

# Piaffe & Passage

VADA/NOVA, Inc. Newsletter

February 2019

Volume 48 Issue 2

He who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.

~Aeschylus

Gaining wisdom by working toward the achievement of a great endeavor entails great sacrifice. It is not often that fortune falls upon us without cost. What do we sacrifice to achieve our goals? Family? Friends? Time that could have been spent cultivating relationships? Career advancement? Vacations? Cultural activities? Other sports or hobbies? Money? Organized homes with manicured lawns?

Most of us relinquish our privilege to many things in order to achieve our goals – especially if one of our largest goals is successfully competing in the sport of dressage. With each day that we wake, there is a finite amount of sand in our respective hourglasses, and each day gravity pulls that sand downward. While the sand falls, we laboriously climb. We strive to reach high peaks while external forces oppose us. We shiver in the winter cold and sweat in the summer heat. We listen to the advice of others, yet we create silent moments during which rely solely upon ourselves. We negotiate dichotomy. We quickly learn that dressage is not an “instant gratification” endeavor that can be quickly obtained by purchasing a one-way ticket to a specific destination. Our journeys take a myriad of unique twists and turns, and we learn to navigate the lengthy and sometimes painful pathway with patience and perseverance.

To some degree, we suffer to gain wisdom. It’s a rare individual who has never looked back upon time spent in pursuit of a serious goal and not regretted a few of the sacrifices made along the pathway toward achievement. This sense of regret can be exacerbated by occasions on which we become fruitlessly stuck on a plateau, remaining static and seemingly not moving forward. With every day that dawns, however, we have a choice. There are days that we want to turn our attention to everything that we’ve neglected in an attempt to make all else better and ignore the riding which frustrates us and perhaps even makes us feel inadequate. These emotions are most pervasive when we are perched on the cold north face of our rockiest, most punishing mountain. But on the days that our goals seem hopelessly unattainable, we examine our circumstances and find our strength. We consider where we’d go, what we’d do, and how we’d feel if we gave up. We realize that quitting is the most assured pathway toward failing to succeed. We choose to continue climbing. We reach a penultimate point, or perhaps we even go so far as to summit a rugged mountain. We look back and view how far we have journeyed. Through our suffering we have ascended. We have persevered, gained experience, and become more empowered. We continue our journey toward the next peak. Beyond our frustration, beyond our despair, and perhaps even “against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God”.

By Carol Thomas

## Volunteer Opportunities

February 24th- Banquet NEW DATE!!

For Auction Items and Raffle Baskets,  
contact Mary Callan  
For Tickets,  
contact Megan Carpenter  
And see our website!  
[www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org)

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NEW BANQUET DATE, still time to RSVP  
Judge’s Roundtable Information  
March Fix-A-Test Clinic Information  
Schooling Show Information  
2019 Calendar

## This Month

10- Mitchell Dressage, Catlett  
10- VADA Banquet, Charlottesville  
11- Board Meeting, Morven Park  
24- VADA/NOVA Banquet  
River Creek Country Club

# VADA/NOVA Board Members

Mary Callan  
mcallan@vadanova.org  
703-966-9357

Judy Grass  
jgrass@vadanova.org  
703-620-4923

Michelle Lachner  
mlachner1@gmail.com  
540-851-2799

Nancy Stover  
stovnan@aol.com  
703-860-9187

Diann Carpenter  
dcarpenter@vadanova.org  
540-216-6528

Anne Harrington  
aharrington@vadanova.org  
703-599-7696

Diann Landau  
dlandau@vadanova.org  
703-727-2507

Sally Summerall  
ssummerall@vadanova.org  
540-905-2154

Megan Carpenter  
mcarpenter@vadanova.org  
540-394-1574

Dilly Jackson  
cjackson@vadanova.org  
304-283-6959

Lisa Rice  
lrice@vadanova.org  
703-314-7461

Carol Thomas  
CarolThomasVA@gmail.com  
703-966-4349

Jessie Ginsburg  
sardburg@aol.com  
703-927-8270

Sheli King  
mking@vadanova.org  
703-868-9062

Rachel Rice  
rrice@vadanova.org  
703-887-0507

Tiffany Turley  
tturley@vadanova.org  
703-599-4876

## Officers

President	Diann Carpenter
Vice President	Anne Harrington
Secretary	Megan Carpenter
Treasurer	Carolyn "Dilly" Jackson

