



VADA/Nova Board Meeting
April 13, 2020 Agenda
(via Teleconference)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. All present; Dilly was excused (proxy to Diann C.)

1. Minutes of March 31, 2020 Extraordinary Board Meeting II via email re Show Impact of COVID-19

- a. The Board convened via email to exchange views on whether to hold the May 20 and June 5 & 6-7 licensed shows, all at Morven Park Equestrian Center. The Board noted the recent executive orders put in place by the Governors of Virginia and Maryland and decided that because Virginia's order prohibits gatherings of over 10 people until June 10, it would not be feasible to hold the shows.
- b. In addition, the June FAT clinic at Compass Rose will be cancelled; facility operator, Judy Grass prefers that the Compass Rose show the day after the clinic also be cancelled.
- c. In addition, US Equestrian announced that it is extending the moratorium on recording horse show results through May 3rd from the originally announced April 16th, and the USDF Executive Board approved a similar extension for both Dressage Competitions and any submitted schooling show results. However, there is confusion over how USDF will manage the new Regional Schooling Show program and what decisions will be made about whether any scores will count. A decision was made to contact the schooling show office at USDF to understand better what their plans are and get our concerns on record. Diann C and Sheli will work this issue together (w/cc to Tina as Region 1 director).
- d. Determine action plan for cancellations including roles and responsibilities
 - i. Re cancellations at Morven, Dianne B will see if they will hold dates for 2021. Dilly added that we provide a \$1500 deposit for all shows at the beginning of the season, not per show. For contract purposes, this would probably be considered a *force majeure* event and Morven could keep its deposit, but they may not. Board members will reach out to Morven and review the contract language.
 - ii. Dianne B will contact USDF Region 1 to let them know about the additional cancellations so the omnibus can be updated
 - iii. Michelle Lachner will handle associated contract cancellations and given availability is working to roll contracts to 2021; she will also advise Dilly of the list of cancellation checks that will need to go out.
- e. Determine decision-making process for go/no go decisions as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve



- i. Agreed that any messages re the May and Junes shows would include that we will follow the Governor's orders and USEF/USDF policy going forward in terms of cancelling additional activities (without additional Board action)
 - ii. Diann C will contact Morven (will coordinate with Dianne B, to avoid duplicate communications)
 - iii. Michelle will contact show staff and judges
 - iv. An option is to accept entries, but without payment, which is what the Region 1 youth show is doing. Following discussion, there was consensus that for licensed shows this would be very difficult and that it would be preferable to watch our open dates to see if future shows can go forward. The sense of the Board was that this is not a viable option for us.
 - f. Ensure we are unified in our message to our members. Diann C to create an e-blast and the board is to review and provide feedback. The eblast will be sent, posted on the website and posted on Facebook.
- 2. Begin discussion of what the board can be doing now while we are not holding events (this discussion will carry into our normal meeting scheduled for April 13)**
- a. Diann C asked everyone to think of ideas about what we could offer our membership, assuming that we can pick up some activity toward the end of the year. There was concern that the members we have really aren't getting much for the year. If things clear up, there may be the possibility of adding a November licensed show, the possibility of adding a clinic or two
 - b. Judy talked about her recent experience with Zoom and it was agreed that a VN subscription to this or a similar platform would be useful. Anne made a motion, seconded by Diann, that VN purchase a yearly subscription (approximately \$200). All approved.
- 3. Board consideration of Michelle Lachner as VP**
- a. Anne made a motion to approve Michelle Lachner as VP for 2020; Diann seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 4. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting is April 13, 2020, via teleconference.

April 13, 2020 Regular Agenda Items

1. Board Items

- a. Review and Approval of Minutes of March 16 and March 31 meetings
 1. Minutes of the March 16 and 31 meetings were circulated for comment
 2. Rachel made a motion to approve; Diane L seconded; all approved.



b. Treasurer's Report

1. Reconciled balances as of 3-31-2020:

- Savings acct: \$45,156.93
- Business acct: \$81,432.31*
 - *This reflects higher because all the outstanding, stale checks have been added back in order to have books ready for next Treasurer.
 - All the April show cancellation checks are reflected in this balance, however the May & June cancellation checks are not because they have been written in April.
- Paypal: \$1600 (memberships and banquet) – still need to make it clearer what people are paying for – difficult when we get one amount for multiple transactions (ACTION: take up in Schooling Show Committee)

2. The VADA/Nova 990 (Nonprofit tax return) is due 5/15 and Dilly plans to file on time.

2. Review/Update of Action Items

- a. The Secretary reminded everyone to check the list and complete any actions still open.

