

## Dancing Horse Dressage & CT Board & Membership meeting

October 13, 2022

In attendance: Barb Nagle, Cynthia Lord, Ann Hill, Laurie Young, Jackie White, Annie Vliegenthart, Meghan Wolfgram

September minutes: approved.

Treasurer's report: Current balance \$15182.09. Wickham Park has been paid for the October show and the 4 2023 shows. The application for liability insurance for all dates has been submitted but unsure if payment has gone through yet. Doing all dates together saved some money. Directors & Board insurance was renewed over the summer. All the year-end awards charges and reimbursements have gone through, unless there are additional charges not yet submitted to Annie. Net income as of the end of September is \$3452.70. The report was approved.

### Old Business

October show: The judge has been switched from Matt McLaughlin to Eline Eckroth, as Matt will be bringing clients to show. The ribbons have been received. Barb noted that there were more ribbons left over from previous shows than she realized, so there will be some ribbons left over after the October show to use in the 2023 series. Barb checked the canopies. She was able to find a way to better anchor the top of the blue canopy, but the second canopy (used at the office) is in poor shape due to mold and tears in the fabric. The frame is likely to be ok. She recommended we buy a replacement canopy (\$50-\$80) or new canopy (\$150-250). There is variation in both frames and canopies so it may be difficult to ensure a new canopy fits our existing frame. It was decided to purchase a new canopy for the 2023 series, Barb will look into it. Jackie has a 10 x 10 canopy we can borrow for the October show. Barb will bring hers for the gate. Jackie is the volunteer coordinator and has volunteers for the major positions. Entries are low so far, around 9 with a few more expected. About half have a team declared. Barb stopped by Wickham and noted that the stalls will need cleanup before the show – there is a lot of old hay in the stalls. Jackie is the front end secretary and Sandy the back end. Barb talked to Heidi and we can continue to store the arena in her garage. She will be able to transport the arena for the 2023 shows but not for October.

2023 Show series: The show dates are confirmed. Lynn is working on hiring judges. The class/prize list was reviewed. The COVID policy statement was discussed and it was decided to keep a simplified statement directing people to the website, so if the situation changes we can update. The ring procedures have been updated to indicate that all horses being ridden, hand walked or lunged in the arenas or designated warm up areas are required to have and be wearing a show number. Horses may be hand walked in the show area after ring setup is complete until 15 minutes before the first ride, and during the lunch break until 5 minutes before the first afternoon ride. A gatekeeper needs to be present to manage the arena if needed, this will need to be included in the volunteer schedule. For the October show we will continue with the informal procedures used in the 2022 series. The volunteer statement in the class list was revised to indicate volunteers can work times from 1 hour to all day, and still includes the requirement to sign in and out and the option to donate time, but this must be declared when signing in. Barb reported that the class list previously discussed was difficult for people to understand. She presented another option, which is more like last year's list, is shorter and includes more TOC classes, but does not provide the option for open riders to ride the exact same test twice. The revised list groups the classes by rider divisions (AA/JR/YR vs Open). All Western dressage is in one TOC class. Dressage Equitation is offered, as is a leadline class. We will use the modified leadline test Barb developed, which has a ride time of 2:45 and needs to be scheduled for 5 minutes. Western freestyle was added to the freestyle class. This alternate class list was chosen for use in 2023. Several options for determining show day High point awards were discussed. Barb outlined an equivalence for levels in USEF and Western dressage, so we can include Western classes in the high point awards. Options included the same as last year, 4 levels x 2 rider divisions; adding a requirement for a minimum number of qualified horse/rider pairs in the award category to make the award; variations on level and rider divisions; giving High Point and reserve. The options were discussed. One concern is that scores tend to be higher in lower levels, so awards across levels will favor lower levels. The option chosen was to use Intro, Training, first and 2<sup>nd</sup> and above levels x rider divisions, add the requirement that there are at least 2 horse-rider combinations eligible for the award for it to be awarded, and to include Western dressage in the level categories using the equivalency table Barb presented. This table

will be posted on the website. Leadline, freestyle and USEA classes will still be excluded from show day high point awards.

