

## **WDCTA Eastern Chapter Meeting Notes**

For Regular Business Meeting

Tara Ragatz's house – Milwaukee, WI

### **Date: June 5, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Paula Rush.

### **Attendees:**

Tara Ragatz – President

Pamela Doolittle – State President

Jessica Adickes

Susan Esser

Excused – Paula Rush

### **Secretary's Report:**

### **Treasurer's Report:**

### **Old Business:**

#### **Membership & Attendance:**

- A copy of the membership list has been emailed to Tara
- Two new/renewed members signed up for WDCTA in the Eastern chapter since the prior meeting.
- New member Susan Esser was in attendance @ the meeting.
- Membership registration was not yet received for Chris/Jess Adickes – this will be completed this month. They were hoping to do it online, & hadn't completed the paperwork.

**A Day of Dressage:** A spreadsheet was created to manage the organization of events, vendors, budgeting items and other logistics.

- Discussion of the event yielded many ideas & follow ups
- Silent Auction – Susan suggested utilizing the contacts we already have in people who do home sales (Lia Sophia, Scentsy, Dove Chocolatier).
- In-hand demonstration – Jennifer Callies emailed prior to the meeting that Caryn Vesperman will be happy to do this presentation.
- Round Table discussion – JJ Tate has been taken off the 'short list' due to her relocating out of state & charging a large fee for such events. Pam's suggestion was to utilize this as an opportunity to reach out to local trainers & instructors, and really use their 'buy in' of the event to help promote it. John Scheider (WDCTA member) was mentioned as a key person to contact.
- Equine Massage – Paula was going to look into a contact person for this.
- Update & Order of Events – Caryn Vesperman can take this opportunity after lunch to give a 10-15 minute presentation on the "L" program offered by USDF.
- Tests and Q&A – suggested by Pam that we bring in one or more persons who are also judges – let them judge the ride & then comment on what they scored & why, as well as take questions about the execution of movements from the audience.
- WDCTA Presentation – Pam Doolittle will present. Additionally, all day there will be a booth/table with information available on WDCTA & upcoming events.

- Fashion Show – Equine Resource will be contacted to see if they would be willing to be the featured vendor @ the event & provide the outfits. The owners of the business are also WDCTA members. Helmet safety awareness will be emphasized in the riding outfits. As the 4H & Pony Club contacts have not gotten back to Jessica, we will look towards having students of local trainers model the outfits.
- French Classical Dressage – Eileen Webb has emailed interest in participating, provided it does not conflict with a clinic @ her farm that month. Suggested that we contact Eileen about joining WDCTA as well.
- Musical Freestyle – Mahloch's (WDCTA members) have in the past done a Pas de Deux to music. Additionally, Jenna Straus has confirmed riding.
- Insurance – Pam provided Tara with the link to the insurance form to be completed no later than 1 month prior to the event. In addition to insuring WDCTA, we can add insurance for the businesses that host & participate.

**Public Notices:**

- Flyers were created for WDCTA – Eastern Chapter & the October event A Day of Dressage.
- Tara will email copies of these flyers to members for printing & distributing @ tack shops & events around the area.

**Facebook:** At the February meeting, it was decided to create a Facebook page that people can connect through.

- Pam Doolittle was in support of continuing the Facebook page for Eastern Chapter. She suggested that we work to get it established & build up a following, to help our chapter flourish.
- In addition, it was pointed out that E.C. should take advantage of the already established FB page for WDCTA & make sure that our events are announced for people around the state to see & stay up to date on.

**Email Account:** On the WDCTA website, an email address is listed for communication to the Eastern Chapter.

- Stephanie Severn needs to update the E.C. email address to forward to Tara Ragatz' account. Tara will contact her regarding this.

**New Business:**

**Education:** On the WDCTA website, it is posted that chapters should hold 4 educational events each year.

- Pamela Doolittle came from the state to present as the Education event at this meeting.
- Bylaws for the state have changed to define educational requirements as 1 per year. A Day of Dressage will meet this requirement.
- It was discussed in past meetings & determined that for each meeting, the person hosting the meeting would be responsible for organizing something educational. Due to the change in the By-laws, this will be tabled & revisited at a future meeting for possible amendment in E.C.
- Both Jessica & Susan were in favor of making a change to the Education requirement @ E.C. towards planned events, in lieu of meeting events.

Guest Speaker: Pamela Doolittle, WDCTA President

- Joint Clinic-share program with IDCTA – Good instructors come to many venues to teach clinics. Many times it is private farms hosting the events. Molly Fine has proposed to contact farm owners & offer to advertise the events for auditor participation, & as a result, have a \$5 discount applied to the auditing fee for IDCTA & WDCTA members. This would be a good way to advertise DCTA and allow members the opportunity to be informed about these high-caliber events.
- “L” program – A,B,C sessions. Pam will be presenting to the State Board to see if the program should be brought back to WI this fall, going into next year. People can participate, like a class with 3 parts, or audit. Auditors will not get printed materials, but will see the power point, rides, etc. & hear the lectures. It is meant as a program for USDF to de-mystify dressage & what the judge does. These sessions are also good money-makers for chapters to put on. Pam is proposing perhaps 2 different chapters to host an event as a fund raiser. People who would like to continue on & become a judge need to show proficiency in the sport (minimum scores at least in 2<sup>nd</sup> level). It would be similar to a ‘next step’ from our Day of Dressage event, & she recommended E.C. keep it in mind for a 2012 event.
- Steffen Peters @ Sunflower Farms – Through the Levels, a 2 day symposium in joint with Janet Foye, taking people in the audience through rides at each of the levels. Steffan will be addressing the training that needs to be done to achieve & advance from each level, while Janet will approach from the perspective of a judge. Scheduled November 19-20, 2011. An item to make sure is advertised at Day of Dressage event.

#### **Announcements:**

##### **Follow Ups:**

- Susan Esser, Jess & Chris Adickes to official join WDCTA as members prior to our next meeting
- Tara will email Caryn V. to have meeting schedules & minutes posted to the website, as well as the Day of Dressage event
- Tara will email John Schneider (cc Pam D) regarding his participation in the E.C. and interest in participating in the Day of Dressage
- Jess will contact local trainers to drum up participants for the Ride through the Levels
- Susan will take the meeting minutes & condense them into a paragraph that Pam can post in the next issue of Wisc Horseman’s news, to email Pam directly, cc Tara
- Tara to contact Equine Source to see if they will be willing to be the featured vendor at Day of Dressage

##### **Next Meeting:**

- Scheduled for Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 5pm, location Whisperwood Acres farm lounge

**The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.**

**Submitted by Tara Ragatz**