



# The Contact

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

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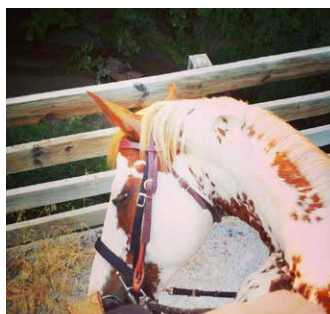
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## Letter from the Editor

As summer comes to a close and the promise of crisp fall trail rides is on the horizon, I sincerely cannot believe how fast this year as gone and that the next newsletter will be the last newsletter of the year. I am happy to tell you all that we have submitted our entries for the 2016 GMO Newsletter Awards and are eagerly awaiting results. This year was a bit of a learning curve for me to figure out what kind of articles to plan for the awards next year. I am excited to spend the next year continuing to learn more about NDA from our incoming board members.

That being said, at the beginning of the year I had not realized that one of the awards called for a member submission article, and could not be written by me. So in the coming year, I would really love to see a few articles from our members, so we have some choices for next year's awards! I want to hear from you: did you have a great show season this year and want to tell us about your journey? Did you overcome an obstacle with your horse that you feel others would benefit from hearing your solution? Did you purchase a new horse this year and want to share your experience of finding your new mount? Any length or subject is fine, and I can edit anything you send, so please don't hesitate to send us a few pieces! Every one of my articles starts with a few paragraphs on a page, usually from one sentence of inspiration.

I would also love to hear your thoughts on the newsletter from this year – what articles have you liked and want more things like it? Are there things in the newsletter you skip over and I should start skipping too? This is a member newsletter, and I want to hear your thoughts!



**Michaela Schieffer**  
*NDA Editor*  
 newsletter@nebraskadressage.org

- **Do you love NDA?**
- **Do you have a passion for helping your community?**
- **Do you have suggestions and ideas for making our horse shows, educational events, and dressage community even better?**

## **Then you should consider running for the 2017 NDA Board of Directors!**

We'd love to have you! Every year, we elect at least three new members to the board, each serving a term of three years. You could be part of the governing body of NDA, helping to grow and improve our organization and do as much as we can to serve our member family.

### **What do I have to do?**

You'll be committing to attend regular NDA Board of Directors meetings in which the board discusses and votes on regular NDA business, rule changes, finances, events, and general management. These meetings are typically once a month and last about 2 hours, and you must attend more than half the meetings in a year. There may be other business conducted by the Board of Directors in between meetings via email.

### **Do I have to hold an officer position?**

Nope. At the annual meeting, the NDA members will hold a general election to select our new members for the Board of Directors. Once the new Board of Directors is in place, the officer elections (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary) will take place. The other four members of the board will be Board Members At Large.

### **What about Juniors?**

We elect one Junior Representative to the board every year. The Junior Rep is just like any other member of the board; they have voting privileges and are required to attend board meetings.

*NDA's 2016 Board of Directors (back: Jane Fucinaro, Melissa Ward, Laureen Van Norman, Heidi Helmer, Judy Seward; front: Ashley Duran, Kathy Hanford, Kathy Lewis, Gracia Huenefeld)*



### **Sounds interesting, but I'm nervous.**

It's okay—we're friendly! You don't have to have any previous experience working on a Board of Directors—though if you have, that's great, too! Whether this is your first time, or you've run for (or served) the NDA Board in the past, you are completely and totally welcome. We're looking for people who have great ideas and a desire to promote dressage in our community.

### **Okay, I want to throw my hat in the ring! How do I do it?**

Hooray! To nominate yourself, all you have to do is send us a short bio describing yourself, your history in the dressage community, and what you might bring to NDA. Before the annual meeting, we will email all the candidates' bios to the NDA membership to review. At the annual meeting, you'll be asked to introduce yourself, and then the election will be held. If you are elected, your term will begin on January 1, and your first NDA meeting will be during that month. And remember—you must be an NDA member in good standing to be on the board, so make sure you renew your membership for 2017! You can do so at the annual meeting or online after September 30, 2016.

We can't wait to see you on the board!

Melissa Ward  
2016 NDA President

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*Please send your nomination bio to Melissa Ward at  
president@nebraskadressage.org.*



*Nebraska Dressage Association's*  
**2016 Annual Meeting & Year-End Awards Banquet**



**when:** Saturday, November 19, 2016

**where:** Ashland Golf Club

16119 Hwy 6  
 Ashland, NE 68003  
 (402) 944-3344  
 www.ashlandgolfclub.com

5:30 – 6:30 pm Social Hour\*  
 6:30 – 7:30 pm Buffet Dinner\* & Silent Auction  
 7:30 – 8:30 pm Annual Meeting & Officer Election  
 8:30 – 9:30 pm Awards Presentation

*\*cash bar*

Yes, I/we plan to attend.

