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ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
THECENTERLINE

From Trail Rides to Research Labs:

Nicola Valentine's Journey of Discovery and Partnership

By Leslie Sherlin, PhD

Sometimes the most transformative journeys begin with a single moment of connection. For Nicola Valentine, that moment came during a family vacation in Northern California when she was nine years old, riding a horse named Rosie on what was meant to be just a casual trail ride. That experience ignited a passion that would shape not only her equestrian journey but also her approach to life, relationships, and her future career in scientific research.

Now competing at the Young Rider level and pursuing her degree in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Conservation Biology and Ecology at Arizona State University, Nicola represents a new generation of equestrians who seamlessly blend athletic pursuit with academic excellence, always keeping sight of what matters most: genuine partnership and personal growth.

Finding Her Path Through Challenge

Nicola's introduction to horses was immediate and decisive. "After that first ride, because I'd never rode a horse before, I asked my parents, if they would let me take lessons. And they said yes," she recalls. What followed were five to six years in lesson programs, including time with Arabian trainer Heather McWhorter, where she initially set her sights on the jumping world.

However, life has a way of redirecting our paths through both challenges and self-awareness. After falling off twice, Nicola found her confidence shaken and her parents understandably concerned about watching her navigate the risks inherent in jumping. "I came to realize that I could fall off a lot if I did jump, and it seemed fun, but in reality I was also really scared at the same time," she reflects with the honesty that characterizes her approach to both riding and life.

The transition to dressage came through what Nicola describes as trying "an Intro test with the Arabian trainer at the time." What she discovered was something that



spoke to her analytical nature and perfectionist tendencies: "I just loved the puzzle of it. Trying to figure out how to feel the horse the right way, and how to mold them to be supple, and how to mold yourself to be around their body."

This revelation led Nicola down the rabbit hole of YouTube videos and deep observation of the sport's

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ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
100 Easy St., Box 2855
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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 20th of the month.*

Ideas for Submissions

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 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.*

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

2025 Upcoming Events

AUG 15	**Core Transformation Series II** Wine & Scribe with Bev Rogers
SEP 27	**Core Transformation Series II** Build Your Core Class with Jeremy & Pat
OCT 11-12	**Core Transformation Series II** Clinic with Janet Foy & Steffen Peters
OCT 19	**October Schooling Show** Sponsored by Sherlin Consulting Group
NOV 1-2	**Fall Fiesta Recognized Show** Westworld
NOV 9	**November Schooling Show** Sponsored by Sherlin Consulting Group
DEC 6	**Core Transformation Series II** Janet Jones Clinic

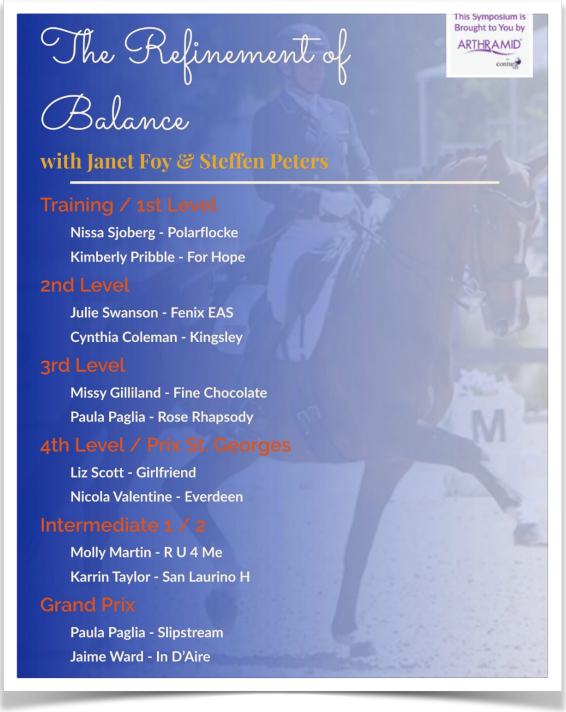
Unprecedented! Core Transformation Series II - The Refinement of Balance

By Ray La Croix

On a cloudy grey, wet and rainy weekend of October 11-12, in Scottsdale Arizona, at 7:30 in the morning, the clouds parted, the rain stopped, and magic filled the air. Janet Foy and Steffen Peters were in the building!

One could feel the energy heard in the chatter of the participants, the auditors, the VIP attendees, every member of our Education Committee, and fantastic volunteers. It. Was. Electric!

Behind The Scenes:
16 hours earlier on Friday the 10th, roughly 20 ADA volunteers descended upon the beautiful Los Cedros equestrian facility and, in orchestrated construct, transformed that facility into the polished, artful setting that was perfection for an unprecedented symposium that transcended all expectations! Sponsor banners were hung, tables were coifed with rich turquoise and black tablecloth emblematic of ADA colors, and also adorned with lanterns filled with autumnal flowers. A bottle of Champaign and orange juice waited at each VIP table to have a celebratory drink. For our auditors, chairs were placed in the arena at the long side of the dressage court, completed by the podium for our clinicians, exactly in the center.



