



2024 JANUARY AVDA NEWSLETTER

Letter From the President January 2024

These chilly winter days are perfect for relaxing with a cup of hot tea and watching dressage videos, or curling up with an inspiring book that helps you visualize riding goals.

It's also a time to reflect on how you want to spend your time with AVDA this year. Please consider volunteering as much as your time allows. Volunteerism is the glue that holds our association together. Without the numerous hours of members "showing up" for meetings, events, online communications, writing articles, helping at clinics and shows, we would not be able to function.

Our club is only effective if people are willing to give their time and effort to support it. Volunteer hours reflect the commitment members have to our cause. These hours prove to funding and grant entities that members are willing to put their personal time into supporting our organization.

It demonstrates our level of passion for dressage and commitment to one another. There are many ways to volunteer. To learn more, check out the RMDS website, rmds.org, click on "organization", then "volunteers" in the drop down box.

Please start to track and document your hours. Sarah Murphy has offered to keep a record of all volunteer hours. After any qualifying event, or at the end of each month, please contact Sarah with the details of your hours. Let's see how many hours we collectively accumulate by the end of the season.

I want to personally thank all of our members for joining AVDA this year and for your efforts in helping to create our incredible club! We are having a great start to a great year!

Respectfully,
Sandy Vernon
970-531-055

2024 AVDA Board of Directors

President: Sandy Vernon
V. President: Renee McMillen
Secretary: Debbie Hood
Treasurer: Sarah Murphy

Committee Chairs

Awards - Kim Godfey
Education - Debi Stevens
Events -Sissy Coffin
Marketing - Sandy Vernon
Western Dressage -
Debby Hood

Jr/yr Riders to be filled

Contact Information:

avdaddressage2019@gmail.com



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2024 RMDS AWARDS

Willa Gartner

Jr. Rider
3rd Place 1st.
Level

*

Jr.Rider
Reserve
Champion
3rd Level



Nancy Leonard sponsors the RMDS Friesian Horse of the year award in memory of Lyric .

Katie Knight sponsors the RMDS Hosteiner Horse of the Year Award.





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2024 Arkansas Valley Dressage Assoc. Scholarship Program

AVDA is pleased to announce our scholarship program is being developed. This program will award scholarships to applicants who want to pursue a higher level of training in dressage.

As the program is still being developed, more details and specifics will be posted in the newsletter in the coming months. Stay tuned!

There will be two scholarships awarded, an adult amateur and a junior/young rider.

The adult amateur scholarship will be known as the Ginny Wegner/Loki Scholarship. Ginny's Century Ride story can be found on the AVDA website: [Century Ride — AVDA \(avdadressage.org\)](http://Century Ride — AVDA (avdadressage.org))

The junior/young rider scholarship will be known as the

Margaret A Murphy Scholarship.



The junior/young rider scholarship will be known as the Margaret A Murphy Scholarship. Margaret was the mom of your treasurer, Sarah Murphy. She loved horses and rode as a kid and throughout her adult life. In her early days, she had a pony she rode to school, way back in the 1940s. As she grew up, Margaret traded the pony for Hastabe, a quarter horse. The story goes that she rode that horse everywhere, to school, friends houses, the store. He got the name Hastabe, because she always said, "he hastabe fed, he hastabe groomed, he hastabe ridden. Over the years she spent many years with Hastabe. Somewhere along the way as a married mom, she acquired a mare, the yearling colt, and the baby on the way with the mare. While formal dressage training never happened for either Mom or myself, she introduced me to the wonderful world of horses. My one and only lesson from her was "that is a horse, get on, don't fall off." We trained the two youngsters to ride and enjoyed many trail rides throughout my youth.

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2024 Arkansas Valley Dressage Assoc. Scholarship Program

Throughout her life, she watched dressage on TV and we would often attend shows to watch this extraordinary sport. One of our best experiences was attending the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta (my hometown). We were able to watch the US take the Bronze in the team event and got to meet Robert Dover and Steffen Peters. She loved the beauty of the horse and rider combinations and was always amazed at how the two could dance together.

Luckily, as my life has finally allowed, I have been able to formally train and show in dressage and Mom was able to experience many lessons and a few shows in the last two years of her life. She would often say, "You are living my dream."

Mom has now passed and I am 100% sure she would like to help another dressage student. While the AVDA Board was creating the scholarship program, Margaret's estate was able to donate the first year's funding. So, the decision was made to make the Junior/Young Rider Scholarship, the Margaret A Murphy Scholarship.

For the future recipients of this award, please know a very special lady is cheering you on and wishing you the best in your dressage journey.

Written by
Sarah M Murphy

The junior/young rider scholarship





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AVDA's Newest 2024 Year End Award

(Outside The Dressage Arena)

by Betty Fey

Dressage is everywhere! Schooling, training, dressage is what we do every day with our horses even if we never ride a dressage test. Some of us love dressage competition, some of us prefer other, no less worthy ways to have fun with our horses, such as eventing, hunters, western, endurance... the options are endless. Dressage training is fundamental to all of it. Everyone has an example of how they use dressage training for other disciplines. To recognize and encourage dressage for every horse we now have a year end award, Outside The Dressage Arena.

