



Editor's Notes...

Whether you like it or not, the holidays are over and another Michigan winter has us in its unrelenting grip. As I sit here writing this there are five inches snow out my window and it is a balmy 14 degrees. Unlike many of my fellow trainers I am not in a position to make the yearly pilgrimage down south to train and show. Instead I stay here and count how many shades of blue my lips can turn in a 30-minute time frame (so far I'm up to three but the season is still young!) There is however a certain satisfaction that comes when I spend a cold day trudging through the snow, carrying the weight of 50 pounds of clothing, taking care of my equine friends. The work I put in to make sure each horse has warm water to drink, fresh hay and warm blankets is hard! But at the end of the day, which this time of year comes far too soon, when I hear the horses happily munching and quietly stirring in their stalls or paddocks, there is nothing I find quite so peaceful. There are of course drawbacks! When one is wearing 50 pounds of clothing just to stay warm going to the bathroom becomes a test of intestinal fortitude and will. And usually the absence of a handy tissue means that one's sleeve becomes the recipient of numerous facial fluids. The cold also means that while turning out, horses magically turn into kites on the ends of lead ropes and that while riding they give new meaning to fire breathing dragon. But nonetheless, I love winter – I love the snow, I love warm sweaters and I love snuggling with my pony on a cold winters night.

So from my farm to yours, I wish you nothing but warm toes, toasty blankets and beautiful and peaceful rides in the snow. And for your viewing pleasure I happily give you a day in my snowy life!



Warm – yet completely immobile...the human version.



Warm – yet completely immobile...the equine version.

Welcome to the Board!!!

The Midwest Dressage Association was happy to officially install our newest board members at the annual general membership meeting on December 10. Lindy Thompson, Sarah Randolph, and Donna Zaiki were voted onto the board and Will Davis was also welcomed back and shall retain the presidency. New officers were voted on and are as follows:

President: Will Davis
Vice-President: Nancy Bryant
Secretary: Cheryl Figures
Treasurer: Pam Morrison

Committee Chairs:
Education: Tonya Grant
Newsletter: Allison McKenzie
Awards: Beth Schaub
Membership: Nancy Bryant
Product Sales: Nancy Bryant
Historian: Will Davis

Member At Large: Lisa Machala

The committee chairs for the year-end banquet, nominations, and professional advisory will be discussed at the next board meeting. Also, Lisa Machala has generously offered to still maintain the MDA website and Facebook page.

Congratulations to all!



Illustration by Hawk
www.equestrianpress.com/online/214670985

DID YOU KNOW?
THE UNITED STATES
EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
IS NOW US EQUESTRIAN

NEED A GIFT IDEA?

A MDA membership or renewal makes a great gift idea for the Dressage enthusiast in your life! They make great gifts for trainers, students and spouses. Check out the MDA website for more info!!!

The Annual MDA Banquet a HUGE Success!!!

The year-end banquet for the Midwest Dressage Association was once again a great success. Organized by Denise Gentile and her committee, the MDA once again gathered at the Addison Oaks Country Club in Leonard, Michigan to enjoy fantastic food, a wonderful speaker, and good friends. As usual, Beth Schaub, chair of the Awards committee, went above and beyond in providing beautiful awards and ribbons. A list of the winners is as follows:

MDA Hall of Fame –

Carole P. Grant

Jean Brown Memorial Award –

Linden Thompson

Vi Hopkins Memorial Trophy-

Ingrid Baranski/No One Better 72.261%

Rosemary Herman Memorial Award-

Marie Domke-DeWitt/Blondes Hijinx Training Level 66.841%

Sonnet Award –

Linden Thompson/N'Tempo SSH1 Second Level 70.610%

Encore Award –

Mykal Roth riding Call Me Carmello

MDA Lifetime Membership-

Dallas Bradbury

Schooling Show Awards

Intro. Level Open-

Champion – Mykal Roth and Maaïke Dieuwke De Feys

Reserve – Kimberly Robbins and Bucephalus

3 – Barbara Moss and Pretty Penny

4 – Monique Molnar-Bates and Go Wheeler Go

Intro. Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Amy Hanney and Cheri Lynn Rose CCH

