

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 2016 MEETING: September 12TH, 2016**

The regular September meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Houston Dressage Society, Inc. (“HDS” or the “Company”) was held on Monday, September 12TH, 2016. The meeting, conducted via teleconference, was opened at ~7:04 PM Central Time. The September meeting was called and held under the authority of the Texas General Non-Profit Corporation Law and the Bylaws of the Company. The September 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
Malinda Edwards de Mata
Flo Edelman via TC
Angel Gunn
Susan Heather
Joanne Patterson
Chris Renne
Charles Saltzer
Patty Sutton
Jena Tavormina
Tracy Zaidenweber VC and guest

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

Angel noted that a quorum was not in place at the beginning of the September meeting. As such, Angel advised the Board that the meeting opening review of the prior meeting's minutes would be held but lacking a quorum, a motion to accept corrections and changes to the raw August minutes would not be offered or considered. With that advisement, Angel inquired if Board members or the RSC members had any corrections or comments regarding the previously distributed electronic version of the raw September minutes. Following the review of the August raw minutes, Angel further advised the Board members that she would forward her September meeting notes along with the corrections and changes to the raw August minutes to Leslie Rohrer for a final review prior to any future motion and in-turn acceptance of the corrections and changes to the raw August minutes.

BOARD REPORTS *(per September meeting agenda)*

Bit Fingerhut, HDS Treasurer, was ill and as such was not able to attend this Board meeting. The agenda noted a HDS' Treasurer presenting a comparison between various HDS 2016 EOY Financial bench-marks versus HDS EOY Financial bench-marks from 2006. Bit's Financial remarks and the above comparison will be deferred until a future HDS scheduled meeting.

Without any input via Bit, Angel inquired if there were any Board financial questions or comments related to HDS finances going into the Region 9 Championships. With no Board questions, Angel directed the meeting back to the September Agenda.

In a change to the meeting agenda, Flo Edelman, HDS IT/Historian Chair, opened her remarks by requesting the most recent email address listing of HDS 2016 members. With HDS' upcoming Election for open and incumbent Board positions, the voting will be online and the election ballot be a FormStack product which will be emailed to all 2016 HDS members. Flo noted the latest additions to HDS' election ballot:

- Elizabeth Evans-Juniors Chair
- Kristin Cyprus-Awards Chair
- As of this date, no member has stepped forward for IT/Historian or Volunteer Chairs

In her closing remarks, Flo reminded the Board that one-half of HDS Board member positions go through the nominating process, stand for election and are in-turn elected during the September election process with the stated goal of severing fully a two (2) year term.

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

Jena Tavormina, HDS Schooling Show (SS) Chair opened her remarks by reiterating that at the remaining Schooling Show any HDS member competing on a track thoroughbred will qualify for the HDS' yearly Bernice Foy Memorial Award. HDS's Schooling Show tab and all Schooling Show managers now will provide that information to all Schooling Show participants.

Jena's additional Schooling Show remarks are summarized as follows:

- improving Schooling Show cooperation in supplying scores, encouraging HDS member participation and securing HDS memberships.
- checking with Malinda Edwards de Mata to get Haras Schooling Show scores from prior Shows & setting up a process to ensure the prompt filing of future scores.
- Eventing Dressage tests and Schooling Show commitments to offer these tests is adding HDS members.
- Western Dressage tests and Schooling Show commitments to offer these tests is adding HDS members.
- Pony Classes continue to be added to Schooling Shows. If this trend continues and SS Qualifying scorers are ridden, the number of qualified riders may justify Pony Classes at the '16 SS Championships.

- The overall trend of the above bullet points is very positive for overall expected participation in the 2016 Schooling Show Championships and Open Show.

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

Karen Peacock, HDS Membership Chair was unable to attend this Board meeting. Angel asked where HDS membership stood as of HDS' August Board meeting. From the raw August meeting minutes, HDS last reported membership stood at three hundred eighty nine (389) members. With that membership figure, Angel proceeded to remind Board members that HDS membership for 2016 closes on September 30TH and per HDS' existing rules, a Recognized Show qualified rider intending to participate in the HDS year-end Awards must be a HDS member by September 30th of the 2016 competition year. From Karen's August input. Angel reiterated that the effective date, the date a membership must be as of, is 9/30/2016.

