



March 2023 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Browsing social media, I see lots of inspirational or meaningful quotes posted. I assume people post quotes that relate to how they feel or about something they are going through in their lives or even that the quotes touch their hearts in some way. We all like to imagine ourselves as the ones who made it through the storm or the ones who dance in the rain and are always humble and kind.

Usually, when I post such things on my own social media pages it is to remind myself of how I want to live. I remind myself to be braver and do things that make me uncomfortable because those things get me closer to my goals or not to put off for tomorrow what I can do today.

Lately, besides looking at inspirational quotes on social media, I have been conducting Western Dressage clinics and speaking about Western Dressage quite a bit. A thing that I have often been hearing from auditors, and usually same ones who post all the inspirational quotes, is; "I want to show, but maybe I can go watch the next show" or "I'm thinking about showing, but I'm not ready".

To those people, I want to say "Just Do It!"

The hardest part about making your dream come true is just taking the first step. So, sign up and pay the entry fee. After that it gets easier. All goals can be accomplished through lots of small steps in the direction of success, exactly like the WDAA leveled training system. We ask our horses to move forward in small steps. We can do the same things for ourselves, but we have to take the steps and not just think about or talk about taking the steps.

Every time I have willed myself to action toward one of my goals, I have been proud of my efforts.

Through those actions, I learn and I improve and I get closer to my goals. None of us start off being great, but we get better through hard work and experience. We only get experience if we get

started. So, take the next step in your journey and know that your WDAA friends and I will be cheering for you, always!

Enjoy the Journey,
Cindy Butler, Your President
Western Dressage Association of America



WDAA member Question of the Month survey notice!

Late last year several USEF stewards questioned the WDAA definition of a standard American Western stock saddle. They are the ones who have to make the call whether a piece of tack is allowed or not, going by the exact wording of the rule. Understandably they want to have no grey areas in the rules. WDAA found that there are many varying interpretations of the current saddle rule WD 121.6, located in the USEF rulebook. Therefore, we will be sending a short survey to all current WDAA members. This survey will guide the WDAA board of directors and USEF Western Dressage committee in the direction that the majority of our respondents wish to go. It is very important that we receive as many replies as possible to this critical survey. Survey results will be posted in the next newsletter.

Just because you receive this newsletter does not necessarily mean you are a WDAA member, to confirm you are a current member please check your WDAA member portal.

The survey should be emailed to members by Monday, March 13th and will close on Tuesday, March 21st giving those interested time to join or renew their membership, and over a week to respond.

USEF Annual Meeting

The USEF annual meeting was held Jan 12-14 in Lexington KY. On the first day of the meetings WDAA presented a year-end report on our various programs and it was received with great enthusiasm by all who attended. Saturday night was the USEF Horse of the Year Awards dinner which resembled the social event of the season for Western Dressage exhibitors. Huge numbers of USEF members participated in the Western Dressage HOTY awards all over the country this year and many of those people attended the banquet. We were loud and proud!

It was such fun to support all of our riders that night, everyone was dressed to the nines, we made a huge impact on the other attendees, many folks from other breeds and disciplines came up to us and said they were so thrilled to see such an enthusiastic supportive group of horse people. Plan to attend next year, the meetings are always very educational and the Pegasus Gala and HOTY Awards are worth the trip!





WDAA/USEF Judges Seminar

The WDAA/USEF Judges Seminar was held in Denver February 10-12

29 USEF Western Dressage judge applicants, 12 licensed judges and 12 auditors experienced 3 very full days of intense Western Dressage education, led by clinicians Joanne Coy - R, Gail Hoff - R, Cindy Butler - R, administrator/clinician Gail Matheus - R, and volunteer Joyce Swanson -R. Networking continued after the seminar concluded each night during the well-attended happy hour. We have a great new group of judge applicants beginning their journey to licensure. Plus, a well-prepared group of auditors ready to take on the show season with their newly gained knowledge.



Our WDAA State Affiliates are busy

Be sure to check in with all state affiliates, which can be found here, [State Affiliates \(westerndressageassociation.org\)](http://westerndressageassociation.org). Most of them have year-end awards and rider award programs. You don't have to live in the state to participate!

Many State affiliates donated items to the World Show in person and online silent auctions. All proceeds went straight back to the affiliate. Below are the earnings of participating

affiliates, thanks to all of you who supported the silent auctions!

WDAMI - \$1120

PAWDA - \$85

WDAGA - \$120

CAWDA - \$175

WDACO - \$230



Congratulations to the WDAA State Affiliate rider award Gold Medal buckle earners.

