



March/April 2012

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2011 NDA Board

President:

Heidi Helmer ('13)
hjhelmer@gmail.com

Vice President:

Briana Beckworth ('14)
brianab724@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Amy Blum ('12)
amy@neb.rr.com

Treasurer:

Trish Jones ('14)
tgadejones@nebraska.edu

Jr/Yr:

Casey Blum ('11)
casey.blum@yahoo.com

Directors At-Large

Brian Duran ('12)
kerduran@aol.com

Donna Michelson ('13)
dresagfan@aol.com

Felice Rose ('13)
felicerose2900@gmail.com

Lisa Van Stratten ('12)
dalevanstratten@huntel.net

2012 High School Equestrian Athlete Grants from the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete Program

Lexington, KY - In 2012 the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) will offer more than \$20,000 in grant money to qualified students and high school equestrian clubs or teams across the nation through its High School Equestrian Athlete program.

To be eligible for a grant an applicant must be a current USEF High School Equestrian Athlete program participant and have successfully completed at least one year of the program. The applicant must also be a member of at least one USEF Recognized Breed/Discipline Affiliate or International Affiliate Association. (See below for a list of affiliate organizations). A subcommittee of the National Affiliate Working Group will select one applicant from each Recognized Breed/Discipline Affiliate or International Affiliate Association to receive a \$1,000 grant to be used for academic or equestrian educational pursuits.

Students interested in applying for a grant will need to submit a 500 word essay that answers questions about their experiences in the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete program. Essay questions will be sent by email to all program participants in May and completed essays will be due between June 5th and 11th, 2012. All essays must be submitted through the applicant's online USEF user account to be

eligible for consideration by the selection committee. Additional information is available here.

The USEF will also award ten \$500 grants to local high school equestrian clubs and teams. These grants will be awarded to the ten clubs or teams in the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete program with the most student participation. State and national associations are not eligible to receive these grants.

Please contact highschoolquestrianathlete@usef.org with any questions about grants available through the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete program.

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SAVE THE DATE!!

Middle Cross Schooling Show

Middle Cross Stables

April 28

Sarah Martin Symposium

Pleasant View Farms

May 5-6

Cornhusker Classic

Lancaster Event Center

May 19-21

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Spring!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the weather. As of this writing, Nebraska is experiencing warmer than normal temperatures - perfect for riding and dusting off those winter cobwebs.

First, thanks to everyone who has shared their input with me so far this year. I appreciate hearing from you, the members. This is your association, and we are nothing without you. I am happy to report that membership is up, and I am hearing lots of positive "buzz" about 2012. Let's keep the positive momentum rolling!!!!!!!!!!!!

Secondly, show season is headed our way full blast. The Shaggy Show is right around the corner, and I think the rest of the season will fly by. Between shows, clinic offerings, and educational offerings, there is much to do. The Cornhusker Classic promises to be a fantastic show, and I hope that if you are not showing, you are able to volunteer. Please check the website for more shows and educational offerings through 2012.

Hopefully you were able to get to the Nebraska Horse Fair March 9 and 10 at the Lancaster Event Center. I want to thank each of the demo riders who participated, Robin Wright, Brenda Reed, Loye Jaeger, Ashley Murray, and Rachel Norton-Boone. And a huge thank you goes to Donna Michelson for coordinating the NDA booth.

The "Teaching the Rider to Feel" Symposium is slated for May 5 and 6. Check out: <http://www.blancadressage.com/Main/Home> for more information about content.

Please remember to support your fellow dressage enthusiasts this year. We all come to the "table" with different skills, abilities, and opportunities. Let's find our greatest joy in cheering for each other as we grow in the art of working with our horses!!

Heidi Helmer
hjhelmer@gmail.com

2012 High School Equestrian Athlete Grants cont'd

Enrollment in the program for the current school year is still open. For more information or to apply online, visit: www.usef.org/highschool.

