



Dedicated to Promoting the Equestrian Sport of Dressage in USDF Region 8

The Central Vermont Dressage Association

www.cvda.org

The Half Halt

The Newsletter of the Central Vermont Dressage Association

February 2023

2023 Dates to Remember

Visit cvda.org to register and get more information on these events.

Winter Educational Series

Equine Dentistry, February 13

Judge's Point of View, March 20

2023 Tests - On the Levels, March 23

CVDA Grant Program Deadline

March 30

Development Days

May 6, July 22, September 9

Schooling Shows

May 7, July 23, September 10

Meet the New Board Members

Last fall, CVDA bid goodbye and thank you to retiring board members **Lori Barnard, Marin Haney and Janet Wells**. As we begin 2023, CVDA introduces, in their own words, new members **Sheila McLevedge, Amy Plavin, DVM, Leslie Rogers** and **Marianne Rousseau, Esq.**

Sheila McLevedge

I have lived in Vermont for the past 50 years. I moved here from Scituate, MA, after attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. My riding teacher there was a working student of Dr. HLM Van Schaik in Cavendish,

Vermont, which inspired me to work for him as well. Over these many years, I have studied in Europe (thank you Dr. Van Schaik), schooled many horses to all levels including my own to FEI, taken over Dr. Van Schaik's school when he retired and built my own farm where I had a hydrotherapy program. I now only teach at farms with my daily students and travel around New England to teach clinics.



I am a USDF Associate Riding Instructor, USDF L program participant, USDF accredited University graduate and a recent USDF Short Course graduate. I am certified for Reiki with animals and people and am an Alexander technique practitioner. All of these interests have led me to work with alternative therapists for horses and people for over 40 years.

Due to my beyond mid-life crisis I bought my lovely Lusitano mare Deja V. She is a delight. Many thanks to my mentor, Cindy Sydnor, who has been working with me and my horses since 1984, and to Iris Eppinger, who has been a font of knowledge for me these days with my Deja.

I am proud that I was there at the inception of CVDA. I was happy to join the gals that got CVDA together over 45 years ago!

Sheila and Deja

Amy Plavin, DVM

I moved to Vermont in 2008 and before too long, Terri Satterlee talked me into running for a position on the CVDA board. What year, I cannot remember – perhaps 2011?

In 2015, I became treasurer for CVDA and did so for four years before I went off the board. Fast forward to 2022 and in our new post-Covid world I found that I was missing the camaraderie of being on the board. I ran for a position last fall and now I'm back to hopefully offer some help. (Editor's note: Amy has already jumped in and is seeking sponsors for our 2023 events.)



I am a past breeder of Connemara ponies and currently ride my homebred horse of a lifetime Miss Millie. I am also a veterinarian (University of Minnesota 1989) who loves learning about equine biomechanics. I have been certified in veterinary acupuncture since 1995 and veterinary spinal manipulation since 2008. My house is full of border collies; Ori is my current working sheepdog.

Amy and Millie



Leslie and Koolie

Leslie Rogers

I'm one of those kids who never outgrew their crazy horse addiction! I was blessed to have supportive parents who helped me get my first horse at a very young age. In my younger years I participated in 4-H, playing many roles in our club such as treasurer, horse show committee and president.

I later realized that horses would be my career. I attended Johnson and Wales for a bachelor's in equine science and training. While I attended JWU many great opportunities came my way, including study abroad in Germany at a state riding school. There I was able to test and achieve my Basic, Small and Large riding bronze medal. JWU also helped feed my addiction to showing as I was part of its dressage team. As a team member, I had the pleasure of representing the school more than once at the national championships.

Fast forward to 2018 when I finally got to attend my FIRST CVDA horse show! Making it to a CVDA show was always a goal of mine and I had finally achieved it! (I haven't missed one since!) I love what CVDA has to offer and always wanted to give back, so today I'm on the board and I couldn't be more excited.

I currently get to share my passion for horses and teach others the great things they have to offer in Putney, Vermont. I look forward to meeting new and familiar faces this year at CVDA events!

Marianne L. Rousseau, Esq.

