



KDEA E Newsletter –Late February 2025

KDEA Mission Statement

KDEA serves the South Central Kansas dressage and eventing community by providing educational, social, and competitive opportunities that promote a harmonious partnership between horse and rider



KDEA Officers and Board 2024

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Committees:

Education: Jessica Ptak, Chair; Marie Maloney, Gail Knoffloch, Janet Kernan

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Awards: Kim Miller, Chair; Haley Kottler

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Publicity: Kim Miller (Website), Susan Lang (newsletter)

Membership: Charlotte Pinkall, Chair (if you haven't joined for 2025, see kdea.org for form)

pinkallc@gmail.com

Volunteer: Marty Foster Dennett, Chair

shobewalkin@gmail.com

Scholarship: Shana Drake, Chair

sdranch88@gmail.com

Nominating: Marty Foster-Dennett, Valarie Bowlby

If I forgot to list someone who is on a committee...please let me (Susan) know for the newsletter, and let the Committee Chair know. If you are interested in learning more about what these committees do, and how you could contribute, please contact the committee chair or and Officer/Board Member.

In This Newsletter

- **Geometry of Dressage – Feb 22 write up**
- **Upcoming Ride A Test March 1-2**
- **On Line Learning – Circles Circles Circles**
- **April 1st - KDEA Educational Session and Meeting at Legacy Equine Management**
- **Video Education Corner – Two links to informative videos (helmet fit and microchipping)**
- **Wrap Up – February KDEA Meeting Notes – “Off Season, On Point: Level Up with Online and Book Learning (Handouts from meeting, if you missed it)**

- **April 12 KDEA Schooling Show – Judge Jane Fucinaro, NE**
- **KDEA Western Dressage Lite Show – June 14-15 – Sponsorships Needed**
- **Member Articles – Anne Stephens and Kelli Wolf – Western Dressage Judge Training Seminar**

Geometry of Dressage – Feb 22nd. We didn't have as many turn out this year for this session, but that just allowed for more "one on one" learning to occur! We had people with interests in English, Western, Eventing and Working Equitation, and all received handouts of arena diagrams with circles of various sizes, diagonals, etc. They also receive a handy dandy laminated document with both a large and small arena for diagramming/learning tests!. We had the arenas chalk marked out on the concrete floor, and participants were taught how to know where their circles and lines should "touch" the sides of the arena fence to make the proper size and shape of figures. We got up and marched around our "chalk arenas," walk/trotting and cantering (or walk, jog and loping) our way around the tests. Some folks learned how to read tests, and we all went over the tests themselves for the coefficients, what goes in each of the collective marks, and how to score a test. One person had never ridden a dressage test (had just seen one show) and now is riding in the Ride A Test this weekend! Thanks to all who came out, and thanks to Marie Maloney of Capall Stables and Susan Lang for teaching.

Upcoming Event – KDEA Ride A Test: The KDEA Ride a Test is just a few short days away...and we are full. So come watch....we are at Capall from 8:30 to noon Sat and 1pm to 4:30 on Sun, and at Eagle view from 1 to 4:45 on Saturday and 11 to 12:30 on Sunday. Come watch the rides, come learn how to score or scribe....let Susan (smlang2@cox.net) or Marty (shobewalkin@gmail.com) if you want to come help out. For more info on the format, see the entry for at www.kdea.org.

USDF Adult Amateur Virtual Clinic – March 19th.

The Adult Programs Committee is excited to announce another USDF Virtual Education Series session:

Circles, Circles, Circles, Why Always Circles?

with Gwen Ka'awaloa and Sarah Geikie

Wednesday, March 19 at 8:00pm EST

Gwen Ka'awaloa, USEF 'S' Judge and Certified Instructor through 4th level, will join forces with Sarah Geikie, USEF 'S' Judge, FEI Level 3 Judge and Certified Instructor through 4th level, to discuss the process of following the Pyramid of Training as you develop your skills and decide whether it is time for you to ride in a dressage test. They will dive into the importance of correct geometry in classical training, and how the training is the most important part of competing in dressage. Please spread the word to your friends, GMO Chapters, and members. This program is free to everyone and registration is open and available [HERE](#).