## Websites to check out

VADA/NOVA [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org)  
VADA State [www.virginiadressage.org](http://www.virginiadressage.org)  
Region 1 [www.USDFREG1.org](http://www.USDFREG1.org)

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Full Page Ad (10 x 7.5)	\$75/month	\$720/ full year

Make checks payable to VADA/Nova, Inc. Please type or print clearly if you don't have email, and submit no more than two ads at a time. If submitting electronically, files should be in PDF format. Ads must be print ready, and copy should be black on white paper (embossed business cards and colored ink are discouraged). If your ad is not print-ready, there will be a charge of \$20 for redesign. All submissions must be received by the 20th of the month.

Send submissions to : Rachel Rice  
1937 Winterport Cl. [rrice@vadanova.org](mailto:rrice@vadanova.org)  
Reston, VA 20191 703-887-0507

## VADA Nova Meeting Minutes January 14, 2019

### Board Business

a. 2019 Officers have been selected and started with the January Meeting. President: Diann Carpenter; Vice President: Anne Harrington; Treasurer: Carolyn (Dilly) Jackson; Secretary: Megan Carpenter

b. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report will be presented next month after accounting for large expenses from Ribbon orders, Newsletter printing, Annual Storage, Above and Beyond Awards, Year End Awards etc. The 1099 statements are in process and will go out on time by January 31st.

c. Meeting Minutes: With transition of secretary, the December meeting minutes will be finalized and submitted for approval in February along with the January minutes.

d. Newsletter: The board had a discussion on the newsletter, the schedule required to get it out in the first week of the month and providing more content to members. Content is due to Rachel Rice by 21 January, 2019 for February's Newsletter.

### 2019/2020 Clinics

a. VADA/Nova is contracting Janet Sasson Edgette, Sports Psychologist, to conduct a clinic in 2020. The board discussed dates, preparing contracts, location, and held initial discussions on how the clinic will be organized. Mary Callan will lead the organization of this clinic and will propose March 7th 2020 with a snow date of March 8th 2020 to the clinician.

b. VADA/Nova is holding both a discussion and a Fix-a-Test March 22nd and 23rd, to introduce the revised USEF tests. The clinician is Jeanne McDonald for both events. The board discussed finalization of fees, numbers of riders, location for Friday evening (Best Western, Leesburg). Since the March Schooling show is being held on the 24th the Board will look into the possibility of overnight stabling for Fix-A-Test riders who are competing in the schooling show as well. The Board is processing the necessary paperwork to offer USDF University Credit as well as the L Program Continuing Education credit. Finalization of all details will be done in the next two weeks. The Rider application form will be available on the website in the next week. Anne Harrington is the point of contact for this clinic.

c. In conjunction with the Fix-A-Test event on March 23rd, VADA/Nova will hold a scribing clinic for those interested in learning to scribe for VADA/Nova schooling and licensed shows. Information is being finalized and will be posted along with the applications for riders and auditors in the next two

weeks. Diann Landau is the point of contact for this clinic.

d. The VADA/Nova Judges Round Table will be held March 4th at the Best Western in Leesburg from 7:00 to 9:30. All announcements for this event will make it clear that this will be open to all, not just Judges but RSVPs will be required so that we have a clear idea of numbers. Kathy Rowse is presenting this clinic and the focus will once again be on the new tests. The Board is processing the necessary paperwork to offer USDF University Credit as well as the L Program Continuing Education credit for this clinic. Registration and further information will be available in the next two weeks. Carolyn (Dilly) Jackson is the point of contact for this clinic.

