

Half-Halt

The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association
Volume Number 37 Issue Number 12 Nov 2025



2025 Board of Directors

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Amanda.petroski@verizon.net

2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you have not already done so, please plan to renew your membership. Membership period is January 1 - December 31. You can renew and pay online: <https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/form2/index.html>.

2026 Rates:

Senior Member \$57

Youth Member (21 and under) \$47

Farm/Family Membership \$110

(Farm/Family includes two members - additional members can be added at \$50 each-maximum four members)

Members at Large:

Joanne Smith
Jsmith-1@Verizon.net
Katherine Gardner
KatherineGardner7@hotmail.com
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pinkyhipp@gmail.com
Bailey Colon-Waite
Mary DiJospeh

VADA Rep:

Robyn Nunnally
robynnnunnally@aol.com
Sandy Toby
omdressage@gmail.com
Lorna "Cookie" Parsons
Ljane77@hotmail.com

2025 FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:



TIME AND LOCATION:

The General Membership meeting is scheduled for December 7th, 1 PM -3PM. It will be held at the Russell Memorial Library at 2808 Taylor Rd, Chesapeake 23321.

For all members and prospective members. Come meet the SVDA 2026 incoming Board of Directors and enjoy fellowship. The 2026 slate of officers will be announced at this time. Nominations will be taken from the floor for all positions, especially the open ones. Let's have some fun. How about a cookie swap. Bring 3 dozen cookies and a container. Take home a variety of cookies. Cupcakes are also welcome in lieu of cookies, if preferred.

NEWS FROM VADA:

VADA YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM

The Virginia Dressage Association recognizes rider and horse achievements (schooling and licensed), In-Hand/Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB), volunteers for their hard work throughout the year at a Chapter and State level, "Trainer of the Year", "The High Score Adult Amateur Award" and "Breed in Virginia" which goes to the rider, not breeder or owner. Other VADA Awards include the "Shel Gafford Memorial Award for Excellence Sportsmanship", "VADA Volunteer of the Year Award", along with other Chapter recognition.

Year End Awards Timetable

Application Deadline

1 December 2025

Preliminary Standing Award Recipients Published for Review

11-15 December 2025

Final Year End Awards Recipients Published

16 December 2025

Award Recipients Selection of Awards

16-21 December 2025

Visit

<https://www.virginiadressage.org/vada-state-year-end-awards> for additional information and entry links

SVDA MERCH - ORDER DETAILS! PERFECT ITEMS FOR 2026 SHOW SEASON!



Visit our online shop for SVDA logo items: <https://southeastvda.itemorder.com>. You can place orders directly to the shop, pay, and items will ship right to you.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

SVDA Volunteer of the Day Program

In addition to receiving volunteer hours for volunteering at a show, SVDA is implementing a Volunteer of the Day program at schooling shows. All volunteers' names will be placed in a hat (one time for half day volunteers, two times for whole day volunteers) and one name will be randomly drawn. The winner can select their choice from a variety of gifts and gift cards, each with a \$25 value. Available choices are gift cards from Chick-fil-A, Wawa, Starbucks, SmartPak, Sugar Shack at the Mingle, and a gift bag from Cypress Saddlery. At the first 3 shows, we also have vouchers for free Chick-Fil-A sandwiches for some randomly selected volunteers.

SVDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Each year, SVDA members are eligible to apply for Scholarship and Foundation funds to further their advancement in dressage.

The SVDA Board of Directors votes on the applications received and can award up to two (2) Scholarships in the amount of \$400. If less than two (2) scholarships are given out in one (1) year, or there are additional funds, the Board may vote to give out additional scholarships that year.

See website for eligibility requirements or contact for details:

Whitney Kelso, Scholarship Chair
horsegalwhit@gmail.com

<https://southeastvirginiadressage.org/wpii/scholarship-program/>



Member Notice - Upcoming USEF changes:

Beginning December 1, 2025, administrative fees (formerly \$8) will increase to \$10. Show passes (formerly \$45) will increase to \$85.

Beginning April 1, 2026, the following fee changes will apply:

- Competing Membership Fee will increase from \$95 to \$115
- Subscriber Membership Fee will increase from \$25 to \$35
- Annual Horse Recording will increase from \$95 to \$115
- Lifetime Horse Recording will increase from \$300 to \$500
- Individual Lifetime Foal Recording will increase from \$35 to \$50

You can save on your competing membership by enrolling in a three-year membership for \$285

UNDER CONSTRUCTION STAY TUNED FOR 2026 SHOW SCHEDULES



Beginning December 1, 2025, no piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has a rigid upward-pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups.

