

# **INSIDE:**

- 2 Letter from the President
- 3 2020 Convention Report
- 4 Virtual Annual Meeting Update
- 5 Nebraska Dressage News
- 7 Meet the Board
- 11 Local Barn News & Region 4 News
- 12 Western Dressage Corner & Junior Corner
- 13 Scholarship Report: Lexie Kment
- 14 Calendar of Events

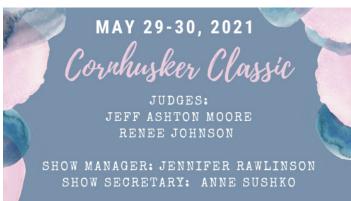
## Reconnecting in 2021

Although 2020 is behind us, the year's events brought many changes to NDA. We welcomed quite a few new faces to the board (check out the board bios in the next few pages!) and learned how to adapt to a virtual world. This online shift brought the realization of how many educational events and business could be handled virtually, which we will continue throughout this new year. Even as we begin to offer more in-person events, we will most likely continue to embrace virtual education events to allow increased attendance options.

Even in this rough past year, we are all thankful for the support the members of our amazing members have extended, maintaining solid membership numbers and participation in the events we created.

We are working diligently to bring you creative new educational opportunities to help us all reconnect this year and will be outlining those in this newsletter issue and the next. We can't wait to see you in 2021!

Happy riding, Michaela Schieffer NDA Editor





Letter from the New President:

**Carrie Cross** 

First of all, I want to say hello and thank you for putting your trust in me to lead NDA into and through 2021. I don't know what the year holds in store for us but please be assured that I, like the rest of your NDA board members have your best interests at heart.

While some of you may know me, the majority of you probably don't know me. Or at least don't know me very well. The short of it, my full bio can be found below in the following pages - I was raised in TX and moved here in 2009. I have been involved in many different disciplines, but love dressage. I currently ride western and cowboy dressage on my Appaloosa Louie (Suddenly a Zip).

While we had a very disappointing 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, we are starting 2021 out very cautiously optimistic. The NDA Board is in full swing and we are working on several fun events, both virtually and in person! The education committee has several things in process. Did you get the email about the book club? If not, are you on our email list? Also, make sure you check us out on Facebook! We will be

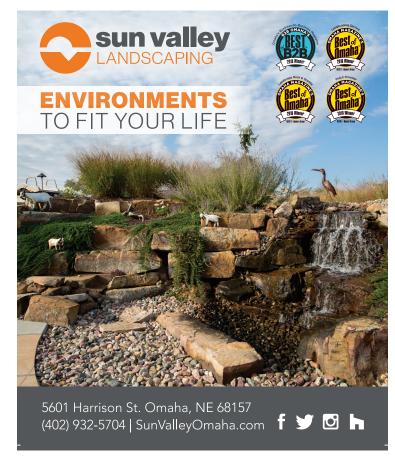
posting things there as well.

While we are not sure yet what 2021 really holds in store for us it is looking brighter than 2020 did at this point with the vaccine and numbers going in a downward trend. I am optimistically hopeful we can have our shows and events with safeguards in place.

So, as 2021 continues to unfold and we move forward into the new year, remember to keep checking our website (Nebraska Dressage Association - Home), your email as well as our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/nebraskadressage) for current updates.

Stay safe and warm!

Carrie Cross 2021 NDA President





# An Unconventional Gathering:

## 2020 Convention Report

Although the USDF Convention looked very different in 2020 from previous years, the virtual platform allowed Convention access to members who might never have the opportunity to attend again. The Convention made every possible move to mimic the format of a traditional in-person experience. The content was delivered in a series of webinars, video chats, open meetings, forums, and educational sessions. The online format allowed members to weigh in on big-picture discussions, without ever having to leave their home. And for the first time, with on-demand recordings of the meetings and forums, attendees were able to participate in every event of interest to them, with no overlapping schedule! To close out the event, there was also a Salute Gala and Year-End & All Breeds Awards.

Ranging from topics like Protein Feeding in Equine Diets with Dr. Loos with Cavalor Feeds, Bits 101 with Beth Haist, Managing Equine Degenerative Joint Disease with Dr. Marian Graves, and Conquering Training Issues with Janet Foy, there was truly something for everyone. There was also a GMO Education segment with marketing expert Jean Rude on how to grow membership through brand-building within our local barns. The Convention reported a record number of Region 4 members attending the event virtually.

