

INDA Meeting 9/23/16

Present: Board members - Linda Wood, Susie Merritt, Janet Walker, Joy Terry, Jaye Jones. Absent – Nina Olson.

Also present: Lorraine Heath, Melissa Kossuth, Chris Schaller, Stacy Meredith, Alissa Bertsch Johnson, Lisa Pearson, Debbie Key, Gil Key, Linda Kirsch, Michelle Olson, Chrisie Chetrit, Natasha Enegren, Melody Miller, Anna Savelesky, Julie Loudon, Joan Restuccia, Gail Wallace, Lynda Walter.

Meeting opened with introduction of board members and all others present.

Old Business:

Approval of prior minutes – Tabled to next meeting (Joy moved, Jaye second)

Volunteer Reward – Tabled to later in meeting.

New Business:

Susie briefly summarized prior meeting and reason for “Call to Arms”.

Linda introduced idea of new “show team” structure and it was well received.

Treasurer’s Report – Joy

- A written report was not provided.
- Joy emphasized that the organization was in good financial health and gives 2 philanthropic donations, each of ~\$500/year, to various charities as well as sends a representative to the USDF Annual Convention.
- Joy indicated that anyone could enquire directly with her to see more details if desired.
- A detailed, written, yearly financial review will be provided at the next meeting.

Membership Report – Jaye

- We have 70 members.
- People can renew at this meeting or via PayPal online.
- GMO year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.
- New members were requested to ensure we had all relevant information on the membership form and renewing members were reminded to update their contact information if necessary.
- Brief description of membership benefits was provided.

2016 Show Summary – Lorraine

- Shows were generally well attended with most filling to capacity (60-70 rides). Some shows had waiting lists of ~5 people (potentially plus those who didn’t send in an entry because they knew the show was full).
- We did not run a second ring as originally planned in May because we could not get the weekend immediately before the recognized show.

2017 Show Season

- Previously, the Board had decided to no longer offer Western Dressage at our shows, but to “support” that community in offering its own shows.
 - Several individuals present argued for continuing to include Western Dressage either as a second ring at our shows or maybe at just one show.
 - Nina will talk to Michelle Binder (who originally encouraged INDA to offer these classes and who has a facility suitable for hosting shows) regarding their ability to host their own shows before a final decision on this topic is made.
- Different venues were discussed for 2017.
 - It was proposed to move the September show to Pleasant Valley Stables to “spread out” the shows over a wider geographical area (and because the September show is not tied to a recognized show at SSHF).
 - Post Falls Equestrian Center was offered, but there is no stabling (something generally considered important for our host venues) and there is still concern regarding the potential for brand inspector visitation.
 - Liberty Grove is willing to host and typically has at least some stabling. They are proposed as the August show host.
 - The May show will continue to be held at SSHF, if possible, to support the recognized show also held there in May.
 - The June show was proposed to remain at Prairie Sky Equestrian Center.
 - Dates, judges, and venues need to be determined by the end of the year.
- Linda Kirsh offered to seek sponsorship for shows. Although we do not have a program for advertisement of sponsors, a banner could be hung at most venues.
- It was requested that a Show Team Template be provided by the next meeting, such that each team would know exactly what they were responsible for (and what they weren't!).
- Show Teams will provide volunteers (with the help of the Volunteer Coordinator) including scribes (one AM and one PM), gate keeper, poop scooper, and test runner, as well as prizes, food, and theme (if desired), and will set up and take down the ring (if needed, depending on venue).
 - INDA will provide the ring and ribbons.
 - Lorraine is working on a “ring set up aide” to make ring set up easier and faster, regardless of venue.
- Assistant Show Managers would help with Show Team Coordination/Leadership as well as venue and judge procurement.
 - Julie Loudon volunteered to be the Show Manager for the May show.
 - Chris Schaller volunteered to be the Show Manager for the June show.

- Gene Loper (via Lorraine) volunteered to be the Show Manager for 1-2 shows. August and September are still open, so INDA will contact her regarding those two shows.

Positions to be Filled

- Board positions of Secretary and Vice President are open (elected now for commencement of 2-year term January 2017)
 - Barb Gradin (via email) volunteered to be the Secretary.
 - Debbie Key tentatively volunteered to be the Vice President.
- Other positions INDA needs to operate are Assistant Treasurer (with the idea that they might become the Treasurer when Joy's term ends next year), Volunteer Coordinator, and Newsletter Producer
 - Pam Rhodes (via email) and Lisa Pearson offered to be responsible for Newsletters.
 - Melissa Kossuth (with possible help from Nina) offered to be the Volunteer Coordinator.
 - We still need an Assistant Treasurer volunteer – perhaps this could be sought via email prior to the next meeting.
- Alissa Bertsch Johnson and Stacy Meredith offered to be responsible for INDA's social media presence as well as to work with Lisa Pearson to generally promote the organization.
 - Suggestions included "Ask the Vet" (Lisa Pearson is a vet and volunteered her time for this), Member Spotlight, Interesting Articles, etc.

Volunteer Rewards

- Free membership was proposed for all INDA Board Members.
- Free rides at our shows did not seem wildly popular, although a voucher system (previously proposed) could be explored further and offered as an option.
- INDA t-shirts or hoodies/sweatshirts seemed very popular as show volunteer rewards.
 - Stacy Meredith is a graphic designer and is willing to help design such shirts.
 - Shirts would be different for each year and possibly different colors for each show.
 - Show Teams would receive their t-shirts ahead of time so they were identifiable to competitors during the show.
 - Michelle Olson's husband owns a t-shirt printing machine and the family volunteered their time to create the t-shirts.
- It was also suggested that the volunteer coordinator track who volunteered throughout the year so come year end volunteer awards could be offered.
- Offering volunteer time slots (each ~2 hours) for people to sign up for various volunteer positions at each show was suggested as a way to encourage those with limited time to still volunteer (e.g. show moms who also needed to spend time assisting their children).

Moving Forward

- It was agreed that another meeting was needed prior to the traditional Christmas meeting. A Friday in late October held as a potluck at SSHF event center was suggested.
 - Joy and Susie agreed to organize this next meeting.
- Janet offered her home for the annual Christmas party. Due to scheduling difficulties, a Sunday afternoon was suggested – December 11 was agreed.