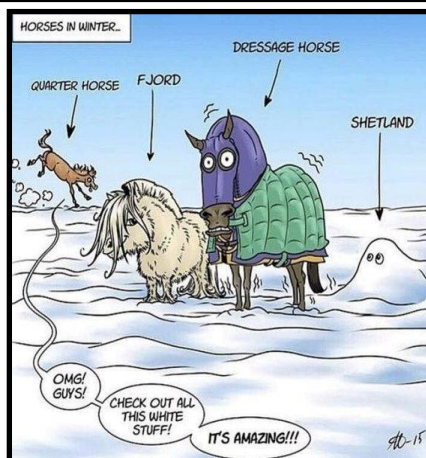
This award is dedicated to those equestrians that use their dressage education to improve their training and riding and for those whose ultimate goal is not riding down center line.

The committee is still exploring the specifics and details. There's a lot to consider as this award has never been given before. There has been a lot of wonderful feed back so far, people really seem to be excited to see this idea move forward. We have in mind that interested individuals will be members in good standing of AVDA, submit a declaration of intent, volunteer at least 3 hours at AVDA sanctioned events and earn points for competing in other chosen events. The year end award winner will be the person that fulfills the requirements plus has the most points by the year end deadline.

The committee hopes to be ready by March with the award rules and looks forward to an exciting year of exploration.

The next committee meeting is Jan. 26 at the Coyote Den in Penrose. All interested members are welcome.

For more information contact Betty Fey bettyfey6@gmail.com





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AVDA January 6th, 2024 Minutes

Attendance: Sandy Vernon, Renee McMillen, Sarah Murphy, Diana Carver, Christina Coffin, Sandy Dorr, Betty Fey, Brenda Haley, Katie Knight, Nancy Leonard, Courtney Nugent, Catherine Siemiet, Debi Stevens.

Call To Order: 1:20

Presidents Report: Sandy gave a follow up report of the Bog Report and the RMDS Round Table. Other GMO's reached out to AVDA to share some successful events and show information.

RMDS will send out two free email blast with flyer.

Volunteer hours to be submitted to RMDS and AVDA.

Secretary Report: Renee presented the secretary report in the absence of Debbie Hood. Cat Siemiet made a motion to accept, Katie Knight second, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Sarah Murphy presented account balances. Checking \$1924.43, Savings \$525.51, Pay Pal \$50.00.

Vice President Report: A vote to approve By-Laws, Katie Knight made a motion to accept the up-dated By-Laws, Betty second, all in favor.

Policy approvals:

Financial Policy: Katie moved to accept, Sarah Murphy second, all in favor.

Social Media Policy: Katie Knight moved to approve, Cat Siemiet, second, all in favor.

Awards Policy: Motion to accept by Katie Knight, Debi Stevens approved, all in favor.

Budget 2024: Debi Stevens made a motion to accept the Budget, Katie Knight second, all in favor.

Events Committee Report: Christina Coffin presented the information for the Virtual Schooling Show. The Judge is Michelle Velasco. To be held at Marion Patterson's arena, on April 13th.



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continued

AVDA January 6th, 2024 Minutes

The May 18th, Schooling show is in the covered arena at Pathfinder Park, with a shared warm up, Judge is Jessica Greer. September Schooling show is in the outdoor arena at Pathfinder and the Judge is Kathy Daly.

Education Committee Report: Debi Stevens has arranged clinics through April. They are posted on the web-site.

Brenda Haley presented a riding homework pattern to the members.

Awards Committee Report: General discussion on new awards and suggested awards.

Betty Fey presented the proposed Outside the Dressage Arena qualifications and specification. Further discussion to ensue.

Marketing Committee Report: Sandy Vernon updated our membership count of 24. Katie Knight manages Face Book, Kim Godfrey updates the Website.

JR/YR Committee

Western Dressage Committee

Old Business: Katie Knight updates the insurance for each event and horse show.

Debi Stevens presented the swag options from Pueblo Express Print.

New Business: Sarah Murphy devised a Scholarship Programs. Two scholarships proposed, JR/ YR and AA. Proposed names Jenny Wegener Award and Margaret Murphy Award. A \$1000.00 donation from the Margaret Murphy estate will be the start up revenue.

Record retention of three years was submitted by Katie Knight.

Discussion and clarification on volunteer hours and the importance of documenting and reporting.

Next Meeting: February 13th, Debi Stevens home, 5:00 social, 5:30 meeting.

Meeting Adjourn 3:40



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NEW AVDA EVENT REFUND POLICY

(approved by membership on 1/6/2024).

All funds or payments made to participate in an AVDA program, show, or event, must be paid in full at the required time and date as noted on the registration information.

There will be no refunds for riders or participants who cancel after confirming their participation, and who have remitted payment for an AVDA event or show.

Exceptions to this rule are as follows:

A refund, minus \$35 processing fee, will be available if a participant's slot can be filled by a paying replacement.