Here is what our members had to say about their virtual attendance experience:

#### **MELISSA WARD**

As someone who has attended the USDF for several years, the best part of this virtual version was the ability to attend all the sessions that interested me because

there were no overlapping sessions. So not only did I get to attend more sessions than usual, but it was all free—and from the comfort of my home. Kudos to USDF for working so hard to make this available to all USDF members nationwide for no cost. It was really wonderful to see so many folks at the Region 4 meeting; and since USDF is going to be releasing video recordings of all the Educational sessions, we'll be able to share some wonderful sessions with people who weren't able to make it. I highly recommend the GMO session with Jead Rude—a must-see for anyone who has any interest in NDA at all.

Melissa Ward Former NDA President

#### **CHRISTINE WALKER**

**Christine Walker** 

I am new to Region 4 and the virtual convention gave me the opportunity to be a part of the Region 4 meeting at convention in the comfort of my home. Due to Covid, I have not been able to be to any USDF shows or meetings, so this gave me the opportunity to see many of the faces that I only had heard the names of. Anne Sushko did an amazing job informing the region of news, updates as well as keeping the meeting moving along in a mannerly fashion. I was proud to hear that 5 NAYRC/ Youth riders at the Robert Dover clinic in Florida are from Region 4! That is quite the talent that our region is producing!

INDA Board Member

LINCOLN

FORGE & FARRIER

Zack Hamilton 402.875,1433



# Virtual Annual NDA Meeting

by Michaela Schieffer

Like many events in 2020, our Year-End Awards Banquet looked a bit different this year, with our decision to meet virtually. In the 2 weeks leading up to the event, we held virtual elections for the board positions we had available, with members asked to vote virtually for their board member applicants.

The annual meeting was held virtually over Zoom on November 15th. We heard from each board member and a report from each officer. As president, Melissa thanked everyone for participating in the awards deferral to 2021's show season due to lack of qualifying shows in 2020, and emphasized NDA's renewed focus on education for this year. Melissa expressed that it is important for the community to recognize the burnout from NDA volunteers, and help will be needed from new people and fresh perspectives as we adapt to socially-distanced events this year.

Melissa concluded her report by voicing a heartfelt appreciation to all out-going board members and committee chairs.

In the financial report as Treasurer, Lana noted that NDA has managed to hold strong and not put ourselves in a bad position for 2021 due to the careful and thoughtful planning. This was due in part to creative fundraisers this year, like the handmade masks sewn by Kathy Hanford and solid membership numbers. Noteworthy items include breaking even for the expenses for the cancelled Convention in Omaha, and adding a new line item for Western Dressage to recognize WD as an important component of our community. The financial report was approved by the board, and further details of account

balances can be found in the meeting minutes on the NDA website under Resources, Board Meeting Minutes. Although there was no old business to conclude, the new business involved the announcement of new incoming board members.

**Election results:** 

1 year term: Carrie Cross

2 year term: Mary Ellen Ducey

2 year term: Sheila Purdum

3 year term: Mel Policcichio

3 year term: Christine Walker

3 year term: Shan Lawton

Junior (1 year term): Mia Newman

Returning to the 2021 Board:

Lana Erickson (term expires in 2021)

Michaela Schieffer (term expires in 2021)



Sharing God's gift of horses with anyone regardless of AGE, INCOME or ABILITY

www.stillwatersea.ora



Lessons - Boarding
Summer Camps
Therapeutic Riding Program

18221 S. 68th St. Hickma, NE

**New Board Appointments:** 

**President: Carrie Cross** 

Vice President: Michaela Schieffer

Secretary: Mel Policcichio

Treasurer: Lana Erickson

The Annual Meeting closed out with the announcement of the results for the Virtual Schooling Show awards series.

We were all disappointed to not be able to gather with you all after an exceptionally rough year, and we will all be more than ready to reunite as soon as we are able.



## Nebraska Dressage News

Our very own Tillie Jones, was chosen as the winner of Stable Management Award at the Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic in January. She was also announced as an addition to the 2021 Emerging Athletes list, joining fellow Region 4 members, Avery Allen, MO, and Bianca Schmidt, MN, on this prestigious list.

