

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 2016 MEETING: April 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, April 11TH, 2016. The meeting, conducted via teleconference, was opened at 7:00 PM Central Time. The April meeting was called and held under the authority of the Texas General Non-Profit Corporation Law and the Bylaws of the Company. The April 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 via TC
Susan Heather
Joanne Patterson
Karen Peacock via TC
Chris Renne
Leslie Rohrer as facilitator
Charles Saltzer
Jena Tavormina
Tracy Zaidenweber VC and guest

An Agenda outlining topics to be reviewed and considered during the April meeting was previously furnished via email to each member of the Board. Leslie opened the meeting noting two (2) members of the RSC, listed above, in attendance via TC. In addition, Tracy Zaidenweber, HDS's contract VC was in attendance as a guest during this HDS Board meeting.

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

BOARD REPORTS (*per April meeting agenda*)

Modifying the April Agenda to fit Board members needing to report, vote & depart, the modified agenda transition as listed below.

Jena Tavormina, HDS Schooling Show (SS) Chair, advised the Board that a new barn, All Xena's Horses has plans in place to offer five (5) Schooling Shows in 2016. The additional Schooling Shows expand HDS' Schooling Show Schedule from twenty five (25) to thirty (30). Next on the Schooling Show schedule, Twinwood Equestrian Center will offer its initial Schooling Show this coming Saturday. Jena noted the enthusiasm of the above noted barns in offering Schooling Shows to their boarders, clients & the greater HDS community. Moving to the overall Schooling Show process, Jena is looking for scores from the already held 2016 Schooling Shows that appear on HDS' Schedule. Jena reminded the Board that in this specific regard, '16 appears the reporting of scoring is following the poor reporting trend that was well established in 2015. In addition Jena reminded the Board that the impact of the 2015 Schooling Show trend and low attendance at the 2015 Schooling Show Championships resulted in HDS' Board recently voting to modify the 2016 Schooling Show Championships to a single day venue. In closing Jena advised the board she is working on securing judges for the 2016 Schooling Show Championships.

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

Flo Edelman, HDS IT/Historian Chair, opened her remarks by noting the Volunteer Sign Up software is in place & accessible to any in the HDS community interested in serving as a volunteer for the upcoming HDS CDI/Spring Classic. Flo noted as of this date, eighteen (18) potential volunteers accessed the Volunteer sign up software.

Flo transitioned to HDS' Homepage & HDS' Facebook page. In the past month 238 of HDS' current ~330 members accessed one of both sites. That is >70% of HDS' current membership. With respect to HDS' current Homepage, any and all possible upgrades are on hold until the Board formulates a go forward plan specific to the HDS website. Flo reiterated that HDS Facebook page is also being used to better serve the Schooling Show community. The Schooling Show schedule now appears on Facebook and the HDS website.

In closing & as a point of clarification, Flo noted the Volunteer Sign Up is accessed and used via FormStack. The friendliness of the process is such that Tracy can "see" and generate a spreadsheet of Volunteers for upcoming HDS Shows.

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 April Agenda.

Returning to the April Agenda, Bit Fingerhut, HDS Treasurer, reported to the Board that as of this date HDS' had twenty eight (28) entries to the Spring Classic & CDI. The to date Show entries generated ~\$14,000.00 of Income weighted significantly by the higher CDI entry fees. Sponsorships to date stand at ~\$14,000.00 with a sponsor budget expected total of \$17,000.00.

Transitioning to HDS YTD, Bit advised the Board that HDS YTD Net Income is ~\$7,750.00. Bit added that financially it is significant that HDS is going into a CDI and the Spring Classic with a positive YTD Net Income. To close, Bit noted that the new HDS checks, enabling two (2) signatures as required by Board approval for checks in excess of \$5,000.00 are on order. Current HDS checks will be honored by HDS current banker which has not changed. HDS has and will continue to make use of the technology offered by BA to improve HDS' financial capabilities and transparency of reporting and recording of transactions such as during the upcoming HDS Silent Auction.

