

## USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) MEETING

Teleconference – March 20, 2024

**This document is edited for posting on the USDF website and is not the official or complete version of the minutes of this meeting.**

### **Members Present:**

George Williams, President	Kevin Reinig, Vice President
Debra Reinhardt, Secretary	Lorraine Musselman, Treasurer
Bettina Longaker, Region 1 Director	Debby Savage, Region 2 Director
Charlotte Trentelman, Region 3 Director	Anne Sushko, Region 4 Director
Heather Petersen, Region 5 Director	Noah Rattner, Region 6 Director
Carol Tice, Region 7 Director	Helen van der Voort, Region 8 Director
Bess Bruton, Region 9 Director	Susan Mandas, Activities Council Director
Sue McKeown, Technical Council Director	Anne Snipes Moss, Administrative Council Director

**Members Absent:** Helen van der Voort joined the meeting at 5:40 pm and left the call at 6:10pm.

**Staff Attending:** Stephan Hienzsch, Connie Huy, Krystina Wright, Kathie Robertson, Sarah Garn, Melissa Schoedbauer

**Guest in attendance:** None

The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. EST by Zoom teleconference.

### **Determination of quorum, roll call and conflicts of interest**

#### **Approval of agenda**

Heather Petersen moved and Bess Bruton seconded **to approve the agenda**. Motion carried.

#### **President's remarks**

No remarks at this time but will have updates at the spring meeting.

#### **Executive Director's remarks**

The *USDF Member Guide* has Dr. Cesar Parra's ad on the inside front cover, which was placed, printed, and mailed to the majority of members in the fall when Dr. Parra was in good standing with USDF. Social media has responded that his ad should be removed now that he is not in good standing. As new memberships are processed, there are 13% (3500) of the *USDF Member Guide's* produced still to be mailed.

Options to address the ad were discussed. The FEI investigation into Dr. Parra is pending and we must allow for due process. Removing the ad prematurely could create liability for USDF.

Staff proposed an insert to include the USDF's Animal Welfare Statement for the remaining printed *USDF Member Guide's* to be mailed. Many on the EB felt USDF's Animal Welfare Statement was dated and needed some work. After much discussion, the EB agreed upon the following wording for the insert (the following insert language was created post meeting with EB review):

*“The USDF Member Guide is a publication that includes paid advertising content. Ads published in the guide do not imply endorsement of a product or service, nor do they imply a partnership between USDF and the advertiser.*

*The 2024 USDF Member Guide was produced in August 2023 and mailed to all 2023 members in late October. To that end, for those new 2024 members who may just now be receiving the guide, some materials may be outdated or no longer appropriate. To ensure that the most current and up-to-date information is being accessed, USDF encourages members to visit the USDF website.”*

USEF has notified managers that they will no longer review prize lists starting June 12, 2024 for dressage shows. USDF will continue reviewing prize lists and helping managers make their prize lists accurate.

### **US Dressage Finals 2025 recommendation**

The US Dressage Finals Organizing Committee (OC) made a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding the US Dressage Finals location for 2025. An e-mail vote will be held regarding the OC's recommendation.

### **Regional championship qualifying period modification proposal for 2026**

This modification proposal to move the date for the last allowable weekend for regional championships one week earlier to the first full weekend of October was supported by the US Dressage Finals OC and the Regional Championships Committee. Regional directors would like time to discuss with their GMOs. This item was tabled to allow regional directors to get more information, which will be followed by an e-mail vote regarding moving the last allowable regional championship date one week earlier than it has traditionally been, to the first full weekend of October, effective 2026.

### **Review of the US Equestrian Licensed Officials Policies & Procedures modifications to be effective 12/1/2024 (reference document)**

Bess Bruton moved and Sue Mandas seconded **to approve US Equestrian Licensed Officials Policies & Procedures modifications to be effective 12/1/2024 with a minor clarification.** Motion carried. Anne Snipes Moss abstained.

### **Review of USEF rule change proposals, draft #2 (reference documents)**

Charlotte Trentelman moved and Sue McKeown seconded **to approve the recommendations of the Rules Advisory Working Group (RAWG) of the US Equestrian rule change proposals as outlined in draft #2, except for 838.** Motion carried.

Heather Petersen moved and Sue McKeown seconded **to approve in concept and intent to support extraordinary GR 838 rule change with comments from the RAWG.** Motion carried.

### **Update on the Instructor/Trainer Development Program**

USDF has sent out a press release to promote the six seminar programs starting in 2024, i.e., three in Region 4 and three in Region 8. Several new people have applied to get in to the new professional pathway, which targets and focuses on certification with the new resources of the mentor program. Seminars in the regions will also have a new component. The first day will focus on general education and is open to anyone. The second day will be more targeted and run more

like the workshops use to. However, the participants will be evaluated on in-hand session, but without scoring.

At the moment there are 17 candidates interested in the professional pathway, and mentors will be assigned to them. A monthly professional series will include a webinar led by members of the faculty with topics from the core curriculum. In addition, there are 8-10 people interested in FEI instructor certification.

Sarah Geikie, Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn, and Kathie Robertson were part of a webinar with Dressage4Kids that talked about the program and was meant to promote and get interest in in the northeast for their workshops. The office has been getting a lot of interest since the webinar. USDF will have access to the webinar and will post it on the website for people to hear about the program.

There is a rotating banner on the home page of the USDF website and an article in *USDF Connection* to bring attention to the program.

Manuals are being updated, but need illustrations. There will be more discussion on this once more information and cost is available.

**New Business/Miscellaneous**

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Reinhardt  
USDF Secretary