For the 6th consecutive year, NDA's website has won first place in the GMO Award for Best User Experience! Our website design, content, and usability consistently score top marks from the judges among GMOs across the nation. This is also a little reminder for all of us that everything you could ever need to know can be found on our award-winning website! All the forms, resources, photos, events, and news that is important to you can be found in one place.

There is still time to join Coda Cavallo's book club before the in-person or virtual Zoom meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2021, at 2:00pm. So far, they have been reading Beth Baumert's latest book, "How Two Minds Meet!" up to page 73 (part one) of the book. More details in "Local Barn News" section.





Drs. Mike Black, Kim Conover, Amy Cook and Michael Thomassen Veterinarian | Nebraska Equine Veterinary Clinic | 402.533.1151

> 10261 County Road P38A Omaha, NE 68142

You Spent All Year Training for This
Ou Spent All Year Working To Pay His Vet Bills
Ou Spent All Night Organizing Your Tack Box
You Spent Your Extra Money On More Lessons
Ou Spent All Your Days Off Getting Him Ready



Check our current wait time online at UCCLincoln.com (402) 488-4321



## Meet the Board!



#### CARRIE CROSS, PRESIDENT

Well, I guess by now you know I am the new NDA 2021 President. But, not a lot of you know who exactly I am. I'm that quiet person that hangs out in the shadows, not being seen sometimes doing some of the work that people don't necessarily want to do. I have helped pick up the arena after a show, announced at the Classic, done bit checks, and was the steward for the Western Dressage group. But, that doesn't tell you WHO I am.

I was born in Indiana and raised in North East Texas. I am the oldest of two sisters. My sister and I rode all over the back roads of our little corner of the world and dreamed big dreams. I rodeoed with Martha Josey and Janet Stover; I've team roped and am pretty good on the heel side. I spent 15 years as an exercise rider and assistant trainer for thoroughbred and standardbred race horses. Showed and trained world champion Arabian horses in hunter, western pleasure and costume. But, I absolutely LOVE dressage. With dressage you have a correct base for all disciplines. Your horse can go anywhere and do anything correctly.

I have trained with Debbie Lavallee of Quinlan, TX and Janice Anderson now of FL. Both of these trainers stressed correct rider position as well as basics. But, while working on correctness there was also fun and friendship. My current horse is an Appaloosa named Louie, he is western bred and is happiest if I let him plunk around with his nose down dragging along. So, to compromise we are doing western dressage and last year cowboy dressage. I also play with a POA named Honey. She hasn't quite told me where she will be happiest yet.

While I am currently riding western, that doesn't mean that I don't know the challenges that go on with traditional dressage. I will work tirelessly for all dressage riders in our GMO and area to make dressage fun and affordable. If I don't know the answer, we'll find out the answer. If you have an idea, please call, text or e-mail me! I promise to look at it. I don't yet know what 2021 will bring us, I hope a full slate of shows and clinics! But, let's have some fun, get to know each other and I promise to work hard for NDA and do what I can to make 2021 the best year I can for you.



#### MICHAELA SCHIEFFER, VICE PRESIDENT

Although I am not a new face at the NDA board meetings, I am relatively new to the board - so I am so excited that we are doing these introductions! To explain my confusing opening line, I have been your behind-the-scenes editor of the NDA Newsletter, the Contact, for the past 4 years. This editor role led me to attend most of the board meetings just as a member to gather newsletter content, and I joined the board officially last year!

I became the newsletter editor because of my background in equine editorial roles, having completed an internship in Texas with the American Paint Horse Association's editorial staff for their multiple magazines after graduating from UNL and continuing as a staff writer and then freelance writer when I moved back to Nebraska. My horse ownership background came from a childhood spent in the jumping ring and on backpacking trail rides, but I'm still a dressage fan from my insistence on giving every horse a solid flatwork foundation in dressage to build a deep partnership and sense of trust that we took into other disciplines. I am the long-time owner of a Paint gelding whose best talent is something our family refers to as "Roulette lameness," which is one reason why I am rarely found at shows.

Now I stay home with my kiddo, who is now a sweet little toddler, and work remotely in the evenings as a college counselor for pre-med students, offering college essay advice (are we sensing a writing theme here?) and help

with scholarships and FAFSA applications. I also have an author page on Niche.com, which all keeps me plenty busy!

