

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Issue #80



From the President:

What a beautiful fall it has been! I hope you have all been able to enjoy the wonderful riding weather!

The show season is winding down which means you should be thinking about gathering your scores and sending them to Beth Brainerd! Please be sure to fill out the ENTIRE form before submitting! It makes a hard job that much harder when Beth doesn't have all the information she needs! Thank you in advance!

Maine Dressage Society produces an omnibus each year that all of our members love and look forward to receiving. Becky Reed has done an amazing job coordinating this for the past few years and has handed the reins back to Cassie Martin for the 2015 season! If you would like to be included as an advertiser in this publication, please contact Cassie Martin at cassandrajmartin@yahoo.com There are many different sized ads to choose from! Each advertiser will receive a free omnibus and our appreciation for your support!

2015 brings about a change in the membership form and process for MDS members. Every MDS member will need to fill out the MDS 2015 membership form (located on the website and in this newsletter) and send it to me- Bryn Walsh 97 Miles Rd Newburgh, ME 04444. Your membership check should be made out to Maine Dressage Society. On the membership form there is an area where you can check off one local chapter (CMDA, EMDA, NMDA, WMDEA) to join. If you would like to join multiple local chapters, please do so, but include an additional \$10 per additional club you wish to join. If you have questions, please feel free to email me at BERedman23@hotmail.com This is a friendly reminder that processing memberships takes time so DON'T WAIT! Sign up for your 2015 membership NOW! Then you will be all set for show season next year!

Lastly, I want to invite anyone and everyone who has any interest in the direction of dressage in Maine to become a board member! We meet three times a year and are looking for new faces and new energy to join us! Please contact any current board member if you would like to check things out! As always, thanks for being part of MDS and I look forward to seeing you all at the year end banquet in January!

Happy Riding!

Bryn Walsh, MDS President

Maine Dressage Society
Application for membership for 2015 season
(memberships accepted all year with a late fee)

What do you get as an MDS member?

- ❖ MDS Omnibus
- ❖ Automatic membership to USDF, MDS, and one local chapter
- ❖ Quarterly USDF Bulletin and quarterly MDS newsletter
- ❖ Information on shows, activities and clinics locally and state wide
- ❖ Possibility for earning year end awards for show performance within your local chapter and MDS

Please check:

New membership **Renewal(USDF # required)** **Individual** **Junior**

Please check ONE local chapter for membership (each additional chapter checked is an additional \$10)

CMDA(Central Maine Dressage Association) **EMDA(Eastern Maine Dressage Association)**
 NMDA(Northern Maine Dressage Association) **WMDA(Western Maine Dressage Association)**

- ❖ USDF RULE - All additional family members *must* pay an additional \$10.00 and will receive Supporting Member status.
- ❖ Must have birthdates of all junior members for USDF and year-end awards.

Primary Member Name (automatic USDF membership): _____
USDF # _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Additional Family Member: _____
Requires an additional USDF membership fee of \$10.00
USDF # _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Additional Family Member: _____
Requires an additional USDF membership fee of \$10.00
USDF # _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____ Email _____

Would you like your newsletter sent by email? Y / N

I would like to volunteer for (check all that apply):

Show Secretary Show Manager/co-manager Ring Steward Scribe Scorer Announcer Runner

Show set-up Banquet Committee Other: _____

Topic or speaker I would like to see at a clinic/meeting: _____

Category of Membership and Payment

1. Individual- \$40 Junior- \$40 (includes MDS, USDF, and local chapter dues)
\$ _____
2. Additional Chapter memberships # _____ @ \$10.00 each = _____
\$ _____
3. Renewals received after January 1, 2015 MUST include a \$10.00 late fee. Doesn't apply to NEW memberships
\$ _____
4. Additional USDF supporting memberships # _____ @ \$10.00 each = _____
\$ _____
5. Additional Omnibus # _____ @ \$10/each = _____
\$ _____

Please send completed application and check made out to MDS to Bryn Walsh, 97 Miles Road, Newburgh, Maine 04444

*Please note that separate Horse Registration Forms for MDS year-end qualifications are found in the Omnibus or at

www.mainedressagesociety.org



Central Maine Dressage Association Club News:



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE KUR FOR A CURE SO SUCCESSFUL!!