Refunds under special circumstances may be granted upon review by the President and the Event chairperson or Education Chairperson. Refund request must be submitted to AVDA in writing via email at least 72 hours prior to the event. No refund request will be accepted by phone. No refunds will be considered if requested after the program or event has occurred unless absence was due to a medical emergency.

Riders who must cancel due to medical or veterinary emergencies may receive a full refund, minus a \$35.00 processing fee, if AVDA is notified in writing via email, and includes a physician or veterinarian statement.

Refunds will be considered when AVDA events are canceled due to "Acts of God", or cancellation for any reason by the Events or Education committee chairpersons, or by the majority of the executive board of directors.

RMDS TECHNICAL DELEGATE TRAINING

Monday, February 12, 2024 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

Must sign up and pay to get Zoom call information \$25 per session Heather Petersen will be the instructor The top 3 reasons to attend:

1. Never get eliminated for using illegal tack
2. Yes, you can learn about how shows run
3. How to be prepared to compete • Interested in learning about Dressage competition rules as an exhibitor?
4. Do you want to become a Technical Delegate? • Valuable information for Show managers. • Excellent opportunity to learn current and NEW requirements for 2024 Email your request to rmds@rmds.org Pay online at RMDS.ORG

<https://wp.rmds.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-TD-Flyer.pdf>



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AVDA Holly Bergay Clinic, February 25, 2024



Holly Bergay has made waves on the national and international stages as a para-equestrian, with impressive placings. She was the first disabled rider to compete in the North American Junior Championships, the North American Young Rider Championships, and the Festival of Champions. As a para-equestrian, she was shortlisted for the 2010 World Equestrian Games U.S. team and longlisted for the 2012 Paralympic Games and 2014 Paralympic Games. In able bodied competition, Holly competed internationally in the small tour with the renowned Hanoverian stallion Rubino Bellissimo. She has

studied under masters of the sport Debbie McDonald and Sue Blinks. Her skill and experience earned her a position riding for Morten Thomsen in Silkeborg, Denmark, where she furthered her abilities to include training horses for the Grand Prix movements. Holly now has a training and sales business in Sedalia, CO and is accepting horses and riders of all levels. Holly is pictured riding Niguel, the horse she rode at the USEF Para Dressage National Championships in 2023. Niguel is owned by Monique Potts. Holly's students are placing very well at all levels of competition.

AVDA Holly Bergay Clinic, February 25, 2024

At Five Star Ranch

AVDA will be offering a clinic with clinician Holly Bergay at Five Star Ranch (18550 Midway Ranch Road, Fountain, CO 80817). Five Star Ranch is a new training venue for AVDA and features a large, heated, indoor arena, with 20 connected indoor stalls (\$35 per day which includes one bag of shavings and cleaning after departure), refreshed footing in the arena, RV electrical hook ups, and plenty of parking. Five Star is very easily accessible off of I-25 (exit 119) just south of Colorado Springs. Cost for this clinic is \$105 per lesson, auditors are \$10 for the day. Please bring your own food and drinks. Helmets are required.



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2024 AVDA CLUB MEETINGS

Feb. 13th at Debi Stevens house, 1143 L Street, Penrose, CO 81240. 719 429 7178, 5 PM
Social hour (bring snacks), 5:30 meeting

Locations and time for all other meetings will be announced on the website and facebook. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8

November 12 (elections and volunteer of the year).
December 14th - Awards Banquet and Christmas Party.

2024 AVDA SHOWS

Registration and Details will be posted on our website at avdadressage.org

April 13th Virtual Schooling Show Judge Michelle Velasco.
May 18th Schooling Show Judge Jessica Greer.
Sept.7th Schooling Show Judge Kathy Daly

2024 AVDA CLINICS

Registration and Details contact Debi Stevens 719 429-7178

January 20th 2024 Sue Martin at Jaun Gonzalez indoor arena.
February 25th Holly Bergay at Five Star Equestrian Fountain CO.
March 16th Laura Gillmer at Marcy Wadlington (rain date 3-23)
April 27th Holly Bregay at Marcy Wadlington



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From the editor:

Coming In February

There will now be a new section in the AVDA News; *The Marketplace*, where you can buy, sell or search for horse related items.

Send all info. to: avdanews@earthlink.net

Guidelines:

- * *clear picture/s of item.*
- * *full description and price of each item.*
- * *your name and phone number and or contact information.*
- * *your ad is good for 60 days after hat it will be removed unless you notify avdanews@earthlink.net to keep it listed.*
- *you must notify AVDA news if your item is sold, if you do not, I will not post additional items for you in the future.*
- **Cutoff date 25th of each month.**
- *******

Be sure to always go to our website for updated information: avdadressage.org

Submit your articles, pictures etc. to be published in the monthly newsletter by the 25th of each month to: _avdanews@earthlink.net

How to print the newsletter using very little ink:

Go to your printer settings and or advance setting to change your ink color for printing.

Print black/white ink only or gray scale.

Print as a draft quality.

You may have to save these setting to print.