

# 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.



## Letter from the President

*by Judy Nordstrom, President*

The beautiful colors of fall are fading and the air is getting crisp. It is a sure sign of what is yet to come. Let's hope that the predictions for a mild winter are going to be accurate!

We just wrapped up another successful show season as was witnessed at our recent awards luncheon on November 15th at the Island Bay Yacht Club. We were blessed with a gorgeous, sunny day so the venue on Lake Springfield was stunning. Lunch was served, then our master of ceremonies, John Simpson, did a wonderful job as usual announcing the successful winners. Congratulations to all! A big thank you goes out to our awards chairs, Lisa Lehr and Teresa Litchfield for the countless hours they put into this year's awards. Thank you also to Paula Briney for hosting the event at this scenic locale.

Las Vegas, Nevada, will be host to this year's USDF National Convention. Activities include

business meetings, educational sessions, parties, the Board of Governors General Assembly, and the Salute Gala and Annual Awards Banquet. Our very own Paula Briney and Leslie Burket will be in attendance representing our GMO and supporting our region.

Coming up on December 12th is our annual Christmas party and auction which will be held at the residence of Debra Klamen. Please see announcement in newsletter for details and how to RSVP. Wishing you all a blessed holiday season.

Judy Nordstrom,  
President

### HEADLINES

- ◆ PRESIDENT'S LETTER
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BY COL. CHRISTIAN CARDE
- ◆ USDF VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR
- ◆ USDF NATIONALS DAY 1
- ◆ THE INTERNATIONAL OMAHA & WORLD CUP
- ◆ MEMBER TO DO LIST

### CALENDAR

- ◆ CLD CHRISTMAS PARTY RSVP DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 5  
[CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/RSVP](http://CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/RSVP)
- ◆ USDF ANNUAL CONVENTION  
DECEMBER 2 - 5  
@ LAS VEGAS - USDF.ORG
- ◆ CLD CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 12 6PM  
@ DEB KLAMEN'S HOUSE, SPI  
MAIN DISH & DRINKS PROVIDED  
BRING A POTLUCK DISH & AUCTION ITEM
- ◆ CLD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 2016 @ 2PM  
@ STARWEST LOUNGE

Membership  
Renewals Due!  
renewal form  
[centerlinedressage.com/join](http://centerlinedressage.com/join)



**You're Invited to the**  
**CLD Christmas Party**

**Saturday December 12th 6 - 9 pm**

**Hosted by Deb Klamen & Phil Pan**

**Bring a dish to share and a donation for the auction. Main dish & drinks provided.**

**RSVP by December 5 at [centerlinedressage.com/rsvp](http://centerlinedressage.com/rsvp) Directions online.**

**Questions call Judy Nordstrom at 217-341-8398**

# Judging at Aachen by Col. Christian Carde

*Article submitted by Leslie Burket with permission of the author. To see this article and others visit his website [ChristianCarde.com](http://ChristianCarde.com)*

As a competitor, and much later as national dressage coach of my country, I had had the pleasure and honor to take part at the CDIO in Aachen. It had been the most beautiful dressage show organized in Europe. There the best riders and judges in the world met. The best comradeship between the competitors dominated. The judges there were respected. The audience was enthusiastic. This show paid honor to the country which organized it and contributed magnificently to the promotion of dressage.

This year, during the European championships, the audience hissed the judges! It boomed after the freestyle scores of Charlotte Dujardin had been announced. And during the prize-giving when the speaker thanked the judges. This is serious.

When the judges' panel is blamed this happens when one suspects incompetence or partiality which is a form of cheating. But this can be explained and we should know the reasons. Here they are: Like stipulated in article 419 of the FEI dressage rules the international competitions are aimed to preserve equestrian art. But it doesn't play this role anymore, for which it once was created.

International competition has become big business which generates considerable amounts of money. It has become a profession in which

many do a career. The horse is the means in it, if not the victim. The transmission of equestrian art is no longer the reason for competitions' existence.