USEF Rule Book,
GR 801.1

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH SVDA (discount applies to annual agreement)

SIZE	RATES	
	MONTH	YEAR
Full page	\$15	\$150
Half page	\$10	\$100
Quarter page	\$7.50	\$75
Business card	\$ 5	\$50
Classified	\$ 5	\$50





MAAPP

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION

REQUIRED OF ALL PARTICIPANTS

LEARN ABOUT MAAP POLICIES



Safe Sport Training



Travel



One-On-One Interactions



Social Media & Electronic Communications



Read about these & more at usef.org/MAAPP

REPORT MAAPP POLICY VIOLATIONS



usef.org/safe-sport/reporting

859-225-6915 or Text Anonymously 2USEF (28733)



U.S. CENTER FOR
SAFESPORT™



Please note: In accordance with Safe Sport guidelines, all Juniors should be accompanied to SVDA events by their parent or legal guardian. In cases where a parent or legal guardian cannot attend, the parent or legal guardian should complete and sign a waiver, which is available at www.southeastvirginiadressage.org

VADA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 11-19-25 VIA ZOOM

Participating: Sheli King (VN); Bettina Longaker (C'ville); Alison Douglas (Central); Jessie Ginsburg (NOVA); Angie Stanaway (NEVADA); Robyn Nunnally (SVDA); Nancy Doody (C'ville); Katie Kelly (SWVADA); Hannah Bowers (F'burg); Christina Arrington (Central); Rachel Rice (NOVA); Sandy Toby (SVDA); Laura Nelson (SWVADA); Megan Irby (F'burg) and member Dianne Boyd

Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jessie reported that our 2024 taxes are filed and our combined balances are 232K.

Membership Report: For the year 2025, we had 540 memberships submitted. The 2026 roster is now up on the USDF website so chapters are encouraged to get membership lists to Beth as early as possible so they can be processed by her and USDF. Also remember to provide Nancy Doody with the membership information she needs from each chapter. Nancy would like an update by March 1, 2026, for the year 2026 and then monthly thereafter.

VADA Safe Sport Policy Update: Sheli reported that all the chapters have adopted the protocol. The board previously agreed on the protocol implementation and tracking as well as the reimbursement process. Christina is going to work on a spreadsheet that we want used by the chapters so that we have a uniform reporting process.

GAIG Update: Tina reported that we had 269K in entry income, 7400 in sponsorship income and approximately 226K in expenses leaving us with roughly 51K in income. VHS fees are slated to increase next year, for example stalls are going up \$10. Dianne is going to go through the contract and detail out the cost increases. Tina felt that although the DJ at the competitor party was an additional cost, it increased participation. Jessie brought up that the Breed Show at DAL never makes money and that the region should understand that if they want it to continue, they need to support it, and we need to emphasize that we are continuing to host the show to service the region.

Year End Award Committee: The date of the banquet is Sunday, February 1 st at the Greencroft Club. Nancy Doody reminded the reps to take back to their chapters the deadline for awards submissions which is December 1st, and with all award placings finalized on Dec 16 th . Members who are planning to attend the banquet should register early as seating is limited and once it's full, we will have to turn people away. Nancy also brought up the Shel Gafford Award and reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions to Laura Nelson is December 14 th . Laura will be collecting them and will then send out the submissions to the chapters to vote on by December 16 th . Each chapter must then report their chapter's selection by January 15 th . Rachel still needs volunteer hours from SW and NE. Also, a reminder that the chapters' submission for VADA State Vol of the Year from their chapter is due to Alison Douglas by January 12 th .

2026 Officer Elections: For our January board meeting, we will need the new chapter reps to be present for the vote to elect new VADA officers. We will be sending a communication to the current chapter reps to see if we have any interest in running for an officer position.

New Business:


During the call, there was a discussion regarding how we use our funds to support our members, the region, juniors, etc. Jessie volunteered to work on a master plan that we can use going forward. Alison

volunteered to help her. The conversation was spurred by not only the amounts we use for Chapter Grants (Jessie is going to work on a proposal for our next board meeting) but also a request for support for a grassroots clinic series for juniors throughout the region that Heather Escobar would like support with.


Jessie mentioned that the USDF has a data feed available in excel that has what VADA members have won in 2025. If any chapters are interested, Alison can help pull their membership out of the file if you contact her.