**2019 Banquet:** The upcoming Banquet was discussed, and specifically given the weather from the previous weekend and the forecast for the coming weekend whether to rearrange the date. Diann Carpenter agreed to call River Creek Country Club to determine the best course of action and if possible reschedule. The Board did not want to wait until the last minute. UPDATE: The Banquet was postponed and will be held Sunday, February 24th from 5:30 at River Creek Country Club, Leesburg. Thank you for your understanding.

**2019 Committees:** Finally, the Board discussed committees for 2019. Initial committee assignments were made; committees must all meet and report back to the board on responsibilities, actions and upcoming needs. Further, VADA/Nova will publish committee email addresses so that members can get in touch with committees as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Carpenter

## VADA/NOVA Board Meetings

All VADA/NOVA Board of Directors' meetings are open to the general membership; the Board welcomes any visitors. The meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:15 PM at Morven Park International Equestrian Center (in the classroom next to the lounge) unless otherwise stated on the website. For directions, you may contact any of the Board members or go to our website at [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org) and click on "Shows" where you will find a link with directions to Morven Park.



**VADA/Nova Banquet**  
**Year End Awards, Volunteer Celebration and Silent Auction**  
 Sunday, January 20, 2019 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm  
 River Creek Country Club, Leesburg, VA

**New date!**  
**February 24th**  
**You still have time to**  
**RSVP!**

Chips and salsa will be followed by a choice of:

- Filet of Salmon with Warm Tropical Fruit Salsa & Roasted Corn Chipotle Sauce with Creamy Risotto and Asparagus
- Tuscan Chicken with Sautéed Tomatoes, Artichokes with Creamy Risotto and Asparagus\*
- Roasted Vegetable Jumbo Ravioli Filled with Roasted Eggplant, Onions, Carrots, Red Bell Peppers, Zucchini & Fresh Herbs topped with a Tomato Cream Sauce and Fresh Parmesan

\*Can be Gluten Free

The above meals include a House Salad with Herbed Croutons and Balsamic Vinaigrette, Warm Rolls & Butter, with a selection of Iced Tea, Coffee, Hot Tea

- Children's Menu for Children 12 and Under: Chicken Tenders, Fries, Fruit Cup

A dessert bar will follow dinner and consists of Chocolate Chip, Snickerdoodle, and Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, as well as Brownies and Lemon Bars

CASH BAR with both House and Premium Brands

Regular Entrees are \$45.00; Children's Menu is \$20.00. Children ordering the regular entrée options will pay the regular entrée fee of \$45.00. *Please note any special dietary needs below along with your selection.*

Name (list each person)	Selection (list each meal)	Cost (\$45.00/\$20.00)
<b>Total Attendees:</b>		<b>Total Cost: \$</b>

Please provide contact information in case we need to get in touch: (Primary POC, Phone, Email)

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Tables will seat up to 10. Please coordinate with your friends/family/stable mates on a consistent group name for seating purposes and provide that name below. Every effort will be made to honor your request.

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are mailing your reservation form, please send this form along with payment to:

**Megan Carpenter 17256 Creekside Green Place, Round Hill, VA 20141**

Payment Enclosed:

Check	
VADA/Nova Bucks	
Total Paid	

Make checks payable to VADA/Nova. Inc.

You can also pay online using PayPal! Please see [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org) for additional details on this service.

If you have questions please contact Megan Carpenter on 540.394.1574 / [megan.carpenter31@gmail.com](mailto:megan.carpenter31@gmail.com) or Diann Carpenter on 540.216.6528/ [diann.carpenter@icloud.com](mailto:diann.carpenter@icloud.com)

**To ensure your reservation please RSVP and pay all money due by January 14th, 2019**

## Congratulations To Heidi Berry

“I am going to stop if I pass this test.”

That was the promise Heidi Berry gave to her husband back in 1993 when she was completing the Learner Judge program. She made the same promise each time as she proceeded through the “r”, “R”, and “S” certification programs.

But Heidi loves to judge and always enjoys learning more and more about theory, rules and standards, techniques, and biomechanics.

In November she repeated, “I am going to stop if I pass this test” as she was headed to Stuttgart, Germany for her FEI 3\* examination. Her husband has learned not to believe her.

