

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION®

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Dear Members,

The New Year is here with a promising future, full of love, hope, successes, and good health to all. 2020 was a challenging year, but those challenges brought us new opportunities to learn and grow. New friendships were developed and our western dressage family grew. I would like to say thank you to all of our 2020 sponsors and supporters of Western Dressage Association of Michigan: our double diamond sponsor, Sunrise Equestrian Sports; our diamond sponsor, Lazy S Ranch Equine Learning Center; our Silver Sponsors Kristen Kill, Erin Rhea Rodrigues, Joann Williams, Brian MacMahon, and Dressage Sport Boots; and to our Bronze sponsors Dennis Kaser Painting, Betsy Van Dyke, and Spring Moon Equestrian Center. I extend an especially big thank you to Kristen Kill and Jennifer Sigety for their outstanding job of managing the WDAMI Boss show and their dedicated hours to WDAMI and to our WDAMI Board members, Secretary Joanne Coy, Treasurer & President's Secretary Carol Baldwin, Vice-President Sue Hughes, and Trustees Kim Nobel, Mary Lynn Zylstra, Rachel Belcher, Dorothy Mueller, and Diane Kaser. To each of these wonderful colleagues, thank you for your invaluable service. And, finally, a special thank you to all our members for their support of Western Dressage. Onward and forward we go. Here we come 2021....

In the news on the state level, the WDAMI Year-end Banquet will be held as a Zoom "virtual" event on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 6 P.M. I will be sending an email letter out in a couple weeks with more details on how to participate in that virtual meeting. Please join us as we celebrate our members' accomplishments with their equine partners for 2020. Note: If you have signed up for your year-end awards, please send me a photo of you and your horse. (Even if you did not sign up for the awards, we would still love to have a picture of you and your partner.)

Michigan's first USEF Lite shows are planned for 2021. Wyn Farm is planning on hosting two and perhaps as many as three USEF/WDAA Lite shows this year and Sunrise Equestrian Sports in northern Michigan is hoping to do one. This is exciting news for those who show and who are signed up for the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards program as this will mean double points for those events. I will have more information on these shows next month once the details have been finalized.



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There are some changes to the WDAMI awards program for 2021. Our virtual Year-End Awards will now require 5 tests from 3 different judges and 3 different shows just like our regular non-virtual Year-End Awards. The Rider Achievement Awards Program is being renamed as the WDAMI Hour Milestone Award. The Achievement Certificates Program, both virtual and non-virtual, will only require 2 shows, 2 judges, and 3 test scores (instead of the old requirement of 3 shows and 3 different judges) and we have also eliminated the requirement of one test having to be the highest test at that Level.

In national news, WDAA is planning to hold their own virtual show in June. WDAA has also announced that, riders who wish to compete in this year's World Championship Show in the fall will have to qualify by competing in a WDAA recognized show (either virtual or non-virtual) unless they competed at last year's virtual World Show.

Our quote of the month comes from Dr. Thomas Ritter: "Misunderstandings and mistakes that happen to the horse can become the basis for new discussions, since they provide the rider with opportunity to explain certain things to the horse in more detail, which deepens the relationship between horse and rider."

WDAMI is looking for sponsors for our year-end awards and educational events. If you would like to help by sponsoring or by helping us to find sponsors, please contact us by email at infowdami@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer or offer other services we need, please contact us. We can always use the help. Please don't forget to renew your 2020 membership: <https://www.wdami.org/membership/>.

Thank you for your support. Be safe, have fun, enjoy your equine partner and exercise the act of kindness to all. Until next time.

Suzanne Morisse
President of WDAMI



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