

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 2016 MEETING: January 11TH, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Houston Dressage Society, Inc. (“HDS” or the “Company”) was held on Monday, January 11TH, 2016. The meeting, conducted via teleconference, was opened at 7:02 PM Central Time. The January meeting was called and held under the authority of the Texas General Non-Profit Corporation Law and the Bylaws of the Company. The January 2016 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 Edelman via TC
Bit Fingerhut
Angel Gunn
Lacey Halstead
Susan Heather
Joanne Patterson
Karen Peacock via TC
Chris Renne via TC
Leslie Rohrer as facilitator
Charles Saltzer
Patty Sutton via TC
Jena Tavormina
Tracy Zaidenweber, RSC and Volunteer Coordinator

An Agenda outlining topics to be reviewed and considered during the January meeting was previously furnished via email to each member of the Board. Leslie opened the meeting by welcoming new Board members in attendance. Leslie next noted the three (3) members of the RSC, listed above, either in attendance or participating via TC.

With a quorum in place at the beginning of the meeting, Leslie inquired if Board members or RSC members had any corrections or comments regarding the previously distributed electronic version of the raw December minutes. With corrections and changes made as input by Board members to the raw December minutes, Leslie requested a motion be made to accept the corrections and changes to the raw December minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The Board voted to accept the corrections and changes made to the raw December minutes. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions. The finalized December minutes and the raw January '16 minutes will be forwarded to all Board members and RSC members prior to the February '16 Board meeting.

BOARD REPORTS *(per January meeting agenda)*

Bit Fingerhut, HDS Treasurer advised the Board that HDS' December EOY financial status, ending the Fiscal year with a Net Income of \$23,132.11, has not changed. Moving to membership #'s, Bit has received an booked Income to date from two hundred fifteen (215) '16 members with some additional new members in hand & to be processed. Two hundred fifteen (215) to date, represents an increase of sixty five (65) members from HDS' initial '16 membership report. Next Bit noted the upcoming HDS Winter Show, via entries HDS has booked strong Income with a significant # of Show entries to be process. Bit noted to date offsetting Show Expenses have not offset Income. Show Expenses, other than RSC pre-paid air travel tickets, hotel pre-booking, etc., follow Shows and come from GSWEC & other suppliers.

Based on the need to ensure HDS issued 1099's to Judges and Show Officials can be validated, going forward HDS will have those receiving HDS payment, sign their 1099 before received a check from HDS. With a number of new HDS Officers in place, updated signatures will be recorded with HDS' banker, Bank of America, specifically regarding authorized check signatures. Also in compliance with best Accounting practices, Bit will research and recommend a \$ amount/check above which will require the signature of two (2) HDS Officers.

Following Bit's comments, Leslie next inquired if there were any Board questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Patty Sutton, HDS Special Events Chair, advised the Board that as of this date, she had over one hundred (100) reservations for HDS' Awards Banquet which will be held on Saturday evening of HDS' Winter Show. Patty's preparations, mostly with GSWEC, are on track & will accommodate the expected larger # of reservations including Shows officials, Judges & out of town volunteers working the Winter Show.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board Special Events questions or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Susan Heather, HDS Awards Chair, having last month showed the Board the prizes HDS will award the Recognized Champions and Reserve Champions and the Schooling Show Champions and Reserve Champions, Susan now advised her remaining task is having the Award plates engraved. Susan has found with some work, as is usually the case, numbers ensure HDS will get the price per engraving. Moving to HDS' ribbon inventory, with leftovers from '15 Shows, especially the Open portion of the '15 Championships, Susan has adequate ribbon numbers to cover the '16 Winter Show. Looking ahead, Susan plans orders for '16 to be placed by February 17Th to maximize HDS' discounts. As a direct follow up to Susan's researching making ribbons new for '16, Susan found multicolored ribbons, ordered in numbers, can be purchased for the same unit cost/ribbon.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS Awards or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Karen Peacock, HDS Membership Chair, advised the Board that she expects added new memberships tied to Winter Show entries. To facilitate new memberships Karen will have membership applications at the Awards Banquet ticket table. Moving to historical membership related issue, Karen stated she is watching and checking as best possible membership rider-horse combinations. Especially for Open riders, riding multiple horses for multiple HDS amateur members. Karen's interest, Year End Award's and overall scoring that is recorded by USDF, the basis of HDS Year End Awards.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS memberships or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Jena Tavormina, HDS Schooling Show (SS) Chair advised the Board that the Schooling Show calendar for 16 is posted on HDS' website. With one modification, Shows that have not provided paper work and the small posting fee that HDS has always required, those Shows are depicted with Show dates TBD. Jena noted that the Schooling Show Championships lost ~\$1200.00. With HDS Expenses to support Schooling Shows, the cost of High Point Ribbons and Sashes for Champions and Reserve Champions plus Medals for Introductory Level winners, HDS loses several thousand dollars per year on Schooling Shows. The original concept, encouraging and rewarding Schooling Show riders excellent, was considered as fueling HDS' future. However, implementation of the concept has not met expectations. Jena noted to begin to match Income and Expenses, changes must be made on the Expense side. In that regard, a survey will be mailed to the participating barn entities. Expected response from participating barn management, some significant number of which fails to provide paper work and the small posting fee, will determine how the Chair proceeds with a recommendation for the Board's consideration.

