

## OKLAHOMA DRESSAGE SOCIETY

### JANUARY 25, 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) MINUTES

The meeting was held at Freddie's Steak House in Sapulpa, OK. The meeting was called to order at 10:05a.m. by ODS President, Sherry Guess. Board members in attendance were Marta Koenig, Lisa Jewell, Pamela Byers, Beth Circle, Sharon O'Banion and Rainee Boyd. There were approximately 45 others in attendance.

**Message from the President**-Sherry Guess started by introducing the board members including **Clydette Womack** who was absent due to illness and **Anne Kuhns** a non-voting Emeritus member that now lives in Kentucky. The board members put in countless hours year round doing all of the unseen things that have to happen to make our organization continue.

Sherry then introduced the 2013 Show Committee, **Judith Brown, Roberta Clark, Amanda Edwards, Lyn Francik** and **Diane Smith**. They made an amazing \$10,000.00 for our show. Diane Smith had the vision to turn our "plain jane" show into a true event and made a ton of money doing it. Thank you to all of the volunteers who put in so many hours helping to make that show a possibility. It is three days of work for a huge number of people.

Thanks also went to **Fran Ferrari** who for the past several years has put together our Directory and also managed the tack sale at last year's show. **Grace Klinger** who for many years has organized and obtained our GERA awards. **Christina Harmon** - accepted absentee ballot and VOY nominations. **Veronica Moody** - Solicited ads for the directory. **Jeanie Eaton** - runs the website - designed our brand new website last year and **Carol Miller** - Editor of the monthly newsletter that is delivered to your computer.

Our spring 2013 education event with Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez was a success in spite of the cold and sleet. Our summer meeting had a full house for the talk by farrier John Muldoon. His lecture was so interesting that we had almost no time left for the meeting.

Our show in Shawnee almost broke even. That's the closest it's been in five years. Our attendance has been slowly rising again and we're hoping to be back in the black next year.

In response to the damaging tornado in Moore, ODS raised more than \$2000 which was given to Equi-Center Vet Hospital who was caring for 27 injured horses. Two of our regional GMOs contributed to our fund, **Alamo Dressage Society** sent \$225 and **Central Texas Dressage Society** sent \$500. **Patty Couch's** show brought in more than \$1000. The big news at the USDF Convention had to do with the success of the USDF National Dressage Finals held at the Kentucky Horse Park, approximately 300 horse/rider combinations attended and everyone seems to have been very impressed with their experience. **Whit Watkins** from Reg 9 was Reserve at Grand Prix and many others from our region also competed. You have to qualify to be invited by competing at the Region 9 Championships. There's also a new SWDC Vintage award in each division, the combined age of horse and rider and their score. That's got to be appealing to many of our membership!

**Membership Chair**-Beth Circle updated us on membership numbers, 227 members in 2013 which was up from 212 in 2012, also an increase from the 208 members we had in 2011. As of January 24, 2014 Beth had received 120 renewals for the current year. We held a drawing for a free membership available to those that sent in their memberships before November 30, 2013 and the winner was **Mary Ellen Stockett**. She will be refunded her membership fee! We offered the drawing as an incentive for our members to renew before the USDF year end (November 30) for two reasons, you drop out of the USDF rolls if not renewed by year end and it is easier for ODS if renewals come in by Nov 30.

**Volunteer of the Year** was awarded to **Jeanie Eaton**. She has been our webmaster since 2005 and has continued working long hours each week constantly updating and redesigning our ODS site. Her daughter, Elizabeth spoke to us regarding the amount of time she spends updating and maintaining the ODS website and, in the past, chapter websites as well as E-mail blasts. She has archived 8 years of ODS information. Jeanie has done all of this free of charge. We shudder to think what it would cost us to pay someone to do what she does.