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 April Agenda.

Susan Heather, HDS Awards Chair, advised the Board that with recent Board approval to purchase upgraded HDS Show ribbons from PB Awards, an order for 1200 ribbons has been placed. Delivery will be in a staged process with HDS receiving 1ST through 3rd place ribbons initially. These are the ribbons that are awarded and picked up in the highest numbers during HDS Recognized Shows. Susan reiterated that she has an existing ribbon inventory which will cover HDS' next two (2) Recognized Shows. Once the new upgraded ribbons are in-house, Susan will transition to awarding the new ribbons at HDS Recognized Shows in the 2ND half of 2016.

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

Karen Peacock, HDS Membership Chair, advised the Board that HDS membership has increased to three hundred forty nine (349) from last month's reported three hundred thirty (330). Karen added she expects additional memberships during the upcoming HDS CDI/Spring Classic. In addition Karen noted expecting additional memberships tied to HDS offering Pony Division participation in upcoming HDS 2016 Recognized Shows. HDS membership in '16 continues to be slightly ahead of 2015's pace. In closing Karen, noting that with Eventing Dressage classes now offered in HDS Schooling Shows, raised the question that might now be the time for HDS to outreach to Eventing barns and these new competing riders as potential volunteers and eventually HDS members? The response was "Yes" via Board members and RSC members specifically interacting with these riders and barns. the goal, attempting to expand HDS outreach and membership.

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

Patty Sutton, HDS Special Events Chair, was unable to attend this Board meeting but Patty is finalizing plans for a number of CDI/Spring Classic events. Briefly:

- A Friday evening outdoor Competitors Party planned for ~150 participants

- A Saturday evening Dinner in the Arena Club planned for ~200 participants seated at 25 tables with 8 guests/table. Cost/guest is set in the Prize list at \$45.00/guest.

It was stated Patty is working a Brazilian themed menu.

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

Lacey Halstead, HDS Sponsorship/Advertising Chair, advised the Board she is continuing to pursue and finalize CDI/Spring Classic and overall HDS Sponsorships. Lacey reported the following:

- Equine Express finalized as an annual Silver Sponsor in the amount of \$1250.00
- Rose Hill Equestrian Center as an annual Sponsor
- Waller Farms finalized as a Platinum Sponsor along with underwriting a Trophy for HDS' Pony Division
- Gulf Coast Trailer sales appears to again want to support HDS in some way-working
- Local Houston & surrounding Equine Vets are being pursued and worked

Looking specifically to wrap up the last two bullet points prior to the CDI/Spring Classic.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions or comments regarding HDS' Sponsorship efforts. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the April Agenda.

Joanne Patterson, HDS Junior/YR Chair, advised the Board as of this date she knows there will be HDS/Region 9 Junior/YR participation in the CDI, Joanne is just not sure of the exact number of participants. Joanne expressed confidence that HDS/Region 9 Junior/YR's will volunteer during the CDI/Spring Classic and will help as volunteers with HDS' Silent Auction.

Moving to HDS/Region 9 Junior/YR specific events, Joanne noted a Region 9 Junior/YR Clinic at Windy Knoll during the 4/15 weekend. Next on the Region 9 Junior/YR calendar is the Lendon Gray Clinic on May 14-15 at Twinwood Equestrian Center. This Region 9 Junior/YR event is sponsored by Leslie Fan. HDS will support the Junior/YR event by providing lunch for participants during the Clinic.