3. Membership Committee (Anne Harrington)

- a. 156 members as of 4/13/20
- b. Committee Report: teleconference to continue discussion of membership management platforms still pending (Diann C, Anne, Lisa Rowe, Judy, Rachel, Michelle, others?). Anne and Lisa Rowe will reach out for dates.
- c. The Board discussed the current situation in which we have had to cancel a number of shows and other activities, which leaves our members without a lot of value for the year. After discussion, the Board felt that it would be appropriate to continue the current memberships through 2021. It's not likely that we will have many people who join later in 2020, so the sense of the Board was to carry those memberships forward through the next membership year. Sheli made a motion to extend our current members through 2021 if they join by June 10. Diann C seconded. If others join after, we can decide on an appropriate course of action. Board approved unanimously.

4. Publications Committee Report (Diann Carpenter)

- a. The Board discussed what to do with March Green Book part 1 and other publications since we cannot predict when we will be able to resume our event schedule. For the Green Book, we can have a dummy prepared, but not much else at this point.
- b. Newsletter – The Board agreed that it is critical to publish the newsletter so we can keep in touch with our members. Rachel will provide a schedule with reminders for content submission deadlines. Diann C proposed that the newsletter be published monthly until we are in a situation to know more and publish award and other information in the Green Book. Sheli seconded. The Board approved the revised newsletter schedule.
- c. Diann C. also notified the Board that no reservation had been made for a banquet at River Creek for 2021. She suggested that given the much smaller numbers of participants at the banquets in recent years and the relatively low membership numbers in 2020, an



alternative would be to identify a large enough venue to invite the entire membership to a lunch meeting with the Board to discuss planning and programming. The Board agreed that it was open to suggestions, including from members.

5. Schooling Shows – cancelled TBD – will discuss in May

6. Licensed Shows -- cancelled TBD – will discuss in May

7. Clinics and Education

- a. The Board discussed how to handle the July camp. One thought was that people may just want to get their horses out if things have re-opened by then. As the organizer, Mary felt we should postpone to summer 2021 because we haven't done a camp in about 10 years and don't really have a model to fall back on, and people may not have the money to afford a camp.
- b. If camp is postponed, the Board discussed if we can try to slot in a schooling show or fix-a-test for those dates. The argument was made that we should look at Sat-Sun, rather than Fri-Sat, especially if people have been away from work for weeks. We need to look at all the contracts we have and the cancellation fees to see what the penalties would be. Michelle Lachner can contact the camp clinicians to see what their flexibility is to postpone to 2021. Mary will continue to follow up with Frying Pan.

8. What can VADA/Nova Do During Lockdown

- a. People have come up with a number of good ideas, but we need to organize and people need to take charge of actions
 - a) Identifying interesting talks that we can publish or post on FB as a public service – no cost/compensation
 - b) Organize presentations for the membership (ie reach out to organize Zoom meetings with veterinarians, on musical freestyles, etc.). The format would be 30 minutes, including 10 minutes for questions. All agreed that some compensation for presenters, e.g. credit for 1 volunteer day + 20 VN bucks, would be needed.
 - c) Rachel suggested that an insurance agency might be interesting, and also suggested that we consider repeating things like the matching gift possibility for Virginia Horse Center (after discussion, the board decided that it would be difficult to support all of these appeals, but that we could make a decision to donate \$100 to VHC as it is an important venue for our members; motion made by Jessie; seconded by Michelle; approved unanimously. The Board agreed to look at ways to support Morven Park as well.
 - d) The Board will continue to develop a list of activities and specific members will take responsibility for organizing them.
 - e) Diann C. will talk to Zoom about setting up an account with multiple users so we can use that platform for live interactions.
 - Lisa Rowe provided information on an Zoom session on Sunday, April 19 on equine infections