The Venue:
The venue selected for the Refinement of Balance symposium is one of finest Equestrian/Event facilities in North America, called Los Cedros.



Los Cedros was designed to simulate an ornate Moroccan Citadel from 2500 years ago. Huge and ornate wooden doors made of solid Cedar wood open to all entrances of the stables, and to the event room that is contiguous with the covered arena.

The lavish event room, features more Moroccan accents, complete with beautiful chandeliers, tapestries, couches and tables. The side of the room adjacent to the arena is all glass windows that slide open and reside, flush, to the walls, turning the arena and the event room into one gloriously ornate, open setting.

The event room housed the exclusive VIP lounge. The VIP lounge was staged for the catering, the bar, and numerous tables for the riders, the clinicians, and the VIP participants to eat and relax in comfort. The Vendor Village was also staged and artfully sectioned off inside the event room, and the decorating of the displays by our fantastic vendors added so much to the festive ambiance.

The stage was set for the ADA's first premium dressage symposium featuring Janet Foy, an Olympic judge, and Steffen Peters, our own 6 time Olympian!

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"For the record, I found this to be best clinic I have ever attended, and that includes the ones in which I rode instead of auditing. The takeaways/ thought provoking points made by both, Peters and Foy were amazing. I have several pages of notes for things to internalize before every ride. My thanks to them and the organizers!" Megan Weinstock, auditor and volunteer.

"What a great weekend and a great group of people! Steffen definitely helped me work through some trouble areas with Lars; I came home with some great takeaways feeling excited to get back to work and continue on the trajectory that Steffen started me on. Wish I could have had even more ride time with him!" Karin Taylor, rider.

Part Two Coming Next Month! The Symposium - What Happened? What Was Taught?









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intricacies. "I became in awe with how it's so intricate and seeing the small differences in the movements. I'm a perfectionist, so I was drawn to it. I was drawn to how, I can constantly try and improve, and thought to myself, this is the sport for me."

The Partnership That Changed Everything

Nicola's current partnership with Everdeen represents both careful planning and intuitive connection. After working with Tracey Krajenke for three years, Nicola moved to train with Cyndi Jackson in June 2024. At that time, she was in a transitional period, having sold her previous horse and working through confidence issues that many riders face during their development.

The path to Everdeen began with a four-month lease on Lauren Cox's stallion Rio, who served as a bridge horse during this vulnerable period. "He was great. He helped me a lot with navigating horses spooking and how to manage the anxiety that I had at the time," Nicola explains. This interim partnership provided the foundation of confidence needed for her next step.

When the search for a permanent partner began in October, Nicola and her team knew exactly what they needed: a horse between 10 and 12 years old, schooled at Prix St. Georges level, who could help her achieve her goal of competing at NAYC. The decision reflected mature understanding of both her timeline as a young rider and her competitive aspirations.

"We found Everdeen because another equestrian in our barn purchased a horse from the same place a couple of weeks prior, and so then we looked on their website and found him. He was exactly what we were looking for," she recalls. But beyond meeting the technical requirements, something deeper happened during that first ride. "When we went to go try him the first day, and I got on him, I immediately knew he was the horse for me. My gut feeling was a new feeling. I almost didn't trust it at first, but I think that was one of my most memorable moments, just having that safety on him, and feeling I was where I needed to be, and belonged."

Lessons from Setbacks

Nicola's journey has been marked by significant challenges that have shaped her understanding of what truly matters in horsemanship. Her previous horse suffered two separate injuries that required extensive rehabilitation periods, first three months, then six months. The financial reality of maintaining two horses ultimately led to the difficult decision to sell him.



However, rather than viewing this as simply a setback, Nicola extracted profound lessons about the nature of partnership with horses. "Even throughout all of not being able to ride him and rehabbing him slowly, I learned how to really focus on the connection, and appreciate that we still had our connection to each other no matter what was happening between us."

This experience fundamentally changed her approach to horses. "I thought I can only connect with him when I'm riding him, and sometimes on the ground, but after I learned that rehabbing him, and growing through that helped me grow and realize it's not always about being on the horse. It's about being with them, and showing up to the barn, and showing them that you're still there."

This philosophy now guides her daily practice. "With my school schedule I try and go to the barn every day, just so that I can see him and continue that connection and building it because I feel it's really important for both of us." Her routine includes grooming, hand walking, weekly baths, and simply being present with Everdeen, understanding that the relationship extends far beyond riding.

Academic Pursuits and Future Vision

Nicola's intellectual curiosity parallels her approach to dressage in its depth and

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analytical nature. As a Biological Sciences major with a concentration in Conservation Biology and Ecology, she has found her passion in climate change research and developing solutions for environmental challenges. "I have a passion for climate change and topics related to that, and I do enjoy trying to find solutions to help better our earth and continue its growth," she explains.

Her appreciation for hands-on work in laboratory settings reflects the same tactile, experiential learning that draws her to horses. "I do enjoy the lab work a lot. The hands-on is definitely a big component for me." This practical approach to learning creates natural synergies between her academic and equestrian pursuits.

