

THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

September 24, 2016

The Forty-second Annual Meeting of the Members of The American Driving Society, Inc. (“ADS”) was held on September 24, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Mike Arnold, President of ADS, at 6:15 p.m. Eastern Time on a lovely evening at Big Sky Farm in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

The Secretary reported that one hundred sixty-nine (169) members representing a quorum were present in person and by proxy at this meeting.

1. **Approval of Annual Members Meeting Minutes (September 25, 2015).**

The President noted that minutes of the Annual Members Meeting held on September 25, 2015, have been posted to the ADS website and distributed for review. The President asked for any corrections or additions. As there were no corrections or additions the minutes were approved.

2. **President’s Report.**

President Arnold noted that this meeting is well attended and thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and the numerous events held in connection with it.

Special thanks went to Claire Reid who most generously sponsored, organized and hosted this Annual Meeting Weekend and the many events held at Big Sky Farm. Thanks and appreciation also went to Kelly Valdes who generously sponsored the Annual Meeting and was instrumental in the organization of the many events. The Monroe County Driving Club also was a generous sponsor and the many members who volunteered their time throughout the weekend are greatly appreciated.

President Arnold then mentioned that the driving community lost several members during the past year who will each be missed by many of us here tonight. There was a moment of silence for those we lost:

John Fairclough
Deidre Pirie
Frolic Weymouth
Thomas Meznick
Mary Wark
Teresa Palumbo

A brief review of the highlights of the past year included the addition of wonderful new staff members, Louise Rothery, the ADS Consulting Executive Director and Abbie Trexler, Editor &

Advertising Manager of *The Whip*. Another addition to the ADS is our new bookkeeper, Jenna Guetzke who is with DMA Tax and Accounting.

President Arnold reminded us that our work with the ADS is not only to improve and promote the sport of carriage driving but for the love of our horses. The relationship and connection we have with our horses is with our heart as much as with the reins. He encouraged us all to do more outreach to promote the horse and carriage driving by taking a friend for a drive!

3. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer, Bill Lawson distributed the treasurer's report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is attached. He briefly reviewed the financials for the eight months ending August 31st and noted that a bright spot in the figures is that the endowment fund is currently earning approximately \$40,000 annually. Bill is available for questions or comments about the financial report either in person tonight or by phone or email.

4. Executive Director's Report.

Louise Rothery introduced herself to the membership and spoke briefly about the new projects that have been underway at the ADS office, including publishing the Omnibus and the hiring of a new accounting firm. She has also drafted and distributed guidelines for board members including duties and best practices for improved communications.

She is encouraging us all to put old grievances side and to drive forward!

5. Election of Board of Directors.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Pat Cheatham, thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work in putting the slate of nominees together. The members of the committee are:

Muffy Seaton
Boots Wright
Dana Bright
Linda Yutzy
Natasha Grigg
John Frieberger
Ellen Ettinger

The Chairman then explained that the Members will elect the directors and that at a meeting of the directors immediately following the officers will be elected. The slate of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs for the 2017-2018 term was presented as follows:

Mike Arnold – President
Daniel M. Rosenthal – Vice President
Margaret Grillet – Secretary

Josh Rector – Treasurer
Marc Johnson -Combined Diving
Natasha Grigg - Development
Tracey Morgan – Dressage
John Porter – Education
Esther (Boots) Wright – Event Standards
Elaine Kendig – Governance & Bylaws
Ruthie Graves – Licensed Officials
Jeffrey B. Morse -Pleasure Driving
Heidi Ferguson – Recreational
Linda Yutzy – Rules
Leona Anastasi-Northeast Region
Heidi Ferguson – Mid-Atlantic Region
Linda Bennett – Southeast Region
Carol Millhoan- Central Region
Deborah Bridges – Midwest Region
Keith Yutzy – Southwest Region
Pam Miller-Mitchell – Pacific Region
Ann Craig – Northwest Region
Diane Koopman- Director at Large
Audrey Bostwick – Director at Large
Mike Lyon – Director at Large
Kacy Tipton-Fashik– Director at Large
Teresa Bron– Director at Large
Gwenyth Bassetti– Director at Large
Heather Kuenzi– Director at Large

The President called for nominations from the floor. As there were no nominations, Elaine Kendig moved that the slate be approved by acclamation. After the motion was seconded, the President asked three times if there were any objections. As there were no objections, the Slate was declared approved by acclamation.

6. Standing Committee and Special Committee Reports.

Written reports from the Chairs of the Standing and Special Committees were distributed to the Members for review and are attached. At the request of the President, additional brief comments were made as summarized below:

Combined Driving- Marc Johnson reported that the committee worked on the updated criteria for the 2017 North American Championships. These championships have been successful and have caused the venues hosting them to be improved. The committee also updated the Organizer's Guide. He was also happy to report that the committee has added a new member.

Pleasure Driving- Jeff Morse reported that Pleasure Show organizers have been having success with adding elements of combined driving events such as combined tests, to the shows. The increase in entries is a trend he hopes will continue.

Dressage- Tracy Morgan reported that the committee is looking forward to working on a new project together with the Education Committee next year.

Recreational- Heidi Ferguson reported that she chairs a small committee and has been active in updating information available on the website. This year she will be focusing on updating the Trail Guide and asking for input from members.

Event Standards- Boots Wright reported that this is a small committee that worked in conjunction with the Combined Driving Committee to develop the updated 2017 North American Championships criteria.

Licensed Officials- Ruthie Graves reported that this committee reviews applications for the learner program and for promotion of current officials. She is happy to report that a healthy number of new learner applications and promotions have been added to the program.

Education- no presentation.

Rules- Linda Yutzy reported that the rule change process is now using a blog and it is working well. There has been a 300% increase in comments from members and she is confident this is a good transparent way to operate. The abridged rules project has been underway and she expects to have a complete draft by the end of the year.

Development- no presentation.

Bylaws & Governance- Elaine Kendig reported that the ADS is a New York non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) designation from the Internal Revenue Service. She explained the difference between the two designations. She also commented that the committee will be updating the bylaws after steps to reorganize have been approved.

7. Scheduled Events Conflicts.

President Arnold explained that there is a situation in the Mid-West region where there are seven shows scheduled in an eight-week period. He asked for comments and suggestions for ways to avoid this type of scheduling conflict in the future. He hopes to get help and suggestions from organizers and regional directors.

As there was no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. Eastern Time.
Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Grillet, Acting Secretary