



November/December 2018

Editor's Notes...

It has been a whirlwind month! We wrapped up show season, enjoyed ourselves at the annual awards banquet, and just concluded the United States Dressage Federation convention – all in time for the holidays! Some of us think that because show season is over we can take a break, but we quickly learn that it doesn't really work that way in our sport. The off-season is more than banquets and celebrations, it's a time to re-focus and re-evaluate our riding goals. It's a time to fix what was broken, improve our weaknesses, and work on our strengths. It's a time to use off-time as learning time. The MDA is providing plenty of opportunities to learn and evaluate, beginning with a Goal-Setting Workshop with Mental Performance Coach Lindy Thompson, M.Sc. Think of it as a way to fight the winter doldrums where you can dream of riding without hay stuck in your fleece...everything. In March we will be hosting Lois Yukins for our test riding clinic. Lois will give us insights and helpful hints for riding the newly published Dressage tests which are typically ridden without winter parkas and wool socks – imagine that! Winter in Michigan provides ample opportunities for reflection but also for opportunities to move forward. Even if your only goal is to stay on your horse and complete a test without

fireworks (I ride off-the-track Thoroughbreds – trust me, I get it!) setting a goal is sometimes deeply personal but also satisfying. It makes those cold winter days go faster and makes those rides where you can't feel your fingers worth it. But even so, those days where you can barely see your horse through your breath and your toes are so cold that they hurt are hard and show season seems so far away. Take heart my friends – it's all worth it. You have already taken the most important step – you're out there with your horse. You have braved the weather and the urge to burrow deep under the blankets on your couch and persevered. Sometimes it's just one step that makes those goals more attainable – and that one step makes all the difference in the world.

Happy Holidays my friends. I wish you love, warmth and plenty of nickers and horse snuggles this season. See you in 2019!

-Allison

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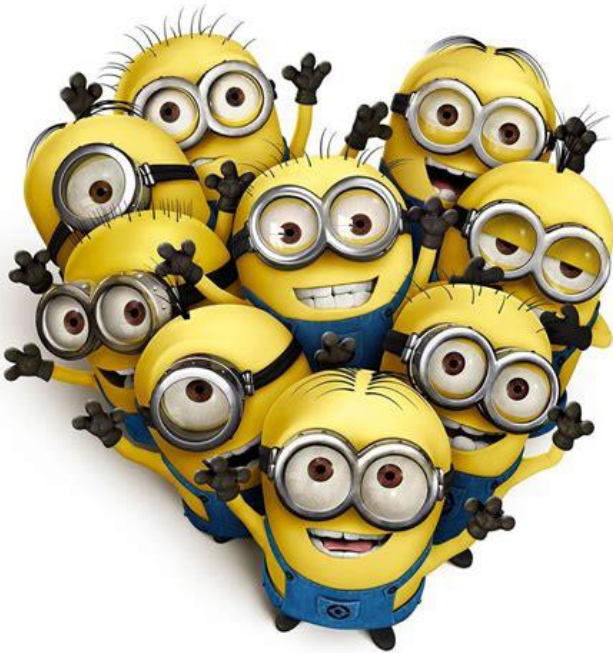


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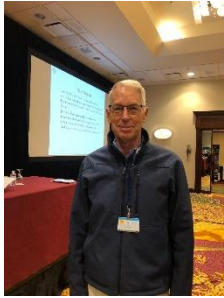
See the pictures of the beautiful people above? You could be one of them!! The MDA board is looking for an energetic and committed person to join their ranks. If interested contact Nancy Bryant at nancyclair0924@gmail.com



**The USDF Annual Convention:
Fellowship and Controversy**
-By Allison McKenzie

The annual United States Dressage Convention was held among the beautiful mountains of Salt Lake City, Utah from November 28 to

