Vol. 26 ISSUE 5 MAY 2026

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
THE CENTERLINE

MAY 2026



CELEBRATING THE DRESSAGE HORSE

Power. Partnership. The Heart of Our Sport.

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cactusdressage@outlook.com
Teresa Uddo, Show Management
tuddo66@gmail.com

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ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
100 Easy St., Box 2855
Carefree, AZ 85377



Your Voice Matters—

Earn Volunteer Hours by Contributing to *THE CENTERLINE!*

Are you passionate about dressage, love to write, or have barn news to share? *The Centerline* newsletter is looking for AZ dressage community members—riders, trainers, and horse lovers alike—to contribute articles, opinions, updates, and tips.

SUBMIT TO: centerline@azdressage.org

**The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.*

Ideas for Submissions

Letters to the Editor: Submit your comments, suggestions, or opinions relating to the sport of dressage. The Centerline Editor reserves the right to edit submitted content for clarity, tone, and space.

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 clinics. We'd love to hear from you! NOTE: *If the photo is a riding photo, a helmet is required.*

***Product Endorsements/Advertising** In most cases, products and services are considered paid advertising. Articles that are negative in nature concerning a particular product will not be considered for publication.*



FROM THE EDITOR'S SEAT

As I step into the role of Editor for *The Centerline*, I'm excited to share my first issue with you and build on the strong foundation that has long kept our community informed and connected.

My goal is to continue delivering the updates you rely on, while also bringing our community's stories, experiences, and moments into focus.

In this issue, you'll find a special foal spotlight, a photo montage from the 2025 Year-End Awards Luncheon, upcoming educational webinars, and timely show season features. We also celebrate the sold-out Summer Heat recognized show coming June 13–14.

As always, this newsletter is a reflection of our community -I look forward to continuing to grow it together.

Callie Bonine
The Centerline, Editor

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we move into the heart of our summer season, it's exciting to see so much activity and energy across our community. From recent events to the growing momentum around our educational programming, it's clear that our members are engaged and committed to continuing to learn and improve.

This is an especially exciting time of year as we are leading up to our Summer Heat recognized show held at Westworld of Scottsdale June 13–14. The show is sold out! We are excited to see you all there. These events are only possible through the dedication of our volunteers, organizers, participants, and sponsors and I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who helps make them a success.

We're also looking forward to a strong lineup of upcoming educational opportunities, reflecting the feedback many of you shared about what you want most from ADA. Your input continues to shape the direction of our programs, and we are committed to delivering meaningful, high-quality experiences for riders at every level.

Thank you for being part of this community - we look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and continuing to build on this momentum together.

Ann Damiano
President
Arizona Dressage Association

MEMBER VOICES

We want to hear from you! Please share your stories and build real connections with our community.

SUBMIT TO: centerline@azdressage.org



FEATURES

Celebrating the Dressage Horse

Power, Partnership, and the Heart of Our Sport

By Callie Bonine

With May being National Horse Month, we pause to celebrate the animals at the center of everything we do - not the ribbons or scores, **but the horse.**

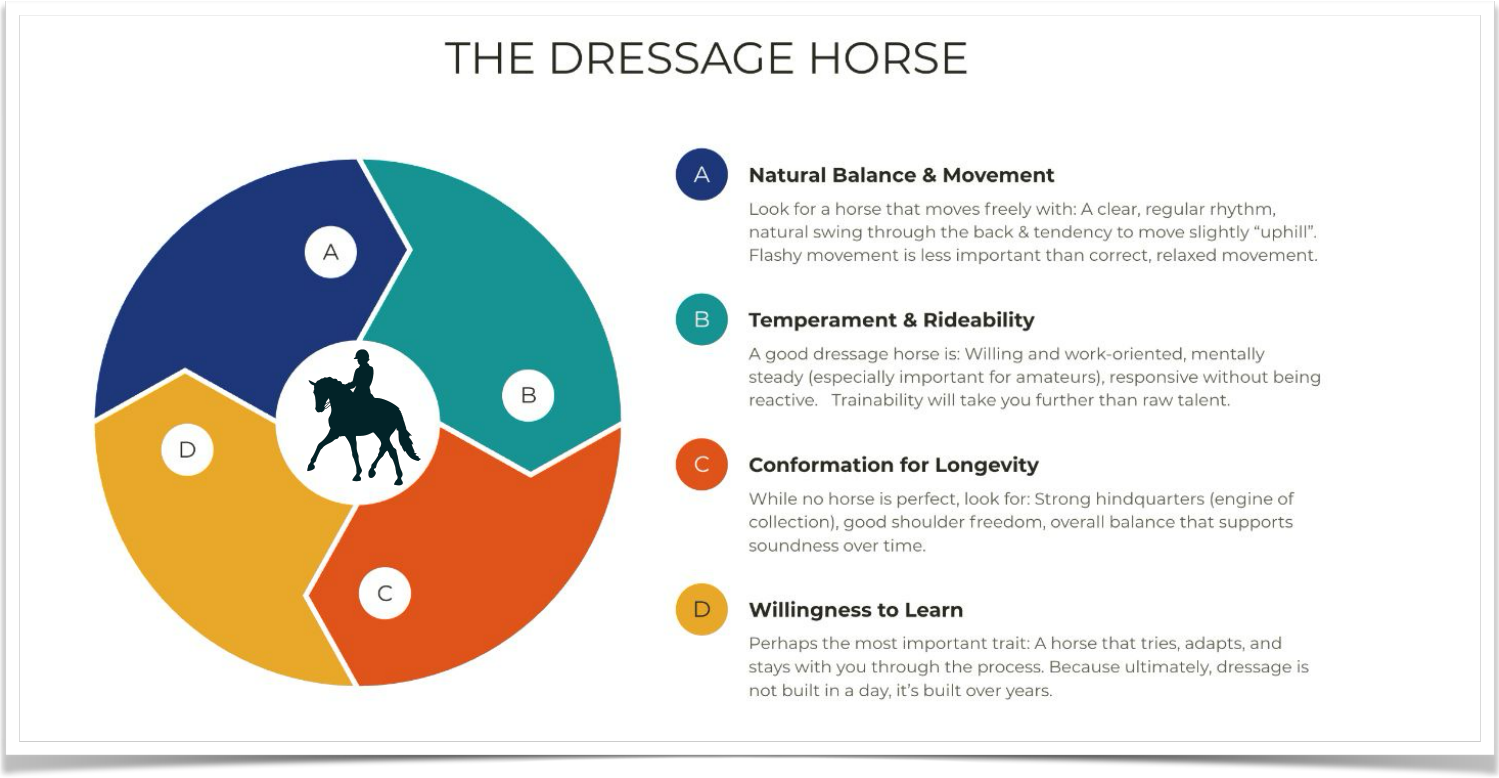
In Dressage, the horse is both athlete and partner. Rooted in classical horsemanship, dressage has evolved from a method of training war horses into a system for developing balance, strength, and communication.

At its core, dressage is about how a horse moves and feels. The familiar highlights - extended trot, collected canter, and upper-level movements - are expressions of a deeper training foundation built on rhythm, relaxation, connection, impulsion, straightness, and collection. When developed correctly, dressage improves coordination, strengthens the topline and hindquarters, and supports long-term soundness. Just as importantly, it creates a horse that is attentive, responsive, and confident in its work.