When asked how she envisions balancing a research career with riding, Nicola's response reflects the pragmatic dedication common to serious equestrians: "I would get up earlier for riding and ride in the mornings and continue the balance, because I never planned on giving up riding. I enjoy it too much to give it up and I think I'm able to do both because of time management."

Her characterization of riding as therapy speaks to something deeper than hobby or even sport: "Just riding in general is therapy for me. Even if I am stressed about something that I have to do within riding, I still feel at ease in that atmosphere."

The Power of Mentorship and Community

Nicola's development has been shaped by several key mentors who have contributed different elements to her growth. Heather McWhorter provided her early foundation in Arabian training and both Heather and Krista Peek helped with the introduction to dressage, while Tracey Krajenke "helped hone my dressage capabilities and gave me a lot of valuable experiences" during their three-year partnership.

Her current trainer, Cyndi Jackson, has been instrumental in her rapid progression from third level to Prix St. Georges, a transition that required learning complex movements like tempi changes in a compressed timeframe. "She helps me with the pressure, and being on top of everything," Nicola explains, describing how Jackson creates the kind of focused training environment that brings out her best performance.

Perhaps most importantly, Jackson has helped Nicola develop her feel for the sport. "She describes the feeling that I need to have with Everdeen in certain moments really well, and that's helped me develop my feel so that when I do go in the competition arena, I can feel it myself and try and recreate it."

Competition Philosophy and Sportsmanship

Nicola's approach to competition reflects maturity beyond her years, particularly in her understanding of sportsmanship within the unique dynamic of equestrian sport where teammates are also competitors. Her first CDI was "More

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challenging than I expected but I learned a lot about what Everdeen and I had to improve on. The feeling of five judges was surreal. Overall, I was grateful for the experience."

Her philosophy centers on showing up for others regardless of her own performance. "Always showing up for the other people, no matter even if you didn't have a good ride, I'll still try and show up for the other people and show them that I care, and tell them that they did a great job." She emphasizes finding the positive in every ride, understanding that "there's always good parts to every ride."

This approach proved particularly valuable during NAYC, where she formed quick bonds with teammates Kali Riddell, Taylor Karriker, and Katie Nayak despite not knowing them well initially. "We all kind of bonded in a short amount of time, and it was really great to see how we didn't know each other well, but we were all there for each other and in it together, because we'd all never competed at the young rider level."

The experience reinforced her belief that competition outcomes matter less than mutual support: "In the end it didn't matter what place we received. We still supported each other throughout all of it."

Current Goals and Aspirations

Nicola's goals reflect both ambition and realistic planning. Her immediate focus includes returning to NAYC and Festival of Champions in the Young Rider Division next year, followed by progression to the Under 25 division at both competitions. "I just don't want to over-plan because I do that," she admits, showing self-awareness about her perfectionist tendencies.

Her motivation extends far beyond ribbons and placings. "It's never for medals or ribbons or anything. I think it's purely just for continuing growing our relationship and our partnership as a team overall." This partnership-focused approach has proven sustainable and fulfilling, creating a foundation for long-term success in the sport.

Wisdom for the Next Generation

When asked for advice for other junior and young riders, Nicola offers insights that reflect both her analytical nature and hard-won experience. "Every experience you have is going to help you in the future, no matter what," she emphasizes, encouraging riders to embrace both successes and challenges as learning opportunities.

Her advice to "live in the moment as much as you can because we age out quickly, and it all happens pretty fast" speaks to the unique time constraints facing young riders, but her deeper message focuses on gratitude and relationship building. "Enjoy every moment with your horse,and tell all the people around you thank you and show your appreciation, because it takes a lot to get to NAYC and Festival, and there are so many people that help throughout the journey."

Perhaps most importantly, Nicola advocates for learning from difficulties rather than avoiding

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Educational Scholarship Program

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

Whether you're a Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, or Open Rider, this is your chance to receive financial support for structured learning experiences that go beyond regular lessons!







Why Apply?

- Invest in your riding education
- Learn from top professionals
- Connect with the dressage community
- Give back by sharing your experience or volunteering with ADA

Important Dates:

- Application Period for 2026: October 1, 2025 - February 1, 2026
- Award Distribution: After completion of your educational activity and submission of expense report

Requirements:

- ADA Membership
- Volunteer service with ADA
- Sharing your experiences in the Centerline
- Passion for learning and growing as a rider

https://azdressage.org/education/scholarship/

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them. "Even if you don't win, that's where I've learned the most, really recognizing what I can improve on, and always trying to learn from every not great ride, or one mistake, or whatever it is."

Her final piece of advice reflects the empathy and awareness that characterizes her approach to life: "Everyone's going through something, and to always look out for the other people around you, and make sure that they're okay. I think it's really easy to get caught up in your own goals and how you feel that day, but when I've looked at the people around me and realized, okay, I want to help that person and make them feel better."