December 1, 2018. I was proud to be the voting delegate on behalf of our organization and excited to bring home updates and news from our governing body. While one portion of the event was personal for me due to the fact that I am beginning the journey of being accepted into the USDF Technical Delegate program, a majority of the convention revolved around educational symposiums with some of the country's finest judges as well as the opportunity to vote on our memberships' behalf at the Board of Governor's meeting. While there was no shortage of talk about the new Safe Sport program, a majority of the conversations revolved around the new freestyle score rule. This year the USDF/USEF passed what is referred to as an "extraordinary rule change" raising the qualifying score to ride in a musical freestyle from 60% to 63%. In researching this measure, I was able to glean that the USDF Executive Board had approached the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) board to have the new rule passed immediately. In order to achieve expediency, the USDF labeled the new measure an "extraordinary rule." It was not made clear why the USDF took this measure, though there was some speculation that it had to do with the new tests being published beginning in 2018/2019. While many delegates were upset with the increase in score, even more were upset with the way it had been done i.e. the "extraordinary rule." There were many who took to the microphones to express their dismay directly to the USDF board. Some felt that the score change would make it harder for the grassroots Dressage rider to participate in musical freestyles – an aspect of Dressage that they enjoy and feel is an attainable goal for them. Others were upset that the USDF made this move without the knowledge of the general membership.



Brent Hicks was the lucky winner of the Midwest Dressage Association basket!

Conversely, many judges I spoke with were very much in favor of the rule change. Sue Hughes, a Michigan-based judge said “We’re better now so we need to keep raising the bar.” This followed a passionate speech from Debbie McDonald, the new Technical Director of the United States Dressage Team, outlining the strides US Dressage has made on the international scene, becoming a force to be reckoned with and standing alongside Germany, Great Britain, and the Netherlands on international podiums. Margaret Freeman, a member of the USDF board and judge also echoed that sentiment by saying that the increased score keeps us competitive with the rest of the world.



We bid farewell to Ken Levy as our Region 2 Director and welcomed Debby Savage

When it came time to vote, the membership decided to direct the USDF Executive Board to ask the USEF to rescind the rule change. However, in the interim the rule change still stands until a decision is made by the USEF. The USEF could decide to not rescind it and it would become permanent. In any case those who plan to compete in musical freestyles need to be aware that the minimum qualifying score

to ride in a musical freestyle is 63% to be obtained in the highest test of the level of the freestyle. Any changes or updates to this rule will be published on the USDF website as will any information pertaining to it.



The last Board of Governors meeting led by outgoing President George Williams

Another topic that was voted on was a proposed increase in membership dues for the Group Members Organizations. This issue ended up being far less contentious than I originally thought it might. In both the Regional meetings and the Board of Governor’s (BOG) meetings it was made clear that without the dues increase funding for many educational programs would have to be cut, including the USDF Schooling Show Awards program, which is still somewhat in its infancy. Additionally, the cost of health insurance for the 33 employees in the USDF office has increased. The measure to increase the dues for GMO’s was passed overwhelmingly. The dues increase however will not take effect until December 1, 2019.

In addition to the topics up for vote at the BOG meetings, there were plenty of educational/informational forums presented. In these I learned that the USDF is working to maintain a large presence on social media i.e. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Despite this however there are still many members that don’t visit the USDF website or social media platforms to learn about educational opportunities available to them. As a compliment to the USDF connection, which will soon only be published bi-monthly, the USDF will be launching YourDressage.org.

Additionally, the USDF has been keen on emailing surveys to the membership to find out more about their use of technology and how they prefer to receive information so that the organization can more appropriately steer opportunities to them. A majority of members however, do not return these surveys.

