

## OADG 2017 AGM Report

President's Executive Summary Well, it was a wet year, starting with some nice weather then settling into a lot of rain. Hay was touch and go depending upon where in the region you lived. The end of the season was unseasonably warm and nice so that made up for a slow start. Membership numbers in OADG were lower than in 2016 but generally on par with an increasing trend. The banquet was very successful and well attended. The purpose of this Executive Summary is to capture "for the record" the significant achievements and actions taken by the Board in 2017.

### Board update:

- A total of 7 regular meetings of the Board were planned for 2017 but as it turned out, not all were needed. Six meetings were held - all in the homes of the Directors.
- Two Directors are resigning in 2017: Mandy Spear – Membership and Kiki Baggerman-Webster - Treasurer. The Board wants to sincerely thank them for their work. Mandy was the Membership Director for 2 years and was by all accounts received (and observed!) a quick wit and pleasant person – perfect for the role. She was responsible for MC'ing the banquet for 2 years and initiated the idea of mini-MC's which has been a big hit. Kiki is past President "extraordinaire" and came back to help out when we needed a Treasurer. She was in the role for 2 years and added her keen knowledge of Board history and financial details to ensure we kept on track to budget and to process. I don't expect Kiki is going too far away in terms of being involved somehow with the OADG and Board activities.
- Going into 2018, we have candidates for 10 of the 12 Director positions on the Board.
- The Board considered only one Motion during the year, which was approved. This was a one-time only exemption to the By-Law requiring a candidate for President or Treasurer to have been on the Board in another capacity for two years. This was done to accommodate bringing on a highly qualified candidate for the position of Treasurer. The Board also discussed and approved a clarification to the awarding of 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the banquet. It was agreed that 3<sup>rd</sup> place is guaranteed for ESD; only if 5 or more participants at Silver; and no 3<sup>rd</sup> for Gold.
- We spent a good deal of time discussing and refining our ideas for celebrating OADG's 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2018. Some initiatives we have already rolled out such as a modification to our logo, distribution of lapel pins at the 2017 Banquet, and a Freestyle 101 classroom clinic. The Board has agreed to fund all special activities out of reserve funds instead of in-year operating dollars.

- The CADORA Ontario representative attended two (of the 3) CADORA Ontario Director meetings via teleconference. Poor weather and driving conditions prevented attendance at the third face-to-face meeting in November. Our Awards Director attended the CADORA AGM and brought back awards for our local OADG members – including for herself and her daughter. Congratulations Caroline and Sophie! The President successfully secured \$100 in special funding from CADORA for our Freestyle 101 clinic.

**Membership:** The membership this year was down to 223 (2016 – 242; 2015-212; 2014 - 216) members. The 2017 annual fees remained the same for all members. In the Spring, the Board held a second special members-only sales event in collaboration with Encore Equestrian tack shop to encourage member signup and provide member-benefits in terms of merchandise discounts. It was a little better attended this year versus last.

	TOTAL MEMBERS	ONTARIO MEMBERS	NATIONAL MEMBERS	QUEBEC MEMBERS
2017	223	131	96	3
2016	242	132	88	5
2015	212	121	76	2
Vs 2016	-19	-1	+8	-2

**Show Director:** 2017 was a very active year for dressage in the Ottawa area, even though Mother Nature wasn't exactly cooperating for a lot of the show season. Our local riders had the chance to choose amongst 13 ESD schooling shows, 9 Silver competitions plus the Championships, and 6 Gold ones in addition to the CDI at the Ottawa Dressage Festival. Competitors kept their spirits up despite the weather, and it was good to see most shows reasonably well attended. After a long absence we welcomed Westar Farms back onto the dressage scene, and they will be hosting next year's Eastern Division of the Silver Dressage Championships. 2018 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OADG, and we look forward to another vibrant season with a large and varied selection of shows for our riders and their horses.

#### **Sponsorship:**

- The Director reports that she is very glad with our Team approach in helping with the distribution of the OADG Sponsorship items at the various Schooling, Silver and Gold Shows throughout the Show Season. We had ordered the usual very nice dressage saddle pads from Encore Equestrian with our OADG logo and website address on them, and Catherine Maguire and Anne Galt took care of their distribution.
- For the CADORA ONT Silver Dressage Championships -East show, Sue was able to obtain 16 sponsors for the Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons cost and the Competitor Prizes. Peggy McQuaid was a great help prior to the Show with the sorting out of donations by the sponsors, and on the day with the presentations. Thanks also to Catherine Maguire and Lynda Maltby for their help on the day.
- For the Banquet Sponsorship, we were able to secure 44 sponsors (including ourselves) for a total of over 70 door prizes. Many thanks go to the organizing, wrapping and labelling team Peggy McQuaid, Michelle Paquette, Lynda Maltby, Terry Otto and Huguette Leger. The final chore of the year will be to send out Thankyou letters to the sponsors which include a nice photo of some of our award winners with their trophies. Thankyou letters with photos were also sent to the Silver championships sponsors after the Show.

