

Oregon Dressage Society Board Meeting

November 28, 2012

Conference Call

Present: Rose Newman, President; Gaye McCabe, President-Elect; Claire Evans, Secretary; Corinne Stonier, Office Manager; Patty Armstrong, North Region Rep; Anna Bigwood, North Region Rep; Carolyn Wesolek, South Region Rep; Ed Miller

1. Meeting Called to Order

1.1 **Introductions:** Rose convened the meeting at 6:37 pm. She underscored that all of the Board's meeting dates and conference calls are on the ODS online calendar and urged all Board members to fix these dates on their personal calendars. Rose introduced all in attendance and welcomed Anna to her first Board gathering.

1.2 **Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Gaye moved that the minutes be accepted as posted on the web site; Ed seconded; the motion passed by voice vote.

1.3 **Changes to the Agenda:** Ed requested an update on the Gerd Heuschmann clinic. Corinne replied that the organizers will visit the facility next Wednesday, so this item will be taken up at the January meeting. Gaye moved to adopt the agenda, Claire seconded and the agenda was adopted by voice vote.

2. Correspondence

Marsha Williams sent a thank you letter for her appreciation award which Corinne will bring to the next Board meeting. Rose commended this idea to recognize members for their service as a nice acknowledgement of volunteering. Marsha was presented an award recognizing her years of service on the ODS Board at the awards banquet, as was Ed Miller for his two years of work on the "L" Program. He expressed his appreciation verbally.

3. Office Manager Report

Corinne reported that ODS currently has 494 members. She is working with chapters to send forth reminder emails to members and is positive about the rate of renewals. The Omnibus is about 50% finished, and the insurance renewal went into the mail today. Ed asked if many Washington shows have been submitted to the Omnibus, and Corinne responded that Equestrian Institute will schedule four shows to qualify with ODS. She recently posted "save the date" shows on the ODS online calendar, because many inquiries during the Thanksgiving weekend reveal that people are already planning their show-related travel.

Ed asked if ODS might apply for a three-year license from USEF, so ODS could be licensed to approve shows for a three-year time frame. The question arose as to which committee would offer this as a proposal to the Board, so that, upon passage, ODS could pursue this authorization with the proper authorities. Rose believed that the Finance and Show Committees should jointly propose such an idea to the Board.

Action Item: Rose will delegate to an appropriate individual the task of developing a joint proposal from the ODS Finance and Show Committees, authorizing ODS to apply for a three-year USEF show approval license.

4. **Treasurer's Report - Tabled** due to Chris Main's RSVP that he is unavailable for the meeting; tabled until meeting on January 23, 2013.

5. Committee Reports

Ed delivered a verbal report as chair of the Awards Committee. Corinne requested that the Awards committee make a recommendation on whether the new USEF Rider Test scores should be included in the ODS Awards Program. Ed reported that the Awards Committee unanimously recommended NOT to include those scores in the ODS Awards Program, so that the Awards Program calculations reflect only

scores representative of the horse's performance. Ed requested that the minutes reflect the Board's acceptance of the recommendation.

Noted: The ODS Board accepts the Awards Committee's recommendation that no USEF Rider Test scores factor into the ODS Awards Program.

No other committees filed reports.

6. Old Business

6.1 Region 6 Mini Convention: Rose reported on the Region 6 mini convention that was held November 17. Current Regional Director Donna Longacre indicated that next year's mini convention will take place during the same weekend in November at a location TBD. ODS was well represented, Rose noted. One of the presentations consisted of a western dressage organization explaining its activities which she found to be very confusing. Five different organizations seem to be promoting their individual interpretation of western dressage at cross purposes, Rose observed. Gaye reported favorably on the variety of speakers.

6.2 USDF Convention

6.2.1 ODS Representatives and Stipends have been appointed and distributed. Claire will not be able to attend, so Jessica Rattner will serve as alternate (as first alternate, Carolyn Wesolek had to decline the offer to attend; Jessica was second alternate). Rose exclaimed that she recently learned the awards banquet on Saturday night will be a masquerade ball theme, so be forewarned; some groups are selling masks. Corinne added that she will be conducting a round table discussion on surveys. Gaye offered that the upcoming Board of Governors session will probably be quite short, since very few issues have been circulated for discussion. Most positions up for election at the USDF level seem to be unopposed.

6.3 Alternative Qualification Proposal - Ed Miller

Ed admitted that he had been waiting to see how the requests for show approvals were flowing into the ODS office before crafting a proposal, and he now concedes that the new fee issue might not be provoking a crisis after all. December 1 is the deadline for show approvals, so perhaps it is still a bit early to gauge whether the impact on the Awards Program will be severe (see fuller discussion under item 27 in minutes of August 18, 2012 Board meeting). The alternative proposal would be for the 2014 show season. This topic should be taken up at the May 11, 2013 meeting.

Action Item: Corinne shall schedule "Alternative Qualification Proposal" as an item under Old Business for the ODS Board meeting of May 11, 2013.

6.4 Spring Educational Session with Dolly Hannon - Francy Haupt

Patty Armstrong offered to assist Francy with the Adult Programs Committee. Francy toured the facility in North Plains last week and submitted a revised proposal. The Board was concerned about parking at the facility, given the time of year (March 16/17, 2013, the weekend before the NW Horse Expo). Spaces would permit parking for 50-60. Ed no longer saw any objections to the planning.

Motion: Ed proposed that the Adult Programs Committee proceed with the planning of the Spring Educational Session with Dolly Hannon for March 16/17, 2013 at FallBrooks Farm in North Plains, Oregon. Gaye seconded the motion that passed by voice vote.

