RMDS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2024 Zoom Meeting

Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Attendance: Sharon Soos, Sally O'Dwyer, Patricia Weed, Katie Knight, Karen Harkin, Heather Petersen, Sloane Rosenthal, Gwen Ka'awaloa, Sandy Vernon, Nicole Bizzarro, Beth Geier, Ginka Kubelka, Nadia Westra, Susan Martin, Analiese Kovisto, Shannon Lemons, Stephanie Stokes, Eleanor Harrison, Julie Burt, Shannon Moyes Clark, Kristen Allen

Proxies: Stan Adamson to Shannon Moyes Clark

unanimously.

Call to Order-President Sally O'Dwyer Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by Sally O'Dwyer Secretary - Approval of Minutes - February 2024 Heather Petersen Karen Harkin made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, 2nd by Sloane Rosenthal. Motion passed

Treasurers Report Operating Funds as of February 29, 2024	
Wells Fargo RMDS Checking Account	\$ 68,404.67
Wells Fargo PayPal Account (February 15, 2024)	\$ 550.02
Subtotal	\$ 68,954.69
	¢ 00,90 mos
Restricted Funds as of February 29, 2024	
Wells Fargo Scholarship Account	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 3,847.29
Barbara H McElnea	\$ 7,500.00
Subtotal	\$ 11,347.29
Total	\$ 80,301.98
Operating Funds as of March 12, 2024	
Wells Fargo RMDS Checking Account	\$ 55,916.20
Wells Fargo PayPal Account	\$ 1,868.03
Outstanding Checks	\$????
Pending Deposits	\$????
Subtotal	\$ 57,784.23
Judges "L" Program	- \$ 13,189.00
Subtotal Operating Funds	\$ 44,595.23
Restricted Funds as of March 12, 2024	
Wells Fargo Scholarship Account	
RMDS Scholarship	\$ 3,347.29
Barbara H McElnea	\$ 7,500.00
Payable	- \$ 500.00
Subtotal	\$ 10,347.29
Total	\$ 54,942.52

Sharon Soos

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President Report

Spring is coming! It will be here before we know it.

The Omnibus is out! I am sure you'll agree that it is a terrific publication. The production of the Omnibus is a huge undertaking that requires months of effort. RMDS is very thankful to members Nicole Bizzarro, Natalie Mendik, and Beth Geier for their tremendous work in the production of this outstanding magazine. Please thank them for their hard work. RMDS thanks everyone who supported the banquet. Thanks to all who donated to Silent Auction fundraiser and to those who bought items as well. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the banquet possible:

Nadia Westra Heather Petersen Shannon Lemons Beth Geier Gwen Ka'awaloa Edie Nielsen Amy Englert Allison Suddard Sharon Soos Dorothy Kapaun

Elizabeth Petersen

Thanks for all you do—please check out or new Volunteer Photo Gallery at <u>https://www.rmds.org/volunteers</u> Check our calendar for events—there is a lot going on. Educational events galore! The Chapters and the RMDS Education

Committee have been busy. Thanks to Heather Petersen for offering online training. We appreciate her sharing her wealth of knowledge with us.

We also have two Board Co-Chair Positions open: Marketing and Education. Want to get more involved? We would love to hear from you. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator for more information.

Chapters, please remember to send your news/info and events to our Communications Chair. We want to support you. Please let me know how RMDS can serve you!

Together, we are RMDS

Vice President Report

Working on a survey for members on what they would like from their RMDS membership.

Central Office

Membership

• Registration – 442 as of 3/1 members for 2024-39 new horses since October, 2023 101-Amateurs 18-Juniors

- See reports with chapter membership totals.
- Accepting dues for 2024: \$80.00

Shows:

• For 2024: **5** - RMDS recognized shows: **32** - USEF/USDF recognized including Championships & Regionals **Omnibus:**

- Income: 11,275.00 production: 8943.75 edit: 1200.00 Print: 9930 NET: -8798.75
- Bulk mail: 476.54

Database/Website:

• Please ask your chapter members to see if there is a donor in the group or if they know of one.