List names of attendees:

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$24.00) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$14.50) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*10 or under*

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend. Please assign my proxy (vote) to **another NDA member:**

Print **YOUR** name

Print **PROXY MEMBER** name

Your signature

Date

Registration & payment due no later than **October 24**.  
 Checks may be made payable to **NDA**.

*Please submit to:* Jane Fucinaro  
 8727 South 33rd Street #4-307  
 Lincoln, NE 68516

## Lynn Palm Clinic

by Jane Fucinaro

Earlier in August, NDA hosted the Lynn Palm for Western and Classical Dressage Clinic at Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy in Gretna, NE. Eight riders attended, and the clinic was well audited. Lynn Palm's program consisted of two lectures a day that involved theory, reading a test and performing a test. Riders rode in groups and individually both days to introduce Western Dressage principles, and by the end of the clinic, each participant had performed a Western Dressage test!

There were many helpful insights from the clinic. Riding participant, Brenda Messick shared on her page, "Preparing For The Ride" on Facebook, "Cues are seat, legs and hands, in that order! Therefore, ride with leg cues before hands to work on the horse moving back to front." Brenda kept a detailed journal of notes and has posted her tips and takeaways from the clinic on her Facebook page.

Long time NDA member and traditional dressage and western pleasure, Diane Fucinaro shared, "The Lynn Palm clinic was very eye opening for someone transitioning to western dressage. It was great to get instruction and validation on my horse's gaits, help with my equipment and Lynn's evaluation of a ridden test." Diane went on to say, "I think western dressage is a wonderful venue for horses who may traditionally not be considered 'dressage horses.' It's so great to be able to use principles of classical riding on my lovely western horses because in the end, whether you're trotting or jogging, cantering or loping, you still expect the same level of engagement and correct way of going for the individual you are riding."

All in all, most riders hadn't done a Western Dressage test



before. First time Western Dressage rider, Kendra Ronnau said, "I can't think of a more talented clinician to get me started correctly in the Western Dressage world. It was a wonderful weekend of learning from one of the best, as well as bonding with other participants." Kendra continued, "My hope is that NDA continues to bring top notch instructors to the area, thank you!"

Each rider finished the clinic riding down centerline and saluting at X with a big smile on their face! Thanks to all involved in planning and participating in this event, especially 3B Farrier Supply Store for their sponsorship and HETRA, for allowing us use of their beautiful facility. ❖



## The Most Fun You Can Have After Growing Up

by Jane Fucinaro

So, you're a horse crazy adult, but missed the opportunity to participate in Pony Club, the world's largest equestrian educational program?

Have you always dreamed of participating in Pony Club? Are you an adult that missed your chance, or aged out of Pony Club or 4H? Do you board your horse, but would like to learn more about the management aspect of horse ownership?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, Horsemasters is just for you! Pony Club isn't just for kids any longer.

Horsemasters was created in 2001 by the United States Pony Club, which is geared for adults wishing to improve horsemanship and become more actively involved in Pony Club as volunteers.

Just like in Pony Club, Horsemasters are educated and evaluated in Horsemanship, Dressage and Jumping, and they are even opening up to Western sports! Adults can test through the skill



levels, just as a Pony Club member does, beginning with D and moving up the rankings.

If you are interested in learning more about Cornhusker Pony Club's Horsemasters program, please contact Jane Fucinaro or Diane Usher for more information. ❖

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# Why Equestrian Should Be Kept in the Olympic Program

Reprinted with permission by EuroDressage

by Robert Dover, U.S. Team trainer and six-time Olympian

## Why should Equestrian be kept in the Olympic program?

With journalists begging the question, a little history lesson might help answer the question. The sport of Equestrian dates back not only to 1912 and the first modern Games; it was actually one of the sports within the Ancient Olympics in Greece over 2000 years ago in the time of Socrates.

At that time, Zenophon, a student of Socrates and a soldier in the cavalry, created the first school of Dressage in order to train the horses for warfare. One can imagine how effective horses trained to move both forward and sideways at the same time, to rear and kick back or to strike out with a forefoot at the opposing ground soldiers, could change the game. And so it was that Equestrian became one of the great sports throughout history.

