

THE READER



CenterLine Dressage is a Group Member Organization of USDF founded in 1972. CLD members are automatically members of the United States Dressage Federation.

HEADLINES

- ◆ PRESIDENT'S LETTER
- ◆ USDF CONVENTION NOTES PART II
FROM LESLIE BURKET
- ◆ CLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
- ◆ USDF CONVENTION NOTES
FROM PAULA BRINEY

CALENDAR

- ◆ ILLINOIS HORSE FAIR
MARCH 6 - 8 @ ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS
- ◆ CLD BOARD MEETING
MARCH 14 2PM @ STARWEST LOUNGE - .COM/CALENDAR
- ◆ BRIDLESPUR OPEN & WESTERN DRESSAGE SHOW
APRIL 10, 2015 @ NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER, LAKE ST. LOUIS - .COM/CALENDAR
- ◆ ICEBREAKER SCHOOLING SHOW
APRIL 25 @ STARWEST
- ◆ CAROUSEL CONNECTION
MAY 2 & 3 @ ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS
- ◆ BETSY STEINER CLINIC
MAY 29 - 31 @ PRATENSE FARMS - .COM/CALENDAR

Letter from the President

by Judy Nordstrom, President

Dear CLD members and friends,

I am knocking on wood as I say thank goodness our winter weather has not been too dreadful, at least as of yet! We are overdue for an early spring so I am hoping that our ground hog was wrong about six more weeks of winter.

On February 14, Kate and Martin Kuhn gave a winter lecture on "The Ever Elusive Feel: What is It and How to Develop It." We will have an article on this informative lecture in our next newsletter so I won't give away all of the details. We had a great turnout for this potluck event bringing people from 3 different states. Thanks to the many who participated and especially to Kate and Martin for keeping us well educated.

As we know, our CLD Classic shows are being held on June 27th and 28th this year. We will be holding a garage sale this year as a fundraiser for our club. Now is a great time to dig through our boxes and tubs of gear and other horse articles we may not need or use anymore and give someone else the opportunity to find a new treasure. Jordan Wilton is in charge of collecting items for this event so please make arrangements with her to make a donation.

The Illinois Horse Fair is taking place this year on March 6-8th at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. CLD will be there to help represent our favorite sport: dressage! Please come out and watch the dressage demos and lectures. This will be a great learning opportunity and a great way to support something we all love.

Judy Nordstrom, President
president@centerlinedressage.com

2014 USDF Convention Notes Part II

by Leslie Burket

Following our Region 2 Meeting, the remainder of the convention was filled with a variety of committee meetings. There are many from which you can choose, allowing selections most applicable to your club.

This year the focus was on the changes to the freestyle and dressage tests. Due to the depth of the changes, this information was discussed at three different committee meetings. Volumes of information were shared and I've consolidated that information, trying to present the elements that will most impact our club members and riders.

Regional Championships

- 2014 Championships averaged 600 rides per region.
- The Intermediate II test (I2) will be the only qualifying championship test for the I2 level for 2015. You can ride IA and IB but they won't be a qualifying test for the Regional Championships.
- On occasion, the 'gate' is not always opened and/or closed for each ride. Discussion followed. Could reduce the number of volunteers needed. Opening of the gate is always an indication to the rider that the bell has been rung. It retains the standard of the formal element. A vote was taken and the tradition of opening and closing the gate will continue.
- Investigating the option to allow one qualifying test and one qualifying freestyle test be ridden on same day
- Currently there are regions that complete their Championships just before the Dressage Finals (National Show). There is discussion as to how to reduce this hurdle such as changing the date of the show and modifying the Regional Championship dates. If there are changes, they will not be effective before 2016.

Dressage Finals

Chair Janine Malone hosted the session providing some interesting statistics.

- * Participation numbers increased from 304 to 404 this year.
- * There were 100+ volunteers and of that number, 15 were from William Woods College.
- * Participation increased for all regions, including the western states.
- * Electronic Scribing and instant scoring was used.
- * There were 959 rides and 560 stalls used.
- * 4 arenas had electronic scoreboards.
- * 39 states were represented.
- * 31 Breed organizations were represented.
- * 13 judges and 2 TDs officiated.
- * There were 2 1/2 days of Freestyle running from 8a to 10p.
- * There were 80 scribes and ring stewards.

