



April 2024 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I would like to express my sincerest thank you to two outgoing WDAA board members:

Mike Corcoran has transitioned from Director to Director Emeritus and will still advise the executive board. Mike came to the board after serving as our liaison to the ground crew at the WDAA World Show and boosting membership of WDAOK as its President. He worked diligently on our board advising us about Western saddles, starting the Harmony Saddle Award Program and building the first two Harmony Award saddles. Mike donated two saddles to WDAA. Mike is still building Western and English Dressage saddles and promoting Western Dressage everywhere he goes. He is an outstanding representative of WDAA.

Jen Sigety came to the board after working with WDAMI and starting the Western Dressage Queenagers group. She resigned from the board because of life changes that limit her time to volunteer. Jen is still very involved in Western Dressage enjoying and showing her beautiful horse, Bear. Jen worked on the Members Education Committee and Exceptional Rider Committee as well during her time on the WDAA board. She assisted Dini at the WDAA judges' seminar as well as took care of judges' hospitality and handed out awards at the WDAA World Championship Show. Jen is an amazing person and promoter of Western Dressage.

I welcome two new WDAA board members: Tami Steinbrecher and Amanda Delgado!

Tami has been promoting Western Dressage in the gaited community and as past president of the Western Dressage Assn. of GA. Her Tennessee Walking Horse was selected as the USEF Horse of the Year in 2022 and 2023 for Western Dressage Levels 2 and 3, the first TWH to receive that honor. The Steinbrecher's have 5 horses participating in the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program (WHL PAP) with The Wicked Wolf earning his Gold Medal this year. Tami's experience in youth leadership with both 4H and the National Walking Horse Assn. will help WDAA launch their youth programs with a strong foundation.

Amanda has been a long-time supporter of WDAA and Western Dressage, winning the High Score Military Veteran title multiple times at the WDAA World Championship and the WDAA Online International Challenge. She and her beautiful rescue mare Athenian Lady have earned several WDAA World Championships and recently Athena has been made into a Breyer Horse! Athena has been participating in the WHLPAP and has achieved her Silver Medal. On top of all that Amanda has been working to reestablish the Western Dressage Assn. of NC.

I'm sure many of you have met both at various WDAA events. I look forward to working with them and accomplishing great things to benefit WDAA members. For full bio's for all WDAA board members please visit this link, [Executive Board \(westerndressageassociation.org\)](https://www.westerndressageassociation.org).

We'll be working on a new, free annual high point horse program for WDAA members and an incentive program for those who help with the "Stronger Together" initiative. So, look forward to more information about those as well as all the exciting updates to the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program (WHL PAP). Also, don't forget to sign up for the WDAA International Online Challenge!

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

The 2024 WDAA Online International Challenge is a month away!



Entries open May 20th , you may submit videos as soon as your entries are approved, and you receive your individualized signs for the beginning of your videos. DO NOT wait until the last minute to submit your videos. Anyone who has participated in this show will tell you it is always better to submit early. Anything can happen to push back your ability to video and upload a judgable ride, slow internet, bad weather, life, a piece of illegal tack, etc. being rushed is never a good thing.

Make plans now to compete with Western Dressage riders from around the world and win amazing prizes. **Everyone who PLACES in a class or division will receive a jacket** directly from Tioga Territory with their titles printed on it, along with the Online International Exhibitor logo. Last year 250 jackets were earned!

Your 2024 Online International Challenge judges are;

Robin Brueckman, WD R
Michell Combs, WD R
Joanne Coy, WD R
Nena Denman, WD R
Cynthia Ganem, WD R
Mary Mahler, WD R
Suzanne Morisse, WD R
Debbie R. Rodriguez, WD R
Mary Skittino, WD R
Heather Stalker, WD R

For all entry information please visit [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge \(westerndressageassociation.org\)](https://www.westerndressageassociation.org)

The 2024 WDAA World Championship Show Prize list is now posted



Make sure you are aware of the new qualification requirements this year.

Visit this link for all information [WDAA World Championship Show \(wdaaworldshow.org\)](http://wdaaworldshow.org).

Your 2024 WDAA World Championship judges are;

Gail Matheus, R WD

Sharron Sarchet, R WD

Stephanie Soule, R WD

Eleanor Stine-Masek W, WD R

Cliff Swanson, R WD - Rail Classes

To support the World Show this year please make sure you visit the "Support the Show" section of the www.wdaaworldshow.org website.

<https://wdaaworldshow.org>

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WORLD SHOW VENDOR INFORMATION

VOLUNTEER

2024 WDAA World Championship Show

Guthrie, OK. Lazy E Arena, September 12-14, 2024
Prize list to be posted in spring of 2024 to

2024 WDAA World Show Qualification Requirements:

- The horse qualifies.
- The horse must qualify in every level that it will show in at the World Show.
- For Introductory – Basic levels, the horse must earn 63% or higher, in at least 1 WDAA Recognized show, either in person or online.
- For Level 1-5 the horse must earn 60% or higher, in at least 1 WDAA Recognized show, either in person or online.
- The qualification period begins October 1st, 2023, and ends August 26th, 2024.
- If the horse has qualified in the appropriate levels by the requirements above, there is no need to qualify for rail classes or freestyle with a score.