**Treasurer's Report**-Marta Koenig had copies of the financial statements available to all that attended the meeting. The combined balance sheet shows a checking account balance of \$35,485.94. The savings acct has a balance of \$22,903.52 with \$6,564.85 earmarked for the ODS Endowed Educational Fund, \$9,076.00 earmarked for the Regional Championship Fund and \$7,262.67 earmarked "other". Total combined Checking and Savings-\$58,389.46. The combined Profit & Loss

shows a net income of \$24,410.85. The General Program Profit & Loss (does NOT include shows) had a net income of \$5,205.10, this is income from membership fees, horse registration fees, directory advertising income, etc. The bottom line on the Spring Show Fundraising Profit & Loss is a profit of \$10,458.01 while the Spring Show itself had a profit of \$849.22 which was only because of a \$500.00 Walmart grant and a \$700.00 grant from Conoco-Phillips. The Spring Symposium and the State Fair Show netted \$646.41 and \$145.85 respectively. Marta also reported that the Dressage Foundation had sent us a thank you card for the \$100.00 donation we sent them.

**Summer General Meeting Minutes**-Motion was made by Debbie Nutt to approve the minutes, Veronica Moody seconded the motion. All were in favor, minutes were approved.

**Spring Symposium**-Sharon O'Banion had a display and applications available for the symposium which is titled "Improving your Collective Dressage Scores". Bill Solyntjes will be the presenter/instructor for the symposium which will be March 22-23, 2014. Saturday morning will begin with a lecture regarding what judges look for/at. The lecture, followed by lunch, will be at Freddie's Steak House in Sapulpa. Saturday afternoon and Sunday will be at Lily Pond in Kellyville, OK. Riders will ride a test while being judged by Bill. He will then assist the rider (lesson) and the rider will again ride the test or parts of the test while implementing Bill's instruction. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> level and above are strongly encouraged to apply. USDF Continuing Education Credits are available. ODS received \$1000.00 grant from the Dressage Foundation to help with the cost of the symposium, they also suggested that we raise the attendee pricing, which we did. Lyn Francik suggested that we offer volunteers to help with tacking and un-tacking demo rider's horses so that demo riders don't miss much of the clinic.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

**Green Country Chapter**-Melissa Thibodeau reported for GCC President, Richal Flannery. GCC hosted 5 schooling shows in 2013 and all but one broke even financially. They hosted a braiding clinic in the summer, had a successful Championship show in November and a year-end awards party in December. The Junior Dressage Camp was full with 16 riders and, although their grant was cut from \$2000.00 to \$1100.00 they were able to finance the camp by increasing the cost per camper. Green Country Dressage Classic was hugely successful this year with a waiting list for both days. The club made a \$3200.00 profit on the show and funds from the silent auction allowed them to donate \$260.00 to each of the three therapeutic riding centers. A big thanks to Anne Kuhns for managing the show from Kentucky.

They have several schooling shows on the calendar for 2014. Junior camp will be at Prairie Lane in Owasso with logistics for sleeping arrangements needing to be ironed out. More specific information regarding camp will be available once they have the 2014-15 school calendars and can schedule camp with fall break.

In December the board decided to increase the volunteer requirement for year-end award to eight hours. Members of other clubs whose shows are approved for GCC year-end awards must do at least four hours of volunteer time at a GCC hosted show. At least one score of the five required for year-end awards must come from a GCC hosted show. Schooling show entry fees increased to \$20.00 per test and the office fee increased to \$10.00.

Current GCC Board members: Richal Flannery (President), Trista Milliman (VP), Elizabeth Eaton (Secretary), Melissa Thibodeau (Treasurer/Jr. Camp Chair), Christiana Vogel (membership), Annie Houchin, Haily DeLay, Trish Flannery (Members at large), Audrey McKenna (Junior Liason).

**Great Plains Chapter**-Chris Cashel recognized the board members of the GPC chapter and reported that they had 61 paid members in 2013 as well as many non-member volunteers! They had 7 total schooling shows and a schooling show championship as well as two one-day recognized shows, six clinics with show judges and one workshop with Melissa Mould on mane pulling. GPC broke even across the board financially.

Stacia Wert-Gray had information packets for attendees that contained prize lists and clinic applications for the 2014 events hosted by GPC. The chapter year end awards are going to be based on points (rather than scores) and you must be a GPC member to qualify (\$10.00 fee for membership).