Banquet:

• January 11, 2025

Volunteer:

• Clinics & shows need to send in their lists. Be sure volunteers know to double check their own Dashboards. General:

- Chapters receive two free email blasts for educational purposes.
- RMDS Executive Board members get ½ price auditor if fee \$50 or more to RMDS events.

Sloane Rosenthal

Beth Geier

Sally O'Dwyer

This is a lovely group of ladies to work with. They are very responsive to my request for updates and are pleasant, gracious, and grateful.

I was also presented with a request from Stephanie Stokes and Julie Burt regarding creating an additional scholarship in memory of Julie's beloved Grand Prix pony, Summit View Percy Sledge. "Percy" died early this year, but not before teaching riders across Colorado many grand prix movements. In his honor, they are proposing an education only (no show fees or expenses) for an adult amateur at any level, anywhere within our GMO. Stephanie and Julie would be responsible for funding it, with the donations made to RMDS. The administration of the funds would mirror the same as with the existing RMDS scholarship funds. This scholarship would follow the same timeline and selection process, the same volunteer and recipient obligations as any other RMDS scholarship. Stephanie and Julie asked to participate in the selection of the recipient. I will present this to board at the March meeting for their approval.

Judi DeVore moved to approve a new scholarship in memory of "Percy" for adult amateurs, to be funded privately through RMDS and managed by the scholarship committee, 2nd by Analiese Kovista. Motion approved unanimously. Karen Harkin will supply at article for the e-centaur.

Adult Amateur

Jodi Lees is confirmed for November 23-24 for the 2024 RMDS Adult Amateur Clinic. The theme will be Achieving Impulsion: What is It and How Do We Get It? The suggested date is November 23 and 24 with eight to twelve riders each day.

We are currently seeking a location to host this event. Our insurance agent has been notified of the clinic, and a contract with Jodi is being prepared.

Nicole and Beth helped with a "Save-the Date" advertisement in the RMDS Magazine.

Permanent Committee Reports Continued:

Executive Board Meetings:

Scholarship

2024 RMDS EVENTS:

Team Competition

Summer Intensive

2025 RMDS EVENTS:

Horse Expo

Sport Horse

BOG

Banquet

Championships

The five 2024 scholarship recipients are proceeding nicely.

No reports: April 11, June 13, Aug 8,

- Beverly Swanson Memorial Solid Seat Scholarship: One recipient is participating in the Amelia Newcomb clinic. The other is a slight bit behind due to her horse's lameness, but will be back on track with a ride-atest in early April.
- Leg-Up Scholarship: This recipient has had a tough start to the year. Her horse has experienced some • significant lameness issues and the rider had hand surgery. She is progressing with some groundwork activities, will attend the Janet Foy lecture and potential audit Anna Buffini's clinic in the fall. Her "plan" to show will likely not come to fruition.
- Junior/Young Rider Scholarship: This recipient will also participate in the Amelia Newcomb Clinic. •
- Barbara McElnae Scholarship: This recipient is half-way through her training plan after a weekend of clinics with Sue Martin. She will complete her plan with another clinic in early April.

Next Executive Board Meetings (2nd Thursday odd months-exceptions noted) -

Reports: March 14, May 9, July 11, Sept 12, Oct 10 (budget)

March 15-17

July 20

Sept 18

Nov 16

January 11

July 17-19

Sept 19-22

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Katie Knight

Karen Harkin

Awards

2023 Status

- Last of the awards, corrections going out this week
- Added Freestyle I1 which was missed, couple of old plates and new plaques
- Executive decision to allow the Holsteiner award to stay with last winner had won it multiple years in a row and the horse suddenly died
- Very good drop off rate! Didn't have to chase many people!!!

2024

- Colored dots to keep track of years
- Will keep 3 years' worth if riders want longer than that they are responsible for paying to replace
- Glasses obtained boxes to ship glasses safely (switched to stemless so easier to ship), so will offer for seniors to pay \$7.50 for shipping if they aren't picked up
- 2024 trophies most are covered
- Mustang they have to ensure enough horses are showing

We will advertise in the e-centaur for Danish and mustangs to send in papers to see if we have enough to create some new awards.

