

WELCOME TO THE

Monthly Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!



A Message from our President

I am **thrilled and honored** to serve as the newly elected President of the **Eastern Iowa Dressage and Eventing Association (EIDEA)**. As we embark on this exciting journey together, I want to express my gratitude for your trust and confidence in me. I also want to thank our out-going board for their dedication and commitment to our club.

Inclusion: EIDEA is not just for the seasoned competitor. It's for everyone on their unique journey with their horses. Whether you're actively competing, just starting out, or cherishing your retired equine partners, you are an essential part of our GMO. Let's ensure that everyone feels represented, valued, and heard.

Transparency: I am committed to bringing transparency to our club's operations to help our members become more engaged in our GMO. We will keep you informed about decisions, financial matters, and upcoming events.

Your voice matters, and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas. Please look for opportunities to volunteer and get involved! We'll shape the volunteer roles to what fits into your busy schedule.



NEW USEF Horse ID Requirements

- Effective December 1, 2023, entries for all horses competing in USEF-licensed competitions must include a USEF Horse ID number per [GR1101](#).
- The USEF Horse ID is free, and you can apply to your [USEF Member Dashboard](#).
- Existing ID numbers can be located using the [Horse Search](#).
- Questions? Please contact the US Equestrian Horse Services Department

What is the USDF L Program?

The L Education Program (L Program) offers a comprehensive curriculum created to teach participants and auditors how to evaluate dressage performance at Training through Second Level. The minimum score requirement to enter Part 2 is three scores from three USEF-licensed dressage judges: Two scores of 65% or higher at the highest test of Second Level and one score of 62% or higher at Third Level or above. Three scores of 62% or higher at Third Level or above from three different judges, or any combination of these requirements.

Newest Region 4 L Graduates

We are fortunate to have 3 recent graduates in Region 4 *Jane Fucinaro, NE, Pamela J. Koehler, IA and Alexandria Novotny Pasker, IA

Lets meet one of them! Pamela J. Koehler

Tell us a little about yourself (your location, awards/other certifications you hold, etc):

I was born in Massachusetts and moved to the Midwest to attend William Woods in Fulton, MO. While in college, I won the Good Seat and Hands medal riding saddle seat. 20 years after earning my undergrad degree, I went to night school and got my Masters degree, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. I am a volunteer at Meals From the Heartland in West Des Moines. I have qualified several horses for USDF Regional Championships, competed twice at the WDAA World Championships winning a reserve and a world championship, and am a USDF Bronze medalist.

How long have you been involved in the sport?

I started riding dressage in 1995 when my hunter jumper gelding developed holes in his suspensory ligaments and needed a new job to do. We struggled a lot trying to find his balance with his soundness issues and I eventually started my young quarter horse mare in her dressage career. I quickly learned it was much easier to develop a good dressage horse when one starts at the bottom of the training pyramid!

What made you decide to participate in the USDF L Education Program?

Prior to moving to IA, a friend of mine took me with her as an auditor in part one and as her scribe in part two. I decided then I was going back some day as a participant. I think I learned more about correct dressage principles auditing part 1 as I had in years of lessons.

Do you plan to further your dressage education and to continue to apply what you learned in the program to become a licensed official?

I'd like to but I don't yet have the fourth level scores needed. I would also have to retest as only L graduates with distinction are eligible to move on to train to become registered USEF dressage judges. I aced my written test but missed the required 70% needed on my practical testing by a slim margin.

What impact did the program have on your dressage knowledge?

I highly recommend all dressage riders audit part 1 to get an improved understanding of the principles of dressage. I feel much better prepared to compete, to train my horse, and to teach

Lets meet one of them! Continued

Name three things you took away from the program that you think every rider should know.

There were lots of ah-ha moments. Most important is the judge is there to help the horse and rider understand what to work on so they can become better. Don't just check your score, review your comments and talk with your instructor to develop a plan for what to work on to improve. Also important is learning the purpose of the test level you are riding – this can be found at the top of your test sheet. Work on the basics and the rest will come easier. Dressage is a team sport – you and your horse, and the partnership you create.

Have you served in any other official capacity with USDF (council/committee member, council/committee chair, PM/GM delegate, board member/Regional Director, etc.)? Please describe.

I have been a member of numerous GMOs (Columbia Dressage and Combined Training Association, St. Louis Area Dressage Society, Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association, and Nebraska Dressage Association) and in IA have held the offices of President and Vice President and served on many different committees. I represented IADCTA as a PM delegate several times and was a member of the USDF Nominating Committee for a number of years.

Do you want to judge schooling shows in your capacity as an L Graduate?