We had 20 Kur rides this year. With 4 divisions and the winner are;

Pas de Deux class is Chrissy & Nancy Smith with a score of 78.75%

Intro and Training class is Crystal Miller with a score of 76.40%

First level class is Jennifer Grady with a score of 69.33%

Second Level thru Fourth Level class is Margaret Bailey-Miller with a score of 66.66%

Youth costume winner is Crystal Miller

Adult costume winner is Jennifer Grady

The pretty in pink award for best schooling show ride wearing pink was Julia Milks.

Congratulations to all who rode and what a nice job you all did with the costumes. The show helped raise \$\$\$ for the Dempsey Center for Hope & Healing. Thank you to all who sponsored this event. **A huge thanks to Snowfields for hosting us.**

Without all of you volunteers, this show could not run. Thanks to all of you who gave your time and energy to help.

You can still make donation by going to the Dempsey Center go to; The Dempsey Challenge webpage, open the tab for Teams and we are listed as PT CMDA Kur for the Cure. The PT separates us since we are Positive Tracks. Now once you open the team - you must donate to a rider.

It is time to get those last score sheet for year end-awards ready to be mailed in to our score secretary Becky Morse. Our year end awards banquet will be held on December 6th at the Pownal Community Center. Lunch will start at noon, this is a Pot –Luck. Please note that this is a short turn around, so get your scores in as earlier as you can. They must be on the CMDA awards form. No other form will be excepted.

At the annual meeting we will be voting on a new President & Vice President. We will be forming a nomination committee if you would like to be on it please contact Wadean Chadwick or me (Cheryl Peaslee).

I want to thank you all for coming out to our shows this year and look forward to all the shows next year.

Want to ride in a clinic???? Please let us know who you would like to ride with, Clinics happen when we have riders interested in riding. Help us make this happen... Give us who you will spend the money and time to ride with.



Eastern Maine Dressage Association:

EMDA is looking for volunteers to serve as officers to keep the club going. President, VP, and secretary. Please contact Rebecca Reed at b_girl52@hotmail.com to volunteer or for more information. EMDA will need to elect new officers by December 1st to keep the club from dissolving. Thank you!



Northern Maine Dressage Association Club News:

President: Elisha Harvey 279-0048 or Elysiumsportponies@yahoo.com
Vice President:
Secretary: Laurie Harvey 207) 564-3598 or leysiumharv@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Kathleen Fox (207)668-6007 or kathleenfox@live.com



In August, six NMDA junior members and their horses travelled to Saugerties, NY to participate in Lendon Gray's Dressage 4 Kids festival. Pictured above are (L to R) Shyla Raymond, Sydney Marden, Jordan Belanger, Trainer Gail McCormack, Keri Giles, Emily Taylor, and Chelsie Oldfield. The girls performed exceptionally well in each aspect of the weekend's competition, including a schooling show, Dressage Seat Equitation, Written examination, and their final Dressage test. All 6 students ride and train with Gail at Infinity Farm in Dover-Foxcroft. Congratulations, Girls!



Thank you to Cassi Martin for taking on the Omnibus for MDS!!!

Western Maine Dressage & Eventing Association

Please remember to send your events, clinics, pictures and news about your riders and stable to Carissa Winning, at crowbot476@yahoo.com, for submission in the Maine Dressage Society quarterly newsletters.

**Dressage Schooling Show held at
Hidden Brook Farm in Norway on May 10.**



*Top Left: Emma Winning riding Bam Bam from Painted Pony Sport Horses & Equestrian Center
Bottom Left: Amy Ramsdell riding Hopie from Horses with Hope
Right: Colby Westleigh riding Ratnaraj from Painted Pony Sport Horses & Equestrian Center*

Members, Our Bylaws Need Your Approval!

In order to obtain Non-Profit 501-C status, MDS Board of Directors have been in the process of revising our bylaws to meet the requirements of such an organization. Please review the revisions already made over the previous year (in green) and the proposed revisions that the Board of Directors will be voting to approve to reflect the membership changes for 2015 (in red). Contact your charter's president or board representative if you have questions concerning any of these changes.

