

## Southwestern Donkey and Mule Society

2010 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
July 31, 2010

### Opening:

The 2010 Board of Directors meeting of the Southwestern Donkey and Mule Society was called to order at 1:03 PM, July 31, 2010, Fairway Golf Carts in Salado, Texas by President, Larry Wolfe.

### Present:

President,	Larry Wolfe	Director	Lynda Cornell
Vice President,	Debbie Lee	Director	Mel Howes
Secretary,	Lori Miller	Director	Lou Ann Guthrie
Show Chair,	Sally Armstrong	Director	Ricky Scott
Points Keeper,	Shirley Knott	Director	Jim Tippie
Parliamentarian	Elaine Wolfe	Director	Frank Stein

### Also Present:

Marsha Stein, Rhonda Tippie

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### I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 6, 2010 meeting were circularized and approved by Lynda Cornell, Sally Armstrong, Shirley Knott, Debbie Lee, Frank Stein

### III. Committee Reports

#### a) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Elaine Wolfe on behalf of interim Treasurer Larry Wolfe. Elaine distributed current financial reports and reviewed the financial status of SDMS. The Board of Directors "BOD" reviewed the current bank statements and check register. She notified the BOD of an unexplained \$1.25 bank charge that Larry Wolfe is investigating and will contact the Bank on Monday. Elaine also presented the current TSO financial information. The report was filed subject to audit.

#### b) Longears Festival

Lori Miller, LEF Chairperson notified the BOD the LEF Committee had met prior to the BOD meeting. Lori reported the 2010 theme will be a "Wild West" theme. 2010 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pony Express and the committee will commemorate this by incorporating the Pony Express into the games and event. Lori reported all camping sites have been filled and the committee will be discussing the need to move the event to a larger facility for 2011. After reviewing the event schedule, she notified the BOD there will be a live auction this year auctioneered by Mac Robinson. Lori reported although the

registration was reduced to make it more affordable, we are still well within budget. Lori notified the BOD of a Dutch-oven cooking contest in lieu of the Dutch-Oven demo on Saturday night.

c) Show

Sally Armstrong, Show Chair presented the report. Sally presented a refund policy question to the BOD for review and input. Sally will discuss TSO during the new business discussions. Sally reminded the BOD that she will not be attending the October show. She coordinated with Lou Ann the details on mailing the October 2010 Show Bill.

d) PR/Newsletter

Lori Miller presented the concerns of mailing the newsletter via email instead of by U.S. Postal Service. The main concerns were 1) assurance that members will have the technology to view newsletters, 2) timely review of newsletter by members, 3) assurance that members will receive important information, such as, rules changes, meeting notices, by-laws information and event changes. After discussion, the Board decided two annual newsletters should be mailed via U.S. Postal Service with quarterly updates on the SDMS webpage.

Motion           “SDMS will send two annual newsletters to members via U.S. Postal Service and post quarterly newsletters on the SDMS Website.”

Motion By: Lou Ann Guthrie      Second: Ricky Scott      Motion: Carried

e) Rules

Debbie Lee presented the items discussed at the rules meeting with members from GCDM. She distributed the changes to the BOD and discussed printing and distribution options. A discussion was held concerning Amateur vs. Novice and the class additions involved in adding an Amateur Division.

f) By-Laws

Elaine Wolfe presented the proposed By-Laws changes to be presented and voted on by the membership at the October 23, 2010 meeting. The proposed changes include SDMS Bank Account locations and signature cards for the account. Proposed changes also include making the original SDMS records property of SDMS and not the Treasurer. A discussion was held concerning the approved increase in the annual dues to \$25.00 starting 2011. Elaine will add the notification of the proposed increase with the By-Laws changes to be voted on by the membership on October 23, 2010.

g) Scholarship

Lou Ann Guthrie notified the BOD there are no current applicants for the SDMS Scholarship.

h) Budget/Audit

Shirley Knott notified the BOD of her review of the records prior to today's BOD meeting. She reviewed checks written, bank statements, invoices and found no discrepancies. She stated the only question is the \$1.25 bank charge Larry Wolfe is investigating.

**IV. Unfinished Business**

Larry Wolfe reviewed the TSO financial records.

Sally Armstrong shared a Thank You card from Dozer for the TSO belt buckle SDMS presented him.

## **V. New Business**

### **a.) Show Committee Recommendations**

#### **1) October 2010 Show**

Lou Ann Guthrie will do the Show Bill and class list for the October show. A discussion was held with Shirley to coordinate who will do the class list. Several ideas were proposed to encourage more participation at the show and attendance at the meeting Saturday night. A dinner similar to last year was proposed and a discount on entry fees was also suggested. After discussion, the BOD thought it would be a good idea to “give back” to the members who have supported SDMS throughout the year.

Motion “SDMS will designate the October 2010 show as “SDMS Gives Back.” For the October show, SDMS will waive the class fees for animals who have participated in 2 or more shows in 2010. SDMS will also provide a Saturday Night Meal for members after the show.”

