



Minutes of DVCTA Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 2026

Stroud Water Research Center & Zoom

Alix James, Recording Secretary

The April 14th Board Meeting was held in person at Stroud Water Research Center and virtually on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Darcy Miller.

Attendance

Officers

Darcy Miller
Mike Broomall
Lisa Leana
Alix James

Beth Huxter
Penny Knotts
Joanne Mohr
Carol Lippa
Karen Rubin
Sharon Sexton
Lisa Varotsis

Directors

Kelly Barry
Julie Ceccatti
~~Lisa Fiorelli~~
Megan Gioffre

Guests

Sherry Dietrich
Tamara Stathes

A quorum of 3 officers and 50% of the directors (6 or more) being present, the Board was authorized to conduct business.

Committee Reports

Treasurer (Lisa Leana): Bank Balance: \$98,421.50, PayPal Balance \$4,907.08, total: \$103,328.48. Last month \$107,004.63 - down \$3,676.15. L program part II cleared \$4,070. The MFS clinic had negative cash flow of approximately \$3,700 mostly as a result of sponsoring all members for free auditing.

Secretary (Alix James): All minutes through December are published to the website. January meeting was very brief and mostly focused on the auction - no minutes. February (Member meeting) and March minutes circulated prior to the meeting. Meg Gioffre moved, Penny Knotts seconded, all approved.

Membership (Sharon Sexton): 164 have joined for 2026 and roster has been sent to USDF. That puts us even with last year at the same time.

Eventing (Beth Huxter, Karen Rubin): Area 2 requests that any affiliated GMO host at least one eventing clinic. Karen and Beth offered to do a clinic with Lillian Heard at Plantation Fields. Beth will reach out to the Area 2 chair to learn more and report back in May.

Year End Awards (Julie Cecatti, Joanne Mohr): Not much happening now but Julie needs more help. Justine and Karen are stepping away and have resigned from committee. Need someone to do the slide show. Need someone to work on sponsorships - the gift cards and gift bag items. Would like to have age-specific awards for the kids as the platters were not very appropriate. Julie also contacted the Jockey Club and updated with the 2025 TIP winners and confirmed the contact information. Lisa will give Julie and Meg (Volunteers) a detailed breakdown of what was spent for each

awards/recognition area in 2025. Budget should continue to be roughly \$5,000 for each. Julie will write up a “we need help” post for Sarah to share and Meg and Sherry will add to it. Full report at end of the minutes.

Sanctioned Schooling Shows (Lisa Leana, Penny Knotts): Doreen still needs to join DVCTA. All of the other facilities from last year have signed up and become members.

Volunteers (Meg Gioffre, Sherry Deitrich): Alix proposed adding a volunteer interest to the member signup sheet. Alix will coordinate this with Annie for 2026. Starting Nov. 1, we have had 54 people put in their volunteer hours and already have some members with gold status. Sherry made a super cool spinner for the volunteer award. People got a number of spots depending on how many hours they had done. Betty Lewandowski won for Q1! \$100 gift certificate. Mike also reviewed the USDF GMO Volunteer awards and will take care of submitting at least one year’s hours to USDF.

Scholarships (Carol Lippa): Carol signed up to help with this and thinks it can be further developed.

Adult Teams (Lisa Varotsis chair, Penny Knotts, Margaret Dugan): Lisa V. contacted PVDA Carolyn Del Grosso. Their goal is to really bring back the adult teams competition among the GMOs. We discussed the challenges with volunteer time. PVDA indicated they could greatly reduce that expectation if they had more teams. We also suggested that just Saturday be the team rides so the awards celebration could be that night.

Education (Karen Rubin, Penny Knotts, Lauren Annett, Michael Broomall): The MFS went well. Dolly did eventually get home after the storm. Discussed Land Safe - how to fall off a horse. Mike Osinski would be great but books far out. When we have a speaker, we need to really get people in the room. Mike will try to promote the Devon events more to the membership. Intro to Foxhunting was also discussed. Working equitation - should just share more information about the shows coming up. In hand clinic.

Pub at Dressage at Devon (Mike Broomall, Penny Knotts): Moving along, will need volunteers, not much happening now.

Annual Meeting & Brunch (Lisa Leana and Lisa Varotsis): The banquet will be February 20th at the Hockessin Memorial Hall at 610 Yorklyn Road, Hockessin. 8,000 square feet, 350 people capacity. Full cash bar set up. \$75 to set up the bar. They do the catering. Day would be \$38/person. Evening would be \$49/person. Access 90 minutes before to set up. Need to confirm the time - four hours in the middle of the day starting 10:30 or 11:00. (We think they need us out by 2 for evening setup.)

Annual Auction (): We discussed having guests bring items to auction. We need a chair! Need to lean on the adult teams. Rob Robillard possible chair?

PR Committee (Penny Knotts): Penny offered to coordinate and handle Facebook and Tamara is also a user for Facebook. Alice Morse is also going to do some Facebook posts. Jeanne will keep doing emails. Did some editing of users with access to the page.

Currently Inactive Committees - No Reports

Quadrille - The irreplaceable Anne Miller said she has retired. Currently no replacement.

Harvest Fest - Not planning to hold one at present time.

Junior Teams - We have some Junior members. Mostly participating in awards programs. Nobody to lead actual team activities.

New Business

Putting DVCTA in for USDF awards and Region 1 Awards. Try again for Volunteer of the year.

Will hold a photo contest among members then submit it for photo award. Mike will create forms for Photo / writing etc. contest. Penny to create post to build interest. Contest submissions due 7/31. USDF submission due before 8/31.

Welcomed Beth Huxster. Her Mom used to organize the DVCTA horse trials.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

2026 Board Meeting Dates

All at Stroud Water Research Center at 7:30. Some will be preceded by open member presentations and/or committee meetings beginning at 7:00.

~~Jan. 13~~

~~Feb. 22 — Membership Meeting (May also make it a Board Meeting)~~

~~Mar. 10~~

~~Apr. 14~~

May 12

June 9

July 14

Aug. 11

Sept. 8

Oct. 13

Nov. 10

Dec. 8

(Required to meet 10 times/year - can drop two.)

Zoom link for virtual attendees - Valid for all meetings:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?pwd=98tyKuGtqTosE9OQtRiCRpwMB4j4M_PwtiVYjfp1tQ_LUSNYaxDULuVva5I-R_Hd

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Awards Committee Report

- Current Committee Members:
 - Julie Ceccatti (Chair)
 - Joanne Mohr
- Additional Members: We are in need of a few other members to help with;
 - Create Photo Slide Show for Banquet
 - Create Results Power Point for Banquet
 - Sponsor Liaison to obtain gift cards for our champions and for the volunteers- usually we get generous donations from Dover, Fair Hill and Maryland Saddlery
 - Auditing Results with Julie
 - Assist ordering ribbons with Julie
 - Assist ordering Prizes for Adult Competitors (Champ & Reserve) with Julie

- Ordering Prizes for Juniors (age dependent) with Joanne?
 - When the Banquet comes, we will need a few extra hands to assist in handing out the ribbons etc.
- The Jockey Club: Julie was in touch with Kristin to update the winners for 2025 and also change the contact person (to Julie from Karen W) for DVCTA going forward.
- Addition to submission form- (eventually in the fall)
 - All Forms for Juniors- Age (will help with prizes to be more age specific)
 - For Schooling Dressage- can we ask for entries to include a photo of their 3 tests?