For those considering a dressage horse - whether for competition or personal enjoyment - there are several key qualities to prioritize.

First, **natural movement and balance**: look for a clear rhythm, freedom through the back, and a tendency toward uphill movement. Flashiness is secondary to correctness. Second, **temperament and rideability**: a willing, steady, and trainable horse will progress more consistently than one with extravagant movement but a difficult mindset. Third, **confirmation for longevity**, including strong hindquarters and overall balance. And finally, the most important trait - **willingness**. A horse that tries and stays mentally engaged will take a rider further than raw talent alone.

One of the strengths of dressage is its flexibility as a discipline.



Some riders pursue it competitively, aiming to move up the levels, improve scores, and qualify for championships. Others use dressage as a foundation for better riding - developing balance, improving communication, and enhancing their horse's long-term soundness. Many riders fall somewhere in between. There is no single path, and success can be defined by progress as much as performance.



While modern dressage is often associated with warmblood breeds such as the Hanoverian, Dutch Warmblood, and Oldenburg, the sport is far more inclusive. Across our community, you'll find Arabians, Quarter Horses, Thoroughbreds, Lusitanos, Gypsy Vanners and many more successfully participating. What defines a dressage horse is not pedigree, but trainability, soundness, and a willingness to partner with the rider.





ADA Members Leslie Sherlin & Mariska Sherlin riding their dressage award winning Gypsy Vanners, Wynn Royalty Wins and Clononeen Cashmere.

Dressage may be a pursuit of precision, but it is also a system of thoughtful, progressive training. Whether your goal is a higher score or a better ride at home, the principles remain the same: develop the horse correctly, communicate clearly, and value consistency over quick results.



This National Horse Month, we celebrate the dressage horse for its athletic ability, its trainability, and its role in shaping better riders.

ADA Members - Submit your personal photos so we can feature our community!!!

Your horse wants to stay here.






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The Future of Dressage

Foal Spotlight: A New Generation - American Bred

The future of dressage begins long before the first centerline - with the anticipation of a new foal. Across our community, **ADA members are shaping the next generation** through thoughtful breeding, producing horses defined by rideability, movement, and heart.

Ellisanto BG
with recip mare Clover
(owned by Alyssa Barngrover)

ADA MEMBER BREEDING PROGRAMS FEATURED THIS MONTH

Moondance Sport Horses (M)
Kim Pribble

Pas de Deux Farm (BG)
Alyssa Barngrover

Radstar (RS)
Kendall & Sharee Brookhart

Sovereign Farm (SF)
Heather Jantzen



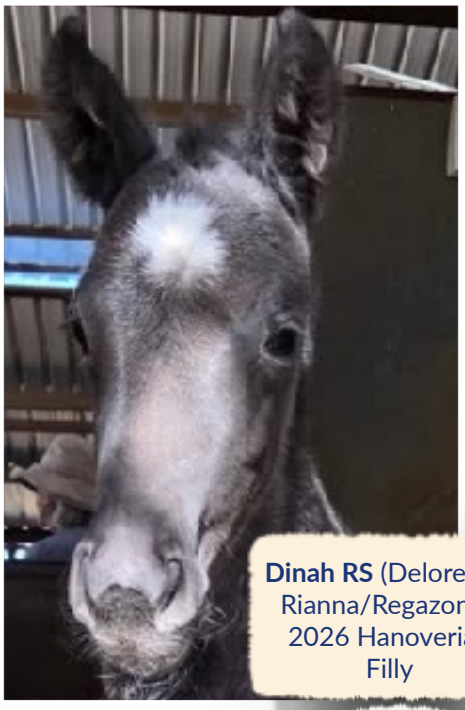
Epic Surprise RS (Epic Eastwood x Rigelle/Royal Prince) 2026 Oldenburg NA Colt



Tolleson M (Tolegro/Totalis/Negro x Royal Prince x Sandro) 2025 Oldenburg NA Colt

Coming to Moondance in 2027!!!

(**One to Remember** - Secret/Vivaldi/Gribaldii **x Riessa** (Royal Prince/Rhodiamant/Sandro)



Dinah RS (Delorean x Rianna/Regazonni) 2026 Hanoverian Filly



Ellisanto BG (Ellis NRW x Dacapriella/Dacaprio 2025 Hanoverian Colt



Pharo SF (EH Ivanhoe/Poppy SF/EH Buddenbrock) 2026 Trakehner colt

THE FUTURE, REALIZED

From breeding barn to centerline - these horses are proof that great programs produce results.



Furstinbella BG *(Furstenball x Dacapriella/Dacaprio))* ***3rd Level***



Beniciano BG *(Benicio x Dacapriella/Dacaprio))* ***3rd Level & 7 year old***



Bon Jovi RS *(Bon Coeur x Rianna/Regazonni) Hanoverian)* ***4th Level***



Kim Pribble's ***For Hope*** *- ridden in the ADA Steffen Peters/Janet Foy Clinic*



Santiago SF (Trakehner by EH Kostolany x Sidney/Schubert) **Intermediare** I. *Owned/ridden by Kailee Surplus*

A SEASON WORTH CELEBRATING

2025 Year-End Awards Luncheon Highlights








Heather Montierth: Horse of the Year - AA Training Level Champion, 1st Level 3rd, Rider of the Year - AA Training Level Champion, AA 1st Level Res. Champion




Shawn Smith: Horse of the Year - AA training Level 6th, Rider of the Year AA Training Level, 5th




Sarah Smith: Horse of the year - AA Training Level 4th, Rider of the Year AA Training Level 4th







Alyssa Barngrover: Horse of the Year AA 1st Level & 2nd Level. Rider of the Year AA 1st Level & 2nd Level

Christopher Brusnighan: Horse of the Year 2nd Level Champion




Erin McHenry: Horse of the Year FEI, 5th, Rider of the year AA - FEI Grand Prix Campion




Nicola Valentine: Rider of the Year -FEI-A JR/YR Champion, Horse of the Year - FEI, 3rd



Emily Brown: Rider of the Year - AA 1st Level, 3rd




Courtney Cahill: AA - FEI - A Rider of the Year Champion, FEI Horse of the Year - 6th




Allison Evans Shepherd: Horse of Year & Rider of the Year 4th Level Champion







Ann Damiano: Horse of the Year Champion 1st Level, AA-FEI-A 3rd, FEI, FEI Grand Prix Champion (Cyndi Jackson), FEI Freestyle, Cameo)




Christine Murphy Rider of the Year - AA 2nd Level Res. Champion, Horse of the Year 2nd Level, 3rd



Lauren Cox: Rider of the Year FEI A Open Champion



Lily Baughman: FEI - A JR/YR Reserve Champion




Mariska Sherlin: Rider of the Year, JY/YR Training Level Champion, Schooling Shows -Introductory Level (JR/YR) Res. Champion




Michelle Bresnahan: Res. Champion Horse of the Year AA - Training Level & Rider of the Year AA-Training Level






Leslie Sherlin: Horse of the Year - AATraining Level 5th, Rider of the Year AA Training Level 6th, Schooling Shows, AA 1st Level 3rd, Alternative TOC (AA) Western Dressage, Res. Champion







Amy Burnett: Horse of the Year - 3rd Level Champion, Rider of the Year - Open 3rd Level Champion, Open Freestyle (Training Level - Fourth Level) Champion

Volunteers of the Year



Megan Weinstock
Volunteer of the Year



Cindi LaCroix - Committee Chair of the Year



Cathy Jones - Committee Chair of the Year



Callie Bonine - Impact Award





Thank you to Our Hosts
Ann Damiano, ADA President
& Leslie Sherlin, ADA Vice President



Why Accuracy of Figures and Transitions Matter in the Dressage Ring

By Beverly Rogers USEF "S" Dressage Judge

As we head into show season, many riders are focused on polishing movements - lengthenings, transitions, halts. How to improve their tests and raise the scores.