Motion By: Lou Ann Guthrie      Second: Ricky Scott      Motion: Carried

#### **2) Year End Awards and Banquet**

The general feel was to keep the same format as last year. The first weekend in December seemed to work for most members, the Elite restaurant is popular and there was plenty of room. Elaine Wolfe will contact the Elite to coordinate the reservation. Sally and Lynda are working on the awards for the Banquet but don't have anything they can share at this time. Shirley is current on the 2010 SDMS point summary and reviewed the categories that will receive awards.

#### **3) 2011 Show/Class Schedule**

Larry Wolfe confirmed SDMS will sanction the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo (FWSSR) in January 2011. Discussion was held about how many show to have and where they should be held. The BOD decided SDMS should have at least 4 shows including FWSSR and TSO. The Texas Shoot Out location and dates for 2011 were also in question. Several BOD members questioned if the date should be moved to a cooler time of the year on a date that would not compete with other shows. Monetary paybacks were also discussed to encourage more participation. The discussion was deferred to the TSO / Show Committee members to organize a plan for providing paybacks. The Show Committee will report their plan to BOD at a later date. After discussion, the general thought was to keep the date in June because of 1) travel time in the summer 2) kids are out of school 3) history and success of past shows. Frank Stein presented a map to show geographically how the SDMS membership is dispersed throughout Texas and surrounding states. Based on this map, the SDMS membership is divided evenly throughout Texas. Dr. Stein proposed SDMS hold a show in Lufkin, Texas. He presented information from the Lufkin Chamber of Commerce. He also encouraged the BOD to keep the TSO in Bryan or close to the southern part of the state. The BOD also discussed the possibility of holding a double-judged show. The Show Committee will discuss the feasibility of both holding a double-judged show and paybacks.

Motion “SDMS will host the 2011 Texas Shoot-Out in June at the Brazos County Expo Center in Bryan, Texas pending available dates.”

Motion By: Sally Armstrong Second: Frank Stein Motion: Carried

Motion “SDMS will investigate and prepare a plan to hold a show in Lufkin in 2011, pending availability.”

Motion By: Mel Howes Second: Lou Ann Guthrie Motion: Carried

Motion “SDMS will host four (4) shows in 2011 with dates and locations determined at a later meeting.”

Motion By: Frank Stein Second: Ricky Scott Motion: Carried

#### 4) Patterns / Obstacles

Concerns were addressed regarding safety issues with trail obstacles and trail patterns at SDMS shows. Trail obstacles and the concepts behind the trail classes were discussed. The differences of trail classes for large animals and for miniatures also were discussed. The general agreement was SDMS needs new and creative obstacles without compromising safety. An agreement of what trail obstacles should be was not reached.

#### b) 2011 Events

Larry Wolfe will coordinate with the Brazos County Expo Center to set the 2011 TSO date. Frank and Marsha Stein will gather information on potentially holding a show in Lufkin, Texas. Lynda Cornell and Ricky Scott will gather information on potentially holding a show in Alvarado. Larry Wolfe will gather information on potentially holding a show in Belton. The BOD also approved to have the Longears Festival in 2011. Several members will investigate locations for other “Train to Win” events. Concerns were raised about the serious need for a Show Coordinator and Show Chair. Lori Miller volunteered to create an elections flyer to be mailed with the October 2010 Show Bill to encourage members to volunteer for 2011 positions.

#### c) 2010 Elections

Lou Ann Guthrie is coordinating with Lynda Cornell to get nominees for the 2011 elections. The positions to be filled and their duties were reviewed. The logistics of getting obstacles to the shows were also discussed. The general determination was that there is no good answer. Everyone agreed to work on ideas for our current issues.

#### d) Show/Financial Software

The need for a more current and more user friendly show software was addressed by Larry Wolfe. The challenges of the current program were discussed. The biggest challenge appears to be the coordination of the financial records and the show information. Currently it takes a lot of time to balance the shows and our current program also does not calculate points correctly for our specific divisions. Lou Ann

Guthrie suggested a program she has used in the past. Lou Ann will gather information on the program to present at another meeting.

e) Other New Business

Lynda Cornell presented a thank you letter received from The All Star Equestrian Foundation for the SDMS donation of old TSO ribbons. The ribbons will be used as prizes for their therapeutic horseback riding events. To further support this organization an additional donation was discussed.

Motion           “SDMS will donate \$200.00 to the All Star Equestrian Foundation for therapeutic horseback riding for the physically and mentally disabled.”

Motion By:   Sally Armstrong      Second: Ricky Scott                      Motion: Carried

The Board discussed the purchase of a new set of poles for pole-bending at SDMS shows. Also, the Board discussed purchasing a designated trailer to hold and transport SDMS obstacles. However, the Board determined that these items were not currently cost-effective. Therefore, no decision was made on purchasing these items.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. by Larry Wolfe, President. The next meeting will be held October 23, 2010 at The Navarro County Expo in Corsicana, Texas.

Minutes submitted by:                      Lori Miller

Minutes Approved by:                      Lou Ann Guthrie, Debbie Lee, Ricky Scott, Sally Armstrong,  
Elaine Wolfe