

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AUGUST 2016 MEETING: August 8TH, 2016**

The regular August meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Houston Dressage Society, Inc. (“HDS” or the “Company”) was held on Monday, August 8TH, 2016. The meeting, conducted via teleconference, was opened at ~7:00 PM Central Time. The August meeting was called and held under the authority of the Texas General Non-Profit Corporation Law and the Bylaws of the Company. The August 2016 Board meeting was held in the home of Leslie Rohrer.

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

Karen Cramer (RSC) via TC  
Leslie Cummings (RSC) via TC  
    Bit Fingerhut  
    Angel Gunn  
Lacey Halstead via TC  
    Susan Heather  
Karen Peacock via TC  
    Joanne Patterson  
    Chris Renne  
Leslie Rohrer as facilitator  
    Charles Saltzer  
    Patty Sutton  
    Jena Tavormina  
Tracy Zaidenweber VC and guest

An Agenda outlining topics to be reviewed and considered during the August meeting was previously furnished via email to each member of the Board, the members of the Recognized Show Committee and HDS' Volunteer Coordinator. Leslie opened the meeting noting two (2) members of the RSC, listed above, in attendance via TC.

Leslie noted that a quorum was in place at the beginning of the August meeting. Leslie reminded the Board that with the traditional lull in activity following HDS' Summer Shows, HDS had not held a July Board meeting. As such, Leslie inquired if Board members or the RSC members had any corrections or comments regarding the previously distributed electronic version of the raw June minutes. With corrections and changes made as input by Board members to the raw June minutes, Leslie requested a motion be made to accept the corrections and changes to the raw June minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The Board voted to accept the corrections and changes that will be made to the raw June minutes. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions. The finalized June minutes and the raw August '16 minutes will be forwarded to all Board members and RSC members prior to the September '16 Board meeting.

## **BOARD REPORTS (per August meeting agenda)**

Bit Fingerhut, HDS Treasurer, opened her remarks by advising the board that HDS' '15 Tax filing had been submitted prior to the filing deadline. HDS's filing, more complex than in prior years since HDS completed the tax years as a 501 c(3) organization, was acknowledged and accepted by the IRS. In short, HDS was legal with respect to the IRS in '15.

Moving to HDS' current year standing, Bit advised the Board that HDS' YTD Net Income stands at approximately \$5,148.00. Bit advised the Board that HDS is currently recording expenses for the upcoming Labor Day Show. Bit noted that if those future Show expenses were not included in the above HDS YTD Net, HDS' June YTD Net would be approximately \$10,000. Bit included this dollar figure as a follow up to Board questions and comments regarding how HDS is doing as a 501 c(3) and how HDS is doing financially as measured against HDS' historical results. Basically Bit and other HDS board members reiterated that HDS is financially on strong footing and is clearly moving in the right direction. HDS is extremely grateful for the continuing support of its Members and Volunteers.

In closing her remarks, Bit confirmed HDS' financial improvements as a 501 c(3) and reminded the Board that HDS was pursuing an HDS goal, HDS financial health and on-going stability.

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 August Agenda.

Jena Tavormina, HDS Schooling Show (SS) Chair opened her remarks by advising the Board that the on the SS page on HDS' website has information on how SS participants, showing off the track thoroughbreds, may qualify for the HDS' yearly Bernice Foy Memorial Award.

Jena's additional remarks are summarized as follows:

- Barns are adding SS's to HDS' program & the Shows have been added to the SS website
- Several Eventing Shows have and are adding Eventing Dressage tests recognized by HDS as a new Schooling Show division to Schooling Show programs
- Several barns have submitted scores earned in SS tests-THIS IS AN IMPROVEMENT. Is it a trend? Clearly a trend other SS barn's SHOULD follow.
- Pony Classes are being added to SS's. Hopefully in sufficient numbers and if SS Qualifying scorers are ridden, hopefully the numbers will justify Pony Classes at the '16 SS Championships.
- Marine Morgan of Soltice Farms offers Pony classes during all of her SS's. Marie is championing the Pony Class effort by example and by offering financial incentive for those earning qualifying SS scores.

