

SWVADA MINUTES

15 March 2010

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 19, 2010

At Hollywood's Restaurant

(Come early for dinner!)

The regular monthly meeting of SWVADA was held on Monday, March 15, 2010 at Hollywood's Restaurant, in Roanoke. President Gary Goodale called the meeting to order. Board Members present: Janet Brown, Gary Goodale, Emily Grabarek, Katherine Graman, Sue Halterman, Marie Klimchuk, Blanche Mahoney, Mary McFee, Laura Nelson, Pat Nelson, Tracey Smith-Oliver, Nan Palmer, Annette Massey Shaw, Cindy Sours. Members Absent: Beckie Mitchell. Guests present: Kim Ellis, Bob Whitehurst.

President's Report: Gary Goodale

Welcome and Introductions.

Gary thanked board members who have recently put in many hours on SWVADA issues and events including, (but not limited to): Blanche Mahoney and Annette Massey-Shaw for deciphering and navigating through the confounding world of insurance rates and regulations to come up with new company and policy that will suit our needs and budget; Katherine Graman for organizing another great Awards Banquet; Beckie Mitchell for putting together and distributing our Omnibus; Laura Nelson for organizing this year's Educational Sunday; and Marie Klimchuk for the progress made toward organizing an Adult Camp for 2010.

Vice-President's Report: Laura Nelson

Laura announced that the judge's contracts have been mailed out and she is starting to receive some back.

Secretary's Report:

VOTED to accept the February minutes as posted.

Treasurers Report: Blanche Mahoney

Checking account: \$7,991.87 Savings account: .14 CD: \$3,492.18 Total Assets: \$11,484.19

Blanche reported that we have un-cleared checks in our checking account from as far back as 2007 that total \$863.70. She will add that sum back into the account next month. She is planning to close the savings account as the funds (minus 14 cents) have been transferred to the checking account.

She also reported that we have changed our insurance company from Markel to the Schroder Group which will result in saving \$883 per year. The Schroder Group policy will provide coverage for the clinicians we hire for our Fix-a-Tests, whereas Markel would not. Clinicians hired for other clinics or camp will not be covered under this policy, but can be added at a much lower rate than what Markel had quoted us.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Educational Sunday: Laura Nelson

Laura reported that the programs are ready. Mary McFee contacted both the Roanoke Times and Franklin County newspapers to list the event. The Roanoke Times will publish an announcement. Franklin County was noncommittal in publicizing an event that "far away".

Laura also asked for door prizes and volunteers for manning the SWVADA table and serving lunch. Blanche agreed to bring some mugs, etc, as well as the banner. Several board members confirmed that they were planning on attending and promised to help out. Katherine will select a few DVDs from our library to bring.

The VA Tech Quadrille Team will make their debut performance during the lunch break.

Clinics: Blanche Mahoney, Sue Halterman

Annette expressed concern about not being able to fill the April 3rd Fix-a-Test. A discussion ensued about how many entries would justify the cost and effort of holding a Fix-a-Test Clinic. It was decided that we would need a minimum of 10 riders to make the event feasible.

After some discussion regarding the August Clinic with Evelyn Susol and the concern that it would not be financially feasible as a two day clinic it was agreed to change it to a one day clinic. The venue is still undecided. GHEPC is a consideration, but could pose a problem if it were to rain. Sue will look into alternative venues.

Publications: Beckie Mitchell

Gary reported for Beckie that 120 copies of the Omnibus were printed and 74 copies have been mailed out.

Webmaster: Emily Grabarek

Emily asked that members look over the new website and let her know if they see any errors or omissions. There was also some discussion and confusion about who owns the swvada.org domain name. Bob Whitehurst suggested we try to find the anniversary date, as the name is generally leased out on a yearly basis. It may be that it will be in the former webmaster's name until the fee is up for renewal.

Horse Shows Committee: Gary Goodale, Sue Halterman, Blanche Mahoney, Mary McFee, Beckie Mitchell, Pat Nelson

There was a brief discussion regarding the number of entries needed to hold a schooling show. It was decided, that unlike the Fix-a-Test Clinics, there should *not* be minimum number of participants required.

AT LARGE POSITIONS

Awards: Janet Brown

Janet has received the ribbons and awards she ordered and will distribute to show managers.

Equipment: Bob Whitehurst

Bob relayed that he will check on the trailer this week, clean up as necessary and get it ready for show season.

GHPEC Liaison: Bob Whitehurst

Bob reported that GHPEC held only one of the three benefit shows that they had scheduled over the winter due to inclement weather which means that they are starting the season with very little funds in their operating budget. They are considering adding another show to benefit the park later in the season. The \$800 raised from the silent auction at the Banquet was donated as previously agreed to GHEPC. Bob will deliver the check to the Green Hill Committee.

Hospitality: Katherine Graman

Katherine suggested changing venues for next year's banquet as the number of people attending for the last few years does not seem to justify the expense of leasing a hotel banquet room. A restaurant setting may prove to be more feasible.

JR/YR: Emily Grabarek, Mary McFee

Emily reported that she is still trying to organize a "Social" or "Pot Luck" gathering for Junior and Young Riders for the purpose of acquainting them with our organization and the benefits of membership. She plans to promote the event and recruit participants at Educational Sunday.

Membership: Pat Nelson

Pat reports that we currently have 79 members.

Points: Robin Jones

No new business to report.

Public Relations: Mary McFee

As stated above under Educational Sunday, Mary has contacted the local newspapers to promote that event.

Media Library: Katherine Graman

Katherine will bring a few "choice" DVD's to Educational Sunday.

Southern States Labels: Cindy Sours

Laura has turned in the last of the labels she had collected and has received a check from Southern States for \$347.50

VADA Representatives: Janet Brown and Tracey Smith-Oliver

Tracey reported new Board was re-elected; Bettina Longaker-President; Beth Rippel-Vice President; Jessie Ginsberg-Treasurer; and Alison Douglas-Secretary.

The Board voted on the date for the 2011 Clinic. The dates are April 2-3 and it will be held at Morven Park. The Horse Center in Lexington had been under consideration, but it was decided that the weekend it was available would conflict with Williamston. A clinician is now being sought.

The Purple Books have been mailed. Ad revenue from the publication was down this year and a discussion ensued about the ratio of expense and income generated. It was agreed to table this discussion until the next board meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on April 18. The location of the meeting has not yet been determined.

NEW BUSINESS

Camp 2010

Marie reported that we have settled on the dates of Oct 8 – 10th for camp and is in the process of contracting with Stone Bridge Farm (formerly Fancy Hill Farm) for use their facilities.

Liz Steacie has agreed to serve as a clinician once again this year.

Judy Westenhoefer has agreed to serve as our second instructor.

Jan Keener has agreed to cater the event.

We have received a grant from the Dressage Foundation in the amount of \$1500 to help fund this year's camp.

Marie is now in the working on the budget to determine this year's fee. She is also looking for a near-by venue for our evening meal, and trying to find other educators such as saddle fitters, massage therapists, etc. who would be interested in sharing their expertise with us. A volunteer is needed to organize the gift swap traditionally held on the last evening.

Tracey agreed to report back about the possibility of using Schleese Saddlery for the saddle fitter, as she has already made arrangements to have them visit her farm.

OLD BUSINESS

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Marie Klimchuk, Secretary

