



January 2010

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2011 NDA Board

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2011 NDA BOARD ELECTED

On November 6th, at the Quarry Oaks Golf Club, the 2011 Board of Directors and officers were elected. Heidi Helmer, Felice Rose, and Donna Michelson were each elected to three-year terms. Casey Blum was elected to the board as the Junior/Young Rider representative for a one-year term.

Your officers include Sydney Ash as President, Lisa VanStratten as Vice-President, Heidi Helmer as Secretary, and Diana Spaulding continues as Treasurer.

The Board has many plans for the upcoming year. First and foremost is improved communication with you. Process improvement for year-end awards, new educational opportunities, schooling show series/championships, and our recognized shows, the Cornhusker Classic I & II, round out the plans for 2011.

The Board would like to hear from you, so in the upcoming months, you may receive surveys and questionnaires — all geared towards improving NDA and giving you what you want. Help the Board serve you by responding.

2010 NDA Awards Update

As many already know, some 2010 award score reporting forms were misplaced and not included in the year-end awards calculations. The NDA board would like to extend an apology to those who sent in the forms on-time and were not recognized at the banquet. The board is working diligently to correct this problem and to ensure it is not repeated. The results will be posted as soon as possible.

SAVE THE DATE!!

The Shaggy Show I & II
Lancaster Event Center
April 2 - 3

Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show
Lancaster Event Center
May 20

Cornhusker Classic I & II
Lancaster Event Center
May 21 - 22

Lincoln Equestrian Center Schooling Show
Lincoln Equestrian Center
June 25

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER :

Happy New Year NDA Members!

As we enter a new year I thought it was the perfect time for me to take this opportunity to outline what I hope 2011 holds for NDA and NDA's members (new and existing). As newly elected president, my big overreaching goal this year is to make huge strides in increasing communication between NDA and its members. To jump start that goal you will be seeing an article titled "The President's Corner" in every Contact. My goal for the article is to give members a quick overview of anything noteworthy that occurred in the prior month or anything occurring in the months ahead. I also will be including reminders about important events coming up or approaching deadlines. Also in line with my goal the NDA website is going through an overhaul, which will hopefully include a more user friendly layout, more up to date information and (fingers crossed) a function to allow members to electronically submit items needed (i.e. score reports, volunteer forms, etc.). I will keep everyone updated as we progress with that website update. Finally, the board is making huge strides in making sure the Contact comes out at a specific time each month. Suzanne Eggert has taken over as Editor and please feel free to contact her with any article ideas or other helpful suggestions.

I look forward to my term as president and please don't hesitate to contact me at sydneypageash@hotmail.com with any ideas, suggestions, complaints or comments.

Thank you!

Sydney Ash
NDA President

The *Contact* deadline is the **10th** of the month prior to the month of publication.

SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED FROM ALL NDA MEMBERS.

Contact the Editor at:
halfhalt2006@yahoo.com

Please submit ads via email in plain text (.txt) or Word (.doc). display ads may be submitted as pdfs. All ads must be submitted to the Contact editor with a check to NDA.

Contact Advertising:

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5508 Hunts Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68512
halfhalt2006@yahoo.com

2010 USDF Annual Convention and Award Banquet

By Lisa Van Stratten

For an early Christmas gift, Dallas and I attended the USDF Award Banquet in Jacksonville, Florida, December 3, 2010. We had not been to Jacksonville before and found it a beautiful venue. Because Dallas is still in school, we did not arrive until the Friday afternoon, which was the day of the banquet. We stayed at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront where the convention and banquet were held. It was a cool 60 degrees but that was much warmer than Nebraska. The actual convention had already begun December 1st. By the time we arrived, we had time to check out the facility, check in at the USDF registration desk, and do a little shopping at the vendor booths. The rest of the afternoon Dallas used to get ready.

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NDA MEMBERS' 2010 USDF YEAR END AWARDS

USDF Rider Awards	Horse	Score	Rider	Place
JR/YR I-1	Belladiva	69.474	Kristina Wang	1
Jr/YR Training Level	Vainqueur E	70.800	Dallas Van Stratten	3

USDF Horse of the Year

Training Level	Vainqueur E	70.800	Dallas Van Stratten	49
Training Level	Orlando	70.600	Jami Kment	58
Training Level	Catullus	64.465	Nancy Dostal	371
First Level	Celebrity	68.448	Kristin Feese	84
2nd level	Chivalry	70.930	Jami Kment	4
2nd level	Zania	70.584	Jami Kment	5
I-1	Belladiva	69.474	Kristina Wang	8
Musical Freestyle I-1	Belladiva	73.250	Kristina Wang	4
Musical Freestyle Chllg.	Belladiva	70.984	Kristina Wang	4

All Breeds

KWPN

Jr/YR Training Level	Vainqueur E	70.800	Dallas Van Stratten	1
Open Training Level	Vainqueur E	70.800	Dallas Van Stratten	3
2nd level	Zania	70.584	Jami Kment	1

American Holsteiner Horse Assoc.