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

Flo Edelman, HDS IT/Historian Chair, was unable to attend this Board meeting due to a prior commitment. Flo is actively working on the electronic HDS ballot for the online Election. HDS' Board election will be held in September. As is the case, one-half of HDS Board member positions go through a nominating process, stand for election and are in-turn elected each year with the stated goal of severing fully a two (2) year term.

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

Continuing the August Agenda, Karen Peacock, HDS Membership Chair, advised the Board that during the past thirty days she received, processed and entered seventeen (17) new 2016 HDS members. As such HDS membership has increased to three hundred eighty nine (389) members. Closing her remarks Karen noted 2016 HDS membership closes September 30TH. Karen specified that per HDS' existing rules, a qualified rider with the intent of participating in the HDS year end awards, must be an HDS member by September 30th of the competition year, in this case the effective date is 9/30/2016.

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

Patty Sutton, HDS Special Events Chair, advised the Board that she will provide some cooling drinks for HDS Labor Day Show participants and HDS' volunteers. Patty will arrange for a frozen slush machine and the pre-mixed syrups such that cool drinks are available for all with the need to be cooled during the Shows. Patty has learned the need to be cool when it is hot at GSWEC. The machine that Patty will rent and have delivered will cost \$160./day and will include cups for the 2 day rental. The machine will be set up in the Awards office. The machine will provide dual dispersers and will be operated by volunteers in the Awards office. Patty believes it will hot.

Patty transitioned to the '16 USDF Regional Championships which HDS will host @ GSWEC. Patty reiterated the Show Theme, Paint The Town Blue, which will be used to tie together HDS' Special Events offered during the Championships. Patty is working to make a Scavenger Hunt, utilizing HDS JR/YR's as facilitators, a reality on Saturday night. In addition, looking to minimize entertainment expenses, Patty is in discussion with Vicky Bush regarding a possible "Donkey and Dressage" demonstration. As possible Plan B that patty is pursuing is a Dog Agility demonstration. Both of the above would occur in GSWEC's Main Arena.

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

Lacey Halstead, HDS Sponsorship/Advertising Chair, noted that she and Leslie will be meeting to formulate a Sponsorship strategy for the '16 Region 9 Championships. The goal, repeat the positive outcome Sponsorship wise from the '16 CDI. Lacey hopes to build on and reinforce the expectations of current Sponsors while working to add additional Sponsors. Leslie and Lacey hope to become more strategic when presenting the broader, Texas and Region 9 wide appeal and community reach of HDS as a 501 c(3) when introducing HDS to future Sponsors.

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

Joanne Patterson, HDS Junior/YR Chair, summarized the Region 9 results from the July NAJYRC Championships which were held in Central Colorado. Region 9 riders at the NAJYRC Championships:

- Allison Cyprus was 2ND riding the YR Team test
- The Region 9 YR Team earned the Team Bronze Award
- The Region 9 Junior Team finished in 4TH place in the team awards

Moving to the Festival of Champions, Joanne noted that the list of participants from HDS and Region 9 is still not finalized. School, vacations, college trips all conflict with the timing of the Festival of Champions even though the Festival aims to attract the top FEI level Junior/YR participants.

In closing Joanne noted the '16 National Dressage Pony Cup. There is the possibility of up to seven (7) riders from Region 9 divided into Junior/YR respectively entering the competition. The National Dressage Pony Club organization will collectively offer \$51,000.00 in Prize money, ribbons and handsome awards.

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 August Agenda.

Chris Renne, HDS Education Chair, advised the Board that HDS has received a grant from The Dressage Foundation which can be used to offset financial losses incurred by HDS in holding the next Schumacher Training Series. HDS has received an initial \$750. of the Grant total of \$1000. The Grant process and offsetting of financial losses is a detailed process which will be summarized and reviewed at the end of the next Training Series. HDS has held to the initial budget for '16 and some costs have increased. The Grant is now in place and will mitigate losses up to \$1000. on this final Training Series for '16. HDS will review the budget prior to the offering of the Training Series for '17. Closing her remarks, Chris noted the next Schumacher Training Series will continue and follow the same rider format on a T, W, TH & Friday, September 20, 21, 22 & 23TH initially at The Woodlands Equestrian Center with AA riders followed by Open rides at TexOver Farms on the later days of the Training Series.