I am the Senior Partner and Managing Director of Rousseau Law and Mediation. I earned my Bachelors of Music from the University of Lowell in 1981, my Masters in Music (M.M.), magna cum laude, from Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore Maryland in 1984 and my Juris Doctor at New England School of Law in 1995. I came to the practice of family law after enjoying a successful career as a classical guitarist/lutenist.

I am admitted to practice law in the State of New Hampshire and at the United States Supreme Court. As a Certified Family Mediator in the State of New Hampshire, I mediate private cases and am under contract with many of the New Hampshire state courts.

My professional memberships include the Collaborative Law Alliance of New Hampshire and The New Hampshire Conflict Resolution Association. My personal background in animal law has helped with my own



Marianne and Valentino

Labrador retriever breeding and showing endeavors, and when I prepare contracts for other animal owners and litigate animal-related disputes.

Of course, I can't forget that I compete in Classical Dressage with my Friesian Sporthorse, Valentino!

Annual Banquet 2022

Welcome Speaker Jane Karol, Congratulations Award Winners

If you own horses, it seems that you are always busy with their care and training. However, in late October, almost 40 CVDA members took a break from these responsibilities to attend CVDA's annual banquet.

Speaker Jane Karol delighted the audience with her reassuring advice as she analyzed different riding challenges offered by audience members. Some members had brought photos to illustrate the issue; others described challenges such as recovering from a bad horse-related fall and returning to riding. Jane offered concrete suggestions for each situation and sought input from her audience as well for an inspiring, interactive talk.

CVDA recognized our seven, year-end high point award winners and the Board announced the CVDA Volunteer of the Year, Jim Calabro. Jim was an anchor in the warm up ring all season for our schooling shows. His booming voice and well-wishes to riders as they left the warm-up were much appreciated by all. Thank you, Jim!



***Year End Award Winner,
Open 2nd & up, Jill Dumont***

Where do your CVDA Dues Go?

Treasurer Amy Bresky Explains CVDA's Often Hidden Costs

Some costs to CVDA are pretty obvious, like paying judges and clinicians or renting facilities, but there are quite a number of costs that you may not have considered. I know that I, as a newer Treasurer, was surprised at the cost of many of our necessities. We work very hard to keep our expenses down so as many people as possible are able to participate in what we offer, without compromising the quality of the experience. All of our activities are completely volunteer staffed, with the exception of the professionals that we must hire.

Membership

- **Payment to USDF** - CVDA must pay USDF \$24 for each member every year. That's 37% of your membership dues.
- **Member discounts** – While it is important to provide benefits to members, CVDA has to subsidize our smaller events, such as development days and clinics, when we offer member discounts for them.

Shows

- **Ribbons** – Each class ribbon costs \$2.55. That adds up to as much as a whopping \$1350 for class ribbons per year. We also pay \$450 for show high point ribbons at each show, \$430 for high point CVDA member ribbons at each GMHA dressage show, and another \$300 for year-end high point CVDA ribbons.
- **Show and Year-End High Point Awards** – While we have wonderful sponsors for many of these awards, we sometimes have to subsidize some of these costs given that there are only so many equine-related businesses in our rural area to support the many equine activities.
- **Ambulance** – We are required by GMHA to have emergency medical on site for both the Development Days and the Schooling Dressage Shows. To have the ambulance and the EMT is a cost of over \$700 per show.
- **Insurance** – Liability insurance for our weekends at GMHA is \$210 per weekend and each clinic is \$120.
- **Lodging for judges**- Depending on the time of year (remember our area is a vacation destination) and the lodging we are able to arrange, this cost can be over \$800 for two judges for two days. Our judges have been kind enough to share a bathroom in a nice farm lodging arrangement nearby when it is available, which helps reduce that cost.
- **Food/drink for volunteers**- We need to take good care of our volunteers, as there are no shows without them! Lunches, drinks and snacks run about \$250 per show.
- **On call vet** – This service is required by GMHA as part of our rental agreement.

Clinics

- **Subsidizing clinician fee for riders**- Since education is one of CVDA's primary goals, CVDA subsidizes the cost to our members, so that more can participate. Our clinics do not make money or break even, but we know the importance of bringing quality education for riders and auditors to our neck of the woods. We are very lucky that our generous hosts have donated their facilities for each clinic, or our costs would be much higher. In past years, we have subsidized as much as \$1750 per clinic.
- **Portable toilet** – Use of our hosts' indoor plumbing is not an option for obvious reasons and one toilet is \$175.

