last year. Mailing is also reduced to \$2.45 each compared to \$3.10 each last year. The savings are a great benefit to the club. In addition to membership copies, UDS is sending one copy to Heather Peterson, a copy to show managers, and copies to advertisers. It was decided that households with multiple members will receive one copy. Several board members also agreed to hand carry an Omnibus to their barn and barn members. UDS will be adding an additional recognized show in Boise and providing an update. Members should receive their Omnibus copies by Saturday and the news that the copies are available will be pushed out to Facebook.

### **3. INSURANCE**

Tabled until Corrine Cody is available to discuss further.

### **4. ADULT EDUCATION**

- a. The Freestyle Clinic will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> at Shaman's Circle Ranch in Midway, Utah. The clinic is open to anyone interested in riding. A contract was sent to Karen Robinson and she is willing to help riders at all levels. She also sent Carol Kounanis a sample schedule from a previous clinic. There will be up to 10 rider slots.
- b. The Bits and Biting clinic to be put on by the Sprenger representative who is in St. George will need to be held some time in fall. The representative is booked through July and everyone will be busy with the competition season. Board members also discussed a possible club bit exchange program.

- c. Heather Peterson of Region 5 would be another possible clinician for shows and rules. Lara Oles and Eva Adolphi will look into the possibility.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request by Sydni Ottesen for UDS to consider hosting a USDF Instructor Certification workshop course.

The board and meeting attendees discussed the various possibilities of a workshop at length. There are several parts to the program including a written exam and pre-certification review and it was felt that the overall program has improved. The workshops could be in the off season about two months apart. They would not probably not exceed \$400.00 per workshop and UDS can apply for a grant to help fund the program, but the final fees set for each workshop are up to UDS. USDF pays for the official testers' transportation, fees, etc and the facility. There is not a lot of financial return for putting on the workshops, but it would be an educational benefit for the members. The only financial benefits would come from auditors of each workshop, however the pre-certification workshop is a review that is not open to auditors. Whether UDS should host a program should come from a subcommittee. Carol Kounanis reported that Sydni Ottesen told her she was committed to overseeing it. Carol Kounanis also sent a letter to 16 open riders in the UDS membership database to see what the interest level is. During the discussion, Sally Shaffer asked if there was L program refresher interest. Apparently only a small number of attendees passed the previous program and the requirement is to pass with distinction. Alison Child responded that she was interested in holding the instructor program first, and then running the L program again.

2. Suggestion by Jan Lawrence to collect donations for a scholarship in memory of Johanna Adolphi

Carol Kounanis spoke with Jan Lawrence who has collected \$500.00. She and Gary Lawrence generously offered to match it and take it to Merck who will match the donation. It was suggested that the donation information go in the next newsletter. The board discussed one possible option for use of the scholarship as helping to make the Instructors Certification course more affordable. Alison Child recommended that UDS see how much interest there is in the Instructors Certification course before moving forward on this option.

3. Request by Nance Allen for Short Tour Ambassador assignments for this summer's shows

UDS will help participate by having board members present for part of the day. The board members will take membership apps and assist as needed with the following schedule:

April 26<sup>th</sup> at Rose Ranch – Corrine Cody  
May 17<sup>th</sup> at Lynnleigh - Lucy Knorr  
June 28 at Sweetwater - Lara Oles  
July 19<sup>th</sup> at Draperdale – Christine Celestino  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Heber - Carol Kounanis

#### 4. Request by Sally Shaffer to host a joint UDS/RMDS Sport Horse Conformation clinic

Sally Shaffer mentioned that there is person who was the first woman accepted to be a Dutch Warmblood judge that might be a good clinician. The clinician had volunteered to present the clinic for free, but Sally Shaffer suggested UDS consider paying her a nominal fee for it. Another possible clinician would be Bill Solyntjes who is well though of. She felt it would be better to hold it in summer when there are more babies to use in demonstrations. Carol Kounanis added that UDS could hold the clinic affordably, but it might work better in fall. Sally Shaffer noted that Rocky Mountain Dressage works hand-in-hand with Utah Dressage Society and it was decided that she and Lara Oles will discuss the possible clinic further.

#### 5. Discussion about Barn and Trainer list on website

The board discussed if it discontinue free barn listings and noted that may sites charged advertising fees for listings. Discussion included that for \$50.00 barns can advertise in the Omnibus as a business card size ad with that information also in the UDS webpage. There was a proposal for free member trainer lists, but barns should pay a fee and re-apply yearly. A motion to continue member trainer free listings and charge \$10.00 for barn listings that would remain in place for one year was carried unopposed. The information will go out in the newsletter and barn owners will be contacted.

#### 6. Trophy Stewardship.

Some of the trophies were received back damaged and in bad shape, and some are old and fragile leaving them easily susceptible to damage. The board members discussed if recipients should be responsible for any damage while in their care and the various issues surrounding the problem of verifying the trophy's condition, and the implication of imposing potential expenses for repair and replacement on recipients. One possibility was to ask the original donor to help with replacement. It was decided to table the discussion pending more research on how other groups handle it. Alison Child volunteered to contact RMDS. After the meeting was adjourned, Lucy Knorr volunteered

to create an archive list of the trophies, the yearly recipients listed on them, and photograph them.

#### 7. Feedback on newsletter

Board members discussed if it was possible for the stories to run continuously so that reading it on alternate formats such as smart phones would be easier. Lucy Knorr noted that she enjoyed the landscape magazine style. Christie Bogle said that the layout is, in part, determined by late submissions and ones that come at the last minute make it extremely difficult to re-arrange the entire format.

#### 8. Special Kudos from USEF.

USEF gave UDS a letter for having a high rating on its Annual Show. Christie Bogle will add it to the newsletter and Sari Stevens will push it out on Facebook.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Location: Millcreek Library, 2250 E. Evergreen Ave, Salt Lake City.