USEF Recognized Breed/Discipline or International Affiliate Associations

- American Connemara Pony Society
- American Driving Society
- American Endurance Ride Conference
- American Hackney Horse Society
- American Morgan Horse Association
- American Road Horse and Pony Association
- American Saddlebred Horse Association
- American Shetland Pony Club
- American Vaulting Association
- Arabian Horse Association
- International Andalusian and Lusitano Horse Association
- International Friesian Show Horse Association
- National Show Horse Registry

- Paso Fino Horse Association
- United States Dressage Federation
- United States Eventing Association
- United States Hunter Jumper Association
- United States Para-Equestrian Association
- Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America

The popularity of the USEF High School Equestrian Athlete program has grown exponentially since it started in late 2009, with more than 4,500 students having participated. The program was created to recognize and reward the accomplishments of high school equestrian athletes and encourage their future involvement in equestrian sport. Students in the program are eligible to receive a varsity equestrian patch, yearly pins and certificates of completion, as well as access to a line of quality and custom merchandise such as letterman jackets, soft-shell riding jackets, and hats. Visit www.usef.org/highschool for more information.

NDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2012

Newly appointed president, Heidi Helmer, called the January meeting to order at Parker's Smokehouse at 6:30pm.

Board Members Present: Lisa VanStratten, Amy Blum, Felice Rose, Heidi Helmer, Donna Michelson, Briana Beckworth, Tish Gade-Jones.

Board Members Absent: Casey Blum, Brian Duran.

NDA Members Present: Diana Spaulding, Lauren Van Norman, Karin Nilsson.

The December meeting minutes were reviewed. Briana moved to approve the minutes; Felice seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President: Heidi Helmer reported that she had contacted Char Cole from Stillwaters Ranch in Hickman about holding a Western Dressage clinic. Char said she would be happy to do this. More information will follow.

Heidi also talked to Char about hosting a joint PonyClub/NDA sponsored educational event for junior riders. No word on this yet. More information will follow at the next board meeting.

Vice President: No report.

Treasurer: Diana Spaulding presented her last Treasurer's Report before turning everything over to Tish Gade-Jones. The Main Account Balance as of January 9 was \$12,849.15. The Show Account Balance was \$3,877.19. Amy moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Donna seconded. Motion carried.

With the change in treasurers, there will also be a change in the people that have access to each account. Diana will change the Main Account so that Heidi and Tish will have joint access and will change the Show Account so that Heidi, Tish and Diana have joint access.

Secretary: No Report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Membership: Sydney Ash reported that she added 6 new members to the roster. She also stated she had collected a total of \$290 in fees and sent \$150 to USDF for GMO fees.

Tish is pursuing offering NDA membership payments via on-line. She will come up with a form and will have more information at a future board meeting.

Competitions: Amy Blum reported that the Cornhusker Classic 2012 prize list is complete and has been sent for printing in the Region IV Omnibus.

Amy also asked the board if we wanted to make the Cornhusker Classic an AQHA sanctioned show. The cost would be \$50 for each show, totaling \$100 for the weekend. We

paid this last year and didn't have anyone take advantage of it. Lisa said that she had an email from Mala Erickson asking about AQHA points for the Classic. She will get more information regarding how many people would use it. We will make a decision based on her information at the February board meeting.

Awards: Lauren Van Norman and Karen Nilsson presented a list of changes/clarifications that the awards committee would like the board to vote on for 2012. The requested changes/clarifications are listed below with the board discussion after each one.

1. Should 3rd level and Western Dressage be added to the Schooling Show Medal Series? (after discussion, it was decided that Western Dressage would be added but 3rd level would not.)
2. Criteria for the year-end Western Dressage trophy needs to be set out and added to the handbook rules concerning year-end awards. (after discussion, it was decided that Western Dressage rules would be established by the board and competition committee. All changes will be added to the awards section in the handbook.)
3. There should be language added which permits electronic submission of scores for year-end awards. It was also suggested that a separate form for each award a competitor is applying for be submitted for easier computation of awards. (after discussion, it was agreed that the language would be changed regarding electronic submission. It was also agreed that the Awards Committee would come up with a new form for year-end awards and would present it to the board for approval.)
4. The Awards Committee asked that volunteer hours recorded at each NDA recognized schooling show or any NDA sponsored event be sent to NDA by the volunteer coordinator for each event. They also suggested that we have a spreadsheet of hours worked put on the NDA website so member's can check their hours before year-end awards are due. (After discussion, the board decided to make these changes. In addition, we created a Volunteer Liaison position to be filled by Lisa Van Stratten for 2012. After each show/event, the Volunteer Coordinator will submit the names of hours of each volunteer for that show/event to the Volunteer Liaison within 30 days of the show/event. These hours will be placed into a spreadsheet and posted on the NDA website. After each show/event, the spreadsheet will be updated and reposted on the website. It is the responsibility of each member volunteering to check this spreadsheet to make sure all hours are listed correctly. This will eliminate the need for members to fill out a volunteer form for year-end awards.)
5. What do we do with retired trophies? We currently have a 4th level silver platter which is full. A new one