A Balanced Perspective

What sets Nicola apart is her understanding that success in dressage, success in life, requires both technical excellence and emotional intelligence. Her acknowledgment that "it's not all easy from the outside" provides important perspective for those observing her achievements from afar. "Not in a negative way, in a positive way, it's not going to be easy. And that's what's also great about it. The challenge is part of what makes it great."

This mature perspective, combined with her commitment to both her horses and her academic pursuits, positions Nicola as a role model for young riders navigating the complexities of pursuing excellence while maintaining balance and perspective.

As she continues her journey from that first trail ride in Northern California to the research laboratories where she'll work to help solve environmental challenges, Nicola Valentine carries with her the lessons learned in partnership with horses: patience, resilience, empathy, and the understanding that the most meaningful victories often happen in quiet moments of connection rather than in the bright lights of competition arenas.

For the Arizona dressage community and beyond, Nicola's story serves as a reminder that the pursuit of excellence, whether in the saddle or the laboratory, is most sustainable when grounded in genuine relationships, personal growth, and a commitment to supporting others along the way. Her journey from a nervous jumping rider to a confident young competitor illustrates that our greatest setbacks often redirect us toward our truest paths, and that success is measured not just in ribbons earned, but in the depth of partnership and understanding we develop along the way.



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Upcoming Board Meetings:

November 17th, 6pm
December 15th, 6pm
(All meetings are virtual)

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

Flying Fox Farm, LLC
Horse Boarding, Training & Lessons
Shelley Ebel
9836 N. 110th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
480-391-1035
flyingfoxfarm1@cox.net





Strengthening the Foundation:

Arizona Dressage Association Unveils New Treasury Strategy and Financial Enhancements

By Rebecca Lindy, CPA(inactive), MBA, CDFA, Treasurer of the Arizona Dressage Association

The Arizona Dressage Association (ADA) has undertaken a comprehensive overhaul of its treasury strategy and financial management practices to enhance transparency, sustainability, and member value. This initiative builds on the foundational work of prior ADA leadership, whose dedication created the platform for this transformation.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our Board members and Committee Volunteers. Your collaboration has been instrumental in launching new projects and expanding member programs with speed and impact—while keeping a clear pulse on our financial picture.

A New Era of Financial Stewardship

Under the guidance of the Board and newly appointed Treasurer, the ADA has implemented a multi-pronged financial strategy:

• Cloud-Based Accounting & Independent Bookkeeping

The ADA now uses a secure, cloud-based platform for real-time tracking, budgeting, and automated reporting. An independent bookkeeper works closely with the Treasurer and Board to ensure accuracy and oversight. Tools like Zelle, Chase Bill Pay, QuickBooks Payments, and ACH have streamlined payments, reduced administrative burden, and improved turnaround times.

• Annual Budgeting & Reforecasting

A formal budgeting process now guides all programmatic and operational decisions. Committees submit projected expenses and revenue targets, with periodic reforecasts for major events—giving the Board real-time visibility and enabling informed decisions throughout the season.

• Reserve Fund & Investment Strategy

The ADA has revised its Reserve Fund Policy and strengthened its conservative investment approach. More assets are now allocated to low-risk vehicles such as money market accounts and CDs, allowing for strategic liquidity around major events or economic shifts while preserving principal and maintaining flexibility.

• Transparent Financial Oversight & Governance

The ADA has reinforced financial governance through consistent reporting and a newly established Finance Committee. Monthly financials are reviewed by both the Committee and the Board, with annual summaries and IRS filings shared with members to build trust and transparency. The Finance Committee also oversees insurance coverage, including catastrophic event protection and Directors' and Officers' liability.

• Strengthening Financial Policies & Internal Controls

The ADA has adopted formal policies aligned with nonprofit best practices, including:

- Dual authorization for payments
- Segregation of duties across bookkeeping and reporting
- Monthly reconciliations reviewed by both Treasurer and bookkeeper
- Documented approval workflows for expenses

Impact on Programs & Member Services

Operational improvements have already delivered measurable benefits:

• Expanded Capacity: Re-alignment of vendors and other overhead has enabled better resources for clinics, scholarships, and show support. The ADA successfully launched three new

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MEMBER VOICES

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

SUBMIT TO: centerline@azdressage.org

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Schooling Shows and four Educational Events in 2025—managed with greater ease thanks to streamlined systems.

- Grant Readiness: Stronger documentation positions the ADA to pursue regional and national grants.
- Passive Income: Strategic reserve timing has increased investment potential and working capital.
- Stakeholder Confidence: Early feedback reflects growing trust in the ADA's financial stewardship.

The following is an overview of the Financial Health of the organization as of 8/31/25* and looking back for the last three years. Please keep in mind that the Fall Fiesta, 2 Clinics and 2 Schooling Shows are not reflected in the 8/31/25 Financials.