As the editor for The Contact, and your new Vice President, I love connecting with Nebraska Dressage members and sharing your stories, to continue building a connected and supportive community. If you ever have an idea of something you would like to see covered in our newsletter, my (email) door is always open! From my perspective, the NDA newsletter is your newsletter, and should always be a reflection of its members.

Thank you for allowing me to continue connecting us to one another!



#### LANA ERICKSON, TREASURER

Born and raised in all over Kansas, I found my passion when I started riding at the age of 10 in the Kansas City area. After a couple of years or lessons, I got my first mare at age 12. We showed hunter/jumper through my early teen years until I was lucky enough to be connected with Pony Clubbers in early high school and introduced to eventing. My first dressage experiences were with my Pony Club friends and were originally a means to an end -- to get out on that cross country course!

Love brought me to Nebraska in 1996. Age, wisdom, and the support of a great Nebraska dressage community brought me to dressage. Life events (college, marriage and babies) kept my involvement with horses minimal until my youngest daughter began riding at the age of 7. Through her, I was introduced to the Nebraska dressage community and began taking lessons and competing. In 2013, we purchased Skye, our APHA mare, who was everything I didn't think I wanted and 100% what I needed. Together, Skye and I have become increasingly involved in competition, clinics, and NDA as a whole. Skye and I call Middle Cross stables our barn home and have been learning under the tutelage of Angie McClelland for many years. The last 15 months have been fraught with injury, but we're looking forward to a hopeful recovery. In the meantime, Skye is enjoying being a spoiled pony!

2021 marks my third year on the NDA board in the role of treasurer. I also serve on the membership committee and am frequently at shows as a volunteer. I'm happy to have the opportunity to support an organization and a community that have offered me so much support over the years.



#### MEL POLICICCHIO, SECRETARY

Hello, Nebraska Dressage Association! Thank you for voting me to the board, I am very excited to join as the secretary in 2021. As I am relatively new to Nebraska Dressage, I thought I'd give a bit of an introduction!

I moved to Nebraska from Pittsburgh in 2018, began riding at Coda Cavallo in March, and am excited to continue my dressage education under Jane's tutelage. I have a long (and occasionally fraught) twenty year history with dressage. I grew up riding at a dressage and event barn north of Pittsburgh, where I was taught both the importance of dressage and the thrill of cross country.

I showed both as a child, somehow always scoring better in dressage when there was a promise of jumping after... what a coincidence! As a teen, I politely refused to show straight dressage, but after college, I got the opportunity to ride my trainer's dressage horse. Reluctant at first, I eventually partnered with the mare who would teach me the joys of harnessing the horses's power for collected movements, flying changes, and (my favorite) an extended canter. Eventing is still my first love, but I now have a new respect for and interest in the sport of dressage. I honestly think I worked harder for my bronze medal than I did for my college degree! (If I ever go for my silver, I'll have to wait until I get a graduate degree so I can compare those endeavors)

A helpfully sticky rider, I've spent many years riding the horses no one else wanted to ride, patiently helping these horses find balance, rhythm, and contact (and occasionally brakes and basic steering). Even before I found my inner dressage queen, I've loved dressage as the great equalizer

among horses--not every horse can jump, but (almost) any horse can complete a training level dressage test.

As NDA secretary and member of the communications committee, I will do my best to ensure the goings on of the NDA are carefully documented and transparent to members. I'm very much looking forward to 2021, no matter what it holds, as we all do our best to do right by our horses, ourselves, and our sport!



#### **CHRISTINE WALKER**

Hello fellow horsev folk! I want to introduce myself. Christine Walker born and raised in north central Pennsylvania. I was a hard-core hunt seat equitation rider as a junior, showing 3'6" medal classes and pretty strongly in 4-H; in Pennsylvania, 4-H is as serious as any USEF rated show. Upon graduating high school, I moved to Kentucky to attend Midway College which is now Midway University. Midway, being in the heart of Woodford County, KY, gave me the opportunity to pursue my interests in equine business focusing on being active and the administration of equine nonprofit associations. I had internships at both United States Pony Clubs and at the International Hunter Futurity. I served as the captain of our IHSA riding team two consecutive years and served as a student barn manager three of the four years I was in school. I graduated with a degree in BA in Business Administration with a concentration in Equine Business.