Each level looks for more accuracy of transitions and figures to access the horse's increased degree of suppleness, willing obedience to the rider, improved balance and thoroughness.

ACCURATE FIGURES/ GEOMETRY

Why Judges Care About Geometry

Judges are evaluating not only your horse's way of going, but also your precision as a rider. Accuracy reflects:

Preparation – You know where you're going before you get there.

Control – You can place your horse exactly on the intended line.

Harmony – Your aids are subtle, effective, and consistent.

The dressage arena is a carefully designed space. And each test, every line, every movement, every circle has a purpose. When ridden correctly, the geometry of the test develops and tests your horse's balance, straightness, and suppleness.

In many tests, geometry is explicitly part of the directive idea. Even when it's not written, it is always implied. When geometry is off - even slightly - it can affect everything:

When you don't ride directly from letter to letter it tells the judge that your horse is not on the aids and you are only a passenger and not the navigator. Circles are included in all levels from Intro thru Grand Prix. They are the most basic and useful figure for training the horse's lateral suppleness and obedience to the bending aids.

A 15 meter circle that becomes 18 meters changes the degree of bend. In many tests, geometry is explicitly part of the directive idea. Even when it's not written, it is always implied.

Circles as a Training Tool

Improving your geometry doesn't just raise your test scores - it improves your horse's lateral suppleness. In day to day schooling when you add transitions from gait to gait (canter/trot/canter) you are developing the lateral and the longitudinal (balance) suppleness.

Correct lines help develop:

- Straightness on both reins
- Even bend and suppleness
- Better balance through turns and transitions

In this way, geometry is not just about competition - it's about correct, classical training.

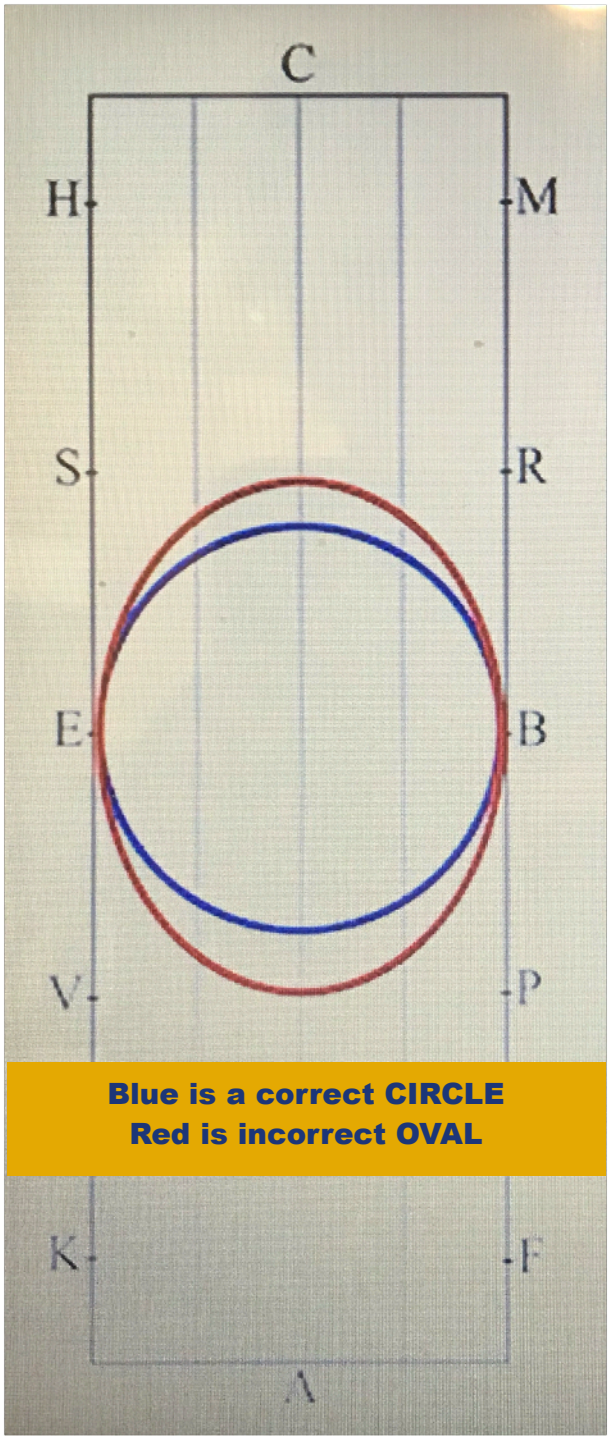
First, the circle should start and finish at the same point. Second there should be a continuous

bend appropriate to the figure ridden. Even a 20 m circle should show a consistent degree of bend and have no straight lines and definitely no corners!

Think about it. If you ride into the corner after you start your circle at A or C , then you must go straight to reach the circle point past I and L. So already you have not met the requirements of the most basic movement. And your score for that movement will drop a full or 1/2 point. Probably not a "7". Not to mention how it will affect the energy, balance and connection.

After completing the circle you should ride a corner appropriate to your level. *(See "Corners")*

This also applies to circles ridden at E or B. Start and end at the same point, not after. So many times I see the second half of the circle performed as an oval. Know the circle points on how far out to go. The letters are 12m apart. If you go out to I and L, you are riding a 24m oval, not a circle and you will receive a deduction of 1 or .5 depending on how it affects the quality of the gait. Again., most likely in the "6" range.



Blue is a correct CIRCLE
Red is incorrect OVAL

Transitions

All transitions, upward and downward should improve the longitudinal balance of the horse and develop use of the hindquarters.

The rider should prepare a minimum of 3 strides before all transitions. This gives the horse time to adjust his balance to perform the transition without being abrupt or rushing. When practiced at home, this helps with anticipation. If you feel the horse wanting to perform the transition on stride one or two of the preparation, you can ride out, teaching him to wait. Practice this first at different places in the arena and when the horse has a clear understanding to wait then you can place the transition precisely where you want it smoothly and in balance. At training level you have the option of placing the transitions between letters. Giving the rider time to prepare. Then by 1st level on, accuracy of transitions at a letter is expected and rewarded.

From the judge's perspective, accuracy is not a small detail - it's part of the collective mark for each movement.

Drifting on centerlines

A wandering centerline often comes from lack of alignment or focus. **Pick a point beyond C and align your outside shoulder *toward it*.**

In everyday training, every long side is a chance to practice straightness. Don't get lazy and let the arena fence or boundary of your arena to keep you straight. Ride 3-4 feet off the track (second track). If your horse drifts back to the wall by the time you reach the corner how will you ever ride a straight centerline?

