



Editor's Notes...

As you all may have noticed, the MDA newsletter has been on a summer break. I have been busy showing and training as well as building my new facility here in Manchester. But now that the season is winding down a bit I can get back to the business of trying to keep our membership entertained, informed, and hopefully up to speed on current events. But during my hiatus as your editor I did manage to make mental notes and observations about various subjects during the show season. The first being that no matter how hot it is at the show you will undoubtedly have those women who insist on wearing a full face of make-up. I applaud their effort – who doesn't want to look their best coming down centerline on their way to salute Gary Rockwell. But then the inevitable happens...make-up...well, it melts. And not in a "I've been glistening in the heat" kind of way. No... it becomes reminiscent of the Wicked Witch melting in front of Dorothy. So as a sort of public service in my position as editor, I give all you ladies permission to dispense with the cosmetics for the good of the small children who may be watching and end up traumatized. I also observed a lot of spouses – mostly husbands of course – trying to dutifully support their wives in their equestrian passion. Husbands are long-suffering, my own included. They say nothing when their wives write checks for expensive horses, tricked-out trailers, and costly shows. They hold purses while their wives merrily try on the latest in equestrian fashion at the tack store trailer, and they blankly stare when their wives come out of the show ring giving a blow-by-blow of every movement, good or bad. For these brave souls "Yes, dear" is a both a battle cry and a badge of honor. God bless these poor men. May the off-season bring them man caves filled with leather, football games on big-screen televisions, and an endless supply of whatever it is that husbands like to do when they are not holding our jackets at shows. I don't honestly know what that is...when my own husband does these things I tune him out and look at pictures of my horse on my phone.

As always, keep a leg on each side and always take the horse treats out of your pockets before you wash them!

-Allison





August Meeting Notes...

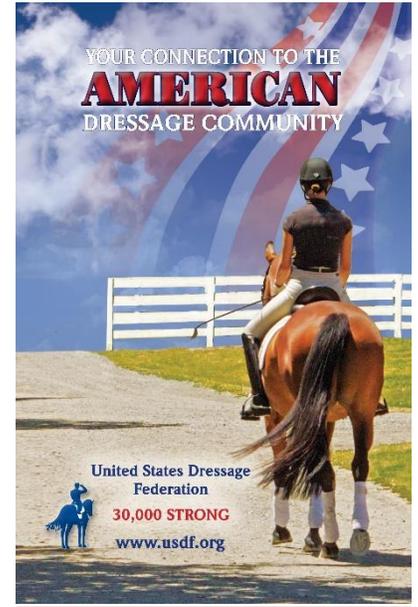
The August Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Comeback Inn in Highland, MI on August 9. It should be noted that there was no July meeting due to a lack of quorum that month. There are committee vacancies that include marketing and product sales which will hopefully be filled when new board members are voted in later this year. There was also discussion about introducing more youth programs in the MDA and using these young members to represent the organization in groups like Pony Club, 4-H, and equestrian teams. Dates and specific information regarding the MDA-sponsored clinic at Visual Equestrian were firmed up and discussion about other potential clinics, including a possible clinic with Johan Hinnemann were

discussed. The MDA is also looking into dates for another one of the wildly successful Bootcamps. Our next meeting will be Wednesday September 6 at 6:00 the Comeback Inn. Hope to see you there!

MDA Used Tack Sale!

The MDA proudly presents our used tack sale September 9& 10! We are accepting gently used blankets, tack, equipment and riding apparel to be sold at the September Schooling Dressage show at Rattlewood Farm. Proceeds will go towards year-end awards and donors can receive a tax donation receipt. You can drop off items at any of the Rattlewood Schooling Shows or give them to any MDA Board member throughout the year. You can usually find a lot of board members at various other shows like Dressage at Waterloo as well.

Help support our year-end awards program and clean up your barn at the same time!



MDA Presents a Classical Dressage Symposium with Carole and Tonya Grant

On October 14-15, the MDA invites everyone to witness a day (or two!) in the training lives of two of Michigan's most respected trainers, Carole and Tonya Grant. This symposium, located at the Grants Visual Equestrian Farm in Fenton, MI., offers the opportunity to observe their classical training methods with horses from young horse through Grand Prix. With 100% of the proceeds going directly back to the MDA, this opportunity is a win-win for everyone. The cost for the symposium is \$25/day or \$40/two days for non-members or \$20/day or \$30/two days for members.



