

**Oregon Dressage Society
Annual Membership Meeting
November 10, 2012
DevonWood Equestrian Centre**

Present: Rose Newman, President; Gaye McCabe, President-Elect; Ed Miller, Past President; Chris Main, Treasurer; Claire Evans, Secretary; Corinne Stonier, Office Manager; Jessica Rattner

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm.

a) **Introductions** - none needed at the opening of the meeting (few general members; by the end of the meeting a total of seven general members were present).

b) Approval of Last Year's Minutes

No motion, absent a quorum of 56 people (5% of the membership).

c) Announcement of newly elected Directors and Representatives

Jessica Rattner and Lisa Koch were elected as Directors-At-Large; Anna Bigwood and Patty Anderson as regional representatives for the North Region; Carolyn Wesolek for Central Region; Sharm Daggett for East Region; and Rachel Merusi for South Region.

d) Election of ODS Officer

Rose announced that the Board suspended the rules the previous evening and passed the roster of ODS Officers for 2012:

Rose Newman - President
Gaye McCabe - President-Elect
Chris Main - Treasurer
Claire Evans - Secretary

2. President's Report of Projects, Accomplishments, and Board Meeting

Highlights from last year included the Fall Festival, consisting of a day of educational activities, a highly successful silent auction and Steffen Peters as keynote speaker at the annual banquet. The NW Horse Expo with Jan Ebling and demo riders was held in Albany. The USDF "L" Program tested for judge candidates at the ODS Championship Show, resulting in seven new graduates. ODS hosted a youth camp again with more than 40 participants with three non-riders, which will continue to be an ongoing offer in the camp. The Youth Show was timed to follow directly after the youth camp; those who stayed were few, but with more advance promotion in 2013, the organizers hope to increase this number. ODS League shows and team championships remain popular shows. The ODS Championships were also well attended, despite the close proximity of the Regional Championships. Many ODS chapters have been quite active in hosting clinics and programs.

3. Connie J. Keith Grant Requests

a) 2012 Camps Funding Reports - These were approved by the Board the previous evening for three camps in 2012.

b) 2013 Camp Applications - Two ODS chapters -- State of Jefferson and Twin Rivers Chapters -- have applied for grants to host adult camps in the coming year.

4. Financial Highlights of 2012

Treasurer Chris Main reported that two very successful programs were largely responsible for creating a positive financial climate for ODS in 2012: the second part of the “L” program and the Fall Festival, in celebration of ODS’ 40th anniversary. The central ODS operations books show a positive net income of more than \$25,000, following losses for the previous three years. Membership was also up, resulting in more than a \$10,000 increase in membership income. The net lesson, Chris stressed, is that educational activities are big generators of operational funds, and ODS and its chapters must continue to plan and offer educational programs to retain fiscal soundness. At the end of the year, ODS had \$104,000 in the bank.

Rose reminded the members in attendance that the ODS Retreat will take place the first weekend in February, a great way to learn more about ODS operations and get involved. Francy also announced that many educational opportunities are in the planning stages and encouraged members to keep their eyes out for announcements. Many volunteers will be needed! Gaye asked whether there were any specific clinicians that members would like to see engaged, and one member suggested Jeremy Steinberg. Corinne explained that the Sport Horse Committee is planning a seminar that might be held at Sonnenberg, thanks to their generous offer to open their doors.

One of the members in attendance asked what topics were coming up for consideration at the USDF national convention (December 5-9, 2012). Gaye replied that the advance discussions have been very quiet, a good sign of lack of controversy, but one topic that has generated some discussion is the new rider tests. A member said that she thought the tests were a good idea and asked when the ODS test booklet would be available. Corinne noted that an ODS member carefully proof-read the tests and found one error, so the tests are being corrected and will be in the ODS test booklet, available early in December. She said that so far, “test of choice” has been listed in the Omnibus for rider test classes.

Rose noted that several organizations are promoting Western dressage, but each has individual interpretations of the class. ODS is following the USEF-approved rules from the Morgan Breed shows. The ODS show committee will be taking up this matter and issuing some guidance, as hopefully the USEF will do after its January board meeting.

5. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.