Here the numbers by region:

+ Region 1: 79 horses	+ Region 5: 16 horses	+ Region 9: 30 horses
+ Region 2: 89 horses	+ Region 6: 10 horses	+ Total: 404 horses
+ Region 3: 73 horses	+ Region 7: 10 horses	
+ Region 4: 47 horses	+ Region 8: 50 horses	

Feedback from show participants:

- * Need more indoor arenas
- * G2 footing in all arenas
- * Separate freestyle between Open and AA
- * FEI classes should be inside (Alltech Arena)
- * Too cold - hold earlier in the year
- * Stabling - balance b/t stabling areas

Many thanks to Lloyd Landkamer (Mgr), Debbie Rheinart (Events), Monica Fitzgerald (Secretary) and Kevin Bradley (Horse Show Office - online entries and 'instant' scoring)

The following CLD members participated in the 2014 Dressage Finals Show: Martin Kuhn and Paddington, Kate Fleming-Kuhn and Westerstorm, Judy Nordstrom & Ghinger Ale, Sian McBride and Tebaldo, Judy Ethell and Rubin Raphael, Patti Blackmore and Rubico, Pinky Noll and Zlaten M. Ge and Lisa Lehr and Agathon JP.

Freestyle Committee

Dolly Hannon, Chair. The committee has devoted many hours to updating the freestyle tests and other elements that impact the freestyle presentations. The goal was to improve capturing elements of the rides as well as fixing a variety of items that are freestyle related.

Natalie Lamping has joined the committee for 2015.

There were over 50 freestyles at the Dressage Finals - that was huge!

Changes to freestyle tests are numerous and it would be difficult to cover each one here. If you are riding a freestyle test, review the new test sheets, both on the inside and outside, and if you have any questions, discuss with your trainer/choreographer. Some of the changes are complicated. Some general info shared:

- * Freestyle, Pas de Deux and Quadrille score sheets has been updated for 2015.
- * Develop choreography that is simple and clear so the judge can easily identify the movement being executed. Making the judge guess can cost you points.
- * Difficulty should be based on choreography rather than the movements.
- * Music must stop during halt.
- * Each forbidden action (ie rider posts through sitting trot), will receive a one time deduction of four points.
- * Maximum allowed time is 5 minutes. Lower level tests should go no longer than 4 minutes.
- * A JR/YR can now use the 3rd Level Freestyle for a USDF class as well an FEI class.

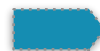


- * If a 'boom box' is used to play the media, it should be directly fed through a standard sound system.
- * If there is a problem with the music before or during a test, the rider must leave the arena and start over or request, from the judge, permission to return at a later time to ride the test.
- * If music skips and interrupts fluency, rider must ask judge for do-over.
- * Proposal in place to require an adequate sound system for freestyles (no boom boxes).
- * The Dressage Foundation offers a grant (Dancing Horse) to assist with sound system expenses.
- * It is the discretion of the 'C' judge to eliminate the team if not in arena within 20 seconds of music starting.
- * Times for sound check must be printed in the prize list. Riders please attend. It is for you!
- * Changes for National (USDF) freestyle tests are not in synch with FEI freestyle changes.

Judges Committee

Gary Rockwell, Chair. USDF Tests were modified to improve the flow and challenge of the movements to better prepare the horse and rider as they move up the levels.

- The collective mark, Submission, was modified to 'Willing cooperation, harmony, attention and confidence, acceptance of bit and aids, straightness, lightness of forehand and ease of movements'.
- Tests for all levels have some changes. As with freestyle, it is best you review the tests you will be riding to identify the changes and how they impact you.
- Lateral movements, except shoulder-in, must be performed for at least 12m of travel.
- To compete in the freestyle division, at least two tests, with scores above 60% at the highest test of that level, must be submitted with the entry blank.
- The halt must be clearly established and retained for a minimum of three seconds.
- The Material class will now have a 'finals' so expect those class numbers to increase.
- Sound checks are recommended but are not required.