The Terry Ciotti Gallo Freestyle Clinic – A Rider's Perspective...

I love Terry because she gets to the point quickly and efficiently. Her knowledge of music and cohesiveness is extremely vast. In one 45- minute session a rider can learn what music best suits their horse and their level. Bold music, for example, is too harsh for a lower level horse that does not have the strength and suspension to keep up with the music. I also learned that a rider should not just simply pick up what music they like but rather what best suits and enhances the horse. We see riders picking all the wrong music because they are grabbing what they like rather than finding what enhances the performance of the test. The best way to find the right music is to ride to the music that closely matches the BPM (beats per minute) of your horse. When you

feel the gaits improve as you ride with the music, then that's the music to go with. The walk does not need to match the BPM unless the horse has an exceptional or extravagant walk.

Terry is also quite creative at designing your choreography. She taught us that you can build your choreography first or find your music first.

Personally, I like to build my choreography first and then put the music around that. What you do first is whatever you are personally comfortable with. When you decide on your test, make sure that you know the rules. While Terry's mission is to continue to educate judges, keep in mind many judges are still not aware of the rules and how to properly judge a freestyle. This is why it's so important for all judges, or those studying to become judges, to participate in these clinics. Rules for your level of freestyle can be found on

the USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) website or you can download their app on your phone, tablet, or iPad. While some words in the song you choose have become popular in the past decade, too many words can be extremely annoying and distracting. Choose wisely and be conservative if you want to add words into the freestyle.

Terry made a point to tell the riders to avoid confusing the judges as they have very long days due to the vast number of horses they judge every day. Keep things simple and easy to follow and use your space evenly. Adding degrees of difficulty can make your score higher if you execute it properly. If you mess it up then points get deducted. Make sure you can handle your choreography.

Transitions in your music are very important. While you can use one song throughout the test, you

must have multiple transitions. Most songs don't have enough transitions within them. However, occasionally one song can work. Transitions mean that your music slightly changes with each change of pace, movement, and gait. Terry likes to see about six transitions in a test. Your entrance to a halt for example can be one transition if your music stops for your halt and/or salute. Another music transition would be from walk to trot. For higher level tests use transitions in your music to go from collected trot to extended trot or collected trot to half-pass. The more transitions you can execute the higher the score and the easier to keep the attention of the judge.

This is the second year that I have worked with Terry as a rider. I feel that if you can't afford to have someone like Terry make your freestyle this clinic is an absolute must to learn to do it yourself. Another

option is to make your freestyle and have Terry put the finishing touches on it in the form of editing. Terry edited a freestyle for me this year and shared that she loves to edit. If you can't afford to have Terry make your freestyle, this clinic is still extremely educational and important for you. Learning more about anything you are doing makes you a better rider, a better judge, or a better trainer. If you are an owner who sponsors a rider then get involved and enjoy the journey with your rider. Add some ideas of your own to personalize the freestyle. Terry is very generous with her time and knowledge. She wants to really help the riders and judges. Keep in mind that freestyles are becoming more and more mandatory for the CDI competitions, so riders working their way up the levels need to be aware of this. Also, if you aspire to make the team for your country you must have a freestyle.

I believe that we need to see more young riders participating in this clinic. The earlier you can become confident with riding to music the more success you will have.

Thank you to the Midwest Dressage Association for providing this very educational weekend with Terry. I am going to do it again next year because one can only absorb so much in just a few days. If you are interested in participating in this clinic next year please contact the MDA and let us know so that we can work on securing a date for her. You can contact Will Davis at 810-287-2011.

-Tonya Grant is a current MDA Board member and co-owner/trainer at Visual Equestrian Farm LLC in Fenton, Michigan.



Equine Farm Workers: Employees or Independent Contractors?

Whether your barn workers are considered employees or independent contractors is a complex test of facts and circumstances.

Whether your stable workers are employees or independent contractors can have a huge impact on your equine business. As an employer, you are legally required to withhold federal, state, and local payroll taxes, and

comply with all employment laws, including laws relating to wages, hours, safety, working conditions, and immigration status. If employees are injured on the job, you could have legal liability for their injuries, and many states require employers to carry workers' compensation insurance, which can be quite costly. Further, you are legally responsible for what your employees do while they are acting within the scope of their employment. On the other hand, independent contractors are responsible for their own tax withholding and insurance, and your liability for your contractors' actions is much more limited.

