

USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference

June 8, 2010

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Attending:	George Williams, President	Melissa Creswick, Vice-President
	Janine Malone, Secretary	Steven Schubert, Treasurer
	Ken Levy, Region 2 Director	Stephen Hienzsch, Executive Director
	Sandi Bishop, Region 3 Director	Cindy Vimont, Staff
	Lloyd Landkamer, Region 4 Director	Deborah Dunivant, Staff
	Donna Longacre, Region 6 Director	Donna Rocchetti, Staff
	Fern Feldman, Region 8 Director	Kathy Robertson, Staff
	Bess Reineman, Region 9 Director	Sam Barish, Past President

Absent: Alison Head, Region 1 Director; Theresa Hunt, Region 5 Director; Terry Wilson, Region 7 Director

Call to Order and Agenda Review (Additions/Corrections) - George Williams

George called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm. George reviewed the agenda and stated that approval of the tests would be moved to the next meeting due to the number of agenda items in this meeting. **Bess MOVED and Steven SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.**

Revisit motion regarding FEI Jr/YR Clinic Instructors for fiscal year 2010-2011 – Donna Rocchetti

Donna explained that, at the spring EB meeting, George and Jan Ebeling were appointed as clinicians for the 2010 FEI Jr/YR clinic series. She requested that all four of the previous clinicians be approved for the 2010-2011 series. Pending the USEF/USDF summit meeting on June 15, it is premature to select clinicians for the 2011-2012 series. **Bess MOVED and Melissa SECONDED a motion that for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, George Williams, Sue Blinks, Jan Ebeling and Kathy Connelly be asked to conduct the FEI Jr/YR Clinic series and that we continue with six clinics.** Melissa conducted the voting. **MOTION CARRIED. George ABSTAINED.** Regarding the 2011-2012 clinic series, George said that many questions need to be resolved and will be addressed at the upcoming summit meeting.

Follow up proposal for 2011 USDF Directory – Cindy Vimont

Cindy sent out three recommendations for the 2011 Directory, as well as the results of a survey sent by USDF to members who purchased or chose not to purchase the 2010 Directory. For 2011, staff would like to keep the current Directory format, reduced by one 16-page “signature”. Staff proposes to remove the official’s listing and arena setup as well as some extra space. Janine reviewed the survey and felt that the official’s list was one of the more popular parts for people who purchased the Directory. Lloyd felt that the listing, especially of the “L” graduates, was useful to schooling show organizers. Cindy explained that the USEF Licensed Officials Committee has been hesitant to allow the official’s list to be published online in an unrestricted location. **Lloyd MOVED and Janine SECONDED a motion to reduce the Directory by one 16-page signature, to include the official’s listing, arena layout, white pages and some other information. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Cindy said that the survey indicated the name “Directory” is confusing and is possibly one reason that some people opted not to purchase it. Staff proposes to change the name to “USDF Information Guide” with a sub-title referring to the USDF, USEF and FEI Dressage Tests, awards, programs and championship information. **Fern MOVED and Bess SECONDED a motion to change the name to “USDF Information Booklet”.** Janine said she didn’t like that choice of name. Donna suggested “USDF Competitor’s Guide”. Lloyd suggested “Competitors and Members Guide”. Fern amended the motion to read as follows: **Fern MOVED and Bess SECONDED a motion to change the name to “USDF Competitor and Member Guide” to include a sub-title referring to the USDF, USEF and FEI Dressage Tests, awards, program and championship information. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Cindy said staff recommended that all five-year and life members pay the \$3 shipping and handling fee as is paid by the annual members. Cindy explained the rationale for this recommendation. Janine is concerned that USDF is not

communicating adequately with life and five-year members. Steven is opposed to taking away a benefit that people pay for and that those people should be grandfathered. Fern and Lloyd believe that a fee should be paid by five-year and life members. **Fern MOVED and Donna SECONDED a motion that all members pay an annual shipping and handling fee for the Directory including existing five-year and life members.** Several expressed support for having only the five-year members pay the annual shipping and handling fee. Life members would have to order the Directory but would not have to pay the shipping and handling fee. **MOTION DEFEATED. Sandi MOVED and Donna SECONDED a motion that members, including five-year members, must pay an annual shipping and handling fee for the Directory. Life members must request the Directory and are exempt from paying the fee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Convention fee structure– 2010, 2011 – Stephan Hiensch