Instructor Trainer Committee

Lilo Fore, Chair.

- Maryal Barnett is retiring from the Committee.
- Walked us through a review of 2014 objectives and accomplishments including hosting nineteen various events.
- Implemented the FEI Workshop and Certification Program
- In celebration of the 25th Anniversary, discussed the many activities, projects and successes through the years.
- Overall average scores of candidates passing certification is above 80 % at all levels.



The USDF Instructor/Trainer program, established in 1995, is celebrating their 25th year anniversary! To help them celebrate, we were served anniversary cake for our refreshment break. It was a beautiful cake and quite yummy!

Competition Open Forum

Panel: Janine Malone - Gary Rockwell - Joan Darnell - Dolly Hannon

Discussion proceeded about the logo options for saddle pads and riders wear. Handout of examples of what is or isn't legal in the competition arena. They are tightening down the logo size and position on saddle pads and jackets.

- On a saddle pad, the name and/or sponsor's logo must not exceed a surface area of 200 sq cm and can appear on each side of the saddle pad. Shape is not relevant.

- On a jacket, the surface area must not exceed 80 sq cm and may appear on each of the jacket sides at the height of breast pockets.
- Adult amateurs may not have a sponsorship logo on their saddle pad.
- Advertising is not allowed in the competition arena (ie pads, jackets, hats).
- Additional rulings on saddle pads, breed logos and flags of countries can be found in the rule books at USEF.org and USDF.org.

Board of Governors (BOG) General Assembly [Friday & Saturday Sessions]

Let it be known that all delegates must register to obtain their credentials and pin numbers before the start of the BOG. With these credentials, you are expected to sign in to the BOG to indicate your presence at the meeting. If you forget to sign in each day (and it's easy to do that), your name will show up on the vocal roll call list. If your name is called, you get to take 'The Walk of Shame' to the back and sign in. Average per meeting is tenish. Being the first to make the Walk of Shame is quite an honor! I was the first to take the Walk of Shame on Saturday (first time ever)!

President's Report - George Williams

The largest number of registered horses was in 2007. We are nearing that number. The Regional Championships continue to grow. Dressage Finals (National Show) grew from 300 horses in 2013 to 600 horses in 2014. The selection process is underway to determine the western site for 2016 to 2018 shows. All other information has been presented elsewhere.

Executive Director's Report - Stephen Hensch

- USDF now has a new page dedicated to Adult Amateurs (AA).
- 2015 tests are available on the website.
- ETrax has a new face and new features.
- *On the Levels* will require a subscription for access.

- The Equi-Test app (test diagrams) can be purchased on iTunes for \$2.99. Here is a link to all USDF/USEF apps: <http://goo.gl/zXv1R6>
- USDF tests are on the USEF site for no charge.
- New member benefits: USDF has partnered with Dressage Extensions and Ride Alert (ridealert.us), a simple 24/7 online means to identify you and your horse.
- On-line podcasts were launched last year and four episodes have been delivered. There is no charge to listen to a podcast.
- HART (Horse and Rider Together) was launched last January. It is an on-line journaling activity and is a membership benefit.
- Sport Horse Prospect program is gaining ground and participation.
- The 2015 Convention will be at the Rio in Las Vegas from December 3rd to 5th.
- The 2016 Convention will be at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch in St. Louis on December 1st to 3rd.

Treasurer's Report - Steve Schubert

Steve always brings humor to our meetings! This year he came in with a giant real money necklace and a furry, floppy-eared dog hat! The ears went down to his waist! It was hysterical and he had to wait while we all wiped our laughter tears from our eyes!

The budget was discussed with no major anomalies. Membership dues continue to provide 54% of the revenue whereas Competition, followed by Education and Marketing, account for 77% the expenses. USDF finished up 2014 in the BLACK - Yay!! The cost of producing the Connection magazine is \$100,000. Expense can be reduced by reading on-line. The cost to produce the Finals Show was \$726,425 of which USDF provided \$119,000. 2013 Finals show was in the red for \$69,000.