**Website:** The website was kept current – in particular, many local clinics were posted. Web hosting costs will be reduced in 2018 by rolling into the current Kicking Horse Media costs (as is done for other sites and clients, eg. ODF).

**Banquet:**

- This year the Awards Banquet was held on November 25 at Tudor Hall and 192 people attended. (This compares to 198, 168 and 200 in 2016, 2015 and 2014 respectively.) Tudor Hall again provided an elegant setting for the Awards Banquet at a reasonable cost to each member. We tweaked the menu slightly to offer some better choices and more quantity of food to suit athletic guests. We struggled to contain the cost as it did climb and other costs e.g. coat check were being added. The OADG was able to secure some great door prizes and “special” prizes again this year through the hard work and dedication of the Sponsorship Director which always adds some excitement at the banquet. The venue will change again for 2018 as we strive to offer an even more exciting menu for similar price for the members in our 50<sup>th</sup> year. (We may return to Tudor for 2019, tbd).
- We kept the popular “mini-MC” theme for the awards. Those OADG members involved at the banquet were: Jane Garbutt (MC), Cheryl Denault (photographer), Amanda Lewis (ticket table), Zoe Laframboise & Carolyn Allen (door prize ticket checkers). Lynda Maltby, Steve Curtis (Rainbow Ridge Ranch), Jeff McKessock (Westar Farms) and Shirley Guertin (Centaur Riding School) were the “mini-MC’s”.

**Awards:**

- In the technical classes 62 Trophies were awarded (vs 51 in 2015 and 59 in 2016 –there are a total of 78 trophies), 32 Reserve Champion plaques were awarded, 11 3rd Place medallions were awarded and 34 Merit medallions.
- 11 Team Challenge Plaques were awarded to: Bourbon Street Stables Show team for ESD, The Silver Roses for Silver (Preston Rosedale), and a tie for Gold: Queenswood Team and Porcupine Hill Team.
- Three special trophies were awarded to Elisabeth Steacie (Sr. Rider), Jane Hunt (Volunteer), Amanda Lewis (Horse Owner). There was no application for the ParaEquestrian Rider award.
- Kiara Williams-Brown was awarded the Dr. Brian Mills Award for Junior Rider
- Darlene Senechal was awarded the Madison Crich Memorial Award.
- We presented 8 special cash awards for the highest scores in each circuit and category (ESD to Gold)

Additional Metrics			
Show Circuit	Total # riders	# riders qualifying (3 or more shows)	# Trophies Awarded
ESD/Schooling	58	23	12 of 16
Silver	73	42	15 of 25
Gold	72	40	18 of 20
FEI	39	21	13 of 16

**Education:**

The Education Director arranged for re-publication of the Pyramid article written 10 years ago for the newsletter. Also wrote a cover letter to introduce the why of this article.

She organized and performed extensive background research for a Freestyle Clinic. Using this material and incorporating some of their own, Kiki Baggerman-Webster and her husband Bill put together a classroom presentation for the OADG membership. This seminar was free for registered OADG members and minimal cost to non-registered and non-members. Thanks to generous sponsors (Equestrian Canada/Dressage Canada and

Cadora) and the \$70 collected at the door, the clinic generated a surplus of \$70 to be used for a future clinic.

Agreement was secured from Cadora to hold the 2018 Stephen Clarke Clinic in the Ottawa area as part of the OADG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Peggy managed the identification and selection criteria for a venue, culminating in the selection of Queenswood Stables to be the host venue. She produced the pre-announcement flyer distributed at the 2017 banquet.

During the year Peggy provided articles for the newsletter.

Other support -- Assisted the Sponsorship Director in putting together the prizes and distribution at the Silver Championships. Also, helped to collect a number of sponsor door prizes for the banquet.

#### **Communications:**

- Facebook exploded this year, with 656 people who “like” the page.
- 3 newsletters went out. Participation by members was slightly down, but most content was still driven by the membership. We received some excellent articles from current and new members, and even one article from a past member who wanted to stay in touch! (She had moved out of the Ottawa area).
- Plans for next year mostly involve communicating “OADG turns 50” activities, and continuing to encourage the members to provide content.

#### **2017 Financials:**

For the fiscal operating year of 2017 the OADG had final operating revenue of \$20,853 from received membership fees, sponsorship, banquet ticket sales, education, 2018 special funding (\$100) plus other miscellaneous items. The OADG had overall expenses related to 2017 activities (banquet, awards, insurance, sponsorship, website, miscellaneous items) of \$17,645.60 plus \$4508 in flow through membership fees paid out to CADORA Ontario and CADORA Inc.. This leaves the OADG with an overall deficit of \$1,400.60 for the fiscal year of 2017. The deficit for 2017 was planned and funding for the deficit came out of the surplus that was carried forward from previous years.

The expenses do not include spending for 2018 special activities which comes out of the reserve funds. 2018 special activity expenses for 2017 come to \$1,011.97.

The chart below depicts the OADG expenditures for the year (excluding 2018 special activities).

## 2017 OADG Fiscal Report - Operating Expenses