Short sides and Corners

Cutting corners is one of the most common errors. Corners need only be as deep as the level you are riding. Imagine each corner as a quarter of a 10-meter circle for training and the first level. If you leave the rail 5 meters from the corner then finish the corner the same distance from the corner. Think isosceles square triangle. The two short sides of the triangle need to be even. Don't make one side 4 meters and the other 6. Put 2 markers equal distance from the corner and practice. Then ride all four corners the same in all three gaits.

Correctly ridden short sides prepare your horse for the next movement. The short side is where you renew your horse's engagement, balance and connection. The quality of the impulsion, the acceptance of the connection and the balance shown on the short side gives the judge a baseline for the next movement. Trot for a "6" on the short side and it will be difficult to score a "7" on the following movement of shoulder-in or leg yield.

Inconsistent diagonals

Lines across the diagonal should be straight and purposeful. Commit to your line early by looking, turning, and riding decisively from letter to letter.

Riding with Intention

One of the most significant shifts a rider can make is to stop riding *reactively* and start riding *intentionally*.

Before each movement, ask yourself:

- Where does this movement begin and end?
- What is the exact line I need to ride?
- Where should my horse be positioned and balanced?

When you ride with a clear plan, your geometry becomes more accurate - and your riding becomes more confident.

Final Thoughts Before You Enter at A

As you prepare for your upcoming show, remember:

- You're not just riding movements - you're drawing a picture.
- Make it clear.
- Make it accurate.
- Make it intentional.

Because when geometry and training come together, that's when a test truly shines.

RULES OF THE RING:
Ride Smart. Ride Safe. Ride Kind.

By Beth Martinec

With show seasons upon us, it's worth revisiting a simple truth: the warm-up arena works best when everyone rides with awareness, respect, and courtesy. Every rider is doing their best—so let's create an environment where both horse and rider can succeed.

1. Pass Left to Left

Just like driving—keep it simple.

- Stay right, pass left shoulder to left shoulder
- If you're on the rail and someone is approaching, move off the track
- Riders on circles stay to the inside—**the rail belongs to straight traffic**

2. Respect Space & Speed

Safety first—always.

- Maintain safe distance (assume every horse may kick)
- Pass slower riders **on the inside**
- Advanced riders: be mindful of speed and big movements
- Lower-level riders: stay aware and avoid cutting across lines (especially during movements like tempis)

3. Enter Ready to Work

The warm-up ring is not a staging area—it's a working space.

- Adjust tack *before* entering
- Don't block the gate or stand in traffic zones
- If stopping, move completely out of the way
- Look before turning, circling, or changing direction

4. Share the Ring

No one owns a piece of real estate.

- Avoid "camping" on a circle or line
- Stay flexible—others need access to the same space
- Walking? Stay off the rail and out of the way

5. Use Your Whip Thoughtfully

Small detail—big impact.

- Avoid loud snapping sounds
- Be mindful of proximity to other horses
- Control matters more than force

6. Stay Aware (Even with Headsets)

Technology helps—but don't tune out.

- Avoid "riding in a bubble"
- Consider using one earpiece only
- Keep your head up and eyes scanning
- Trainers can help flag traffic and potential conflicts
-

7. This Is Not the Place to Fix Everything

Warm-up = preparation, not correction.

- Don't school major issues or new movements here
- Avoid escalating frustration
- If things aren't going well, **de-escalate or step out**

Final Thought

Great riding isn't just about your test—it's about how you contribute to the environment around you. Lead by example, support your fellow riders, and keep the ring a safe, respectful place for all.

EDUCATION & INSIGHT

WARM-UP RING ETIQUETTE: 7 RULES EVERY RIDER SHOULD KNOW

1 Pass Left to Left
Just like driving–keep it simple.

2 Respect Space & Speed
Safety first–always.

3 Enter Ready to Work
The warm-up ring is not a staging area–it's a working space.

4 Share the Ring
No one owns a piece of real estate.

5 Use Your Whip Thoughtfully
Small detail–big impact.

6 Stay Aware (Even with Headsets)
Technology helps–but don't tune out.

7 This Is Not the Place to Fix Everything
Warm-up = preparation,not correction.



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EDUCATION & INSIGHT



ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

TRAIN YOUR MIND. TRANSFORM YOUR RIDE.

WEBINAR LIVE

Session Two

July 22, 2026 6:00 pm AZ

SIGN UP NOW!



Dr. Leslie Sherlin

Licensed therapist & Certified Mental Performance Consultant (CMPC)

Works with elite athletes, military, and top performers worldwide

Sport psychology expert for equestrian athletes

Bringing proven mental performance strategies from elite sport to the saddle.

$20
(ADA Member Price)

ADA JR/YR members attend for FREE!

Join the Arizona Dressage Association for part two of our virtual webinar series on sport psychology for equestrian athletes.

Dr. Leslie Sherlin, a licensed professional counselor and Certified Mental Performance Consultant will share practical, evidence-based tools for the mental side of riding and competition. Whether you are a seasoned competitor or a rider just getting started, these sessions will give you strategies you can use for your next ride. Open to all levels and disciplines. **Each session runs approximately one hour with time for Q&A.**

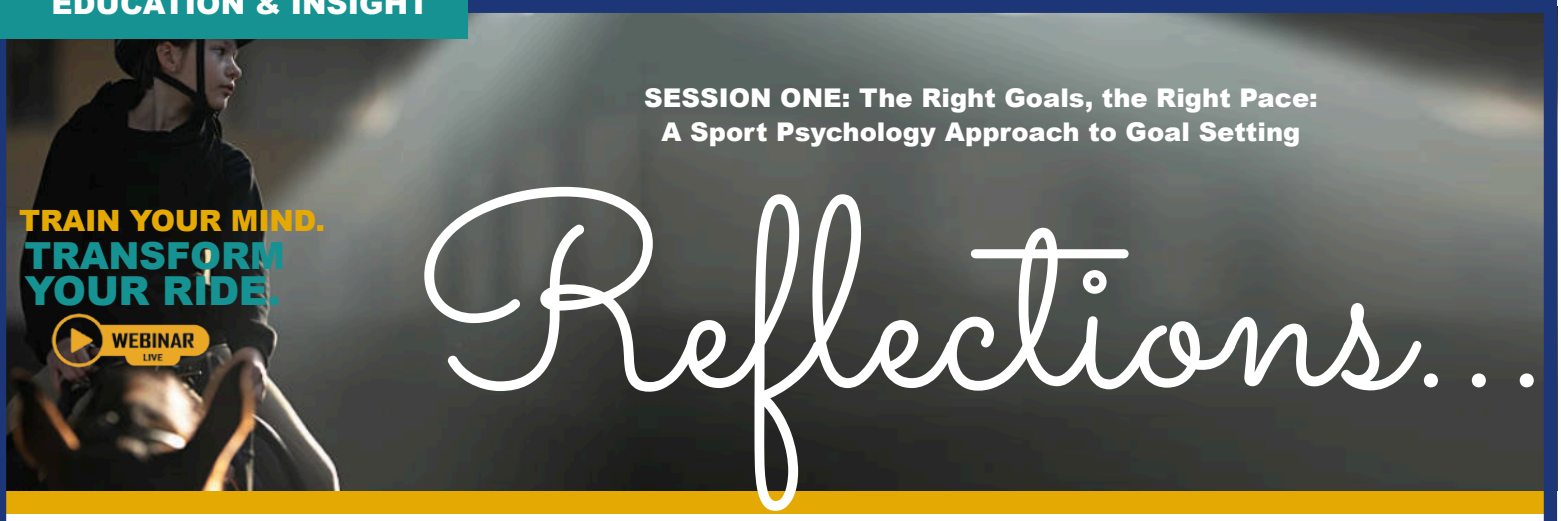
SESSION TWO: July 22, 2026 6:00 PM AZ

Nerves, Mistakes, and the Next Movement:
A Sport Psychology Approach to Performance Anxiety

If you have ever had a great warm-up and then fallen apart the moment you entered at A, this session is for you. We will cover what performance anxiety actually is, why trying to eliminate it usually makes it worse, and how to ride effectively even when nerves show up. The session will also address recovering from mistakes mid-test and building a pre-ride routine that helps you show up focused and ready. Practical strategies you can practice at home and put to work at your next show.