	YTD 8/31/25*	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Contributions & Grants	$ 12,975	$ 18,863	$ 21,724	$ 16,536
Program Service Revenue	$ 83,644	$ 243,727	$ 332,833	$ 209,999
Investment & Other Revenue	$ 1,163	$ 1,577	$ 2,094	$ 2,255
Total Revenue	$ 97,782	$ 264,167	$ 356,651	$ 228,790
Total Expenses	$ 87,524	$ 281,824	$ 364,455	$ 245,390
Revenue Less Expenses	$ 10,258	$ (17,657)	$ (7,804)	$ (16,600)
Total Assets	$ 118,681	$ 113,053	$ 138,875	$ 130,055
Total Liabilities	$ -	$ 7,960	$ 16,125	$ 2,958
Net Assets	$ 118,681	$ 105,093	$ 122,750	$ 127,097

*Financial information in 2025 does not include the NAC financials, however FY2022-2024 is consolidated ADA and NAC. 2022-2024 are from the IRS filing of Form 990, which includes the ADA and the NAC financial information



Looking Ahead

ADA remains committed to supporting member needs, strengthening financial health, and maintaining transparency. As a volunteer-run organization, we appreciate your patience—none of our financial roles are full-time, and occasional delays may occur. With a solid foundation and shared vision, ADA is well-positioned to expand programming, weather the storms, and deliver lasting member value.





CORE TRANSFORMATION SERIES II

PRESENTED BY ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

Discover Core Intuition with Janet Jones

WHEN

Saturday, December 6 @ 8am – 12pm

WHAT

Janet Jones, a neuroscientist and equine researcher, talks about how horses and humans are so different, and how this affects training and showing!

WHERE

The Terravita Desert Pavilion Community Center
34109 N 69th Way
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

MORE DETAILS

Registration Opens October 21 - Closes November 30
Visit www.azdressage.org for more information

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

CORE TRANSFORMATION SERIES II

PRESENTED BY ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION



SAVE THE DATE!

Refine Core Skills with Mike Osinski!

WHEN

January 9 - 11, 2026

WHAT

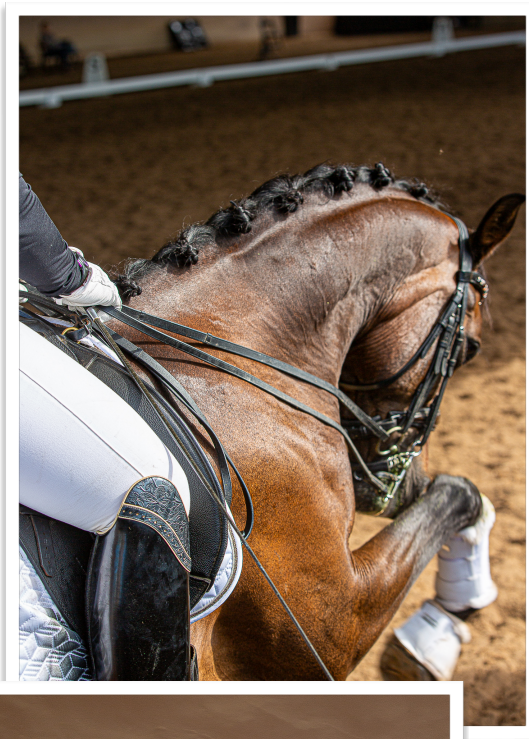
As an ethicist and a judge, Mike will focus on changes in suitable horse management and how these changes affect you. This clinic will include one day for professional dressage riders and two days for amateurs. Put your mind, body and spirit to work with this capstone clinic!

MORE DETAILS

Visit www.azdressage.org for more information

ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

Scenes From The Refinement of Balance Symposium











Board of Directors
Regular Meeting

September 8, 2025
Minutes

Call to Order
The Board meeting of the Arizona Dressage Association was called to order at 6:04 PM by Ann Damiano, President, with Kelly Stapleton, Secretary, present.

Roll Call:
Members Present: Ann Damiano, Rebecca Bruening, Rebecca Lindy, Kelly Stapleton, Michell Combs, Susan Skripac, Karen McGee, Leslie Sherlin, Jaime Pollack,
Members Absent: Erin McHenry
Guests: Cathy Jones, Christa Severns, Tracy Case, Sue Leutwyler, Cindi LaCroix

Approval of Previous Minutes
The minutes of the previous meeting held on August 11, 2025, were approved as read and were submitted to Beth Martinec for publishing in The Centerline.

Officer Reports:

President's Report - Submitted by Ann Damiano
Ann provided an officers' report highlighting the significant accomplishments achieved and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming fall events. She reported that she has written a President's letter for The Centerline that will provide members with detailed information about the organization's recent achievements. Ann suggested that the organization should share the 990-tax form with members in the interest of transparency. She also plans to coordinate discussions about financial matters with the NAC involving both the finance and governance committees.

Vice President's Report - Nothing in addition to report.

Treasurer's Report - Submitted by Rebecca Lindy
Rebecca presented a detailed financial report covering the period through July 2025. She explained that the organization continues to operate on a cash basis accounting system. While there was some discussion about potentially switching to an accrual basis of accounting, Rebecca noted that this change would require significant additional work and resources.

