

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 2015 MEETING: May 11TH, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Houston Dressage Society, Inc. (“HDS” or the “Company”) was held on Monday, May 11TH, 2015. The meeting, conducted via teleconference, was opened at 7:00 PM Central Time. The May meeting was called and held under the authority of the Texas General Non-Profit Corporation Law and the Bylaws of the Company. The May Board meeting was held in the home of Leslie Rohrer.

The following HDS directors, Recognized Show Committee (RSC) members and guests were in attendance or participated via TC:

Karen Cramer (RSC) via TC
Leslie Cummings (RSC) via TC
Flo Edleman via TC
Malinda Edwards de Mata
Angel Gunn (guest)
Susan Heather via TC
Joanne Patterson
Karen Peacock via TC
Chris Renne
Jennie Robicheaux
Leslie Rohrer as facilitator
Charles Saltzer
Patty Sutton
Jena Tavormina
Tracy Zaidenweber, now working as Volunteer Coordinator

An Agenda outlining topics to be reviewed and considered during the May meeting was previously furnished via email to each member of the Board. Opening the meeting, Leslie noting HDS’ guest, listed above, currently an understudy working with HDS' Education Chair. Leslie also noted the two (2) members of the RSC, listed above, in attendance via TC.

Moving to the Agenda, with a quorum present at the beginning of the Board meeting, Leslie asked if Board members had read the previously distributed electronic version of the raw April minutes. Specifically Leslie's inquiry was directed towards corrections or changes to the raw April minutes. Leslie added that her inquiry also applied to the previously delayed vote on corrections to the raw March minutes which had not been voted on and thus approved during the April Board meeting. With corrections and changes made to both the raw March and April minutes, Leslie requested a motion be made to accept the corrections and changes to the raw March and April minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The Board voted to accept the corrections and changes made to both the raw March and April minutes. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions. The finalized March and April minutes, along with the raw May minutes will be forwarded to all Board members prior to the June 2015 Board meeting.

BOARD REPORTS *(per May meeting agenda)*

As a modification of the agenda, Karen Peacock, HDS' Membership Chair, provided the Board with current HDS membership numbers. As of this date, HDS membership stands at three hundred sixty one (361), which is an increase of thirty nine (39) members since the last update provided during the March Board meeting. At this point Karen transitioned to an update regarding Scoring for HDS' upcoming Summer Show. Briefly, Karen will have three new, but experienced scorer's for the Summer Show. Jena Tavormina will assist in the overall score tallying process when she is not riding during the Show. When Jena is unavailable, Angel Gunn will assist in the scoring process. Cassidy Peacock will accompany Karen to the Show and will work in the scoring process as required. Karen closed by stating she has adequate help to ensure a transparent scoring process during the Summer Show.

Following Karen's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Back on the May Agenda, Jennie Robicheaux, HDS' Treasurer, provided the Board with a more complete financial update from HDS' April CDI and Open Show. Jennie stated the Show appears to have lost money similar to the 2014 Show experience. This was HDS' objective regarding Income and Expenses going into the combined CDI and Open Show. The transition to breakeven was the result of a significant increase in Sponsorship Income for the 2015 Show. The Show recorded a significant increase in attendance for the Saturday Dinner with one hundred thirty five (135) participants. The Dinner Income was offset by ~ one half (1/2) of the Dinners were part of the Sponsorship packages that provided Show Income, but not Dinner Income and as such on a standalone basis the Dinner was an overall Expense exceeding Income.

Moving to a Year To date (YTD) Income figure, Jennie noted that some CDI checks still remain to be cleared and Summer Show Income has been received and recorded without offsetting Expenses, thus a YTD figure at this point is unrealistic and meaningless from a financial reporting standpoint. In closing, Jennie advised the Board that checks to cover all RSC Show related Expenses have been written and HDS continues to record incoming checks as Income.

Following Jennie's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to a modified May Agenda.

As part of the modified Agenda, HDS' Malinda Edwards de Mata, Publication Chair, advised the Board that she recognizes the need to meet one on one with Susann Glenn to define a path or procedures to ensure a smoother flow of information provided to Malinda by Chairs and then formatted and passed to Susann for publication on HDS' website. Defining a meeting date is all that remains. Both Malinda, Publication Chair, and Susann have a common goal regarding getting information on HDS' website in a timely manner. While this meeting is in the future, Malinda is looking for articles of interest to HDS' membership or authors to generate articles for inclusion in HDS' website and or HDS' newsletter.

Specifically Malinda plans to diligently remove old and outdated information from HDS' website. Regarding articles of interest, Malinda envisions adding interviews such as with High Point winners from HDS' recent CDI and Open Show. In addition Malinda will investigate feedback from HDS members who have volunteered at HDS Shows for their impression regarding HDS' Volunteer Bucks'. Finally Malinda will generate a article looking ahead at the HDS Schooling Show Schedule leading to the Schooling Show Championships.