Reserve – Deborah Postiff and Pony Pants

Intro. Jr./Young Rider

Champion – Jillian Blocker and Featured Presentation

Reserve – Mallory Thompson and Beamer

3 – Sophia Kwiatkowski and Beamer

Training Level Open-

Champion – Marie Domke-DeWitt and Blondes Hijinx

Reserve – Cindy Cook and Thys W

3 – Marie Domke-DeWitt and Immortal Fury

4 – Monique Molnar-Bates and Irish Blessing

Training Level Open Adult Amateur-

Champion – Alyssa Olson and Hamilton

Reserve – Jennifer Moyne and Ephraim

3 - Kriste Fraser and Nando K

4 – Cindy Rushbrook and Sanilac Star

5 – Erin Miles and Bling

Training Level Jr./Young Rider

Champion – Kalin MacQueen and Smashing Lad

Reserve – McKenna Marody and Romeo

3 – Cara Richards and Brio

4 – Jordan Montgomery and Enterprise Opie

5 – Hannah Kane and Quantico

First Level Open –

Champion – Kimberly Robbins and Catcha Smooth Jet

Reserve – Andrew Figures and Padi's Granite Partner

3 – Kim Nobel and Extra Blazin Lad

4 – Barbra Reis and Vodena

5 – Andrea Kavanaugh and Kavy Klein

First Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Valerie Boatman and MSU Superstitious+

Reserve – Colleen Doyle and Sam I Am

3 – Sally Baker and Quirks and Foibles

4 – Bonnie Gorichan and Zamara

First Level Jr./Young Rider

Champion – Carissa Carpenter and Treasury Renewal
Reserve – Rebecca Tazzia and Rainyday Grand Illusion

Second Level Open –

Champion – Barbra Reis and Vodena
Reserve – Mykal Roth and Call Me Carmello
3 – Haley Barrett and Zalsa
4 – Valerie Boatman and MSU Superstitious+
5 – Tracy Engbloom and Isabella

Recognized Show Awards

Training Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Ingrid Baranski and No One Better
Reserve – Karen Bartholomew and Denaly
3 – Jennifer Moyne and Ephraim
4 – Lisa Pinkos-Howle and Leonardo B
5 – Jessica Hanney and Anastasia of KHA
6 – Amy Hanney and Cheri Lynn Rose

Training Jr./Young Rider –

Champion – Addison Groe and Flying Dutchman

First Level Open –

Champion – Lee Thome and Cronos de Medi
Reserve – Tonya Grant and Farica

First Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Carol J. Peterson and Troyano XI
Reserve – Hilary Clayton and Donzi MC
3 – Valerie Boatman and MSU Superstitious+
4 – Shari Wolke and Eileen

First Level Jr./Young Rider –

Champion – Carissa Carpenter and Treasury Renewal

Second Level Open –

Champion – Lee Thome and My Fling
Reserve – Janelle Deisig and Liebchen HH

Second Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Linden Thompson and N'Tempo SSH1
Reserve – Hilary Clayton and Donzi MC
3 – Valerie Boatman and MSU Superstitious+
4 – Jennifer Maull and Danielle
5 – Haley Barrett and Zalsa

Third Level Open

Champion – Jill Berryman and Celestina HP
Reserve – Barbra Reis and Vodena

Third Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Kelly Levasseur and Luminus
Reserve – Haley Barrett and Zalsa

Third Level Jr./Young Rider

Champion – Erin Boensch and Lord's Country Legacy

Fourth Level Open –

Champion – Jamie Schmitt and Silverado

Fourth Level Adult Amateur –

Champion – Michelle Conrad and Cadiz

Fourth Level Jr./Young Rider –

Champion – Erin Boensch and Lord's Country Legacy

Prix St. George Open –

Champion – Tonya Grant and Granaimo V
Reserve – Tonya Grant and Nord la Devesas

Prix St. George Adult Amateur –

Champion – Martha Vout and Pik Phigaro

Intermediate I Open –

Champion – Tonya Grant and Nord la Devesas
Reserve – Tonya Grant and Granaimo V

Intermediate II Open –

Champion – Stephanie Mussmann and Siglavy Aga

Grand Prix Open –

Champion – Marie Domke-DeWitt and Adear
Reserve – Stephanie Mussmann and Siglavý
Aga