Whether your barn workers are considered employees or independent contractors is a complex test of facts and circumstances. Here, we examine the common law factors in the context of relationships between a barn and its stall cleaners.

In each "A" situation, the stall cleaners are more likely to be considered employees, and in each "B" situation, the stall cleaners are more likely to be considered independent contractors. The more "A" factors a barn has, the more likely its stall cleaners will be considered employees. The more "B" factors a barn has, the more likely its stall cleaners will be considered independent contractors.

How does the barn hire its workers?

The contractual relationship between the parties can affect the determination of whether a worker is an employee or independent contractor, especially when the determination isn't clear based upon the other factors.

A: Big Barn decides it needs help cleaning stalls, so its manager, Hapless Hannah, places a classified ad in the local paper. Larry Lieabout and Sarah Slacker answer

the ad and accept Big Barn's offer of full-time employment, with health-care benefits (yes, this is fictional). Hannah gives Larry and Sarah an employment agreement to sign.

B: Sizable Stable also needs help cleaning stalls. Its manager, Fearless Frieda, has seen an advertisement on the local feed store bulletin board for Manure Eliminators (ME), a stable cleaning service. Frieda engages Manure Eliminators, and the parties sign an independent contractor agreement.

How extensively does the barn train its workers?

The more training the barn provides for its workers, the more likely they are to be considered employees.

A: On Larry's and Sarah's first day of work, Hannah introduces them to Peter Cedar, the "lead stall maintenance technician."

Larry and Sarah shadow Peter for two weeks, during which time he instructs them in great detail about the desired shavings depth, amount of shavings banked against the rear stall wall, and each horse's particular behaviors. Larry and Sarah work under Peter's close supervision until Peter is satisfied that they understand his extensive requirements.

B: Frieda is relieved to have ME on board, because she's received glowing references from other barns about the skill and professionalism of ME's employees. When the workers arrive for their first day, Frieda gives them basic instructions and turns them loose to do the work.

Does the barn provide equipment and supplies for its workers?

The more equipment and supplies the barn provides for its workers, the more likely the workers are to be

employees rather than independent contractors.

A. Peter is very particular. He insists upon personally selecting the bedding, and Big Barn supplies all the manure forks, wheelbarrows, and other equipment used by Larry and Sarah to clean the stalls at Big Barn.

B. As long as the stalls are cleaned and bedded regularly and Sizable Stable's clients are happy, Frieda isn't so fussy about how the work gets done. Manure Eliminators supplies all Sizable Stable's bedding needs, and its workers bring their own equipment.

Does the barn reimburse its workers for business expenses?

If a barn reimburses its workers for business expenses, those workers are more likely to be considered employees.

A. Big Barn's tractor is an ancient relic and is always breaking down. Fortunately, Larry is a talented mechanic. He regularly fixes Big Barn's tractor and Big Barn reimburses him for all the parts he purchases.

B. Sizable Stable has a tractor that ME uses to compact the manure pile. Part of ME's contract includes maintaining the tractor. Sizable Stable does not reimburse ME for the cost of parts required to maintain the tractor.

Do the barn's workers have any control over whether they make a profit?

The less control your workers have over whether they make a profit or loss, the more likely they are to be employees rather than independent contractors.

A: Larry and Sarah are both paid by the hour, and Big Barn limits the number of hours they can work.

B: Manure Eliminators is paid a contract price for the job, based upon the number of occupied stalls. It has control over its profits because it controls how long the job takes, how many workers it sends to do the job, and what its materials costs are.

Do the workers have set hours?

Setting hours is an exertion of control by the employer that makes it more likely the workers will be considered employees.

A: Given Peter's particularity about the stalls, he insists that all stalls must be cleaned between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. and again between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. every day. Between stall cleanings, he has an extensive list of other areas for the workers to clean.

B: Frieda and ME have decided that ME can clean the stalls whenever it likes,

as long as each stall is clean by 3 p.m. Sometimes, ME comes in the morning, and sometimes ME comes in the afternoon.

Are the workers full time?

The less opportunity the workers must perform work for others, the more likely they are to be considered employees.