Following Malinda's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Back to the Agenda, Susan Heather, HDS Awards Chair advised the Board that as a result of trusting an inherited inventory, HDS was short and therefore unable to award approximately one Hundred (100) ribbons during the last day of the HDS Spring Show. HDS was work to rectify this oversight with the ribbon winners. And as a result of the inventory shortcomings, a large ribbon order, totaling some twenty five hundred (2500) ribbons and a accompanying order of High Point Sashes has been placed with Hodges. Susan noted a large ribbon order garners HDS a decent price/ribbon discount. Susan also noted the new order will be in Houston prior to the HDS Summer Show. In addition Susan ordered the previously discussed stem-less wine glasses for awarding during the Summer Show, In closing Susan noted the CDI Awards Ceremonies, which were conducted during the lunchtime period, went very well and were well attended. Susan thanked Betty Waldo for her efforts in securing the CDI Awards and organizing the Awards ceremonies.

Following Susan's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Continuing with the Agenda, Jena Tavormina, HDS' Schooling Show Chair, advised the Board that she has received a request to add a Western Dressage Class to the Schooling Show Championships. Jena went on to note she had researched the participation in the Western Dressage Class currently offered at Schooling Shows. Jena found three (3) members currently riding in the Class. Based on such limited participation, Jena recommended offering the Class as a Test of Choice option. As proposed, no additional cost will be incurred by HDS. All that will be involved are ribbons and the time involved in the Class and scoring. On the plus side, HDS decision might garner increased HDS membership beyond the good will provided. In reaching this overall opinion, Jena noted the positive input provided by Leslie Cummings. Leslie's input included the facts regarding Western Dressage Classes which current offer twenty four (24) tests thus the attractiveness of offering Western Dressage as an encompassing Test of Choice. From a Judges' prospective, Leslie added that all the tests, riding and scoring based on existing USDF rules. Overriding this process and discussion, Jena noted that 2015 Qualifying Scores must be obtained by riders to participate in the Western Dressage Class offered at the 2015 Schooling Show Championships (SSC). The Judges HDS anticipates using during the SSC are familiar with Western Dressage Classes. In order to potentially broaden the participation in Western classes at schooling Shows, Jena will generate a flyer for upcoming Shows and will provide the notice to Flo for publication in HDS' publications.

Following Jena's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Kim Parker, HDS' Sponsorship Chair, was unable to attend this HDS Board meeting and as such the Sponsorship portion of the Agenda was deferred to this point in the meeting. Leslie Rohrer added that Kim's Silent Auction tally from the Spring Show Auction totaled approximately \$5400.00. Leslie thanked Kim and Patrice Wood for their efforts in organizing and overseeing the Auction which produced the best Auction Income total HDS has every enjoyed.

Completing her comments, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Joanne Patterson, HDS' Junior/YR Chair, opened her remarks by continuing with an auction report, in this case, HDS' Junior/YR's Auction held during the HDS Spring Show. The Junior/YR's raised \$1070.00 which will be split with Region 9 Junior/YR's. HDS' Junior/YR's used these and earlier raised funds to help underwrite a Jeremy Steinberg Clinic. Those Junior/YR's that attended as auditors received a free lunch. Joanne went on to note that the HDS Summer Show will be the last 2015 Qualifying Show for Junior/Yr's to earn a slot in Junior/YR National Championships. In closing, looking to later in 2015, Joanne will attempt to secure Lendon Gray for a late 2015 Clinic. As in the past, participation has enable a number of HDS Junior/YR to be considered for a Florida clinic with Robert Dover in early 2016.

Following Joanne's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

At this point adding to prior input, Flo Edleman, Historian/IT Chair, added an IT update. Flo's efforts, finalizing what was termed Phase I of website upgrades, are aimed at speeding up the loading and navigation of HDS' website. Flo is awaiting .pdf files of both HDS' logo and an HDS banner which when loaded under the Phase I upgrades will speed up the website launch time. Finally Flo reported that email "blasts" recently sent by HDS have been simplified and are now working extremely well as a process.

Following Flo's IT remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Continuing with the modified agenda Patty Sutton, HDS Special Events (SE) Chair, will a sense of relief advised the Board that the CDI is over for 2015. Patty proceeded to discuss the SE, starting with the Friday evening Competitors Party which had over 100 participants. Held in the space adjoining Warm UP #1 and near to the barn areas, the outdoor SE saved the cost involved in the use of the GSWEC Arena Club. Patty noted the SE cost, approximately \$1200.00, covered entertaining 100 happy participants which translates to approximately \$12.00/person of goodwill provided by HDS. Moving to the Saturday

evening Dinner, Patty reported the final participation numbers of paying diners came in as planned and the event went well. Based on participant feedback, Patty noted the providing entertainment during this Dinner may not be necessary and as such deleting entertainment will better balance the cost the Dinner bears related to Sponsorship participants. Patty's post CDI and Open Show recommendations:

- the Friday Competitor Party where held and as held should be continued,
- the Saturday Dinner should be continued just without entertainment

Patty will now transition to planning for the Region 9 Championships which involve selecting a theme and will include selecting entertainment for the Saturday Dinner.

Following Patty's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the modified May Agenda.

