

# THE READER

CenterLine Dressage is a Group Member Organization of USDF founded in 1972. CLD members are automatically members of the United States Dressage Federation.



## HEADLINES

### ◆ LETTER FROM THE "NEW" PRESIDENT

### ◆ USDF NATIONALS EXPERIENCE BY CHYNNA GILLMAN

### ◆ CHRISTMAS WREATH

### ◆ ANNUAL BANQUET BY PAIGE BURDETTE

### ◆ HONORING SIMPSONS

### ◆ CLD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

◆ JUNE 20, 2022

◆ AUGUST 15, 2022

◆ SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

### ◆ CLD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## CALENDAR

◆ CLD CLASSIC I & II  
@ ILLINOIS STATE  
FAIRGROUNDS - JUNE 24 & 25

## Letter from the President

*by Judy Nordstrom, President*

Happy holidays, everyone! I am your new old president once again! I'm sure most of you are hustle bustling around finishing Christmas shopping and in my case trying to get everything wrapped and under the tree. This is a busy time of year! I hope everyone takes the time to enjoy this special season.

I am really excited about things that are happening with CenterLine Dressage this year! We hope to have some fun shows and host educational events finally again! We will be holding our Classic shows June 24-25, 2023, at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. We will be looking for volunteers for this event so plan on getting your volunteer hours acquired for Year End Awards, as we will be implementing this policy yet again.

I am looking forward to keeping everyone apprised of our upcoming events so stay tuned for more information on dates and times! Meanwhile, I hope everyone stays safe and warm in the upcoming winter months as we return to focus on quality schooling time with our equine partners. Farewell for now.

Warm regards,  
Judy Nordstrom

President of CLD

**2023**

More info on all events  
online at  
[centerlinedressage.com](https://centerlinedressage.com/calendar)  
[/calendar](https://centerlinedressage.com/calendar)

# USDF Nationals

*by Chynna Gillman*

Let me start with the backstory on my road to riding at the US Finals. In 2020 I had my first born son, quitting my office job to stay at home and start my path to getting back into horses full time. I had a round pen in my back yard and a couple clients I would be riding for and teaching. While on a camping trip I had seen a Facebook post from my now boss, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, looking for an assistant trainer. I had ridden with Kate and Martin in my late teens and had always followed their careers. Working for them was something I dreamt about but never thought I would be good enough to do. I mentioned the post to my husband on our weekend trip. He told me to apply. He was tired of watching me burn circles on our farm, full of nervous energy and more drive than I know what to do with most days.

In my first year and a half with Kate and Martin, I earned my USDF bronze and silver medals in record time. I had not been in the show ring for over ten years prior to starting with them. In April of 2022 I was able to earn my silver medal in one weekend on a client's horse named Madrono. Later in the summer Pinky Noll, Madrono's owner, offered me to ride in a couple clinics with Olympic medalist Cindy Ishoy. I was tickled at the opportunity. Pinky soon offered me to show Madrono in the open division at US Finals to (fingers crossed) earn my gold scores at Intermediare I. I was flabbergasted and, of course, accepted. The months leading up to Finals I was like a giddy school girl shopping for the flawless outfit and trying to execute the perfect body clip.

Another client and dear adopted barn mom, Pat McVary, offered to go with me on the long road trip as my emotional support and dedicated travel expert. She had been to Finals before and knew the layout. The entire drive had zero silence in the truck as I nervously chatted her ear off about my goals and ambitions, my hopes and dreams for the weekend. I found myself constantly glancing at her GPS as the miles ticked down to Lexington.

Pulling into the Kentucky Horse Park, I felt like I was truly in a dream. Perfectly groomed horses, numbers on their



The author aboard Pinky Noll's Madroño XXXVI at the 2022 USDF Nationals.

*(photo by Susan J Stickle Photography)*

bridles and halters, in every direction. I was absolutely in awe, and about to throw up my turkey sandwich which Pat had pre-made for our drive. (Anyone who knows me, knows it is mandatory for me to eat every two hours or I will quickly turn into the devil herself.) Once unloaded, I headed to school in the arena with Kate. At this point I was confident in knowing Madrono's quirks. We had built a special bond during our time together. I hand walked him along a black painted wood fence to three open rings with several horses already schooling. As soon as my leg swung over his back, I was in full game mode. We had an excellent school. I really felt like I was able to channel my nervous energy to work to our advantage. Every half halt came through. He was powering up underneath me.