For already several years the riders who are passionate about preserving classical principles in competitions have stressed the deviations which marred the competitions at the highest level. They are joined by veterinarians, scientifically orientated groups like ISES and animal welfare organizations. The FEI did not want to listen to them all. Thus the grumbling which doesn't cease, in contrary, the so-called rollkur resulted in a poor compromise. And at Aachen this year one of the best positioned riders of the world rankings warmed-up his horse for a long time in this very constraining, challenging position. On the same evening a new petition against the rollkur was launched on the social networks. It achieved more than 10,000 signatures in less than 48 hours. A disapproval of the FEI.

And that said, exactly the same rider was eliminated later on when he horse bled in the mouth! Another of the most successful had to retire because his horse put the tongue over the bit and reared in the piaffe.



# Judging at Aachen by Col. Christian Carde

*continued...*

And it is not so long ago, at another international championships at Aachen, that the horse which had dominated the classes there bolted in front of thousands of spectators. Next day the rider had to borrow a horse for the prize-giving, in a competition called...dressage! But overall, since years, the quality of horses improves to an extent which the quality of equitation doesn't follow. Just like the equestrian practice progressively removes from the correct equitation which still can be found in the FEI regulations.

At Aachen this year one could see a large number of halts on the shoulders, rein-backs on the shoulders and precipitated, piaffes on the forehand with horses which advanced one or more meters in this movement, unable to give the required number of steps in place, trot extensions with horses which extended the forelegs more than they won ground.

These are the tangible signs of the deviations from a beautiful and good equitation. But also the little harmonious attitudes of the mechanized horses with painfully closed mouths thanks to cranked nosebands, exaggeratedly overbent through very strongly pulled reins. This has nothing to do with the light and elastic contact which it should be and which is required in the articles 401, 416 and 417 of the rulebook. And as long as there is such a big gap between the rules and which is shown, but also between the placings by the judges which it is the case at the moment, one doesn't need to wonder that the judging poses serious problems. The FEI has well raised the number of judges from 5 to 7 at the

championships and added three judges of the JSP, but it doesn't improve the situation. Does it need 15 judges around the arena to make the judgement more convincing? Without a doubt not.

Dressage at the highest level is in danger and with it equitation as such. Already during the preparation of the Olympic Games in Peking the president of the CIO had hesitated to program the dressage classes. After the Olympic Games the FEI president dissolved the dressage committee and put in their place a working group which was thought to prepare better days. Has it been successful?

It is time to think back to the fundamentals of equestrian art when it comes to training and presenting horses. They are perfectly expressed in the FEI dressage rulebook, in particular in article 401. It is sufficient to recognize, understand and applicate them. But it is also necessary to revise profoundly the question of judging.

Considering its more scientific modification, less subjective, based on the recent rulebook and the results of research. The considerable opportunities now offered by image processing on the computer will contribute greatly.

Even though we could also see good work being appropriately rewarded, Aachen was a serious warning which is not allowed to be neglected. It is praiseworthy that judges reward correct work, but to put dressage on the right path again they have to stop rewarding wrong work at the same time.

## Rosalind Kinstler Named 2015 USDF Volunteer of the Year

Lexington, KY (October 27, 2015) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to announce that Rosalind "Roz" Kinstler has been named the 2015 USDF Volunteer of the Year. This award recognizes a USDF member who, through consistent and cumulative volunteer activities, has demonstrated exceptional commitment towards carrying out USDF's mission. As the winner, Rosalind will be presented with a perpetual trophy, established by Lisa Gorretta, which is on permanent display in the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame. She will also receive a "keeper" trophy and be featured in the yearbook issue of USDF Connection.

As a volunteer, Roz, of Whitmore Lake, MI, has contributed to dressage on the national, regional, and local levels. Nationally, she has served on several USDF councils and committees and, as the current chair of the Youth Programs Committee, has been instrumental in the creation of many youth programs.. Both regionally and locally, Roz has introduced

dressage to countless grass roots riders, as well as volunteering innumerable hours with local dressage groups, 4-H clubs, and United States Pony Clubs.

Throughout her career Roz has fully embraced the ideals behind the USDF's mission of education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. This is evident through her dedication to the principle that dressage can improve any horse and any rider.

