

NDA Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

Attendees

Board Members Present:

Melissa Ward
Margo Hamilton
Jane Fucinaro
Lana Erickson
Angie McClelland
Kathy Hanford
Heidi Helmer
Gracia Huenefeld
Miya Higgins

NDA Members Present:

Kim Higgins
Kathy Lewis
Michaela Schieffer

Call to Order

President Melissa Ward called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM at the Havelock location of Misty's Steakhouse in Lincoln.

Approval of Minutes

The November 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed, it was noted that Kathy Hanford must be added back in to the 2019 NDA Board Members. Pending this change, that Margo will make, the minutes were approved by Kathy, seconded by Margo. Motion carried, minutes approved.

The October 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed. Margo motioned to approve, Heidi seconded. Motion carried, October minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

President: Melissa gave Kathy Hanford the floor to share her experiences from the 2018 USDF Convention in Salt Lake City. Kathy shared that she ended up running the Region 4 meetings each day as Anne Sushko, Region 4 Director, couldn't be there. The biggest discussions included the location of the 2020 Region 4 Championships. The Region 4 site selection committee is taking bids for hosting the Championships, while NDA won't be able to get a bid together in time for the 2020 Championships, it's possible that we might be able to work with the Lancaster Event Center to submit a bid to host the 2021 Region 4 Championships. Kathy suggested putting a Regionals Committee together as a sub-committee of Competitions. Another interesting topic that was discussed was a proposed and very draft idea of USDF creating year end awards for schooling shows. Kathy attended the roundtable discussions and heard from other GMOs that pay a bookkeeper. This might be something to keep in mind for the future. She also mentioned that we might look into having two people on NDA's Board doing the check authorizations. After brief discussion, the Board thought this might be difficult for NDA at this time. During the roundtable discussions, Kathy learned that NDA was very ahead of other GMOs regarding youth involvement. The NDA Board thanked Anne Sushko for the Region 4 ear warmers. Finally, Kathy presented Melissa with the NDA Website Award that she received from USDF's GMO Committee.

Vice President: Margo had a moment of brilliance whilst working in her arena, and looks forward to organizing the 2019 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet with the theme, "Eggs, Halt, Salute," for our next brunch! She discussed centerpiece ideas, and decoration ideas that would be easy and inexpensive to NDA. The Board would like to see the silent auction back to full swing. The Ashland Country Club has been a great option for NDA, and the Board would like Margo to explore more brunch options in the area.

On another note, Don Rice (Lincoln Urgent Care), sponsor of NDA, encouraged the board to see if NDA was following concussion awareness protocol. There is a law that has been passed that all sport organizations must have concussion training. Margo and Jane agreed to check with legal contacts on how this might affect NDA.

Secretary: Jane asked the Board if they were still happy with using Google Docs to review minutes from month to month. This seems to be the most efficient way. No further report.

Treasurer: Kathy Hanford presented the 2018 final budget report. NDA lost \$6,300 due to a loss from the silent auction, awards, banquet and education. The awards were higher due to the start-up costs of the new Western Dressage Awards. This should be lower in the future. Kathy noted that USDF is raising GM fees by \$4 in 2020. Lana Erickson presented the 2019 proposed budget, which is quite tightened up due to the incurred loss in 2018. The handbook expense was moved under publicity instead of miscellaneous. The award banquet income was increased by \$200, and the sponsorship expenses were increased from \$250 to \$400. Kathy Hanford and Kathy Lewis will continue to work with Lana on the Finance Committee this year. Heidi Helmer motioned to approve the 2019 budget. Kathy Hanford seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Junior/Young Rider: Miya plans to provide more merchandise this year, including vests. She and Kim thought it might be easier to hand out clothing at the Banquet or at the Schooling Show Championships because it gets so busy in the show office during the Classic. This might be a good job to add to the Volunteer Committee's list of duties for shows. Discussion was held about streamlining ordering clothing - can there be a payment option in an order form? Kim does have some leftover NDA swag that wasn't claimed, and will give the extra items to the NDA Silent Auction. Lana and Michaela will work with Miya to create an online store. Selling NDA merchandise might be easy to do at the International Omaha this year, too.

