



# NDA Board Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2014

## Attendees

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### Board Members Present:

- Katie Miller, President
- Melissa Ward, Secretary
- Tish Gade-Jones, Treasurer
- Tillie Jones, Junior Representative
- Dara Liss
- Jane Fucinaro
- Kathy Hanford
- Laura Stueck

### Board Members Absent:

- Briana Bartlett, Vice President

### NDA Members Present:

- Laureen Van Norman
- Gracia Huenefeld

## Call to Order

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President Katie Miller called the October meeting to order at Firespring in Lincoln at 7:11 pm.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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The September 2014 NDA meeting minutes were reviewed. Jane motioned to approve the minutes. Laura seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

## Officer Reports

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**President:** Katie reported that she has received 2 nominations for next year's board, though we expect more closer to the election, and several members have expressed interest.

Katie also reported that Providence Farm has been finalized as the venue for the 2015 USDF Adult Amateur Clinic. More information about resources and volunteer positions will be forthcoming.

**Vice President:** Briana sent a report ahead of the meeting stating that registration for the banquet is low and we may consider extending the registration deadline. She is also seeking volunteers to help set up and manage the silent auction in Lisa Van Stratten's absence.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Tish reported that our total account balance is \$13,213.19, now that we have now settled our bill with Lancaster Event Center for the Cornhusker Classic and the Schooling Show Championships. We lost about \$389 during the Schooling Show Championship, where we typically make about \$1000 profit. The board attributes the discrepancy to poor attendance (there were 11 fewer riders this year), though a direct cause for the decrease is unknown.

Overall, the budget this year took a significant hit in the areas of Education, Awards, and especially Competitions. Education accounted for a \$1450 loss, although those numbers will improve once the revenue from the David Marcus clinic is processed (after the event). Awards accounted for a \$1,667 loss, though that number will improve once the revenue from the November Awards Ceremony is processed. The main loss sustained this year was from loss of revenue for the Cornhusker Classic and the Schooling Show Championships, so increasing attendance at those shows will be a high priority for the 2015 Board of Directors.

## Committee Reports

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**Membership:** No report.

**Competitions:** No report from the committee proper. Jane reported that Greg Queal (The Riding Center) has expressed interest in hosting two NDA-recognized schooling shows in Omaha in 2015 and will contact the Competitions Committee.

**Awards:** Lauren and Kathy reported that there were overall fewer scores reported this year for year-end awards. This means there were also fewer Schooling Show Medal Series scholarship winners, so the committee inquired as to whether the board wanted to award the same amount of scholarship money as last year (\$40 for gold medal winners, \$30 for silver medal winners, and \$20 for bronze medal winners). The board agreed to maintain the existing scholarships amounts (no change).

For the awards ceremony, Laura agreed to lend NDA the Still Waters sounds system for the awards ceremony. Tish suggested a slideshow of photos from the year's competitions and NDA events to play during the banquet. Tillie will collect pictures from members and Dallas Jones will put the slideshow together, and the Jones family will provide a projector and screen for the event.

**Communications:** Carrie Cross has resigned as newsletter editor for *The Contact*. Jane has graciously volunteered to take it over for the immediate future. Unfortunately, it is too late now to get a Sep/Oct issue of *The Contact* out to members, so Jane will begin work on the Nov/Dec issue.

Melissa reported that email communications remain strong, with excellent open and click-through rates.

**Publicity:** No report.

**Fundraising:** Lisa Van Stratten is looking for a replacement as Fundraising Chairperson for 2015. The board will continue to solicit possible interested parties. Fundraising work will need to begin prior to January as we secure new (and existing) year-long sponsors.

**Equipment Management:** No report.

**Education:** Jane reported there are currently 22 pre-registered auditors, though additional walk-ins are expected. Several sponsorships have been secured for meals and other expenses. Door prizes and donations have started to come in. Rider fees have been collected and all participants are finalized. Ride times have been published and communications will be sent to the members this week.

Dara reported that the 4H Ride-A-Test/Western Dressage Clinic and educational event is scheduled to take place on Nov 8-9 at the Event Center. Dara proposed NDA could provide \$100 to sponsor Saturday's Ride-A-Test clinic. The board discussed the event at length and eventually agreed that it was a valuable learning opportunity for our members. Jane moves to sponsor the rider clinic for \$100. Tillie seconded. None opposed, motion approved.

**Junior/YR:** Tillie Jones reported that the Junior party/sleepover in October was a great success. There were 9 attendees, including 2 who drove from Omaha. The next event will be the Roca Berry Farm excursion on October 24. Tish Jones has rented a firepit and will have a hot dog and marshmallow roast. Jane will contact the 4H group and see about making it a Pony Club/4H/NDA event. All is on track for the all-member holiday party on Dec 6, hosted by the juniors.

## Old Business

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NDA members have expressed concern that the annual officer election process may not be following the bylaws to the letter. Our existing process of having a written ballot to elect general board members and then having the newly elected board appoint the officer positions at the annual meeting seems to conflict with the bylaws' statement that officer positions must be elected specifically by the membership. The reason this process evolved in this way was because the logistics of holding two written ballot elections (one for general board members and one for officer positions) make the process extremely long and inefficient for the annual meeting. And it is not possible to hold one single written ballot election for both general board positions and officer positions because some board positions are incumbent while others are not, and both are eligible to be officers.

The board discussed the process at much length to find a way to change the election process to adhere to the bylaws. A satisfactory solution was not found, and so the board agreed to write a proposal to amend the bylaws to allow for our typical officer selection process. This proposal must be presented to the membership at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Since that window has passed for the 2014 annual meeting, the proposed language will be voted upon by the membership at the annual meeting in 2015. Melissa will draft the language and seek input from both the 2014 and 2015 Boards, and then will send the proposal to the membership 30 days in advance of the 2015 meeting.

In the meantime, for the next two years' annual meetings, and in order to maintain the integrity of the bylaws, the election process will be:

1. All NDA members will vote for the general election via written ballot, as usual.
2. The newly elected board will confer about which board members are seeking or would accept an officer position.
  - a. If there are any contested offices (more than one board member seeking an officer position), a written vote will be taken.

b. Otherwise, a hand vote by all members will be taken in order to approve each office. Melissa will send out a communication to the members describing this process. Term limits will be assigned to general board positions the way they always have—the elected members with the most votes will receive the longest term, the elected member with the next highest votes will receive the next longest term, and so on.

## **New Business**

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Nebraska Horse Council approached NDA to inquire if NDA wants to have a booth again this year at the 2014 Nebraska Horse Expo. NHC wanted to know if our booth could be available to Betsy Steiner in between dressage demos. After some discussion, the board agreed to pay \$75 (plus \$20 electric costs) to have a nonprofit booth at the Expo, outfitted with our existing booth materials. Jane moved to approve the \$95 cost. Kathy seconded. Motion carried. Laura will create a signup sheet for booth volunteers and will bring it to the annual banquet. Melissa will contact Sandy Reiber (NHC) and arrange the paperwork.

The International Horse Show is putting together a dressage CDI during the 2015 International Horse Show, creating a “Mini World Cup” in advance of the 2017 actual World Cup. Organizers are looking for people interested in a committee to help educate and market dressage events at the International. More information about this committee will be coming in January.

## **Next Meeting Scheduled**

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The next meeting will be the annual meeting on November 1, 2014, 7:30 pm at Parker’s Smokehouse in Ashland, NE.

## **Adjournment**

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Melissa moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm, Jane seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Melissa Ward  
NDA Secretary, 2014