The FEI 3\* examination consists of four parts extending over four days. The exam was led by Dr. Dieter Schule (Germany) and Ghislain Fourage (Netherlands). These are two men in their 70's with many years of top-level dressage judging experience. The 14 candidates hailed from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, India, and the United States. Each person had to judge in English – the official language of the FEI.

On the first day, the candidates spent four grueling hours viewing and judging 140 previously recorded videos. The candidates had to judge out loud and were immediately evaluated by the two examiners. Each video clip showed a different horse and a different Grand Prix test movement (halt and move off, piaffe, passage, pirouettes, extended trot, zig zags, etc.) In turn, the candidates gave remarks and scored movements in front of the entire group.

As a child, Heidi's father had told her that the best students always sit in the front row. She did so and immediately realized that, as a result, she would be the first candidate to judge out loud. Pressure.

On the first evening, the German Federation hosted a dinner for the FEI Judge candidates and Heidi was able to get to know the others candidates better. She says the group is very experienced and knowledgeable. To Heidi these are new friends and she will be happy to meet with any of them again in the future. During dinner, she notices Isabell Werth eating dinner at a nearby table. Heidi grabbed her phone and snuck a covert, almost in focus picture.

The next day, Friday, the group traveled to the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle the location for the 34th International Stuttgart German Masters Horse Show - a World Cup dressage qualifier for the Western European league. The candidates met their scribes. Each candidate judged 15 Grand Prix rides while seated high in the bleachers. The arena seats over 15,000 people.

In the late afternoon, the candidates took their one-hour written test that included essay questions and critical analyses of still photos. Detailing the strengths and weaknesses of rider and horse is pretty difficult from a still picture – especially when you know that the examiners are looking for something pretty specific.

On Saturday morning there were more GP tests and everyone used electronic headsets to judge out loud. Each candidate was critiqued by the two evaluators in front of the group. Later in the afternoon, the much anticipated GPFS competition was held and included some of the best riders and horses in the world. These included Isabell Werth and Bella Rose, Tinne Vilhelmsen and Don Auriello, Dorothee Schneider and Sammy Davis Jr., and Helen Langehanenberg and Damsey FRH.

Heidi admits that by Saturday afternoon she, and all the other candidates were worn down. The high-pressure situations, constant performance, and rapid responses to tough questions - exacerbated by the six-hour jetlag was taking its toll. All of the 14 candidates bonded under their common challenges and everyone supported and gladly encouraged each other.

On the final day – the dreaded and highly anticipated 20-minute private “interrogation” sessions started. Heidi was scheduled to go first on Sunday morning and she says it was a very anxious time in the hours leading up to the grilling. All 14 candidates were extremely nervous. None of them were completely confident of their fate. Even if everything had gone smoothly in the first three days, a poor performance in the interrogation could mean failure.

During the session, Heidi was asked questions like, “What is the difference between impulsion and cadence?” Some of the harder questions asked about how to handle complex situations that might arise during a test – situations where the right response is not necessarily straightforward. Heidi says that at the end of her session, the two examiners sat back in their chairs and were ominously quiet. Neither said anything. After what seemed like several minutes, Heidi nervously asked, “Did I Pass?” Their answer was short and sweet “Yes, Yes, fine, good” which came out “Ya, Ya, fine. Guut.” She got up, shook their hands, and asked if she could give them each a hug.

Each person came out of the interview with stories to tell of what questions they had and how they had been grilled. Another special bond was made as they laughed and enjoyed each other's stories.

Heidi will continue to sharpen her judging skills and hopes to use her new certification judging in other countries and at top-level shows in the USA. She also hopes to take on a few new students and appreciates the support she has received from people in her local VADA/NOVA Chapter. Heidi has been a member of VADA/NOVA since about 1985 and works out of her western Loudoun County “Kinsman Farm.”