Stephan drew attention to a chart, which was sent to the EB, comparing fees for the 2008 and 2009 conventions and symposiums as well as proposed 2010 and 2011 fees. He reviewed the price structure along with significant changes. **Janine MOVED and Sandi SECONDED a motion to approve the fee schedule for the 2010 convention and symposium as listed in the 2010 convention and symposium fee proposal dated June 4, 2010. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

George further explained that complaints have been received regarding the cost to attend the business meetings. Sometimes committee members do not pay the fees. George feels that subsidizing the convention is part of the cost of doing business so that we minimize the cost of attendance to those who provide expertise in committee work and support the Board of Governors. Stephan explained that this change in the fee structure would subsidize members attending the convention in the amount of \$10,000-\$15,000. This would be a gesture to encourage attendance at the convention. The EB continued to discuss options for encouraging attendance and supporting delegates, such as providing discounts, etc. George suggested lowering the cost of the member pre-registration annual meeting fee for 2011 by approximately \$20. It was agreed to discuss this again at the convention.

Dates for the 2011 Spring EB Meeting – George Williams

Staff suggested holding the 2011 spring EB meeting either on April 17-19, 2011 (Sunday through Tuesday) or May 14 –16, 2011 with a Friday any time arrival, and Sunday departure after 12:00 noon. The following conflicts exist for April and May: Easter on April 24. The USDF office is closed on Good Friday April 22nd; ROLEX on April 28 through May 1; KY Derby on May 7 and Mother's Day on May 8. **Steve MOVED and Bess SECONDED a motion that the Spring 2011 EB meeting be held on April 16-17 to arrive on Friday April 15 and depart on Sunday April 17. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Transparency Policy, regarding the posting of Committee and EB meeting materials on Web site – George

George brought up concerns with the policy approved at the fall EB meeting in Austin that would require material presented to the EB to be published prior to a meeting. Since much information is not accepted or is revised, such a policy could promote confusion. The same requirement was approved for the committees. He would like to revisit the policy. Not only is it difficult, it could be very time-consuming for staff and volunteers to implement such a policy and would probably require the addition of another staff member. Also, since much information is available to the EB just prior to the meetings, it would be impossible to review everything prior to the meeting to determine if it should be published. This would also require thousands of additional pages of information to be published on the website. Steven recommends that only material already approved should be published. Other concerns were discussed. It was noted that the detailed EB minutes are now published except for some confidential or sensitive information. While the EB supports transparency, this policy would be nearly impossible to implement in its current form.

Janine suggested revising the policy as soon as possible. Steven suggested suspending the rules (ie, this policy) until the policy has been revised. Ken recommended a statement from George supporting the transparency policy and giving reasons why it isn't feasible to fully implement. **Sandi MOVED and Lloyd SECONDED a motion to suspend the rules regarding the USDF transparency policy until a revised policy can be approved by the EB that is more cost-effective and less time-consuming for staff and volunteers to administrate. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Alternative Concepts to Trainers Conference – Kathie Robertson and Fern

Kathy noted that a proposal was approved at the spring EB meeting for a trainers conference to be held in California in 2011. Kathy spoke to several people in California about the plan and took their feedback to the Instructor Trainer Committee. Questions were asked on the purpose and target audience of the trainers conference vs. the symposium. Gerhard Politz suggested alternatives including to move the symposium away from the convention and hold it in different parts of the country. He suggested holding a trainers conference at the convention along with other topics that might attract trainers and “L” graduates. The symposiums would be held away from the convention in areas with a large potential audience. The trainers conference would need to have broad appeal and be much more inclusive compared to its current format. The concept would need to be developed in more detail before it could be fully supported by the EB. It was agreed that the EB should ask the committee to explore the concept in more detail.

Approval of 2010 Convention Agenda - Stephan

Janine MOVED and Donna SECONDED a motion to approve the revised 2010 convention agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

George adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine W. Malone
USDF Secretary