

Dear WDAMI Members,

March Letter

Our Western Dressage Association of Michigan Year-End Awards Zoom Ceremony was a big hit. A big thank you to Jen Sigety for her creative awards slide presentation for the Ceremony. The WDAMI Year-End Awards Ceremony opened with a prayer by Bob Kill, followed by a short welcoming speech from me as our President. Michelle Lightcap shared her journey into the world of Western Dressage. Jen Sigety and Kristin Kill presented the awards slide show with their witty and charming enthusiasm. What a fun it was!

Rider Medals winners were Stephanie Mussmann, Michelle Lightcap, Sue Schmitz, Kristin Kill, Denise Gimmarro, and me. Non-Virtual Year-End Awards and High Percentage Individual Rides winners were Kristin Kill, Kimberly Wahl, Nicole Fuller, Danielle Fuller, Kerri Damm-Bilyk, Sarah George and Kelly Clevenger. An Achievement Certificate was awarded to Kerri Damm-Bilyk and a Para Equestrian Certificate to Nicole Fuller. A Rescue Horse Certificate went to Violet O'Dell's horse, Haidas Genuine Doc. Eighties Club Certificate winners were me and Michelle Lightcap. WDAMI Hour Milestone Award winners were Kerri-Damm-Bilyk, Mary Linton, Sue Schmitz, Julana Schaub, Karen Wilson, Violet O'Dell, and Pam DeHaan. Virtual Year End Awards and High Percentage Individual Ride Award winners were Graceanne Winegard, Kimberly Wahl, Danielle Fuller, Jodi Myers, McKenzie McPhail, Kristin Kill, Mary Linton, Denise Gimmarro, Sue Schmitz, Violet O'Dell, Pamela DeHann, Kelly Clevenger, Jamie Shook, Joanne Coy, Stephanie Mussmann, Michelle Lightcap, Paris Be'Dell, Jen Sigety, and myself. Freestyle Virtual winners were Stephanie Mussmann and Denise Gimmarro. Congratulations to all our awards winners. For a more detailed list please visit our website at www.wdami.org.

WDAMI news: Wyn Farm is hosting WDAA/USEF Lite Shows on May 23 and 24, June 12 and 13, July 10 and 11, and on August 28 and 29. WDAMI will also be hosting three online WDAA recognized shows this year: (1) *Dressage at Water Edge*, entries open April 23 -May 7, video submission will be open until 21; (2) *Sunflower Horse Show*, entries open June 11-25, video submission is open until July 9; and (3) our second annual *WDAMI Boss Show* will be open for entries July 21- August 16 with lots of great prizes. Video submissions for the Boss Show will be open until August 31. For more information, please check out <https://www.sportlighthorseshows.com>.

WDAA News: New tests will be coming out in 2022, including a newly added Level 5. There will also be a new version of Material for the Learning Management System, a members-only video education portal with over 200 videos including judge's comments. The Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program will be expanded to include the new Level 5. WDAA will be offering two shows this year. The 2021 Western Dressage Championship Show from September 29 to Oct 3 and the WDAA Western Dressage International Challenge Online Show from May 24, 2021 to June 18.

Our quote of the month comes from Dr. Thomas Ritter: "The rein contact must not end in the rider's hand. Instead, it should originate in the core muscles so that there is a connection

between the hindleg through the rider's seat to the bit. The hand is neither a starting point, nor an end point. But rather a link in a chain."

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 service's we need, please contact us. We can always use the help. Please don't forget to renew your 2021 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