Among the topics discussed in the USEF/USDF Open Forum were new rules that addressed mandatory reporting in the event of a horse collapsing, education requirements for show managers, minimum age requirements for horses at Fourth Level, as well as the fact that the Rider's Tests have now been removed. In the GMO Roundtable discussions, the issue of the Safe Sport Training was examined and the general feeling that its effects will trickle down to GMO's was discussed. This would mean that how insurance companies would view a GMO would depend upon whether or not the GMO's board had completed the Safe Sport Training. The Safe Sport Initiative was signed into law by the President of the United States and the USEF has made it mandatory for all organizations under its "umbrella" i.e. the USDF, the United States Eventing Association, and the United States Hunter Jumper Association, among others. Anyone who renews their membership with the USEF will have to complete the Safe Sport Training Modules.

Lastly, elections were held for the USDF Board. We bid farewell to George Williams who ended his term as President and Vice-President Lisa Gorretta was elected as our new President. Many of us in Region 2 are quite familiar with Lisa, who has been a Technical Delegate and FEI Steward for many years and hails from Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Charlotte Musselman will be the new USDF Treasurer and on a more local note, Debby Savage will be taking over for Ken Levy as the new Region 2 Director.

It was a pleasure and an honor to represent the Midwest Dressage Association at the USDF convention. It was incredibly educational and a fantastic opportunity to meet with, and talk to many other competitors, judges and Dressage enthusiasts from all over the country. I am proud to have represented the MDA to the best of my ability and look forward to bringing the information that I learned to future board meetings.



The Midwest Dressage Association would like to congratulate Michigan's own Sue Hughes and Mary Anne McPhail for each being awarded the 2018 Member of Distinction from the USDF!!

"I believe that horses bring out the best in us. They judge us not by how we look, what we we're wearing, or how powerful or rich we are. They judge us in terms of sensitivity, consistency, and patience. They demand standards of behavior and levels of kindness that we, as humans, then strive to maintain" Clare Balding

2018 Midwest Dressage Association Year End Awards

Schooling Show Division:

Introductory Level

Adult Amateur

- Ch. Victoria Trush/Franklin 70.188
Res. Kristen Schank-Tucciarone/Sugar Play It Smart 68.979
3. Jorge Prospero/Legal Majority 67.254
4. Cynthia Coy/Fine Design 65.854
5. Nancy Bondar/Finnigan 65.500
6. Wendy Lacroix/Symphony
7. Rebecca Agle/Prince Radolph 65.125
8. Marcia Hickman/Oldfield Touch and Go 61.750

Jr./Yg Rider

- Ch. Mia Durant/Cinderella 67.750
Res. Natalie Hoerlein/Coco 66.396
3. Paige Comito/Brown Horse 65.479
4. Londyn Pachota/Wind in the Willows 64.479
5. Cale Artz/WW Brigadoon 62.813
6. Carly Stewart/Saber 62.604
7. Sydney Cohol/Gatsby 62.042
8. Brooke Boger/Rousseau 61.917

Training Level Open

- Ch. Eleanor Millerschinn/Galassia 77.424
Res. Lee Thome/Ladarius 73.864
3. Ian Baese/Gersina 71.479
4. Marie Domke-Dewitt/Immortal Fury 69.318
5. Kathleen Card/Royal Dancer 66.368
6. Monique Molnar/Irish Blessing 60.606

Training Level Adult Amateur

- Ch. Jillian Blocker/Featured Presentation 73.53
Res. Jorge Prospero/Legal Majority 69.2
3. Sylvie Boesser/Lobito Comes Running 67.9
4. Melissa Long/Catcha Smooth Jet 67.139
5. Dianna Grayson/Work of Art 64.423
6. Misa McCoy/Bebe 64.277

7. Darlene Reichard/Designed By Dynamic 64.219
8. Marcia Hickman/Oldfield Touch and Go 61.181

Training Level Jr./Yg Rider

- Ch. Sarah Lowell/Frosty 67.694
Res. Nodi Penney/FAO Schwarz 65.358
3. Kira Belcher/Sweet Cash N Shack 65.164
4. Mia Durant/Cinderella 64.351
Certificate: Julia Hoffman/Rock Robins Summer Trouble

