

# Piaffe & Passage

VADA/Nova, Inc. Newsletter

Fall 2023

Volume 52 Issue 3

It has been a busy year so far for VADA/Nova. Our June licensed show and our August schooling show were both very successful (read all about our August schooling show in this newsletter.) While our Summer Camp did not fill this year, we did a very quick pivot and pulled a rabbit out of the hat with a wonderful 2-day clinic with Jim Koford. More details will follow in the next newsletter on the clinic; for this edition we want to thank VN member Tiffany Catledge for donating her beautiful farm as our host location. This clinic was such a success that we plan on holding more of them in the future! This plan will start with a clinic in 2024 with FEI judge Debbie Rodriguez.

Looking forward, there is still more to come. Mark your calendars for the 2023 VADA/Nova Fall Open and Schooling Show Championship on Saturday November 4th. If you have not already done so, you can qualify for the Championship classes at one of our partner shows and of course, everyone can enter the open classes. Then there are the Region 1 Regional Championships hosted by VADA at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA on October 5- 8. Come show in this prestigious event or come cheer on your friends and while you are there, join in the fun by volunteering, as it certainly takes a village to run a show of this size. Finally, remember that year end packets must be received by December 1st, with no exceptions. We keep working to make the awards submission easier so look for updates on the process on our website [vadanova.org](http://vadanova.org).

Wishing everyone a wonderful autumn - one of the best times of the year to enjoy the gifts of nature and the best gift of all – our wonderful horses!

*Diann Carpenter*

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## VADA/NOVA IS HAPPY TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

*A big VADA/Nova welcome to all of our new members! We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events either as a competitor, volunteer, or just to support friends and family.*

Julianne Brownson  
Lindsay Lamken  
Amelia Lyon  
Amy Luyster  
Susan Hall  
Sandy Arnold  
Patricia Hutchinson  
Emily Nielsen  
Annemari Ingersoll  
Eileen Childs  
Sandra Brannock  
Melissa McDonald

Morgan Kearney  
Margaret Brabston  
Anne Hurwitz  
Jaclyn Sicoli  
Rita Pinkard  
Hannah McSween  
Megan DeMichele  
Abby DeMichele  
Berkley Gardner  
Barbara Herberich  
Janet Gallay  
Kristen Ortt

## VADA/Nova Board Member Contacts

## WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

**DIANN CARPENTER**  
PRESIDENT

**JUDITH GRASS**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**CAROL THOMAS**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**MICHELLE KING**  
SECRETARY

**LISA RICE**  
TREASURER

**MARY CALLAN**

**JESSIE GINSBURG**

**VERONICA GOGAN**

**ANNE HARRINGTON**

**LORI LAFAVE**

**RACHEL RICE**

**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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VADA/Nova's website has a whole new look! Have you visited it recently? Check it out at [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org).

- If you are looking for Year End Awards information, check under the **About Us Tab!**
- If you want to make a difference as a volunteer, make sure you log in as a member, then go to the **Volunteering Tab!**
- Looking for information on our Licensed Show? Make sure you visit our **Calendar Tab**, for complete information, click on the event you are interested in!



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**Chantal Wigan**  
Dressage

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- \* Indoor 215 x 90

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## ATTENTION *Aspiring Authors!*

VADA/Nova needs aspiring authors to submit content for our newsletter. We are calling on trainers, veterinarians, and horse owners to share their knowledge with fellow VN members in an article submitted to the newsletter. Authors of published articles will receive half a day of volunteer time and 5 VN bucks. What a great way to earn volunteer time for year-end awards. Articles can be one to two pages and pertinent photos are welcome.



Find VADA/Nova on Instagram  
at [@vadanova\\_dressage](https://www.instagram.com/vadanova_dressage)



# MID-WEEK MAY MEET HIGH SCORES



Marinne Campano and Burunda Harvey, photo by Kate Hall/Aster Equine

*Congratulations to our High Score Winners!*

AWARD	RIDER	HORSE	SCORE
Training	Brooke Waldron	<i>Principe</i>	66%
First	Annie Tice	<i>Finale CH</i>	67.78%
Second	Lauren Kimmel	<i>Fursten Rich HSR</i>	71.19%
Third	Susan Ralston	<i>Lady Stark</i>	72.63%
Fourth	Arianna Almeida	<i>Rhine Aflame</i>	66.45%
MFS Combined	Annie Tice	<i>Finale CH</i>	77.17%
PSG	Lauren Kimmel	<i>Olivir</i>	64.41%
FEI(I-1,I-A, I-B, I-2, GP)	Elizabeth Belack	<i>EAF Kidman</i>	61.62%
Jr/Yr	Kate Kuder	<i>Fiphi</i>	66.67%
AA	Susan Ralston	<i>Lady Stark</i>	72.63%
Open	Lauren Kimmel	<i>Fuersten Rich HSR</i>	71.19%
VADA/Nova Member – AA	Michelle Adamson	<i>A Taboo Question</i>	67.22%
VADA/Nova Member – Open	Arianna Almedia	<i>Rhein Aflame</i>	66.45%