Riding and classes were my life at Midway, competing in the Open division of the IHSA, exercised fox hunters, and rode several disciplines including hunseat, dressage, eventing and reining. Basically if it was a horse opportunity and it became available I took it. I did this while always having a minimum of 18 credit hours and a part-time job(s). I had to graduate in four years, that's what I could afford. I am goal driven and if there is a goal at hand, I will work as hard as possible to achieve it. That is what I bring to the heart of any job or position that I have ever held.

Upon graduation I worked for a time at the race track and on the farm rehabbing, exercising grooming and breaking thoroughbreds. That was definitely the thrill of a lifetime and I learned a ton, but it was time to get a job that had benefits and health insurance. I worked briefly in the International disciplines department at the USEF for roughly a year, but then an opportunity opened up at USDF. I started as the horse registration liaison, and eventually became the Lead Sr. Coordinator of the membership department. I was in charge of the All-Breeds program during 2005 which was the first year all horses must be declared for a specific breed registry. That was quite the undertaking getting all horses on file declared and working with the breed registries to ensure all horses were correctly identified.

In 2007 my husband and I moved to South Bend, Indiana for a massive career shift for him. Originally was only supposed to be a two-year move and then we were supposed to be moving back to the Northern Kentucky area. Indiana had very little in the way of horses; with the goal in mind to work with riders when we returned to KY, I pursued an education and medical massage therapy. We actually lived in South Bend for a total of 12 years, as the company which my husband worked for went bankrupt and he found other employment ironically there in South Bend. In 2017, I was able to purchase my unraced thoroughbred Steve and begin actually riding again; after a long hiatus of not riding or having horses for 10 years. He was very green and just saddle broke when I got him. I found a local dressage trainer and decided to start him as a dressage horse, as I wanted to learn all the basics and get him started correctly. I became active with Michiana Dressage club, serving as the 2018 Vice President and 2019 president.

We moved to Omaha, Nebraska in April 2019. Steve came along and I am now boarding and training with Jane Fucinaro at Coda Cavallo. I am the proud small business owner of Walker Equine Therapies, where I perform massage and bodywork services for both horses and riders. Things are a little touch and go on a daily basis with Covid-19, but with following sanitation protocols and limiting my client base, I am able to keep myself and my clients as safe as possible. I am currently a student of Equine bodywork technically, as I am a student with the school of Applied Integrative Therapy, Equine. I am taking the detailed route of getting my National Certification. I will graduate from this program with over 300 hours of education. I am about ¾ way completed at this time.

When I'm not with horses, I'm busy being a mom and wife. We have two boys ages 15 and 7 and three very rambunctious terriers. When not amongst a pandemic, we enjoy traveling as much as we can. I look forward to

serving on the NDA board as the Chairperson for Membership and Competitions. I will do my best to ensure everything moves smoothly and safely. We don't know what 2021 and Covid-19 has in-store for us this year, but we will do our best to make this season as successful as possible.



#### **SHAN LAWTON**

Shan Lawton is a dressage trainer based in Omaha with over 30 years of experience in the art and sport of dressage, yielding an understanding of both equine and human psychology and physiology.

Shan's clients range in level of expertise from lower level non-competing dressage riders to successful competing FEI riders, along with eventing clients and clients wishing simply to work on their flat work, and in age from young riders to retirees. Their accomplishments while working with Shan include USDF bronze and silver medals. Shan has trained horses to the Grand Prix level, and horses that arrived in training with Shan with incorrect or ruined gaits have gone on to become high score performers at regional championships.



#### **MARY ELLEN**

My experience over the years with horses has been limited. A lot of my early stories about horses are from my old-

er siblings as my memories are hazy. I suppose that may be one reason I became an archivist. I like to see stories captured on paper or through letters. My work gives me a lot of opportunity to participate in committees. I am glad I am able to share with NDA some of what I've learned. My earliest encounter with a horse happened when my family visited our Uncle Marvin's farm. Three of us kids were playing near a paddock gate when a horse got spooked. My sister and brother admit that they took off running as I looked up to see a giant - super giant from my view - horse running at me. I understand I ended up with only a few bruises! My mom, Darlene, often told stories about her dad who raised horses and mules in Randolph, Nebraska. She recalled being frustrated when her dad told her that her brothers got first call on riding the horses. My daughter Maureen is the avid rider in our family, thanks to dear friends who got a rescue horse and invited us to meet it and share some carrots. We leased a few horses that are still family. We've had our own horse, Ozzy, about a year and a half. I love seeing how Maureen and Oz learn together. What a treat it is to have Ozzy say hello and blow on my neck and shoulders. Most of my experience is off the saddle but with Maureen's help, I've now ridden Ozzy at a walk several times. It seems that I had a lot of people that led me to opportunities that I may not otherwise have. I am so grateful.



