



Minutes of DVCTA Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2026

Stroud Water Research Center & Zoom

Alix James, Recording Secretary

The May 12th Board Meeting was held in person at Stroud Water Research Center and virtually on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice President Mike Broomall.

Attendance

Officers

Darcy Miller (excused)
Mike Broomall X
Lisa Leana X
Alix James X

Beth Huxter X
Penny Knotts X
Joanne Mohr X
Carol Lippa X
Karen Rubin X
Sharon Sexton X
Lisa Varotsis (excused)

Directors

Julie Ceccatti X
Sherry Dietrich X
Lisa Fiorelli X
Megan Gioffre X

Guests

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: \$97,483.23, PayPal Balance \$5,295.71, total: \$103,328.48. Last month \$102,778.94.

Secretary (Alix James): All minutes through March 2026 are published to the website and April was circulated for approval. Lisa moved, Sharon seconded, all approved.

Membership (Sharon Sexton): 169 (186 last year) 8 juniors have joined for 2026 and roster has been sent to USDF.

Eventing (Beth Huxster, 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. Talking with Olivia and Philip Dutton about a DVCTA Event.

Year End Awards (Julie Cecatti, Joanne Mohr): Call for Volunteers went out via Newsletter and Facebook. (text below) Probably should repeat maybe quarterly? Current Committee Members: Julie Ceccatti (Chair), Joanne Mohr. New Committee Members as of May 12th: Eliza Herman (!!!!) - scoring & behind the scenes help. Faith Yesner - Awards Banquet. Karen Walsh gave Julie her sources and tips for the personalized awards from last year. Alix will send Julie's form changes to Annie to adjust website.

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. Talking with new farms (Plantation Farm) about becoming a schooling show member.

Volunteers (Meg Gioffre, Sherry Deitrich): Stats: YTD Volunteer Hours: 1279.5 (up by 175.5 hrs from last month) # of Members Who Have Volunteered YTD: 62 (Ave 20.6 hrs/volunteer). **Quarterly Raffle:** Betty Lewandowski was very happy with her gift card and sent this note: "Wow, what a great way to start the day. Thank you so much!...I think this "award system" is a fantastic upgrade to the Volunteer system and hopefully more members will step up and increase their volunteer hours." **USDF Volunteer Incentive Program:** Per USDF, we cannot submit hours in bulk (they must be done by person, as the form needs to be signed by the member and a representative of the GMO. A spreadsheet of 2025 & 2026 hours has been created - we have 62 members who are eligible for an award at some level. Will work with eligible members to complete submissions to USDF. **Website Suggestions:** Propose that we update the volunteer page on the website to start with the awards and incentives for volunteering (maybe some photos) at the top of the page so that folks see it first, followed by the submission information and documents. **To Do: Alix to coordinate adding member committee interest to the membership form with Annie for 2026.**

Make Volunteers its own label/tab

Scholarships (Carol Lipppa): Carol signed up to help with this and thinks it can be further developed. Members are currently required to be a member for 5 years, would like to consider changing it to ONE full year. Eligible in second year. Looking to provide a national scholarship (\$500) to send members out to bigger National trainings. I.e. Trainers conference, USDF conference, ETC. Current thinking is that there is a budget of \$2000 toward scholarships per year so up to the Scholarship committee to award. Will wait until the first \$1000 is spent before proposing more funds.

TO DO: Carol and Alix are going to put a proposal together.

Adult Teams (Lisa Varotsis chair, Penny Knotts, Margaret Dugan): Lisa V. contacted PVDA Carolyn Del Grosso (Apr minutes reminder). 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. Penny talked with Plantation Fields to put on a fix a test.

Education (Karen Rubin, Penny Knotts, Lauren Annett, Michael Broomall): No Report **Sherry about a topic:** Sport psychology talk about show nerves. **TO DO:** Mike proposed to make a facebook poll about questions about remarks on a test.

Pub at Dressage at Devon (Mike Broomall, Penny Knotts): Moving along, will need volunteers, not much happening now. May have to cover another space - previous volunteer suite.

Annual Meeting & Brunch (Lisa Leana and Lisa Varotsis):

Update on the annual banquet.

Scheduled for 11 am - 3:00 pm February 20th.

Cost is much lower to start before noon..

\$38.50..vs 44.00 -49.00

For afternoon/ evening events.

75.00 bar set up.

Annual Auction (NEED SUPPORT LOOKING TOWARD ADULT TEAM MEMBERS): We discussed having guests bring items to auction. We need a chair! Need to lean on the adult teams. **DARCY TO DO**List: Rob Robillard possible chair?

PR Committee (Penny Knotts): Reminder to send things to either Penny, Tamara or Mike for facebook posts.

Currently Inactive Committees - No Reports

Quadrille

Harvest Fest

Junior Teams

New Business

Kelly Barry resigned. Sherry Deitrich to was voted in to replace Kelly.

Website changes proposed by Beth and board wants to move to check in with Annie about what the next steps are needed.

Mike and Penny to still work on: 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 dues 7/31. USDF submission due before 8/31.

Welcomed Sherry!

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Next meeting June 9.

2026 Board Meeting Dates

All at Stroud Water Research Center at 7:30. Some will be preceeded 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/j/89717201289?pwd=3oSp6ri71ro5Z8io6kzBbaY7v2kGqF.1>