Training Level Novice Rider

- Ch. Alexis Fenger/Onesingleyesterday 59.306

Training Level Novice Horse

- Ch. Lee Thome/Ladarius 76.136
Res. Jillian Blocker/Featured Presentation 70.285
3. Jordan Kroll/Tullamore Dew 64.285

First Level Open

- Ch. Eleanor Millerschinn/Galassia 72.103
Res. Jordan Kroll/Tullamore Dew 63.704
3. Allison McKenzie/Maleficent 61.281

First Level Adult Amateur

- Ch. Leslie Richardson/Achatez 70.142
Res. Jennifer Moyne/Ephraim 64.599
3. Cindy Rushbrook/Sanilac Star 63.753
4. Acacia Aikens/Presley 63.306
5. Sally Baker/Quirks and Foibles 61.667
Certificate: Kimberly Burnham/Turn the Page

First Level Jr./Yg Rider

- Ch. Kalin MacQueen/Smashing Lad 67.348
Res. Alyssa Olson/Hamilton 67.008

Second Level Open

- Ch. Joan Esterline/Fredrikson FDL 63.535

Second Level Adult Amateur

Ch. Tracy Engbloom/Isabella
Res. Suana Klein/Parisian Occasion 63.386
3. Jean Falck/Ozzy 62.886
4. Linda Currier/Top Hat Fiduciary 60.189

Second Level Jr./Yg Rider

Certificate: Rebecca Tazzia/RainyDay Grand Illusion

Recognized Division

Training Level Open

Ch. Lee Thome/Ladarius 72.279
Res. Leah Majkrzak/Cristal 68.409

Training Level Adult Amateur

Ch. Jennifer Moyne/Ephraim 71.197
Res. Cynthia Skorich/Patriot 64.772
3. Yr Johannsdottir/Ricardo 64.697

Training Level Jr./Yg Rider

Ch. Isabel Linder/Blanca 70.606
Res. Leia Ferber/Ossborne 69.064
3. Cara Richards/Breo 65.227

First Level Open

Ch. Leah Majkrzak/Freedom Hit 66.841
Res. Leah Majkrzak/Cristal 66.369

First Level Adult Amateur

Ch. Elizabeth Ketterer/Taavi 69.586
Res. Michelle Davidge/Faisca SW 63.236
3. Bonnie Gorichan/Zamara 61.883
4. Jessica Hanney/Anastasia of KHA 61.569

First Level Jr./Yg Rider

Ch. Isabel Linder/Blanca 65.142
Res. Leia Ferber/Ossborne 62.647

Second Level Open

Ch. Lee Thome/Cronos de Medi 65.165

Second Level Adult Amateur

Ch. Elizabeth Ketterer/Taavi 67.714
Res. Michelle Davidge/Faisca SW 63.902

3. Carol Peterson/Troyano XI 61.393
4. Shannon Dempich/Paprika 61.021

Third Level Open

Ch. Janelle Deisig/Liebchen HH 68.912
Res. Barbra Reis/Vodena 63.640
3. Kimberly Robbins/Memoire 61.988
4. Barbara Sudomier/Kelley Little Step 61.321

Third Level Adult Amateur

Ch. Linden Thompson/N'Tempo SSH1 66.923
Res. Cynthia DeRousie/Kurt Ali Khan 63.994

Fourth Level Open

Ch. Leah Majkrzak/De Luxe Edition
Res. Kimberly Robbins/Memoire 60.571

Fourth Level Adult Amateur

Ch. Kelly Levasseur/Luminus 65.667

Fourth Level Jr./Yg Rider

Ch. Grace Frazee/Ripito 63.407

Prix St. Georges Adult Amateur

Ch. Kelly Levasseur/Luminus 58.823

Prix St. Georges Jr./Yg Rider

Ch. Grace Sacoman/Leonardo 68.088
Res. Grace Frazee/Ripito 63.362

Intermediate I Open

Marie Domke-DeWitt/Farsiris 63.088

Intermediate II Open

Ch. Isabel Linder/Satino 61.103

Grand Prix Open

Ch. Janelle Deisig/Mendelsohn 67.935

Freestyle Training thru Fourth Level

Ch. Stephanie Mussman/Siglavy Aga 72.034
Res. Barbra Reis/Sonnentag FGF 66.400
3. Barbra Reis/Vodena 65.100
4. Phyllis Walsh/Stone of Fire+ 64.350
5. Cynthia DeRousie/Kurt Ali Khan 61.417