We had a marvelous dinner with our barn family. I managed to get a good night's sleep even with my show nerves building. My ride time was 9:30 AM. I was happy to not have to wait around all day twiddling my thumbs. My normal work day usually involves riding 5-7 horses and teaching, so riding one is like a mini vacation. In this case less work also means too much energy for me. I knew the test inside and out, going over it that morning would only give me room to

# USDF Nationals

...continued

question myself. I forced down some oatmeal and coffee as we chatted on our way to the Horse Park. Pat could feel the nerves pouring out of my body as I paced back and forth by the stall trying to busy myself. She came up with an excuse to leave me alone so I could get myself under control. Several trips to the bathroom and tears welling in my eyes, I put on my show clothes. I was a ball of energy that couldn't be controlled. The moment I grabbed the bridle and began to take off Madrono's halter, I started to settle. There is something so calming in the routine of the little things we do to prepare to get on, cavesson, curb chain, throatlatch, it's game time. I mounted by the stall and rode Madrono to the arena this time. Kate was already there waiting for me. I couldn't even bring myself to say good morning.

I blurted out, "I'm worried about getting the balance in the trot to keep him from running." She smiled and just started schooling me. I entered the arena with one goal, a clean test. Of course, I wanted that 60% but I had never shown at this level at a venue of such magnitude. I didn't want to disappoint myself or my barn family. It was perfect weather, 60 degrees, sunny.

The place was full of smiles and nervous competitors and horses. I rode a clean test, the trot work... we were running. The balance could have been better. There were several moments I knew he got low in the poll and the walk was lacking clarity. The canter work was my highlight, perfectly timed tempis, balanced pirouettes and hey, I did it! I looked up on the screen as I walked out smiling and panting trying to catch my breath to a 64%. I was so proud of the little white unicorn underneath me. I already knew what I needed to improve the next day.

I watched the video from my ride ad nauseum that night. Not in an overly critical way, but what can I do to bring out our best. The trot work, it was clear. Drive the hind leg under my seat bones and take off the safety susan gloves. In true Finals form, it was cold and pouring rain the next morning, far from the perfect weather we had the previous day. When I got on it was all business, I was determined to put my leg on and give that test hell. Halfway through the warm up, in a nearly empty arena, my hands were slipping on the reins from the soaking rain and sweat. Before walking up to the competition ring, I changed gloves in hope for a little extra friction. I went into the ring on fire. If it meant mistakes, I didn't care, I was going to give 100% on every stride. The trot work was much improved. I nailed the canter work for a second day in a row. The barn family, troopers that they are, all stood in the cold rain to cheer me on. I gave my final salute and knew even if the score didn't reflect improvement with a new judge, I had truly gotten better than the day before. Walking out I could hear Kate yelling and pumping her fist in the air as she drove away on the golf cart. I turned around to see 67% on the board. Bring on the tears, I couldn't believe it. The little unicorn had given me his heart in the ring, everything I asked for, he provided.

I got to spend the rest of the day soaking in our other teammates' rides, and watching Cindy Ishoy coach my biggest idols, Kate and Martin. I gloried in every word, sound and sight around me. That night Pat and I took some drinks and our dinner to watch the Grand Prix in the Alltech Arena and dream of where we all hope to



The author aboard Pinky Noll's Madroño XXXVI at the 2022 USDF Nationals.

(photo by StarWest)

# USDF Nationals

*....concluded*

end up. While watching one beautiful horse after another, a tall black mare came into the ring showing at Intermediare II in the AA division. I couldn't take my eyes off of her sleek, modern type. Immediately I thought ,this was my kind of horse. When I looked up at the screen I noticed the horse's name, she is a half sister to my coming three-year-old Dutch filly Kate had helped me pick out as my future horse.

I have been extremely fortunate in my horse journey. My parents were both horse trainers themselves. They ran a successful breeding program and started horses to saddle. Growing up they gave me every opportunity they could to sit my fearless tail on any horse I could get my hungry hands on. When they decided to start different career paths I was heartbroken going from having 30 horses at my fingertips down to a handful at home. They dropped me off with Paula Briney, who took me under her wing for many years and got me started in the world of dressage. Through high school and college, she led me down the addicting path of dressage and its principles. She helped me with a homebred colt I had started and raised myself. I eventually showed and sold him to be able to afford two separate internships with Jan Ebeling in California.



