



# AVDA 2023 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



## 2023 Awards Christmas Party



### Letter from the president.

Happy New Year!

Here it is 2024 and AVDA has a fun and educational year planned. Time to set goals for yourself and your horse. Think about what you want to achieve this year and write those goals down. Put them on your bathroom mirror or tape them to your tack room door to remind yourself to work towards your desired result. It could be something as simple as a square halt, or more inspired lead changes. Make sure that having fun with your horse is at the top of your list! AVDA is here to support your goals and dreams. Let's have a successful, and most of all, safe and fun new year!  
Sandy Vernon—President

### Contact Information:

[avdadressage2019@gmail.com](mailto:avdadressage2019@gmail.com)

### Debbie Hood Volunteer of the year 2023



Sandy Vernon     Debbie Hood

### To AVDA

### From Debbie Hood

I just want to say what an honor it is to be part of this amazing group. The support and caring you give to others is over the moon and beyond. I know that if I ever am in a situation where I need help, I don't have to look any further than the members of this group. To say that I was blown away at receiving the Volunteer of the Year award is an understatement. All of your kind words and compliments are very much appreciated. Thank you again and may God bless each and every one of you beyond your wildest dreams.





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**2023 Awards**  
**Christmas Party**



**Tracy Broll:**  
**Adult Amateur**  
**1st. Place**  
**Quarter Horse**  
**Breed Award**  
**Freestyle**



**Kamryn**  
**Godfrey:**  
**Youth**  
**Intro.**  
**Award**  
**Pony Breed**  
**Award**



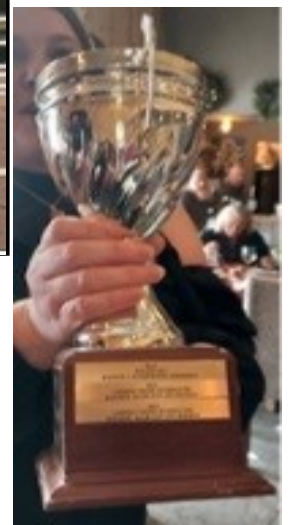
**Katie Knight**  
**AA Holsteiner Breed**



**Diana Cuchens:**  
**AA Grade Horse Breed**



**Sarah Murphy:**  
**AA Intro., AA Training**







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## The New Kid In the Sandbox By Debi Stevens

Gentry, AVDA's newest 4 legged member, has an interesting story. He came to me by way of a man named Ryan Bulkley (cattle rancher, horse trainer). Ryan's family owns a 20,000 (used to be 30,000 but they sold 9,000 to the Wild Life Refuge) acre ranch a 90 minute drive almost due south of Las Animas near Pritchett (kind of). The trip to meet Gentry was an experience in itself. It is like stepping back into Colorado history (or into Yellowstone) complete with only dirt roads and massive, massive ranches one after the other. Dry raw land (picture Pueblo West with nothing on it). Bear with me a moment---I am going to explain how Ryan came to have Gentry and 2 other horses. Ryan's cousin bought a used freightliner tractor and big horse van last year. On the way home from picking it up, it broke down on E-470. As he was sitting on the shoulder a car pulls in front of him, the back to ask if he had horses had a horse ranch not far from a place to put them until the truck had broken a fan belt so he could get the Ryan's cousin was with stage 4 cancer and is swap contact info and hat and thanks her pro-ago. Fast forward to about



woman driving the car comes on the van explaining she from where he was if he needs he could get going. Since she took him to a truck repair part for the truck. In the time this woman, she shares she selling her 25 horses. They Ryan's cousin tips his cowboy fusely. This was a year a month ago.