GMO Baskets

Periodically, throughout the BOG meeting, the action takes a short break while the panel draws names from a box. If your name is drawn, you are the recipient of one of the GMO baskets, a unique concept brought to life by Ruth Arvanette, long time employee of USDF and then The Dressage Foundation. She was looking for a way to recognize all the many GMOs that are represented at the convention and suggested baskets. The idea took off! All GMO's attending the convention has the option of contributing a basket that is filled with items unique to the GMO and their area. This year our CLD basket went home to Idaho with Nancy Roche. She was also the recipient of the Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund which helps defray the costs of attending the convention for a GMO member. This is a bit of history as Nancy benefitted from both of Ruth's legacies - a historical moment! She loved her basket!

Robert Dover - US Dressage Technical Advisor/Chef d'Équipe

This grass roots effort is to create a pipeline of talented horses and riders that will take America 'to the podium' in the years to come. USDF and USEF are committed to this program. George Williams and Charlotte Bredahl will be the Youth Coaches. Scott Hassler will be the Young Horse Coach through April. There will be six Observation/Planning clinics and 2 youth clinics in January - one in New Jersey and California. Two horses went to the World Cup in France, a giant step in the right direction.

Beth Baumert - President & CEO - The Dressage Foundation

The Foundation's mission is to make goals achievable for riders of all levels. Beth wants to encourage all GMOs to participate in the photography, newsletter article and website contents contests. GMOs are grouped by size and awards are distributed to each group size. Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director of TDF, made an appearance in many committee meetings, taking a few minutes to share with us information about TDF, the various grants that are available and how to apply for a grant.

USEF President Report - Christine Tauber

USEF is eleven years old now and much has been accomplished.

The Executive Board is being restructured to be more flexible and responsive - reducing board members from 54 to 19 board members. New members include CEO Chris Weltner and Sports Director Will O'Connell.

Wrap Up

The last activity of the meeting is to draw the winner of the last Convention basket. That also is an honor! When my name was called, the room burst out in laughter - the first to make the Walk of Shame was the winner of the last coveted basket - from Wisconsin Dressage & Combined Training!

The very elegant Salute Gala and Awards Banquet is a tribute to many! This year Maryal Barnett and Janine Malone received the 2014 USDF Lifetime Achievement Awards. Christiana Logan was selected as the Youth Volunteer of the Year and Terry Ciatti Gallo was selected as the USDF Volunteer of the Year. Both had amazing credentials and inspired us all to stay involved. Throughout the evening, first and second place year-end award recipients, including all-breeds winners and rider award medalists, were congratulated on stage. It was a night of celebration!

Departing the hotel involved many thank yous to all the staff that were very friendly and extremely helpful, constantly going above and beyond. The 'GO' shuttle arrived promptly and delivered me to the airport safe and sound!



Walk of Shame champion, Leslie Burket, won the last GMO basket.

Effort was made to avoid duplication of material between Leslie & Paula's reports. Thanks to both for this service to the club.

February 14, 2014 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ StarWest; Judy Nordstrom presiding

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Nordstrom at 2:11p. Also attending were Leslie Burket, Paula Briney, Alice Martin, Katie Keim, Kelly Griffith, Kim Jones, Martin Kuhn, Lisa Lehr, Teresa Litchfield, Marilyn Weber, Jordan Wilton, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, John Simpson, and Vickie Piper.

President's Report

- Judy has created a listing of the CLD Board of Directors for 2014-2015. The listing, for the board members, includes position, contact information and voting members. This collective information will be useful to the board members in their work between meetings.

- To insure all electronic voting is correctly tallied, we will use the Email Dodo tool for electronic voting in-between meetings. It will record all votes and names and will also calculate the percentages.

- The new CLD Officers and Board of Directors, elected at the Awards Dinner, will be published in the next newsletter.

