

# **DVCTA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **JANUARY 23, 2015**

The annual meeting of the DVCTA membership was held January 23, 2015, at the Kennett Square Fire Hall Banquet Hall. Immediately preceding the meeting, the membership enjoyed dinner, viewed and bid upon extensive items in the silent auction, and participated in the award of door prizes.

The Annual Meeting for 2015 was held after dinner, when President Danni Toscano called the meeting to order. A quorum of the Board and membership was present.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Written reports of the following Committees were distributed to members of the Board and Club Membership before the meeting: Nominating Committee - Karen Walsh; Membership/Finance - Elsie Kellerman; Education Committee - Gaye Bergstrom; News Letter Committee - Angela Dion; Equipment Committee - Danni Toscano; Horse Trials Committee - Lisa Knox; DVCTA Spring Recognized Show - Carol Lippa; Schooling Show Committee - Doreen Garland; Scholarship Committees - Karen Walsh, Rita Lowry; Public Relations Committee - Lisa Leana; Digital Media Committee - Alix James; Team Competition Committees - Lisa Knox, Sara Gartland; Year-End Awards Committee - Sara Gartland; and E-News Committee - Connie Scholz. (Committee reports are attached hereto.)

### **MEETING AGENDA**

After welcoming members and guests to the Annual Meeting and Dinner, DVCTA President Danni Toscano reviewed the activities of the Club for 2014 and the state of the Club's finances. After introducing the current members of the Board, she thanked the exiting third-year Directors for their service over their terms on the Board.

President Danni Toscano gave the Annual Address to the membership, noting the continuing need for more volunteers from the membership to help organize events and to assist on the day(s) of the events. She noted that attendance at DVCTA-sponsored shows, clinics, and lectures continues to be high, requiring the assistance of more volunteers to put on these events. Anne Miller announced upcoming plans and dates for the increasingly popular Quadrille. Finally, the Membership was welcomed to attend and assist at all DVCTA events in the coming year.

## **ELECTIONS**

The President then read the 2015 Slate of Nominees for Officers and Members of the Board that previously had been sent to the Membership for its review. No additional nominations having been submitted by members of the Club, a motion to approve the Slate as set forth was made and seconded, and the Slate of Nominees was passed unanimously by the Membership.

The President then welcomed the new members of the Board.

## **AWARDS**

Following the election of Officers and Directors, year-end awards were distributed.

The Annual Membership Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chair: Karen Walsh

The DVCTA Nominating Committee met this Fall and prepared the following slate of Officer and Board of Directors for 2015. All nominees have agreed to serve.

#### **OFFICERS:**

President: Danni Toscano

Co-Vice Presidents: Karen Walsh & Alix James

Corresponding Secretary: Marty Detering

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Bailey

Treasurer: Elsie Kellerman

#### **THIRD TERM DIRECTORS:**

Elizabeth Brenner

Angela Dion

Megan Mendenhall

Carol Lippa

#### **SECOND TERM DIRECTORS**

Sara Gartland

Sue VanNorman

Susan Neilson

Anne Miller

Mary Anne Ost

Tracey Basler

Connie Scholz

Susan Springsteen

#### **FIRST TERM DIRECTORS**

Gaye Bergstrom

Sheelagh Christianson

Sue Berkowitz

Lisa Knox  
Ellie Rawle  
Karen Webb  
Cathy Huston  
Rita Lowry

## 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Elsie Kellerman

Our checking account has almost \$7000 in it with no payables outstanding. We have a CD due in April for \$28,000. The PUB netted over \$6000 of which 80% is to go to the juniors with the balance for education. We expect the silent auction to bring in some money.

A budget has been prepared and we project a small loss for the year depending on fund raisers. The CD will be cashed in and put in a savings account which will give us access to the cash should it be needed. Anne Miller and Sue Springsteen will be looking after the finances of the quadrille and the juniors respectively.

The spring dressage show is expected to break even as are the horse trials. The schooling shows generally make a small profit and clinics (education) are likely to require some input of cash. Membership dues help to cover expenses including insurance, the accountant's audit fees and other miscellaneous costs.

In general the club is financially healthy but some care and fund raising will be required.

## 3. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Gaye Bergstrom

In 2014, the Education Committee had a very busy schedule. Twenty-two people attended the July 11-13, 2014 Jean Luc Cornille clinic. The July 13 bombproofing clinic with Rick Pelicano was also well-received.

The July 26 Sport Horse Seminar at New Bolton Center and Iron Spring Farm was well-attended and instructive. The Committee also held a long-lining clinic by Richard Malmgram, clinics by J.J. Tate at Second Nature Farm and the September 12-14 FEI clinic at Hilltop Farm

Planning for the 2015 winter months include longing clinics, a February lecture entitled "Myofascial and Postural Imbalances," presented by Pat Bona, D.C., and a Margaret Freeman clinic scheduled for April 10-11, 2015, location TBD, which will involve a judges' forum, her judging a DVCT schooling show, and a lecture on the new USDF tests.

#### 4. NEWS LETTER COMMITTEE

Chair: Angela Dion

The Fall edition of the Newsletter came out in November, 2014. There is a need for member-submitted articles or news bites. The "Get to Know a Member" and "Ask the Vet" sections have received encouraging feedback.

#### 5. EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Danni Toscano

We currently have a DVCTA Storage Unit at Kennett Storage. Anyone who has any DVCTA Equipment that needs to be stored can contact Danni Toscano. Also if anyone needs anything from the Unit (signs, banners, ribbons, prizes etc.) then can also contact Danni.

#### 6. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Elsie Kellerman

Right now membership stands at 119 compared to 127 this time last year. There was a glitch with online signups but it has been fixed.