Maine Dressage Society By Laws

Article I—Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Maine Dressage Society, Inc., a non-profit organization organized under the Laws of the State of Maine, and hereafter referred to as "The Society" **Section 2:** The Society shall affiliate with the United States Dressage Federation, Inc., as a group member organization

Article II—Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to promote and encourage a high standard of dressage in the State of Maine to include:

1. Coordinating and assisting its chapter members to promote statewide communication through an annual omnibus and quarterly newsletter for presenting educational clinics, shows, award programs, forums and seminars pertaining to dressage. Chapter Members are named as follows: Central Maine Dressage Association, Eastern Maine Dressage Association, Northern Maine Dressage Association, and Western Maine Dressage Association.
2. Cooperating with regional, state and national dressage organizations and other organizations in matters of common concerns.
3. To assist equine/dressage interests.

Article III—Membership

There shall be two classes of membership: Individual members and Chapter Members, hereafter referred to as Chapter.

Section 1: Individual Members

1. An individual member is a member of MDS. Dues are paid directly to MDS. When joining MDS each member will designate which local chapter(s) they would also like to be a member of. A portion of their dues will be forwarded to that local chapter by MDS. A portion of their dues will also be forwarded to the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) to ensure a group membership to USDF. MDS must submit a roster of members and pay annual dues for each of their members to USDF by December 1 and to the local chapters by December 15th. Corrections and additions to membership rosters, along with the appropriate fees, shall be filed by the MDS membership coordinator by the 15th of each month. All individual members of the Society shall be entitled to one vote on any issue directed by the board to the general membership. Only members in good standing are allowed to vote. All membership dues and fees to the Society shall be set by its board.

Section 2: Chapter Members

1. A Chapter member shall consist of a local dressage organization and shall be known as Central Maine Dressage Association, Eastern Maine Dressage Association, Northern Maine Dressage Association, and Western Maine Dressage Association.
2. All chapters shall file with the society, one current contact director and alternate contact director that will serve on the Society's Board, by November 31st.
3. Renewal chapters are required to appoint one current contact director and alternate contact director that will serve on the Society's Board, by November 31st.

Article IV—Board of Directors

Hereafter referred to as "The Board".

Section 1: The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The number of directors shall not be less than 4 and not more than 24. The term of office shall be **two years. In an election year (odd year) the new Board of Directors take office at the Annual meeting (even year).** Directors may be re-elected. Their term shall begin at the annual board meeting.

Section 3: Each chapter shall elect or appoint up to 3 directors and 2 alternate directors to the board. Each director shall represent no more than one Chapter. It shall be the responsibility of each Chapter to notify the Society's Secretary in writing **by November 31st** as to the identity of their directors and alternate directors. Failure of a Chapter to so notify the Society may constitute a forfeiture of representation on the Board. In addition, the Board shall elect 3 directors from at large. These 3 directors must be dues paying members, in good standing to one of the chapter member organizations in order to be eligible to be elected to the Board. Nominations for the 3 positions of Director at Large may come from any member in good standing. The proposed slate of nominations will be presented and voted on by the Board at the fall meeting.

Section 4: Any director not maintaining good standing as a Society member or who does not attend at least half of the Board and General meetings during a year shall be automatically removed from the Board. Any director may be removed for just cause by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Section 5: In the event that a director is unable to continue to serve on the Board, the vacancy of that director's seat may be filled by the Chapter that it represents and the vacancy of a Director at Large seat may be filled by a vote of the Board.

Section 6: Directors of the Society shall serve without pay, but shall be entitled to reasonable and necessary compensation for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. **Directors of the Society are exempt from paying the MDS/USDF dues portion of their yearly membership if all three board meetings are attended.**

Section 7: The immediate Past President may sit as an advisor on the Board, but shall not have a vote and shall not be considered when determining a quorum, unless they are a director from a Chapter.

