

# THE CONTACT

NEBRASKA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION



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## Presidents Report

Happy Spring, NDA members! The trees are budding, the birds are singing, and the dandelions are taking over my yard, which means the 2026 show season has arrived! I am looking forward to seeing everything our members will accomplish this year.

Over the past year, the NDA board has been paying close attention to our finances. I want to highlight the work put in by our Treasurer Diane Fucinaro, who is in her second year of her three year term. Diane has been conducting thorough reviews of our budget and spending habits to create a balanced budget. Diane, we couldn't do this without you!

The competitions committee has been hard at work curating a spectacular show line-up for us this year, as well as a few clinic opportunities. You will find details of the Cornhusker Classic Show held on May 16-17 in this issue of The Contact, but I also want to highlight two Schooling Show Opportunities. The Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show will be held May 30, with a clinic to follow May 31 with judge Susan Lang. The Schooling Show Championships are scheduled for October 24, with a clinic to follow October 25 with judge Julie Haugen. Both of these shows are WDAA recognized, and we hope all members will take advantage of the next day clinics!

I am also excited to announce our awards committee has made some changes to the year end awards for schooling shows. You can find details in the NDA handbook linked below, but new for the 2026 show season, NDA is hosting a Schooling Show Medal Series for scores earned at NDA recognized Schooling Shows. Make sure you and your horse are nominated for awards prior to showing, so your scores count towards these year end awards!

Lastly, our Junior/Young Rider committee is planning some fun events for our JR/YR members this summer. Make sure your membership is renewed so that you will receive event invitations!

Cheers,

Jena Vogt  
2026 NDA President  
president@nebraskadressage.org

NDA Handbook can be found on this page:  
<https://www.nebraskadressage.org/forms--documents.html>



# NDA Annual Cornhusker Classic 2026

QUAIL RUN EQUESTRIAN CENTER • 22021 West Maple Rd, ELKHORN, NE

**Dates: May 16 - 17, 2026**

**Cornhusker Classic I - USEF Competition # 607**

**Cornhusker Classic II - USEF Competition # 84250**

**JUDGES:**

Fran Kehr (TX) S/Dressage,  
Sue Kolstad (KY) S/Dressage

**TECHNICAL DELEGATE:**

Nena Denman "R" TD/WD

**MANAGER**

Jennifer Rawlinson – 402-560-3319 – [jcrawlinson@windstream.net](mailto:jcrawlinson@windstream.net)

**SECRETARY**

Anne Sushko – 563-580-0510 – [gandasushko@hotmail.com](mailto:gandasushko@hotmail.com)

Register by May 8! Event information including ride times and results are available at <https://horseshowoffice.com>

[Prizelist and Additional Details](#)

**Don't miss the Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show!**

May 30 with Judge Susan Lang in Hickman, NE

Clinic to follow May 31

Make sure you and your horse are nominated for year end awards before your first show!

[Membership and Awards Nomination](#)



### *Fran Kehr*

*USDF "S" Judge and FEI*

*Dressage Competitor*

*Dedicated to the art of dressage, Fran has trained countless horses and riders to compete at all levels. She has a unique ability to work with horses of all breeds and temperament. As a USEF "S" Dressage Judge, Fran travels North America judging approximately 30 shows per year, as well as hosting 3 schooling shows and numerous clinics at her farm.*

*Fran was awarded the USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award from the Dressage Foundation in 2014. This award is unique to Region 9, awarded to a USDF Region 9 member who is also a dressage teacher who adheres to sound principles with a reputation for honesty, integrity and community service.*

### **Sue Kolstad**

Sue Kolstad is currently an S Dressage judge, Certified Instructor, Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal recipient. She has competed five horses in the ring at Grand Prix level with scores over 60% and she has also trained many more horses and riders up to this level, along with coaching many students to medals and National championships. Sue has trained with many Top international trainers and continues to improve her education with every opportunity available.

Sue's competition background includes Hunters, Jumpers, Driving, Endurance and Western . She currently specializes in dressage, dividing her time between judging Clinicing and training a few horses, as well as teaching at her homebase, which is Kentucky in the summer and Florida in the winter.

Sue has also imported over forty horses including five breeding stallions. She participated in the breeding business as well as presenting stallions successfully for approval long with sport horses in several breed divisions.