USDF Youth Programs Committee Advisor Alison Head, who nominated Roz, added "I think Roz exemplifies everything the USDF Volunteer of the Year Award is about. Ever since I've been involved with USDF, Roz has been there, working hard to create and promote programs near and dear to her heart. Not only is she a tireless volunteer, but she is an enthusiastic cheerleader for the sport and has encouraged so many younger riders to try and enjoy dressage."

## Rebekah Mingari Named 2015 USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year

Lexington, KY (October 29, 2015) - The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is pleased to announce that Rebekah Mingari of Crestwood, KY, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. This prestigious award honors one outstanding youth volunteer who has contributed, both nationally and locally, to USDF and dressage. As the winner, Rebekah will be presented with a perpetual trophy, donated by the Akin family of Warwick, NY, in honor of Lendon Gray, which is on permanent display in the Roemer/USDF Hall of Fame. She will also receive a "keeper" trophy and be featured in the yearbook issue of USDF Connection.

Rebekah, nineteen-years-old, already has many years of service as a volunteer under her belt. She has dedicated numerous hours of volunteer service fundraising for the Region 2 Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Dressage Team, making "goody bags" for all of the Jr/YR competitors during regional

championships, organizing pizza parties for the Jr/YR competitors, and working diligently to keep them informed through social media. Rebekah also served on the Kentucky Dressage Association (KDA) board as their Jr/YR Representative.

"Her dedication, hard work, and determination are contagious, and KDA's Jr/YR participation has increased significantly while she has been involved. Young riders need to have fun, see others succeed, and have good role models. Rebekah does that for the young riders in our area," stated KDA President Michelle Morehead.

The USDF Youth Programs Committee selected Rebekah based on her passion for both horses and dressage. The committee wholeheartedly commends Rebekah for her dedication to dressage and the ability to be a positive role model for other youth, through exceptional volunteerism.

## 372 Competitors, 36 States, 9 Regions

Under glorious skies and with unseasonably warm temperatures the third edition of the annual US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan® got underway Thursday at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. Riders took advantage of a full day of open competition with Dressage in the Bluegrass classes to prepare for their Championship performances over the weekend, and competition manager Janine Malone couldn't be happier with results of the first day.

"We're off to a terrific start for what we all hope will be another great edition of the Finals," said Malone. "Every year gets better and better from an organizational standpoint because we learn how to run the show more and more efficiently, which then of course benefits the competitors. The weather's cooperating so far, and everyone from the riders to volunteers and officials are excited to be here." But Malone also noted the tremendous loss felt by so many in attendance at the Finals: Lloyd Landkamer, who passed away in September, served as the show manager for the 2013 and 2014 Finals, and this year's event is dedicated to his memory. "It goes without saying that Lloyd is tremendously missed by everyone," Malone explained. "But I feel that his presence is here and we find ourselves talking about him all the time. We were such a great team."

Among today's Dressage in the Bluegrass competition was the USEF Second Level Test 3 class, which turned out to be a microcosm of the entire Finals as 13 open and adult amateur riders of varying ages from 12 different states across



*Molly Schiltgen and Leisl TF earned their first ribbon today from the 2015 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. Photo by Susan J. Stickle*

the country including Minnesota, Florida, Arizona, Maine, Maryland, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas, Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey all hoped to kick off their Finals weekend on a winning note. First down the center line was adult amateur Molly Schiltgen, who made the 14-hour drive south from Lake Elmo, Minn. with her fiancé to experience their very first Finals. "It is such a delight to be here and I couldn't be more excited," she exclaimed. "We got here after all those hours in the truck and it was dark, and we walked into the Alltech Arena and I was just speechless. I couldn't believe I get to ride here.

## 372 Competitors, 36 States, 9 Regions

It's such an elegant venue, and I'm so honored to have this opportunity to be here." After growing up with horses, Schiltgen started competing in dressage about 10 years ago, juggling training time with a busy career and travel schedule as a medical writer. This year, she was looking for a new challenge with her young Hanoverian mare Leisl TF, which she's owned for four years. "I have always enjoyed working towards the USDF Horse of the Year awards, but I wanted to set a new personal goal this year to further develop as a rider and try more head to head competition to see how I would do under that pressure. We had a good ride today and now I can't wait for my championship ride tomorrow, but then I know I won't want to go home!"