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

Patty Sutton, HDS Special Events Chair, advised the Board that she and Angel are still working to determine if a dog agility demonstration will be the pre-Championship Dinner entertainment. Any demonstration will be before the Dinner & in the Main Arena outside and below the GSWECC Club Room. Arrangements still need to be finalized, then how to tie the entertainment with the theme. It is unlikely the dogs can be painted Blue or make to look like a Town.

Patty noted the overall surge the frozen slush machine(s) garnered during the Labor Day Show. HDS provided and maintained oversight of the machines during the Show. The all included cost for two (2) days was \$340.00 and included cups for the 2 day rental.

Patty transitioned to Competitor Party and the Championship Dinner as key components of the '16 USDF Regional 9 Championships:

- The Show Theme, Paint The Town Blue, will be used to tie HDS' Special Events, the Competitor Party & the Championship Dinner
- The Friday Competitor Party has a finalized menu, drink selection and refreshments for all ages
- The Saturday Dinner has a finalized menu, drink selection @ tables and for sale along with refreshments for all ages

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

Lacey Halstead, HDS Sponsorship/Advertising Chair, was unable to attend this Board meeting. Angel added that per Leslie, Leslie and Lacey are working on widening HDS'

appeal within the Region 9 community and in-turn the reach of HDS as a 501 c(3) into '17 when introducing HDS to future Sponsors.

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

Joanne Patterson, HDS Junior/YR Chair, updated the Board regarding HDS Junior/YR's:

- Pony Cup ribbons and Awards were won by a number of HDS Junior/YR's. The ribbons were mostly supplied by HDS, the Awards were supplied by the national Pony Club.
- The added Pony participation, which resulted in a number of qualifying scores, will translate to increased Pony participation in the Region 9 Championships, in both GAIG and SWDC classes.
- Allison Hopkins won the 14-18 yr Equitation Finals (Dressage Seat Medal) at the Festival of Champions.
- Allie Cyprus place 4TH overall as FEI Young Rider at the Festival of Champions.

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

Chris Renne, HDS Education Chair, advised the Board that HDS' next Schumacher FEI Training Series is scheduled for 9/20-23 with sessions at WEC and Tex-Over. Reviewing the Series to date and looking to improve the overall participant experience, Chris recommended adding a Trainer luncheon during the upcoming session. Chris estimated the cost for a lunch for the expected participants at \$200.00. Chris recommended HDS cover this added cost. Chris added she would look for a Sponsor to cover this costs but the time prior to the lunch is short. If the FEI Training Series lunch proves worthwhile, a Sponsor will be pursued for the Series in '17.

Based on the Education Chairs' recommendation, a motion was made that HDS approve the expenditure of \$200.00 to cover the cost of a Trainer luncheon during the upcoming Schumacher FEI Training session. The Board voted to accept Chris' recommendation of an HDS expenditure of \$200.00 to provide a Trainer luncheon during the upcoming Schumacher FEI Training session. There were no opposing votes and there were no abstentions.

Chris next advised the Board that Chris along with HDS member Vince Flores met to discuss an Olympic Dressage Judge visiting Houston next year. Part of the meeting will be devoted to how HDS will organize a HDS member Symposium built on Olympic Experiences from the view point of an Olympic Judge. The Judge that is coming next year to Houston is Peter Holler. Chris' stated goal is developing a quality educational experience in '17 for HDS members. In closing Chris added the meeting will provide ideas for consideration and the ideas will lead to more discussion with the Board once a proposal is more complete.

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

Susan Heather, HDS Awards Chair, in her remarks expressed confidence that Awards wise, all is under control for the upcoming Region 9 Championships and as such she is transitioning to the HDS Awards Banquet and more specifically year end Awards. Susan plans to continue to make her HDS buying via Noble Outfitters based on pricing, available options and turnaround once Awards are selected. Currently Susan is looking at backpacks, helmet bags & other options. The final items selected will be Board approved, but will not be ID'd in future minutes. Why spoil a surprise for HDS members that will be recognized as Champions or Reserve Champions based on high scores attained at HDS Recognized Shows and Schooling Shows.