Miya would like the NDA Juniors to be more active on social media, and asked the Board if she could create an Instagram account for the juniors.

She also would like to bring Lexi Wathor to meetings with her to get her more involved as a potential Junior/YR representative on the Board.

Membership: Angie informed the Board that there are currently 43 members, and she would like to hold off on a reminder email until Feb. 1st when we have had more members join, but we are off to a good start.

Membership is making a transition to a database, Kathy Lewis is integrating QuickBooks with new memberships.

With USDF raising GM fees by \$4 in 2020, NDA might need to consider raising dues to accommodate the rising cost from USDF. Raising individual memberships to \$50 seems like reasonable and in line with other GMOs in our area. Discussion regarding raising the lifetime horse fee was held, and the Board concluded raising it to \$40 is suitable. It is proposed to raise Junior membership to \$40, 4H/PC to \$35, supporting family

members to \$25, and family up to \$70. All of this would be communicated to the membership before changing.

Competition: No report from Jennifer Rawlinson.

WDAA/USEF Lite has been added to the Cornhusker Classic.

The “r” Program was not approved by USDF because of the lower attendance at the Cornhusker Classic in 2018.

Awards: USEF has removed the Rider Tests. Therefore, NDA should remove these awards in 2019 handbook. Kathy would like to require that any NDA approved schooling show sends results in Excel files to make year end calculations easier.

Publicity: As NDA President, Melissa cannot chair a committee. So while she is President, someone will need to be the official chair of publicity. Michaela volunteered. Currently, NDA has 279 email subscribers.

NDA has received a complimentary non-profit booth at the International Omaha this year. Melissa will arrange the riding lesson raffles with local trainers to raise money at the booth. The Volunteer Committee will work to fill time slots manning the booth. For the website, Melissa has been working on updating the 2019 calendar and the 2019 Board Members have been updated online.

Michaela Schieffer reported that she has much more time this year, and has the ability to create more Contact editions, however, the 2019 budget has already been approved, therefore the Board cannot pay Michaela to do so. The Board decided to have Michaela continue to create quarterly issues, plus one show issue.

We are also waiting on Becca Barry to submit her scholarship report, Jane agreed to follow up on this.

Equipment: No report from Ken Timmerman.

Education: Jane wanted to open up an email discussion with rest of education committee about how to make her Lunch and Learn series this winter NDA events. It was also suggested to host another “What to Know Before You Show” event. We might need to refresh the cheat sheet that we created. Kathy Lewis offered to create a webinar and record it for NDA to keep. Margo and Gracia will work with Kathy Lewis to create this “What to Know Before You Show” webinar.

Volunteer: Diane Fucinaro sent a note that the SignUp Genius has been the most efficient way to contact volunteers and reach NDA Members. She asked that if any

committee has the need for a large group of volunteers, she would like them to get in touch with her at least one month ahead of the event to create this.

When the Competitions Committee has their Cornhusker Classic meeting, she and Kim Higgins would like to attend, so they can be kept in the loop with volunteer needs.

Finally, she requested that Angie sends her an updated list of NDA members so she can start editing her contacts for 2019.

Western Dressage: The Committee spent a lot of time discussing WDAA/USEF Lite, and trying to find ways to continue that with sponsorships and finding stewards. It costs \$150 to have a USEF Lite designation, so if we just do this for the Cornhusker Classic, it should be very easy to find a sponsor. Currently, Nebraska and Colorado just have the WDAA/USEF designation, so the Committee believes that we should advertise this regionally to attract more attendees.

The Committee would also like to create a training program for the WDAA stewards, Gail Matheus, and “r” WD judge might be able to do this after she judges at one of the NDA shows.

Currently, 2019 WDAA World Championships do not require any qualifications to compete there, but this is changing in 2020, so NDA could take advantage of this change. AQHA has approved Western Dressage pending the updating of their computer system for tracking.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Havelock Misty’s in Lincoln.

Adjournment

Heidi motioned to adjourn, Jane seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Fucinaro, 2019 NDA Secretary