* Judy Nordstrom – President	* Teresa Litchfield – Awards Chair
* Kelly Griffith – Vice President & Membership Secretary	* Lisa Lehr – Awards Chair
* Leslie Burket – Secretary	* Kate Fleming-Kuhn – Symposium Chair
* Katie Keim – Treasurer	* Marilyn Weber – Director
* Martin Kuhn – Web Master	* Paula Briney – Director
* Kim Jones – Newsletter Editor	* Jordan Wilton – Director, Scholarship Chair
	* John Simpson – Director

2014 - 2015 CLD Board of Directors

President's Report Concluded

- Judy received a Thank You note from Nancy Roche, the winner of the CLD basket at the 2014 USDF Convention. She enjoyed the variety of items representing our local area.
- USDF offers annual awards to GMOs for Volunteer, Newsletter, Website and Photograph of the Year. There are several divisions, based on club membership count. CLD is going to participate in the program this year.

Treasurer's Report

Katie Keim reported that our current bank balance is \$5,038.36. We have incurred a loss of \$283.47 for 2015. The CD balance is \$25,362.60. Katie has filed all 1099s for the club.

VP/Membership Report

Kelly reported that we have a total of 51 members as we continue to grow in the new membership year. Kelly will update membership with USDF.

Web Master Report

Martin reports that traffic is down, which is common for this time of the year. He released nine newsletters since the last report in October. We now have 125 electronic subscribers. The opening rate is approximately 60%.

Newsletter

Kim has the next newsletter edition ready to go. Three club members will be attending the World Cup this year. They have agreed to provide an article for the newsletter when they return with all their stories.

Social Media

Lisa reports that we have 303 likes on FaceBook. The Winter Lecture was posted on FaceBook and 126 people viewed it.

Awards/Ribbons

John Simpson completed an inventory of ribbons as well as the first place prizes (cups). We have adequate numbers of ribbons and cups for this year's Classic. Paula motioned, and Martin seconded, that we use what we have rather than making additional purchases. The vote passed. John also stated that he had heard back from Lilo Fore and she will be judging for our Classic 2016 shows.

Symposium

Kate reports that Suzanne von Dietze has committed to do a clinic with us this year. As she will be part of a US Tour, she won't have much control over the dates. She will let Kate know when she has a date.

Schooling Shows

Judy will contact Merri Voight to see if she will be hosting the Chevaux schooling show this year.
Alice will secure judges for IceBreaker and FireCracker.

Director's Reports

Paula Briney - IL Horse Fair will be March 6-8, 2015. This year there will be four dressage sessions each day: two Classical Dressage and two Western Dressage. There will also be a lecture each day. Jennifer Kotylo is the clinician. Paula is responsible for all English style riding. Marilyn Weber will be doing the Arabian Demo as well as riding in the Western Dressage clinic.

There are a variety of sponsorship levels. Marilyn motioned, and Kate seconded, that we commit to the \$250 sponsorship. Per Kim, we will sponsor one dressage session each day and will receive two weekend passes, there will be five daily public announcements and we can provide a banner or signage. A sign-up sheet has been circulated for volunteers who will distribute literature and answer questions at the event.

Old Business

In the October 2014 meeting, there was a discussion about modifying the CLD advertising rates and the possibility of moving to an electronic payment system for those purchasing advertising space. This discussion was revisited today. Martin did a quick review of the advertising rate changes and the electronic payment process. Discussion focused on the added workload for the treasurer, the possibility of misuse of the service, limited number of new advertising requests as well as the convenience and ease of electronic payments. Martin proposed that we separate the advertising rate changes from the vote on accepting electronic payments. Marilyn moved to accept the new advertising rates. Kim seconded. The vote was unanimous to move forward with the new advertising rates. Paula motioned to table the electronic payment discussion for now. Marilyn seconded and the vote was unanimous to table the electronic payment issue with one abstain. The full written proposal is at the bottom of the October Minutes.