Not being over confident, Susan acknowledged that all the new HDS ribbons were in-hand as expected and just in time for the Region 9 Championships and HDS Open Show.

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

Malinda Edwards de Mata, HDS Publication Chair, advised the Board to call her with any Board member questions or issues regarding HDS publications which are now all online via HDS' website, HDS email blasts or on HDS' Facebook page. In addition Malinda noted that she will email Flo to verify whether HDS' Treasurer reports are being uploaded and the most recent report(s) posted on HDS' website. Also, Malinda wanted to verify, via the RC, that the Recognized Show schedule for '17 was accurate with respect to dates and correct number of HDS Recognized Shows.

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

Leslie Cummings, speaking in Leslie Rohrer's absence and on behalf of the Recognized Show Committee, noted that HDS' Region 9 Championship line ups are in-place and firm with respect to Judges, Officials & arenas. Based on past experience's Leslie suggested that Show officials have backup plans in case GSWEC sound system components suffer unanticipated "glitches". HDS' RC has been in contact with GSWEC and has been advised systems are being reworked and sound should be better in all warm-up arenas. Tellepson will be complete with independent sound for Music Freestyle that are scheduled for Tellepson. GSWEC's overall sound updates should be such that the barn areas will now hear all updates and information supplied by HDS' announcer during Show hours.

Leslie moved to other Championship items:

- Battle of the Barns-as is HDS' custom, the \$'s raised will go to USDF Region 9 Junior/YR's based on their overall '16 contributions and volunteering on behalf of HDS @ Recognized Shows & selected educational venues
- Silent Auction-the \$'s raised will be divided to non-Houston GMO's based on total volunteering hours per GMO @ the Championships.

In closing Leslie noted that on behalf of RSC Karen Cramer has finalized the critical path items for HDS' 2017 Recognized Shows. This RSC effort culminates in the '17 Recognized Show Schedule includes the 2017 Region 9 Championships which HDS has been awarded and will offer in October '17 at GSWEC.

Angel inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS' Recognized Show Committee or comments. With no additional Board questions or input, Angel directed the meeting back to the September Agenda.

Tracy Zaidenweber, RSC member and Volunteer Coordinator, noted her volunteer filling of slots is progressing for the Region 9 Championships and HDS Open Shows. Tracy stressed, all Board members, talk up volunteering at your respect barns, with your HDS friends and contacts. Noting stress, Tracy further noted that the Thursday and Friday Championship hours and spots are always a challenge that must be met. Contact those friends, HDS needs those slots filled. In closing, Tracy noted the on-line sign up is simplifying the volunteering process and provides a clearer picture of what volunteer slots and hours remain to be filled. Tracy will be in contact with her volunteers and plans to thank them in advance for their efforts on behalf of HDS and Region 9.

To close the report portion of the meeting, Angel inquired if there any Board questions regarding HDS volunteering for the upcoming Region 9 Championships and HDS' Open Shows. With no Board questions, Angel directed the meeting back to the September Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (*per September meeting agenda*)

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

- President-Chris Renne
- Vice President-Angel Gunn
- Sponsorships/Advertising-Lacey Halstead
- Schooling Shows-Jena Tavormina
- Juniors- Elizabeth Crawford
- Awards-Kristin Cyprus
- 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 September meeting Agenda)

With all of HDS' pressing business discussed and under control and no pressing New Business, at this point Angel inquired if there were any Board questions regarding HDS' actions to date regarding any unaddressed issues or potential pitfalls that might impact the upcoming Region 9 Championships and HDS' Open Shows. With no Board questions, Angel advised the Board that she was prepared to adjourn the September HDS Board meeting.

Without additional questions or Business items offered and the listed Agenda addressed, the September 2016 HDS Board meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM which was a record adjourning time for a non-President HDS Officer.

Secretary

Approved: _____
Chairman