#### MIA NEWMAN (JUNIOR MEMBER)

My name is Mia Newman, I am 15 years old and in 9th grade in Millard Nebraska. Horses have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I started my dressage journey about 2 years ago, after leaving the hunter jumper discipline. I have spent the last year on the NDA board as the Jr./YR representative. I loved the opportunity to continue as the Jr./YR representative as a way to get more involved in the young rider community through educational events while still having fun and making new friends.

## **Local Barn News**

#### Coda Cavallo

We are off to a great start this year. In February, we are hosting Clayton Martin for a four day clinic, in which auditors are welcome. On February 27, we kick off our second year of dressage Book Club at Coda and will be discussing Beth Baumert's latest book, When Two Minds Meet. I am also thrilled to announce that we will be hosting our first ever schooling show: Coda Cavallo's Dressage n Dash Schooling Show on June 5th, judged by Kate Kostenbader, "L" Grad. Details to come. Happy winter training, everyone!

There is still time to join Coda Cavallo's book club before the in-person or virtual Zoom meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2021, at 2:00pm. So far, they have been reading Beth Baumert's latest book, "How Two Minds Meet!" up to page 73 (part one) of the book. To stay responsible during Covid times, the in-person meeting will be held in the barn aisle of Coda Cavallo to adhere to social distancing.

#### S & L Stables

Two riders from S & L Stables were WDAA Reserve World Champions last fall – Makayla Regler riding Invite to Invest in Exceptional Rider Class 1 and Sheila Purdum riding Others Will Follow in Freestyle Open – Intro/Basic Level. Jenna Brumm will be coming back on May 15 for another very popular Western Dressage Basics Clinic, see the NDA calendar page for more specifics. Our 4-H club Blazing Saddles has been busy with biweekly horse management Webinars which will run through April. These Webinars are open to all youth, email us for further information.



## **Region 4 News**

After going virtual in 2020, the USDF Convention has been announced to be in a physical location this year: in Houston, Texas over December 1 - 4. The Convention will once again feature education sessions, roundtables and Q&A's where you can make your opinion heard, USDF governance in action, and the Salute Gala and Annual Awards Banquet finale.

The US Dressage Finals is back and has been scheduled for November 11-14 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. With the 2020 edition cancelled, those who were qualified are being rolled into 2021, so you can expect a large turnout for the national competition. Also noteworthy: for the first time ever, Finals is adding a Junior/Young Rider division in 2021.

The Omaha Equestrian Foundation has made the announcement that the 2021 Burlington Capital International Omaha has been canceled. On their website, chief executive officer Julie Boilesen states, "We have been incredibly proud to host the Burlington Capital International for nine years and are disappointed that circumstances prevent us from hosting again this year. On behalf of our amazing competitors and fans we did our best to search for ways to produce a safe, high-quality event."



402.733.4100

## Western Dressage Corner

NDA Western dressage riders have had a busy fall. Seven members participated in the WDAA World Ónline Championship show this year; the most ever from Nebraska. Riders included Adult Amateurs – Kathy Lewis, Kacey Moreland, Kimmie Peterson, Kristen Loudon and Anné Loudon; Jr rider – Makayla Regler and Open rider – Sheila Purdum. Everyone had wonderful rides and scores. Kacey Moreland placed 4th in the Basic Horsemanship class and 10th in her Basic 1 test showing Sip it Slow. Kimmie Peterson placed 5th in Level 3 Test 2 with Miss Golden Trigger and 10th in Level 3 Test 3 with TSR Mona Macbar. Makayla Regler was Reserve Champion in PC Intro 1 with Invite to Invest and Sheila Purdum was Reserve Champion in Intro/Basic Freestyle with Others Will Follow. The show was an overwhelming success for the WDAA with over 2400 test ridden.