Sheli brought up for discussion the time our meetings start next year. Do we like 7:30 or do we want to stay at 8? We will discuss it further at our next meeting.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHOOLING SHOW SCORES - OCT 26 - AIRFIELD CONFERENCE CENTER



SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
October 26, 2025
CHAMPIONSHIP SCHOOLING SHOW
AIRFIELD CONFERENCE CENTER
15189 AIRFIELD ROAD, WAKEFIELD, VA 23888
Jane Kelly @ C | Kat Sepka @ B (L GRADUATES w/ DISTINCTION)



TIME	#	RIDER	HORSE	SCORE	%	PLACE
THIRD LEVEL TEST 3						
10:00	3	Caroline Needham (O) ✓	Mia	63.250		1
WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 3-CHAMPIONSHIP						
10:08	4	Christine Metz (AA) ✓	Pistol	60.313		1
THIRD LEVEL TEST 1						
10:15	41	Tiffany Rombs (O) ✓	Lord Byron	47.770		1
TRAINING LEVEL TEST 1						
10:23	43	Isabella Engrem (JR) ✓	Zorro	59.512		1
10:31	46	Ginny Lee Brown (JR) ✓	Sir William	58.077		2
10:39	48	Amanda Bridget Chaves (AA)	Frida	70.096		1
10:46	49	Paola Safford (AA)	Xirimiri AA	62.019		2
THIRD LEVEL TEST 2 CHAMPIONSHIP						
10:54	3	Caroline Needham (O)	Mia	65.526		1
WDAA BASIC TEST 1						
11:02	50	Anne Draine (O)	Halle Berry MC	63.173		1
TRAINING LEVEL TEST 2						
11:10	51	Mary Barczak (AA)	Spicy	60.431		1
11:18	54	Bethany Nichols (O)	MSJ Quantum Royale	72.155		1
WDAA BASIC TEST 3						
11:34	50	Anne Draine (O)	Halle Berry MC	64.783		1
SECOND LEVEL TEST 2 CHAMPIONSHIP						
11:42	55	Katherine Gardner (AA)	Home Run	62.436		1
FIRST LEVEL TEST 3						
11:50	56	Autumn Wiggs (JR)	Mr. Windsor	60.903		1
LUNCH BREAK 12:06 - 12:51						
TRAINING LEVEL TEST 3						
12:51	57	Caroline Needham (O)	Julie Ann	67.800		1
12:59	58	Lilly Phillips (JR)	Whisper the Secret	65.300		1
1:07	46	Ginny Lee Brown (JR)	Sir William	57.300		2
1:15	59	Christina Gutierrez (O)	Fuer Elise	66.600		2
USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST B CHAMPIONSHIP						
1:23	49	Paola Safford (AA)	Xirimiri AA	ROO	ROO	ROO
TRAINING LEVEL TEST 2 CHAMPIONSHIP						
1:31	48	Amanda Bridget Chaves (AA)	Frida	70345		1

1:39	62	Robyn Crow (AA)	Blueridge Scarlet Reign	69.828	2
1:47	63	Demity Lautenschlager (AA)	Aria	62.672	3
1:55	58	Lily Phillips (JR)	Whisper the Secret	65.086	1
2:03	57	Caroline Needham (O)	Julie Ann	70.517	1
FIRST LEVEL TEST 2 CHAMPIONSHIP					
2:11	65	Tiffany Rombs (O)	Windchester	48.961	1
FIRST LEVEL TEST 2					
2:19	56	Autumn Wiggs (JR)	Mr. Windsor	62.985	1
USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST A					
2:27	66	Morgan Burton (AA)	Princess Celeste	65.176	1
USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST B					
2:35	70	Jane Piske (AA)	Traumlauder	scratch	
2:43	54	Lora Gibson (AA)	MSJ Quantum Royale	scratch	
MUSICAL FREESTYLE SECOND LEVEL					
2:55	55	Katherine Gardner (AA)	Home Run	67.980	1
JUDGE'S BREAK 3:07-3:22					
MUSICAL FREESTYLE FIRST LEVEL Champ					
3:22	65	Tiffany Rombs (O)	Windchester	60.604	1
WDAA MUSICAL FREESTYLE BASIC LEVEL					
3:34	50	Anne Draine (O)	Halle Berry MC	71.607	1
USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST B CHAMPIONSHIP					
ROO	49	Paola Safford (AA)	Xirimiri AA	69.063	1
3:46	66	Morgan Burton (AA)	Princess Celeste	67.500	2
3:54	71	Madelyn Hall (JR)	Stars and Stripes Kanga	61.563	1
USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST C					
3:58	70	Jane Piske (AA)	Traumlauder	scratch	
4:02	43	Makaiya Sexton	Zorro	61.625	
4:10	72	Madelyn Hall (JR)	Stars and Stripes Kanga	62.750	1
4:18 AM SHOW ENDS					



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