At this point Tracy added that as part of HDS' Educational efforts, HDS has concluded a successful Scribing Clinic at Charlotte's Saddlery. Tracy noted sixteen (16) HDS eager members participated in the Clinic.

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 August Agenda.

Susan Heather, HDS Awards Chair, in her opening comments advised that HDS, as previously noted, will utilize the existing ribbon inventory to cover HDS' late August Laborious Day Show. HDS' next Recognized Show will provide greatly improved and more visually appealing ribbons.

Susan transitioned to HDS' Year End Awards. In keeping with HDS' historic recording of minutes and holding certain details in suspense, Members will need to attend the '16 Year End Awards to find out what Champions and Reserve Champions will receive in the way of awards as acknowledgement of achievement in '16.

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

Malinda Edwards de Mata, HDS Publication Chair, did not attend this HDS Board meeting. With no update provided by the Chair there was no HDS Publication or website discussion.

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 August Agenda.

Leslie Rohrer, on behalf of the Recognized Show Committee, noted that the Labor Day Show will as of this date will utilize three (3) Judges and three (3) arenas. Per the prize List the Show will offer a Jackpot Class, specifically TL3. A Jackpot of up to \$500.00 with five (5) or more participants entering the Jackpot eligible TL3 Class. The Jackpot will increase to \$1000.00 with ten (10) or more participants entering the Jackpot eligible TL3 Class. The equivalent of pay to play and a Qualifying Class as a bonus.

Moving to the RSC and '17, Leslie noted Karen Cramer is recommending for HDS' 2017 Recognized Shows. This recommendation includes the 2017 Region 9 Championships which HDS will offer.

Moving back to the '16 Championships, Leslie advised the Board she has received an inquiry from the Dressage Foundation regarding support and associated advertisement of the Foundation. Combing the two aspects in the form of a donation of money from a Championship Class which will be gifted to the Dressage Foundation from HDS. To do this the Championship Prize List will list a Dressage Federation Class as part of the

Championships. Fees received by HDS from this Class, up to \$250.00 would be dedicated as a future contribution to the Dressage Federation. From the entry fees, HDS would contribute up to \$250.00 directly to the Dressage Foundation. Leslie noted this action requires Board approval. Based on Leslie's recommendation, a motion was made and seconded to define up to \$250.00 from fees received by HDS specific to this designated Class as a donation to the Dressage Federation. The Board voted to accept Leslie's recommendation of an HDS donation to the Dressage Federation from fees received by HDS specifically to the designated championship Class, up to \$250. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions.

Tracy Zaidenweber, RSC member and Volunteer Coordinator, noted her volunteer filling of slots is progressing for the Labor Day Show. The on-line sign up is simplifying the process.

To close the report portion of the meeting, Leslie inquired if there any Board questions regarding HDS volunteering for the upcoming Laborious Day Show and/or the remainder of HDS' 2016 Show schedule. With no Board questions, Leslie directed the meeting back to the August Agenda.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (*per August meeting agenda*)**

Elections, specifically the upcoming on-line one-half (1/2) of HDS Board positions to be voted on and filled was summarized as follows:

- President-Chris Renne
- Vice President-Angel Gunn
- Sponsorships/Advertising-Lacey Halstead
- Schooling Shows-Jena Tavormina
- Awards-Open Board Position
- IT/Historian-Open Board Position
- Special Events-Devon O'Leary
- Education-Chris Renne wearing two (2) hats or a last minute entry

#### **NEW BUSINESS (*per August meeting Agenda*)**

With all of HDS' pressing business discussed and under control, a meeting that is running long, and no pressing New Business, at this point Leslie completed her remarks and moved to close the Board meeting.

Completing her update to the Board, prior to closing the Board meeting Leslie inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS' actions to date regarding any unaddressed issues or potential pitfalls that might impact HDS and its members. With no Board questions regarding the proceeding, Leslie advised the Board that she was prepared to adjourn the August HDS Board meeting.

Without additional questions or Business items offered and the listed Agenda addressed, the August 2016 HDS Board meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

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Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman