

**New England Dressage Association  
Board of Directors  
Summary of Meeting  
December 16, 2009**

Participating in person: PCormier, HStone, BJenkins, LJohnson, KHickerson, JSheehan, LMendenhall, SMcKeown, DCarr-Kirk, SStorbeck, KSwanfeldt.

Participating in person by invitation of the board: TPaparella

Participating via conference call: DCameron, JDillon, SDavenport (left the call at 7:30), APrenosil (joined the call at 7:30) and ADane (joined the call at 7:45).

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

### **Secretary's Report**

It was **VOTED** to approve the minutes for the November meeting as submitted. The board determined that the summary of the November meeting should be posted on the internet. Tammy Paparella will post the summaries each month on the website under "Business".

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bookkeeper Carol Gordon submitted a financial summary to the board prior to the meeting, which showed a deficit of approximately \$13,000. At the meeting, there was discussion among the board members regarding pre-paying some 2010 expenses in 2009, or perhaps ordering some 2010 supplies (such as ribbons) early if we can get 2009 pricing. The Treasurer informed the board that the scholarship accounts were now balanced. The Treasurer confirmed that the 2008 audit is underway, and a full report of the results of the audit will be presented at a future meeting. After discussion, it was **VOTED** to close the unused Sovereign account.

After discussion, it was **VOTED** to accept the Treasurer's Report.

### **L Program**

Sally Davenport updated the board about the discussions regarding an L program in NEDA's area. Sally spoke to the USDF representative about the program. Pinelands is going to do sessions A, B and C, and the USDF would like NEDA to consider taking charge of sessions D1 and D2 and the final exam. The D sessions and the final exam are the most expensive parts of the L program. After extensive discussion, Jen Dillon agreed to ask Pinelands if they would partner with NEDA on the expenses associated with the D sessions and the final exam. There was also discussion about the timing of the sessions, and whether it would even be possible to host D sessions and the final exam in the prescribed time slots based on when Pinelands will be running the A, B and C sessions. Sally agreed to ask the USDF if it would be possible to get a variance from the prescribed timing between sessions. Sally agreed to put together a preliminary budget and timeline for consideration by the board at a future meeting.

### **President's Report**

*At the meeting, the board discussed the concept of a dispute resolution committee, and the possibility of combining it with the email committee that was reconstituted at the last board meeting. The board*

*determined to discuss the dispute resolution/email committee further at a future meeting. Donna Cameron, as a certified mediator, offered to help develop a process and serve on the committee.*

*Regarding the missing NEDA banners, Deb Carr-Kirk agreed to check with Bear Spot to see if they still had one, and Kathy Hickerson agreed to check with Silene to see if she had the one that she brought to Devon. Karin Swanfeldt agreed to look in her house for one as well.*

*Deb Carr-Kirk agreed to update the list of the Board of Directors for the November election changes, and circulate to the board for approval.*

*Paul confirmed that the Marshfield fairgrounds can store the NEDA rings. The Marshfield people want to meet with Paul in January to discuss renewal since 2010 is the last year of the NEDA show contract.*

*Linda Mendenhall confirmed that she spoke to George Atamian, and that he's going to send a written pricing proposal, as well as some sample NEDA logos on felt.*

### **USDF Convention, Proxy Process and Due Increases**

The board discussed the USDF convention, delegates and proxy process. Paul Cormier reminded the board that, at the closing of the Board of Governors, the NEDA proxies held by PM delegates reverted back to the President until the next convention. Official NEDA delegates keep their proxies in between conventions. After discussion, the board **VOTED** that if the President is asked for a vote in between conventions, then he should consult with the board about how the vote should be made, in a reasonably prompt manner given the circumstances.

Linda Mendenhall agreed to write an article for the TIP about the convention and the upcoming USDF dues increases, including a preview of possible membership dues increases at NEDA.

The board undertook an extensive discussion of the USDF due increase, as well as NEDA increases to compensate for the additional fees that NEDA will have to pay to the USDF. The board also discussed the fact that NEDA's margins have been steadily eroding since 2004, and now NEDA is break even or losing money. Some board members postulated that it might be necessary to increase NEDA's fees by an amount greater than the amount related to the USDF increases. Jen Dillon agreed to do an analysis for the January meeting in connection with the budget process and discussion of the member survey results to help the board determine what an appropriate increase in membership fees might look like. The board discussed creating a flyer to be inserted in show packets highlighting the differences between a GMO membership and a participating membership.

### **Fund Raising Idea**

Jen Dillon discussed with the board the possibility of fund raising through magazine subscriptions and renewals through QSP. If subscribers renew through the website (QSP.com), then NEDA would receive 40% of the subscription price. Jen added that the list of magazines was pretty extensive. Jen agreed to check to make sure that our sponsor's magazines are offered.