Freestyle First-Fourth Level Open –

Champion – Valerie Boatman and MSU
Superstitious+
Reserve – Barbra Reis and Vodena
3 – Jennifer Maull and Danielle

FEI Freestyle Open –

Champion – Tonya Grant and Granaimo V



Tonya Grant had quite a 2017 show season!



Deborah Postiff poses with her Reserve Champion Ribbon.

The USDF Annual Convention: A Report...

In November the MDA Board assigned Tonya Grant the task of attending the USDF National Convention as its representative. Tonya returned with a wealth of information and happily shared it with us.

With so many lectures and forums it was impossible to get to them all. I was amazed at how many committees there were and the sheer number of people involved as volunteers. The Region 2 committee talked about such topics as footing, lunging stations, camping accommodations and more information being available on show entries so participants can be better prepared for each venue. Michigan trainer Roz Kinsler had a good suggestion for show managers to post in the prize list any deficits the show may be having, such as no lunging station or no schooling in any ring until show is over due to space restrictions etc.

It was great to hear from the judges on the format of the freestyles. They discussed how hard it can be to judge a freestyle and changes that are being made to test score sheets to make it easier for judges and scribes. It is the competitors' responsibility to know the rules and keep up on them as they change often. It was stressed that competitors must know what to do if, for example, there is a music failure due to a scratch on the CD or there is a problem with the speakers. Janet Foy answered this question and more. She said if you are not at the very end of your freestyle you are to stop if it happens in the ring. Put your hand up and go to the judge's booth and let them know what happened. Then they will try and fix it. You will most likely have to start all over but the score you received before music failure will stay the same. The judge will pick up where you stopped with scoring.

Show venues need a good sound system but this is not regulated so you really need to know the system and pay attention at sound check. Judges ask that you don't just listen from center of ring but rather from the judge's location or locations. They do not like the music too loud. We may get a rule change at some point that music is to be given in a computer format rather than a CD, but for now it has to be a CD and you must bring two CDs. Sound levels need to be balanced before music is sent as most sound systems at shows are not good enough to handle major changes. If your music fails at the end of the test judges will usually want you to just get scored and not do the test all over again. If you think you did something right and the judge penalized you for it, you may go talk to the judge and/or the TD. Gary Rockwell said music mishaps do happen all over the world so be prepared. FEI rules state now you must also hand in your choreography on paper with your CD. He sees a lot of freestyles that have choreography that is not correct for the level. Judges are collaborating with each other to try and make a format that helps judges score more consistently for freestyles across the board. Another great suggestion for freestyle classes was to always know where the speakers are at a show in relation to the judges stand. The rider now has 30 seconds rather than 20 seconds to enter after the music has begun in a freestyle, keeping consistent with FEI rules. Juniors and young riders in 2019 will need a 65% in a freestyle to qualify for regional final instead of a 60%. This rule was made because the standard score of a winning horse has gone up tremendously.

Gary would like to see the GMOs do more education on what judges really do and what their job is like so they have a better understanding of why they get the scores they get. A judge should have a consistent judging standard not higher at schooling shows for example. Lack of panel judges is not good for this country in his opinion.

He would also like to see a panel for young horse classes even at national shows. For the FEI levels effective immediately, judges score sheets will not have all the collective marks they will only keep the "rider" score for position and use of aids. There is an international rule that if there is a 5-7 % difference in scoring it is required for the panel of judges to discuss it and possibly change the score.