### **Nena Denman**

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Venezuela. My husband, Jesse, and I established Upland Farm near Des Moines, Iowa. After riding Western, I discovered Hunt Seat and became a whipper-in and founding member of the Moingona Hunt and an active ASHA competitor and steward. Later, I learned about Eventing and the importance of Dressage for all disciplines. I was a founding member of the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association and an FEI Eventing steward. My USEF licenses include being an Eventing, Dressage, and Western Dressage judge and Dressage Technical Delegate. Officiating and managing shows and events has kept me busy. Sharing a love of horses with others has given my life much joy and many positive experiences. I wish all the competitors the best of luck. Ride on!

## FEI Sports Forum

### Q & A with attendee Lexi Kment

What did it mean to you personally to be selected as the only U.S. youth representative at the Forum?

- I was honored to be selected by the FEI (the international equestrian governing body) to represent the United States as the first athlete ever invited at the FEI Sports Forum. It was an incredible experience to be able to represent my country and the discipline of Dressage at the Sports Forum

How did you prepare before traveling to Switzerland?

- I learned about the trip to Switzerland only about 2 weeks before heading overseas. Because I was traveling directly from Wellington, Florida, where I live for the winter, I made a quick trip to my local Marshall's for business clothing, a suitcase, etc. As I prepared for this trip, I met with the US Equestrian representatives to prepare talking points, review interview questions, and more.

For people unfamiliar with it, how would you describe the purpose of the FEI Sports Forum?

- The FEI Sports Forum is an annual event where the world's leaders in equestrian sport meet to discuss important issues, share ideas, and help shape the future of equestrian competition.

What was your first impression when you arrived in Lausanne and entered the Forum environment?

- I was so impressed by the welcoming atmosphere of the Forum and from all of the FEI and other attendees. I was one of 20 youth athletes invited from all over the world to the Forum to share my thoughts, insights, and ideas on the future of youth, as a youth rider myself.

Was there a moment where you realized the global impact of the discussions happening there?

- Yes for sure! There were definitely moments during the event that I realized the global impact that the discussions, and in some ways my insights, will have on the future of equestrian sports. It was incredible to be surrounded by an environment of progressive and future shaping people.



## FEI Sports Forum

### Q & A with attendee Lexi Kment, Continued...

The forum emphasized youth with the theme “From Pony to Podium,” what did that mean in practice?

- One of the main focuses of this year’s forum was about youth participation and impact within the sport. ‘From Pony to Podium’ meant looking at the entire pathway, from kids starting out on ponies all the way to elite championship level. The forum focused on how to support that journey at every stage. Through better youth engagement, stronger education around riding and horse welfare, clearer competition pathways like U25 and youth championships, and more support systems like coaching and funding. It was also about giving young riders a voice in shaping the future of the sport, not just preparing them for it.

Were there any conversations around horse welfare or athlete development that really stuck with you?

- There were definitely many discussions around both horse welfare and athlete development. What stood out to me most was the shared commitment to growing the sport in a way that truly reflects how special the bond between horses and humans is.



# NDA Committee Spotlight

## Fundraising

Dear Dressage Enthusiast:

Did you know that the central governing agency of dressage in America, the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) was founded in 1973 right here in Nebraska, alongside the Nebraska Dressage Association (NDA)?

Both organizations were founded by Lowell Boomer, the “Father of Dressage.” Because Lowell’s growing interest in dressage led him to found both USDF and NDA, he is regarded as one of the most influential figures in the equestrian world. After founding and operating the organizations at his print shop in Lincoln, NE for 16 years, the national headquarters for USDF were moved to Lexington, KY. The United States Dressage Federation now has more than 30,000 members across the country.

Today, the Nebraska Dressage Association is the sole GMO for all of Nebraska. With over 50 members and 5 types of memberships, the nonprofit organization is the primary resource for dressage riders in the state.

NDA currently sponsors and manages two nationally recognized Level 3 shows (one weekend consisting of two separate shows) per year, and the year-end Schooling Show Championship. NDA partners with local barns to recognize several quality schooling shows throughout the year, giving riders of all abilities an opportunity to compete. Additionally, the Education Committee of NDA awards scholarships and organizes educational opportunities, including training clinics with World Champion riders and trainers.

The Nebraska Dressage Association Board is working hard to bring you a fun and informative 2026 show season. This can be done, in large part, with help from sponsors like you!