NDA BOARD MEETING MINUTES *cont'd*

has been started but we need to do something with the old one. (It was decided that each retired trophy would be decided on a case-by-case basis by the board. The current retired 4th level trophy will be offered to the first winner of the trophy. If she does not want it, we will ask if we can display it at the Dressage Foundation's new office.)
6. The board needs to address the current high point trophies offered at the Cornhusker Classic. We have separate junior and adult high point trophies but there is no clarification if the winner can be an Open rider or AA rider. (It was decided to offer a 3rd high point trophy at the Cornhusker Classic. All winners must be NDA members riding Training-Grand Prix level tests. The trophy will be given to the Junior, AA and Open riders with the highest score from either day of the Cornhusker Classic.)

Communications: The Dressage Barns and Dressage Trainer pages on the NDA website need to be completed. Lisa will send out a mass email to all NDA members to get information on all trainers and barns in this area. This information will be sent to Amy Blum at amy@neb.rr.com to add to the website.

Publicity: No report.

Fund Raising: Heidi stated that she was working on the letters to send out for class sponsorship at the Cornhusker Classic. Lisa stated that the Dressage Foundation was interested in sponsoring a class. Heidi will make sure to include them in her mailing.

Equipment Management: A new lock is being purchased for the NDA trailer. All board members will have the combination.

Education: Karen Stricklett continues to work on the May symposium with Sarah Martin. Heidi, Amy and Felice visited the Alwardt's barn in Malcolm to check on the suitability for this event and future events. It was deemed an excellent venue by all. The Alwardt's agreed to host the symposium and Karen put together cost figures. The preliminary figures came in at total estimated costs of \$3,900.00 and total estimated income of \$3,985.00. She is checking over these figures and working on a grant from the Dressage Foundation. The board agreed that NDA would supply \$200.00 towards breakfast and beverages and will also supply insurance for the symposium. Karen will let us know about the DF grant and will get final costs to us at the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Briana presented an idea for an NDA sponsored Yahoo Group for sharing horse related information. This group would be available to all horse lovers across all disciplines and would include NDA members and non-members. She will start the group and get information out via email, Facebook and the NDA website. The group will be called Horses of the Heartland and can also be found by searching Yahoo Groups.

The next board meeting will be February 13 at Bredeaux Pizza in Ashland.

ADJOURNMENT: Amy moved to adjourn the Board meeting; Briana seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Blum
NDA Secretary - 2012



NDA Board Meetings (6:30 p.m.)

April 9- Bredeaux, Ashland

May 14 - Parker's Smokehouse, Ashland

REMINDER:

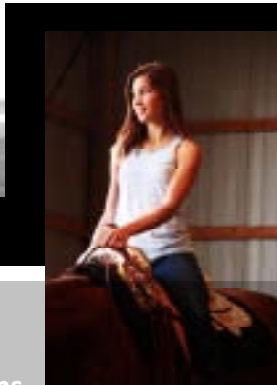
To continue to receive important emails and notifications and to have your scores count for year end awards - - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

visit the NDA website for the form
www.nebraskadressage.org

SHOW NEWS



Know how. Know **now**.



Photos by Becky Hutchins

A new addition to the show . . .

We are very pleased to announce that Becky Hutchins will be offering photography services at the show for a very special fee of \$20 per entry.

All proceeds will benefit the Lancaster County Horse 4-H Program. Reservations accepted in advance or day of show prior to first ride time. Riders are asked to pick up their photo CD at the show office before leaving the show.