# SUMMER DRESSAGE FESTIVAL HIGH SCORES



Photo by Janet Gallay

*Congratulations to our High Score Winners!*

AWARD	RIDER	HORSE	SCORE
Training	Kathryn Bennett	<i>Who's Your Daddy</i>	72.200%
First	Lisa Hall	<i>Secret Agent</i>	74.394%
Second	Cindy Anderson	<i>Canzonet</i>	68.974%
Third	Olivia LaGoy-Weltz	<i>Fakira</i>	73.625%
Fourth	Regan Walsh	<i>Hot Potatoe</i>	71.111%
MFS Combined	Kelly Rose	<i>Hinojosa CDF</i>	72.806%
FEI Combined	Emily Donaldson	<i>Beaujoulais 75</i>	70.000%
Para-Dressage	Shannon Duffey	<i>Pablos Protocol</i>	59.250%
VADA/Nova Member – AA	Kathryn Bennett	<i>Who's Your Daddy</i>	72.200%
VADA/Nova Member – Open	Patricia Hutchinson	<i>Rufano</i>	72.083%
VADA/Nova Member – JR/YR	Lucas Garvey	<i>Everest</i>	67.917%
GMO Team	Team VADA/Nova		68.348%





Photo by Kate Hall, Aster Equine



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

### *Lisa Rice, Show Manager*

Our August 5, 2023 Schooling Show at Morven Park was a rousing success, with 58 horses completing 83 tests in 2 rings. Angi Voss (r) and Julianne Brownson (L Grad) each sat at C for a full day, beginning at 8:00am and concluding around 3:30pm.

Another Turn Tack and Apparel in Purcellville, VA is one of our Volunteer Bucks Participating Vendors, and we were thrilled to have them sponsor some of our 1st place prizes; specifically for the Training, First and Second Level classes, as well as the Training – Fourth Level Test of Choice class. They generously donated \$20 gift certificates and horse treats for the winners of those classes and donated Another Turn Tack 10% off coupons to all competitors and volunteers. We truly appreciate their support of this show, and their continued support of VADA Nova.

The day started out a bit foggy at 6:00am, with no visibility from Barn 6 just above the Grand Prix arena (where we set up our “operations/show office”) to the competition and warm up rings. However, by the time the first horses trotted down the center lines in Rings 1 and 2 at 8:00am, the judges could clearly see the tests before them. For August, the temperatures and humidity were very reasonable, and we all enjoyed a comfortable summer day.

Show Secretary, Jon Krietz, did a stellar job from the show opening date through the show day. We were happy to welcome many riders on multiple horses, particularly our Eventing friends, who were getting in some dressage tune-ups before the arrival of the Fall Eventing season. Jon was cool as a cucumber as he helped all the riders juggle and navigate their entries, payments and ride schedules for this very busy show. Last minute scratches and ride time shuffling are par for the course with these shows, but Jon was able to figure out a solution for each of them. Thank you, Jon!



Jon Krietz, photo by Janet Gallay

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The warmup and competition rings were busy, busy, busy and we had volunteers Alyson Pinter and Beverly Dickerson in charge of keeping the chaos to a minimum and keeping the horses/riders flowing in line with the ride schedules. Additionally, they assisted Jon in setting and resetting Ring 2 for some of the Eventing tests that are required to be ridden in a 20m x 40m arena. Thank you, Alyson and Beverly!

I was particularly happy to have Rachel Rice and Lori LaFave volunteer as our scorers for this show. Though Lori had not had the opportunity to be a scorer before this show, it took no time at all for her to learn the “ropes”, especially with Rachel and her experience to help her along. Thank you, Rachel and Lori!

Our scribes for the day were Erin Fitzwater and Virginia LaRocque. Again, two very experienced volunteers who were there to help the judges stay on track and keep things flowing from the judges' boxes. Thank you, Erin and Virginia!

Our runners for the show, JoAnn Bercini and Cheryl Moore, split the day between them and kept those test sheets coming for the scorers. Additionally, we had Andrea Roberson help as a “floating” volunteer, and happily stepped in to help with running and keeping the hospitality area flush with snacks and drinks for show staff, volunteers, and competitors. The awards/ribbons were masterfully handled by our volunteers, Kathleen LeVasseur and

Carmel Wood. Both Kathleen and Carmel greeted the happy competitors with plenty of smiles and congratulations as they handed out tests, ribbons and prizes. Thank you, JoAnn, Cheryl, Andrea, Kathleen and Carmel!

The set-up crew on Friday the 4th of Sonya Hunt, Alyson Pinter, Amy York and Emily Collins settled right into what needed to be done and we had our show up and ready to go in record time. Many hands made light work! Thank you, Sonya, Alyson, Amy and Emily!

Big thanks as well to Abby Just, who got things rolling about an hour before the end of the show to help get everything packed up and loaded into the trucks for the trip back to storage. Rachel Rice assisted with take down as well, and we appreciated the extra help after a LONG day. Thank you, Abby and Rachel!