### **Website**

Tammy Paparella asked the board if it would be OK to purge all of the "links" on the website, most of which are out of date. She also wanted to put in category headings (such as "organizations", "sponsors", "business members", etc.) to make that part of the website more useful. She also

suggested adding an archive folder to hold all old stuff, and purging old documents like prize lists, etc. Tammy informed the board that she had looked at the websites of those groups who have won website awards from the USDF (like PVDA and a CA group site) to get ideas for improving NEDA's site.

## **Coordinator Reports**

### **Competitions – Beth Jenkins**

The prize list for the fall show will be on its way to the printer soon. The costs to run a CDI have increased, and so some of the entry fees for CDI classes will be going up.

### **Sport Horse – Kathy Hickerson**

Good Sporthorse Meeting at the USDF Annual Meeting in TX.

Everyone has been gathering ads, articles, stallions donations and ads for the first ever NEDA Stallion Issue of the Tip. Maryanne Nicpon is working hard at recruiting more stallions for the stallion auction.

Tammy has got a lot of the updates done on the NEDA Website with the most current 2010 Sporthorse activities.

Notes from USDF Open Sporthorse meeting:

- New USDF qualifying ribbons cut costs by 1/2 but quality was not as good so working with Hodges to improve the ribbons.
- Working on a new Sporthorse Scoresheet to break down the confirmation score to multiple scores.
- 2010 Sporthorse Seminar Oct 30-31 at Horses Unlimited, verbal confirmation.
- Breeders can download copies of award certificates on the USDF Website.
- Official USDF Handler seminar has been approved to be just one day.
- In 2010 the rule to have a Foal Championship is in effect, along with the drop score is back. Should help to bring more horses to championships.

### **Sponsorship – Alexandra Dane**

The sponsorship committee is working on signing up sponsors for 2010. The committee feels that most, if not all, of the existing sponsors will sign up for 2010. At this point, it looks like sponsorship for 2010 will be as good as 2009, and may even be better. Jen Dillon reminded those board members who are on Facebook to "friend" NEDA's sponsors that are on Facebook.

### **Membership – Deb Carr-Kirk**

An electronic renewal notice will be going out this week to remind people to join NEDA before December 31 to receive a free copy of the 2010 NE Region OPL. Thanks to Jen for her help on this.

At the moment our 2010 membership is sitting at less than 1,300 members. Hopefully we will get a nice up tick over the next two weeks to bring us closer to where we normally are at this

time, which should be around 1,500. Membership Packets are schedule to go out the week of January 11.

Tammy has done quite a bit of updating of the NEDA web site. If board members would visit their areas of interest on the site to see if there is more updating required, that would be very useful.

I have an update on the Judith Noone awards. Here is the description we came up with for the Spring Show:

*The Tom and Judith Noone Achievement Awards*

*\$50.00 Award for the Highest Scoring Junior Rider at Training Level Test 2. Minimum Score of 65% required.*

*\$50.00 Award for the Highest Scoring Junior Rider at First Level Test 2. Minimum Score of 63% required.*

*\$50.00 Award for the Highest Scoring Junior or Young Rider at Second Level Test 2. Minimum score of 63% required.*

The big news coming out of the 2010 USDF Convention is that membership dues to USDF are going up beginning with the 2011 membership year. The dues increases, along with a new member type, which were suggested by the USDF Ad-Hoc Membership Committee, of which I was a member, were all accepted.

The new USDF Education Membership will be an electronic membership only. They will receive an electronic copy of The Connection magazine. This membership does not allow a member to compete without paying non-member fees. Ed Members will have access to all of USDF's on-line educational opportunities and discounts for USDF events and merchandise. I am not sure if an Ed Member will receive a USDF member card or not. USDF assured the GMOs at the BOG that they will be encouraging Ed Members to join their local GMO if they'd like more benefits and access to more local educational opportunities.

**Education – Angela Prenosil**

This month is pretty quiet. Linda and I did some networking at the USDF Convention in Texas and have some good ideas for future symposia and clinicians, as well as a possible “fireside chat” with Bettina at this coming spring’s event. After the holidays we will contact the Peters about ideas for fall 2010. We also want to see if we can get online registration going for our events sometime this coming year – fingers crossed.

*At the meeting, the committee informed the board that there is already interest developing for the Spring Forum. Pictures, articles, etc. about Bettina will be going up on the website.*

**Publicity – Tracie Richardson and Ginette Brockway**

The January TIP is a bit behind schedule, it is in layout now. I will do a February TIP, please get your information in by Jan. 1st. We will start working on the Salute after the holidays. We have an article and the sponsors are being contacted for their ads.

## **New and Old Business**

### **Equine Journal** –

At the meeting, Karin Swanfeldt reported that she had spoken to Equine Journal, and that the editor wanted to come to a future board meeting to discuss partnering with NEDA, much like the Yankee Peddler. The board determined that the best board meeting for such a presentation would be March.

### **Year End Awards** –

There will be no equivalents for tests for YEA. The USDF has changed their usage of “equivalent tests” for the Regional Championships programs. I would suggest that we continue to follow the USDF rules, and not allow equivalents.

*At the meeting, the Board **VOTED** to accept these proposed changes to the NEDA Year End Awards.*