First Annual Middle Cross Schooling Show *a fundraiser for lancaster county horse 4-h*



An NDA Recognized Schooling Show
(see nebraskadressage.org)

Register by April 15

Judged by Rebecca O'Bea,
"L" Graduate with Distinction

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Middle Cross Stables (the historic Lowell Boomer site)
500 Sprague Road, Roca, NE (Just W. of Hwy. 77)



Questions? Contact Jennifer Rawlinson at jcrawlson@windstream.net or 402-560-3319.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

NDA NEWS



DEVELOP YOUR FEEL
...Let GOOD Riding Become AUTOMATIC!

So that you will progress with any trainer **in any discipline**
Presented by Sarah Martin

Sponsored by the Nebraska Dressage Association and hosted by Gordon and Joni Alwardt

*Special thanks to The Dressage Foundation and the Violet Hopkins Fund
for their generous support of this event*

During this workshop, you will learn:

- How to relate the quadrants of the horse's body to your own body for maximum effectiveness of the aids
- How to feel the timing of the horse's footfalls and how to put that knowledge to work in your riding
- How to read your horse's responses to your questions to progress your relationship

Auditing \$30.00 per day - \$60.00 for the weekend

**Fees include Notebooks, Pens, Continental Breakfast and Beverages
Private and Semi-Private Lessons also available at an additional cost**

Registration Deadline is April 20, 2012

Contact Person: Karen Stricklett – kstricklett@stricklett.com or 402-493-8686 Ext. 213

May 5 & 6, 2012

Pleasant View Farms
14200 N W 112th Street
Malcolm, NE 68402

This workshop is especially for dressage and western dressage riders who are leading up to competition or are ready to develop a deeper relationship with their horses. This event is most appropriate for riders and serious students of the horse who have a dedication to their passion.

This clinic is designed with the auditor in mind! Be ready to take notes, ask questions and take your riding to the next level. Lunch available for purchase each day.

**See www.nebraskadressage.org for more information
Open to NDA members and non-members alike**

Learn more about Sarah Martin at www.SarahMartinDressage.com

NDA NEWS



Sarah Martin Weekend Symposium Teaching the Rider to Feel

May 5 and 6, 2012

Sponsored by the Nebraska Dressage Association
Hosted by Gordon and Joni Alwardt
Pleasant View Farms, Malcolm, Nebraska

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

Option A-1	Audit 1 day	\$30.00
Option B-1	Audit 2 days	\$60.00
Option A-2	Audit 1 day plus a private lesson	\$120.00
Option B-2	Audit 2 days plus a private lesson	\$150.00
Option A-3	Audit 1 day plus a semi-private lesson – please indicate your preferred partner	\$90.00
Option B-3	Audit 2 days plus a semi-private lesson – please indicate your preferred partner	\$120.00

Note: Space is limited, so please submit your request for lessons as soon as possible. We will do our best to honor your lesson request.

I am requesting Option _____ \$ _____

Name of partner if semi-private lesson request

I need stabling @ \$30.00 per day for _____ days \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Nebraska Dressage Association

Mail check and registration form to: Karen Stricklett, 15809 Burdette Street, Omaha, NE 68116

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Stricklett at 402-493-8686, Ext. 213
Or e-mail Karen at kstricklett@stricklett.com

Registration confirmation will be sent via e-mail upon receipt



www.nebraskadressage.org

Suzanne Eggert
5508 Hunts Dr.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68512

NDA SALE BARN

Wintec Pro Dressage CAIR 17.5" saddle w/ 48" Girth, grab strap, easy change Gullet system (X-large and medium) and saddle cover. Like new condition. Call Brian @ 402 499-2330.



Working student position available with USDF gold medalist Jami Kment at Providence Farm starting summer of 2012. Responsibilities would include grooming, keeping tack clean, helping at horse shows, working with young horses, light cleaning, riding and showing young horses. A one year commitment is desired with winter travel to Florida. This position does have the potential to develop into an assistant trainer position, and can provide housing. Providence farm is a top quality dressage training facility located in Palmyra Ne. Visit our website at www.providencefarm.net . Contact us at kjkment@yahoo.com or call 402.450.3902.

CLINICS

- * Conrad Schumacher
April 28-30
Providence Farm
Contact: Jami Kment
kjkment@yahoo.com
- * Michael Beining
April 27-29
Elkhorn Equestrian Center
Contact: Dan Urban
(619) 820-3802 or durbansmail@gmail.com