The author aboard Pinky Noll's Madroño XXXVI at the 2022 USDF Nationals.  
(photo by Susan J Stickle Photography)

It was my first and most certainly not my last time at Finals, the dream I have always had and worked towards since I was a little girl riding delinquent ponies. The experience was all I had hoped for, I don't know what this coming year holds, but I plan on finding my way back to that beautiful place for many years to come.

# Merry Christmas

*by Alice Martin*

Merry Christmas, All! This green pony was made by Terri Flenniken mother of CLD member and former officer Kelly Griffith.

Kelly says, "My mom made it for me a few years ago because I mentioned how much I liked one she saw on FaceBook. This was the first one she made and I love it. It hangs every holiday season in our living room."



# 2022 Annual Centerline Dressage Awards Banquet

*by Paige Burdette*

My husband Dan and I attended the annual CLD Awards Banquet held on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the lovely Panther Creek Country Club in Springfield, IL. Theresa Smith and Theresa Litchfield were manning the check in table and gave everyone a warm welcome at the door.

The banquet facilities were very nice with plenty of room for attendees to mingle, visit the bar and enjoy dinner. I had steak and my husband had chicken. Our food was excellent, and we didn't hear anyone complain. A big thank you was given to Judy and Rob Nordstrom for hosting our group there.



2022 marked the 50 year anniversary of our GMO and that fact was highlighted with a beautifully decorated cake for dessert and commemorative coffee cups for all members. The 50th anniversary is really what prompted my husband and I to attend the banquet.

I joined CLD in 1995 when I showed at my first rated dressage show on my Thoroughbred gelding Mites Native. There was a lapse in my membership when I moved to Europe with my first husband and had our 2 boys while living in Switzerland. I am really not sure when I first renewed my membership, probably sometime around 2012. I was quite active showing with my imported German Riding Pony stallion Champion's Devito and then my gelding Baroque after Champ's passing. Although I maintained my CLD membership, I had a big break from showing from 2017 - 2021. I remarried and my new husband Dan and I have built a new horse barn, indoor arena, and house. This year I was able to get back into the showing. Baroque showed at first and second level rated shows and my young horse, Champion's Denali, showed training and first level at a couple of schooling shows.



Debbie Bonner announced the numerous award categories and their winners. Chantae Erickson did a great job as Awards Chair this year. A variety of monogrammed prizes were handed out including gym bags, stainless steel coffee tumblers, fleece headbands and towels. All the winners in attendance were photographed with their awards courtesy of Martin Kuhn.

This years awards banquet was well organized, efficiently conducted and enjoyed by all. I think we are all looking forward to participating in CLD events next year, including the CenterLine Dressage Classic I and II, a rated show, coming back to the Illinois State Fairgrounds in 2023. Good luck to everyone and we'll see you at the next Awards Banquet!

More  
banquet  
photos can be  
found soon on the  
CLD website

## Simpsons Honored

*by Alice Martin*

John and Nancy Simpson started their show management career managing the CLD IceBreaker schooling shows at StarWest, the first dressage competition in the Springfield area, in the late 1970's.

Past CLD President Teresa Litchfield, left, John Simpson, and incoming President Judy Nordstrom back the framed collage of Saddlebred horses and pictures including the Illinois state fairgrounds. Long a fan and past owner of American Saddlebreds, John appreciated the gift honoring his many years of managing the CenterLine Classic, originally a one day show at StarWest, now a two-day show at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. As John could not attend this year's Awards Banquet, Judy and Teresa delivered the print to John's home.



Teresa Litchfield showing the framed collage at the 2022 Award's Banquet.



# June 20, 2022 CLD Executive Board Meeting Minutes

President Teresa Litchfield called the 'virtual' meeting to order at 7:06pm. Attendees included John Simpson, Leslie Burket, Judy Nordstrom, Theresa Smith, Alice Martin, Tae Erickson and Teresa Litchfield.

A warm welcome to all!

## Membership Report

- Teresa Smith reports that we have 50 members! Let's keep that number growing as we Welcome our new members!

## Treasurer's Report - Katie Keim

- Checking \$3,027.54
- Savings \$24,035.64
- Year to date Loss (\$2,363.08)

## Classic Shows

- Classic Shows will be back next year! Get Ready and Mark your Calendars! ! ! !