A. Although Larry and Sarah have several "free" hours each day and work a bit less than 40 hours per week, their days are so structured by Peter's strict schedule that it would be impractical for them to do work for another employer.

B. Because ME's work for Sizable Stable is limited in scope, ME is free to, and does, contract with other barns in the area.

Take-Home Message

As illustrated in the examples above, the majority of stable workers would likely be considered

employees and not independent contractors. However, most stables do not treat their workers as employees and comply with all applicable laws as employers, and they are taking huge risks by doing so.

For example, if the stable is audited by the Internal Revenue Service or any other tax authority, it could be liable for years of back payroll taxes and penalties. Additionally, if a worker is injured on the job, he or she might sue the stable and/or file a claim with the appropriate federal and/or state agency, leading to legal liability for the stable. Any of these consequences would be so costly that they might easily drive a stable out of business. Therefore, barn owners should schedule a consultation with a knowledgeable local attorney to discuss their specific situations and seek guidance on how to protect themselves from potential liability.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Rachel Kosmal McCart

Rachel Kosmal McCart is the founder and principal attorney of Equine Legal Solutions, PC (ELS), an equine law firm based near Portland, Ore. McCart is a graduate of the Duke University School of Law and licensed to practice in four states: California, New York, Oregon, and Washington. She is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. ELS represents clients in litigation, helps resolve equine disputes, drafts customized equine contracts, represents clients in horse industry disciplinary hearings, and incorporates equine businesses. Learn more at www.equinelegalsolutions.com.

The Encore Award



The Encore Award is presented by Allison McKenzie Sporthorses to honor exceptional Off The Track Thoroughbreds in the sport of Dressage. This award is presented to any Thoroughbred who is owned and/or competed by a current Midwest Dressage Association Member who achieves the highest cumulative percentage during the current season at any level. In order to qualify for this award the owner/rider must provide a copy of the horses Jockey Club registration and race record along with copies of three of the highest scoring tests the horse has performed at any one level. This annual award will be presented at the MDA Banquet.

The Encore Award Application

Horse Name: _____ Jockey Club #: _____

Jockey Club Name (if different from above): _____

Owner/Rider Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

MDA# _____

Please send application, a copy of your horses Jockey Club Papers, and a copy of the horse's race record to:

Allison McKenzie

9867 Sharon Hollow Road, Manchester, MI 48158

Midwest Dressage Association Professionals Grant Program

This grant program has been established to assist those who are professional members of the Midwest Dressage Association to further their education in the following areas: Teaching, Training, and Judging.

The MDA Board of Directors shall set aside from the general fund the sum of \$1,500.00 (the grants of \$500 each) at the beginning of each calendar year. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

-A minimum of two consecutive years of membership (in good standing) with the Midwest Dressage Association.

-Four hours of volunteer time documented with the MDA within the 12 months preceding the filing of a grant application.

-A letter of recommendation from one student

-A letter of recommendation from a professional horseperson (trainer, judge or instructor)

Approved educational opportunities would include the following:

All clinics, seminars, and educational programs offered and/or sponsored by the Midwest Dressage Association, the United States Dressage Federation, and/or the United States Equestrian Federation. These educational opportunities will be brought to the MDA Board

of Directors on a case by case basis.

The maximum grant to be awarded to any one person shall be limited to \$500.00. The board may approve any grant request for less than the requested amount. No one person shall receive more than one grant per calendar year.

Should said recipient fail to attend the specified event all grant money is to be refunded to the Midwest Dressage Association within 30 days after the date of specified event. Terms and conditions are subject to change on an annual basis.

No sitting member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Dressage Association is eligible for these grants.

Midwest Dressage Professional Grant Work Sheet Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone # _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Years: _____

Volunteer Hours: _____ Event: _____ Date: _____

A letter of Recommendation from Student

Students contact information Name _____

Contact # _____

A letter of recommendation from a professional Horseperson (Trainer- Instructor or Judge)

Sponsors Name: _____

Contact #: _____

Event Date: _____

Event Location: _____

Please describe the educational event. How does this event help you achieve your riding goals?

•All requests should be filed 60 days prior to the event date, to ensure the MDA Board has time to review requests. Thank you.