V Article—Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. **Section 2:** The officers shall be elected by the Board from the Directors of the Board. The term of office shall be two year. **Elections take place during the September meeting on the odd year, and new officers take office at the following meeting.** Officers may be re-elected with no limit to terms of service. Their term shall begin at the Annual Board meeting. Voting for the officers for the coming year shall occur at the fall meeting prior to the annual meeting. No director shall hold more than one office at a time.

Section 3: Any officer not maintaining good standing as a Society member or who does not attend at least half of the Board and General meetings during a year shall be automatically removed from the Board. Any officer may be removed for just cause by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Section 4: In the event, that an officer is unable to continue to serve in office, the vacancy of that office, other than that of the President, must be filled by the Board for the un-expired portion of the term. In the event of a vacancy of the President, the Vice President shall assume the position of President.

Section 5: Officers shall serve without pay, but shall be entitled to reasonable and necessary compensation for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 6: Duties of the President

The President shall preside at all Board Meetings and any Special Meetings, prepare agendas in advance of all meetings, appoint committee chairs, carry out any duties as directed by the Board, **shall be listed on the Society's bank account,** and vote only when the vote is tied.

Section 7: Duties of the Vice President

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall exercise any power or duty of the president, **and shall be listed on the Society's bank account,**.

Section 8: Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary shall record minutes of all meetings of the Society. **These minutes will be emailed to all directors two weeks prior to the following meeting. They will be reviewed by board members and voted on via email. These minutes are to be emailed to the website coordinator for post on the website.** The Secretary shall read such minutes at the next scheduled meeting if requested by the Board.

Section 9: Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and have in charge, all monies, bills and/or other financial papers belonging to the Society; **submit monthly bank statements to the officers,** submit financial reports and read such reports at all regular meetings of the Society and compare a complete yearly report and projected budget to be read at the annual meeting. **The Treasurer is responsible for submitting a treasurer's report to all Board Members at least two weeks prior to each meeting.**

Section 10: Duties of the Membership Coordinator

The membership coordinator shall maintain a current list of all members in good standing; submit membership roster and dues of affiliation to the United States Dressage Federation on a monthly basis, and submit confirmation of membership to the applicable Chapter. Monies received will be recorded and sent to the Treasurer by the 25th day of each month.

Section 11: Nominating Committee

Nominations for officers shall be made by a nominating committee consisting of 3 directors appointed by the Board of Directors in January of the non-election year (even year). Nominations will be made by the Committee at the April meeting of the election year (odd year). Elections will be held at the September meeting of the election year (odd year). New officers will start their term at the following annual meeting (even year).

Article V1—Board Meetings

Section 1: Notice of all Regular Board Meetings, stating the place, day, hour of the meeting shall be given at least 2 weeks in advance, by the secretary, to all Society Members through the use of the Society's Newsletter, email, or by a separate mailing

Section 2: The President may, at any time, call a special meeting of the Board and shall be required to do so at the request of at least 3 directors.

Section 3: Notice of all Special Board Meetings, stating the place, day, hour and purpose for which the meeting is being called, shall be given at least one week in advance by the Secretary to the Board in writing, email, or by the President to the Board by telephone.

Section 4: A simple majority of the current directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Voting on special matters may be conducted by (mail) e-mail or by telephone as long as all directors are contacted. A simple majority of all directors will be the vote of the Board.

- A. Email voting: There may be only one vote on the table at a time. First, a new motion is presented and seconded. There will be a 48 hour discussion period following the seconded motion. There will then be a 48 hour voting period. All votes must be sent to all recorded board members ("reply all" function). The motion is decided by majority of current board members and is announced/ summarized within 24 hours of final voting period. The president will facilitate each of the phases of the vote and will summarize for the secretary's notes. The vote will be recorded on the next meeting notes in a section titled email votes.

Section 6: The release of sensitive information regarding the Society's business, by the Society or any of its Chapters, will be subject to the board's approval prior to its release. MDS should operate in complete transparency.

