

Dancing Horse Dressage & CT Board and Membership meeting

April 8, 2021

In attendance: Barb Nagle, Ann Hill, Laurie Young, Sandy Gillespie, Jackie White, Cynthia Lord

March minutes: approved.

Treasurer's report: Balance as of the end of March is \$12,633.26. This includes deposits for the 1st 2 shows. Insurance will be due soon; one refund from the last show is outstanding. Annie is working on filing our tax card, but there have been problems with the IRS website. She will file before the deadline. Treasurer's report approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Feedback from March show: still some communication issues to improve, primarily in providing details of awards and TIP recognition. Barb provided information on entries and number of riders. The March show had higher entries than February; April will be similar to March.

Readiness for April show: ride times and stall chart have been posted. One class change occurred later but all paperwork has been updated. Barb noted that Meghan is able to make updates to the website as needed. Sticky notes were placed on packets for riders whose ride times changed. The change was related to riding in the long arena rather than the short; in the future we may want to specify in advance which classes will be ridden in the short arena. This will let riders know to practice accordingly. Volunteers were difficult for this show, potentially due to the Saturday show. Jackie will continue to try to find additional volunteers but we may be a bit short staffed in the office. It was noted that some of the office issues at earlier shows may be due to reducing staff in the office because of the pandemic.

Roster status: 2 more people sent in memberships, Jackie will submit to USDF soon.

Volunteer recognition: Volunteer recognition ball caps have arrived! Laurie has the list of people that have met the 6 hours volunteering at shows (or will do so at the April show). She will label hats and leave them in the office to hand out. She will also create a flyer to post at the office or results board to promote volunteer recognition with the hats. Laurie found a coupon so cost was \$50 less than planned. [Update: hats are fantastic and were well received at the show. Thanks to Laurie for organizing!]

Membership survey results: Laurie reported 27 responses, 70% of whom are DHD members. Activities rated most desired were a Ride A Test Clinic and freestyle information. Both of these are in preparation (see below). Other suggestions were for casual get-togethers. Once this is feasible, maybe in a few months, a suggestion was to have some type of activity once per quarter. An in person awards event in August/September may be a good start. A suggestion was made to make this event of more interest to people not receiving awards. Other activities that were of interest were lunge/long line demo or clinic. Barb noted that Matt McLaughlin does this with green horses and possibly we could bring him in for a clinic in the future. Ann mentioned difficulties getting DHD grants for some activities, they will only support activities if the judge is certified and prefer events such as veterinarian presentations, ride a test clinics, or freestyle clinics.

Freestyle seminar: Barb and Carly have been working on their presentations. Barb will push out a reminder to members on Monday. The target is lower level riders and how an amateur can put together a freestyle ride. [Update: the seminar went well and was very interesting, stimulated good discussion. Thanks Barb and Carly!]

NEW BUSINESS

May show: Lindsay has uploaded the information to EQ Entries but it has not yet been approved. Jackie noted that the member discount is only available if we list as a rated show, not a schooling show, but this is confusing to some people. We could change the full name of the show to include "schooling". One problem is the show does not come up when someone searches for a schooling show. Ride times will be done using the HSM software, it is better for our purposes than Fox Village. Sandy is doing the packets and other back end work. Annie will take care of insurance and pay Wickham. Jackie will push out a request for volunteers and Barb will put out the request weekly before the show. Barb noted we need to check on high score awards but we should have sufficient 1st place awards and ribbons. Jackie asked about leftover awards from each show; we noted that these are often used as door prizes at the awards party. This show is on Mother's Day; Laurie will get items to use to recognize Mothers that are participating in or helping at the show.

Ride-a-Test Clinic: Sonya has offered to organize a Ride a Test clinic May 15 – 16 with Micah Deligdish. The clinician fee is \$1400 for two days, up to 10 rides/day. With other costs (Wickham facility, insurance, misc.) the total will be approximately \$1850 for a full clinic. She proposes charging members \$75 and non-members \$95. If the clinic fills with members, the club would subsidize the clinic by \$350. We could also offer stalls at \$35/day to help offset costs but noted that stalls are not available overnight. Annie noted that these clinics have filled in the past and the clinician can handle different levels. Questions outstanding are the clinician's cancel dates or fees, and what is the maximum cost to the club if the clinic does not fill. Barb will ask Sonya to find out. A motion was made and carried to authorize Sonya to move forward with scheduling the clinic with a maximum subsidy by the club of \$500.

Cut-off date for volunteer hours for year-end awards: there was discussion about how this should be set. It was noted that clinics such as the one on May 15-16 will need volunteers, but also that the reason for having the volunteer requirement was to encourage volunteering at shows. A cut-off date of the last show date was suggested. This led to further discussion about what else hours can be used for and how to encourage volunteering for events outside the show season. Ideas included discounts on membership fees or allowing hours earned in the off season to accrue towards next year's awards. A motion was made to have the cut-off date for the 2021 show season to be May 9, 2021. This was amended to May 10, 2021 to include hours worked the day after the show for clean-up or final processing. The amendment and motion passed. Ideas for encouraging volunteers at events both during and outside the show season are still needed.

Year-end recognition event: committees are needed to plan the event. Jackie volunteered to chair the event committee and Ann will chair the venue committee. Laurie and Sandy volunteered to be on both committees, Ann also on the event committee and Cynthia on the venue committee. Other volunteers for the committees are needed. Committees will present initial proposals at the May meeting.

Brags: Laurie and Sueno were Training Level Champions with 71% at the Heidelberg Cup, her first rated show in 20+ years! Congratulations Laurie and Sueno!

May meeting: May 13, 2021 by Zoom.

Meeting adjourned.