It was 3:08pm when Kate motioned, and Teresa seconded, that we adjourn to begin the winter lecture: "The Elusive Feel: What It Is and How to Develop It". Next meeting will be at 2pm on March 14th, in the StarWest Lounge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Burket, Secretary

2014 USDF Convention Notes Region 2 Interest

by Alice Martin for Paula Briney

Region 2 Meetings

The Region needs new ideas to generate revenue beyond Cathy Jacobs Schooling Show Awards program. In general, the membership is holding level. Some clubs are growing and others have declined. Mostly this has to do with who is running the organization. Schooling shows and awards are the driving force for membership. It is always a challenge to engage the professional and the adult amateur riders. KDA awards a lot of AA scholarships and has many schooling shows. You need a membership chair with motivation.

Region 2 Championships

2014 Regional Championships averaged 600 rides per region. Region 2 in 2014 had 760 rides. Our region was the second highest in number of Championship rides. The number of AA Training Level rides doubled at 55. The average score at Training Level AA was 65.49%. Regional Championships will be at Waterloo Hunt Club in Michigan on Sept 17-20, 2015. Volunteers are needed to help fill the selection committee for Regional Championships. There are evaluation forms on all the sites that have applied to host 2016 Regionals.

National Championships

National Championships for 2015 will be again in Kentucky. Subsequent championship location has not yet been determined. The cut off date for qualifying for the National Championships is a concern that is under discussion.

Educational Committee Report

IDCTA is hosting the Adult Clinic in Region 2 for 2015. Each demo rider will ride with each instructor from August 21-23 at Temple Farms. (This clinic is currently being re-scheduled - date currently unknown.) The selection committee will use a short video to select riders of differing levels and horses of different breeds.

The Schooling Show program netted \$645 profit. AA's, Jr's and Professionals entered at \$25 per level or \$45 for two levels. Ribbons cost half of the entry fees. Western Dressage will be a part of the program next year. Organizers are to follow western dressage rules and gaited dressage rules. The point of schooling shows is to educate but the education must be correct. It was suggested to offer para classes at schooling shows and recognized shows but this will require additional elements be added for the para riders. Western dressage judging clinics are evolving & developing. Cathy will send out the 2015 rules and regulations to each GMO.

Judges Round Table

Gary Rockwell presided regarding 2015 tests. Changes were made to make things flow better for judging and the movements. The halt must be a minimum of three seconds. The only change to Intro was the format. No changes were made to the Rider tests. Training Level, Test 1, has been made easier.

At First Level, the lengthening distance for the trot was changed. The tests were shortened and the circles at X were separated. The renvers was moved from Second Level to Third Level. The counter canter was made simpler with simple changes. At Fourth Level, Test 2, movement 17 is now a working pirouette. Fourth Level Test 3 now has a 10m half circle into counter canter.

Collective marks: The halt must be clearly established before the rein back or the schwung. Under submission, straightness was added to willing cooperation and harmony. The rider scores have been changed from a triple coefficient to a double. There is better wording now for Position and Seat of the Rider.

At FEI the Intermediate B test is more helpfully worded.

Freestyles include big changes. There are many wording changes to clarify what is clearly allowed or not allowed. This

Judges Round Table (concluded)

This requires new forms. At Second Level a 180° turn on haunches is allowed. The Third Level Freestyle rules will work for the Jr. Rider and the FEI Jr. Rider Freestyle. Fourth Level has a list of additional allowed movements. The presiding judge can now eliminate the rider if he does not get to X on time. Lateral movements, except shoulder-in, must be performed for at least 12m of travel.

Sections or all of the test may be ridden with one hand.

Licensed Officials-Judges

There will be a judge's clinic and a freestyle clinic March 16-18 in Wellington, FL. The World Cup FEI Judges clinic will be held in Las Vegas. The Pan Am Games and the JR/YR Rider Championships overlap. In general, freestyle riders need to make their freestyles less complicated. Keep it simple.

Freestyle Committee

Bring test sheets into 2015 compliance. Five minutes is the maximum time allowed, but there is no minimum time. The judge at C can eliminate a rider for not entering the ring within 20 seconds of the start of the music. If music fails before or during a test, the rider may leave ring and start again or return at later time with permission of the judge.