Communications

Stats:

- ECentaur (Feb):
 - o 74.3% open rate
 - President's report link highest open
- ECentaur (March):
 - o 68.4% open rate
 - Region 5 report link highest open
- Facebook
- 28 Day Reach:
 - **2,001 people**
 - o 275 Post Engagements
 - 3 new page likes
 - 13 new page followers
- Top performing post (scribe clinic)

Other items:

• How did we feel about the "member submissions" section and do we want to put any guidelines around that if we keep it?

Needs:

- Email delivery to gmail and yahoo addresses will start to be impacted
- https://martech.org/new-rules-for-bulk-email-senders-from-google-yahoo-what-you-need-to-know/
 - Right now we are under the "bulk limit" for eCentaur (unsure of list of all RMDS emails) but this could change as they tighten this up.
- Need to add DKIM/DMARC records

Database – 1 item has been requested from Graden.

• DKIM/DMARC records are in the queue to get updated.

Magazine – It is out and in the hands of the members. There was a significant loss this year. The board and the membership need to step up if we want to continue with the magazine.

Website – Current as is.

Analiese Kovisto

Canva – each chapter has their own Tax ID number so can have their own account. We don't know who has the RMDS Canva account. Analiese will figure out who is using the RMDS account.

Education

Dorothy Kapaun / Gwen Ka'awaloa

Pressure proof clinic – we have 6 paid riders for Saturday and 2 of them are wanting to ride a second ride on Sunday and 1 paid rider for Sunday only. We don't want to run it for a loss, so we're looking at cost savings measures. No one has paid to audit at this point.

Junior/Young Riders

Gabrielle Ward / Jewlee Bellah

We are getting closer to our JR/YR Camp! I have organized some volunteers from my barn and I am feeling confident that we will have a well-supported camp! I have also talked with Cassandra DiPentino, who used to run the camp and she had some great insight on how things were run when she was doing it. I plan to have more conversations with her as we get closer.

Team Competition – July 20th - I have attached a budget to propose for the Team Competition. I know in the past generous sponsorships from various brands and stores have made the prizes at the Team Competition something riders and coaches really look forward to. I have contacted a few local businesses as well as Platinum and Smart Pak about donating some prizes.

A big challenge I've had is getting in contact with the manager of TMR to get a contract for the venue. If anyone has ideas for other venues, I'd be happy to change the location, I'm just not sure what's out there. I was planning on presenting and troubleshooting this tonight, but don't have internet due to the snowstorm.

Budget needs to add a 2nd judge and insurance. Revise income to \$80 per person, 2 rides and about 28 people, so around \$2200. Beth will reach out to Jewlee and review the budget. Sharon has a flier for it as well for the Horse Expo.

Marketing

Kristen Allen / Jessica Reigel

Sue Martin / Holly Bergay

Update for the comprehensive marketing strategy, trying to finish up and get the details finalized. Looking at a day in the life social media campaign. If you have interested folks, have them reach out to Kristen.

Professionals

The Professional Chairs have a few things in the works but nothing ready to go as far as dates or complete costs. Holly Bergay has an equine lawyer who will do a zoom talk for us for no cost but we have not narrowed down a date with her yet. Holly has proposed we have a couple of social meet and greets with fellow trainers, possibly one south and one north.

In April or May I would like to have a "Trainers Day" at Lakeview with a few demo horses. It would be quite informal and I believe the only cost would be an arena fee of 500.00. I can provide demo horses and riders for discussion. I would be the "Moderator" for the day. dates possible would be April 20th, April 27th or May 18th. I am also very interested in the Dressage Development Seminar that USDF is doing. I have reached out to find out how to get one in our area but have not heard back from anyone yet. I do not know what the cost is. There are a lot of feelings on a symposium. We would be looking at 2025 so we can plan enough ahead of time.

Shows – Championships

No current updates. Heather and Nadia are working away.

Volunteer

Nothing to report. Scribe clinic is March 23rd but we only have 1 registration at this point. We're going to do some social media and email pushing.

Appointed Committee Reports:

1. Western Dressage

Nadia Westra/Heather Petersen

Judi DeVore/Eleanor DeVore

Nothing to report.