There was no doubt that the three Olympic sports of Dressage, 3-Day Eventing, and Show Jumping, would be in the Olympic family from 1912 in Paris. America was always successful and I had the privilege of representing our country in 6 Games from 1984 through 2004, where our Teams continued to produce medals again and again.

We are the one sport where women and men compete together and where another living being, the amazing horse, adds to the complexity and the beauty of our sports. Making one's own body go faster, drive harder, and reach further for the Gold is one thing;

having the trust of over 1000 pounds of power in an animal famous for both its strength and speed as well as being an "animal of flight", is quite another. Riders spend years forming incredible bonds with our horses just



as most of you reading this have made with your dogs or cats.

Running, jumping, and truly every movement performed in Dressage, can be seen being performed by horses free and playing in their pasture. Training them to do these same things on command and in total harmony with their human counterpart is the foundation of our art and sport. This is why 65,000 people come daily to Aachen, one of our biggest European, multi-discipline competitions, to watch and be fascinated as our horses jump higher, run faster, and dance majestically to music.

To ever take this historic sport out of the Games would be to lose not only one of the first, but one of the most noble and thrilling sports in the Olympic Family. ❖



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We have been blessed by outstanding clients that trust us and know how much we care for them and their pets. We are fortunate enough to share a wide range of emotions with our clients, from tears of sadness to shouts of joy. Basically though, each day gives us a new opportunity to serve those that we care about.

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- Non-Profit Equestrian Organizations and USDF GMOs



Visit [dressagefoundation.org](http://dressagefoundation.org) and click on "Support" or call (402) 434-8585 to donate.

The Dressage Foundation's donors provide support to improve dressage in the United States.

Your donation helps to build a stronger, more accomplished dressage community.



Photo by Susan J Stickle:  
 Olivia LaGoy-Weltz,  
 2015 Lavell Advanced  
 Prize Recipient

## 8 Thoughts You Have While Watching the Equestrian Olympics

by Michaela Schieffer

So, “the horse does all the work,” huh? How about the wind does all the work in sailing? But for real, though.



How many sick days can I take during the Olympics without co-workers suspecting anything?



Watching the Go-Pro rides of the Olympic cross-country course simultaneously makes me proud to be an equestrian and terrified to ever jump again.



It is completely impossible to watch these events and not want feel inspired to go ride your own horse. No one should watch these events in the evening and have to go straight to bed, we need to go straight to the barn!



I need to name my next horse something as cool as the names of some of these horses. “Ben” and “Stormy” fall a little flat after some of these names!



Maybe people would like these sports more if we added some fun twists, like synchronized show jumping. I’m sure that wouldn’t cause a trainwreck on the course!



The tempis in the dressage events definitely looks like skipping to the non-equestrian viewers. Just making it harder to explain to people!



How can anyone possibly not think this incredible team are both athletes on the level of any other sport?



I always find it humorous to hear the reactions and responses of non-riders to equestrian events, but during the Olympics the exposure to comments from non-riders is at an all-time high quantity and with a little more emotion behind them. Since it can often be frustrating to read through the more uneducated comments on the Olympic dressage rides, I took the liberty of combing through the comments to find a few gems among the rubble and thought I would share them with you all to share a chuckle.

*“All the Hobbits are watching this prancing pony at The Prancing Pony Bar and Grill.”*

*“Circus tricks.”*

*“Watching dressage event. Can’t believe I’m saying this but that horse got mad swag lol.”*

*“Dressage is like the horse version of the Running Man Challenge!”*

*“When does the bucking start? And the bulls? These horses don’t look like they are about to start bucking.”*

*“Teach me how to dougie, horse. Teach me.” ❖*





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## We hope you registered in time to join us at the last show of the NDA season, on September 25 at the Lancaster Event Center.

Remember, with your entries we must have HARD COPIES of:

- For championship classes – copies of 2 test fronts with qualifying scores from 2 different NDA shows.
- ALL horses need a current negative coggins (1 year)
- Rider and owner signature are needed on entry form (and parent/guardian if rider is under 18). If owner can not sign original entry at show, another entry form with owner signature should be brought to show at check in.

All of these items must be turned into show office in hard copy form before numbers can be released.

## We are still in need of a volunteer to run the Gate for this show!

*If you have any questions about the show, or to volunteer please contact the Show Secretary, Katie Krause, or the Show Manager, Jennifer Rawlinson.*



### Trophies, trophies, trophies!

*Do you have any from last year?*

If you received any perpetual trophies from last year's Year-End Awards Ceremony, we will be collecting those trophies back so that we can get the engraving done for this year's awards ceremony.

