

Theta Chapter, DKG

September 13, 2021 meeting at Drouin Springs Equine Center

Members present: Aldean Kilbourn, Tanya O'Brien, Kelly Scanlon, Marlin Collins, Janet Regrew, Betsy Smith

Absent and excused: Haugeberg, Lambert, Buhite, Krause, Benjamin, Kane, Keill, Hunter, Sanders, Jackson, Pierson

Unexcused: Nugent, Grubis, Walkotte, Barth, Cook

This was an informative, enjoyable hour and a half, Theta program, learning about the facilities & programs available to all ages. We visited well organized tack rooms, the horses of which some were owned by Colleen and some in for Dr. Gelvin's examinations and assistance. We learned all kinds of information about them including their characters, their diet, their ages, and type.



The grounds

were lovely and the animals' fencing was used to protect the horses (plastic, steel, rubber - otherwise they eat the wood!), the indoor and outdoor arenas, the pastures and trails. We also learned about Dr. Gelvin herself. We asked about the specialized EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) training she and her daughter Claire were able to try on a limited basis before COVID restrictions. This is a clinical advance on established practices where the

incorporation of horses in psychotherapy is a deliberate, principled, thoughtful and professional catalyst to change.

Colleen Gelvin DVM, has lived with horses since she was 10 years old. Formal riding instruction began at age 18 and has continued ever since.

Dressage and combined training have been her main focus. She has spent time in NY, CA, HI, and B.C. as a working student for FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and BHS (British Horse Society) judges and trainers. She has shown at horse trials, H/J (Hunter and Jumper) shows and up to 4th level dressage, managed boarding stables, organized horse competitions, trained horses and given riding instruction. She is involved with 4-H and Pony Club educational activities.



Colleen graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1999. She is licensed in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, and currently lives in Fairbanks, Alaska. She is also certified in animal chiropractic, passing

exams with the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association and the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. Colleen works as an equine veterinarian, chiropractor, trainer and riding instructor in Alaska, and continues her riding and training education with FEI instructors (Federation Equestre Internationale). Colleen is an EAGALA certified Equine Specialist, and has co-facilitated Equine Assisted Psychotherapy session with her daughter, Claire Gelvin-Smith, up until COVID restrictions occurred. We greatly appreciate the time she spent with us.