Moving to the Recognized Show portion of the May Agenda, Leslie Rohrer, on behalf of the Recognized Show Committee, advised the Board that she had contacted Susan Stickle and had authorized a press release to publicize the results of HDS' CDI and Open Show. The onetime cost of the news release was \$150.00. Leslie went on to thank the RSC for their considerable efforts involved in offering and holding the Spring Show and CDI.

Moving to the Summer Show, Leslie noted a date error in the Prize List and on Show Secretaries website . The solution, the closing date will remain open and there will be no late charges. As of this date, the Summer Show will be full from a participation stand point. Continuing on the Show schedule, Leslie moved to the HDS Labor Day Show. In conjunction with Region 9 Breeders, HDS will offer Young Horse Classes which will offer an opportunity for Young Horses to qualify for Breeders Championships. The Classes that HDS will add will be on Saturday and Sunday. The Classes will be held in the Wheless Arena and it's adjoining Warm Up area. The Classes will be held inside the existing 20M X 60M ring. To hold the Young Horse Classes requires a f contracting a Fourth Judge in this case a Young Horse Qualified Judge. The costs involving an extra Judge will be covered by the fees paid by the Young Horse participants. Currently the RSC is in contact with Jennie Malone Casey, a Young Horse Qualified Judge. All indications are the Young Horse Classes may contain approximately twenty (20) entries. HDS volunteers will be involved, primarily a scribe. Scoring will be onsite and real time. The Judge will be provided a microphone for post Class comments and overall control of Class operations. Ribbons/Class will be standard HDS awards. In addition Breed ribbons will be available for Best Mare and Best Foal.

In wrapping up her remarks, Leslie moved to 2016, specifically HDS' April 2016 CDI. In 2015, HDS offered a CDI3*. Leslie and the RSC is now considering offering a CDI2* for 2016. HDS will save \$8000.00 by changing to a CDI2* A CDI2* will not provide an opportunity for a rider to receive a World Ranking score. In the past, World Ranking has not been an issue for riders. Currently all RSC members are in favor of the CDI2* option for 2016. HDS' submittal to USDF will be based on a 2016 CDI2* Show. HDS will consider other

input, but compromise that increases HDS' cost basis for a CDI will require outside compromise.

Following the RSC remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

Tracy Zaidenweber, HDS' Volunteer Coordinator, noted the HDS Volunteer Program was set to go. Preparation for the Summer Show was proceeding will gaps that must be filled. other than pre-Show juggling Tracy had no additional comments.

Following Tracy's brief remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no additional Board questions other than the above noted discussion, Leslie directed the meeting back to the modified May Agenda.

Continuing with a May Agenda, Chris Renne, HDS' Education Chair, updated the Board regarding the recent Region 9 Adult Amateur Clinic featuring Kathy Connelly and Betsy Steiner. Chris and Angel Gunn attended the two (2) day Clinic as auditors on behalf of HDS. The Clinic was held at Windy Knoll in Magnolia, Texas. The Clinic featured eight (8) riders selected from a field of thirty two (32) applicants from Region 9. The Clinic was attended by approximately ninety (90) auditors. This well received Clinic was the initial 2015 USDF Adult Clinic which will now be offered in the other eight (8) USDF Regions.

Moving to HDS' planned Conrad Schumacher FEI Training Series, Chris' comments noted the simple need for a name for the Schumacher Series going forward. For now, the Series will be called an FEI Training Series offered by HDS unless a better name is selected as the planned FEI Series comes together. Currently finalized details including a weekend rider fee is TBD with the initial weekend for the Series tentatively scheduled during September, 2015. Adhering to the principle of not burdening any barn with a three (3) day event, which deters all other normal training and riding by resident boarders, the Schumacher Series will employ and AM set of rides, specifically four (4) riders, at an local barn followed by some over lunch travel to a nearby barn for a PM set of another four (4) riders. The first day session, expected to be a Friday, will be closed to auditing. As stated above, the initial Series will be in mid September.

Following Chris' remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the modified April Agenda.

Returning to the discussion clarifying the role of the Publication Chair coordinating the release of information provided by individual HDS Chairs, Malinda Edwards de Mata, HDS' Publication Chair, advised the Board she has a planned meeting with Flo later this week to assist with content as applied to HDS' website and HDS' Facebook page. Going forward, Flo will continue to interface with Malinda by providing IT support as needed for HDS' website and HDS' Facebook page . Malinda will close similar named but not related Facebook pages or at least have such Facebook pages remove any claimed affiliation with HDS or representation of HDS endorsement.

Following Malinda's remarks, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the May Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (*per May meeting agenda*)

The Young Horse program requiring Classes during the HDS Labor day Show was addressed above.

NEW BUSINESS (*per May meeting Agenda*)

Leslie noted that Dawn Chamarro has stepped forward to offer assistance with the upcoming Young Horse classes during the Labor Day Show. In the discussion with Leslie, Dawn also expressed an interest in assisting with a future Stakes Class as outlined in the past but tabled due to more pressing issues and opportunities.

Without additional questions or Business items offered and the listed Agenda addressed, the May 2015 HDS Board meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Secretary

Approved: _____

Chairman