This year we are going to need all members to sign a liability release and a photo release. These can be printed off the web site and there will be copies available at the dinner (please sign both sides). These should be returned to me (Elsie Kellerman).

## 7. HORSE TRIALS COMMITTEE

Chair: Lisa Knox

The Horse Trials Committee had a successful year, with both the HT and Ct making a profit.

For 2015, the Committee is planning two Combined Training events in the Spring, two in the Fall and two HorseTrials in the summer. The CT Championship Show will be separate from the Dressage Championship Show. Dates and locations for these events TBA. The Committee is looking to vadrkay the venues to give riders exposure to different courses.

## 8. DVCTA SPRING RECOGNIZED DRESSAGE SHOW

Chair: Carol Lippa

Preparation for the Spring Dressage is on schedule. Sponsorship has a volunteer head and the prize list is being prepared. The date and venue for the 2015 Spring Show are Saturday, June 6, 2014, at Dunmovin' Farm, in West Chester. Kem Barbosa will judge.

## 9. SCHOOLING SHOW COMMITTEE

Chair: Doreen Garland

The Committee is still working on the 2015 dates for the schooling shows and Championship Show. The schooling show dates being looked at are similar to last year's, and will include Friday shows again for 2015.

## 10. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEES

Chair: Karen Walsh (DVCTA Scholarships)

Chair: Rita Lowry (Marilyn O. Heath Fund)

Both the DVCTA Scholarship Committee and the Marilyn JO. Heath Judges Education Fund (MOH) awarded scholarships in 2014 for educational uses. The MOH awards scholarships for those interested in educational opportunities for judging, while the DVCTA Scholarship fund is more broad-based and covers rider education events.

MOH will consider applications for DVCTA Members as participants in the L Candidate (Judge's) Program. The \$500 scholarship for the L

Program Candidates will replace the DVCTA Scholarship (an applicant may not receive scholarships from both DVCTA and MOH for the same event.)

for 2015, MOH is considering a plan to subsidize judges' expenses at DVCTA schooling and championship shows, the Spring Recognized Show and Horse Trials. This proposal is an attempt to encourage higher rated judges at DVCTA shows.

The MOH is also exploring a Freestyle Program in 2016 for Judges Education. Applications for a MOH Scholarship will be considered for DVCTA Member Judges to attend this Program under the DVCTA Scholarship Committee guidelines. It is the Committee's hope that there will not be an auditing fee for DVCTA members.

## 11. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Lisa Leana

Mission of Committee: Promote DVCTA events and membership

Goals:

1. Advertise in various local publications
2. Make sure events are published on local publication calendars

2014 Objectives:

1. Make sure ads are placed with the publications that the board determines;
2. Make sure calendar events are submitted with various local publications.

2014 Accomplishments:

1. For the 2014 season the DVCTA ran 8 ads in The Horse of Delaware Valley:  
January – Featuring the Annual Dinner and promoting membership  
March - Featuring our 2014 Show Season Schedule  
April and May - Featuring Spring Dressage at Radnor and the Horse Trials  
June – Featuring Horse Trials and Upcoming Events  
August - Featuring the Championship Show and Combined Test  
October – Promoting Membership

December – Featuring the Annual Dinner and promoting membership.

2. Calendar events were published monthly

2015 Committee Objectives:

1. For 2015 I think we should follow the same ad schedule for The Horse of Delaware Valley as 2014.

2. Make sure ads are placed with the publications that the board determines

3. Make sure events are published on local publication calendars

4. Find more ways to promote membership.

## 12. DIGITAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Chair: Alix James

In 2014, the Committee reworked the club's website and established an official facebook age for the club. The Committee also filed to officially register our trademarks "DVCTA" and "DELAWARE VALLEY COMBINED TRAINING ASSOC." Upon completion, this will make official our common law trademarks in our name, which date to the club's origins in 1976.

The DVCTA Page has been super active, with over 2000 followers. We spent a total of \$280 on advertising last year which generated 1500 likes. Our posts often reaches 1000 or more people. Committee Chairs should post announcements about committee events on the Page.

For 2015, the Committee is looking to create an online file storage vault, perhaps cloud-storage, for all DVCTA-related files that will be secure and password-protected. Stored documents could include "official" documents such as tax documents, licenses, legal records, current member lists, official logos, shared photos, signed member releases, etc.

## 13. TEAM COMPETITION COMMITTEES

Chair: Lisa Knox (Junior Team)

Chair: Sara Gartland (Adult Team)

The Junior Team Committee sponsored teams at the Junior Team Competition event at Morven Park on July 25-27, as well as Dressage for Kids, in New York State, on August 8-19. These events very well-received and our Juniors performed fantastically. All awards won by the Juniors and Dressage for Kids were posted on the website and Facebook.



Meetings are now being held with juniors to formulate plans for the 2015 season. All juniors are welcome.

The club has shown a lack of interest in participating in the adult dressage team competitions. The Committee had some informal talks with ESDCTA about adult activities other than team competitions, but as yet no plans have been formulated.

#### 14. YEAR-END AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Sara Gartland

The Year End Awards Committee worked to simplify and streamline the process for earning YE Awards in 2015. Be sure to check out the updated rules for all categories, which have been posted on the DVCTA website.

In the upcoming months, we hope to have an online form for submitting scores. The YE Awards committee would like to thank the generous support of all 2014 sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring or donating prizes for the 2015 YE Awards, contact Sara Gartland.

#### 15. E-NEWS COMMITTEE

Chair: Connie Scholz

As a volunteer, I send out email blasts to our members about upcoming shows, events, lectures, volunteer opportunities, etc.



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