The woman contacts has sold 21 of the 25 horses-time left. Would he possibly off her hands? So Ryan's ing he could not take them asking Ryan if he could. When Ryan got there to pick up the horses, they had not been handled at all since they spent time with a trainer in Sterling last summer. All 4 (2 six-year-olds, a 22 year old, and a 14 year old mare I never saw (she was gone to her new home before I got there)) were low on weight with the low-man-on-the-totem-pole being absolutely emaciated. Topping it all off, Ryan was there on a concrete drive trying to load 4 horses that most probably had been on a trailer twice in their life. I got in touch with Ryan by way of another woman that contacted me to see if I was interested in a "foal back" contract on a mare that had not been ridden at all since she came off the race track 6 years ago. When I said no to the mare, she put me in touch with Ryan. I went down and saw the horses (including watched them be ridden) came home sent an email out looking for homes for the other two horses. By the next day, I had homes for the horses. The 22 year old (Arabian x Paint) went to a 5-year-old boy that is super excited to give him a new life long home. The emaciated horse (Arabian x Saddlebred=National Show Horse) went to a 14-year-old girl. The day I went down to pick up Gentry (Ryan was told he was a purebred but I am sure he too is a National Show Horse) the other two owners met me at the feed lot parking lot in Rocky Ford to pick the horses up. All 3 horses were free with the stipulation that once every 6 months a picture be sent to the original owner's sister. Since coming home, Gentry is fitting into my herd, I am doing ground work with him, feeding him 24/7, had teeth and vaccinations done. I am anxiously awaiting the time when Juan can take him and continue his training. The real hero in this situation is Ryan Bulkley. He worked with the horses several times while he had them, fed them their grain every day in his trailer, gave me 3 halters for the horses because I forgot to take halters down with me and gave me 2 hours of his time to show me the horses when he needed to be moving cows. When I offered to pay him something for Gentry he would not take any money. He just tipped his cowboy hat, shook my hand and said, "It has been a pleasure meeting you. Thank you for your help in finding homes for these horses."



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**AVDA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**December 1, 2023**

Attendance: Sandy Vernon, Renee McMillen, Debbie Hood, Sarah Murphy, Sissy Coffin, Katie Knight (by phone conference).

The members of the executive board consist of the four officers, and the committee chairs as provide for in the By-Laws.

Proposed changes to the By-Laws are listed below. These were discussed at length. The Executive Board recommends these proposed changes be approved by the General Membership at the next meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Change #1 Article II Objectives**

Section 2: Changed the wording from the rocky Mountain Dressage Society to Arkansas Valley Dressage Association.

**Change #2 Article VI Officers**

Section 9: Added: a quorum of the Executive Board, which shall be three members.

**Change #3 Article VII Chapter Executive Board**

Section 1: Added: and one member (in good standing) at large, to be chosen by the President.

**Change #4 Article X Elections**

Section 1: Added: the AVDA website, and Face Book page.

**Policies:** Lengthy discussions were held on all three written policies. The Executive board recommends approval by the general Membership of all AVDA policies at the next General Meeting, January 6<sup>th</sup>, after making the proposed changes.

**Awards Policy** – No changes were proposed.

**Financial Policy** –

**Change #1** Change the word “staff” to the word “member” and remove the word “staff” at the end of the statement.

**Change #2** Contributions – change “must” to “should”, change “contributor” to “donor”.

**Change #3** Remove the word “any” and in the last sentence add the words “should be” and “in writing”.

**Change #4** Add the word “business” rate to mileage.

**Social Media Policy** – Context was discussed and approved.

**Budget Proposal for 2024** – Executive Board held discussion on the 2024 budget, and recommends approval by the General Membership at the next General Meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held concerning creating a scholarship fund under AVDA for both Jr. Riders and Adult Amateur riders. Sarah has offered to work on this and will report at the next General Meeting.

Records Retention is an important issue for us. Katie has information on the legal obligation we have to archive our records (release forms, financial records, contracts).

Meeting adjourned at 3:50.



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MARK YOUR CALENDER 2024



**January 20th 2024 Sue Martin**

at Jaun Gonzalez indoor arena.

Location: 308 County ad 297, Wetmore. CO.

*If you have any questions, call: Debi Stevens 719 429*

## 2024 AVDA CLUB MEETINGS

**January 6 - Cat Siemiet's house, 221 W Catlin Ave., Canon City, 1:00 pm This is a planning meeting for 2024.**

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

February 13  
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](http://avdadressage.org)***

The date for the on-line show is TBD. The judge is Michele Velasco  
May 18, 2024 schooling show judge is Jessica Greer.  
The date for the Sept. show is 9/7. Judge TBD

## 2024 AVDA CLINICS

***Registration and Details will be posted on our website at [avdadressage.org](http://avdadressage.org)***

January 20th 2024 Sue Martin at Jaun Gonzalez indoor arena.

February to be schedule.

March 16th Laura Gilmore at Marcy Wadlington (rain date 3-23)

April 27th Holly Bregay at Marcy Wadlington



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**2024 AVDA**

**Board of Directors**

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

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**Committees Chairs**

Awards - Kim Godfey  
Education - Debi Stevens  
Events -Sissy Coffin  
Marketing - Sandy Vernon  
Western Dressage-Debby Hood  
Jr/yr Riders to be filled



**From the editor:**

**Be sure to always go to our website for updated information: [avdaddressage.org](http://avdaddressage.org)**

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

[avdanews@earthlink.net](mailto:avdanews@earthlink.net)

Comments and feedback are always welcome.