CAWDA	Carole Perkins
CAWDA	Cynthia Collins
WDAMI	Suzanne Morisse
WDAMI	Stephanie Mussmann
WDAMI	Michelle J. Lightcap
CAWDA	Jessie Bonneau
WDAFL	Ashley Miller
CAWDA	Denise Nelson-Finster
WDAIL	Mary Skittino
WDAIL	Marilyn Weber
WDACO	Cindy Rau-Sobotka
CAWDA	Andrea Lewis
CAWDA	Sarah Starks
WDAMI	Ida Norris
WDAMI	Andrea Lewis

2023 WDAA Online International

Only 10 weeks until entries open for the 2023 WDAA Online International Challenge! For all information regarding the Online Challenge visit [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge \(memberclicks.net\)](https://www.wdaa.net/MemberClicks/OnlineChallenge).



WDAA Online International Show

Phase 1 - Entries Accepted

May 22 - June 5, 2023

Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted

(Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 19, 2023

Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board

June 21 - July 5, 2023

Online Awards Ceremony

July 9, 2023

Judges:

Gail Matheus

Natalie Lamping

Fatima Pawlenko-Kranz

Ann Judge

Renee Johnson

Marie Maloney

Joann Williams

Lynn Newton



2023 WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show

The 2023 WDAA Western Dressage World

Championship Show will be held Sept 26-30 at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie OK.

There are two ways to qualify for the 2023 World Championship Show:

Have shown at the 2022 WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show

-OR-

Show in at least one WDAA Recognized show (including online shows) and earn a 60% or higher in ANY test. The date range for this qualification is between Oct 2nd 2022 - Sept 19th 2023.

We are proud to have the following honorable judges officiate our show.

Lillian Evaniew-Phelan

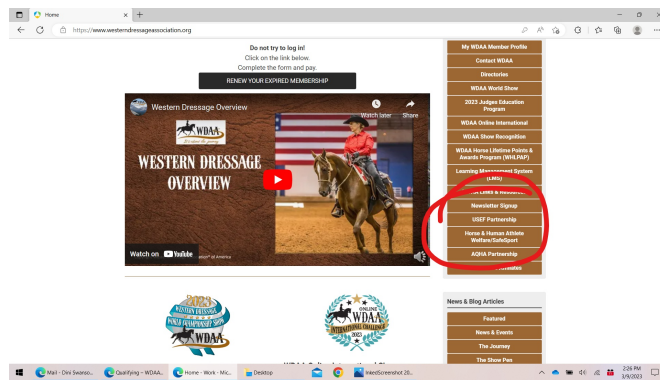
Susan Lang

Brian MacMahon

Joyce Swanson - also judging rail classes

Charlotte Trentelman

PRIZE LIST WILL BE POSTED SOON AT [WDAA World Championship Show \(wdaaworldshow.org\)](http://wdaaworldshow.org).



Please note that we have a few new menu items on our website side bar.

Horse and Human Athlete Welfare and Safe Sport. Please familiarize yourself with these pages. The Western Dressage Association of America is committed to providing a safe and fair competition environment and is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of all members and their horses and ponies. The links on those pages are provided to ensure our members' awareness of the resources and reporting processes available to them.

Read more: <https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/horse-human-athlete-welfare-safesport>

Announcing the 2023 Ellen DiBella Western Dressage Scholarship Recipient

The American Morgan Horse Educational Charitable Trust proudly announces that Julianne Smith of Oneida, Tennessee is the recipient of the 2023 Ellen DiBella Western Dressage Scholarship. Congratulations, Julianne!

In just the scholarship's second year, several fantastic applicants were considered. Thank you to all of our applicants for their dedication to learning the discipline of Western Dressage and striving to perfect their skills. You are wonderful promoters of the Morgan horse.

For information regarding this scholarship visit, <https://www.morganhorse.com/amhect/grants-scholarships/the-ellen-dibella-western-dressage-scholarship/>



News concerning USEF

Find all USEF rule change proposals here [Rule Changes | US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](https://rulechanges.usquestrian.org)



Find all USEF Presidential Rule Modifications here [Presidential Modifications](#) | [US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](#)

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

- Level 1 Freestyle: 4/5/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 2 Test 2: 3/30/2022 Movement 15 clarification that the collect jog begins at V. Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 2: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Test 4: 2/15/2022 Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 4: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Freestyle: 1/7/2022 Movement 10 has had the verbiage "through the jog" removed. And now states only "Simple change of lead".
- Level 3 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 4 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Added L|R to movements 9 & 10. Removed L|R from box 11. Corrected total points on cover page.
- Level 5 Test 1: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- Level 5 Test 3: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- 2022 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 11/30/2022 Tests Retired.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 12/1/2022 Added using the new Walk-Jog, Intermediate, and Advanced categories.



Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[Join WDAA](#)



WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



The LMS is a great way to learn more about Western Dressage. Only available to members.

[Visit the LMS](#)

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