Training Level	Catullus	64.465	Nancy Dostal	3
2nd level	Chivalry	70.930	Jami Kment	1

Lipizzaner Federation of America

Musical Freestyle	Belladiva	73.250	Kristina Wang	1
JR/YR I-1	Belladiva	69.474	Kristina Wang	1
Open I-1	Belladiva	69.474	Kristina Wang	1

Rider Medals

Bronze Medal	Casey Blum
Bronze Medal	Samantha Kenik

NDA TRAINER TIP

This month's Trainer: Felice Rose

I have found that downward transitions are most difficult for many riders. They often lose the rhythm and cadance of the new gait.

Start your transition by making certain that you are centered. Just give it a second or two to think about it. Begin with some light half-halts, preferably with the outside rein. Use leg and seat aids to improve engagement...think of riding up a small hill. Use very light rein aids. More like a give and take fixed hand. Ride forward into the downward transition maintaining rhythm and tempo of that gait. Think of your own balance and centering with the new movement.

NDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2010

President Gillian Howell called the September meeting to order at Parker's in Ashland at 6:40 p.m.

Board Members Present: Gillian Howell, Diana Spaulding, Karen Stricklett, Amy Blum, Casey Blum and Lisa Van Stratten

Board Members Absent: Loye Jaeger and Sydney Ash
NDA Members Present: None

Lisa moved to approve the August Board Meeting Minutes with one correction; Diana seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President: Gillian announced that Nancy Dostal has resigned from the Board due to conflicts with her work schedule. We want to thank her for her participation on the Board and we accept her resignation. Gillian announced that she has also met with a representative of the Dressage Foundation and discussed NDA's interest in working more closely with them in the upcoming months.

Vice President: No report

Treasurer: Diana presented the Treasurer's Report as of September 20, 2010. The balance in the Main Account was reported to be \$11,277.46. The balance in the Show Account was reported to be \$4,705.39. Total amount was \$15,982.85. Amy moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Casey seconded. Motion carried. Diana noted that we need to add another official representative to our main checking account. She is the only approved member who can sign at this time.

Secretary: No report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Membership: There were no new members this past month. Karen is gearing up for the 2011 membership campaign. The new membership form will go out in either a blast e-mail or by snail mail (courtesy of Stricklett and Associates) toward the end of October. There will be a deadline of November 12th for renewals as the updated roster is due in the USDF office by no later than 11/30/10. Karen has asked that a member-

ship "renewal" table be made available at the Banquet. Lisa presented the Proposed 2010 Budget analysis and her summary of expenses and income for 2009 (spending history). Lisa also prepared a flow chart of Board positions, officer positions and committee groupings for review. Lisa and Karen agreed to serve on the "nominating committee" for the upcoming banquet and will be calling members to solicit more active participation in NDA. Based upon a review of the Budget, the proposed increase in dues for 2011 was presented to the Board: Individual - \$40; Junior Individual/Pony Club/4-H - \$30; Family - \$60 with each additional (besides P and S)- \$20. Membership fees will include online subscription to the newsletter. If member wishes to receive newsletter via mail, a subscription fee of \$15 will be charged. Announcement regarding 2011 dues increase will be posted on line and published the Contact. Lisa moved to approve the dues increase as noted; Casey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Competitions: Gillian reported on behalf of this committee. Due to Tracie Wang's resignation, a replacement is needed. Mike Smith has agreed to serve as Manager of the Cornhusker Classis I and II in 2011; Amy Blum has agreed to serve as Assistant Manager. Gillian has also agreed to continue to serve on the Competitions Committee for 2011. The need for a volunteer coordinator was discussed. Lisa and Karen agreed to assist in bringing more members into committee positions; it was suggested that a Board member serve on each committee but not "be" the committee.

Awards: As noted in the prior minutes, Julie Hutfless Fowler will be handling awards at the Banquet again this year. This will be her last year, however, so a replacement for 2011 will be needed. Trophy options for the Lowell Boomer Jr/YR High Point Trophy that will be awarded at the Cornhusker Classic were shared. This would be awarded to an NDA member for any test (Training Level through Grand Prix) on any day of Classic Show. Gillian is also considering

donating an Adult Amateur Vintage Award on behalf of her partner, Maple. This trophy will be a year end award for 2011. Details to follow.