Unlock Your Competitive Edge in the Saddle
ONE RIDE AT A TIME

EDUCATION & INSIGHT



SESSION ONE: The Right Goals, the Right Pace:
A Sport Psychology Approach to Goal Setting

Reflections...

"After recently accomplishing one of my own "outcome" goals, I've been feeling a little rudderless in my equestrian journey. ***Session one allowed me to shift focus of that next outcome goal and consider the process and performance goals.*** *This immediately took pressure off myself for "not doing enough" (by no one's standards but my own!) and allows me a* ***refreshed perspective for how I want to spend my summer with my horse Nico, focusing on my values.*** *I'm so looking forward to what we learn next in session two."*

~ Allison Evans Shepherd (ADA Member)



Allison & Nico, photo by Kari Hauch

"I know the importance of goal setting but too often my dreams turns into a tiger I am holding by the tail. Leslie brings a wealth of experience including working with elite level athletes to help riders like me who need help turning the dreams into ***actionable steps where the process is joyful rather than a grind.*** *Can't wait for #2!"*

~ Lauren Grey (non-member)

Don't Miss Sesson Two! July 22, 2026 6:00 PM AZ

Nerves, Mistakes, and the Next Movement:
A Sport Psychology Approach to Performance Anxiety

SIGN UP NOW!

ADA JR/YR members attend for FREE!

EDUCATION & INSIGHT

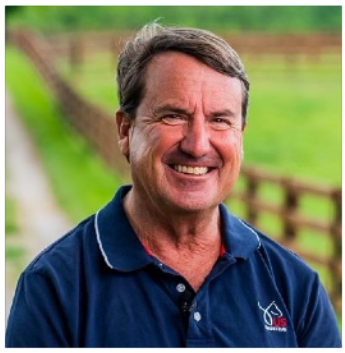


You're Invited to a **special webinar with Olympic gold medalist and USEF Chief of Sport David O'Connor**

WEBINAR LIVE

USEF STOPLIGHT GUIDANCE

A key framework designed to support and strengthen horse welfare across all levels of our sport.



David O'Connor
Chief of Sport
US Equestrian

FREE Webinar
USEF Stoplight Guidance

Monday, June 8, 2026
5:00 - 6:00 pm AZ
6:00 - 7:00 pm MT

SIGN UP NOW!

We hope you will join us for this timely and meaningful conversation!

USDF Region 5 and the Arizona Dressage Association are pleased to invite you to this important educational webinar featuring David O'Connor, Chief of Sport for US Equestrian.

David O'Connor is a decorated Olympian who represented the United States for two decades, earning individual gold and team bronze in Eventing at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, as well as Team Silver in Atlanta in 1996. Since joining USEF leadership, he has played a central role in advancing sport integrity, safety, and welfare initiatives nationwide. His deep experience as an athlete, coach, and federation leader provides invaluable perspective on the evolving expectations surrounding horse welfare and our collective responsibility to uphold them.

The USEF Stoplight Guidance is an educational tool designed to help riders, trainers, and officials recognize behaviors and practices that support—or compromise—equine wellbeing.

- Using a **simple green/yellow/red framework,** it outlines what is encouraged, what requires caution, and what crosses the line into unacceptable practices.
- This guidance is becoming an increasingly **important part of USEF's welfare strategy,** helping competitors understand how their daily decisions contribute to both the health of the horse and the public trust in our sport.

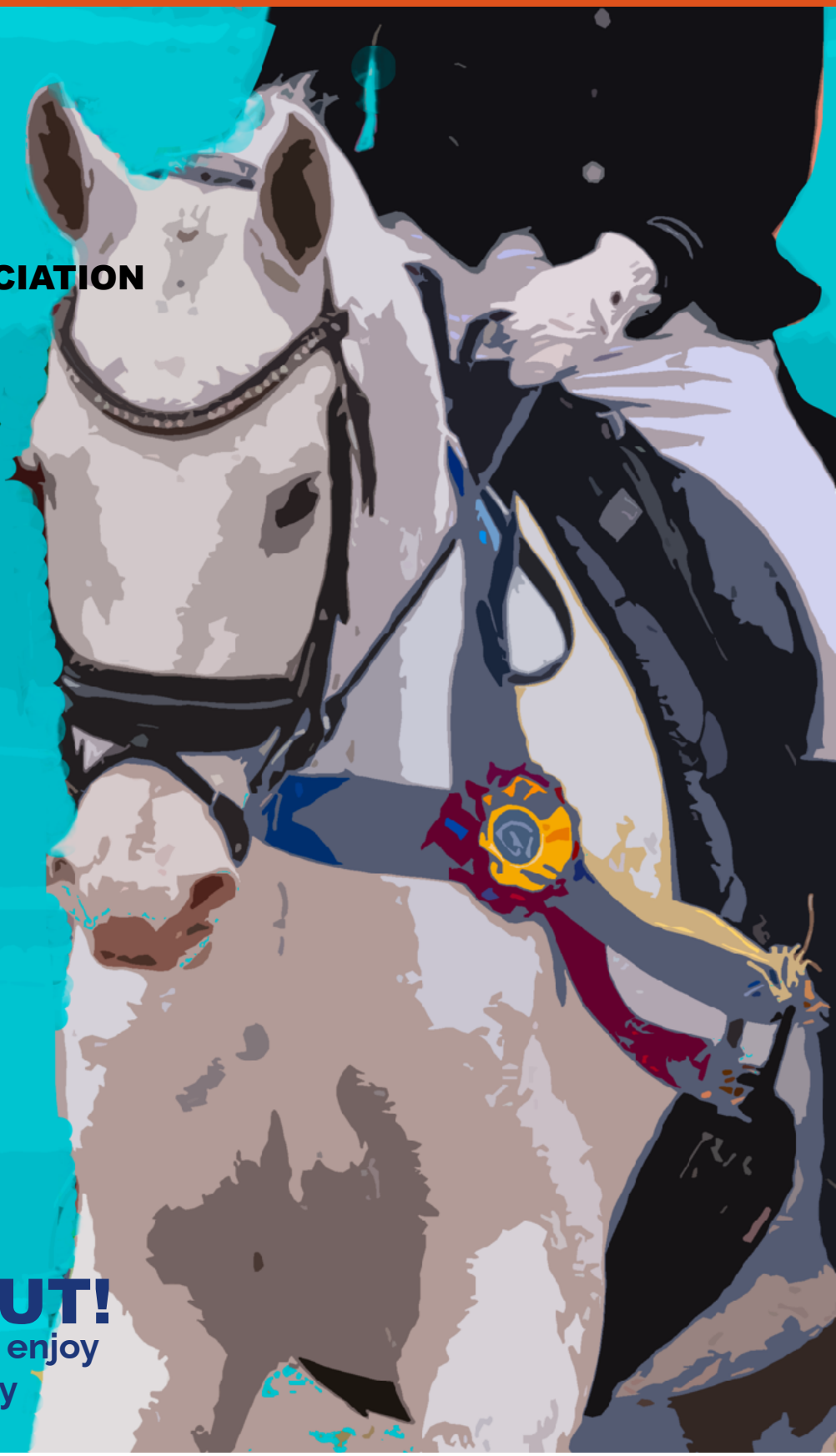
During this webinar, David will walk us through how the Stoplight Guidance works, why it was developed, and how it can be applied in training, warm-up arenas, and competition settings as well as an overview of the unethical treatment of the horse rule and the reporting process. His insights will help all of us better align with USEF's welfare expectations and strengthen the culture of care that underpins equestrian sport.

