

# Half-Halt

The Newsletter for the Southeastern Chapter of the Virginia Dressage Association  
Volume Number 38 Issue Number 2 February 2026



## 2026 Board of Directors

**President:** Lorna "Cookie" Parsons

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**Clinics/Programs:** Kim Bliefernich,

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**Awards:** Amanda Petroski-Britton,

[Amanda.petroski@verizon.net](mailto: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:

Dahlia Jenson-dahliajensen0113@gmail.com

Amanda Chaves-amandachavesrealtor@gmail.com

Katherine Gardner-Katherinegardner7@hotmail.com

Mary DiJoseph - marydijoseph95@gmail.com

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Lorna "Cookie" Parsons

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## 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](mailto:horsegalwhit@gmail.com)

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

## News from VADA:

Dressage at Lexington  
Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA  
July 10-12, 2026

Great American Insurance Group/USDF Reg 1  
Championships and VADA Fall Competition,  
Lexington VA  
1-4 October 2026

*"A Qualifying Competition for the 2026 US  
Dressage Finals presented by Adequan"*  
<https://www.viriniadressage.org/>

## 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

### 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

## UPCOMING SVDA EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!

### LOW COST CLINIC WITH KATE MASON

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Address to be announced

SVDA Members: \$60

Non-Members: \$70

Enter online:

<https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/gov0qmai hg/index>

### DRESSAGE CLINIC WITH JANE KELLY

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Clinic Location, details and costs are forthcoming so mark your calendars!!

### SVDA FALL CLINIC WITH DONNA GATCHELL & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sat-Sun, November 7 & 8 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Clinic Location, details and costs are forthcoming so mark your calendars!!

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## 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.



# 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](http://usef.org/MAAPP)

### REPORT MAAPP POLICY VIOLATIONS



[usef.org/safe-sport/reporting](http://usef.org/safe-sport/reporting)

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



**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](http://www.southeastvirginiadressage.org)

## **SVDA 2026 SCHOOLING SHOW SCHEDULE:**

Date	Facility	Location	Open	Close	Judge
3/15/2026	Kelly Coyne Dressage	Virginia Beach, VA	2/16/2026	3/6/2026	Robyn Nunnally, L Grad w/Distinction & USEF R
4/12/2026	Weeping Oak Farm	Shawboro, NC	3/23/2026	4/3/2026	Elise Enoch, L Grad w/Distinction
5/24/2026	Harmonia Equestrian	Suffolk, VA	4/27/2026	5/15/2026	<i>Margaret Little, USEF R</i>
6/14/2026	White Acres Farm	Chesapeake, VA	5/18/2026	6/5/2026	Kat Sepka, L Grad w/Distinction
6/28/2026	Gryphon Run Farm	Chesapeake, VA	6/1/2026	6/19/2026	Donna Gatchell, L Grad w/Distinction & USEF "r"
8/30/2026	Seahorse Run	Suffolk, VA	8/3/2026	8/21/2026	AnnMari Ingersoll, L Grad w/Distinction
9/20/2026	RiverBirch	Courtland	8/24/2026	9/11/2026	Jane Kelly, L Grad w/Distinction
Championship TBD	TBD				

ENTER ONLINE: <https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/q6gtyzijfb/index.html>

### **2026 LICENSED SHOW SCHEDULE (partial):**

March 28-29 March Magic Dressage, Raeford, NC  
April 4 VADA/Nova Spring April - Leesburg, VA  
April 17-19 Tryon Spring Dressage - Mill Spring, NC  
April 18-19 Prime Time Dressage - Raeford, NC  
April 25-26 Dressage at the Deep Run - Manakin-Sabot, VA  
May 2-3 Tryon Spring Dressage - Mill Spring, NC  
May 2-3 Whispering Miracles, Spring Opener, Virginia Beach, VA  
May 5-8 Dressage in the Sandhills, Pinehurst, NC  
May 14-17 Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival & CDI3, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA  
May 23-24 Mayday Dressage, Pinehurst, NC  
May 30-31 Whispering Miracles by the Beach, Virginia Beach, VA  
June 20-21 HITS Commonwealth Park Dressage, Culpepper, VA  
July 10-12 Dressage at Lexington, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA  
July 18-9 Whispering Miracles Summer Festival, Virginia Beach, VA  
Oct 1-4 GAIG/Reg 1 Championships and VADA Show Fall, Lexington, VA