 Nominating Committee – Chapter Presidents No report and no chair currently. 	???
3. BOG - November 16, 2024 Working on looking at alternative venues.	Heather Petersen
4. Banquet – 140 reservations Banquet \$1453.00 - Auction: \$3368.00	Beth Geier

HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Nadia Westra – amazing auction chairman Heather Petersen - creative video set-up Shannon Lemons – awards chairman extraordinaire Beth Geier Gwen Ka'awaloa Edie Nielsen Amy Englert Allison Suddard Sharon Soos Dorothy Kapaun Elizabeth Petersen

Recommend for 2025 banquet: January 11, 2025

Vice-President is the organizer, not Central Office New location – have a list of suggested sites from CHJA. Sloane is willing to take it on. Nadia would be willing to do the auction again, but would like to request a different week, perhaps the 18th.

Income:		
Meal	\$ 13,305.00	
Auction-Cash	\$ 750.00	
Auction- checks	\$ 690.00	
Auction-Venmo	\$ 1,928.00	
Auction-Paypal		
Hotel Refund	\$ 3,196.92	
Total Income:		\$ 19,869.92
Expense:		
Reservations 140	\$ (15,219.98)	
Audio Visual		
Facility Fee		
Total Expense:		\$ (15,219.98)
NET:		\$ 4,649.94

Region 5 Report

I hope everyone has been having a good winter. Show season is well underway or just around the corner for many of you and I hope you're working well towards your training and/or showing goals!

If you have an educational activity that your barn, group or organization is doing, please let me know so I can add it to the Region 5 educational activity calendar that is sent out with the monthly Regional updates by USDF. We would love to keep everyone as informed as possible. We can also post events on the Region 5 website. Please feel free to send me an email reminder for anything you'd like to see posted.

If you intend to qualify for Region 5 teams to the North American Youth Championships, then please make sure you take note of the application structure for 2024. The application and fee should be turned in to the USDF office by March 12, 2024 in order to avoid stiffer fees. If you apply by March 12th, the fee is only \$50 per application. Applications submitted between March 13th and April 23rd are \$100 and the final application deadline is May 7th, but it will cost you \$300 to apply between April 24th and May 7th. At this point in time, absolutely no applications will be accepted after May 7th. If you plan to compete for NAYC, please also be sure to contact Joan Clay, our Region Coordinator for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders and let her know your intent. Her email address is jnclay@comcast.net and her phone number is 970.420.0887. The 2024 NAYC will be held at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, Flintfields Horse Park, Traverse City, Michigan – July 30 - August 4, 2024.

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our new Nominating Council representative Virginia Sorenson at g_sorenson@yahoo.com and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Also please feel free to contact Ginny and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate nominations are due in to the USDF office no later than April 15th.

Old Business:

• None

New Business:

• Tabling the membership growth discussion.

Chapter Presidents:

1. Arkansas Valley

We held our monthly meeting on February 13th, with eight members attending.

We are moving forward with a new Dressage Versatility award. Equestrians who use dressage to help hone their skills in other disciplines are eligible. We are working on the requirements for the award.

Our new scholarship program is in place. We will accept applications next October for JR/YR and AA members of AVDA.

We had a successful clinic with Sue Martin in January. The schedule was full and we had a large audience of auditors. Riders all experienced wonderful lessons and we all learned a lot. We are very grateful to Sue for coming back to help us.

Our clinic with Holly Bergay in February was also a great success. We held it at Five Start Equestrian Center, now under new management. This was a trial bases, and we found it very satisfactory. We hope to have future events at Five Star. Holly got raves from all students, as per usual. A big thank you to Holly!

Laura Gilmer clinic is scheduled for March 16th. She is a new clinician for us and we look forward to her help. We have our virtual schooling show coming up on April 13th. This is a new format for us. All participants will ride at the same place on the same day. We will video each test and send them to judge Michelle Velasco for scoring. It is a way to develop community within our club, and offering an affordable schooling show opportunity. An informal awards party is planning to share the results, hand out ribbons, and celebrate the riders.

Sandy Vernon

The fourth AVDA newsletter was submitted in March. We have added a new "market place" feature to help members sell and buy equestrian related items. Marcy Wadlington works very hard on our news letter and we are grateful for her efforts.

Our next meeting is on March 12. We will be discussing plans for our May and September schooling shows, and future clinics.