Presented by: US EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION · USDF REGION FIVE · ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

USEF Recognized Show

SUMMER HEAT 2026



Saturday & Sunday
June 13-14, 2026
8:00 am Start Time

Westworld of Scottsdale
16601 N. Pima Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

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PLATINUM DEBBIE VENKATESH

PLATINUM CHRISTOPHER BRUSNIGHAN

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The **Northern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Dressage Association, NAC of ADA**, is a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization comprised of members in the quad-city areas of **Prescott, Chino Valley, Verde Valley, Prescott Valley, Dewey-Humboldt and beyond!**

2026 Schooling Show & Clinic Dates

May 30-31st - Clinic, Dolly Hannon

July 18th - Schooling Show, Dori Vlatten Schmitz 'S' (Imperio Acres)

Sept 5th - Schooling Show, Ellie Stine Masek 'S' (Freeman Farms)

NAC of ADA Officers/Board 2025

Beth Mulcahy, President
E: beth.rosekrans@gmail.com

Lynne Trenery, Vice President
E: Lynne@freemansaddlebreds.com

Annie Kuchler, Secretary
E: annie.kuchler@gmail.com

Sue Crampton, Treasurer, Show Manager
E: susancrampton1@gmail.com

Lisa Darling, Education and Clinic Committee Chair

Theresa Reese, Director

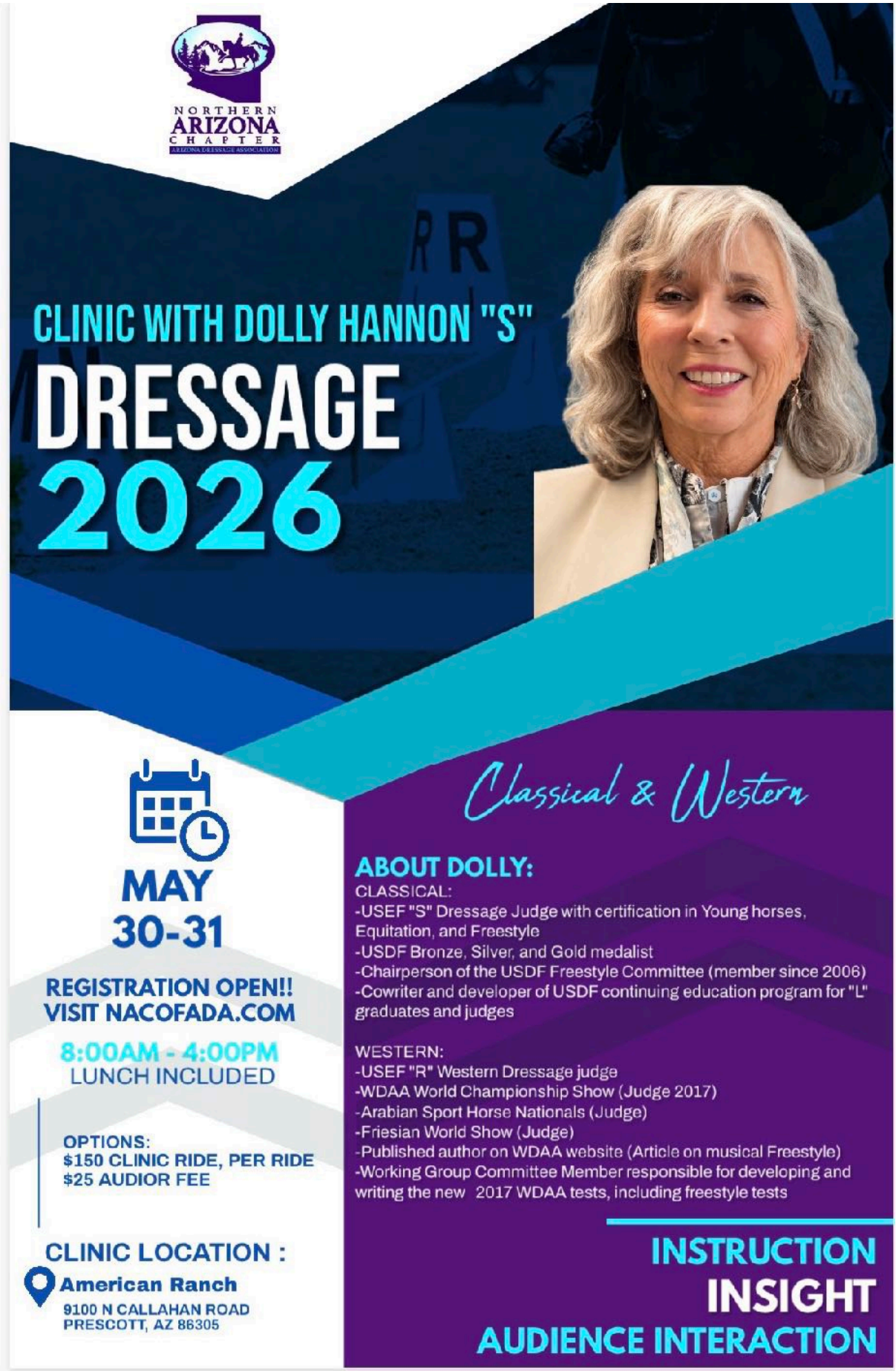
Tristan Lloyd, Director

Kate Goshorn, Director

Sabine Preisinger, Director

Kay Turner, Director

COMMUNITY & REGION



USDF REGION FIVE

May 2026 Update

Summer is here and shows are full swing, as are many educational programs, clinics and fun horse activities. I hope many of you were able to join us at the World Cup in Fort Worth! It was an incredible venue and a really fun show. There were some very special rides and the trade fair was very hard to beat. We also enjoyed the Stock Yards and some very good restaurants.

Our USDF Executive Board Spring meetings have also just concluded as they were held during the World Cup and it's wonderful to see all the programs coming forward from our various committees. There are some interesting rule changes coming forward for consideration that we spent some time discussing, so please take the time to consider them and provide your feedback to both USDF and USEF. We also worked quite a bit on the USDF Strategic Plan and had very valuable budgeting and convention discussions as well.