Communications: No report.

Publicity: No report

Fund Raising: Heidi Helmer will be soliciting donations for the Annual Banquet Silent Auction. She has agreed to serve in this capacity for this year's banquet once again. Thank you Heidi!

Equipment Management: No report.

JR/YR: Casey has several ideas for Junior Young Riders this coming year. She is currently soliciting ideas for articles about other Juniors to be published in the Contact. She is also attempting to re-vamp the NDA Facebook page to encourage more interest/participation on behalf of other juniors/young riders.

Education: No report. Still waiting to receive final numbers from Molly Pearson regarding the Trot to Tunes Clinic. The need for an official Education Committee was again discussed. Karen agreed to serve on the Education Committee in 2011 but will not agree to serving as the Chairperson. She will solicit help and/or ideas from the membership over the next few weeks.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Lisa moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Diana seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen L. Stricklett
NDA Secretary

October 12, 2010

President Gillian Howell called the October meeting to order at Parker's in Ashland at 6:55 p.m.

Board Members Present: Gillian Howell, Diana Spaulding, Karen Stricklett, Amy Blum, Casey Blum, Loye Jaeger, Sydney Ash and Lisa Van Stratten

Board Members Absent: None

NDA Members Present: Suzanne Eggert

Loye moved to approve the September Board Meeting Minutes with two corrections; Casey seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President: Gillian reported that she is working with the Iowa dressage organization to develop an agreement wherein members from each organization (Nebraska and Iowa) can participate in each others' Schooling Shows and qualify for yearend awards. The issue of fees was brought up and it was agreed to table this discussion until Gillian had determined whether Iowa charges for Schooling Show recognition and, if so, how much. NDA currently charges \$25.00 for schooling show recognition.

Vice President: Sydney reported that the banquet theme will be the Kentucky Derby. Heidi Helmer will be handling the Silent Auction again this year and Suzanne Eggert will be assisting her. Election ballots will be handed out and there will be space for write in candidates. The dinner will be buffet style. Set up will begin at 4:30 PM. Suzanne Eggert agreed to be in charge of the Nominating Committee.

Treasurer: Diana presented the Treasurer's Report as of October 12, 2010. The balance in the Main Account was reported to be \$11,278.36. The balance in the Show Account was reported to be \$4,705.70. Total amount was \$15,984.06. Sydney moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Loye seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary: No report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Membership: Karen and Donna Michelson will be in charge of the Membership renewal table at the Banquet. Forms for 2011 will be on hand.

NDA Board Meeting Shedule
January 10, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Parker's Rib Ranch
Ashland

Competitions: It was decided that the Schooling Show Championships will take place the third weekend in September (September 17, 2011). Details to follow.

Awards: Sydney reported on behalf of Julie Hutfless Fowler. All perpetual trophies will need to be returned to Sydney and she will make certain that they get to Julie in time for engraving prior to the banquet. Amy asked that the Lowell Boomer perpetual trophy be presented at the banquet this year as an introduction to this special award. Casey moved that the award be presented at the banquet; Loye seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Communications: No report

Publicity: Loye is looking into the possibility of holding a show in conjunction with the Nebraska State Games. She is also working on plans for the March 2011 Horse Expo in Lincoln.

Fund Raising: Heidi Helmer and Suzanne Eggert are working on the Silent Auction donations. The Board members were reminded that they should each donate an item for the Silent Auction.

Equipment Management: The NDA trailer with equipment is located at Cheri Harker's facility in Lincoln (the Lincoln Equestrian Center). It was suggested that Molly and Cade Pearson be placed in charge of arena set up at the CC I and CC II next year.

JR/YR: Casey moved that a "special" JR/YR committee be formed until the bylaws could be changed to establish the JR/YR as a standing committee with NDA. Amy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Education: The Education Committee next year will include Karen Stricklett, Jonis Agee and Diana Hopkins. Other NDA members are encouraged to participate and share their ideas for educational offerings in 2011. Amy suggested that Emily Wagner be contacted to ask if she would be interested in providing a clinic/workshop in this area.