A proposed rule change is that an adequate sound system should be provided by the show. The show must provide a sound check and this must be in prize list. In order to compete, the rider must submit two tests above 60% at the highest test of the freestyle entered with their entry blank.

Saddle pad logos will be addressed in the Wellington meeting. A sponsorship logo is allowed in the open competition ring. A breed logo should only be worn by horses registered to that breed logo.

GMO Committee

Region 3 added two new GMO's in 2014. GMO resources are available from both the committee members and the USDF

website. There has been a pretty good response to the GMO Newsletter and Photo/Website Awards Program, but delegates are encouraged to have more entries from their GMO's. Entrants may apply anytime during the year. Use the President's List on Yahoo for peer to peer help. Early this year there were many GMO/insurance issues. There were 14 nominations for Volunteer of the Year. It is a way to recognize local volunteers on the national level. Many GMO's are having problems getting members to apply for the scholarships.

Region 2 Friday Meeting, Director Ken Levy presiding

The Dressage Foundation submitted their annual report. Debbie Garris is now in charge of the Region 2 Omnibus. Region 2 has a FaceBook page with 800 members. There is also a Region 2 Jr/Young Rider page. News for the newsletter needs to be submitted two weeks before the end of the month to be in the e-blast. The website is too stagnant. Please send info to Director Ken & wife Barb Levy to submit to the Region 2 website and FB page for clinics & shows.

The Region 2 Mentor Program has not been used, although there are five mentors listed. This is probably because of lack of publicity. It was recommended it be renamed Resource List, specializing in clinics/education, clinic organizing, fund raising, website design and website technology.

Regarding the USEF saddle pad logo rule. An Adult Amateur can have no sponsor logo as an AA can't have a sponsor. There is still controversy on what's allowed or not regarding the logo content. Please participate in the schooling show awards program. Region 2/4 Omnibus is going back to a printed version free of charge to competitors. Drop dead date is January 8 for shows and advertisers. It will be out by mid February.

Competition Open Forums

For current USEF ruling on saddle pads, breed logos, and flags of country, read DR121 section in the USEF Rule Book. USEF will be keeping blood/urine samples longer.

ADVERTISEMENT

USEF Bridlespur Western Dressage and Bridlespur Open Dressage Schooling Show**April 10, 2015****National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, MO.****Entries to be received by March 27, 2015 and will be accepted after this date if ride times are still available.****Judge: Karen Winn, "R"****Manager: Paula Briney****Fees:**

- \$20/ride
- Office Fee \$20
- Stabling is \$55 Friday-Sunday and \$95 for Wednesday-Sunday.

For more information contact Paula Briney at 217-652-1635 or go to www.bridlespurkickoff.com**Prize list and competition rules available online.****Board of Governors**

New England did a great job of hosting the convention. It's still amazing that everyone gets up and ready for an 8am BOG on a Saturday. GMO baskets are the best thing for the BOG. It keeps everyone seated.

President George Williams' report

- Steven Clarke will be the 2015 USEF Trainers Conference head instructor.
- Regions 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 will host clinics with Betsy Steiner & Kathy Connelly in 2015. The Region 2 clinic is currently being rescheduled.

The Executive Director Stephan Heinzsch's report

- The 2015 convention will be held in Las Vegas at Rio All Suites Hotel & Casino, \$119/night.
- The 2016 convention will be held in St. Louis at the Hyatt Regency, \$132/night.

USEF High Performance Report by Robert Dover

The US enjoyed a successful year in an effort to get on the podium at the high performance level.