Heidi can be reached at (540) 454-0851 or [heidi@kinsmanfarm.net](mailto:heidi@kinsmanfarm.net)

By Mary Callan



**VADA/Nova**  
**PRESENTS**  
**DRESSAGE FIX-A-TEST**  
**with**  
**JEANNE MCDONALD, FEI 4\*, USEF S Judge**

March 23, 2019  
Morven Park Equestrian Center, Leesburg, VA

This clinic is intended for:

- Riders preparing for the 2019 competition season, especially those showing USEF tests that were recently changed
- Auditors who want to be active participants in a clinic featuring one of our premier international and national judges (Members may practice their scribing skills during the clinic to brush up on skills for the new year)
- Members interested in earning USDF University credit

This set of events will feature an evening discussion with one of our premier international judges and a full day Fix-A-Test session. Riders will ride their test of choice and the clinician will discuss the test results with both the rider and the auditors before the rider re-rides the test.

The Saturday clinic will be followed by a VADA/Nova Schooling Show on March 24 at Morven Park, so don't miss this opportunity to polish your tests early in the competition year.

**WATCH OUR WEBSITE ([vadanova.org](http://vadanova.org)), FACEBOOK PAGE, AND NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILS, INCLUDING FEES AND RIDER APPLICATION**

## VADA Nova Scribing Clinic

Have you ever wondered what a judge sees or thinks as you come down the center line? Do you want to have a chance to listen and learn from some of the best judges in the country? Would you like to spend a day (or more) increasing your knowledge and training your eye for what is expected of horses and riders at all levels? Then become a scribe!

Spending a day in the company of a judge, writing their scores and listening to their comments is one of the best ways to educate yourself in what they look for when we enter the ring at "A". And for free! Each judge has their own approach to their job, but they all must look for the requirements of the tests. Learning to see what they see and then applying it to ones' own riding can be invaluable.

You also become an integral part of the show- scribing is one of the most crucial jobs at any show at any level. For both Dressage show and Horse Trials. You may get a chance to sit with one of the judges whose articles you've read in magazine, or whose video you may have watched for training tips. You may get a chance- when the opportunity arises- to discuss with them what they've seen in particular rides; most judges are happy to explain what they're looking for in the tests. All of which furthers your education.

I have been scribing for over 30 years, in several countries, and have learned many "tricks of the trade" that I will pass on to you. All you have to bring is something to write with and a clipboard- and a desire to learn how to become an invaluable volunteer at our shows. This clinic will be run in conjunction with the Fix-A-Test on Saturday March 23, 2019 at Morven Park.

If you are interested in attending this clinic, please contact me to sign up. I look forward to teaching you how to do a most important job in our sport!

Diann Landau  
cillardara@copper.net

### Looking for Baskets!

We are looking for Raffle Baskets  
for our annual Banquet

Themes include

Food baskets,

Animal baskets,

Location baskets

Anything you can think of!

So please take this opportunity to help  
VADA/Nova help you!

For any and all questions, or to arrange pickup  
if you are unable to attend!

Contact Mary Callan (703) 430-8838  
mcallan@vadanova.org

### Judge's Roundtable

With Kathy Rowse

Dressage trainer and Instructor

"S" Judge, USDF "L" Faculty

Auditors welcome!

Where: Best Wester, Leesburg

When: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

March 4, 2019

What: "L" continuing education eligible  
and USDF University credit available

Light refreshments provided

Reserve your spot today, just

RSVP to Dilly Jackson

mandrakefarm@gmail.com



## Anna Mitchell Dressage Summer Series

Shows held at:  
Southern Heritage Farm  
11176 Rogues Rd.  
Midland, VA 22728

Show Dates:            April 7th                            August 17th  
                                 May 19th                            September 22nd  
                                 June 23rd                            October 20th  
                                 July 20th

More information at [www.MitchellDS.com](http://www.MitchellDS.com)



## Homestead Farm Schooling Shows

Shows held at:  
Homestead Farm  
8382 Burwell Rd.  
Catlett, VA 20119

Show Dates:            April 28th  
                                 July 20th  
                                 September 22nd

More information at [www.HomesteadHorseFarm.com](http://www.HomesteadHorseFarm.com)





## VADA/NOVA Schooling Shows

Shows held at:  
Morven Park  
41793 Tutt Ln  
Leesburg, VA 20176

Show Dates:

March 24th  
August 3rd (and Chapter Challenge)  
November 2nd (and Championship)

Jen Moran "L"

Secretary: Debbie Marriott

13119 Pennypacker Ln. Fairfax, VA 22033  
marriottdq@aol.com

More information at [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org) and in our monthly newsletter, Piaffe & Passage.