KDEA Meeting April 1st at 6pm (note earlier start time) at Legacy Equine Management, 7532 N Broadway Ave. Park City, KS 67219. Bailey Jo Jeffries will explain the services she offers: equine insurance, PEMF/MagnaWave, ESM Swim Gym, Broodmare Management, and Rehabilitation. Dan Baum with Countryside Feed will be providing snacks and refreshments! Meeting will follow at 7pm. If you would like to contact Bailey at some point after the presentation, she can be reached at baileyjojeffries@gmail.com.

Educational Links:

https://www.clipmyhorse.tv/en_US/academy/lesson/756d226cb95dc14f9974008df3328fed?category=usef&sub_category=all

Helmet Fitting Video

https://www.clipmyhorse.tv/en_US/academy/lesson/9db531db91279c877ddf9a860822d3fb?category=usef&sub_category=all

Microchip Process Video

Off-Season, On Point: Level Up With Online and Book Learning!

- USDF Book Club

[Http://www.usdf.org/education/book-club.asp](http://www.usdf.org/education/book-club.asp)

2025 Book List

Build a Better Athlete by Leslie Webb- January through March

Collective Remarks by Anne Gribbons- April through June

33 Strength and Fitness Workouts for Horses by Jec Ballou- July through September

Begin and Begin Again by Denny Emerson- October through December

To purchase books: https://trafalgarbooks.com/?sca_ref=6409261.SFva7YJHky

Use code USDFREADS for 20% off

- USDF University

Access through your USDF account online (all KDEA members are members of USDF)

Earn credits towards diplomas for completing different courses

15 Credits = USDF Certificate

30 credits = USDF Diploma

45 credits = USDF Bronze Diploma

60 credits = USDF Silver Diploma

75 credits = USDF Gold Diploma

90 credits = USDF Platinum Diploma

105 credits = USDF Diamond Diploma

Remember to register in advance for virtual education zoom series (count for university credit) – next one is March 19 @ 7:00 pm- “Circles, circles, circles, always circles.”

- Podcasts

Dressage Radio Show, USEA Podcast, Major League Eventing, Practical Horseman,

Ask the Horse, Feed Room Chemist, Dressage with Amelia, In Stride by Ride IQ

- KDEA Library

Located at Capall (3400 S 143rd St, Wichita)

Books available for check out.

KDEA Dressage Schooling Shows – 2025

April 12th - Eagleview Equestrian – Judge: Jane Fucinaro, Nebraska L Graduate.

May 17th - Three Wooden Crosses – Judge: Holly Luke, Oklahoma L Graduate

July 12th - Three Wooden Crosses – Judge: Rebecca O’Bea, Kansas L Graduate

Sept 13 - Eagleview Equestrian – Judge: Sherry Guess, Oklahoma L Graduate

KDEA Schooling Show – April 12th at Eagleview with judge Jane Fucinario from Nebraska. Put your training plans in place to get ready for the KDEA schooling show on April 12th. Hopefully you availed yourself of the Geometry Session on Feb 20th, and are signed up for the Ride a Test to see where you are and learn what you can do between now and April 12th to improve your test riding skills! Check the KDEA website for the entry form.

KDEA USEF Recognized Show

June 14-15 Kansas State Fairgrounds – Judge: Dolly Hannon “R” Western Dressage
Entry form posted on KDEA website and Horse Show Consulting.com
We are soliciting class sponsors for this show, as well as donations for our Raffle and Silent Auction. For more information, see flyer below.

- A big thank you to those who have provided their support in the form of sponsorship – Michelle Stein, The Decarsky Foundation, and others who have or will provide raffle and silent auction items for this year’s show.

Special Event - Raffle and Silent Auction June 14-15 In conjunction with KDEA Western Dressage Show How Can You Participate?

Be sure to bring a few extra \$\$ with you to spend at the KDEA Raffle and Silent Auction. The idea is that for each \$1.00 donation, you get a ticket that you can place into the box in front of the raffle item that you would like to take home with you. At noon on Sunday, we will have a drawing...to see who wins each item. We will also have Auction items that you can bid on...and the bidding closes at noon on Sunday with the highest bidder winning. Proceeds from the Raffle and Auction go to help fund our shows. Must be present to win, or designate someone to pick up your winnings.