Joining Schiltgen for today's warm-up class as well as Friday's Second Level Adult Amateur Championship is Theresa Hunt of Chandler, Ariz. As the former USDF Region 5 Director, a USEF "R" Technical Delegate and chair of the USDF Technical Delegate Committee, Hunt is no stranger to dressage shows. But after 10 years out of the saddle, she is now appreciating a fresh perspective on competition aboard her eight-year-old Danish Warmblood mare Carmen. "My trainer Cyndi Jackson came to the Finals last year from Arizona, and she was very enthusiastic about it and told me I needed to go for it because it's the chance of a lifetime," Hunt explained. "I just started riding Carmen in January so I was a little timid at first, but Cyndi kept pushing me...one thing led to another and all of a sudden we were qualified for Regionals

and then the Finals." Hunt chose to ship her mare commercially with six other horses from Arizona, and even after 31 hours on the road the lovely chestnut looked ready to show her best. "Carmen feels great, and one thing I really appreciate is having this warm-up day with open classes - it's even better that my class was held in the same ring as my championship ride will be tomorrow, so that gives me even more confidence," said Hunt. "My whole Finals experience so far has just been fabulous. Everything is so horse-friendly, and yes if I get the chance, I will come back."

Also joining the ranks of the hundreds of road warriors attending the Finals is open division competitor Jean Thornton. Arriving in Lexington on Monday from the southernmost state in the continental U.S., Thornton drove 16 hours over two days from her home in De Leon Springs,



*After a long journey to get back in the saddle and travel to Lexington, Arizona's Theresa Hunt finds herself at the 2015 US Dressage Final presented by Adequan®s.  
Photo by Susan J. Stickle*

## 372 Competitors, 36 States, 9 Regions

Florida with her palomino American Warmblood gelding Benji, a horse she bred herself and which she also competes in the sport of driving. Like Hunt and Schiltgen, so far she was pleased with her first Finals experience and with her ride today. "Benji traveled well and he's a little bit of an overachiever - you don't get extra credit for flying changes at Second Level," she laughed. "But we're going to take advantage of some additional open classes to improve before our Second Level Open Championship on Sunday. I'm also looking forward to enjoying the welcome reception and evening dinners with friends and family who are joining me here, as well as watching the freestyles and the exhibitions. I'm so excited to be here - this is the

top show in the country for us, it's a great location and incredible facility, and it all seems very well run."



*Finals newcomers Jean Thornton and Benji will return to the ring for Sunday's Second Level Open Championship at the US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. Photo by Susan J. Stickle*

## The International Omaha

The excitement is building for the International Omaha, May 5-7, 2016, and Longines FEI World Cup Jumping and FEI Dressage Finals on March 27 to April 2, 2017. The Omaha Equestrian Foundation (OEF) would like to invite you to help us spread the word about these two upcoming world-class competitions in the Midwest region.

The 2016 International will feature a CDI-3\* Dressage competition as well as Grand Prix and Speed Derby Show Jumping as well as classes for Juniors, Adult Amateurs and Professionals.

Volunteer opportunities available at the 2016 and 2017 competitions. Those interested in attending as volunteers or spectators can find more information at [www.InternationalOmaha.com](http://www.InternationalOmaha.com) and [www.OmahaWorldCup2017.com](http://www.OmahaWorldCup2017.com).

You can also keep up-to-date about the latest International and World Cup news by following us on [Facebook.com/InternationalOmaha](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalOmaha).