The NDA Western Dressage Committee would like to thank all NDA Schooling Show managers for including western classes in their shows this year and special thanks to those that made the effort to add WDAA show recognition. It was much appreciated.

While this has been a difficult year, we have seen new horses and faces at our NDA schooling shows both in person and on-line. Let's hope for that continued growth and interest in 2021.

WDAA has released an app designed to help western dressage riders learn tests and improve their performance. The app allows riders to study tests and listen to audio recordings covering the movements. It is also a useful reference for judges, spectators, and trainers. Find the app by searching WDAA in the App store.

## **Junior Corner**



Just a reminder to join our Instagram page, @nda.juniors, to stay connected! We send out news and requests for feedback on this platform, so you don't miss a thing!

Respectfully, Sheila Purdum





# **Scholarship Report:**

## Lexie Kment

Thank you so much for this \$500 Scholarship! This scholarship helped enable me to participate in the 2021 Robert Dover Horse-Mastership Clinic held in Wellington Florida on January 7-10 2021. I was invited to this clinic by USEF after winning the FEI Children's National Championship. This clinic included three days packed full of riding sessions from top professionals including Robert Dover, George Williams, Olivia Lagoy-Weltz, Christine Traurig, Charlotte Bredahl, and Sabine Schut-Kery. On the fourth and final day of the clinic, USEF held a mock show for the riders judged by Charlotte Bredahl.

On the first day of the clinic, Robert Dover gave his, "Basic Principles of Dressage", lecture about the half-halt and the straightness of the horse. I then rode with him later that day on an amazing horse named Montagny von der Heide whom we are leasing from Laureen Van Norman. We worked on the half halt and picturing the perfect movement in my head before I did it. The next two days I rode with George Williams and we worked on my accuracy, throughout the movements, preparing for the final day of the clinic- the "mock show".

The afternoons included educational sessions taught by Christine Traurig, the USEF social media team, and Kasey Perry-Glass and Adrienne Lyle. Christine is the USEF Young Horse coach and she talked to us about what to look for in a young horse. The USEF social media team spoke to the riders about using social media to help promote ourselves as young horsewoman and upcoming trainers. Kasey Perry-Glass and Adrienne Lyle spoke about the importance of how they care for their high-performance horses while at their own barns, traveling, and in Europe.

The final day of the clinic was full of excitement and jitters. The riders were given the opportunity to have any of the six clinicians or our own trainers warm us up for the mock show ride. I chose Robert Dover to warm me up and it was amazing! He pushed me to imagine the perfect outcome of each movement. My ride was fantastic! After the ride, Charlotte scored each test and shared some audible comments to each of the riders. While coming out of the International arena, Robert congratulated me and Monty with some amazing compliments.

Thank you so much NDA for helping make this amazing experience possible! I am so blessed to have such an amazing association behind me as my dressage career continues to blossom.



# Mandy Chao

Trilogy Authorized Saddle Fitter

P: 314-384-9132 E: integritysaddlefitting@gmail.com www.performancesaddlery.com

## **Calendar of Events**

MARCH	8	NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 virtually over Zoom	JUNE 14	NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 virtually over Zoom
APRIL	12	NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 virtually over Zoom	JUNE 21-JULY 4	Summer Solstice Virtual Dressage Show, entries due July 1
	10	NDA Board Meeting, 6:30 virtually over Zoom	CLASSIFIED ADS	
			Do you have something to advertise?	
	15	Western Dressage Basics Clinic with Jenna Brumm. S&L Stables	Classified ads are \$5 for NDA members and \$10 for non-members. They will appear on this 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 Margo Hamilton at margoreham@gmail.com. Checks should be made payable to NDA and should be sent to Kathy Hanford, 10301 W. Pioneers Blvd, Denton, NE, 68533  NDAmakesnoendorsementsorrepresentationinconnectionwith advertisements placed in this section.	
	28	NDA 2021 Cornhusker Classic Schooling Show, Lancaser Event Center		
	29-30	NDA 2021 Annual Cornhusker Classic I & II, Lancaser Event Center		

Thanks to generous donors, grants are available for:



Instructors
Judges
Technical Delegates
Show Management
Adult Amateurs
Youth

Breeders High Performance Riders Non-Profit Equestrian Organizations and USDF GMOs

Visit 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.



Your contribution to The Dressage Foundation is an investment in your dressage community. Thank you!