Please Mail completed worksheets/requests to:

Will Davis II

9518 Brookway Ct.

Goodrich, MI 48438

Contact # 810 287 2011

Midwest Dressage Association Participates in the Tribute Partners
Program to Raise Funds for Educational Events
Please Support the MDA

TRIBUTE[®]

EQUINE NUTRITION

This program provides funding to non-profits for educational events. Members can participate by donating the proof of purchase tags off of Tribute[®] feedbags or by submitting invoices of bulk Tribute[®] feed to MDA. In the first year of the program MDA earned over \$500 to put towards clinics.

If you are sending copies of invoices, please black out sensitive information like your name, address, credit card info and phone number. Send your documentation to:

Midwest Dressage Association
C/o Michigan Equine Therapy
29155 Northwestern Hwy #540
Southfield, MI 48034



MDA Calendar

August 2017

26-27- Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Shows at Rattlewood Farms, Oxford, MI. Contact Will Davis for details. WillDavis@aol.com or 810.287.2011

Visit <http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/>

23-

Hunter/Jumper/Dressage/Association (HJDA) Series of Shows. Justamere Equestrian Center, Contact show secretary, Kathy Biondo, at 586-489-3020 or email to: kathleenbiondo@gmail.com

29- Oldenburg NA/ISR inspections at Rattlewood Farm, Oxford, MI. Contact Will Davis at WillDavis@aol.com or 810-287-2011

September 2017

9-10 20-21 Mid-Michigan Dressage Schooling Shows at Rattlewood Farms, Oxford, MI.

Contact Will Davis for details. WillDavis@aol.com or 810.287.2011

Visit <http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/>

9-10 Annual MDA Used Tack & Equipment Sale at Rattlewood Farm, Oxford MI.

9-10 - Wyn Farm Dressage Schooling Show. Information at www.wynfarm.com or contact Jordan Kroll 586 703 7690 or

wnfarmshowseries@gmail.com

14-17 USDF Regional Championship, Region 2, Majestic Farm, Batavia, OH

29-30- Great Lakes Regional Dressage Schooling Show Championship at Rattlewood Farms, Oxford, MI. Contact Will Davis for details. WillDavis@aol.com or 810.287.2011

Visit <http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/>

October

1- Great Lakes Regional Dressage Schooling Show

Championship at Rattlewood Farms, Oxford, MI. Contact Will Davis for details. WillDavis@aol.com or 810.287.2011

Visit <http://midmichigandressage.webs.com/>

14-15 – Classical Dressage Symposium at Visual Equestrian, Fenton, MI. See MDA website for more info and auditing information.

November

9-12- USDF Dressage Finals, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington KY

19- MDA Annual Awards Banquet, Buhl Estate, Addison Oaks Park, Leonard MI

29 - Dec 2 USDF Annual Convention, Lexington KY <http://usdf.org/convention/>

December

1-2 USDF Annual Convention, Lexington KY <http://usdf.org/convention/>



2017 MDA Board and Committees

President

Will Davis II

willdavis@aol.com

Vice President

Lisa Machala

MichiganEquineTherapy@gmail.com

Secretary

Nancy Bryant

nancyclair0924@gmail.com

Treasurer

Pam Morrison

info@equinebookkeeping.com

Board Members

Allison McKenzie

amsporthorses@yahoo.com

Denise Gentile

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Tonya Grant

Tonyagrants@visualequestrian.com

Debbie Hannaford

debbietimko@yahoo.com

Beth Schaub

beschaub@frontier.com

Shawn Ragsdale

shawnragsdale@comcast.net

Committees

Awards – Beth Schaub

Membership – Nancy Bryant

Education – TBD

Banquet – Denise Gentile

Newsletter – Allison McKenzie

Historian – Will Davis

Directory – Lisa Machala

Website/Facebook – Lisa Machala

Volunteers – Shawn Ragsdale

Marketing – Vacant

MDA Merchandise - Vacant

Nominations – Shawn Ragsdale

Professional Advisor – Shawn Ragsdale

Midwest Dressage Association

Membership Application

December 1, 2016 - November 30, 2017

Membership Information: Renewal (MDA #): _____ New Member: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Farm/Business Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Family Memberships: Only the primary member will receive yearly directories.

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

For additional Horse/Rider Combinations, please use a separate piece of paper.