The Dressage Foundation Report by Beth Baumert

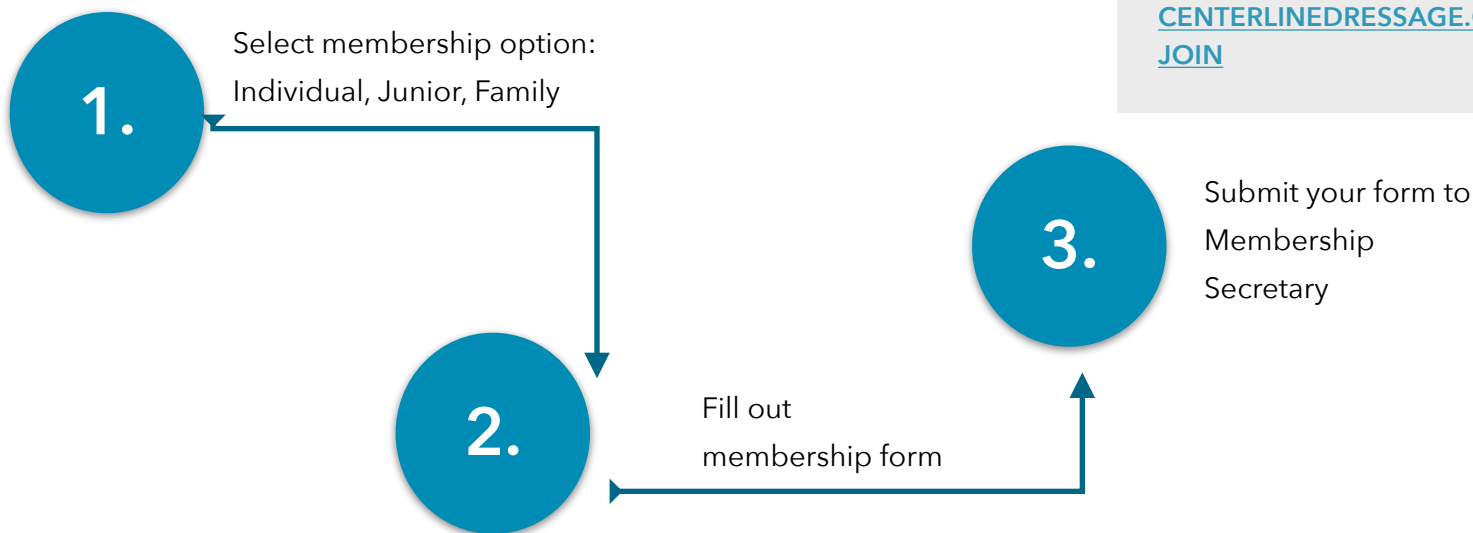
Beth outlined Lowell Boomer's vision for the Federation and the Foundation. The goal of the Foundation has been to make goals achievable for riders of all levels.

Jennifer Johnson, the executive director, made a very nice presentation.

Wrap Up

Darn, I won a basket... LOL. Looking at the various GMO awards, CLD should participate in the photography, newsletter article, and website contests. They are awarded by club size. Dressage for Kids, Region 8 and New England Dressage Association were thanked for all the sponsors and volunteers that assisted with the Convention and its success. The Friday night dinner cruise was really beautiful and the food was equally good. Region 8 hosted a great convention and hope not to host again for another 40 years. Thank you, USDF staff. Seventeen of them came to Boston. Connie Hoy was singled out for special recognition.

CLD Membership Renewals Due!



♦ [FULL DETAILS AT CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/JOIN](http://CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/JOIN)

Club Officers & Personnel (Full list and mailing addresses online) all emails - @centerlinedressage.com			
President	Judy Nordstrom	217/626-1518	president@
Vice-President	Kelly Griffith	217/637-0884	vice-pres@
Treasurer	Katie Keim	217/652-1855	treasurer@
Secretary	Leslie Burket	636/532-9922	secretary@
Newsletter Editor	Kim Jones		reader@
FaceBook Senior Editor	Lisa Lehr		social@
FaceBook Editor	Jayme Geisler		social@
Membership Secretary	Kelly Griffith	217/637-0884	membershipsecretary@
Awards Chair	Lisa Lehr/Teresa Litchfield		awardschair@
Web Site	Moiety Design		kuhn@moietyenterprises.com

DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



CenterLine Dressage

Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 10th of the month. Items for THE READER, activity forms, ads, etc should be sent with a check for the charges, if any, to:

THE READER
c/o Kim Jones
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670