Payment options: it was brought up that some people don't want to use Eq Entries but also no longer use checks, so we need to consider providing an alternate form of electronic/online payment. This needs to be done in a way that does not add to the show secretary's job in keeping track of entries and payment. Developing our own horse show entry system was mentioned, as Eq Entries doesn't really fit our shows. Some shows have an online entry system that then sends an invoice. Tabled for future discussion.

Performance Awards: We need a volunteer to chair the performance awards committee. A source to get small numbers of the pins needs to be identified as many have large minimum orders. Meghan will look into this. There was discussion of the type of pins, size, etc. Most places we can specify, we want a shape that is distinct from the USDF pins (round) and small enough that multiple pins can fit on a jacket lapel. We can post information about the program with our potential awards (pin, patch, certificate) and finalize later, then add the final designs to the website. The application will need to be mailed or emailed to someone; it was decided to set up a DancingHorseDressage email for this purpose. Laurie Young volunteered to manage the applications. The saddle pad patch was discussed, it could have a black border or colored border matching the level of the award, or the level name in a colored thread. Some of the companies that do pins also do patches.

USDF Officers/Roster contact information: we need to provide an email address for the officers, but need to shift away from using personal addresses due to the problems we had earlier this year. We can use the same email for all officers, at the moment Barb has put [president@dancinghosedressage.org](mailto:president@dancinghosedressage.org) for all. It would be preferable to have separate emails for each officer by position name (e.g. secretary, treasurer, vice president, directors) , Barb and Meghan will work on setting this up. These email addresses will then forward to an email specified by each person.

#### New Business

Election of 2023 board: the nominating committee presented a slate:

President: Barb Nagle

Vice President: Cynthia Lord

Secretary (recording): Rachel Nescio

Treasurer: Annie Vliegenthart

Director at Large: Ann Hill, Laurie Young, Jackie White

A call for nominations from the floor was made with no responses. The slate presented was voted on and approved.

2023 volunteer roles:

Volunteer coordinator – Jackie volunteered

Show secretary (front and back): Jackie will do front, Ann will help

Awards: Ann will talk to Gloria and see if she still wants to do this

Wickham Liaison: Annie

MailChimp list manager: Cynthia

We need to think about volunteer recognition.

Arena rental: the person that rented the arena for a show last year has asked to do so for a show in mid-November. She needs just the arena, not the letters. It worked well last time and there were no problems. The arena does need cleaning, one option discussed was to ask for it to be washed rather than paying (last year was \$75) for the rental. It was agreed that we are ok with the rental, Barb will talk to her. Barb noted that some of the cones are starting to break and we need 10 new ones, one option is to use the rental money towards new cones.

Standardizing logos: there is concern about the multiple versions of the official logo and Twinkletoes being used. The original of the official logo (two horses, with double lines and our name below) is difficult to use for embroidery as the two lines blur and the horses' tails are too faint. The font originally used for the name is difficult for others to reproduce, as it's all caps but the first letters are larger. Barb has modified this to move the horses closer together, thicken the tails, and use a different font. Some items with the logo have also removed the lines and moved the name to the top on 2 lines. There was discussion about the lines below providing a "ground" line for the horses, the preferred font and position for the name. It was decided to standardize the logo by: using Barb's modified version for the horses, use Times New Roman font with lowercase and uppercase letters, with a solid line below extending the width of the horses' legs. If needed the name of an award can be placed below the line. Barb will create a final version and put it in Dropbox. For Twinkletoes, we have identified 3 variants that have different foreleg positions and different tutus, and vary in the rendering of the horse. One of these has a further variant with or without shading and ruffling. As far as anyone recalls, these were all done by the original artist Deb Gootch, and have been used in different ways over the years. It was decided that all of these are acceptable to use and the one that works best for a particular item should be chosen. Since this is not the official logo and is used more for "fun" items, we can allow more flexibility.

Next meetings: November 10<sup>th</sup> by zoom, including discussion of an online entry system.  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, in-person at Barb's house with a cookie exchange.

Brag: Meghan brought her filly Figment (7 mos. old) to the Oldenburg inspection. The trip went well and mare and foal trailered well and were well behaved. Figment was awarded Premium Foal! Congratulations Meghan!

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm