

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

- ◆ **USDF CONVENTION REPORT**
- ◆ **ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION**
BY JILL LOEHR (REPRINTED W/ PERMISSION FROM THE PRAIRIE FARMER)
- ◆ **GRAND OAKS CARRIAGE MUSEUM**
BY KAREN KOHNKE
- ◆ **MEETING MINUTES JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

CALENDAR

- ◆ **CLD SPONSORED MICHALAK FREESTYLE CLINIC @ ILLINOIS HORSE FAIR**
MARCH 3 - 5
@ ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SPRINGFIELD
- ◆ **CLD BOARD MEETING**
MARCH 25, 2 PM
@ STARWEST
- ◆ **CHARLES CRAVER MEMORIAL**
APRIL 15, 11:30 - 2:30 PM
@ SANGAMON CO FAIRGROUNDS
- ◆ **ICEBREAKER SCHOOLING SHOW**
APRIL 22
@ TOWER HILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

USDF Convention Report

by Leslie Burket (Part I)

From Las Vegas to St. Louis in a single year! This year the convention was held at the Hyatt Regency, downtown, on the river front near the Arch. Unlike last year, where we had to 'walk the mile' to get to the convention area, the Hyatt had all of our meeting rooms in the same area and it was GREAT! Although a convention is always a convention, each one is a little different than the others. Our 'Under the Arch' convention will be remembered by all for a very long time! But - more about that in Part II.

Membership
Renewals
PAST DUE!
(renewal form online)

The USEF (United States Equestrian Federation), now to be known as EF (Equestrian Federation), is the governing body for all things horse, including dressage. USDF is the governing body for national dressage. Although, as riders, our connection with USDF and EF is horse shows, we rely on those organizations for many other functions, of which we are mostly unaware. I'd like to share with you the versatility of the various committees that guide USDF, their focus and how they influence our horse shows as well as our local GMOs.

GMO (Group Member Organization) Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) Proposal for a new GMO award: will recognize one GMO for the development of a creative GMO-sponsored program which has contributed to the GMO's membership growth and retention. To be presented to the Executive Board.

USDF Convention Report

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2) Recommended a Facebook group for USDF GMO Officials. It has been created but does not replace the GMO Prez List.

3) Convention Roundtable topics will be: USDF/GMO educational opportunities, leadership training and volunteer recruitment and retention.

Historical Recognition Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) Six podcast segments were created about the American Dressage Legends.

2) Nominated Recher & Lilian Wittmack Roye for induction into the Hall of Fame.

3) Nominated Samuel Barish for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

4) Nominated Janne Rumbough as the inaugural Member of Distinction.

Membership Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) In June, a member satisfaction survey was sent to all current USDF Group and Participating Members. Of the 19,325 members emailed, 2,378 submitted the survey. Focus was interest in, and attendance at, the USDF Annual Convention and members' interest in USDF educational opportunities.

2) In August, a member satisfaction survey was sent to all current USDF Group and Participating Members. Of the 24,634 members emailed, 2,466 submitted the survey. Survey focus included benefits the membership would like to see added to USDF membership, why they feel dressage enthusiasts might not purchase a USDF membership and what would excite other equestrians about dressage and USDF membership.

Nominating Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) Secured the Executive Board candidates by June 1st.

Executive Board Nominees:

USDF Vice President - Lisa Gorretta (OH)

USDF Secretary - Margaret Freeman (NC)

All odd numbered Region Directors - 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

2) Biographies and Q & A for all candidates were posted on the USDF website and published in the October issue of USDF Connection.

3) PM delegate nominees were secured in all nine regions. Election results were determined and made public in late July.

4) GMO delegate and proxy appointments were secured leading up to the 2016 convention.

Competition Management Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) Determined a new educational session needs to be created and delivered at 2016 Convention.

2) Created revised guidelines for competition prize lists and programs.

3) Improved communication with other USDF committees to review, implement and communicate policies and procedures.

Freestyle Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) Group continues to work on revisions for the 2018 USDF Freestyle Tests, which include a new format similar to FEI tests.

2) Developed a freestyle portion for inclusion on the On the Levels subscription website.

3) Dolly Hannon fielded all questions regarding requirements for Allowed and Forbidden movements.

USDF Convention Report

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- 4) Developing a special designation in Judges Roster to ensure freestyle continuing education is recognized.
- 5) Web pages for pas de deux and quadrille were updated for easier navigation.

Instructor/Trainer Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

- 1) Continued to revamp program curriculum, allowing faculty to focus on specific needs of participants at appropriate levels.
- 2) Hosted two FEI Level Trainers Conferences (Florida and California).
- 3) Hosted two FEI Level Workshops (Connecticut and Kentucky). Workshops are planned for the Midwest and Florida.
- 4) Hosted one FEI Exam in Florida, certifying two FEI Level instructors, bringing the total to six.
- 5) Hosted nine Instructor/Trainer Workshops in Florida, North Carolina, Oregon and Utah.
- 6) Implemented the new Safe Sport Training module. In 2017 it will be part of the program.

Judges Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

- 1) Encouraged USDF members to review all EF rule change proposals, using the EF Rule Changes button on the USDF website home page.
- 2) A group was selected to collect and evaluate suggestions regarding USDF and EF tests.
- 3) Collected statistics to determine how many riders were riding the USDF Intro Level tests in 2016. The 2,291 total rides are comprised of Test A - 642 rides, Test B - 1,046 rides and Test C - 603 rides. Intro tests will be updated for the 2018 test cycle.

- 4) Coordinated with the L Program Committee to contribute articles to the USDF Connection feature 'The Judge's Box'.

L Program Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

- 1) Nine L Education Programs were held in 2016 with 20 individual sessions.
- 2) Coordinated with the Judges Committee for USDF Connection feature 'The Judge's Box'.
- 3) Continued to enhance the L Program website, course materials and videos.

Technical Delegates Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

- 1) EF rule changes were communicated in USDF's Competition Contact eNews Publication.
- 2) Promote and grow the Veronica Holt Award Fund and publish criteria and July 1 deadline for grant recipient application.

Adult Programs Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

- 1) Hosted five USDF Adult Clinics in Regions 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.
- 2) Held ten adult team competitions in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9. A total of 179 riders participated.

Awards Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

- 1) Created a proposal for a new award for adult amateurs riding a musical freestyle.
- 2) Implemented a working group to review and update the design for the current rider award certificates.
- 3) Recommended the FEI Children's Individual and Team Tests should be equivalent to First Level for both rider and year-end awards.

USDF Convention Report

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Adult Amateur Musical Freestyle- Year-End Award Proposal

1) Found that number of adult amateur competitors that qualified for the Musical Freestyle Award more than doubled between 2013 and 2015.

Motion: To establish a new Musical Freestyle Award for Adult Amateur Riders where horse and rider are considered a team, to be effective 10/1/17 or the start of the 2018 competition year, if approved.

Motion: The requirements for the new Musical Freestyle Award for Adult Amateur Riders would be the same as they are for the current Musical Freestyle Award.

Recommendation: The Awards Committee recommends that a new year-end award be approved for adult amateurs riding musical freestyle.

2) Review Award Requirements for score requirements.

FEI JR/YR Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) NAJYRC was held July 27-31, 2016, in Parker, CO.

2) Eight JRYR clinics were held in all regions except Region 3. There were between ten and sixteen rider applications per clinic.

Regional Championships

Item before the Executive Board: To clarify, when someone else, besides the rider entered in the championship, may ride the horse. The committee requests USDF initiate a EF rule change (EF DR 127.6) proposal regarding this matter.

Sport Horse Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) Two youth education seminars were held in 2016.

2) The first year of Material Championship classes commenced in 2016 and was offered at seven Championship shows.

3) Sport Horse Guidelines will be updated and placed on the USDF website.

4) The Sport Horse Seminar was approved to become an official USDF event, starting in 2017.

Youth Programs Committee - 2016 Accomplishments

1) The statistics for the Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals continue to show a steady but modest increase in participation.

Leslie Burket is Secretary for CLD. We thank her for her report.

Illinois State Fairgrounds Foundation: Ready to Restore

by Jill Loehr (reprinted w/ permission from *The Prairie Farmer*)

The Illinois State Fairgrounds Foundation is “up and running,” says John Slayton, US Bank vice president and foundation chairman. Gov. Bruce Rauner announced the new privately managed and funded foundation during the annual Ag Day Breakfast at the Illinois State Fair last summer.

Before work on the fairgrounds could begin, Slayton says the first order of business was applying for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which allows the foundation to accept tax-deductible donations. Support from Rauner and the Illinois Department of Agriculture, plus the overwhelming need for fairgrounds improvements, assures Slayton the approval will happen soon.

The next step was to elect an officer team, followed by searching for a part-time consultant with state government and foundation work experience.

The new officer team includes:

- Chairman John Slayton, US Bank
- Vice Chairman Julie Maschhoff, The Maschhoffs
- Secretary Holly Spangler, Prairie Farmer
- Treasurer Chandra Roberts, Brandt Specialty Formulation

Slayton adds that offers have been extended for the two remaining positions on the 11-member board.

After two meetings to officially establish a working foundation, the group is ready to tackle its purpose: restoring the fairgrounds.

The Task at Hand

“It’s just sad that these buildings have gone to this level of

disrepair,” Slayton says. “There are 170-some buildings on the fairgrounds, and I’m guessing 170-some buildings need some sort of attention.”

The foundation will work with the IDOA and the state’s Capital Development Board to determine priorities, Slayton explains, and buildings in the worst condition will top the list.

“The \$180 million in deferred maintenance associated with the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds and the Illinois State Fairgrounds is well documented,” says Rebecca Clark, IDOA communications manager. “With that said, the department has conveyed that the Coliseum is among one of the top priorities in Springfield, while repairs to the grandstand tops the list in Du Quoin.”

The IDOA is working with the CDB on emergency repairs to the condemned Coliseum, Clark says. She adds the Coliseum will likely remain closed for the 2017 Illinois State Fair.

“We are in the process of finalizing plans to enclose the nearby practice arena to serve as an alternative location while the necessary repairs are made to the Coliseum,” Clark explains.

Slayton says the foundation discussed the 140-page engineering report, but the foundation’s specific role in restoring the Coliseum is yet to be determined.

Other action items may include fixing roofs on several buildings, like the swine and sheep barns. “Those roofs probably needed to be replaced in the ‘70s,” Slayton adds.

Moving from the rooftops to the ground below, Slayton says addressing the 2016 flooding is another priority. “The state lost five days of parking revenue in the grandstand infield due to heavy rainfall,” he explains.

The foundation already has labor and material donors ready to tile the infield, but Slayton says they need blueprints and engineering maps to plan fully for the estimated \$40,000 project. “That’s high on the list, even though the average fairgoer may not notice it,” he adds.

Slayton says future flooding challenges could be addressed by the 2017 Illinois State Fair once blueprints and donors are in place. “And hopefully we won’t get 5½ inches of rain,” he notes.

With so much deteriorated infrastructure, Slayton says efforts to maintain and restore the fairgrounds are long overdue. He hopes current and past 4-H participants, FFA members and fairgoers, as well as Illinois-based agricultural companies, step forward with financial support.

“There are a lot of potential donors in Illinois,” he says. “The support is out there, and it will come with time.”

Grand Oaks Carriage Museum

by Karen Kohnke

Imagine escaping Illinois winter for a few days and traveling to sunny, warm Florida for a little break. Sounds lovely, yes?

Now imagine that while visiting sunny, sleepy central Florida, you could be transported for a few precious hours, to a time and place where elegant horse-drawn carriages were a common mode of travel. Perhaps you would even be lucky enough to witness the golden Dress Chariot belonging to Emperor Franz Josef of Austria pass by, fronted by 8 magnificent grey horses!

I was lucky enough to get to experience a smidgen of this when I recently visited Grand Oaks Carriage Museum and Resort in Weirsdale, Florida.

I had planned my trip to visit family over the weekend of February 7. It would be a quick trip for me, arriving Friday evening, and returning Monday afternoon, and my main reason for the trip was to visit my two sisters and aunt, who like horses well enough, but aren't huge fans like me. Anyway, I thought I'd check to see what interesting activities might be going on in the area that weekend that would allow me to combine family time with horse time.

I had been once before to visit the Florida Carriage Museum at Grand Oaks Resort which is centrally located between the various relatives I was planning on visiting. I took a look at their website to see what might be going on that weekend. I found out the Carriage Association of America was having its annual meeting at Grand Oaks Resort. Hmm. I thought I would just continue to check back and see what activities might be going on there in connection with the meeting.



This carriage museum is located at the Grand Oaks Resort, on 400 gorgeous acres of a former Thoroughbred breeding farm. Weirsdale is between Orlando and Ocala, and very nearby The Villages, one of the largest retirement communities in the United States.

Life-long horse enthusiast and carriage driver/historian extraordinaire Gloria Austin has put together an amazing collection of 150 carriages, spanning the entire time period that horses were commonly used for transporting people and goods, before the invention of the automobile. This museum houses one of the most complete antique horse-drawn vehicle collections in the world.

As the time for my departure to Florida drew closer, I found only time I had free was on Saturday afternoon, February 7. The crown jewel of the museum's collection, the 1850 Armbruster Dress Chariot once owned by Emperor of Austria Franz Joseph, was to be driven in an exhibition at the resort, pulled by Gloria Austin's team of 6 grey PRE horses (Pura Raza Española). Outriders and carriage personnel would all be in formal dress, circa 1850.

I set out to find out what time the carriage would be driven. I came across an amazing video on FB, showing a practice run of the drive. The carriage would be driven

Grand Oaks Carriage Museum

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at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. It would be free of charge, and open to the public. Score!

I learned they had been practicing for months, getting the carriage and harnesses ready as well as having period costumes for the drivers and riders constructed. David Saunders, former Royal Coachman to the Queen of England and Prince Phillip, had been helping to prepare horses, carriage and staff for this exhibition. They even had to get the horses used to a drone, which was used to video this amazing event. A drone sounds like a nest of wasps. The last thing you want is a carriage wreck, caused by a drone trying to video the exhibition.

The team of six stunning grey Spanish horses and two grey outrider horses were meticulously washed and polished for the occasion. Each set of harness took 10 hours to polish 60 hours total. Since the Armbruster Dress Chariot is in Gold there was no polishing required. There is gold plate, gold leaf and gold bullion on various parts of the carriage, sometimes called a Gala Coupe. Coupe because its body is "cut off" allowing the significant royals to sit facing forward, not looking into the faces of other passengers facing backward like a typical full state coach.

As we know, keeping grey horses clean is not an easy thing. The six magnificent carriage horses, as well as the two outrider horses, were groomed to glossy perfection! To maximize the white of the tail hairs, special vinegar, water and baking soda were used.

The golden carriage was made in about 1850 for the wealthiest and most powerful families in the history of Europe: the Habsburg dynasty, Emperors of Austria, Kings of Hungary, who ruled for centuries over a huge empire. Like all European monarchs, the Habsburgs had an extensive collection of carriages. Until his death in 1916, Emperor Franz Jozef almost exclusively used horse-drawn carriages.

This is the only full state carriage in private ownership. Most are owned by royal households or in state operated museums. The golden carriage was restored in

2000, thus is in better condition than most European state carriages.

I was able to get there early enough to listen to Gloria Austin tell the story of finding the carriage in a barn in Oregon more than 20 years ago. It may have been brought to the U.S. to be used in a Hollywood movie, and then sold to someone who then put it in storage, where it sat deteriorating for many years. Ms. Austin purchased it and had it restored for display with the rest of her antique carriage collection in the Florida Carriage Museum. It was quite a find, indeed.

Nearly 3,000 spectators attended the exhibition. The carriage was driven twice around the main carriage route on the property. It was quite a sight up close, but equally impressive as viewed from afar, across the large lake that divides the property.

Here is a link to video of the carriage being driven:
<http://bit.ly/2lLq4O8>

If you are a lover of horses and history, I highly recommend a visit to the Grand Oaks Resort and Carriage Museum! Here is a link to their website:
thegrandoaks.com

If You Go

We are lucky to live in central Illinois in that there are many direct flights to Florida from Springfield, Peoria and Bloomington, for a relatively reasonable price. I flew directly to Sanford/Orlando, for \$120/round trip. These flights give horse enthusiasts a chance to check out the winter equestrian meccas of Wellington in south Florida, as well as Ocala in north/central FL. If you are also a Disney fan and/or a beach fan, it makes the perfect winter getaway. Sanford is located about an hour from the Grand Oaks Carriage Museum and Resort, an hour from Disney World, an hour from New Smyrna Beach, and 30 minutes from Ocala.

January 28, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ StarWest; Judy Nordstrom presiding

The January meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by President Judy Nordstrom. Attendees included Paula Briney, Martin and Malcolm Kuhn, Katie and Anastasia Keim, Teresa Litchfield, Alice Martin, Marilyn Weber, Jordan Wilton and Leslie Burket. Jeanne Craver joined us later.

Treasurer Report - Katie Keim Reporting

Current Bank Balance: \$7,232.19

CD Balance: \$25,697.10

CLD had a profitable year, showing a net profit of \$518.73!

1099's have been mailed

Katie is preparing the 990-N for submission to the IRS.

Membership Report

Kelly reports that we have 43 members.

Webmaster Report - Martin Kuhn Reporting

Three email newsletters have been sent since the last meeting.

There were 144 subscribers with about 50% of subscribers opening the emails.

Traffic on the website is down by about half since December.

Social Media - Jordan Wilton Reporting

CLD Facebook has 565 likes, an increase of over one hundred likes.

Twitter followers increased a bit to 41.

Newsletter

Alice said our next issue of The Reader will be issued within a couple of days.

Awards

Teresa has a reminder for all riders: The last date to submit scores for year end scores for 2017 will be October 15, 2017. Scores received after that date will not be eligible for 2017 awards.

Awards Banquet

It was suggested that we start scoping out locations for our awards banquet while there are still options. Leslie suggested the Springfield Motor Boat Club. Steve Todd is a member and said they have a great chef, do their own cooking and the environment is quite pleasant. We will follow up.

The date for the Awards Banquet will be November 4th, 2017.

Schooling Shows

The IceBreaker show will be at Tower Hill on April 22nd, 2017.

The Firecracker Show will be held at Pratense Farm on July 8, 2017.

Teresa has volunteered to do all the pre-show manager tasks for both shows. However, she will need a day manager on show day to cover for the time while she rides.

Jordan volunteered to work with Teresa for IceBreaker.

Teresa will contact Nancy Rosse to see if she would like to help with FireCracker.

Horse Fair - March 3, 4, 5 2017

Paula Briney shared with us what information she has about the Horse Fair at the IL Fairgrounds.

The estimated cost for the Coliseum renovation is \$8.5m. No current timelines for repairs.

There is activity around the Food-Arama area, including the addition of footing.

The north and south (long) sides of the covered arena are scheduled to be enclosed. Nothing will be done to the east and west (short) ends. The date of this update is not currently known.

CLD will sponsor the Melanie Michalak freestyle clinic. Paula Briney is the clinic organizer.

There was some discussion about having a 'ride a test' clinic at a future Horse Fair.

Alice moved and Marilyn seconded that CLD purchase a \$200 Horse Fair sponsorship that will include six day passes. The vote passed.

Paula suggested we consider cancellation insurance due

January 28, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

... concluded

to the many fairground renovations that could impact our show.

As our June show may be smaller than usual, we may want to secure additional sponsorships to help cover our expenses.

New Business

Charles Craver, a landmark in the Arabian horse world, passed away on December 30th, 2016. To honor this great horseman, there will be a Memorial on April 15th, 1pm, at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds. Contact Alice Martin for additional information.

Judy attended the Round Table discussion at the 2017 USDF Convention in hopes of securing some new ideas on how to increase GMO membership. Although she garnered some ideas, CLD will be looking to membership for new ideas to generate more volunteers from our club members.

StarWest will host a CLD Education evening and potluck on Saturday, February 11th at 5:30 p.m. We encourage all members to join us for this evening of good friends and great food. Kate and Martin will inspire us with a discussion on Setting Our Goals.

Jeanne Craver needs the information to compile the 2017 CLD Omnibus by February 25th.

Martin is planning on updating and consolidating online nomination and score submission forms.

To keep our job descriptions current, Judy requested board members update their position descriptions.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 19th, 2017, 2pm in the StarWest Lounge. The March meeting will be on Saturday, March 25th at 2pm in the StarWest Lounge.

Marilyn motioned and Paula seconded for the unanimous 3:36pm adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie Burket CLD Secretary

February 19, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

@ Star West; Judy Nordstrom presiding

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by President Judy Nordstrom. Attendees included Kelly Griffith, Katie and Anastasia Keim, Teresa Litchfield, Alice Martin, John Simpson and Marilyn Weber.

Without a quorum, Minutes and the Treasurer's report were unable to be voted upon. The President asked all officers to update their job descriptions to assist the next person to hold that office. It was suggested to begin the duties of each office with appropriate details from the By-Laws pertaining to duties and a time line for what is

to be performed when in that office.

Treasurer Report - Katie Keim Reporting

- Current Bank Balance \$7,167.19
- 2017 net loss (\$56.49)
- CD Balance \$25,705.61

Membership Report • Kelly Griffith Reporting

- We have 45 members for 2017

February 19, 2017 CLD Executive Board Meeting

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Reader Newsletter • Alice Martin Reporting

- All items are ready to go to press except the January 28th Minutes.

Classic Show

The 2017 Classic is cancelled. There was a long discussion about holding the 2018 Classic at the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, MO. Without a manager for the show, the decision to move there was tabled.

Schooling Shows

Teresa agreed to receive entries and manage both shows. As she wants to show her horse as well, Jordan Wilton has offered to help day manage IceBreaker and John has offered to help day manage FireCracker.

New Business

- Marilyn Weber and Paula Briney will be representing CLD at the Illinois Horse Fair in Instructor Melanie Michalak's Freestyle Clinic. CLD is sponsoring the hour on March 3 & 4 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.
- A long discussion followed on fund raising ideas for 2017. A raffle and/or silent auction with an accompanying dinner appears to be the consensus. All members need to think about donations of items to the auction, both personal and from businesses you patronize.

Our next meeting will be March 25, 2017, at 2 p.m. in the StarWest Lounge.

Alice motioned, everyone seconded for the unanimous 3:18 p.m. adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted, Alice Martin, Recording Secretary

DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 1st 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 Alice Martin
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670