As an offsetting positive comment, Jena noted that some Eventing barns that hold HDS Schooling Shows must offer Eventing Dressage Classes. Looking to again broaden the attractiveness of HDS Shows, offering Eventing Dressage Classes along with the recently added Western Dressage Classes might increase entries looking to qualify for Schooling Shows Championships. Adding Eventing Dressage Classes to Schooling Shows will entail offering Eventing Dressage Classes during the Schooling Show Championships. The above is in conjunction with Jena's goal for '16 of broadening the appeal of Schooling Shows and gaining more HDS members in 2016. To endorse Jena's effort, a motion was made and seconded to offer Eventing Dressage Classes during Schooling Shows and in-turn offer Championship Eventing Dressage Classes during the Schooling Show Championships. The Board voted to offer Eventing Dressage Classes during Schooling Shows and in-turn offer Championship Eventing Dressage Classes during the Schooling Show Championships. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions.

With respect to a '16 Schooling Show Championships, Jena will review to be received barn responses noted above. Jena will look to balance Schooling Show Income and Expenses. A

final decision on changes to the HDS Schooling School program will be based on '15 Actual and '16 expected Schooling Show Championships Financials.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments regarding Schooling Shows. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Lacy Halstead, newly Board elected HDS Sponsorship/Advertising Chair, introduced herself to Board members. In-turn the Board welcomed Lacey as a new Board member. Lacey advised the Board that her initial effort will be modify HDS' Sponsorship brochure to reflect her approach to securing future HDS Sponsors and Advertisers.

With no Board questions regarding HDS' Sponsorship efforts, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Joanne Patterson, HDS Junior/YR Chair, summarized the recently conducted Junior/YR board election as follow for HDS' Board:

- Allie Cypress as President elect
- Fiona Patterson as Vice President elect
- Nicole Rothell as Historian elect
- Gabrielle Susich as Volunteer Coordinator elect
- Sarah Evans as Secretary elect

Joanne next noted that two (2) HDS Junior/YR's, Allie Cyprus and Allison Hopkins, were participating in the Robert Dover Horsemanship Clinic in Florida. In addition, Jessica fan will attend as an auditor with a local horse available for her use if opening in the Clinic schedule materializes. Finally, Joanne advised the board that Kathy Jones, prior HDS President, will serve as Junior/YR Fund raiser for '16, filling the long term position held by Ina Campbell.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS Junior/YR's or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the December Agenda.

Chris Renne, HDS Education Chair, opened her presentation by noting the January 15Th deadline for entry applications to participate in HDS' next Schumacher FEI Training Series. The next Training Series will be held on February 8TH through the 11TH at Woodlands Equestrian Center in northern Harris County. Seven to eight FEI rides will open to open riders on Tuesday through Thursday. For the first time, a fourth day during the Series will be provided for Adult Amateur participation by 4TH Level and above riders looking to improve and advance to FEI Amateur Competition. Email blasts and HDS' Facebook page have advertised the series and the additional day of Amateur participation. The same transparent selection process will apply to the now added Amateur participation. The selection criteria, based on a rider's history, scores obtained, the application and accompanying short taped ride example.