6.5 Follow up on Membership Marketing Recommendations - Corinne and Claire had requested that the Board formally accept the recommendations in their report on the membership marketing survey, so that they could proceed with taking next steps in future membership drives.

Motion: Claire moved to accept the recommendations in the Membership Marketing Survey (see Appendix A in the minutes of the August 18, 2012 Board meeting); Gaye seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

6.6 Training Level Freestyle - ODS vs. new USDF test; which to adopt officially?

ODS has been using a musical freestyle test for training level in its test booklet and shows that was based on a US Pony Club test (see page 62, ODS Dressage Test Booklet 2012). Now that the USDF has

published its version of a Training Level Freestyle (see page 88, 2013 USDF Member Guide), the question was whether ODS should adopt the USDF version henceforth.

Motion: Gaye moved to accept the new USDF test for Training Level Freestyle for purposes of ODS shows; Claire seconded. The motion passed on voice vote.

6.7 Follow-up on draft budget concerning “Postage, Fedex, UPS”

In response to Ed’s question at the last meeting as to whether mailing of awards is included in the above quoted item of the draft budget, Corinne reported that “postage” consists of metered postage, which is charged against a programmatic line item. Most mailing out of the ODS office does not include the awards mailings, so as far as the draft budget is concerned, the cost of mailing ODS awards is excluded.

7. New Business

7.1 Flying Changes Contract - Rose Newman

Rose received notice from the magazine that mailing rates to all clubs and GMOs will increase from \$9.60 to \$10.10 per household mailing, per year. Claire asked if the draft budget accounted for that, and Corinne responded that this increase was not known at the time of drafting the budget. After discussion revealed that with an average of 1,000 members this would result in a \$500 increase in expenses, a motion was entertained.

Motion: Gaye moved that the President sign the 2013 contract with *Flying Changes* magazine that includes a rate increase and direct the organizers of the ODS budget to accommodate this expense; Ed seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

7.2 Online vote request to help publicize appeal for employee of Columbia Equine Veterinary Clinic and his family affected by car accident - Corinne Stonier

Corinne had emailed the Board during the preceding week on allowing an exception to the ODS policy that prohibits broadcast e-mails for non-ODS business. Since the vote did not receive 100% participation by the Board as required by Oregon non-profit law, the proposal cannot be acted upon anyway, but there was sharp difference of opinion. Corinne clarified that Columbia Equine did not ask for broadcast email specifically, but that the announcement go onto the ODS online news page and Facebook posting. Ed replied that the email to the Board specifically requested a broadcast email exception and to that he was opposed, as were a number of others. Additionally, Claire stated, the request was for ODS to issue an email requesting contributions for the disadvantaged person and family, so this would have put ODS in the position of soliciting funds for a non-ODS purpose, an activity which is questionable. Discussion focused on the seeming callousness of refusing such a request on behalf of the individual and his family, but Rose corroborated that the ultimate purpose was indeed a request for funds. Patty said that she missed that part. Gaye saw no problem in this request, we are a small community of horse people, this makes ODS look like an organization without heart. If that’s how we want to use ODS email, then we need to change our policy, Ed countered, because current policy does not address a use of this charitable nature. He would not oppose a news item and information about how to contact the appropriate donor organization, but ODS cannot be in the position of requesting its members to donate funds. Claire noted that ODS policy could be complied with (so not in violation of Chapter III, Section X) by posting an announcement of the incident on the news page of our web site and Facebook page, explain the situation of the family, and if members would like to help, give the contact information for Columbia Equine. Gaye urged that such posting be made for this situation right now, then fine tune the policy.

Motion: Gaye moved that ODS post an announcement on its web site news page and social media about the Columbia Equine employee’s accident and provide information about where to inquire if members are interested in offering assistance. Claire seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

8. Next Board Meetings and Conference Calls

Note: No Board meeting scheduled for December.

All conference calls are subject to need as determined by the President. Meetings will be held through Gotomeeting.com at 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, January 23, 2013: Conference Call

February 2 & 3, 2013 - Silverton, OR "Silver Falls Conference Center" Saturday noon through Sunday noon - Board Retreat

Wednesday, February 20, 2013: Conference Call

Agenda to include Chris Main presenting document management system

Wednesday, March 20, 2013: Conference Call

Wednesday, April 17, 2013: Conference Call

Saturday, May 11, 2013: Board Meeting at Location TBD, 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, May 22, 2013: Conference Call

Wednesday, June 19, 2013: Conference Call

Wednesday, July 24, 2013: Conference Call

Saturday, August 3, 2013: Board Meeting at Location TBD, 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, August 21, 2013: Conference Call

Wednesday, September 18, 2013: Conference Call

Wednesday, October 23, 2013: Conference Call

Traditional date of Saturday, November 2, 2013 for Board Meeting and General Membership Fall Meeting: Actual date to be announced

Items to be addressed in upcoming meetings:

- 2013 Educational Sessions with Gerd Heuschmann with Annual Meeting/Banquet (January 2013)
- Demo of the Document Control Web Tool (February 2/3 Retreat)
- Committee Workshop (remainder from 2008 agenda)
- Marketing Workshop related to Strategic Plan (February 2/3 Retreat)
- Alternative Qualification Proposal (May 2013)

Rose noted that the February Board Retreat registration is now available online and encouraged everyone to register.

Ed moved to adjourn, Gaye seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Action Items

1. **Proposal for Three-Year USEF Show Approval License:** Rose will investigate to whom she will delegate the development of a joint proposal from the ODS Finance and Show Committees, authorizing ODS to apply for a three-year USEF show approval license.
2. **Alternative Qualification Proposal:** Corinne shall schedule "Alternative Qualification Proposal" as an item under Old Business for the ODS Board meeting of May 11, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Fronville Evans
Secretary
December 3, 2012