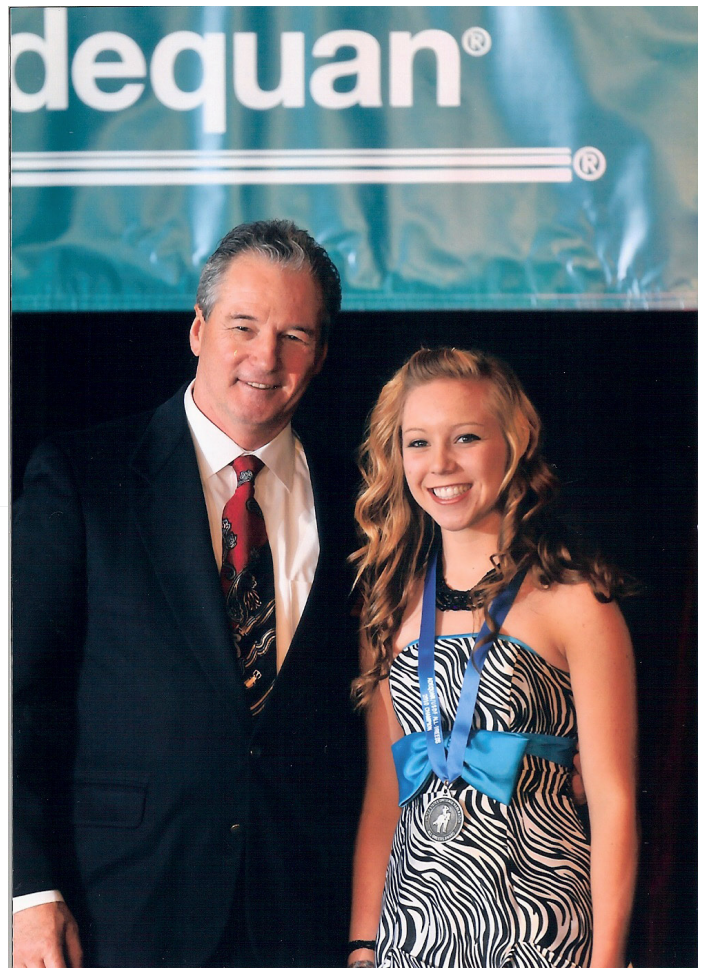
OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Gillian agreed to serve on the special Bylaws committee designed to revisit the Bylaws for 2011. One of Gillian's first orders of business will be to recommend that NDA make the JR/YR special

committee a standing committee. It was also recommended that a committee be established for the purpose of developing scholarships and grants. Loye moved that a special Bylaws committee be established to review the current Bylaws and propose necessary changes; Casey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Lisa moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Diana seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen L. Stricklett
NDA Secretary 2010



USDF Executive Director Stephan Hienzsch and Dallas VanStratten at the 2010 USDF Convention..

Photo by: DanHarrisPhotoArt.com

The Grand Ballroom was the place to be for the Annual Awards Banquet. It was beautifully decorated. Each table had a top hat with a vase of flowers on top of the hat. The awards process is fine tuned. There were big screens on both sides of the stage. As the banquet progressed, the big screens would provide which awards would be given next, queuing the recipients to line up behind the stage. It worked flawlessly. We had a fabulous meal while we listened to the award presentations.

The program started out with George Williams awarding the Volunteer of the Year Awards as well as the Lifetime Achievement Awards. Then came the Rider Awards. The entire Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist, as well as the Freestyle Bar recipients lined up and received their honors. I was surprised how many riders had earned multiple medals. Next came the Perpetual Trophies which included Ravel as the Grand Prix Horse of the Year. There was an outstanding video with all the exciting moments Steffen Peters and Ravel had over the past year. Akiko Yamazaki who owns Ravel accepted the award and gave a wonderful speech about the accomplishments over the past year and thanked all the members of "Team Ravel", which is quite the entourage!

Next up was the Breeder Awards, Horse of the Year Awards for each level, the Dover Saddlery Medal Program, Vintage Cup, Junior/Young Rider Awards by level, Adult Amateur by level, FEI Five and Six Year Old Awards, and Musical Freestyle Awards by level. Dallas placed 3rd overall at the JR/YR Training Level, but only 1st and 2nd place winners are given their awards at the banquet.

The last half of the banquet was the All-Breeds Awards. At this point, USDF Execu-

tive Director Stephan Hienzsch took over the handing out of awards. I had no idea there were so many breeds. Some of the less obvious ones were the American Mule Association, American Mustang & Burro Association, Curly Sporthorse International, Nokota Horse Conservancy, Inc, and Gypsy Horse Association, Inc. Then we got to the Friesians! Here is a rundown: Friesian Heritage Horse and Sport Horse International, Friesian Horse Association of North America, Friesian Horse Society, Inc, Friesian Sporthorse Association, and Friesian Sporthorse Registry. Who knew there were so many for Friesians! Biggest lesson learned during the banquet--there are actually 62 different breed registries that are recognized by USDF! Finally, we reached the KWPN of North America awards, which is the Dutch Warmblood registry. Dallas received a 1st place medal in the Junior/Young Rider Training Level division! It was very exciting!! After a long day of travel and a very long banquet, we had no problem getting to sleep that night.

