

NDA Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020

Attendees

Board Members Present:

Melissa Ward
Jane Fucinaro
Margo Hamilton
Lana Erickson
Angie McClelland
Heidi Helmer
Mia Newman
Gracia Huenefeld

NDA Members Present:

Kathy Hanford
Christine Walker
Sheila Purdum
Laureen VanNorman

Call to Order

President Melissa Ward called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM via online Zoom Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The April 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed. Lana moved to approve minutes, Angie seconded. Motion carried, minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

President: Melissa reported that she and Kathy Hanford joined the Region 4 Zoom Meeting for GMO and PM Delegates. Approximately 10 people joined from all over the

Region. The key points included challenges all GMOs are facing, including education and competitions. How do other GMOs keep members engaged while we're all homebound? Competition concerns include volunteer management, test "touches" IE how many people have to handle the test, stabling concerns about putting empty stalls between each person's household. Masks must be worn at all times unless you're on horseback. Additional costs and hurdles for organizers. Main question is how many competitors will want to participate? How do GMOs predict this? These are some of the challenges NDA is facing right now. While there are no clear solutions, most groups from across our Region discussed how they are likely to not hold their shows through the end of the summer. Many are already cancelling July and August shows at risk of losing money. Maffitt Lake will be cancelling their June show.

For online shows, SLADS is doing three competitions to count for year end awards because they're worried they won't have any other shows this year.

For education, SLADS is doing a Zoom Meeting for members only by a tack store owner that is doing a new product showcase. There will also be a biomechanical online session.

Anne wanted everyone to know that she is happy to share her Zoom membership with anyone in Region 4 for GMO purposes.

For USDF/EF: they are reviewing guidelines and rules for shows. They will release more dressage show specific guidelines soon. Various people from across the Region would like to do Zoom Meetings with Lisa Goretta, USDF President. One GMO asked an author (Janet Foy) to join their book club for a Zoom Q&A, open to all USDF members.

As for USDF Convention, we do not have any details yet for the Omaha Convention. Anne will talk with USDF staff to start making specific questions.

Melissa did get an email from the State 4H yearly sponsorship. With that show possibly not taking place, the organization will still do something for the kids, even if it's a virtual show. Margo recommended a lesser amount for sponsorship, or waiting to decide until the organization knows whether or not they're hosting a show. Angie agreed. Melissa will respond to 4H officials and ask them to specify what the sponsorship money will go toward, and what the new \$ amount will be for this unusual "show" format.

Vice President: No report from Margo, except for some concern about hosting the NDA Awards Banquet. She questioned if NDA needed to make more of a clear decision to our membership about our stance on events and awards through 2020. Several barn owners piped in to agree with this point, as to determine whether or not they should host a show, and if it would be supported with NDA board/membership. NDA could also host a series of virtual shows.

Secretary: No report from Jane.

Treasurer: As of the first of April, the main account has \$5,289.57. Show account has \$13,994.23. PayPal has a balance of less than \$100. The PayPal button on the NDA site works for virtual show payment.

Margo moved to approve the financial report, Gracia seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Competition: Jennifer Rawlinson (Competitions Committee Chair) was not present, but had shared via email that our NDA breakeven point would be 50 horses for the Classic, according to survey results and discussions, we only have half of that interested in showing right now. It will be an additional \$200 to purchase PPE for staff and volunteers. Just three hours before the NDA Meeting, the mayor of Lincoln extended the 10 person limit on public gatherings through June 30th. We do not know exactly how this will apply to our venue, but it raises strong concerns among the board about holding a show in the month of June. Jennifer feels strongly about not choosing a different venue, since other venues are unlikely to be able to meet our health precautions and competition requirements.