Through July the financial report showed a loss of $4353 for the summer shows, with Westworld representing a particularly significant expense for the organization. A profit of $2015 for the March schooling show. Rebecca clarified there is a $500 per show sponsorship for future schooling shows to help offset costs. The Wine & Scribe education event showed a final profit of $800. Rebecca confirmed that the organization's tax return has been filed. She emphasized the need to review the balance sheet carefully and discussed plans for managing the organization's CD investments to ensure adequate funds are available to cover upcoming clinic expenses.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee - Reported by Cathy Jones, Cindi LaCroix, and Rebecca Bruening
The committee discussed concerns about the financial viability of the upcoming educational event Build Your Core with Jeremy & Pat. Currently, only 7 participants have enrolled, which falls far below the projected 20 participants needed for the event to break even financially. Rebecca explained that while the organization has the right to cancel the event with 30 days' notice, doing so would still result in the organization owing $1,100 to Jeremy and Pat. With the current enrollment of 7 participants, the forecasted loss for the event is $1,700. The committee will meet on September 15th to make a final decision about whether to cancel the event or attempt to reschedule it.

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Foy/Peters Clinic: The selection process for riders has been completed, resulting in 6 adult amateur riders, 1 junior rider, and 3 professional riders being chosen. Rebecca clarified that volunteerism was considered as part of the selection criteria. The group agreed that acceptance emails and payment links will be sent out on Friday, with riders given a 48-hour window to complete their payment. If payments are not received within this timeframe, alternate riders will be contacted. Cathy reported strong attendance projections, with 53 VIPs registered, 37 auditors for Saturday, and 26 auditors for Sunday. Updated projections show expected attendance of 90 on Saturday and 79 on Sunday. Rebecca reported that the food budget has been successfully reduced from $6,700 to $4,700, which includes $2,500 allocated for food trucks with a $100 commitment per truck. The team discussed purchasing volunteer hats for traffic direction at $3.50 each, which Rebecca approved.

The committee reviewed sponsorship commitments, which now total over $20,000. Rebecca confirmed that the organization successfully secured a $1,000 USDF grant that can be counted on for funding. However, the organization was unsuccessful in securing a $5,000 Michael Pullin grant, as the reviewers determined the program lacked uniqueness.

Nominating & Governance Committee - Reported by Karen McGee

Karen presented two key documents for board approval. The first was a one-page volunteer conduct guideline that establishes expectations for volunteer behavior. The second was an updated code of conduct for board directors and committee chairs, which will be distributed for signature via DocuSign. Both documents were approved unanimously by the board. Karen also mentioned that she has distributed an updated photo release template for use by the organization.

Scholarship Committee - Reported by Karen McGee

Karen reported that two scholarship applicants have not yet responded to the committee's communications. The committee discussed plans to increase publicity for the next scholarship cycle to attract more applicants. There is consideration of potentially increasing either the dollar amount or the number of awards offered, depending on the volume and quality of applications received.

Recognized Show Committee - Reported by Kelly Stapleton

The committee is considering splitting the 2026 November Recognized show into two separate shows whereby there would be four Recognized shows per year. The Prize List for the November 2025 show reflects the change in shavings where ADA will no longer be funding shavings. This will also be addressed in the Manager's Letter.

Schooling Show Committee – Reported by Susan Skripac and Christa Severn

It was reported that the October 9th schooling show has been finalized and is now available online for entries. Judge has been confirmed for the November schooling show. The committee reported that they have hired Teresa Uddo as secretary for the shows. They discussed plans for potential winter and spring shows at CARA. Another show at Carefree Farms is being considered for spring.

Junior/Young Rider Committee - Reported by Leslie Sherlin

Leslie brought to the board a proposed collaborative schooling show as a school project of Salt River Pony Club and ADA Jr/Yr member Felicity Thunes. The show would be in collaboration with Desert Hooves Pony Club at Dale Creek on January 17th. The event would combine their dressage rally with an ADA schooling show, with the goal of exposing pony club members to ADA and potentially recruiting new members. Additionally, the ADA portion of the show would include a donation to the ADA Jr/Yr committee for scholarships to education or to host a dedicated Jr/Yr education event. Susan confirmed that the proposed date works with the existing calendar. Christa suggested focusing on an afternoon session rather than morning, with the possibility of adding a second court if needed. The group agreed to explore logistics further, including judge requirements and potential additional locations in the West Valley. Christa was designated as the contact point for further planning of this collaborative event. Leslie will introduce Christa, Felicity and Tracy.

Futurity Committee - Reported by Susan Skripac

Susan reported that nominations for the Futurity program are still pending. The committee discussed ordering ribbons for the Futurity event, with Susan suggesting they start with a limited quantity and add more later if needed.

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Awards Committee - Reported by Jaime Pollack
Jaime provided a detailed update on awards and prizes, including quotes received for ribbons, glasses, and other award items. The committee is coordinating with the Futurity Committee on ribbon orders to ensure consistency and cost-effectiveness.