It does take a village to run our schooling shows and VADA/Nova couldn't do it without our members and volunteers. If you haven't yet volunteered at either one of our schooling or licensed shows, please consider doing so. It's great fun, you get to work with great people and you get a chance to see what it takes to make sure our competitors have a good experience. Volunteer opportunities for the rest of 2023 can be found on the VADA/Nova website [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org) under the Volunteer tab of the main menu. Check it out and we hope to see you soon! ■

## Congratulations to our August Schooling Show High Score Winners!

### HIGH SCORE VADA/NOVA MEMBER WINNER

Lisa DesRosiers    *San Bonita*    Training 3    69.2%

### OVERALL SHOW HIGH SCORE WINNER

Michael Alway    *Nocturne*    Training 3    71.2%

## Upcoming Events

### VADA/Nova 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER 4

#### FALL OPEN AND SCHOOLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP

Opens: 9/23/23 | Closes: 10/23/23

MORVEN PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER

JUDGE: ROBIN BIRK

#### DECEMBER 1

#### YEAR END AWARDS DEADLINE

*Each of these events have volunteer opportunities too!*



# Words of Wisdom

Dilly Jackson



***I've judged a schooling show each weekend this month. Schooling shows can be wild, jumping from test to test and intro to Grand Prix. Here are some observations:***

1. Be on time for your test. There are generally not warm up stewards at schooling shows, so you are responsible for being on time for your test.
2. Know your test or have it called to you. When you go off course and can't figure out where you went wrong or you go off course multiple times, you put us behind on the schedule.
3. Know the rules! If you have an error, it doesn't mean you leave the ring or you are eliminated. But if you do leave the ring, then you are eliminated! Knowing the rules and being comfortable if you make a mistake will save you a lot of headaches.
4. Know the dimensions of the ring. Making a 20 m circle on a horse is not easy, but if you don't even know where you're supposed to be, that it makes it a whole lot harder. Also, circles and serpentines do not have corners.
5. When you ride by the judge's booth, kindly tell the judge your number and confirm your test. No need to linger and chat, but if your number isn't on the side we can see, that makes it harder for us to confirm who you are.
6. When you ride by the judge's booth, do exactly that! Ride by! Don't stop and let your horse poke his nose into the judge's booth and blow horse boogies all over us and our stuff or knock over our drinks. That is absolutely rude!
7. Do not swear at the judge! Indeed... It actually happened to me this month.
8. Use your manners. If you don't have any, or if they are bad, fix that pronto! When we ask you a question, please don't respond with yeah or yup. A proper yes ma'am, thank you, please etc. will go a long way for a judge's good mood.
9. We are there to judge you against a set of standards that, I promise, we did not make up. We have put a lot of time and effort into our training, yes, even us L grads! Please respect that and know that we would love to give you great big scores, but you have to show us that you deserve great big scores!

The background of the bottom section is a collage of autumn leaves in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green) and a small inset photo showing several blue and pink ribbons and rosettes hanging on a display board. The text "Awards Season is Right Around the Corner!" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle of this section.

## Awards Season is Right Around the Corner!

Make sure to check out [www.vadanova.org/awards](http://www.vadanova.org/awards) to get the most recent information about the 2023 Year End Awards categories, requirements, and deadlines.

The Schooling Show Scoreboard is also available on the website.

AWARDS SCOREBOARD

Intro Level

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	Best 4 scores that meet the requirements			
										score 1	score 2	score 3	score 4
Claudia	Yates	AA	Red Redemption	Q	30.0	x	x	x	71.172	73.437	73.125	69.375	68.750
Charlotte	Benevento	AA	Mandy	Q	30.0	x	x	x	69.063	69.688	69.063	69.063	68.438
Jill	Widdifield	AA	Zurich	Q		x	x	x	68.594	69.063	69.063	68.750	67.500
Yulia	Datta	AA	Koidie	Q		x				70.250	66.250		
Kimberly	Godwin-Clark	Open	The Other Chad	Q						67.187	64.375		
Melissa	McDonald	AA	Opus One	Q						61.000			
Kathy	Nappi	AA	Breezy	Q		x				68.438	66.875		
Michelle	von Schmidt-Pauli	Open	Mailibu BBH	Q		x				58.750	57.813		
Caroline	York	AA	Poker Face	Q		x				70.625	70.312	68.750	

Training Level

Best 4 scores that meet the requirements													
Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	score 1	score 2	score 3	score 4
Kathleen	LeVasseur	AA	Aliea	Q	10.0	x	x	x	65.100	67.400	64.400	64.400	64.200
Andrea	Roberson	AA	Lucy (Empress Moon)	Q		x	x	x	62.790	66.724	63.200	61.034	60.200
Jennifer	Ashley	AA	Bella							66.154	65.962		
Lynne	Bell	AA	Tully Cross Calieb	Q		x				63.600			
Kathryn	Bennett	AA	Who's Your Daddy	Q	10.0	x				66.724	65.200		
Margaret	Brabston	JYR	Darby Rose "Rosie"	Q						66.154	65.690		
Judy	Brescia	AA	Standby Marquis	Q	20.0	x				63.621	62.000		
Domenique	Carson	Open	WW Egyptian Gold	Q		x				68.400	67.069		
Domenique	Carson	Open	Blazing Star							55.769			
Eileen	Childs	AA	Lyoshka	Q		x				65.400	58.800		
Talia	Czapski	AA	Sonny		10.0					66.923			
Kimberly	Godwin Clark	Open	Minerva Doubleplay	Q						67.241	66.923		
Susan	Hall	AA	Arizona's Wildfire	Q						68.269	68.200	55.577	
Jess	Howard	AA	Arizona's Wildfire	Q	20.0					68.966			
Janet	Jacobe	AA	Kojo							59.038			
Abby	Khan	AA	Skippy Peanut Butter							62.885	65.192	66.923	
Yasmin	Khan-Todd	AA	Sultano MC							66.346	65.769		
Sienna	Laughman	YR	Patriot			x				64.800	60.690		
Amy	Luyster	AA	Holy Moses							61.724	57.885		
Heather	Mason	AA	Blueball Gray	Q			x	x		68.653	66.346	66.346	64.483
Elaine	Meilahn	AA	Oakfield Siena Sparrow	Q		x				67.069	65.200	65.600	
Hunter	Myers	JYR	Don't Be Jealous	Q		x				63.103	60.600		
Teagan	Niles	JYR	Quiet Wildcat	Q	10.0	x				67.500	65.192	64.600	
Teagan	Niles	JYR	Olaf	Q	10.0					65.600	61.923	61.800	
Lisa	O'Brien	AA	Alyssum							56.621			
Alison	Powers	AA	Tarquin	Q						68.269	66.923	65.690	65.690
Hannah	Schofield	Open	Merry							66.346			
Heidi	Wardle	AA	Cold Spice	Q						67.600	67.414		
Heidi	Wardle	AA	Generalist	Q		x				65.517	65.000		
Michele	Wellman	Open	Khalasar	Q		x				73.600	70.172		
Caroline	York	AA	Poker Face MH "Poker"							65.576			

