

SEDA Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes – February 26, 2024.

Board Members present were: Natasha Fernandez, Danielle Aymond, Lydia Chiasson, Marie Cobb, Judi Dauterive, Emily Jackson, Marilyn Kulifay, Chrissy West. Guest: Cameron Dauterive (mini-Olympics).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Natasha Fernandez.

President report: Natasha reported: 1. that the Franklin Method Clinic would be held on April 13, and possibly April 14, if there is enough interest. It will be a two-hour lecture with two sessions of 4 riders practicing concepts learned in the lecture.

2. Judi sent a few suggestions to Natasha. The awards process needs to be streamlined. The proposal is to have schooling dressage and combined tests use the same submission procedure. For 2025, the proposal is to have the schooling dressage results sent in directly to awards after the show and have the standings updated more frequently, once per quarter. Another proposal was to have an opt-in fee for each horse/rider pair, which would help offset costs. Having two types of membership, competing and non-competing was discussed. An increase in membership fees was also discussed. Judi moved that for 2025, to streamline awards by doing the schooling dressage the same way as eventing – they submit scores immediately after earning them, and competitors have to opt-in. Marie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Another proposal was to delete the requirement that a competitor had to be a member at the time the scores are earned. A person must be a member by September 30th to be eligible for awards. Judi moved, seconded by Emily. Motion passed.

3. Cameron Dauterive presented a proposal to have a mini-Olympics for competitors (Amateurs, Open and Juniors) with teams, with SEDA doing the draw and assigning a nation to each team. It would include dressage, jumping, prix caprilli. This is proposed for next year, perhaps during SEDA's 50th anniversary celebration.

4. The Board voted to support the Houston CDI with a \$500 sponsorship. Marie moved, seconded by Lydia, motion passed.

5. Natasha also proposed having a Chairperson of Awards and Sponsorships. Nicole pointed out that a list of benefits/perks was needed to be presented to sponsors. Danielle was going to contact someone she knew to see whether they were interested.

Vice President report:

1. Nicole said that the banquet went well. However, the number of attendees has outgrown the space.
2. Nicole proposed that the Board decide which venues to investigate to hold the Awards Banquet. Some possibilities were discussed: Beau Chene Country Club, the Fleur de Lis Event Center and the Covington Country Club. People expressed an interest in a Western theme. Possible awards were discussed. Also, some special awards were suggested by members that the Board took under consideration. Danielle will send the Board some criteria for a Junior

Sportsmanship award. The Board discussed having an award based on age – 60 and up was suggested.

3. Emily moved that the Junior Volunteer award, the over 60 award and the Junior Sportsmanship award be new awards that SEDA sponsors. Nicole seconded. The Board passed the motion.
4. Nicole proposed that the club host a Pilates clinic, which was supported by the Board.

Dressage report: Judi said that someone requested Prix Caprilli be part of the Schooling Show Championships. Judi would need volunteers to help set it up. SEDA has Prix Caprilli as a class for year-end awards. There were not as many people this year who tried to qualify. Judi presented a comparison of prior years' format and attendance. Danielle said that she would encourage more juniors and juniors' trainers to support the SEDA Schooling Show Championships. Marie brought up a possible educational opportunity to outline what shows and awards are available to parents and competitors. Chrissy suggested having a YouTube account, and an Instagram and Facebook account. The Board thought that having video clips on "how to" would be helpful.

Eventing report: Emily reported that the Fleur de Leap event date would stay the same for 2024. The Board discussed whether changing the date would be beneficial for future years. Emily will talk to the Area 5 council members regarding spreading out the Eventing recognized shows. A Spring horse trial was discussed. The course designer and course builder have expressed concerns about the condition of some of the older cross-country jumps.

Treasurer's report: SEDA is currently in a reasonable financial position. It is preferable to scan and send receipts to Lydia. Two signatures are needed on the checks.

Juniors report: Danielle sent some information on Sportsmanship awards to the Board members. Danielle is interacting with Mills Farm for education, and about having schooling shows. She will be helping develop the mini-Olympics.

Membership report: 18 new members – January and February, and 13 renewals.

Communications report: Chrissy is working on social media and publicity. Chrissy is also working on clips for the YouTube account.

A motion to adjourn was made by Marie Cobb, seconded by Judi. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Other Business conducted by email:

1. February 26, 2024: Nicole sent a proposed flyer for the Pilates clinic for comments by the Board.
2. February 26, 2024: Danielle submitted a detailed proposal for a SEDA Junior Sportsmanship Award. The Board approved.
3. March 1, 2024: The Board approved removing Rebecca (prior Treasurer) from the account and approved Lydia on the account.
4. March 15, 2024: The Board voted on the Banquet venue – Fleur de Lis Event Center.
5. March 25, 2024: The Board approved funds for limestone for the water complex on the cross-country course.

6. April 8, 2024: The Board voted to approve helping advertise the Cross-Country Equestrian Association clinic on SEDA Facebook and in the newsletter.
7. April 15, 2024: The Board voted “no bull at the banquet” in reference to having a mechanical bull at the banquet and thought that it would be better to have a mechanical bull at a SEDA 50th anniversary party as a summertime function. The Board also voted on \$60 per ticket for the banquet, and directors’ chairs as the top award. The venue has been booked for February 1, 2025, from 5-9 pm.
8. April 16, 2024: The Board voted to donate to two charities – American Heart Association and American Lung Association in memory of Melissa Mysing’s husband, Bill.
9. April 22, 2024: The Board voted to donate 2-3 Cross Country vouchers for the Area 5 fundraising auction.
10. April 25, 2024: Congratulations to Danielle Aymond who won the Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund Grant for a Region 9 Adult Amateur, to be used to further her dressage journey.
11. An email went out to SEDA members requesting donations to raise money to update several of the cross-country jumps that are weather-beaten and need a facelift.

Next meeting July 9th, changed to July 15th due to Hurricane Beryl.