Chris transitioned to an initially planned Freestyle Clinic with Karen Robinson which will be held at TexOver Farms. Looking to broadening the possible participation in the planned Clinic, an Education event, Chris recommended HDS co-sponsor the event in some manner with TexOver. As planned the Clinic will offer a two (2) hour lecture session with Karen for \$325.00/session. Chris suggested HDS Co-Sponsor the event with TexOver via a \$325.00 expenditure by HDS. The Karen Robinson Freestyle Clinic will be held at TexOver over the weekend of February 6th and 7TH. HDS Co-Sponsorship will enable HDS members to audit the event at no cost.

Based on Chris' recommendation to the Board, a motion was made and seconded to Co-Sponsor the Karen Robinson Freestyle Clinic which will be held at TexOver over the weekend of February 6th and 7TH via a \$325.00 expenditure by HDS. The Board voted to Co-Sponsor the Karen Robinson Freestyle Clinic which will be held at TexOver over the weekend of February 6th and 7TH via a \$325.00 expenditure by HDS. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions.

Chris thanked the Board and noted the Karen Robinson Freestyle Clinic in the first HDS Unmounted Education event at no cost for interested HDS members.

Concluding her remarks, Chris advised the Board that the work, selecting worthy recipients to benefit from HDS' Bushager Grant, is complete. All that remains, announce the recipients at HDS' Awards Banquet.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS' Education venue or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Malinda Edwards de Mata, HDS Publication Chair, was unable to attend this HDS Board meeting. HDS' website needs cleaned up, specifically removing old info and fixing tabs. Without Publication input, these tasks need to be divided and addressed by other Board members.

Without a Publications Chair presentation, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Flo Edelman, HDS IT/Historian Chair, noting the input of others supporting that Malinda needs to make changes to HDS's website to enable Flo and Jena in-turn to make the needed tab fixes on HDS' website. Flo further noted another option is to have Kyle, HDS' web master, make the needed and now on hold changes. Kyle could make the needed changes in conjunction with his changing the header portion of HDS' website. Flo stated that work done by Kyle on HDS' website will be an expense item. Moving to her priority, Flo advised the Board that on Facebook, there is one directly competing and like named page. Further discussion pointed out that there remains two (2) similar named Facebook pages that can easily confuse HDS members and any interested parties.

Finally Board discussion centered on software for HDS volunteers to sign up for specific assignments over specific volunteer hours. Basically filling in the Volunteer schedule. Susan Heather reiterated that Houston's Eventing Shows have and successfully used software to fill in their Volunteers schedule. Susan has inquired and has been assured this software can and will be made available to HDS. Eventers have used this software for a number of years. Susan and Flo will coordinate in this transaction.

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

Leslie Rohrer, on behalf of the Recognized Show Committee, noted that as of this date, HDS had one hundred thirty eight (138) entries for the Winter Show. With likely additional entries prior to the closing date, HDS has secured the Tellepsen Arena as a fourth covered arena. Tellepsen provides undercover classes and avoids the need to securing an outdoor synthetic arena and the rule required synthetic warm-up arena. Per the Prize List, the Show includes Pony Division that includes qualifying classes for Pony National Championships. Ponies will compete in every Level offered and as such the show will offer four (4) divisions, Open, Amateur, Junior/YR and Ponies.

Moving to the subject of a Southern Breeder Championship to be offered by HDS, a topic first considered last month, it now appears the event(s) may not happen due to issues that must be resolved by the Southern Breeders. Leslie provided the above as information, the issues are beyond HDS' preview.

Completing her update, Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS recognized Shows planned for 2016 or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

Tracy Zaidenweber, RSC member and Volunteer Coordinator, advised the board her Volunteer Schedule for the Winter Show still has holes that must be filled. Tracy is following all contacts via barns, trainers & HDS members. To close, Tracy reiterated HDS' policy, HDS Show participants must fulfill a commitment of a minimum of four (4) hours of volunteer work per competition year in order to eligible for HDS' Year-End Awards.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS volunteers for 2016 or comments. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the January Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (*per January meeting agenda*)

With no update on a Stakes concept for HDS Shows, a review of additional HDS' Unfinished Business was deferred.

NEW BUSINESS (*per January meeting Agenda*)

None discussed during this January HDS Board meeting.

Without additional questions or Business items offered and the listed Agenda addressed, the January 2016 HDS Board meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Secretary