Volunteer Coordinator - Reported by Tracy Case
Tracy discussed volunteer needs for both the upcoming clinic and Fall Fiesta. She is actively monitoring volunteer requirements and coordinating assignments. The purchase of volunteer hats at $3.50 each for traffic direction was approved to help identify volunteers at events.

Communication Committee - Erin McHenry (Absent)
Erin's submitted report reflects progress on various projects, including sourcing wine glasses for VIP swag bags and finding more cost-effective vendors for banners. The committee continues to work on improving communication materials and maintaining brand consistency.

Membership Committee - Reported by Michell Combs
Michell raised an important question about which year's membership should apply for member discounts at October events. After discussion, Rebecca suggested that 2025 memberships should apply to October 2025 events since these events occur before the December 1st start date of 2026 memberships. The group agreed that if someone wants a member discount for an October event but has not yet joined, they should pay the non-member fee for the event and can then join for 2026. Susan raised concerns about new members for schooling shows, but Christa clarified that to qualify for 2025 awards, members must join by the end of 2025.

Fundraising - Reported by Ann Damiano
Ann reported that the Fundraising Committee will begin pushing for fall show sponsorships in mid-September, after the auditor push is completed in October. The committee is coordinating efforts to maximize sponsorship opportunities for the fall events.

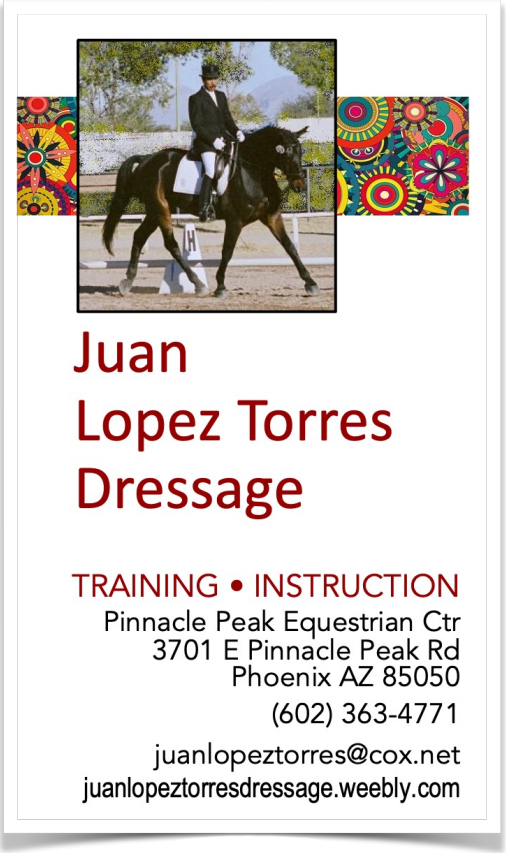
New Business
Board Membership Discussion (non-board members excused):
The Nominating & Governance Committee submitted a motion recommending Tracy Case for appointment to the Arizona Dressage Association Board of Directions: Motion approved – vote was unanimous. One board seat remains open.

Next Meeting
The next board meeting will be held on October 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This represents a change from the usual second Monday of the month schedule. Members interested in attending should contact Kelly Stapleton at K.Stapleton@azdressage.org.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at [Time to be confirmed].

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Stapleton
Secretary



ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

2026 Membership Application December 1, 2025 - November 30, 2026

PRIMARY / INDIVIDUAL MEMBER INFORMATION

Check Membership Type: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Membership ☐ NAC (Must Select to be NAC)

Current USDF # _____ (If Applicable)

Use this Form for Payment by Check ONLY - For Payment by Credit Card, Join Online at *www.azdressage.org.*

Name (print clearly) _____ Date of Birth (_____/_____/_____)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

OPT-IN to receive important ADA information by providing your Email address: _____

Centerline newsletter, Show, Clinic and Membership information are delivered electronically. **We respect your privacy. ADA does NOT share your personal information with ANY third parties! See Full Privacy Policy on ADA Website.**

Signature (required) _____ Date _____

JUNIOR /YOUNG RIDER MEMBERSHIP: (one vote) Date of Birth (____/_____/_____) (under age 22 by December 1, 2026)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Only the PRIMARY / INDIVIDUAL MEMBER gets one ADA vote. All memberships eligible for ADA Awards. Every ADA FAMILY MEMBER gets a USDF Group Membership with the additional fee. Some USDF Restrictions May Apply. **Per USDF, Supporting Members MUST reside at the Primary Family member's address.**

Primary Family Member Name (if different than above) _____ Date of Birth (____/____/____)

Supporting Family Member #1 Name _____ Date of Birth (____/____/____)

Supporting Family Member #2 Name _____ Date of Birth (____/____/____)

Individual Membership..... $66.00
☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open

Primary Family Membership..... $66.00
☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open

Each Supporting Family member $35.00
#1 ☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open
#2 ☐ AA ☐ JR/YR ☐ Open

☐ ADA donation (optional) .....$ 10.00
(for rider education programs)

☐ USDF Region 5 donation (optional) ..... $ 1.00

☐ Region 5 JR/YR donation (optional) ..... $ 5.00

ADA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Organization
Your generous donations help fund ADA Scholarships and Travel Grants for educational opportunities!