[centerlinedressage.com](http://centerlinedressage.com)



# Reminders

## YOUR TO DO'S

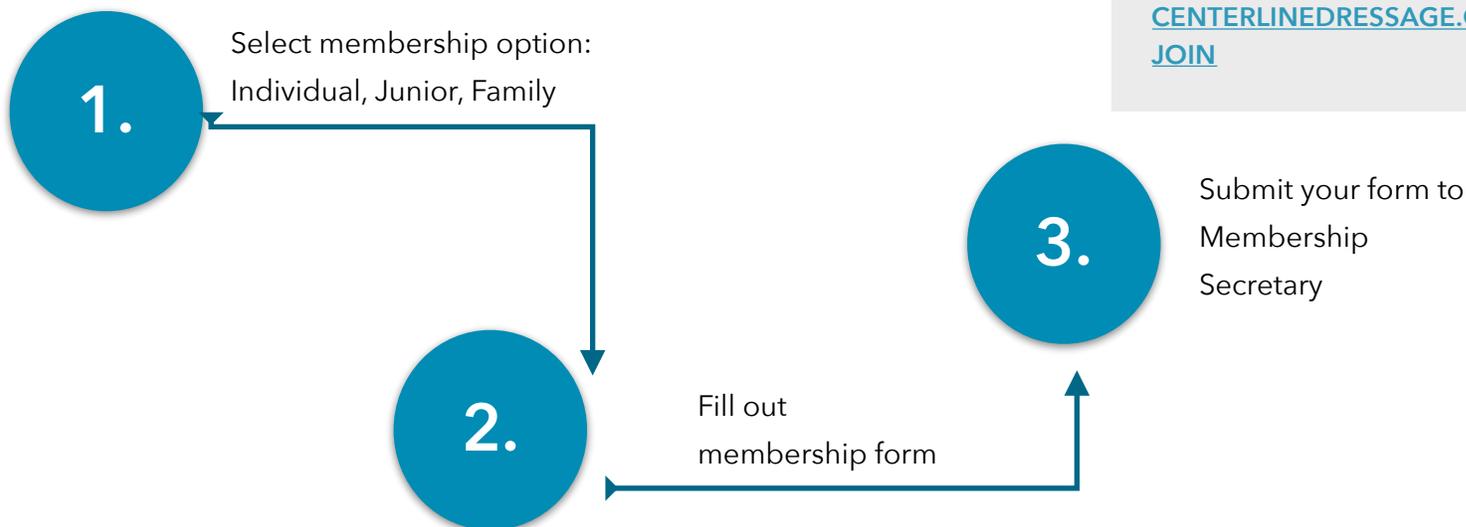
- Renew Membership before 11/27 to qualify for free drawing
- Renominate Horse/Rider Combinations for 2016 awards
- RSVP for Christmas Party before Dec. 5
- Make a potluck item for the Christmas Party
- Pick out and bring an auction item for Christmas Party

## NOTES & LINKS

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- ✦ DIFFERENT MEMBERSHIP PLANS AVAILABLE
- ✦ NOMINATION IS FREE W/ MEMBERSHIP BUT YOU MUST RENOMINATE EVERY YEAR
- ✦ CHRISTMAS PARTY AT DEB KLAMEN'S HOUSE ON DEC. 12 - MAIN DISH & DRINKS PROVIDED
- ✦ MEMBERSHIP FORM AT [CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/JOIN](http://CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/JOIN)
- ✦ RENOMINATE FOR AWARDS: [CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/NOMINATION](http://CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/NOMINATION)
- ✦ RSVP NOW: [CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/RSVP](http://CENTERLINEDRESSAGE.COM/RSVP)

# CLD Membership Renewals & Nominations Due!



♦ FULL DETAILS AT  
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President	Judy Nordstrom	217/626-1518	<a href="mailto:president@centerlinedressage.com">president@</a>
Vice-President	Kelly Griffith	217/637-0884	<a href="mailto:vice-pres@centerlinedressage.com">vice-pres@</a>
Treasurer	Katie Keim	217/652-1855	<a href="mailto:treasurer@centerlinedressage.com">treasurer@</a>
Secretary	Leslie Burket	636/532-9922	<a href="mailto:secretary@centerlinedressage.com">secretary@</a>
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Awards Chair	Lisa Lehr/Teresa Litchfield		<a href="mailto:awardschair@centerlinedressage.com">awardschair@</a>
Web Site	Moiety Design		<a href="mailto:kuhn@moietyenterprises.com">kuhn@moietyenterprises.com</a>

# DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



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

CenterLine Dressage