As far as technical rules remember these things:

- You should be able to fit 2 fingers under your horses' noseband
- The rider has 45 seconds for all classes to enter the ring after the bell rings, except in freestyles in which it's 30 seconds after the music starts. The rider does have 45 seconds in a freestyle after the bell has rung to raise his hand for the music.
- No blood can be seen on the horse during or after a test.
- No upside-down spurs (judges do see this especially on juniors!)
- No speaking from outside the ring to someone in the ring.
- If anyone does a movement higher than their level in a freestyle they will have deductions.

The USDF is proposing a panel of judges at national shows rather than just one. The problem is cost. When a rider has multiple judges, your score will be different

Issues pertaining to the "L" program were also discussed:

Our GMO can receive \$800 in grant money per session of an "L" program or \$2000 a year for the "L" program so having this included in our MDA clinics would be very beneficial.

"L" program graduates must complete the safe sport education and test.

There will not be huge changes to the 2019 test changes. They are still working on it. We will now have adult equitation in 2018 which can

qualify for regionals with a score of 70% or higher. If an adult qualifies for regionals for any other level they can automatically ride in the adult equitation at regionals. Adults can ride stallions and must know the specific patterns for regionals that could be asked of them.

The Trainers Meeting with Lilo Fore was extremely helpful. She explained how hard it is to find stables and horses to do workshops at and test horses for the different trainer certificates. They are working on approving an FEI trainers certificate now. Owners and trainers need to be open to helping in this effort to better our young trainers and make sure people are training using the correct training scale.

The USDF is dependent on GMOs to get people into this program. There will be funding for GMOs to have these workshops. The application for this is on the USDF website.

There are also individual grants for individuals to participate. There are two deadlines per year for those grants. Lilo is hoping next year grants will get approved for youth programs as well. There was also talk about doing an RHA heart saver aid certificate.

If you are interested in providing a stable and use of some qualified horses for the trainers' workshops and testing please contact the MDA or your local GMO.

Ken Levy talked about proper use of the Region 2 Facebook page. He does not want any horse sales on the page. Rather, it is to post clinics and other educational events. Instead of reposting multiple times he asked that people simply ask people to like or share a post.

The Regional Director position for the USDF is open for 2019. Nominations are now open for regional director in Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8.

Ken is proposing juniors and young riders be split by age for all levels. We now have adults separated from Open and juniors so amateurs can enter the adult division for all levels rather than have to do the open.

GMO Meeting:

Skype or other means for meetings with board of directors that are far away is a good way to add more committees and get more done. Suggestions to increase MDA members were discussed. Awards are a good way to increase volunteers and overall membership. The web-based Sign-up Genius was brought up and how it can meet different needs. Also, the use of volunteers to help the profitability of a show was discussed. Another fantastic idea was to have directors stay on a year after their term is over to train new directors.

Board of Governors meeting second day:

A new plan approved in the spring of 2018 means that the USDF will now be recognized and trusted as the official source for quality in dressage recognition and achievements. This will for the first time it will be recognized on paper. It was noted that Annett Sexton's trust donated 2.2 million to the USDF in 2017. Christine Traurig, who was our bronze medalist for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, is now in charge of the young horse program for the USDF.

Robert Dover noted that the USDF's goal is to expand scouting events across the United States. Robert covered all aspects of care of the team horses. He did not mention a blacksmith but did mention that the US team vet is extremely important to the performance of our team horses. Robert laid out a plan which starts at the grass roots, then on to scouting events, and then on to getting grants and funding for Olympic hopefuls around the country. There is hope for young riders with a

hunger for top competition and Robert and his team are working on ways to fundraise. Robert will be in his last year as the US team coach in 2018. He has been one of the biggest fundraisers for the US Team in history. Anyone who is good at fundraising and wants to see talented dressage riders and horses receive some funding to continue on the road to international events please contact Robert Dover or the USDF to get involved.

The USDF president George Williams mentioned making a new and deeper focus on Para teams for the US.

Rule changes proposals:

-Dressage competitions are now recognizing anyone who witnesses cruelty to a horse and does not report it as being at fault. If a show manager witnesses it and does not report it they will also be held at fault under the new USDF rule.