## First Level

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	Best 4 scores that meet the requirements			
										score 1	score 2	score 3	score 4
Erin	Hart	AA	Legal Buzz (Buzz)	Q		x	x	x	66.250	67.917	67.407	64.861	64.815
Sandra	House	AA	Catherine the Great	Q		x	x	x	66.117	68.030	65.833	65.606	65.000
Michelle	Campbell	Open	Virginia Gentleman			x	x	x	60.109	60.926	60.417	60.000	59.091
Lynne	Bell	AA	Kyah Royal			x				60.000			
Lynne	Bell	AA	Tully Cross Calleb			x				67.963			
Shannon	Bossung	Open	Sachio AF	Q		x				65.556			
Sandra	Brannock	AA	Sirocco Rouge "Rocco"	Q		x				62.777			
Wendy	Breeden	AA	Pippilotta	Q	10.0					68.333	60.303		
Talia	Czapski	AA	Capi		10.0					66.481	61.296		
Candace	Fahey	Open	Starlight							64.074	60.000		
Hannah	Keegan	JYR	Deliza	Q		x				71.528			
Abby	Khan	AA	CC	Q						67.424			
Lori	LaFave	AA	Spring Ducatti	Q	40.0					63.939	59.815	56.818	
Stevie	LeCain	Open	American Patriot	Q	10.0 x					65.972	63.485		
Stevie	LeCain	Open	Quiet Wildcat		10.0 x					61.806	61.250		
Marlene	McGrath	AA	Prince of Heart		10.0					56.481			
Debbie	Meade	AA	Pacificus	Q	25.0 x					65.694	65.139		
Katie	Meek	JR	Zippy			x				57.639			
Mary Jo	Morris	AA	Westend Girl							53.889			
Teagan	Niles	JYR	Olaf		10.0					60.556	59.074	58.704	
Lisa	O'Brien	AA	Irish Belle			x				58.750			
Erin	Obermeier	AA	Dolcha	Q						68.485	63.519		
Paula	Payne	AA	Cindy Lou Who	Q		x				63.056			
Rita	Pinkard	AA	Annika							62.222	55.556		
Thora	Pollak	AA	Beall Spring Claran	Q						67.576	61.111		
Patti	Psaris	AA	Diarado							68.889			
Sara	Rogers	AA	Donatello							64.074			
Dawn	Ross	AA	Icy Blue							65.370			
Jane	Saunders	AA	Feldsborg Ratata	Q		x				63.333			
Anne	Sinclair-Larson	AA	Dexter's Blazen Slice of Life "Dexter"							58.939	58.333		
Allison	Spivey	Open	Muon Scattering	Q						64.697			
Deena	Thornhill	AA	Lady In Red							60.000	58.704		
Rita	Trimarchi	AA	Cambiara		20.0					65.370			
Michele	Wellman	Open	Torchetti Q	Q						70.909	68.788		

## Second Level

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	Best 4 scores that meet the requirements			
										score 1	score 2	score 3	score 4
Lynne	Bell	AA	Kyah Royal							61.857			
Wendy	Breeden	AA	Pippilotta		10.0					68.000	60.571		
Robert	Clements	AA	Moon Striker							58.214			
Sandra	House	AA	Catherine the Great							58.714			
Morgan	Kearney	AA	Bella							59.857			
Debbie	Meade	AA	Pacificus		25.0					64.714	64.000	62.429	
Katie	Meek	JR	Zippy							64.143	61.857		
Emily	Nielsen	Open	Stiletto	Q		x				67.500	66.154		
Dawn	Ross	AA	Icy Blue	Q		x				65.128	63.000		
Shera	Solomon	Open	Diomedes	Q						66.429			
Allison	Spivey	Open	Looking Good FLF			x				67.429			
Caroline	Stephens	AA	Dansero							66.571			
Rita	Trimarchi	AA	Looking Good FLF	Q	20.0					61.706			
Jill	Widdifield	AA	Bravo							66.286			