Rider Status: Open Adult Amateur Junior/Young Rider (*Must be under 21 as of 12/1/2016*)

If a rider status is not selected, applicant will be considered as Open for all MDA purposes including year-end awards. Adult Amateur status is limited to riders who meet the guidelines of USEF GR808.

Professionals Only: I would like to be listed in the MDA Directory with the following services:

Boarding Facility Training Facility Trainer (will travel) Judge Other: _____

Member these services apply to: _____

<input type="radio"/> Mastercard <input type="radio"/> Visa Credit Card # _____ Expiration: ____ Zip Code _____ CVV# ____	TOTALS: Adult Amateur/Open (\$51) \$ _____ Junior/Young Rider (\$41) \$ _____ Family Members (\$21 each addtl member) \$ _____ Credit Card use Fee (\$2.50) \$ _____ I would like to donate to (tax deductible), please indicate amount. <input type="radio"/> MDA Annual Awards \$ _____ <input type="radio"/> MDA Educational Clinics \$ _____ TOTAL PAID \$ _____
<input type="radio"/> I DO NOT want my information printed in the MDA directory	Please make checks payable to Midwest Dressage Association and mail to the MDA Membership Chair: Nancy Bryant 26 Louck St. #15, Oxford MI 48371 PayPal payments may be sent -Please indicate member name in notes section. PayPal payments may take several days to process. Membership Applications may be e-mailed if PayPal or Credit Card method of payment is being utilized.
Office Use Only: PM: _____ CK: _____ AMT: _____ Or Date Electronic Payment Received: _____	All Members receive a membership card, monthly e-newsletters, and a group membership to the United States Dressage Foundation (USDF) for the membership year. The effective date of MDA membership is the postmarked date (if mailed) or payment receipt date (if submitted electronically). MDA is not responsible for late, delayed, or misdirected mail or payments. Please allow three weeks for processing of MDA application and USDF group membership. I grant the Midwest Dressage Association permission to use any photographs that have been taken or may be taken of me or in which I may be included with others. Such photographs may be used, reused, published, and republished in whole or in part, individually or in connection with other material, in any and all media now or hereafter known, including the internet, and for any purpose whatsoever, specifically including illustration and promotion. I have read this request and fully understand its contents. This release shall be binding upon me and MDA for the current membership year.
Signature authorization for credit card payment and for permission to use photographs	_____

Classified Ads

Classified Ads must be submitted to the newsletter editor via email and in Word format. Pictures and graphics must be in JPEG format. Deadline for advertising and classified ads is the 15th of the previous month. All ads must be prepaid prior to publication. All member rates reflect a 20% discount of retail price.

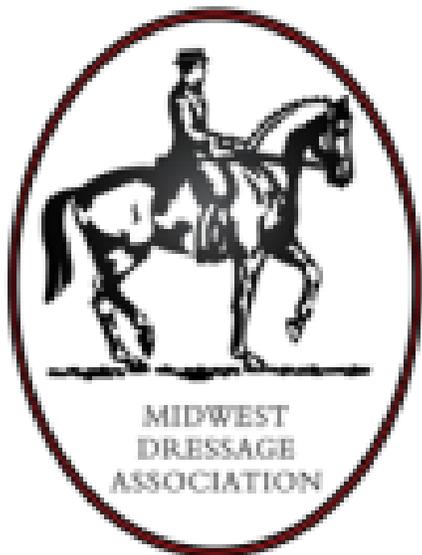
1 month 3 month 6 month 12 month

	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member
¼ page	40.00	32.00	90.00	72.00	150.00	120.00	240.00	192.00

	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member
½ page	60.00	48.00	120.00	96.00	210.00	168.00	360.00	288.00

	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member	Retail	Member
Full page	90.00	72.00	150.00	120.00	390.00	312.00	660.00	528.00

**The Midwest Dressage Association is a
501(c)3 not-for-profit**



MDA Classifieds...

Blue Water Dressage Stables

Training and Lessons

Contact: Pam Atkinson

Phone: 989-777-7471

Email: pam@bluewaterdressagestables.com

Website: www.bluewaterdressagestables.com

Allison McKenzie Sporthorses

Training, Lessons, Breeding, and Sales

Contact: Allison McKenzie

Phone: 734-276-8967

Email: amsporthorses@yahoo.com

Website: www.allisonmckenzie'sporthorses.com