I hope this review of CVDA costs was as helpful to our members as it was to me as a new treasurer. As a Board, we do everything possible to hold down costs so that we can see as many of you as possible at our events!
- Amy Bresky

CVDA's Origin Story

CVDA Board member Sheila McLevedge recently contacted Janice Dorval to get a few details about CVDA's beginnings - almost 47 years ago! Janice and Cathy Stern started CVDA in late 1976. Janice recalls that our first clinic was with Lendon Gray at Rivendell in the spring or summer of 1977. She remembers the first meeting was in the tack room at Rivendell Farm in Woodstock, VT, and mentioned that they should have kept minutes!



Central Vermont Dressage Association, Inc.

www.CVDA.org

A lot of CVDA's early minutes and paperwork are archived above the Roger Maher room in GMHA's Upwey Building. Another early organizer, Sara Crosby, was involved with hunter horses. At the time, Rivendell belonged to the parents of long-time Vermont equine veterinarian Dr. David Lamb. Dr. HLM Van Schaik's indoor and the Lambs' indoor were two of the first indoor rings built in Vermont!

Note: The CVDA Board was inspired by the GMO origin stories in the January/February 2023 issue of the **USDF Connection**, which highlighted USDF's 50th anniversary. We will keep researching CVDA's early years. Send us your memories at centralvtdressageassoc@gmail.com.

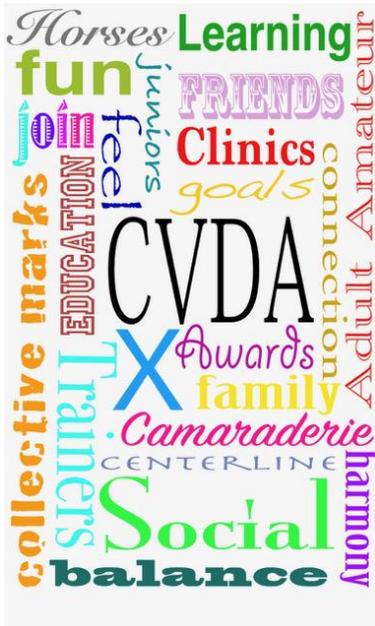
CVDA Grant Program Deadline is March 30

As part of CVDA's mission to "promote the art and sport of dressage," educational grants are made available to help fund educational opportunities to members who have demonstrated a commitment to and/or excellence in the sport, as well as volunteerism within the organization. The CVDA Grant program supports qualified members in their educational advancement with the expectation that the membership and sport will benefit as a result of the knowledge and experience gained or program offered.

The deadline for grant applications is March 30, 2023, with applicants notified by April 14, 2023. Grant funds must be used by December 31, 2023. The maximum dollar amount per grant awarded through the CVDA Grant Program in 2023 will be \$2,000. The CVDA Board may choose to fund multiple grants at lesser amounts, while adhering to the \$2,000 overall limit.

For more information and a grant application, please visit [Central Vermont Dressage Association, Inc - Grants \(cvda.org\)](http://CentralVermontDressageAssociation,Inc-Grants(cvda.org)).

Don't Forget: Renew Your CVDA Membership



CVDA membership year runs from November 1 to October 31 each year. You may renew your membership online at [Central Vermont Dressage Association, Inc - Join us \(cvda.org\)](http://CentralVermontDressageAssociation, Inc - Join us (cvda.org)). If you wish to join by mailing a check, you can find contact information and membership level costs on our online membership form.

Your CVDA membership includes a Group Membership in the United States Dressage Federation. (USDF). As a USDF Group Member you have many USDF benefits including:

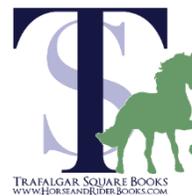
- Compete in USEF/USDF sanctioned shows and be eligible to earn USDF Rider Awards such as the Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals
- Receive the USDF Connection magazine
- Earn USDF University credits
- Receive member discount rates for USDF events

Thank you!

Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors!

These businesses support CVDA's mission and programs. Please consider supporting them with your business.

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