Continued on Page 10

# AWARDS SCOREBOARD

Continued from Page 9

## Third Level

Best 4 scores that meet the requirements

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show Qualified	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	score 1	score 2	score 3	score 4
Alisha Anne	Ames Harrington	Open AA	Oriana	Q	lots	10.0 x	x	x	62.568	63.514	62.750	62.250	61.757
Katherine Sarah	Buck McMillan	AA	Simon's Song	Q		x	x	x	57.302	58.919	57.162	56.625	56.500
Dora Hannah	Molot Schofield	JYR	Debonaire "Devon"	Q					63.684	63.684	58.000	54.250	
Jaclyn Rita	Sicoli Trimarchi	Open AA	Extra Time P	Q					70.125	70.125			
			Rigby						66.486	66.486			
			Huapango LAM "Pango"	Q					63.947	63.947	62.972		
			Cambiara						20.0	57.568	56.622		

## Fourth Level

Best 4 scores that meet the requirements

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show Qualified	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	score 1	score 2	score 3	score 4
Jess Carol	Howard Meschter	AA	WHF Rhodesian Sky	Q		20.0 x				64.079	58.750	62.105	
Liberty	Seaford	AA	Ala Cowboy	Q						46.771			
			Marco Polo GS			25.0				63.026			

## PSG

Best 3 scores that meet the requirements

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show Qualified	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	score 1	score 2	score 3
Michael Kimberly	Hoffman Godwin-Clark	AA	Fulandro	Q						66.029		
		Open	Mystical Harbor							56.471		

## Intermediate 1

Best 3 scores that meet the requirements

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show Qualified	Vol. Time	Highest Test of level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	score 1	score 2	score 3
Calleen Jennifer	Bottenberg Mutchler	AA	Sokrates "Duke"	Q						65.588		
		Open	Elation KF	Q						61.912	59.853	

## MFS

Best 3 scores that meet the requirements

Rider First	Rider Last	Status	Horse	Champ. Show Qualified	Vol. Time	Level	Minimum # Total Scores	Minimum # VN/Partner Scores	Average	score 1	score 2	score 3
Katie Mandv	Meek Schwab	JR	Zippy			First				58.917		
		AA	Ungaro			Third				60.800		



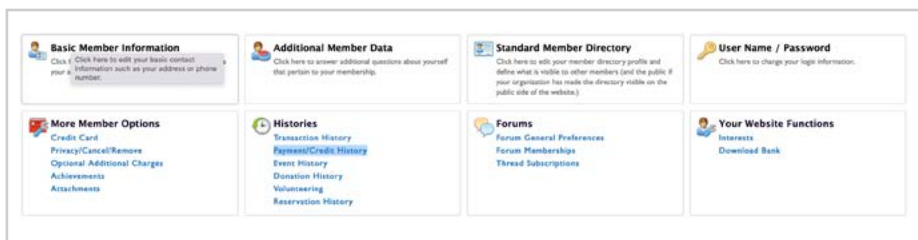
# The ABCs of VNBs (aka VADA/Nova Bucks)

Sheli King & Lisa Rice

This year has brought many changes to a key piece of our volunteer recognition program, VADA/Nova Bucks and so it seemed like a good idea to lay out a step-by-step guide to earning and using your bucks.



Volunteers now earn \$7.50 VN Bucks for each 1/2 day they volunteer and \$15 Bucks for each full day and this increase is retroactive to the beginning of 2023. Great you say, but where exactly are those bucks? Well, that is the other big change in the program for 2023 – the entire process of receiving and redeeming bucks is now electronic, via the VN website. There were several reasons for this change: it's always good to save a few trees, it's easier to post them on-line then to distribute them manually, it is now impossible for the recipient to lose their bucks, and most importantly, VN can now track its outstanding liability in this area, which is an important part of good fiscal management. All paper bucks that were turned back in to VN by the deadline were converted to an on-line award and those bucks have an expiration date of 12/31/23. Bucks earned from this year on have an expiration date of one year from the date earned. To see your outstanding buck balance, log on to vadanova.org. On the upper right-hand side of the page, click on your name and then your profile. Once your profile opens, scroll down to the box marked "Histories" and click on "Payment/Credit History" and voila – there under credits you will find all your current bucks available for your use.



Which brings us to the next set of questions – what exactly can I do with my VN Bucks and how do I actually use them? VN Bucks may be used towards your membership (and remember, joining VADA/Nova means you are automatically also a VADA member and a GM Member of USDF) and towards entry/registration fees for our schooling shows and clinics

(unfortunately, due to USEF regulations, they cannot be applied to license show entry fees.) Here is a summary of how to use/spend your Bucks for VADA Nova events, clinics, and schooling shows:

**\*\*Membership, Clinics, Events and Educational Seminars with Registration Directly on the VN Website** when finalizing your registration and payment information, you can choose to apply all or a portion of your Volunteer Bucks balance to the amount due. The system will automatically deduct them and adjust your available credits in your member profile.

**\*\*Schooling Shows with Registration on Strider Pro** Volunteer Bucks cannot be applied directly to your show registration/balance due when using Strider Pro. Contact the show Secretary directly if you wish to use all or any portion of your Volunteer Bucks credits toward your show entry fees. Once you have let the Secretary know what amount you would like to apply, and the entry fees have been paid in full on Strider Pro, the VN Treasurer will refund the equivalent amount back to your credit card, and the Volunteer Bucks will be adjusted in your member profile accordingly.