2024 SHOW SECRETARY AND PRIZE LIST

2023 DIVISION AND SPECIAL AWARD RESULTS

OUR GENEROUS 2023 WORLD SHOW SPONSORS

2024 WDAA/USEF Western Dressage Judges Seminar was held Feb 9-11 in Denver CO.

An enthusiastic group made up of auditors, trainers, amateurs, S judges, judge applicants and USEF licensed Western Dressage judges met for 3 days to continue their education in Western Dressage. Clinicians Joanne



Coy, Cindy Butler, Jodi Ely and Gail Matheus presented an engaging program that earned extraordinary praise from attendees. The judges education seminar is held every February in Denver, all are welcome to attend, don't miss out ! Plus, it has become a tradition to have a Superbowl party on the last evening, a great way to wind down after an intense 3 days of learning.

Please visit our "The Journey" blog to read about one attendees experience at the seminar, wdaa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&category=the-journey



A word from the WDAA Judges Ed Committee - Joanne Coy

The Judge Education Committee has been very busy these past several months. We have redesigned the process for judges to become licensed, giving applicants and current judges many more options. All of the requirements are listed on the USEF/WDAA websites. A few significant changes to the licensure process include (but are not limited to):

The addition of scribing and sitting hours required of small r applicants, Mandatory sideline apprenticing as well as attending the WDAA World Show Judge Education Training Program and passing that program with a satisfactory rating required of r applicants. To become eligible to start the process obtaining a small r license, the applicant must either already have a current Federation License, or be a USDF L Graduate or have completed a minimum of three requirements that range from judging experiences at a schooling show to having trained a horse that places in the top 5 at the world show. There are other options that an applicant may choose, these are just some examples.

Requirements for R Applicants now include Sideline Apprenticing as well as attending and passing the WDAA World Show Judge Education Training Program. The Sideline Apprenticing opportunity allows R WD Judges to work with apprentices at live shows (with prior permission from show management, of course) so that apprentices can gain as much knowledge from our WD experts ringside.

All of these methods, coupled with our Online Judge Seminar and annual in person Judge Seminar in Colorado, help to prepare our current judges and our apprentices to better evaluate our riders. The consistency in judging that we gain from our very carefully outlined judge education program is so valuable . We want our riders to feel that they are performing for

judges who are prepared and compassionate, judges who will recognize their efforts and help them with constructive criticism so they can better educate themselves and their horses. The best gift we can give our horses is an education so they may live a long useful life. Our Judge Education Committee consists of Gail Matheus, Director, Joanne Coy, Chair, Cindy Butler, WD President, Jodi Ely, and Joyce Swanson. It's a team of dedicated professionals who value the hard work of all of our WD members, fellow judges and WD Staff.



Western Dressage enthusiasts are looking for education anywhere they can find it, pod casts, clinics, lessons (virtual and in-person) YouTube videos, etc. The easiest place for them to find all of these things is at www.wdaa.org on the member Learning Management System (LMS) and in the WDAA Professionals Directory. It is a free membership benefit for all professionals. If you don't have a listing, set one up now, if you already have one make sure you have a good profile photo and easy to find contact information with links to all of your educational content and offerings.

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If you leave all fields blank and click search, you will get a full list of Members. If you are searching for a judge, professional, or TTT graduate please use the search filters below to find those specific people.

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USEF WD Judge Status

☐ USEF licensed WD Recorded (small r) Judge

☐ USEF licensed WD Registered (large R) Judge

Professional Directory

☐ Yes

Train The Trainers Graduate

☐ TTT graduate

☐ TTT advanced graduate

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The Journey

International Alliance News



The WDAA International Committee is pleased to announce the newest International Alliance.

Western Dressage Association of Australia (WDA-AUS)

WDA-AUS has always been a reliable supporter of WDAA and our mission. WDAA and WDA-AUS will exchange notable information and promote each other's events to grow interest, activity, and ability in Western Dressage outside the United States.

Please visit this link for all International Alliances. <https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/international-alliances>



*If you are aware of a group that is interested in becoming a WDAA International Alliance, please direct them to dini@westerdressageassociation.org



Larks Best Bett Inducted into the WDAA Hall of Champions

WDAA Hall of Champions - a horse who has passed but has won a Western Dressage World Championship or Reserve World Championship at the Western Dressage World Championship Show or an alliance partner's World or National Championship.

For the full story please visit our WDAA Honors page. [WDAA Honors \(westerdressageassociation.org\)](https://www.westerndressageassociation.org)

YOUTH EXCELLENCE SEMINAR

July 9-11, 2024 • Amarillo, Texas

AGES 10-18

\$150 member • \$165 non-member

\$25 late fee after June 1

Register at **AQHA.COM/YES**



Wrangler



AMARILLO.

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

- Level 1 Freestyle: 4/5/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.

UPDATE

- 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.

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

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