The next day we did a little shopping then headed to the beach. Dallas is 15 years old after all, and if there is an ocean nearby, she has to stick her feet in it. Jacksonville has some beautiful beaches and ocean front properties. We saw three people on horseback trotting up and down the beach.

We then headed to the Jacksonville Equestrian Center to catch some of the Dressage on the First Coast show which was being held in conjunction with the USDF Symposium. This is also the facility where the new 2011 dressage tests were being debuted during the Symposium. It was a wonderful facility that would seat up to 3,700 in the indoor arena and large 12 x 12 open air stalls outside.

who were on site for the day. We checked out all the horses and admired all the nicely decorated stalls with Christmas décor. There were even Christmas songs playing throughout the barn. We loved looking over all the Poulin Dressage horses. We did not get to see Michael Poulin ride, but did get to see Katherine Poulin compete in the FEI Musical Freestyle Challenge TOC. All of the Freestyles were magnificent. Most of them were performed to Christmas music which made it extra entertaining. Biggest lesson learned during the show—they get prize money!! The riders earn prize money for their classes. The USDF Musical Freestyle Challenge TOC winner was awarded \$500 and the FEI Musical Freestyle Challenge TOC winner was awarded \$1000! 2nd and 3rd place winners received smaller amounts. Coming from Nebraska, we had no idea this was taking place. The last rider of the night went about 7:10 PM, so by the time the show was completed it was getting late and we had an early flight out the next day. We were sad to see the end our trip come so soon.

The flights down and back were uneventful, which is a blessing when you are only going to be gone two and a half days. We had great weather with beautiful clear skies. We met some great people at the banquet and got to see some awesome freestyle rides at the show. If you have the opportunity to attend the convention or banquet I highly recommend it. The annual convention is held to conduct business of the federation and provides networking opportunities and education sessions built for dressage professionals and enthusiasts of all levels. I can't wait to find out where it will be held next year.

Ravel Named Adequan/USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) would like to congratulate the twelve-year-old, 16.3 hand, Dutch Warmblood gelding, Ravel, owned by Akiko Yamazaki of Woodside, California, and ridden by Steffen Peters of San Diego, California, for being named 2010 Adequan/USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year. Ravel's median score of 78.542 percent made him the top horse in the United States competing at this level and the recipient of USDF's highest honor for the second year in a row.

Ravel, represented by owner Akiko Yamazaki, was recognized at the 2010 Adequan/USDF Salute Gala and Annual Awards Banquet with a commemorative personalized plaque, an embroidered cooler and \$400 gift certificate provided by Dressage Extensions, and a gift certificate for Adequan joint therapy. Also, Ravel is the recipient of the Colonel Thackeray Award and will have his name engraved on a silver trophy to be on permanent display in the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame housed at the USDF National Education Center, located at the Kentucky Horse Park.

"We are thrilled to be able to recognize this extraordinary horse for his many accomplishments this competition season, his owner Akiko Yamazaki, his rider Steffen Peters and the entire Ravel team," stated USDF Executive Director Stephan Hienzsich.

For more information about the Adequan/USDF Horse of the Year awards or to access a list of past and current recipients, visit the USDF Web site at www.usdf.org, or contact the USDF office at usdressage@usdf.org.

Press Release/USDF/December 20, 2010

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- A full-page ad in NDA's recognized show programs
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- A half-page ad in the NDA Member Handbook

Bronze Level Sponsor - \$40

- A 1/4-page ad in the NDA newsletter six times per year (sponsor selects months)
- A 1/4-page ad in each of two show programs
- A 1/4-page ad in the NDA Member Handbook

**Please return this portion along with a check made payable to NDA to:
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Please Check Box for Sponsorship Level. More than one may be selected.

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www.nebraskadressage.org

Suzanne Eggert
5508 Hunts Dr.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68512

NDA Sale Barn

ADVERTISING POLICY

SALE BARN ads are free to NDA members and will run for three months unless cancelled sooner. Non-member rate is \$5 per month. Show entry forms or flyers are free to NDA members. Non-members will be charged regular ad rates.

Display ad rates:

Full Page.....	\$50
Half Page.....	\$25
1/4 Page.....	\$10
Business Card.....	\$5

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NDA makes no endorsements or representation in connection with ads placed in the Contact.

Advertising copy should be sent to the Contact editor at halfhalt2006@yahoo.com (electronic copy). Checks, made payable to NDA should be sent to 5508 Hunts Dr., Lincoln, NE 68512.

**Deadline for receipt of advertising copy is the 10th of each month
for the following month's issue of the Contact.**