



NDA Board Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2015

Attendees

Board Members Present:

- Melissa Ward, President
- Laureen Van Norman
- Heidi Helmer, Secretary
- Jane Fucinaro, Vice President
- Kathy Hanford, Treasurer
- Dara Liss
- Jenae Tilford, Junior Representative

Board Members Absent:

- Gracia Huenefeld
- Emily Johnson

NDA Members Present:

- Jennifer Rawlinson
- Angie McClelland
- Joni Tilford
- Kate Rawlinson
- Marissa Carlson
- Cally Dorff

Call to Order

President Melissa Ward called the September meeting to order at Misty's Steakhouse (Havelock) in Lincoln at 6:39 pm.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The September 2015 NDA meeting minutes were reviewed. Jane moved to approve the minutes. Laureen seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

Officer Reports

President: Melissa told the board that Anne Sushko is a possible Region 4 Director candidate.

The NDA website is a GMO award winner for USDF for 2015.

Melissa will be arranging for an NDA basket to be donated to the USDF Convention, as in previous years.

Vice President: Jane reported that she is planning the Year End Awards Banquet. She will be using the NDA booth decor as a backdrop for the banquet, and there is no theme this year.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Kathy provided the Treasurer's Report. The Main Account balance is \$12,378.63, and the Show Account balance is \$9928.07. Heidi moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dara seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Membership: Melissa provided the membership report on behalf of Diana Spaulding. There are 121 total members.

Angie McClelland will be taking over the NDA membership responsibilities in 2016.

Competitions: Jennifer Rawlinson provided the competitions committee report, with respect to the Schooling Show Championships. The show was profitable, well attended, and had favorable reports.

Jennifer reported that the 2016 and 2017 Cornhusker Classic dates are posted on the USDF website. The committee needs to decide on details for the contract(s) with the Lancaster Event Center for 2016 and 2017. The committee would like to utilize the entire facility for the Classic I & II, but there would be a cost increase.

Fundraising and sponsorship ideas for the 2016 and 2017 Classic were discussed.

Clarification/updates for rules for the 2016 Schooling Show Championships will be provided to the members. The 2016 Schooling Show Championship will be held September 25, 2016.

Awards: Lauren and Kathy provided the Awards Committee report. Regg and Wally's has been a wonderful support for NDA. They are currently computing award scores that have been submitted for 2015. Members are encouraged to submit their awards scores and volunteer hours form. It was noted that members can donate their volunteer hours to other members in need of hours.

Publicity: Melissa Ward reviewed this month's e-mail outreach activity.

A new editor is needed for the 2016 Contact. Melissa is going to research the USDF requirements for a GMO newsletter. Discussion ensued as to how often the Contact should be published.

Fundraising: Melissa gave the Fundraising report on behalf of Gracia. Silent Auction items are being received, and she is recruiting Silent Auction items.

Equipment Management: No report.

Education: The education committee will be meeting on Wednesday evening. There is ongoing discussion as to holding a Region 4 "L" judge program.

Junior/YR: Jenae provided the Junior/YR report. The juniors made "goodie" bags for the Schooling Show Championships. She may organize a fall/winter party.

Old Business

Melissa presented proposed bylaw changes, membership dues update, and handbook wording clarification. The bylaw changes will be presented to the NDA members at the annual meeting, for the membership to vote on.

The handbook wording updates were reviewed as below:

1. Annual meeting NDA board officer election, and subsequent officer appointments clarification. Jane motioned to approve, Kathy seconded. Motion carried.
2. The approval of the annual meeting minutes - changes. Heidi motioned, Jane seconded. Motion carried.
3. Membership dues - NDA's dues were compared with other GMO's of equitable membership, and due changes have not been made since 2011. The dues for NDA membership in 2016 will be \$45/individual, \$35/junior, \$65/family, \$20/additional family member, \$30/junior Pony Club and 4H, \$30/horse (lifetime). Kathy motioned, Heidi seconded. Motion carried. Changes will be made on the website pertaining to PayPal.
4. Rider Test Medal Series - four scores at one level, two of the scores must be from a rider test of that level.

New Business

Melissa is preparing for the Annual Meeting.

Jane will follow up with the 2015 NDA scholarship recipients, and changes will be made to the 2016 scholarship guidelines.

Next Meeting Scheduled

The next meeting will be scheduled after the new board has been elected.

Adjournment

Jane made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Dara seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Post Script

A discussion via email took place on October 20-25, 2015, regarding turning the newsletter editor into a paid position. An excerpt from the opening email from Melissa:

"At our last board meeting, we talked at some length about the open newsletter editor position for The Contact for 2016. Some board members questioned whether or not we needed to continue with the newsletter at all, and I looked up the requirements from USDF. While USDF doesn't explicitly state that a newsletter is a required component of a GMO, they heavily stress its importance to the club and want GMOs to take full advantage of it as a communication tool. There are several GMO awards that are focused on the newsletter. With regard to NDA specifically, the newsletter is one of our core member benefits listed on our marketing materials, and it is referenced several times in the bylaws...."

So, we need to fill our editor position for 2016... Since we have had little to no interest from other volunteers to fill this position, and have really struggled in the past with finding qualified volunteers, some board members suggested paying someone to keep the newsletter going every month. The board did not vote or reach any conclusions on this topic, except to confirm that there is nothing preventing payment for services in our bylaws, apart from board members, which must be volunteers."

Discussion ensued about hiring a qualified candidate [Michaela Schieffer] with professional writing experience in horse journals, and the group agreed this would be a valuable expenditure to increase value to our members. Heidi made a motion to offer Michaela Schieffer a contract position at a salary of \$100 per issue, with a minimum of 6 issues, but as many as 8, at her discretion, reevaluating the contract with her in one year. Emily seconded. There were no objections, and the motion passed via email on October 25, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heidi Helmer, NDA Secretary