-Safe Sport class and testing will be a requirement for all coaches and trainers who want to sign their students' entries.

-Dressage judges will no longer judge Western dressage. A judge would have to be a Western dressage credited judge.

-FEI rule change: Riding with one hand can only be used in a freestyle. If a rider takes the reins in one hand in any other class there will be a penalty.

-There will now be a dress code for all the young horse classes as well as junior tests and Four through 7-year-old-tests effective on 1/01/2018:

1. The coat Grand Prix freestyle cannot be striped anymore
2. USDF is seeking a jury to judge the 7-year-old test as many judges feel that if

a panel discussed each horse better judging would occur.

3. In 2019 all owners have to have a USEF and USDF number, so a farm ownership as well as the farms owner have to have a membership number.
4. In 2018 it will be \$15.00 instead of \$10.00 to make a class a qualifier.
5. At Regionals the rule for other riders riding your horse at regionals is a 24-hour rule.
6. At a CDI is 48 hours before the first class and only the show rider may be on that horse.

Hillary Clayton gave a presentation on the horses' spine and Kissing Spine disease.

Hillary found that 3 out of 4 horses with Kissing Spine are painful, however she has not been able to ascertain the history of all the horses she has done an autopsy on. Research needs more horses who are deceased to be given to research with their life history to gain a better understand of Kissing Spine. She explained how a horse has hundreds of pounds pulling down on the spine. If the horse has not been worked properly the pressure on his spine causes sway back.

Carrot stretches have been proven through research to strengthen a horse. She is an advocate of carrot stretches just before tacking up. They should never be forced and always left loose to follow the carrot as best they can. Hold carrot stretches as long as possible with the horse. The best and most common carrot stretches for the dressage horse are the under belly stretch, lateral stretch, and tucking rear SI area with pressure. The best thing I learned from Hillary Clayton was that the spine of the horse literally can only truly bend in the spine which lies just under the saddle which is a much smaller area than I thought. This information truly gave me more understanding

and feeling for lateral work with horses - especially short backed horses and explained why long backed horses find lateral work much easier. With Kissing Spine, the owner or trainer needs to be careful with chiropractic work. Often chiropractic work can be harmful to a horse with Kissing Spine. If you suspect your horse may have Kissing Spine you should always have x-rays taken before you do chiropractic work.

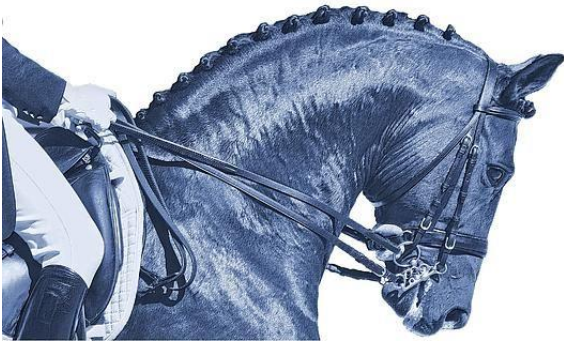
I would highly encourage anyone to attend the USDF convention. It was well worth the money as there is so much information to be had.

Somewhere behind the athlete you have become:

*The coaches who have pushed you.
The people who believed in you.
The long hours of schooling.
The dirt beneath your nails.
The falls you have taken.
The tears you have cried.
The horses you have given your heart to.*

It is the little girl who fell in love with a pony and never looked back.
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Classifieds...

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Tack/Equipment - Schleese Air Wave 2008 saddle for sale. 17.5-inch seat. This saddle has only been adjusted by Schleese saddle fitters. Pictures are available, just email me at metaphor929@gmail.com. Asking \$2700.00 plus shipping. I am willing to meet buyer; to avoid shipping costs, within a 50- mile radius of Oxford, MI. Pam Wrona 316-680-9730

Tack/Equipment - 78" Horze black blanket, 1200 denier shell, 400gm fill worn 3 days \$ 85
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Thank you for your support!