Kathy Hanford (Competitions Committee) was unsure about hosting the Classic after hearing the regional response from other groups during the Region 4 Meeting. Laureen Van Norman (Competitions Committee) agreed. The board discussed the pros and cons of hosting the Classic in June at great length, and had many concerns. The board universally agreed that NDA could take a huge financial hit if we host the show with little attendance, which has happened in the past and was historically very difficult to recover from. Angie asked if we could take the space/dates we booked for the SSC and expand on that weekend. The board felt hosting the Classic in June would be inadvisable, and

asked the Competitions Committee to see if we can get a date in July/August (though it's possible that the mayor's rule gets extended past June 30th; there's no way for NDA to predict that). Pony Finals, NAYC, Mega Rally, and more have been cancelled. Melissa is apprehensive about having a show that will endanger NDA's financial ability to keep operating, Lana and Margo agreed. Additionally, we don't want to get people sick!

Kathy hasn't received any entries yet for the Virtual Show, but expects them to roll in closer to the closing date.

Discussion ensued about if NDA needs to make a blanket statement about recognizing shows and if we need to move to 100% virtual setting. With so many in-person horse shows being cancelled, it's unclear whether or not there will be enough scores to on the books to have our year-end awards as usual. Therefore, the board agreed that there could/should be an incentive to competing in virtual shows. NDA, local barns or other organizers could run a virtual show, recognized by NDA, which could count for a virtual year end awards series, similar to the structure of our Schooling Show Medal series.

A possible path forward might be to tell local show organizers that we will honor recognition for in-person shows, as long as you're following state and local health directives and guidelines. We might have to note that we will revisit this later in the year. The board is also interested in having a Virtual Schooling Show Series, in which the organizer is welcome to host, and NDA will provide guidelines for them to follow. The board has requested the Awards and Competitions Committee to work together to organize this. The deadline to accomplish this will be ASAP. NDA will reevaluate this as the summer goes on and as the global pandemic situation changes.

Laureen suggested noting this in an email or on a social media post.

Junior/Young Rider: Mia reported that she will be reaching out to Missy Fladland about hosting a clinic later this year. She is unsure she will be getting interest for trailer cleaning fundraising idea. Mia asked the Board about the dollar credit for volunteer hours for structuring the youth clinic. Margo explained that it was about \$10/hour of volunteer work for the Awards.

Membership: Angie reported that NDA has 6 new members this month, totaling 112.

Awards: No report from Kathy.

Publicity: Melissa reported that there are 307 people on our email list, and sent two emails since last meeting.

Website updates include the new page for the Virtual Show.

There was no movement on the FB Fundraising front.

The Contact - Michaela said she has most of the items she needed for the newsletter. The issue will be sent as soon as we have a path forward for the Cornhusker Classic, the virtual show series, and a few remaining articles.

Fundraising: Margo has secured two sponsors thus far, Urgent Care Lincoln and Lincoln Forge and Farrier. Her idea this year is to open up the fundraising year from on calendar year from whenever people pledge the money, instead of doing spring-to-spring. An online auction can be done this summer or fall in replace of a year-end silent auction, if we need to. Lana will continue to get NDA registered with Facebook Fundraising.

Equipment: No report.

Education: The Education Committee has discussed an online Trivia Night for NDA, featuring questions and trivia from NDA, USDF, and dressage movements. Jane is working to coordinate with Mia on logistics of hosting it, but the powerpoint is created and ready to go. Date TBD. A LMT who is also pursuing equine therapies has volunteered to do an online forum on how the muscles of the human and horse relate. She will be working on a formal proposal to the Committee. Dates on rescheduled Grooming Clinic will be determined after the air clears. Margo said Don Rice could do a helmet/concussion presentation.

Volunteer: No report.

Western Dressage: UNL got a TDF Lynn Palm Grant for an event with Frances Carbonnel for a WD education event, scheduled for Spring 2021 (early May). WDAA is following USEF rules, so nothing is happening until the end of June.

Old Business

2020 USDF Convention in Omaha still in the air - TBD.

New Business

No new business.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 8th, details TBD.

Adjournment

Jane motioned to adjourn, Gracia seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Fucinaro, 2020 NDA Secretary