In addition to using your hard-earned bucks for VN events, a growing number of merchants, vendors and service providers have signed up to participate in the program. To use your bucks with these merchants, go back to the home page of the website, hover over Volunteering, then click on "Bucks Store." There you will see all the businesses that accept VN Bucks. Once you decide how/where you want to use your bucks with any of the listed merchants, simply click on the gift certificate(s) in the denominations you want and they will be added to your cart. Follow the instructions to checkout and once the transaction is



Continued on Page12

completed that amount will be deducted from your credit balance. You will then receive an email confirming your purchase. While you can print the actual gift certificate and may want to do so for your records, it is not necessary that you do so. What you do need to print and bring to the merchant to redeem is the email confirmation from VN that contains all the details you need to redeem your certificate, including the vital Order ID number and the order date. The gift certificate expires one year from the date you ordered it. Pretty simple once you get the hang of it!

The program is a win/win for all. As a small thank you for volunteering, you get to use your bucks to offset the expense of a VN activity or shop with and support your favorite merchants (or discover some new ones.) These merchants then submit the gift certificates to VN for full reimbursement. So, go on-line and start shopping if you have accumulated bucks and if not, remember to go on-line to look for upcoming volunteer opportunities and start earning them now! ■

## WHEN IN VIENNA

*Ann Harrington*

International business travel has its pluses and minuses, but if you're a rider and dressage is your discipline, having a little spare time in Vienna definitely has its advantages. My first visit to the Spanish Riding School (SRS) was while I was still in high school, many decades ago. At that time, we only took a tour through the building, but I was already star struck after seeing the Disney movie, 'Miracle of the White Stallions,' and remember scooping up a little footing from the ring in a Kodak film box (anyone remember those?) and carrying it home where it lived in my room for years. Over time, I saw the actual performance several times, but later in my career when I had to visit Vienna on a regular basis, I discovered that the SRS offered the opportunity to watch the morning training sessions. If you're a dressage rider, the performances are awe-inspiring and spectacular in their precision and tradition, but the training rides — that is where you can see the work that goes into producing the brilliance of the performances.

Over the years, the SRS has sometimes struggled financially and has had to look for ways to generate income. Opening the morning training was one of those ways. I have been many times and it is impressive that they have evolved from just letting people in to stand and watch to opening the royal box and other previously restricted areas and having assigned seating.

### ***Why Do I Love Morning Training?***

There are many reasons as a rider to appreciate the training sessions, but one of the things that I have most enjoyed watching evolve is the advancement of women among the rider ranks. Until fairly recently, SRS was an exclusively a male environment for horses and humans. In 2008, SRS approved the admitted its first female student. I remember going to a morning training session and being surprised to see woman. In subsequent years, I saw her continue to train as a student until eventually she appeared in the

brown jacket, buff colored leather breeches, high black boots, and characteristic hat of a rider. This year, there were two women who were riders in the training session, another female student rider, and a woman groom.

The other obvious reason I love to watch the training is to learn. I like to pick a horse and follow it through a series of exercises to see how the horse and rider work together. Typically, the one-hour training session that is open to the public is divided into two thirty-minute sessions with 5-6 horses in each session. The first session has the more advanced horses. When I was in Vienna in late May 2023, one of the senior horses was in the first group. They can be distinguished by their tack (the glitter of the bridle stands out) and by the seniority of the rider. The first group of horses were mostly ridden in double bridles, but with quite loose contact with the curb. The riders work mostly on relaxation, of course, and keeping the horses sharp in their responses and movements. Even the most advanced horses may be assisted from the ground for movements like passage.

One of the things that struck me watching this group was the efficiency of movement. It wasn't flashy or extravagant, but was precise, deliberate, and cadenced, things we all aspire to, but that these horses and riders achieve at a very high level.

Another observation: soooooo many transitions. This was true of both groups, but even within a relatively short 30 minutes school (including warm up and cool down on a long rein), transitions were frequent and often to a relaxed walk. If the rider asked for a more demanding exercise, a quick sugar cube taken from a pocket in the left coat tail often followed.

We were treated to see some of the advanced movements as well, including the levade both mounted and unmounted, along with working piaffe and passage in hand.



The second group of the morning was comprised of fully trained horses who were not quite at performance level. Here we saw younger horses working in snaffle bridles that clearly had not yet developed the musculature and, in some cases, the discipline of the more mature horses. My attention was captured by two of the horses in particular. The first one made me think, "Why is that horse here?" The walk on a long rein looked disjointed and even tending to lateral. His neck hung very low and it was really hard to picture how this horse would move in anything like a balanced, uphill frame. The rider asked for a little trot, then went back to the walk. Then a little more trot, then back to walk. By the time they moved to canter, over half of the session was over and suddenly another horse emerged. Better balanced, more flowing movement, and was he great at lateral movements.

The second horse I followed still had a partially black mane indicating that he was younger, had a level of energy that reminded me of my spicy thoroughbred, but ask for a piaffe or passage and he was clearly in his happy space. You could almost feel him smile; but the canter work? Resistance, a little kicking out and lots of appropriate guidance from the rider to encourage the forward engagement that was needed.