FEI Freestyle

Ch. Stephanie Mussman/Siglavy Aga 66.521

(I1)

Res. Stephanie Mussman/Siglavy Aga 65.458

(GP)

Save The Date!!!



***The MDA is proud to present the Goal Setting Workshop with
Mental Performance Coach Lindy Thompson, M.Sc.***

***Saturday January 19 from 1:00-2:30pm at Full Circle Farm, 5180 Grange Hall Rd.,
Holly, Michigan 48442***

Join us for an afternoon of basic goal-setting to assist in your progression and satisfaction as a Dressage Rider. We'll discuss building your S.M.A.R.T goals that will create a roadmap for your 2019 dressage education, training, and competition. Achievement is necessary for satisfaction, enjoyment and overall success. You will leave with a solid set of goals and a better understanding of why goal-setting is an important piece to your Dressage career. This workshop is great for riders of all levels and ages.

**Contact Cheryl Figures at
Cfigs2001@yahoo.com
to reserve your spot!**

Classifieds...

Horses for Sale or Lease –

Several experienced dressage horses available for partial or full lease at Brilliant Reflection Farm in Ortonville, MI. Contact us for more information at blondmane@yahoo.com or 248-670-9031.
<http://www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com/horses-available-for-lease.html>

Employment/Working Student

Visual Equestrian Dressage LLC and Tonya Grant have an amazing opportunity open. We are looking for a dedicated local horse lover who aspires to become a professional someday. We have a full-time working student position currently open. Must have transportation, riding clothes, and a very good work ethic. Opportunity to show and travel and lots of opportunity to ride. Must be hard-working and willing to do a lot of grooming in exchange for riding. Applications will be accepted by email or phone.

Riding interviews open in April.

Visual Equestrian Dressage LLC - www.visualequestrian.com

Tonya Grant (248) 219-0410





Stable Listings-

Allison McKenzie Sporthorses

Training, Lessons, Breeding, Boarding

Manchester, MI 48158

amsporthorses@yahoo.com

www.allisonmckenziezsporthorses.com

734- 276-8967

Lessons, Boarding, Breeding, Sales

Brilliant Reflection Farm

Brian and Barbra Reis

Ortonville, MI 48462

248-670-9031

blondmane@yahoo.com

www.brilliantreflectionfarm.com

Lessons, Boarding, Rehab, Schooling Shows

High Point Farm

Alison Allen

Oxford, MI

248-410-0684

www.highpointdressage.com

All day turnout and quality feed

Stalls cleaned daily

Lesson plans available

Deisig Dressage

Janelle Deisig

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

989-598-6850

Janelledeisig@yahoo.com

www.deisigdressage.com

Dressage training, sales, trailer-in lessons

Sky High Farm

Lapeer, MI 48446

248-890-2426

The Levy Farm

Shawn Ozker Ragsdale

Metamora, MI 48455

jenmaull@yahoo.com

248-318-0725

Boarding, Lessons, Clinics

Training, Lessons, Clinics

<http://skyhighfarm.vpweb.com>

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Visual Equestrian LLC

Carole and Tonya Grant

Fenton, MI 48430

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Boarding, Training, Clinics with

International Trainers, Home to Mid-Michigan

Dressage Shows.

******In order to have your facility listed in the newsletter, please email Allison at amsporthorses@yahoo.com You MUST be an MDA member to have your facility listed!***

******Our January 2019 will have a complete calendar for the year, including clinic and show dates.******