Your sponsorship helps provide NDA exhibitors with a chance to compete and be awarded in a variety of show levels. NDA proudly awards ribbons through fourth place at every level & division at every show. We also award multiple year end awards in several different categories for both USDF recognized and local schooling show series. To grant prizes and celebrations that our exhibitors work toward, we must ask for support. There are many levels of sponsorship, from Grand Prix gift of \$1000 to a third level sponsorship of \$125 (and anything in between,) as you will see from the included form. Sponsorships will be announced during the shows, on the NDA website and social media pages, and in various other ways listed, depending on the level. Thank you for considering a sponsorship for the hardworking dressage athletes of Nebraska.

The NDA Fundraising Committee looks forward to hearing from you!

With Gratitude,

NDA Fundraising Committee

Kendra Ronnau and Shelby Timperley

Contact us at: [fundraising@nebraskadressage.org](mailto:fundraising@nebraskadressage.org)

Find us on at:

<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskadressage>

**Come show with us!** Find the most up-to-date show schedule on our website:  
<https://www.nebraskadressage.org/>



## 2026 NDA Calendar

## May - July

## May

**May 2 - Shaggy Horse Schooling Show**

Middle Cross Stables - Roca, NE

Judge: Elineen N. Ostund, Graduate "L"

Middle Cross Stables, Roca, NE

<https://theabcshow.jotform.com/260597082470966>**May 11 - NDA Board Meeting - 6:30 pm**

Walt Branch Library, Meeting Room 1, Lincoln NE

Virtual meeting option -

<https://meet.google.com/pcf-eiir-veb>

All NDA members are welcome.

**May 16 & 17 - NDA Annual Cornhusker Classic I & II**

Quail Run Equestrian Center - Omaha, NE

[More Information](#)**May 30 - Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show**

Still Waters Equestrian Academy - Hickman, NE

Judge: Susan Lang

[Prizelist/Clinic Sign up](#)**May 31 - Clinic with Susan Lang**

Still Waters Equestrian Academy - Hickman, NE

More details to come!

## June

**June 8 - NDA Board Meeting - 6:30 pm**

Walt Branch Library, Meeting Room 1, Lincoln NE

Virtual meeting option -

<https://meet.google.com/pcf-eiir-veb>

All NDA members are welcome.

## July

**July 13 - NDA Board Meeting - 6:30 pm**

Walt Branch Library, Meeting Room 1, Lincoln NE

Virtual meeting option -

<https://meet.google.com/pcf-eiir-veb>

All NDA members are welcome.

**CONRECO**

# 2026 NDA Committees

**Awards**

(Chair) Jen Weaver  
 J. Schumacher  
 Jami Kment

**Club Historian**

**Competitions**

(Chair) Mike Smith  
 Jennifer Rawlinson  
 Lauren Van Norman

**Education**

(Chair) Linda Smith  
 Jami Kment  
 Lexie Kment  
 Bree Miller

**Equipment**

(Chair) Ken Timmerman

**Fundraising**

(Co-Chairs) Kendra Ronnau & Shelby  
 Timperley  
 Jena Vogt  
 Open

**Finance**

(Chair) Diane Fucinaro

**Junior/Young Rider**

(Chair) Quinn Krueger  
 Open  
 Open  
 Open  
 Open

**Membership**

(Chair) Jen Weaver

**Publicity/Communications**

(Chair) Open  
 (Webmaster) Jena Vogt  
 (Newsletter) Open  
 (Handbook) Open  
 Bree Miller

**Western Dressage**

(Chair) Amanda Percival  
 Kathy Lewis  
 Janelle Stelk

**Volunteer**

(Chair) Open  
 Lauren Van Norman



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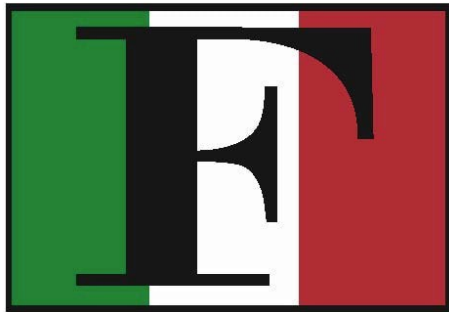
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UP TO **30% OFF**  
 select items, orders \$129+

Volunteers are the lifeblood of NDA. We would not be able to function without them! Volunteering for one of the NDA committees gives you an opportunity to make new friends, get a better understanding about the different functions of NDA, and earn hours toward year-end awards! You do not need to be a member of NDA to be on a committee.

Youth are also encouraged to volunteer! So if you would like to volunteer for a committee or you have already volunteered and we left your name off the list, please feel free to contact either the chair of the committee you would like to be on or one of the NDA board members.



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