## Schooling Shows

- Firecracker Show is holding the dates for 2023.
- Will warm up in Arena 14 and the classes will be in the covered arena.
- John - To confirm, the April Show is the 22nd and 23rd of 2023.
- Teresa reports that we need volunteers for the FireCracker show.
- Paula Briney will bring, and set up, the arena.
- We should have enough kids for runners and office help.
- Who is scribing? Kim Dresch for Saturday and Judy Nordstrom for Sunday.
- Who is ring steward? Tae Erickson said she would steward on Saturday. Still need someone for Sunday.
- We will modify the 'class' format this year to separate classes by division, reducing any confusion as to which is the correct class for the riders.
- Who are judges? Sat judge is Lisa Holderle and Sunday judge is Lydia Gray.
- It has been decided to address the 'Virtual show' options as we move into next year.

## Miscellaneous

- Show Manager Position - John lead the discussion as to how we select our Show Manager. Previously, Teresa was going to assume this position but is still working to secure the required education.
- John explained that Teresa would have to do 2 Level 1 or 2 shows to meet the USEF requirements. Teresa said that she would not be able to do so before Classic and suggested we run Classic as a Level 2 show.
- What was the quorum/vote for IceBreaker? The vote was to hold ICEBREAKER IN 2023 with Arab Inc again. Leslie moved and Alice 2nd. It passed. Magic!
- This is the 50th Anniversary date for Centerline Dressage! What a grand achievement for Centerline Dressage! A variety of suggestions are already on the table for future discussion as to how we want to celebrate this amazing event and all we have accomplished! More to come! The date for this event will be November 5th.
- It's almost time to vote so let's get some discussion going! Ballots will be available by Oct. 10th 2022. Make sure you vote and keep CLD strong and healthy!
- Alice Martin, Editor of 'The Reader', is accepting articles, for the The Reader. Please send all newsletter information (articles, pictures, stories, etc) to her. Look for the Reader in your email box soon!
- Teresa closed our meeting with the announcement that she will be retiring at the end of her term. Our President has done a wonderful job supporting and holding the group together! She will be missed!

Our next Board Meeting will be August 15th at 7pm. \* Motion to adjourn was made by Leslie and seconded by Alice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Burket

## August 15, 2022 CLD Executive Board Meeting Minutes

President Teresa Litchfield called the virtual meeting to order at 7:08p. Attendees included Leslie Burket, Marilyn Weber, Chantae Erickson, and Teresa Litchfield.

Meeting attendance did not meet required numbers to make quorum. Therefore, we were unable to conduct official business.

First on the Agenda is the announcement of our 50th Year Anniversary for the CLD Dressage Club! This is a huge milestone. Plans are to do something special at the Awards Banquet.

### Awards

- Tae Erickson, Awards Chair, is working on year end awards and maybe something special for our 50th. Any suggestions please pass on to Tae.

### Miscellaneous

- Teresa confirmed that we have the fairgrounds for Classic I & II, 2023.

- Slate of Officers for next year needs to be established.
- Kate Fleming Kuhn, as Symposium Chair, wishes to not seek re-election.
- Board members up for re-election are: John Simpson, Marilyn Weber and Tae Erickson. We will also need to elect our 2023 officers. If you know of anyone who might like to hold an office, let Teresa know.
- Ballots will be available by Oct. 1st 2022 and will be published in the newsletter. Martin has volunteered to secure two judges for this show. Feelers are out for a Show Manager.

Our next board meeting will be September 19th at 7pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Marilyn and seconded by Leslie.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Burket

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## September 19, 2022 CLD Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Vice President Judy Nordstrom called the virtual meeting to order at 7:13p. Board Members present were John Simpson, Alice Martin, Leslie Burket, Theresa Smith, Chantae Erickson, Marilyn Weber. Teresa Litchfield and Martin Kuhn joined later. Other members attending were Paula Briney, Sally Briney, Debbie Bonner, Helena Rosse and Susan Rosse.

### Membership Report

Theresa Smith reported our current membership is 55 members. She talked to quite a few people at the Towerhill show about becoming a member of CLD.

### Classic Show for 2023

- The show dates will be June 24th and 25th, 2023 at the Illinois State Fair Grounds.
- John Simpson was asked to secure the judges and TD for Classic 2023.

