



Minutes of DVCTA Board of Directors Meeting

June 9, 2026

Zoom only

Alix James, Recording Secretary

The June 9th Board Meeting was virtually on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Darcy Miller.

Attendance

Officers

Darcy Miller ✓
Mike Broomall ✓
Lisa Leana ✓
Alix James ✓

Beth Huxster ✓
Penny Knotts ✓
Joanne Mohr X
Carol Lippa ✓
Karen Rubin Excused
Sharon Sexton ✓
Lisa Varotsis ✓

Directors

Julie Ceccatti ✓
Sherry Deitrich ✓
Lisa Fiorelli ✓
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): Santander Balance \$101,233.23, PayPal Balance \$1,937.23, Total \$103,170.46. Last month \$103,328.48 - very little change.

Secretary (Alix James): All minutes through April 2026 are published to the website and May was circulated for approval. Mike moved, Lisa Leana seconded, all approved May. [To Do: Alix to confirm .pdf's match documents.](#)

Membership (Sharon Sexton): 180 including 11 juniors have joined for 2026 and roster has been sent to USDF.

Eventing (Beth Huxster, Karen Rubin): Beth Huxster reports that Olivia Dutton agreed to teach a clinic at True Prospect with support/backup from Phil. The clinic will be in conjunction with Area 2 and both Area 2 and DVCTA members will be able to attend the clinic at a reduced rate. Area 2 is holding a "Land Safe" clinic in November which is a two day clinic on how to not get hurt when falling off your horse. There is also a "senior" version that will be incorporated at a lower cost for riders 60 to 80 years old - slightly lower impact. We discussed DVCTA contributing \$50 per member towards the estimated \$325 cost of the clinic. This member benefit would be available to first year members to encourage people to join. Members would pay the reduced fee and DVCTA would pay the organizers the difference. Penny moved to approve the \$50 member benefit for the Land Safe clinic. Lisa Leana seconded. All approved. To Do: Beth to send flyer to Penny to post online and include member discount availability. Beth to tell the clinic organizers about our \$50 member benefit.

Year End Awards (Julie Cecatti, Joanne Mohr): Everything is smooth sailing... it's a quiet time for the Awards Committee. Julie proposed doing some Facebook posts to be created (or maybe e-blast as well) regarding Sanctioned Schooling Shows to show DVCTA support and help drum up attendance.

- Sarah to send out call for Volunteers sent out again.

Sanctioned Schooling Shows (Lisa Leana, Penny Knotts): Doreen still needs to join DVCTA. We discussed that in the future we will not accept applications to be sanctioned from non-members. We do not feel we can make a change mid-year because that will hurt members. All of the other facilities from last year have signed up and become members.

- Alix & Sherry to add wording to website about competition arena not being grass and show managers can not count hours toward volunteer hours.

Volunteers (Meg Gioffre, Sherry Deitrich): Updated volunteer hours were submitted to Annie Duncan on 6/8/26 to be posted on the website.

Stats:

YTD Volunteer Hours: 1410 (up by 130 hrs from last month)

of Members Who Have Volunteered YTD: 63 (Ave 22.4 hrs/volunteer)

Quarterly Raffle:

Q2 raffle will be drawn at the July board meeting. At the end of June, a reminder will go out to all members to submit hours in time for the drawing.

USDF Volunteer Incentive Program:

The USDF Volunteer Incentive Form is a PDF and we are updating it to include text boxes so that it can be completed electronically. Once that is done, we can complete and mail to each member for their signature.

Website:

Annie Duncan has made the requested changes to put the volunteer awards at the top of the volunteer page, as discussed at the May meeting.

We had a fairly long discussion about whether farm owners should be able to claim volunteer hours for their own sanctioned shows. Because the farm owner actually profits from running the show the consensus was they should not be eligible for volunteer hours. However, we did acknowledge that it's hard for farm owners to volunteer at other events. Specifically, we discussed Renee Dixon's options for volunteering and settled on suggesting helping with the auction committee as an option.

- Alix to coordinate adding member committee interest to the membership form with Annie for 2026.
- Sherry to speak with Renee Dixon and draft clarifying language about volunteer duties for the website.

Scholarships (Carol Lipa, Alix James, Meg Gioffre): We discussed the details of updating our scholarship policy and wrote the policy attached at the end of these minutes. Penny moved and Lisa seconded that we approve the policy as revised. All approved and the motion passed. Initial budget for the scholarship committee was set at \$2000/year with the option to consider more with Board approval.

- Alix to give the proposal to Annie to post online and also make sure scholarships@ is going to the committee members.

Adult Teams (Lisa Varotsis chair, Penny Knotts, Margaret Dugan): Lisa V. confirmed with Jen K. of Walnut Creek Farm that she would be willing to host a fix-a-test clinic to benefit Adult Teams and Lauren said she was willing to judge it if it could be fit into her schedule.

- Penny to get the interest form posted with the due by June 30.
- Lisa F. to send to Lisa V. the emails that **were** sent last year explaining adult teams participation.
- Lisa V. is working on the team clothes being a pair of coverup pants for shows with embroidery/screen printing down the leg.