The deadline for Participating Member Delegate nominations was April 15. Our region will have 5 PM delegates for the 2026 USDF Convention. Elections will be held very soon! Our Group Member Organizations need to start the process of appointing or electing who they are going to be sending to the convention as GM delegates.

As of May 4th, our potential candidates for the 2026 FEI North American Children, Junior, and Young Rider Championships in Traverse City, Michigan will be finalized. As I write this, we have 11 riders who have declared (5 Juniors and 6 Young Riders). If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877. This competition is a reasonable distance for us to travel by trailer, which makes things much more feasible, but we still need your help in order to be able to. If you're a rider, **PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR DECLARATIONS!**

We are excited to announce that the 2027 Great American USDF Region 5 Championships will be coming back to the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado September 23-26.

I hope everyone stays healthy and happy.
If you have news you'd like to share, please let me know, we're try to get it out and about for you.

Till next month!

Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting

April 20, 2026 | 6:00 pm
Minutes

Call to Order and Attendance
President Ann Damiano called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
Present: Ann Damiano, Karen McGee, Rebecca Bruening, Rebecca Lindy, Erin McHenry, Tracy Case, Leslie Sherlin, Michell Combs, Christa Severns, Susan Skripac, Jaime Pollack
Guests: Tristan Lloyd and Sabine Preisinger (NAC Representatives)

Officer Reports
President: Ann Damiano noted that her comprehensive written report was distributed in advance.

Secretary: Rebecca Bruening reported March board minutes were submitted to the Centerline.

Treasurer: Rebecca Lindy reported that March expenditures included a catch up payment for 2025's Foy/Peters clinic, April 2026 year end award expenses as well as expenses for the March 2026 schooling show. It was also announced that ADA will be sunsetting PayPal and using only Stripe for the future.

EOM Cash Balance Trend

	2025		2026			
	Jan	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Notes
xx1521	$ 8,011	$ 42,526	$ 32,068	$ 27,793	$ 25,042	General checking
xx6796	$ 5,215	$ 2,977	$ 2,491	$ 9,792	$ 2,274	Debit card & Paypal link
xx9563	$ 66,622	$ 26,742	$ 26,743	$ 26,743	$ 26,743	Savings
CDs	$ 23,580	$ 40,233	$ 40,233	$ 40,788	$ 40,788	Added $20k more from savings to CDs
Petty Cash	$ 400	$ 400	$ 400	$ 400	$ 400	
Total	$ 103,828	$ 112,879	$ 101,935	$ 105,515	$ 95,246	
Inflows include						
Schooling show				$ 1,500		
Memberships				$ 2,100		
Expenses include						
Osinski Clinic			$ 15,000			
Y/E Awards					$ 1,900	
Outstanding balance Foy/Peters catering					*$ 3,000*	
Feb/March schooling show					$ 1,500	
Scholarship					$ 750	
Bookkeeper-1099 additional cost					$ 700	

Committee Reports

Nominating & Governance: Karen McGee reported that NAC has decided to dissolve their chapter status with ADA and will be working with NAC's president on timing and process. ADA also continues to look for a candidate to join the Board.

Scholarship: Karen McGee presented proposal to increase award from $500 to up to $750, clarified eligible events and program description.
Motion: To approve up to 6 annual travel grants of $750, subject to ADA financial availability. Passed Unanimously.

Schooling Shows: Christa Severns reported the final spring schooling show at Central Arizona Riding Academy (CARA) on April 12th had 23 rides with 17 horses. CARA provided valuable ADA exposure in the southeast valley. Expect to produce a surplus with this show since ADA had sponsorship support and was not charged for use of the facility. CARA would like to offer another show in the fall/winter.

NAC: Tristan Lloyd reported following events in place: May 30-31 with Dolly Hannon, July 18th Schooling Show at Imperio Acres and September 5th schooling show at Freeman Farms. The new NACADA website was launched and functioning. They are currently in discussion with Rosemary Panuco to have a rated show to Northern Arizona on August 15, 2026.

Volunteer: Tracy Case report that Escribe Training 2026 is scheduled for Sunday, May 31st in preparation for the June shows and October 25th for the Fall Fiesta. There is an update to Fox Village EScribe coming out shortly, so we will need to have all current EScribes take a refresher. Bit checkers have been secured for the June show and one full day commitment for our Escribes.

Education: Leslie Sherlin reported that the JR/YR Committee is in the early development of a year-round Youth Development Program designed to increase youth involvement in dressage and lower barriers to entry for young riders across the state. More details to follow for next Board meeting.

Membership: Michell Combs reported 222 current 2026 members, including 24 new. Of the 2025 members, 72 have not yet renewed. Personal emails are going out to those who have not yet renewed.

Communications: Erin McHenry reported on the Centerline content and transition plan including Callie Bonine's draft content calendar covering standing/seasonal content, member contributions, and show result timing; streamlining website process for advertiser and

submission intake and need for a year-end award photo montage for the May issue. Transition from Beth Martinec to Callie occurred April 15th.

Futurity: Susan Skripac reported no update.

Shows: Ann Damiano reported that the committee confirmed that preparations for the summer show are on track, with clear assignments for prize list completion, volunteer coordination, awards, and fundraising. The next meeting in May will serve as a final readiness check before entries open.

Fundraising: Ann Damiano reported that the primary objective for the June Summer Heat show is to underwrite it sufficiently to keep it in the black. With a smaller show footprint, targeted fundraising and sponsor stewardship will be key to meeting this goal. Currently ADA has secured two platinum sponsorships of $2,500 from Ann Damiano and Deb Venkatesh.

Awards: Jaime Pollack reported that year end awards for the Aril 26th event have been received and ready to distribute at the luncheon.

OLD BUSINESS
Annual Member Meeting: Further planning needed.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2026, 6:00 PM
Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Bruening
Secretary, Arizona Dressage Association

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

Upcoming 2026 Board Meetings:

(All meetings are virtual)

May 18
June 15
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16

***If you would like to attend**, please contact Ann Damiano at a.damiano@azdressage.org*

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship with the Arizona Dressage Association is a meaningful way to give back to the horses, riders, and community that make this sport so special.

Your tax-deductible support helps provide quality competitions, educational opportunities, and recognition for riders at every level -while keeping our programs accessible and thriving.

When you sponsor ADA, you're not just supporting an organization - you're investing in the future of dressage in Arizona.

Let's grow the sport – together!

VISIT OUR SPONSORSHIP PAGE HERE TO GET STARTED!

OR Contact us at: fundraising@azdressage.org

METAL SPONSORSHIPS

PLATINUM ~ $2,500

Full page ad in virtual program
enhanced digital recognition (website + social media), show signage recognition
1 banner, 4 class sponsorships, stall front choice/vendor space, flyer in show packet, vendor booth

GOLD ~ $1,250

Full page ad in virtual program, digital recognition (website + social media), show signage recognition, 1 banner, 4 class sponsorships, flyer in show packet, vendor booth

SILVER ~ $700

½ page ad in virtual program, digital recognition (website + social media), show signage recognition, 2 class sponsorships, 1 banner, flyer in show packet, vendor booth

BRONZE ~ $450

¼ page ad in virtual program, digital recognition (website + social media), show signage recognition, 2 class sponsorships, flyer in show packet, vendor booth

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For every ride, every rider, every horse.