If you will be at the Schooling Show Championships, that would be a great time to return your trophy! Just look for Lauren Van Norman at the show, or leave the trophies in the show office with the staff and we will pick them up.

If you have any questions about your year-end trophies, please contact Karin Nilsson, Lauren Van Norman, or anyone from the NDA Awards Committee.

Thank you!



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Karen L. Stricklett, MS, CRC, ABVE-D  
President



## CLASSIFIED ADS

*Do you have something to advertise?*

Classified ads are \$5 for NDA members and \$10 for non-members. They will appear on the Classifieds page of the website for 90 days, in addition to one issue of *The Contact*.

Advertising images, documentation, and any questions should be sent to Gracia Huenefeld at [graciarae@yahoo.com](mailto:graciarae@yahoo.com). Checks should be made payable to NDA and should be sent to Kathy Hanford, 10301 W. Pioneers Blvd, Denton, NE, 68339.

*NDA makes no endorsements or representation in connection with advertisements placed in this section.*

### 17.5" MW Icon Custom Dressage Saddle Monoflap Buffalo for sale

**Make:** Custom Saddlery

**Model:** Icon Monoflap, Buffalo

**Seat size:** 17.5"

**Tree:** Medium Wide

**Color:** Black with black patent welt/black stitch

**Condition:** Excellent (used)

**Price:** \$3,500

Brand new Icon Custom Dressage Saddle Monoflap in Buffalo. 17.5 seat. Black with black patent welt/black stitch. Upgrade option front and rear. I believe that the tree is MW. Beautiful saddle but just doesn't fit my PRE mare's conformation.

**Contact: Karen Stricklett**  
**[kstricklett@stricklett.com](mailto:kstricklett@stricklett.com)**  
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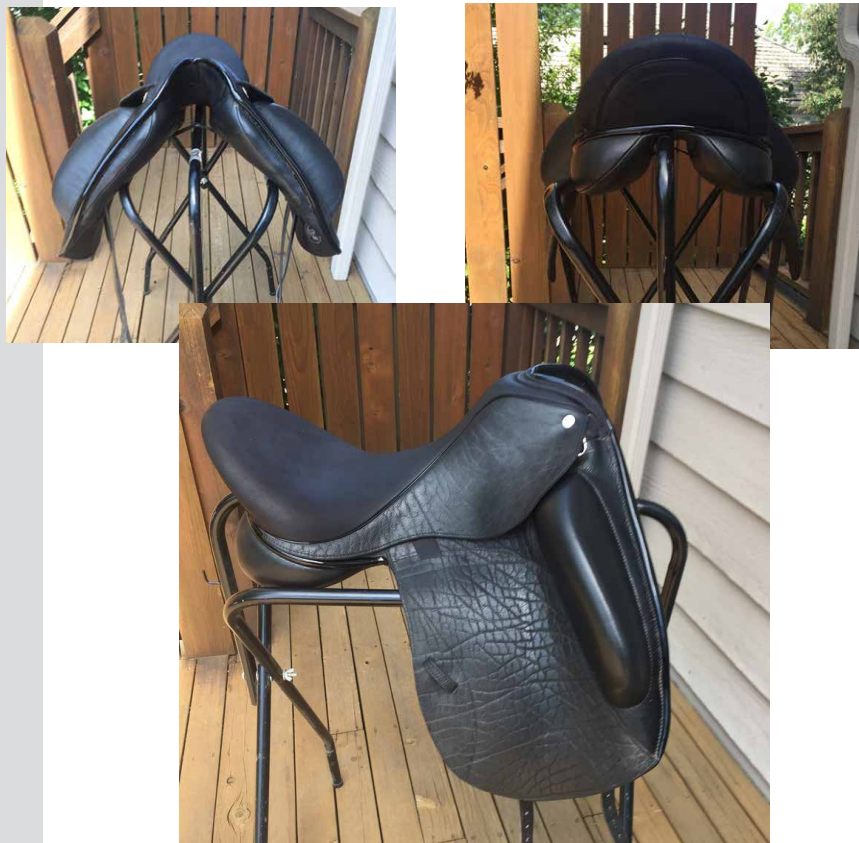


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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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## SEPTEMBER

- 17-18** Debbie McDonald Clinic at Providence Farm
- 20** Western Dressage Advancing Clinic at Log Barn Stables
- 25** NDA Schooling Show Championships at Lancaster Event Center
- 27-28** Madison County Dressage Classic I & II at Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center
- 29-Oct 1** WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show at Lazy E Arena, OK