2. Boulder Valley

Boulder Valley Dressage met virtually on February 19, 2024.

As of March 1, our membership is 110.

WEB SITE: Shannon Moyes Clark and Janeen Cochi continue to manage and make very helpful improvements to our website.

AWARDS BANQUET: We debriefed our January Awards Banquet, which, thanks to our silent auction, made a profit. We thanked Shannon Clark and her crew for planning and setup and running the auction, and Julie Barringer Richers for presenting 2023 year-end awards.

BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES: Our task force consisting of Stan Adamson, Beth Geier and Julie Barringer-Richers reported and recommended amendments to our Bylaws and Standing Rules to be put to a vote at our April 8, 2024, meeting.

CLINICS AND EDUCATION: To further our aims as an educational association, we have planned the following events for Spring—

- "Dressage for Newbies" (Gabrielle (Hibbert) Ward), March 9 at Wind Dance Equestrian, Loveland
- "Maximize Effectiveness Through Correct Geometry" (Joan Clay), April 20 at Windswept Farms, Longmont
- Ride-a-Test (Dolly Hannon) on May 11 at Nighthawk Equestrian Center, Boulder

AWARDS: We discussed the possibility of giving embroidered or printed towels as awards or swag to winners and/or volunteers at our shows; we will revisit this at our April meeting.

SHOW PLANNING: Our annual shows are June 29-30, 2024, at the Boulder County Fairgrounds. Nicole Donohue heads the Show Committee, with Janeen Cochi as Volunteer Coordinator, and Heather Petersen as Show Secretary.

3. Foothills

No report

4. Grand Valley

Karen Harkin

Nadia Westra

Grand Valley Dressage Society (GVDS) has had a brisk beginning to 2024. In addition to our regular monthly business meetings, we offered a few other programs for GVDS and RMDS members.

After having multiple requests from members about how to know which memberships they need for themselves (we have a sizeable western dressage and schooling show base) and their horses, Judi DeVore organized a fantastic program for understanding memberships and the benefits that go with each membership. This time we tried something a bit different and posted the Zoom link on our Facebook page to potentially encourage others from outside GVDS to participate. BIG MISTAKE! We were "hacked" by some men from Ohio. One had some questions about equestrians, while another provided an "X rated" show for the other Zoom attendees. Each time he was removed, he rejoined using a female name and a reference to our location. That is the last time we will ever do that! Pre-registration will be required to obtain the Zoom link.

Judi also organized an excellent program, Jec Ballou's Winter Fitness Program, which was well attended. Jec was a presenter at the 2023 USDF Convention and piqued our interest in having her do something similar for us. Jec provided many exercises for rehabbing injured horses, activities for fitness when no or limited riding was available, and for cross training. Using Jec's plans as a foundation, we are hosting a Cavaletti Play Day on March 17. At this time, it appears that we will have about a dozen participants who will expose their horses to a variety of cavaletti exercises.

On March 23 we are hosting a Scribing 101 training in Grand Junction, available in-person or on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to participate. Amber Benson will be teaching the class.

Beginning with our June show weekend, GVDS shows will be partner shows with the National Dressage Pony Cup (NDPC). We will be recognizing ponies and small horses at both our recognized and schooling shows. As we have a reasonable number of ponies and small horses in our area, we hope this will bring something new and different to

Stan Adamson

our shows. Our first schooling show and recognized shows are April 20 and 21st, respectively. Dolly Hannon is our judge, and we are looking forward to having her return to our competitions. We hope that some our front range friends will trek west to give our shows a try.

5. High Plains

Andrea Osmond

1st Member Meeting - March 3rd at The Parker Garage

We had 4 members of High Plains attend the meeting. We ran it mostly as a normal meeting, but used it as an opportunity to seek input from the members on events, directions, and general feedback on topics such as our clinic topics, show, lectures, volunteering, and general member engagement. We voted to make all meetings accessible to the members and to host an in person meeting quarterly.