## Anna Mitchell Dressage Winter Series

Shows held at:  
Vintage Valley Sporthorses  
11198 Brent Town Rd.  
Catlett, VA 20119

Show Dates:

February 10th  
March 10th

TBD  
Sherry Meier "L"

More information at [www.MitchellDS.com](http://www.MitchellDS.com)



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Northern Fauquier, and 703-943-0117  
Prince William [Ursulakarbermoore@gmail.com](mailto:Ursulakarbermoore@gmail.com)

January

13- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Vintage Valley Sport Horse*  
*www.mitchellds.com*

February

10- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Vintage Valley Sport Horse*  
*mitchellds.com*

10- VADA Banquet  
Pippen Hill Winery  
*viriniadressage.org*

24- **VADA/NOVA Banquet**  
**River Creek Country Club**  
**vadanova.org**

NEW DATE!  
RSVP TODAY!

March

23- **VADA/NOVA Clinic**  
**Morven Park**  
**vadanova.org**

24- **VADA/NOVA Spring Schow** SS  
**Morven Park**  
**vadanova.org**

April

6-7 **VADA/NOVA** LS  
**Morven Park**  
**vadanova.org**

7- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Southern Heritage Farm*  
*mitchellds.com*

28- *Homestead* SS  
*Homestead Horse Farm*  
*homesteadhorsefarm.com*

May

19- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Southern Heritage Farm*  
*mitchellds.com*

June

1- **VADA/NOVA Clinic**  
**Compass Rose Farm**  
**vadanova.org**

2- *Compass Rose* SS  
*Compass Rose Farm*  
*compassrosefarm.com*

7-9 **VADA/NOVA** LS  
**Morven Park**  
**vadanova.org**

23- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Southern Heritage Farm*  
*mitchellds.com*

July

20- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Southern Heritage Farm*  
*mitchellds.com*

20- *Homestead* SS  
*Homestead Horse Farm*  
*homesteadhorsefarm.com*

August

24-25 **VADA/NOVA** LS  
**Morven Park**  
**vadanova.org**

September

22- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Southern Heritage Farm*  
*mitchellds.com*

22- *Homestead* SS  
*Homestead Horse Farm*  
*homesteadhorsefarm.com*

October

5- *Compass Rose* SS  
*Compass Rose Farm*  
*compassrosefarm.com*

20- *Anna Mitchell Dressage* SS  
*Southern Heritage Farm*  
*mitchellds.com*

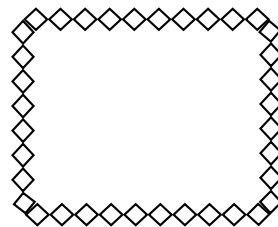
November

2- **VADA/NOVA Championship** SS  
**Morven Park**  
**vadanova.org**

Always check the web site: [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org) for any changes or corrections.

Key:  
LS= licensed show  
SS=schooling show  
**VADA/Nova sponsored activities are in bold print**  
*VADA/Nova Partner shows are in italics.*

**VADA/Nova Inc.  
Rachel Rice  
1937 Winterport Cl.  
Reston, VA 20191**



**FIRST CLASS  
MAIL**



VADA is a  
USDF Group Member Organization.  
Their members are automatically  
USDF Group Members.

Publication Deadline in *Piaffe & Passage*  
is the 20th of each month.

VADA/Nova website  
<http://www.vadanova.org>

Membership Applications should be sent to:  
Barbara Pickering  
PO Box 354  
Haymarket, VA 20168

For other questions or issues, please check our website