At this point Joanne's discussion transitioned to a topic/issue from the last Board meeting, how to best respond to and support a request for HDS logo saddle pads for the upcoming Region 9 Junior/YR competition in Colorado. As was noted, not all Region 9 NAJRYRC riders are HDS members. In the past HDS has supported the Region 9 Junior/YR team either directly or in-kind. It was noted that Region 9 Junior/YR's have a designated Fund Raiser and Fund raising efforts supported by HDS and HDS members. Discussion repeated that there are thirteen (13) GMO's in Region 9 and HDS is the largest GMO in Region 9. Closing the discussion the Board resolved that a cash contribution was the best and proper response by HDS to a Region 9 effort. Based on a motion, a seconding motion the resulting vote

without opposing votes and no abstentions resolved that HDS make a \$100.00 donation to Region 9 Junior/YR to be used as needed by Region 9 Junior/YR's to purchase Region 9 saddle pads.

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 April Agenda.

Chris Renne, HDS Education Chair, summarized the recently completed Schumacher Educational Series as successful and well received.

Chris noted the next Schumacher Educational Series is scheduled in September. Chris voiced her opinion that a budgeting review is required going forward. With more than 90 days until the next in the Series, HDS will apply with the Dressage Foundation to secure a potential Grant of between \$1,000-1,500.00 to cover any documented losses incurred by HDS in offering a Dressage Educational event. HDS' other option is to raise the participation fee for Open and Amateur participants by \$25.00/participant for each ride. A third option is pursuing Sponsorship(s) to support the Series.

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 April Agenda.

Malinda Edwards de Mata, HDS Publication Chair, was unable to attend this HDS board meeting. While no Chair status report was available at this time, options going forward addressing specifically how HDS will both accommodate and utilize technology to pursue HDS' stated goals and objectives remains as an unresolved issue. HDS is looking for a formulated plan to review and discuss.

Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS' Publications or comments. With no additional Board questions or input, Leslie directed the meeting back to the April Agenda.

Leslie Rohrer, on behalf of the Recognized Show Committee, advised that HDS's Recognized Show Committee is 100% in and dedicated to HDS' CDI/Spring Classic Open Shows. Leslie, having announced Janis Burke, the CEO of Houston Sports Authority, as HDS' Guest Speaker during the Spring Show Dinner in the Arena Club at GSWEC added that Janis will be our guest and will not request a speaker fee.

Leslie noted as of this date the CDI/Spring Classic will utilize three (3) covered arenas and will run four (4) indoor dressage arenas. Two of the four uncovered Dressage areas will be in GSWEC's Tellepsen Arena. If additional entries are received HDS is prepared to set up a fifth and outdoor arena along with a separate synthetic warm-up surface and tests utilizing a like synthetic riding surface. Judges onsite for the CDI will prove the additional judging capacity to officiate a fifth dressage arena.

Prior to closing, as if the RSC and by default HDS volunteers do not have a full plate, Leslie added that HDS will attempt to offer a ProAM-Open & Amateur-Tournament during the HDS Summer Show in June. Basically, and as HDS has done in the past, this will be Dressage team competition, with as Dressage team formed by a minimum of three (3) riders and in turn averaging the scores earned during the competition day to ultimately place the competing teams at the close of the Show. Also related to the June Show(s), Leslie added:

- Freestyle High Point Award: Competing JR/YR, Amateur and Open riders
- Some Breed awards as defined in the Summer Show Prize List, specifically the Awards page

Completing her RSC 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 April Agenda.

Tracy Zaidenweber, RSC member and Volunteer Coordinator, expressed her pleasure with the Volunteer Sign Up results to date for the CDI/Spring classic Show(s). Tracy reiterated to the Board, think and talk up volunteering at your respective barns.

Leslie, echoing Tracy's message, inquired if there any Board questions regarding HDS volunteering for 2016. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the April Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (*per April meeting agenda*)

With the RSC fully engaged, there is no update on a Stakes concept for HDS Shows. A review of this topic as HDS' Unfinished Business was deferred at this time.

NEW BUSINESS (*per April meeting Agenda*)

With no New Business on the April Agenda and no New business item raised by Board members this part of the April meeting was closed without any questions or comments.

Without additional questions or Business items offered and the listed Agenda addressed, the April 2016 HDS Board meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Secretary

Approved: _____
Chairman