

## TVDCTA October 18th 2016 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Helen Bergquist (President), Victoria Tripiano (Publicity), Natalie Weil (Shows & Clinics), Marijka Frye (Librarian), Chris Cochrane (Membership), Paulette Lyons (Treasurer), Judith Fiorentino, Marsha Laitinen (Secretary)

Absent: Gretchen Sienicki (Vice President), Biel Trudell (Volunteer Coordinator), Denise Ferrera-Payne (Awards), Kathy Coviello (Volunteer Incentive Program)

0650 pm Meeting called to order by the President, Helen Bergquist

Planned program of "How TVDCTA Works" was modified due to attendance. Instead, discuss "Planning for the 2017", motion by Helen Bergquist, seconded by Chris Cochrane. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion topics:

- "Possible loss of GMO status" if no president is elected for the 2017 calendar year?
- Consider updating/streamlining the By Laws by moving committee definition to the Policies & Procedures document. The rationale is that by-laws should remain fairly constant over time but the list of committee chairs doesn't accurately describe how we function today. We adapt based on our volunteer base. Today we have committees that aren't board positions because they aren't in the bylaws. And we have board positions (committee chairs) that are vacant or combined because either there isn't a volunteer to fill it or the need for the position doesn't exist. This may be a good thing for next year's Bylaws and Grievances Committee to investigate. We handled the differences this year by assigning board members to chair multiple committees which had the effect of combining committees outlined in the bylaws. New committees were stood up during the year and a chair assigned to head the committee.
- Ways to restructure horse shows to be less "labor intensive" for the club, especially for the Show Secretary. In 2016, the TVDCTA organized five shows/clinics with the Show Secretary performing the majority of the work. Judith Fiorentino proposed the idea of fewer TVDCTA shows per year. For example, a TVDCTA spring (SPS) & fall/Halloween (FRF) show. TVDCTA would sanction additional shows that are held by member-owned barns upon agreement between TVDCTA and the host barn. For a TVDCTA-sanctioned schooling show, TVDCTA would award points toward end-of-year awards, give volunteer hour credits to workers, and publicize the show. Everything else (including insurance) is the responsibility of the host barn. Any barns interested in hosting additional show(s) could seek TVDCTA recognition. Natalie agreed to serve as next year's Show Secretary provided there were only two TVDCTA shows.
- Natalie would like TVDCTA to seek out recognized show judges for these two shows as a way of encouraging more regional participation. Natalie Weil suggested Jim Graham for a CT show at FRF in the Fall. Chris Cochrane suggested Sue Kolstad "S" for a dressage show at SPS in the spring. October 2017 at FRF. Also suggested was the possibility of conducting a clinic on Sunday, following the Saturday show.
- Update the online entry form to accommodate multiple Third Level & Above classes per entry.
- Natalie Weil has developed a show evaluation form. One will be placed in each show packet. Please encourage participants to complete & leave with the show secretary.
- Helen Bergquist prepared a Board/Committee interest survey to assist the Nomination Committee. Attendees completed the survey form. The forms will be distributed to the entire membership via social media. Ask members to fill out the form and submit to [TVDCTA@gmail.org](mailto:TVDCTA@gmail.org)
- Who is responsible for tracking volunteer hours? The TVDCTA President has a master Excel spread sheet with logged member volunteer hours. Committee Chairs report (to the President) hours worked by members of their Committee. The Volunteer Coordinator and Show Secretary, for example, provide input for members who help prepare for and conduct shows and clinics. The President credits 4 hours to each Board member for their service to the club. The Webmaster uploads the excel sheet to the website where members can review their information and provide feedback.
- Suggestions for 2017 meetings: Gear meetings towards education. Victoria Tripiano identified that our most well attended meetings were those with guest speakers. Also those programs given by members. Would like to have some social events next year.
- Paulette Lyons suggested holding a social gathering during the spring/summer (May/June) at one of our local barns. Natalie Weil suggested rotating barns & holding the event on a weekend day.
- Chris Cochrane suggested a board member "kick off" event in January to discuss future business/social events, possibly a separate board meeting due to time constraints.
- Suggested was the idea of on-line meetings in conjunction with (or instead of) physical meetings. Victoria Tripiano suggested "Go To Meeting" as a possible alternative. There are several other software applications that could serve this purpose. Victoria offered to look into the Huntsville Main Library for meetings;

rooms are available at no cost and there is public WiFi. Chris Cochrane suggested that handouts be offered to follow along with web meetings. The idea is to include members who are interested but unable to attend.