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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OR Contact us at:
fundraising@azdressage.org

HOSPITALITY ~ $500 - $10,000 (Varies by show & # of entries)

Partial Sponsorships available; pls discuss with Fundraising Committee

Sample options:

- Snack / Breakfast Breaks - $500-$1,500
- Mixers (E.g. appetizers/snacks) - $2,500 - $6,000
- Full dinner with entrée - $7,500 - $10,000
- Wine/Beer/Specialty Drink Bar - $2,000 - $2500
- Additional event tickets - $35 to $80

CLASS SPONSORSHIP ~ $50

Sponsor an Open Show class (when applicable/ GAIG classes not available)

A La Carte Sponsorship

Banner Display	$50
Flyers in Show Packets (150)	$30

(you provide flyers)

For custom sponsorship packages, please discuss with Fundraising Committee.

SHOW PROGRAM ADVERTISING

Business Card	$35
Quarter Page	$50
Half Page	$100
Full Page	$150
Cover	$175

SUPPORT THE SPORT YOU LOVE. MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT.

For every ride, every rider, every horse.

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MAY

May 30-31: NAC Clinic Dolly Hannon

JUNE

June 13-14: ADA Summer Heat, Westworld Scottsdale

June 14: WDAAZ Recognized Show Chino Valley Equestrian Park

June 22-27: Central Arizona Riding Academy Equus Youth Camp (CARA)

JULY

July 18: NAC Schooling Show, Imperio Acres, Dorie Vlatten Schmitz 'S'

SEPTEMBER

Sept 5: NAC Schooling Show, Freeman Farms, Ellie Stine Masek 'S'

OCTOBER

October 17-18 CARA HARVEST SHOW

NOVEMBER

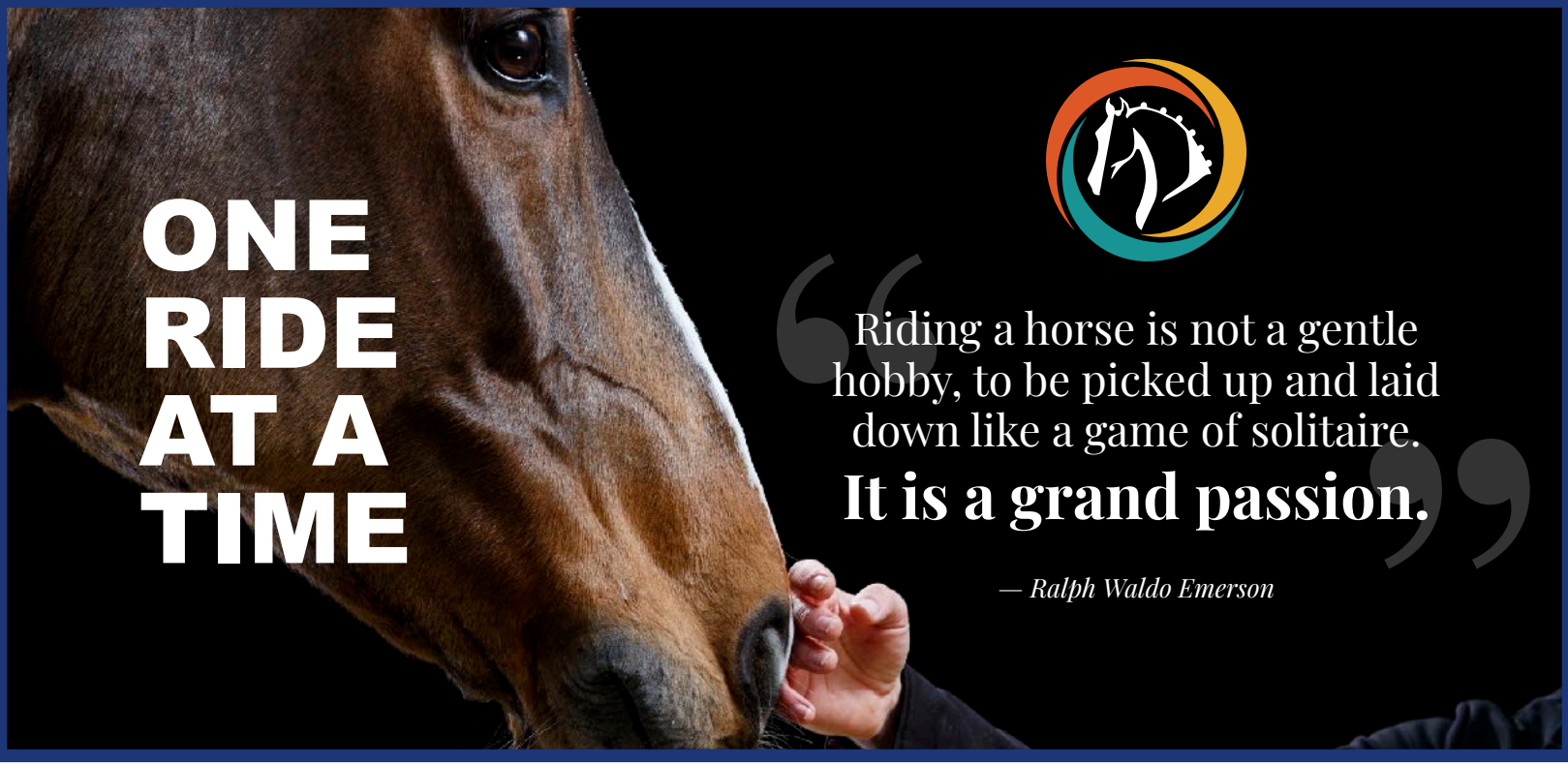
Nov 7-8: ADA Fall Fiesta I & II & State Championships, Westworld Scottsdale

Nov 14-15: TDC Fall Festival at Circle D Ranch, Tucson

DECEMBER

Dec 12-13: Dressage @ Spear-Cross Equine Center Show

Visit azdressage.org for the latest updates!



Looking Ahead: June Issue

Inside next month's issue

- **Summer Heat Show Results & Highlights**
- **Ride Smart - Summer Conditioning & Safety**
- **The Road to CDI**
- **Pushing Past The Comfort Zone (ADA Scholarship Recipient)**
- **ADA's New Travel Grant Program**

Call for Submissions

Centerline is built by our community - and we'd love to feature *you!!*

We're currently accepting:

- Show photos (candids, competition, behind-the-scenes)
- Rider stories & personal reflections
- Training tips or "lessons learned"
- Horse spotlights

Submit to: centerline@azdressage.org
Deadline for June Issue: June 15, 2026

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
100 Easy St., Box 2855
Carefree, AZ 85377



REPRESENT ADA WHEREVER YOU GO

& GIVE BACK WHILE YOU SHOP

Shop official ADA logo gear from barn essentials to everyday favorites.

Every purchase gives back to the Arizona Dressage Association.

SHOP THE COLLECTION

- **Apparel:** Tees, hoodies, and layers for barn days and beyond
- **Accessories:** Hats, bags, and everyday essentials
- **Drinkware:** Coffee cups & water bottles for early mornings and long show days