Just what might be on the Raffle or Silent Auction? Well, you never know, but we have artwork, saddle covers, garment bags, barn supplies...so far...and we are also soliciting items from members, competitors, etc. For example, if you have a business making some type of horse item or providing a horse-related service...let us know if you want to bring an item (or gift certificate) for the Raffle/Silent Auction and get exposure for your service (bring flyers to put out with your item). Or if you have something that you want to donate (new items, or very gently used) let us know what you have to contribute.



Also – Bring a **“Barn Basket”** for the Raffle! What is a Barn Basket? Your barn, or a group of riders, can contribute to a Basket (Bucket? Feed Tub?) with horse-themed items that you think others would enjoy. Watch the tickets accumulate...and see who wins your Basket. The funds from these Baskets will help fund our show, and we may keep separate tabs on the Barn Basket winnings to provide a special something at our 2026 show.

For more information, contact Eloise Melton at ejphilton@aol.com or Susan Lang at smlang2@cox.net

Class Sponsorships

Not showing this year and **want to support our competition?** A Western Dressage enthusiast who wants to support what we do? You can sponsor a class (or two) at the show for \$50.00 per class. That helps us pay for the judge/steward and provide ribbons for the class. Shows are expensive to run, and we try to keep costs low for our competitors, so if you can help our “bottom line” by giving us a class sponsorship, please contact Eloise Melton at ejphilton@aol.com or Susan Lang at smlang2@cox.net

2025 WDAA Judge Education Seminar by Anne Stephens

Kelli Wolf and I attended the 2025 Western Dressage Judge Education Seminar in Denver, Colorado. Kelli attended as an auditor and I attended as an “applicant”. Gail Mattheus was also present as one of the primary organizers of the event. She also presented on online shows and exceptional rider tests. She also provided input throughout the seminar from her knowledge of the licensing rules, judge testing and education requirements.

The seminar started off with sessions on judging responsibilities, expectations, rule changes (both new and upcoming), and USEF policies and procedures. With the seminar including auditors, applicants, “r” licensed judges and “R” licensed judges, we had multiple round robin discussions with the experienced judges sharing their experiences and contributing to the education.

After the high level overview, we spent time at each of the levels – reviewing their purpose and scoring guidelines. WDAA has put together a great scoring guideline resource that is available to all members on their website. For each movement, it gives guidelines for judges on what an “8” looks like, what a “6” looks like, what a “4” looks like, etc. I’d highly recommend everyone to find this document, print it out and thoroughly review it. Even those of us that only ride English dressage – it is still very applicable and educational.

In each level, we looked at specific movements such as the Turn on the Haunches, Pivot, Turn on Forehand, Reinback, Side Pass, Leg Yield, Half Pass and Flying and Simple Changes. We had video examples (from previous World Shows) on each of these movements and judged an entire test at each level. KDEA members Natalie Petz, Sarah Pryor, Cassie Black, Hillary Akers, Marie Maloney, Kelli Wolf and Gail Mattheus were among those riders featured in the videos. It was very exciting to see each of them pop up on the big screen!

We also had good discussions and examples of judging gaited horses, rail classes (Equitation and Horsemanship) and exceptional rider tests.

We were very fortunate to have some esteemed judges and personalities in the seminar. Ann Judge (the rider of the Denver Broncos mascot, Thunder, THE Lynn Palm (she was one of my childhood idols and I still have the Collegiate saddle that has her stamp on it), Charlotte Trentleman, and Keri McLain (a 4* English dressage judge – which is one step down from an Olympic judge). It was great fun listening to Keri and Charlotte continually asking for clarification and expressing their opinions on the scoring criteria of some of the particular movements. For example, they were pretty adamant that we should be looking for more bend in the halfpass. This is one of the fun things about Western Dressage. They (and we) are always looking to improve and respond to make things better.

Lynn Palm added her expertise and experience – particularly on the level 4 and 5 movements where pivots are required. She passed on the very helpful advice of keeping your eye on the riders leg – you will have a much better view of the entire picture.