Absolutely! I am already judging a dressage competition in March at Kirkwood Equestrian Center. I have been asked to do an online ride-a-test for the newly formed Working Equitation Club of Iowa. In October, I will be judging a competition for the IHSA at Jester Park. Certainly hope that this is the nice beginning of my future as a schooling show judge.

If someone wants to contact you about judging, how can they reach you?

Text 636-577-1449

Email pjsdressagebasics@gmail.com



Photo credit Derith Vogt

Judges Round Table

On January 10, 2024 USDF hosted a Judge's Round Table via Zoom. The presenters were Gary Rockwell, Mike Osinski, Jean Kraus and Dolly Hannon. The USDF coordinator was Sharon Vanderziel.

Some of the noted points were:

- 1) Judges are asked not to verify bridle numbers while the horse is outside the ring anymore. If the judge or scribe is not aware of a scratch, no-show or change in the schedule, and no one can see the competitor number, it's likely that an incorrect test sheet will be used. Many judges have trouble seeing numbers with plastic covers or the smaller lettering.
- 2) It's legal for the judge to use their cell phone at the show ring, during the competition, to contact the TD or to verify time.
- 3) Most show complaints revolve around the competitor (or his or her representative, such as a parent or trainer) not knowing the National or FEI level rules. Sharon emphasized rereading USEF's DR and GR rules regularly. It isn't always the competitors who don't know the rules so all show officials should do their best to regularly review them. If in doubt, ask a technical delegate.
- 4) Show managers are continually being encouraged to schedule more panel judging so judges can gain more experience and have conversations to create a more uniform approach to the judging methodology.
- 5) Electronic scoring is encouraged and will be used more in the future. Although there are some things that need to be addressed like best practices, rules or reprogramming, the process is liked and encouraged by the panel.
- 6) Judge training may become more web-based so there is less disruption at shows. It was asked why there are currently less judges' training events on the west coast. Sharon says the show managers refuse to allow them to be held at their bigger shows. The online training will help with that. National level judge clinics will still be available.
- 7) Every forum on judging brings conversations about what constitutes an error and how it should be handled. The panel feels like there is a lot less gray area than the discussions warrant. For example, a rider who should be performing an 8 meter circle and rides a 10 meter circle isn't making an error. The rider is just riding with bad geometry.
- 8) Gary mentioned that judges can and will make mistakes. He emphasized that it is not intentional. He asks competitors to have a little grace when something happens.
- 9) The panel asks judges to refrain from talking to competitors before or after their test, unless notifying the rider of an error, expressing a safety concern, or eliminating the horse and rider.
- 10) The overall messaging in the round table was emphasizing the importance of judge training, the need for fairness to the riders during competition, and paving a path for continued success.



THE

DRESSAGE FOUNDATION

The Dressage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization, whose mission is to cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of dressage in the United States. Thanks to their generous donors, they are able to offer a wide range of grants and programs to meet the needs of dressage enthusiasts across the board.

Questions? Contact info@dressagefoundation.org or (402) 434-8585

Gifted Memorial Fund

Seeded with donations received in special remembrance of Carol's great Dressage horse, Gifted. Many other friends of The Dressage Foundation have added donations and the Scholarship Fund has grown steadily over the years. This Scholarship enables Adult Amateurs to set aside quality-time, in concentrated training away from the daily pressures of job and family, with a horse the recipient owns or formally leases. Up to nine \$1,500 grants are available each year (one in each USDF Region), plus two additional \$1,500 wild card grants (which can be awarded in any Region).

Jane Savoie Adult Amateur Fund

The Jane Savoie Adult Amateur Fund was established in memory of Jane, whose dedication, commitment, intelligence, and passion for the classical art of dressage was her life-long work. Annual grants will be given to adult amateur riders of any age who are riding and training any breed of horse at 4th Level or Prix St. Georges. The amount of the grants can vary depending on the need and request of the applicants but will typically range from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund For Individuals

The Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund was established in 2019 by Lynn in celebration of her 50 years as a professional equestrian and to give back to the sport she loves. Lynn believes that the classical training principles of dressage are applicable and beneficial to all levels of riders, breeds of horses, and riding disciplines. Grants in the amount of \$1,000 each are available for riders who need financial help to continue their Western Dressage education.

Military Grant Fund

The Military Grant Fund was established in 2022 by Colonel David and Sue Bender of Beech Island, South Carolina. Through their generous gift, the Benders wish to recognize the contributions of military members and dependents to our country and sport. Grants in the amount of \$1,000 each are available for amateur or youth riders, to include para-dressage riders, who need financial help to continue their dressage education.