Article VII—Committees

Section 1: Committees may be designated by the Board to fulfill certain duties. Committees may include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Bylaws Review Committee
- B. Fund Raising Committee
- C. Newsletter Committee
- D. Omnibus Committee
- E. Education Committee
- F. Jr/YR Committee
- G. Awards Committee
- H. Banquet Committee
- I. Public Relations Committee
- J. Finance Committee

Section 2: All committee members and a Chairperson for each committee shall be appointed by the Board. Any member in good standing may serve on a committee.

Section 3: Committee members shall serve for one year and may be reappointed.

Section 4: The President shall be an Ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 5: Committee members of the Society shall serve without pay, but will be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Article VIII—Newsletter

Section 1: The Society shall publish a newsletter to inform members of the activities of all Chapter Members and to serve as the primary means of distribution of informational and educational material relating to the sport of dressage.

Section 2: The newsletter shall be published quarterly; March, June, September and December.

Section 3: The newsletter shall be distributed to every recorded member of the Society and to such nonmembers as the President or Board may designate.

Article IX—Contracts, Checks, Deposits and Funds

Section 1: Contract

The Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Society, in addition to the offices so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Society and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2: Checks, Drafts, etc.

All checks, drafts or orders for payment or money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Society, shall time to time be determined by resolution of the Board, In the absence of such determination by the Board, such instruments shall be signed by the President and/or Treasurer.

Section 3: Deposits

All funds of the Society shall be deposited in a timely manner to the credit of the Society in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as selected by the Board.

Section 4: Gifts

The Board may accept on behalf of the Society any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purpose or for any specific purpose of the Society.

Section 5: Account listing and activity

There shall never be less than two officers listed on the Society's bank account. All persons on the account shall have the same legal standing on the account. All receipts and records for all incomes and expenses shall be retained by the Treasurer and presented, in actual form, on a quarterly basis to the President. An accurate summary shall be presented at every board meeting by the treasurer or an appointed officer should the treasurer be unable to attend.

Article X—Books and Records

The Society shall keep complete and correct books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Directors, and committees having any authority of the Board and shall keep at the registered or principal office, a record giving the names and addresses of the members.

Article XI—Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on **January 1** and end on the last day of the following **December 31**.

Article XII—Exempt Activities

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, no director, officer, employee, agent or representative of the Society, or any private individual shall receive or be entitled to receive at any time, any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the Society, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any persons of reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes.

Article XIII—Prohibition Against Sharing in Corporate Earnings

No director or officer, employee, agent or representative of the Society, or any private individual shall receive or be entitled to receive at any time, any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the Society, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any persons of reasonable compensation for the services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes.

Article XV—Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Corporation or the termination of its activities, the assets of the Corporation remaining after the payment of all its liabilities shall be distributed exclusively on one or more organizations organized and operated exclusively for such purposes as shall then qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, as a charitable, religious, benevolent or educational corporation within the meaning of Title 13B, of the Maine Revised Statutes as amended. **Chapters will not be eligible. This decision of distribution will be made by a majority vote of the board.** No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, director or officer of the Corporation, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation, or any private purposes), and no member director or officer of the Corporation, or any private individual, shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Corporation.

Article XVI—Indemnification of Directors and Officers

To the extent permitted by the laws of the State of Maine as they may now or hereafter exist, the Society shall indemnify any officer or director of the Society who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any

threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was an officer or director to the Society, against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding; providing that no indemnification shall be provided with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been fully adjudicated in any civil proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Article XVI—Interested Directors and Officers

No transaction in which a director or officer has a personal or adverse interest (as that term is defined in the Maine Business Non Profit Corporation Act) shall be void or voidable solely for this reason, or solely because the director or officer is present at or participates in the meeting of the Board of Directors of committee thereof which approves such transaction, or because his or her vote is disclosed or are known by the Board or the committee, and are noted in the minutes.

Article XVII—Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the modern addition of the Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Society in all cases where they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Article XVIII—Amendment to Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed and new bylaws adopted at any regular or special meetings of the Society by a simple majority vote of Board members present, provided that such written notice of the amendment was given to all members at least two weeks in advance.



**THE DEADLINE FOR THE OMNIBUS IS
NOVEMBER 15TH!**

**GET YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS IN ON TIME TO
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CASSANDRAJMARTIN@YAHOO.COM