

February 2024 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I have just returned from the US Equestrian Annual Meeting. During the Board of Directors meeting, USEF President, Tom O'Mara stated that the best part of the Horse of the Year Gala was getting to meet exhibitors and families there, who are proud to be there and proud to be a part of USEF. I was privileged to cheer for many of you as you accepted your well-deserved awards. Our Western Dressage Community showed up and supported each other with pride and passion. I heard so many of you talking with folks from other disciplines excitedly sharing your love of Western Dressage. Several times, people from other disciplines overheard me talking about Western Dressage and expressed interest in trying it. Meanwhile, some other breeds or disciplines didn't have even one person show up to receive their awards or support their interest.

Our Western Dressage meeting was well attended and those of you who came were enthusiastic and contributed generously to our conversations. You asked how you can help WDAA.

All of this reminded me of how much stronger we are because we are together.

As we move forward, I ask you to work with me to be part of a "Stronger Together" initiative.

Here are some easy ways you can help:

1. USEF members are asked to identify their primary and secondary interests as part of their profiles when they join. Please identify Western Dressage as your primary or secondary interest. This will give us more grant money and seats on committees so we can advocate better for you.
2. Be a member of a State Affiliate and support its activities. Affiliates have the power to bring more Western Dressage to your community. However, they can only do this with your help and if you attend those events.
3. Show your horse or volunteer to work at local shows and ask show managers to have those shows recognized by WDAA. If we want more opportunities for showing or earning points, we have to support the shows we have first. We must explain to show managers what we care about so they will know what it takes to ensure that we bring more entries to their shows. Ask kindly for rail classes, therapeutic classes, gaited classes, junior exhibitor classes, freestyle, more Western tests or whatever is important to you.
4. Help WDAA procure sponsors for our World Show so we can make the experience better than ever for you. We need \$4K-\$10k to sponsor parties and events there besides class sponsors, division sponsors, and breed award sponsors for as little as \$50 and up.

If we all contribute in whatever ways we can, we will be stronger together. I saw at our Western Dressage meeting how much you love and value what we are doing. With your help, we can do anything. You are amazing and have great power. Let's start using it!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

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

For USEF Members: How to Designate Western Dressage as your Primary Discipline

- Go to the US Equestrian website and log in
 - Go to "My USEF Dashboard"
 - Click the "My Account Preferences" tile
 - Click the "Breed/Discipline Affiliation" tile
 - Make sure Western Dressage is selected from the drop down box under "Primary Breed/Discipline"
- To designate Western Dressage as a secondary discipline, put a check mark in front of Western Dressage under "Secondary Breed/Discipline".
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USEQUESTRIAN 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS



The USEF Annual Meeting

The USEF Annual Meeting held in Louisville, KY Friday, Jan 12th through Sunday, Jan 14th was a special weekend for WDAA and Western Dressage.

- First on Saturday morning Dini Swanson WDAA Executive Director and Cindy Butler WDAA President presented a year end wrap up for WDAA. Several WDAA members were in attendance plus many other curious enthusiasts. The full PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the WDAA member LMS. One highlight is that WDAA is researching the possibility of having a year-end award program for WDAA member's horses, this would be made possible through the new software being developed for the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program (WHL PAP).



- Saturday Night was the USEF Horse of the Year Awards, it was great fun celebrating with so many Western Dressage award winners throughout the evening. Seeing everyone supporting new friends was heartwarming. Congratulations to all that were there, we are so proud of your accomplishments and dedication to Western Dressage.
- The USEF Pegasus Awards were held the final night of the annual meeting, WDAA youth member Kiley Hamilton was named the 2023 USEF National Youth Sportsman of The Year. Kiley gave a beautiful speech to a very impressive audience of many of the top equestrians in the country! For more on Kiley and her achievements please visit this link [Kiley Hamilton Wins 2023 USEF National Youth Sportsman's Award | US Equestrian](#). The USEF Pegasus Medal of Honor was presented to Lynn Palm, for her exemplary professionalism and years of promoting Western Dressage and WDAA. Among many other accolades outside of Western Dressage Lynn is multi WDAA Western Dressage World Champion, USEF Large R Western Dressage judge, trainer and member of the WDAA International Committee. We were so proud to be represented on this very prestigious evening by two incredibly impressive horsewomen.
- We encourage WDAA members to attend the USEF Annual Meeting in the future. It is a phenomenal learning experience, and a great way to meet others with the same interests from all over the country and celebrate together.





2024 WDAA Online International Challenge Show Judges have been announced!

Michelle Combs USEF R WD - AZ
Mary Mahler USEF R WD - TX
Mary Skittino USEF R WD - IL
Robin Brueckman USEF R WD - NC
Cynthia Ganem USEF R WD - AZ
Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez USEF R WD - CO
Joanne Coy USEF R WD - MI
Suzanne Morisse USEF R WD - MI
Heather Stalker USEF R WD - FL
Nina Denman USEF R WD - IA

For all Online International Challenge information please visit - [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge \(memberclicks.net\)](https://www.wdaa.com/online-international-challenge)

Plus visit your WDAA member [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) for informative content about showing online.

Phase 1 - Entries Accepted

- May 20 - June 3, 2024

Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted

- (Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 18, 2024

Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board



- June 20 - July 3, 2024

Online Awards Ceremony

- July 7, 2024



USEF News

Attention USEF Lite Show hosts

USEF LITE ORGANIZER GRANT APPLICATION FOR USE OF AN APPLICANT STEWARD/TD

USEF is offering a grant program for USEF Lite licensed competitions to help offset the costs associated with hiring a USEF Applicant Steward or Technical Delegate. The \$250 grant will be issued if all requirements are met, and the Applicant Steward or Technical Delegate is approved. The grant is to be used solely for the costs of hiring an enrolled Applicant Steward or Technical Delegate.