- Judy confirmed the dates. She also told John that the fairgrounds was reserved and the licenses were confirmed.

### Ballots

Ballots must be ready and distributed by October 1st, 2023. Martin will include the ballot in the newsletter. Names on the ballots are: John Simpson, Paula Briney, Marilyn Weber and Chantae Erickson.

### Awards

- Judy asked Tae for an update on year end awards and the special gift for members attending the awards banquet in celebration of our 50th anniversary.
- Tae thought about socks or headbands. Other suggestions were brushes, medals, chairs, garment bags, helmet bags, and ornaments. Leslie has a friend that makes medals for any occasion, if that is something we would like.



# September 19, 2022 CLD Executive Board Meeting Minutes

## Awards

- Tae really needs a budget set so she can move forward with these gifts. Theresa Smith motioned that we set a budget to not exceed \$1,000 for the gifts. Tae seconded and the motion was passed.
- One other concern was that the Western Dressage Awards need to be Western not English. Tae asked for suggestions be emailed to her.

## 2023 Shows

As it stands, our Icebreaker Schooling Show will be run with Arab, Inc again. This show will be at the Fairgrounds.

Our second Schooling Show, Firecracker, will be held at Towerhill with Helena Rosse as Manger.

Classic I & II ( rated shows) will be held at the Fairgrounds.

## Miscellaneous

Judy asked Teresa L to clarify her position on her resigning. Teresa stated that she no longer wants to be President and that she would be fine staying on the board until her term is up. This would give the board more time to replace her.

This started a lengthy discussion on the bylaws and how and who is a Director and who is able to vote, etc. In the end we will continue doing our board of directors and voting privilege as we have in the past years. However it was decided that the bylaws need to updated for next year.

Martin moved and Judy seconded - the meeting was adjourned at 8:17p

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Burket

## USDF News Release on Monday, November 13, 2022

Martin Kuhn was the only man to pick up a championship title on a day otherwise filled with girl power. He piloted Ronin, his wife Kathryn Fleming-Kuhn's nine-year old gelding by Blue Hors Romanov, to 75.784% - bolstered by a high score of 77.647% from the judge at C. Ronin was bred by Marcia Boeing, and he's been with the Kuhns since he was a two-year-old. The pair shone in a strong class of 23 in which the top eight all achieved over 70%.

"He was with me every step of the way, which hasn't historically always been the case," said Kuhn, who is based out of Springfield, Illinois. "He has struggled with confidence but he's coming into his own now. I just wanted him to have the best possible experience.

"It's always fun here. There are very few shows where we get to see our friends from all over the country, and there's good camaraderie," added Kuhn, whose pre-show training paid dividends. "We were very fortunate to have [Canadian Olympian] Cindy Ishoy come to coach us, and we credit her with a lot of the successes here, as well as our long-time coach and mentor, Gerhard Politz."



Martin Kuhn and Ronin claim the Open Prix St. Georges title with 75.784%. at the 2022 USDF Nationals.

(photo by Susan J Stickle Photography)

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Martin Kuhn and Ronin claim the Open Prix St. Georges title with 75.784%. at the 2022 USDF Nationals.

*(photo by Susan J Stickle Photography)*



CenterLine Dressage

## CenterLine Dressage New Member & Renewal Form

(Membership year is December 1 through November 30)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USDF #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USDF #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date for Youth Members (21 & Under): \_\_\_\_\_

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Renewal:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Member:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reader Preference		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paper Copy:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Digital Copy:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership Type	Details	Totals
Individual Membership	<p>\$50</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form <a href="http://centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form">centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form</a>)</p>	\$ _____
Junior Membership (21 & under)	<p>\$30</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form <a href="http://centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form">centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form</a>)</p>	\$ _____
Family Membership	<p>\$70</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 2 Votes, 2 USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form <a href="http://centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form">centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form</a>)</p>	\$ _____
<b>Total Dues:</b>		\$ _____

**Please send to:**

Theresa Jones Smith  
CLD Membership Secretary  
[membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com](mailto:membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com)  
1924 E. Sangamon Ave.  
Springfield IL 62702

Revised: 12.26.22

# DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 1st of the month. Items for THE READER, activity forms, ads, etc should be sent with a check for the charges, if any, to:

THE READER  
c/o Alice Martin  
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.  
New Berlin, IL 62670

CenterLine Dressage