Amelia Newcomb Dressage Clinic: April 6-7th

Total of 41 applicant riders

Total of 22 riders of an assortment of level

Total of 50 auditors

Approx. 10 member volunteers

Janet Foy Fixing Your Test - May 15th

16 RMDS Members have signed up to join us

Tracey Christopher Mortgage is Sponsoring the food

Dancing On The Plains I & II - August 3rd & 4th

Raised \$1000 Donation for the 1st place awards & High Point prizes

Continue to seek donations and sponsors

Ribbons and Bridle tags are purchased

Licensing is almost complete - 1 signature needed

Insurance is confirmed

TD, EMT, Judges, Announcer, Show Manager, Show Secretary, vet on call - all confirmed

Continue to work on the checklist of tasks to prepare for the show!

Anna Buffini Dressage Clinic - September 7 - 8th

Total of 23 Rider applicants - Closes June 15th

Total of 3 Auditors

Total of 1 member volunteer

Donations and Sponsors

Media kit has been created to raise more money towards our events

Amelia's Clinic:

- Andrea Osmond with Compass Real Estate \$100
- McKinnley Perfect Fit Saddlery \$100
- Laura Grant Heart Connection Equine \$100 Janet Foy Lecture:
- Tracey Christopher Mortgage All of the food
- Dancing On The Plains Show:
- 5 Books From Dressage Foundation
- 3 (\$25) Gift Cards from Chicks Saddlery
- \$1000 donation Susan Smith for the 1st place awards and High Point Awards

Anna Buffini Dressage Clinic:

- Andrea Osmond with Compass Real Estate \$200
- Tracey Christopher Mortgage \$200
- Laura Grant Heart Connection Equine \$200
- Donation fromDebbie Eckstein- \$200

Other:

Kerrits has given us a discount code for select products

Awards:

We have announced to our members we will be offering Year-end Awards for 2024. We are following the same medal program as the Pikes Peak award program.

6. Northern Colorado

No report.

7. On The Bit

We are working out the last details for a clinic and schooling show with Joann Williams on June 22/23 at the Hansen Arena in Laramie. More information will be available soon on our website!

We are also planning clinics for the fall at a new facility that will hopefully give us the option to offer a recognized show again in Laramie in the future.

Besides these events, we are planning to increase awareness about our club in the Laramie community and build connections with other local horse groups in the hope to raise interest in dressage and recruit new members. We are still holding our regular meetings at 7 pm the first Thursday of each month at Altitude Chophouse in Laramie, WY, with the option to join on zoom.

8. Pikes Peak

What have we been doing in the last two months?

The PPDS Facebook page is up and going strong. There were a few hiccups as it was established years ago and took a few months to find the administer(s) who could add access to our new social media chair.

The weather was great for February so we were able to meet at Guadalajara Restaurant and was well attended! It was great to see members in person. The educational topic was "Rules, Expectations, and Understanding the World of Showing" presented by MaryJo Hoepner and Gwen Ka'awaloa it was truly valuable information on Classical and Western Dressage.

On Saturday, March 9th Right Path Equestrian in Peyton CO offered the members and friends of PPDS a private shopping day, great selections and pricing on clearance and new items. We look forward to another private shopping day on new items from their recent Dallas and Germany shopping spree in February.

PPD RMDS Show is April 20 at Latigo Equestrian Center in Elbert CO. PPDS hosts Meet n' Greet dinner Friday night, offering attendees free appetizes and first beverage. Entries open March 12th at 11am. Few highlights going forward:

- Embroidered Pom Cuff Beanies sale going well order for 48, only 7 more to sell to pay for the initial order. Members that attended the Winter Celebration received a free winter hat.
- Clinic with Dolly Hannon on May 12 at Parfait Ranch in Elbert one slot available. o 10 rides, discounted rate to PPDS members.
- Education possibilities: bits/bridle fitting review Brain Training for Riders, new member presentation .
- Review end of year awards program add Western Dressage to PPDS awards program. •
- Shannon Lemons' to offer a discounted rate on microchipping to PPDS members in Oct/Nov to comply with the new USEF rule beginning December 1, 2025

We are excited for the upcoming show season!

Next Meeting is April 11th.

Sandy Vernon, 2nd by Karen Harkin. Meeting Adjourned 8:22 pm

Respectfully submitted, Heather Petersen

Ginka Kubelka

Laura Speer

Patricia Weed