Education (Michael Broomall, Karen Rubin, Penny Knotts, Lauren Annett): *Potential topics:*

Sport psychology talk about show nerves.

Judge's talk about what they are trying to say in certain remarks/wording. **To Do:** Mike/Penny to make a facebook posts requesting examples of judges' comments that weren't clear or didn't seem to make sense.

Darcy suggested hosting a USDF structured judges' continuing education clinic over the winter along the lines of the Musical Freestyle clinics we have done in the past:

1. "The View from C"

This program uses headsets, a moderator, and takes place at a competition or clinic setting with demonstration riders. The participants would listen and take notes as the moderator comments on the rides being observed. Training, First, Second Level rides, full tests and test movements, should be included. It would also include, at the minimum, 2 hours of observation, 1 hour of lecture, discussion and a Q&A period.

2. "Upgrade Your Judging Eye I"

3. "Upgrade Your Judging Eye II"

4. Musical Freestyle

5. Musical Freestyle Remote Learning Program

6. Taste of the L Education Program

7. Know The Movements

8. Focus on Collective Marks

9. Judging Dressage Seat Equitation

10. Other Formats

To Do: Darcy to look into these events more to see which ones might lend themselves to DVCTA hosting.

Darcy also wants to look into doing a symposium with Mike Osinski for a weekend symposium of some sort. Likely to be 2028 before he can be available.

- Darcy to contact Mike to discuss dates and suggested formats.

Pub at Dressage at Devon (Mike Broomall, Penny Knotts): Moving along, will need volunteers, not much happening now. Can confirm that there is a second location under the grand stand for Friday and Saturday nights. We are likely to select Penns Woods winery as the provider of wines this year. Need to get approval from DAD board.

Annual Meeting & Brunch (Lisa Leana and Lisa Varotsis): Update on the annual banquet.
Scheduled for 11 am - 3:00 pm February 20th.

Cost is \$38.50 per head plus 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 ask Rob Robillard possible chair? We suggested that this is a committee that Renee Dixon could help with to get her 8 hours of volunteer time.**

PR Committee (Penny Knotts): Reminder to send things to either Penny, Tamara or Mike for facebook posts. Beth and Mike have been emailing with Annie about pricing of a new website. She estimates around \$5000.00. Cost can vary as the job details become clearer. Beth moved, Lisa V seconded, and all approved, to approve an initial budget of \$5000 for a website revamp to be managed by Beth and Mike. Julie indicated she has the photos from last year's awards presentation.

Currently Inactive Committees - No Reports

Quadrille

Harvest Fest

Junior Teams

New Business

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Next meeting July 14. Should be both in person and online.

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/j/89717201289?pwd=3oSp6ri71ro5Z8io6kzBbaY7v2kGqF.1>

DVCTA Scholarships

Want to attend a clinic, symposium, or educational forum?

DVCTA can help!

DVCTA offers scholarships to promote education. Scholarships may be used to defray the cost of attending or taking part in educational events or clinics in dressage, CT/HT, working education or equestrian health.

- **WHO:** DVCTA Members of any age or riding ability (professional or amateur) are encouraged to apply. Young riders are especially encouraged to apply.
- **WHAT:** Funds must be used to defray costs for specific purposes (i.e., a named clinic, seminar, etc.).
 - **Educational events or clinics within USDF Region 1 or USEA Area 2** qualify for a scholarship of up to \$300.
 - **Educational events or clinics beyond USDF Region 1 or USEA Area 2** qualify for a scholarship of up to \$600. Examples would be judge or TD education, attending the USDF or USEF convention, or attending a symposium or clinic sponsored by USDF, USEF or USEA.
- **HOW:**
 - Determine whether you are eligible
 - Fill out the application (insert URL to application) and submit it to scholarships@dvcta.org.
 - After attending the event, you must write a short summary of your experience and submit it to scholarships@dvcta.org within two months of the event. ***You will not be issued your scholarship check until your report is received.***
 - Send questions to scholarships@dvcta.org

DVCTA Scholarship Requirements/Eligibility

- Applicant must have been a DVCTA member in good standing for more than one year at the time of application (ie they must be in at least their second year of membership).
- Funds must be used for specific purposes (i.e., a named clinic, seminar, etc.). Scholarship money may **not** be used for regular lesson programs, tack, clothing, or expenses of competing.
- The applicant must complete the DVCTA Scholarship Application (insert URL) (preferably at least 2 months prior to the event) and send it to scholarships@dvcta.org. The Scholarship Committee will review the proposals and determine eligibility and scholarship amount.
- The applicant must write an account of the experience and send it for publication on the e-news [and/or DVCTA website, Facebook page]. This must be sent within 60 days of the event or the scholarship is void. The check for your scholarship will be issued after your article is received.
- Approval of the Scholarship is made based on applicant eligibility and the information provided. All Scholarship Committee decisions are final. Scholarship Committee members may submit applications for a scholarship but may not vote on its approval.
- An individual may receive a scholarship once every 3 years.

Please complete the scholarship application form and email to scholarships@dvcta.org.