

VADA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 1-22-2026 VIA ZOOM

Participating: Sheli King (VN); Bettina Longaker (C'ville); Alison Douglas (Central); Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA); Angie Stanaway (NEVADA); Robyn Nunnally (SVDA); Nancy Doody (C'ville); Hannah Bowers (F'burg); Christina Arrington (Central); Laura Nelson (SWVADA); Lori LaFave (NOVA); Eleszabeth McNeel (C'ville); Sherl Wyatt (NEVADA); Muffin Smith (SWVADA); Kristine Slovis (F'burg); Minza Glover (F'burg)

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved.

2026 Officer Elections: By default, the same executive board will remain in place for 2025.

Treasurer's Report: Jessie reported that our combined balances are 211K.

Membership Report: We currently have 139 members. Chapters, please remind your members to join sooner rather than waiting until the show season starts as processing new membership can take several weeks.

VADA Safe Sport Policy Update: Christina put together a guidance document as well as a form for the chapters to use for the declaration of 2026 club activities. Both were attached to the email for the meeting agenda. Chapters should review and if there are any questions or concerns, please contact Sheli. We will resend the implementation plan with dates once the chapters have reviewed. These forms are also available on the VADA website.

Year End Award Committee: The date of the banquet is Sunday, February 1st at the Greencroft Club. Donations are down this year so please help. The snow date will be the following Sunday (8th) if necessary.

USDF GMO Awards Process: Sheli shared a GMO awards submission protocol which was attached to the meeting agenda email. In the past, chapters would submit to VADA and then VADA submitted to USDF nominations for the Region 1 Volunteer of the Year. This has been changed to allow any VADA member to nominate a candidate for the award. The protocol for the other awards has not changed, except there is now a 7/31 deadline for chapters to submit award nominations to Alison for board review. If there are multiple submissions for any category, the VADA Executive Board will select the nomination to submit to the USDF.

Chapter Grant Proposal: Jessie is working on a process for submission which will include the chapters providing a budget for their expenses and income. The idea is that chapters should expect to break even or even incur a loss and not profit from receiving the grant money for the event. This would be in line with how the USDF runs their grant programs. She will provide more details and a draft submission form at our next meeting.

Youth Clinic Proposal: Heather Escobar sent a draft of her submission to the VA Horse Industry Board for a series of low-cost youth dressage clinics for grassroots riders. She is seeking financial support from the VADA to cover the cost of the insurance as well as up front monies as the grant funds are given after the event happens. After much discussion, while the board loved the idea of supporting grass roots dressage for youth, it was decided that there are number of areas of the program that need more development and for that reason we do not feel comfortable adopting it as a VADA event for 2026.

2026 Meeting Time and Date: The board decided that we will keep the current start time and flexibility of setting the date for the next meeting at the current meeting.

New Business:

None

Chapter Updates: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SENDING INFO TO NANCY DOODY FOR THE WEBSITE. It's free advertising for any shows and clinics you're holding.

Central: Two one day licensed shows April 25-26 at Deep Run Hunt Club in Manakin Sabot

Charlottesville: Year end awards banquet has been rescheduled to Sunday February 22nd at Burton's. Schooling shows May 31st at Cedar Creek Stables in Staunton judge Beckie Lynne Mitchell, July 26th at Toad Hollow Farm in Charlottesville judge Michelle Anderson, September 13th at Grayson Farms judge Nicky Vogel

SWVADA: Year end awards banquet is Saturday February 21st at Hunting Hills Country Club

NEXT MEETING Wednesday February 18th at 8 pm

Respectfully submitted by Alison Douglas