Partial list - See USDF website for full schedule of shows - follow Region 1 - <https://www.usdf.org/calendar/competitions.asp>

**IMPORTANT SHOW REMINDER:** Don't forget that for all schooling shows and clinics sponsored by SVDA - a CURRENT negative coggins must be received or you will not be allowed to participate. SVDA must submit a report listing all horses, owners and coggins accession numbers to the Va Dept of Agriculture for every sponsored event. We cannot make exceptions. So please get your coggins drawn early to allow processing time so that we don't have to refuse your participation on the day of a show or clinic. Please upload at time of show entry or upload at: <https://fs27.formsite.com/vablond25aolcom/form1/index.html>

## VADA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 1-22-2026 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); Hannah Bowers (F'burg); Christina Arrington (Central); Laura Nelson (SWVADA); Lori LaFave (NOVA); Eleszabeth McNeel (C'ville); Sherl Wyatt (NEVADA); Muffin Smith (SWVADA); Kristine Slovis (F'burg); Minza Glover (F'burg)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved.

**2026 Officer Elections:** By default, the same executive board will remain in place for 2025.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jessie reported that our combined balances are 211K.

**Membership Report:** We currently have 139 members. Chapters, please remind your members to join sooner rather than waiting until the show season starts as processing new membership can take several weeks.

**VADA Safe Sport Policy Update:** Christina put together a guidance document as well as a form for the chapters to use for the declaration of 2026 club activities. Both were attached to the email for the meeting agenda. Chapters should review and if there are any questions or concerns, please contact Sheli. We will resend the implementation plan with dates once the chapters have reviewed. These forms are also available on the VADA website.

**Year End Award Committee:** The date of the banquet is Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Greencroft Club. Donations are down this year so please help. The snow date will be the following Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>) if necessary.

**USDF GMO Awards Process:** Sheli shared a GMO awards submission protocol which was attached to the meeting agenda email. In the past, chapters would submit to VADA and then VADA submitted to USDF nominations for the Region 1 Volunteer of the Year. This has been changed to allow any VADA member to nominate a candidate for the award. The protocol for the other awards has not changed, except there is now a 7/31 deadline for chapters to submit award nominations to Alison for board review. If there are multiple submissions for any category, the VADA Executive Board will select the nomination to submit to the USDF.

**Chapter Grant Proposal:** Jessie is working on a process for submission which will include the chapters providing a budget for their expenses and income. The idea is that chapters should expect to break even or even incur a loss and not profit from receiving the grant money for the event. This would be in line with how the USDF runs their grant programs. She will provide more details and a draft submission form at our next meeting.

**Youth Clinic Proposal:** Heather Escobar sent a draft of her submission to the VA Horse Industry Board for a series of low-cost youth dressage clinics for grassroots riders. She is seeking financial support from the VADA to cover the cost of the insurance as well as up front monies as the grant funds are given after the event happens. After much discussion, while the board loved the idea of supporting grass roots dressage for youth, it was decided that there are number of areas of the program that need more development and for that reason we do not feel comfortable adopting it as a VADA event for 2026.

**2026 Meeting Time and Date:** The board decided that we will keep the current start time and flexibility of setting the date for the next meeting at the current meeting.

**Chapter Updates:** PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SENDING INFO TO NANCY DOODY FOR THE WEBSITE. It's free advertising for any shows and clinics you're holding.

**Central:** Two one day licensed shows April 25-26 at Deep Run Hunt Club in Manakin Sabot

**Charlottesville:** Year end awards banquet has been rescheduled to Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Burton's. Schooling shows May 31<sup>st</sup> at Cedar Creek Stables in Staunton judge Beckie Lynne Mitchell, July 26<sup>th</sup> at Toad Hollow Farm in Charlottesville judge Michelle Anderson, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Grayson Farms judge Nicky Vogel

**SWVADA:** Year end awards banquet is Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> at Hunting Hills Country Club

**NEXT MEETING Wednesday February 18th at 8 pm**