<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources/forms/lite-competition-program>

LICENSED OFFICIAL GRANT PROGRAM - application deadline is March 1, 2024.

USEF is thrilled to continue our Licensed Official Grant program and applications are now open for 2024. Now in our third year of offering this grant, we are hoping to encourage new individuals to become licensed and help current officials as well. The grant is intended to reduce financial barriers for USEF or U.S. FEI officials related to a new license application or a license promotion.

A description of the grant program, eligibility requirements, and online application can be found here.

<https://officials.usef.org/grant-application>



THE

DRESSAGE FOUNDATION

The Dressage Foundation : Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund

Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund for Groups - Lynn Palm believes that the classical training principles of dressage are applicable and beneficial to all levels of riders, breeds of horses, and riding disciplines. The goal of this Fund is to provide funding of up to \$2,000 for equestrian groups to host affordable, high-quality Western Dressage educational events (clinics, camps, symposia, etc.) **The deadline to apply was 90 days prior to the event and now it has been reduced to 75 days prior to the event.**

[Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund for Groups : Educational Events : Apply For A Grant : Grants and Programs : The Dressage Foundation](#)

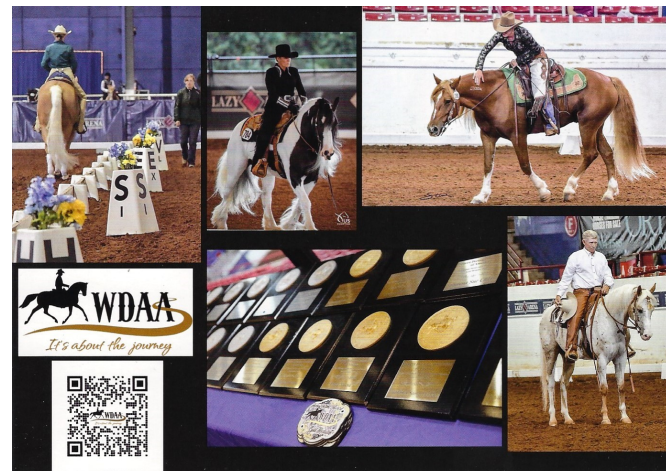
Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund for Individuals - Grants in the amount of \$1,000 each are available for riders who need financial help to continue their Western dressage education. Applicants can be professionals, amateurs, or youth. The grant review committee will look for applicants who are eager to grow and improve, have shown a passion for the sport, have financial need, and who have demonstrated a commitment to learning. **Applications must be received on or before July 20th of each year.**

[Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund for Individuals : Western Dressage : Apply For A Grant : Grants and Programs : The Dressage Foundation](#)

Minnesota Western Dressage Society

by Katie Lins, WDAA member, Rochester, Minnesota

Recently, WDAA sent a large stack of Western Dressage info cards for Rebecca Dennis, Donna Reinarts, and me from the Minnesota Western Dressage Society to pass out to attendees at the Equestrian Workshop this past weekend (January 20-21). We received a wonderful reception to our booth, and we talked to several visitors about Western Dressage and handed out many info cards. We now have a list of 33 names who signed up to receive more information and who want to try out Western Dressage! We were able to share a lot of information on what Western Dressage is and how the tests are ridden; we followed up with several of the visitors to provide information about WDAA recognized online and live shows in Minnesota and surrounding states. We also ran a continuous video of various breeds and levels of tests from the World Show for people to see how inclusive Western Dressage is. We had a drawing where we gave away 4 gift certificates to online shows and a Western Dressage lesson. The event coordinator shared that they will hold another workshop sometime in the near future. She also said we had the most appealing and informative booth at the workshop! We were promised an opportunity to do a demonstration at the next workshop that will be held! We are looking forward to that and an exciting 2024 Western Dressage show season!



WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Western Dressage is the art of riding and training a horse in a manner that develops obedience, flexibility, and balance. A US Equestrian Affiliate.

WDAA MISSION - Our mission is to build an equine community that combines the Western traditions of horse and rider with Classical Dressage.
We honor the horse.
We value the partnership between horse and rider.
We celebrate the legacy of the American West.
"It's about the journey . . ."

Here are just a few WDAA membership benefits:

- Members only Learning Management System containing hundreds of educational videos and engaging activities
- Earn awards and recognize the accomplishments of your horse over his/her lifetime.
- Junior Members receive FREE online Ride-a-Test evaluations.
- Military Veteran discounted lifetime membership includes a beautiful silver belt buckle as a gift of appreciation from WDAA for your service.
- Facebook Group for members to interact, discuss, and share Western Dressage knowledge.
- Professional Directory free listing.
- International Alliance and International Judging Certification programs currently in development.

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WWW.WDAA.ORG



The American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) Congratulates 2024 Ellen DiBella Western Dressage Scholarship Awardee - Abigail Lemke

Abigail Lemke with Elysium Boanerges GCH (aka Brego) Pictured.
Photo by Franke Photo Design, LLC

For the full story please visit this link,
<https://www.morganhorse.com/media-events/news/detail/11447/>

To learn more about the Ellen DiBella Western Dressage Scholarship please visit [American Morgan Horse Association - The Ellen DiBella Western Dressage Scholarship](#)

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

UPDATE

- 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.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Patterns: 02/22/2023 Changed the word "test" to "pattern".
- 2024 Western Dressage Equitation patterns: 01/18/2024 Movement #4 Lope to Halt movement changed to "Halt through the Jog."



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