TOTAL enclosed $ _____

Make checks payable to: "**ADA**"

*Mail to: **Michell Combs**
8877 N 107th Ave, Suite 302-238
Peoria, AZ 85345

Or Scan/Email to: Membership@azdressage.org

**** Envelope must have Michell's name on it***

***** ADA strives to keep membership fees as low as possible.**

HELP WANTED

ADA is a Volunteer Organization.

****** Volunteering your Time or Expertise is required for Year End Awards, Scholarships, and Grants ******

Visit *www.azdressage.org/volunteer/* for details.
Contact volunteer@azdressage.org
if you can help us out!
or
☐ Volunteer Donation (optional).....$ 50.00
or
These are some areas we can use your help!

Horse Shows	Newsletter
Clinic Activities	Membership
Board Member	Annual Awards
Selection Committees	Provide Arena
Fundraising	Provide Event Venue
Public Relations	Hospitality (home)

GMO GROUP MEMBER ORGANIZATION USDF

ONE RIDE AT A TIME

Full Mission Statement at *www.azdressage.org*



Member Notice:

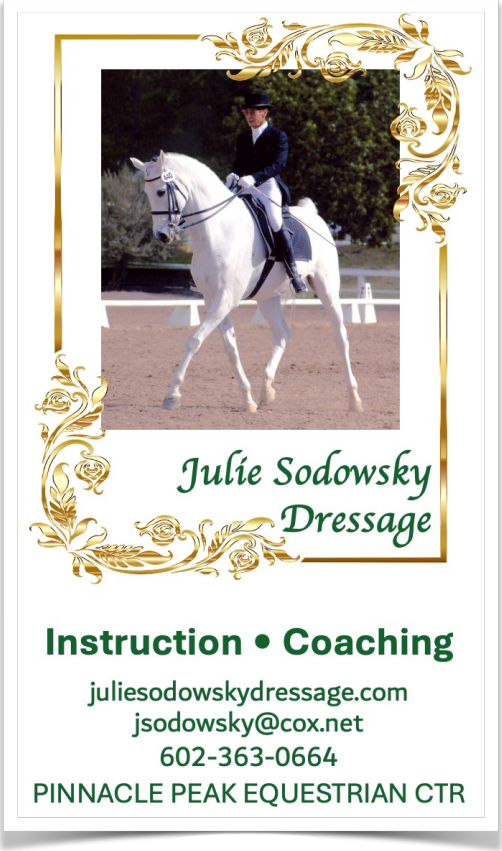
As of January 2026, the Centerline will only be available online. We will not longer offer a printed copy due to low demand.

Competitor Notice:

Tov view the list of eligible horses/riders for State Championships, go here and scroll to the bottom of the page for links to each document. https://azdressage.org/compete/awards/

Join Today:

2026 membership renewal now available – Click here Renew/Join ADA





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!**

2025 Schooling Show & Clinic Dates

April 12th - Michell Combs (Freeman Farms)

May 31st - Biomechanics Clinic, Heike Barret (Freeman Farms)

July 19th - Dori Vlatten (American Ranch)

Sept 6th - Jenny Cohn 'L' (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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN				
FEB				
MAR				
APR	12: NAC Schooling Show: Freeman Farms, Michell Combs	19-20: Dressage at Bar A, Scottsdale		
MAY	31: NAC Biomechanics Clinic, Heike Barret-Freeman Farms			
JUNE	6-7: Roadrunner I: Pima Country Fairgrounds, Tucson	14-15: ADA Summer Heat: WestWorld, Scottsdale		
JULY	19: NAC Schooling Show: American Ranch, Prescott, Dori Vlatten			
AUG	15: ADA Clinic - Wine N Scribe with Bev Rogers			
SEPT	6: NAC Schooling Show: Freeman Farms, Judge Jenny Cohn 'L'	22: ADA Clinic - Build YOUR Core! With Jeremy Bridges & Patrick Raby II		
OCT	11-12: ADA Clinic - Mind/ Body with Janet Foy & Steffen Peters	18-19: CARA Harvest Show	19: ADA Schooling Show: Carefree Farms	25: Spear-Cross Equine Center of Scottsdale Show
NOV	1-2: ADA Fall Fiesta: WestWorld, Scottsdale	9: ADA Schooling Show: Carefree Farms	15-16: TDC Fall Festival I & II & AZ State Championships: Pima Country Fairgrounds, Tucson	
DEC	6: ADA Clinic - Mind/ Spirit with Janet Jones	13-15: Dressage at Spear Cross		
JAN	9: ADA Clinic - Refine Core Skills with Mike Osinski			



ARIZONA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
100 EASY ST., BOX 2855
CAREFREE, AZ 85377