## OCTOBER

- 5** Score submission deadline for year-end awards
- 10** NDA Board Meeting at Misty's

## NOVEMBER

- 5** "We Love Dara" Dressage Show
- 10 - 13** USDF National Dressage Finals at Kentucky Horse Park, KY
- 19** Year-End Banquet & Awards Ceremony at the Ashland Golf Club

## DECEMBER

- Nov 30 - Dec 3** USDF Annual Convention in St. Louis, MO

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[www.lincolnequestriancenter.net](http://www.lincolnequestriancenter.net)

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- Friendly atmosphere



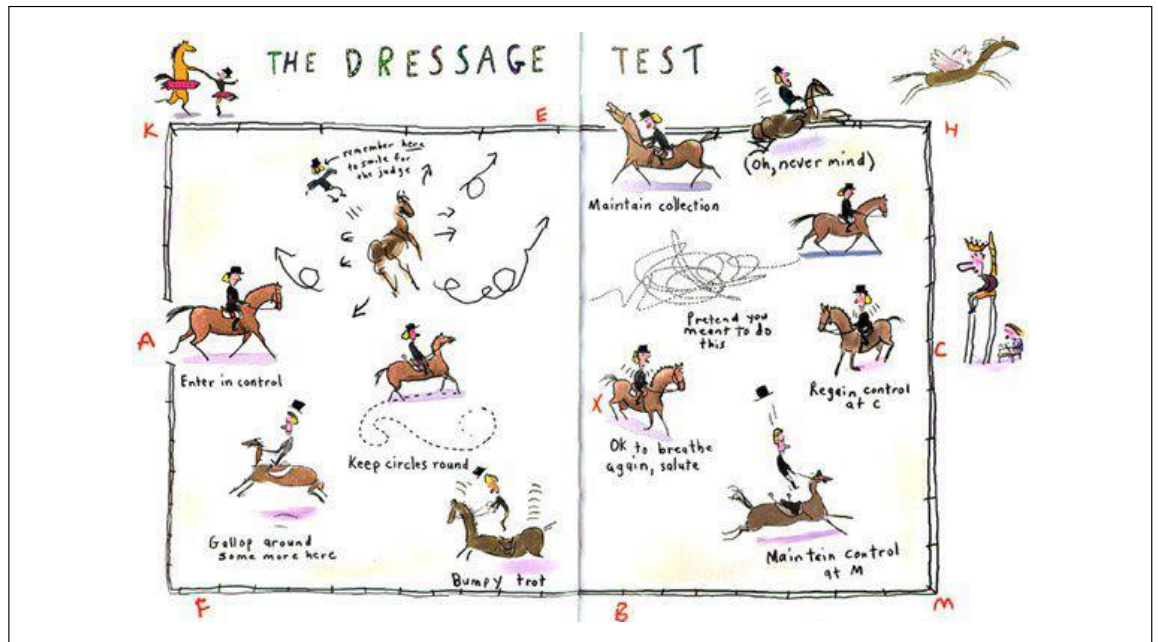
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your riding goals.

## New NDA-Recognized Schooling Show Coming Up in November!

Our community has come together to organize a benefit fundraising show for a long-time member of our dressage community (and former NDA board member), Dara Liss. Many of us know and love her for her years of wonderful lessons and leadership, and now that she is on "stall rest" for a broken arm, this is an opportunity to give back. This show is an NDA-recognized schooling show, and scores from this show (on November 5, 2016, at Wranglers) will count toward *next year's* (2017's) show season for year-end awards.



DARA LISS

## “We ❤️ Dara” Dressage Show

A Nebraska Dressage Association Recognized Schooling Show

🦄 Saturday, November 5, 2016 🦄

Salt Creek Wranglers, 4300 S. Coddington Avenue, Lincoln, NE

(in case of inclement weather, show will be moved to Lancaster Event Center)

*Dara Liss has given many Lincoln-area equestrians a foundation in dressage. Please join us in thanking her for her friendship and contributions to our sport. All proceeds will be gifted to her as she's on stall rest due to a broken arm.*

Prizelist will be posted on the [www.nebraskadressage.org](http://www.nebraskadressage.org) calendar.  
Classic & Western Dressage available Intro through Second/Level 2.  
NDA members can earn 2017 championship qualifying scores and awards!  
Concessions available. Entries must be postmarked by October 17<sup>th</sup>.  
To volunteer, call/text 402-560-3319 or [jcrawlinson@windstream.net](mailto:jcrawlinson@windstream.net).