In many ways, the second group showed how important consistent, but gentle corrections are to progressing up the levels. It was also fun to watch all of the same basic training tools we use are the bread and butter of the SRS. Leg yields, shoulder in, shoulder in to half pass, changing directions at the walk through turn on the haunches, training pirouettes, and did I mention, sooooo many transitions.

The live narration that accompanies the training session is good, I think, but the acoustics in the hall are not nearly as magnificent as the decoration. If you know something about dressage, you can mostly follow on your own, but if you don't know about how the riders are trained, you might miss that part of the narrative, which is quite interesting.

### *If you want to go*

If you know in advance when you will have free time, the easiest thing to do is purchase tickets in advance from the SRS website - <https://www.srs.at/en/tickets-events>. If you are ordering online and opt to choose your seat, try to select a seat in a front row. The first level is great; second is also fine, but fairly high up. As you can see from the photo of the interior, there are many columns that do an amazing job of blocking your view, so if you see a block of four seats, assume that they are flanked by columns and pick the middle seats. That won't make the columns disappear, but you won't have to crane your neck quite so much.

Some Vienna tours also include the SRS morning training, but may not be very cost effective if you don't have time to take advantage of the other stops that are included. The SRS is located in the middle of Vienna in the Hofberg Palace area, which is a great place to walk or stop and have a coffee. It is just down the street from St. Stephen's Cathedral and adjacent to some great shopping, restaurants and cafes. If you're not staying in the center of Vienna, the public transportation is very convenient, inexpensive, and almost every U-Bahn (subway) line has a stop at or near St. Stephen's Platz. Bikes and scooters are also available to rent.

No tourist attraction is complete without a gift shop and this one has everything you can imagine Spanish Riding School-related. There is also a small cafe with light food. In another effort to generate income, you can also purchase Maestoso Gin, which comes in a quite nice souvenir bottle. Tours of the stable are also available on the website along with an architectural tour of the building. ■



# TREASURER REPORT

## 2ND QUARTER 2023 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

*Lisa Rice*

The second quarter of 2023 reflected a very busy period for VADA Nova, with 3 licensed shows on the calendar, one in each month of the quarter.

Our April Spring Dressage licensed show had a smaller footprint than in recent years. The show date fell on Easter weekend and the Board decided it would be prudent to pare it down to a Saturday only, one-day show in 2023. Though we would likely have had entries come in for Easter Sunday, it was going to be a challenge to adequately staff our volunteer contingent on the holiday. In any event, we still attracted adequate entries for a successful show, and earned a profit of \$2,433.88.

The May 2023 Mid-Week show has proven to be a popular item on the Spring calendar. We continue to get great reviews and many requests to continue this show going forward. It is a great opportunity for riders and horses to compete in a quieter, lower-key atmosphere before the bigger shows in the Summer. We took a very small loss on this show in the amount of \$209.79.

The Summer Dressage Festival in June is one of our biggest shows on the calendar and the 2023 show was no exception, as horses and riders begin their quests to qualify for National and Regional shows and year end awards. Our show in 2023 realized a healthy profit of \$10,684.96.

The reports contained in this newsletter are the condensed versions, and the expanded versions may be viewed on the VADA Nova website under Resources/Documents Library/Financial Reports.

***Please feel free to address any specific questions to [treasurer@vadanova.email](mailto:treasurer@vadanova.email)***

# DO YOU HAVE BIG NEWS TO SHARE?

We want to celebrate all your triumphs, big & small.  
Email [communications@vadanova.email](mailto:communications@vadanova.email) to share.

January 1 - August 13, 2023

### SPRING 2023 APRIL LICENSED SHOW

Revenue	\$16,970.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$16,970.00
Expenditures	\$14,536.92
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,433.08</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,433.08</b>

January 1 - August 13, 2023

### MAY 2023 MID WEEK LICENSED SHOW

Revenue	
Services	
Licensed Show Participant Fees	9,476.00
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>9,476.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,476.00</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$9,476.00
Expenditures	\$9,685.79
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -209.79</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -209.79</b>

January 1 - August 13, 2023

### SUMMER DRESSAGE | JUNE 2023

Revenue	\$52,437.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$52,437.00
Expenditures	
Licensed Show Expenses	41,752.04
Total Expenditures	\$41,752.04
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,684.96</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,684.96</b>

Full reports available in the Document Library at [www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org)



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY BY CLASS

April - June, 2023

	CAMP	CLINICS	LICENSED SHOWS	ORGANIZATIONAL	ORG-ADMIN
Revenue	\$3,795.62	\$673.55	\$64,634.00	\$1,453.67	\$0.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$3,795.62	\$673.55	\$64,634.00	\$1,453.67	\$0.00
Expenditures	\$2,125.00	\$172.91	\$56,919.41	\$928.00	\$5,674.35
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,670.62	\$500.64	\$7,714.59	\$525.67	\$ -5,674.35
Other Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.19	\$0.00
Other Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,703.17
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.19	\$ -2,703.17
NET REVENUE	\$1,670.62	\$500.64	\$7,714.59	\$553.86	\$ -8,377.52

	TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL	SCHOOLING SHOW	YEAR END AWARDS	NOT SPECIFIED	TOTAL
Revenue	\$1,453.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.86	\$70,647.70
GROSS PROFIT	\$1,453.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.86	\$70,647.70
Expenditures	\$6,602.35	\$3,266.78	\$323.12	\$0.00	\$69,409.57
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -5,148.68	\$ -3,266.78	\$ -323.12	\$90.86	\$1,238.13
Other Revenue	\$28.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.19
Other Expenditures	\$2,703.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,703.17
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$ -2,674.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -2,674.98
NET REVENUE	\$ -7,823.66	\$ -3,266.78	\$ -323.12	\$90.86	\$ -1,436.85



ASTER EQUINE  
PHOTOGRAPHY

*Proud to be the  
show photographer  
for VADA/NOVA  
Dressage!*

For 2023, we are aiming to photograph all riders. No need to sign up! Like, follow, and stay tuned for your show photos!



[facebook.com/asterequine](https://facebook.com/asterequine)

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| [asterequine.com](https://asterequine.com)

# BITS & PIECES

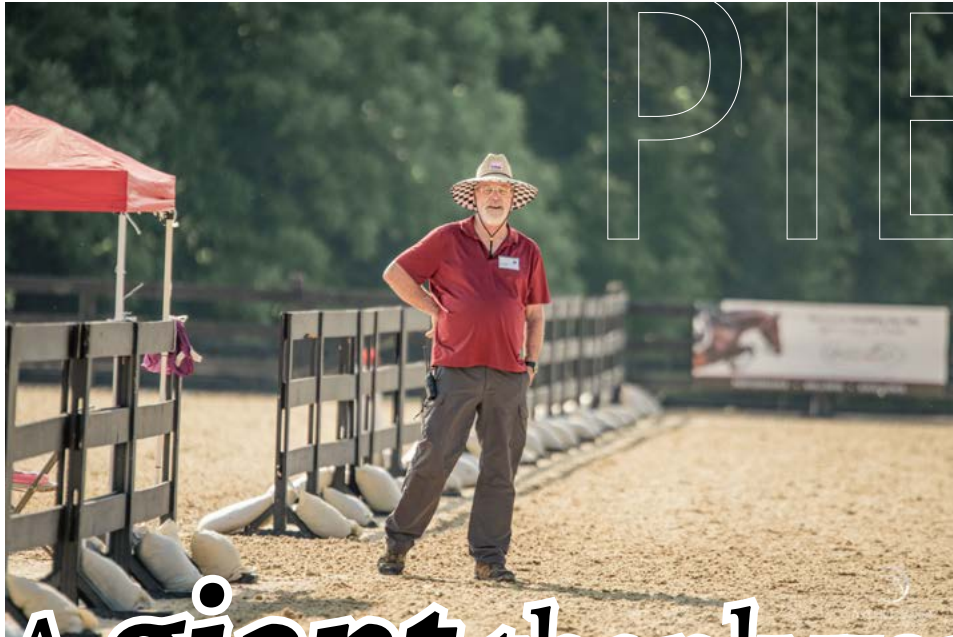


PHOTO BY KATE HALL/ASTER EQUINE.

## A giant thank you

to **Jim Scholten** for helping to  
change a tire for a competitor!

### JUNIOR RIDER

*Grace Lotsikas*

**scored 67%**

in her first freestyle ever in the FEI Junior Freestyle test at the June licensed show. This was her first score towards her Bronze Bar! She rides with Siobhan Byrne & competes, Wachenheim, Siobhan warmblood gelding. Her freestyle was created by Debbie Marriott.



## PIECES

*A note  
from a  
volunteer:*

First I want to thank you for such a fun venue to volunteer. Nothing compares to Morven Park! The other volunteers, helpers and dressage participants are a lot of fun to be around.

*From  
Kathleen  
LeVasseur*





CONGRATULATIONS

to *Kristine Slovis*

riding her new horse and showing  
her very first MFS at training level a  
t the June licensed show.

*Congratulations*  
TO TEAGAN NILES

on being a 2023 Recipient of  
*USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin!*

Do you know a rider  
interested in joining  
The Dressage  
Foundation's  
Century Club?

Visit [www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org)  
or call (402) 434-8585  
for the application form.



CONGRATULATIONS



DONNA GATCHELL

FOR EARNING  
**"2023 TRAINER AWARD"**  
AT DRESSAGE @ LEXINGTON.

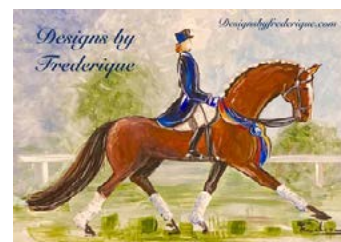


**Are you eligible for a Century Ride?  
VADA/Nova wants to know!**

The Dressage Foundation Century Club  
recognizes dressage riders and horses  
whose combined ages total 100 years  
or more.



VADA/Nova is thrilled to announce a dramatic expansion of businesses who support our members by accepting volunteer bucks.  
**Visit our online Bucks Store for links**



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Jess Idol &  
Patrick Tigchelaar  
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Best of luck to all competitors!



Abby E. Just, Senior Portfolio Manager



Brian J. Horan, CPWA®, Senior Relationship Manager

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

VADA/Nova website  
[www.vadanova.org](http://www.vadanova.org)

For other questions or issues, please check our website