All in all, it was a very good seminar and I learned a lot. The next steps in my journey to becoming a small “r” are:

- Sitting with the judge for a minimum of 20 rides
- Scribing for a minimum of 20 rides
- Passing an online progress check point examination
- Sideline apprenticing for a minimum of 20 tests (6 of which must be at Intro, Basic and Level 1)
- Attending the Judges Education Training at the World Show
- Passing a video exam.

Wish me luck!

WDAA Judge’s Education Seminar - February 7-9 Denver Clinicians: Cindy Butler, Joanne Coy, Jodi Eli, Gail Matheus By Kelli Wolf, Auditor

I was so lucky to attend this seminar and two things came together to make it happen. First, I was granted the time off. Second, Ann Stephens’s husband didn’t accompany Anne (participant) to the Seminar.

I ask Gail Matheus if anyone in town was going to the Denver seminar, and she suggested I contact Anne. When I contacted her the next morning, by that afternoon, I had a plane ticket, 1/2 a hotel room and a wonderful person to spend a 4 day vacation with!!

The day finally came to leave, we got to the Wichita airport early, to check in, we were the only 2 in the TSA area!! So Ann and I got our steps in while we waited for our plane to board. When we landed in Denver, had a couple more hours before hotel check in, so we got more steps in. We did, however, stop at the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory! 2 bags of very amazing chocolate, we went to the hotel via the shuttle.

How suite it is!! We were forced to live in a 4 room suite with all the amenities!! The first evening, we went in search of Gail and ended up in the WDAA war room, which ended up being our second hang out! We were greeted by Dini Swanson and Cindy Butler.

First day - after introduction by all 50 attendees, the seminar began. There were no seating restrictions so Anne went up front and I took a seat near the back, and I didn’t know any of the others at my table. We had to get a partner for a gaited horse demonstration, the young lady next to me became my back legs, and while we stumbled around, laughing the whole time,

we got to know each other. Jennifer was a local gal that signed up to find out what WD was all about. We listened, laughed and learned.

Some of the videos that we viewed had KDEA riders in them, and I shared there Journey with her. She was amazed that I actually knew some of the riders, that had actually ridden in the world show!

I failed to mention there was Happy hour after every day's activities. Plus, the hotel had an excellent workout room and indoor pool, both of which I took full advantage of before sitting for 8 hours!!

Second day - lot more videos going up the Levels. Seeing more KDEA riders and really enjoying the judges remarks and stories. Jennifer, soon realized there was so much more to riding a test at home than truly preparing to RIDE A TEST! It was almost overwhelming for her, specially, when we were judging level L3 and up. She made me feel like I was one of the judges applicants!

Day 3 - started with level 5, Jennifer said she was going to just watch and absorb, without trying to fill in the boxes. I gave it a shot, and was surprised I was never more than 1 - 1.5 off, but as for comments, not happening!! I am so glad I went through part of the USDF L program, as with this background, I kinda knew what was expected.

Freestyle was next, Jennifer was very interested, had never seen one at any local shows. You'll never guess who had a video snippet, depicting how the music can enhance the or hurt the overall performance. Jacoby and I, we were the good one! After it played I stood up and took a bow, Jodi Eli came over and said that was a "9"!! Then we judged a complete Level 5 Freestyle, Jennifer was very impressed and in awe.

There was a short break, there was some music playing so Gail and Jodi had a dance off, Gail had to set up for the next section, Jodi kept on grooving, so much so that I threw her a dollar bill!! The whole place cracked up!! We all had 3 days of fun and learning!

As an auditor I was there to listen and learn, but because of Jennifer I realized I could no longer fall back on my lack of years of experience. I do have the Western Dressage knowledge and can understand, even contribute, intelligently, to a dressage conversation!

One concept Jennifer didn't understand about Western Dressage until the second day was why so many riders take lessons and have trainers!

I know in my heart , I don't want to be a judge, however being surrounded by such incredible individuals for 3 days, it makes me proud that I'm totally accepted and feel that they all want to help each rider have their best rides!!

I give this years WDAA JUDGES SEMINAR a "10"!!

Ps. If anyone would like some fat milk(Gail's words) contact Ann Stephens - she has a story to tell!!

By Kelli Wolf