- Chris Cochrane will soon begin a membership drive. Natalie Weil will put 2017 TVDCTA Membership Applications in the upcoming FRF Halloween Show packets.
- Horsin' Around Tack Shop is now Huntsville Horse Sports. New owner to possibly host a meeting @ the store, looking to get feedback from the dressage community regarding stocking specific tack/apparel.

#### Treasurers Report 18 October 2016 (Submitted by Paulette Lyons)

Beginning balance:	\$3,027.71+
Deposits:	\$ 30.00+
Membership	\$ 50.00+
Oct Show PayPal:	\$2,203.26+
September show refund	\$ 52.00-
Roberts Rules book	\$ 258.77-
Hodges's Awards High Score Ribbons	\$ 173.00-
Hodges's 1st & 2nd Place Ribbons	\$ 815.00-
Porta potty	\$ 85.00-
Ending Balance	\$4,156.80+

#### Awards Committee Report (Helen for Denise-Ferrara-Payne).

TVDCTA Awards Banquet: Looking at possible dates in early December. Location & date TBA. Denise Ferrara-Payne should have an estimate of number of awards needed after the Saturday show, following entry of scores & confirmation of volunteer hours. Suggestions for awards are being accepted.

#### New Business

Motion: Helen Bergquist moved "TVDCTA to hold two shows in 2017: a dressage schooling show at SPS in the spring and a CT schooling show at FRF in the Fall. TVDCTA may sanction additional shows that are held by member-owned barns upon agreement between TVDCTA and the host barn. For a TVDCTA-sanctioned schooling show, TVDCTA would award points toward end-of-year awards, give volunteer hour credits to workers, and publicize the show. Everything else (including insurance) is the responsibility of the host barn. Any barns interested in hosting TVDCTA-sanctioned shows may seek TVDCTA recognition." Everyone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: Helen Bergquist for Kathy Coviello: "...For the 2016 banquet, the club shall expend from the treasury funds to purchase appreciation gifts in the form of mugs from the TVDCTA Cafe Press logoware store. Valued between \$10-\$20, these shall be presented to members of the 2016 board." There was no second to the motion. Although the motion failed, the gesture was appreciated.

Motion proposed by Chris Cochrane & seconded by Judith Fiorentino to "offer a \$5.00 discount for early membership renewal/submission." Under discussion, it was noted that certain organizations offer a discount for early membership renewal/submission. The motion was tabled. (It was later decided not to offer a discount for early membership renewal/submission because our dues are already so low that TVDCTA keeps very little of the money.)

Motion: Helen Bergquist for Kathy Coviello: "... As per last year's method, recommended approval of the same concept where members solicit donations from vendors for the 2016 banquet to be used in the Volunteer Prize Raffle. Each volunteer gets one ticket for the 1st 4 hours, then an additional ticket for each additional hour served in calendar year 2016. The official volunteer hour tracker will serve as the measure. Any vendors making donations will receive 1) thank you letter (in addition to solicitation letter with 501c3 status info, modeled on last year's one), free listing with link on our website, free promotion on our Facebook page and inclusion in a TVDCTA Bits Newsletter. Voted upon and approved.

Motion: Helen Bergquist moved and Victoria Tripiano seconded "for the 2016 banquet, the club shall expend

from the treasury funds to purchase appreciation gifts in the form of \$25 gift certificates from Huntsville Horse Sports, each shall be presented to our host barns (Steel Prize Stables, River Rock Stables, and Flint Ridge Farm)." TVDCTA wants to support our local tack shop which is under new ownership. The motion passed.

Helen Bergquist moved and Victoria Tripiano seconded "...For the Halloween show at FRF, the club shall expend from the treasury funds to purchase appreciation gifts valued between \$10-\$20, for our two judges and for the (adult and JR/YR) winners of the Halloween costume contest." Motion passed. Maiké Frye volunteered to get the gifts. Paulette Lyons will be making "treat bags" to distribute to costume contestants.

For the Good of the Order.

Dates from USDF to GMOs:

Sept 1 - Last day to submit rosters for voting rights at convention.

Nov 30 - Last day to submit members for the current membership year.

Dec 1 - Initial roster and dues are due for the new membership year.

Dec 31 - Last day to submit and pay for members that want to receive the yearbook issue of USDF Connection.

Announcements:

Next TVDCTA meeting: 15 November 2016 coincides with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System program on "Equine First Aid". Details will be announced when available.

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:09 pm.