**Schooling Show Report**-Sherry Guess reminded the schooling show managers that when ODS recognizes your show, the expectation is that you will follow USEF rules, with the exceptions as printed in your show flyer. Please read the USEF rules for dressage shows, so you are familiar with them.

Rainee Boyd reminded show managers that they need to put the horse registration number on their reports. Rainee has also committed to doing a quarterly report with the number of rides per person so that exhibitors can see how many rides they have and may need to qualify for year-end awards. The report will not have scores.

**Show Committee Report**-Roberta Clark gave acknowledgement to all of last year's volunteers for a successful show and reminded us that we need exhibitors and volunteers to make it work. Roberta had a gift for Diane Smith to recognize her for her successful fund raising last year. Diane was not in attendance due to an illness. Roberta handed out packets for sponsorships and a sign-up sheet for volunteer opportunities as well as a silent auction donation sign up.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**2014 Show**-The show will be held in Shawnee this year and we are looking for "footing expert(s)" to maintain the arenas.

Judge requests for future shows should be given to Kalea Maxwell.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2015 Show Venue**-We are looking for a new location that we can afford. The location needs to have room for two full size arenas and the warm up area needs to be at least 80% of show arena size. It is becoming more difficult to get a spring date. Claremore has no spring dates available but they do have some fall dates. The downside to a fall show is that they count for the following year instead of the year of the actual show. Lynn Francik mentioned that the Oklahoma State Fair has a new covered arena that might work for us. GPC has fall shows scheduled on September 6 and October 3. The suggestion was made to include Western Dressage classes to increase our exhibitor numbers.

**2015 Educational**-Suggestions for the educational event were: Bio-mechanics suggested by Lyn Francik, Sports psychology to help competitors deal with pressure situations suggested by Stacia Wert-Gray, and starting the young horse suggested by Susan Field.

**Election of New Officers**-Beth Circle nominated Lyn Francik from the floor, in addition to the nominees named on the ballot. After a re-count new officers elected to fill 3 vacant positions were Beth Circle, Roberta Clark and Cheryl West.

**State Fair Show**-Stacia Wert Gray asked for suggestions for the State Fair Show that she manages; would members like to see it as a schooling show; would they like western dressage included? A recognized show with a schooling show to include western dressage? Email her at [gtgray@aol.com](mailto:gtgray@aol.com) with your comments and suggestions.

**Gifted Fund**-Lindsey Hankins received a \$1000.00 scholarship from the Gifted Fund to further her dressage training in 2013. She spoke of the week she spent with her trainer, Sherry Guess, riding several times a day and being able to concentrate on her training in a week away from work and home responsibilities. This scholarship enables Adult Amateurs to set aside quality time, in concentrated training away from the daily pressures of job and family, with a horse the recipient owns or formally leases (as documented by USDF or USEF paperwork). There are nine scholarships available each year (one for each region). You can read Lindsey's report about her week at Two Guesses Ranch here [http://www.dressagefoundation.org/Lindsey\\_Hankins\\_Gifted\\_Report.htm](http://www.dressagefoundation.org/Lindsey_Hankins_Gifted_Report.htm)

**Western Dressage Association of America**-Paula Walker spoke of a "Train the Judges" Seminar that is being held on Tuesday January 28, 2014 at the Doubletree Inn in Tulsa. The seminar is the first step to becoming a USEF approved Western Dressage judge.

**National Dressage Pony Cup**-Susan Field spoke of the opportunity for our recognized shows to offer an award for ponies. ODS has the option of being a "full partner" for a \$100.00 fee or a "modified partner" for a \$25.00 fee. The full partner will be charged a \$30.00 ribbon fee and will have a ribbon available to present at the show. As a modified

partner the ribbon will be mailed to the winner sometime after the actual show. A USEF pony card is required for the competing pony to be eligible. Lyn Francik made a motion to offer a High Score Year-End Pony award. Rainee Boyd seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed.

**Motion for Adjournment**-Rainee Boyd made a motion to adjourn, Debbie Nutt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch, the presentation of year-end awards and announcement of the silent auction winning bids.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa Jewell, ODS Secretary**