THE

DRESSAGE FOUNDATION

Para-Equestrian Dressage Fund

The purpose of the Para-Equestrian Dressage Fund is to provide financial support for para-dressage riders, including Visually Impaired and Blind riders, to attend educational events such as clinics/seminars at the USEF/USPEA Para-Equestrian Centers of Excellence, lessons with a trainer of choice, or other educational opportunities that will enable the riders to improve and reach their goals. The amount of the grants can vary depending on the need and request of the applicants, but are typically \$1,000 each.

Trip Harting Fund for Graduate or Current Pony Club Members

This fund will provide an annual \$1,000 grant to a current or graduate rider with a Pony Club Rating of A, B, or C rating to attend an educational event of his/her choice. Preference will be given to riders with an A or B rating.

U.S. Breeder Excellence Fund

This fund was established in 2011 and provides financial assistance to U.S. breeders. Funding should be used to pursue educational opportunities related to breeding that will advance their careers, promote sound breeding practices, and further enhance the quality of U.S.-bred dressage horses. Grants typically range from \$1,000 - \$2,500.

Lloyd Landkamer Show Management Development Fund

The goal of the Lloyd Landkamer Show Management Development Fund is to provide financial assistance to show management (to include managers and/or secretaries) to aid in their development and to help them move up the levels of management. One grant of \$1,000 will be awarded each year.

Pure Spanish Horse/P.R.E Grant Fund

The purpose of this Fund is to provide financial support to obtain further dressage training for riders who train and compete a Pure Spanish Horse/P.R.E. in the sport of dressage. An annual grant will be given to either a professional, adult amateur, or a Young Rider (over the age of 16) competing at Prix St. Georges or Young Rider equivalent or higher. The grant is to be used for educational purposes such as training, lessons, clinics, etc.

EIDEA Trainer Feature

February Feature: Heather Wilson-Roller

We reached out to one of our local trainers to find out more about them and their program.

1. What drew you into becoming a dressage professional?

I always knew I wanted to spend my life with horses, and I was lucky to have a strong classical influence in my early riding education. I ended up specializing in dressage as a result of studying biomechanics and physical techniques to rehabilitate a horse I fell in love with.

2. How long have you been riding dressage and who are some of your mentors?

My early riding instructors taught me a lot of dressage basics, so I've been riding dressage for nearly 40 years. It has been my primary focus for at least 25. My notable mentors would be Mike Marquez, Claudia Tarlov, Roel Theunissen, Sandy Osborn, Silke Rembacz, and Pierre Cousyn.

3. What are some of your most memorable dressage experiences?

Every horse show with Darth, including our PSG at Regionals in Arizona. Scribing for regional championships. Wellington for 2 seasons, of course. It was super fun to watch practices for Challenge of the Americas. Competing at Devon.

4. Tell Us about your program.

My program has a primary focus on health, harmony, and balance for both horse and rider. We use classical principles and modern science to achieve these goals. I believe horse shows are a great way to both show off what is well prepared and find the details of what can be improved.

5. How do you continue your education?

I take virtual lessons with my coach Pierre Cousyn whenever my time and resources permit. It is really helpful to have access to such a masterful coach who understands myself and my horses so well. I also ride with other clinicians with complimentary philosophies when I have the opportunity. I read a lot of articles on recent veterinary and behavioral research.



Do you have a trainer that you believe should be our next feature? Reach out on either our social media or info@easterniowadressageandeventing.com

Want to contact Heather?
Follow her on Social Media or reach out via
text 561-252-3610

Events Around The Region

03/14-15 Matt McLaughlin Clinic

03/15-17 Tamarack Schooling Show

04/27-28 Cy-Hawk Working Equitation
Clinic

06/02 Tamarack Schooling Show

06/15-16 Maffitt Lake

09/20-22 Tamarack Schooling Show



Letters to the Editor: Submit your comments, suggestions, or opinions relating to the sport of dressage

Barn News: Trainers would you like to let us know about the recent accomplishments of your clients or introduce new clients and horses? Would you like to update readers about barn improvements, or talk about any other news of interest to the membership.

Member Submissions: Submit an article and photo of you and your horse on a topic of interest, a clinic or show experience. Submit your favorite barn and horse care tips, or review clinic. We'd love to hear from you!

EIDEA welcomes your articles, barn news, artwork, and especially, your photographs. Submissions, news, and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the EIDEA. Acceptance does not constitute an endorsement. Accuracy of materials submitted is the sole responsibility of the author. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and edit submitted material. The deadline for submission is the 5th of the month.