

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

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BY MARILYN WEBER
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CALENDAR

- ◆ **LIFE & WORLD ON HOLD, CHECK BACK LATER**

Letter from the President

by Teresa Litchfield, President

Hello CLD members and friends,

Boy, how our lives have changed in the past month. A lot of us were looking forward to Spring and warmer weather. Many of us were planning our show schedule for the season, which shows to attend or scheduling our club's shows. COVID-19 can not stop Spring from coming, however it did STOP the show season from beginning. Icebreaker has been canceled due to this pandemic. We are hopeful that the USDF will lift the ban by June so that CLD can hold Classic I and II.

Social distancing has been meant to help us stay healthy. However, for some of us, it also means being distant from our riding partner. Not healthy in my book. All kidding aside, let's look forward to Spring, flowers blooming, trees budding out, and nice green grass (mowing is a great stress reliever) and show season starting up.

Classic I & II (June 20 & 21), as many of you know, take a small army to run these two shows. We need all of our members to volunteer their time to make these shows successful. All members need to fulfill three hours of volunteering to be eligible for CLD's year end awards. You can email me to be put on the schedule and your availability if known. We will need a few volunteers for Friday to set up the arena, of course, and more volunteers on Saturday and Sunday. Some of you be will be showing those days and will not know availability till ride times are posted. Just let me know that you are willing to volunteer and I will fit you in. We also need sponsorships for the shows. You can download the form on our website. More on that a little later.

I would like to close with, "Be Safe", practice social distancing, and stay home if you can. Let's end this pandemic. However, most important is a hearty Thank You to all of our members and families that have to work outside the home to keep the rest of us safe and healthy. Thank You!!!

Continuing Education in a Crisis

As a member of CenterLine Dressage, you can continue learning about dressage if you cannot get to your regular lessons or a previously scheduled clinic. The official magazine of the US Dressage Federation is *USDF Connection*. Besides news from USDF and the US Equestrian Federation, there are lots of articles in each well written and well illustrated issue about the care and training of your dressage horse.

USDF Offerings

Require Current Membership and Login
(<https://www.usdf.org/education>)

<i>USDF University</i> usdf.org/education/university	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>USDF Online Courses are open to all current USDF members and education credits will be awarded for completion. Where indicated, courses may fulfill prerequisite requirements or be counted for continuing education hours.</i>
<i>USDF Education Library</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Searchable archive of video clips, articles, and audio clips</i>
<i>USDF Short Courses by Topic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A great place to get started on a new subject. Short Courses are quick study guides and quizzes to help you learn more about a variety of topics. Short Courses cover competition, breeding, equitation, and dressage movements.</i> • <i>Each short course can be completed in 20 minutes or less.</i>
<i>Online Courses from Other Providers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Earn education credits by completing these USDF University accredited programs hosted by other organizations. Additional costs may apply.</i> • <i>Learn from our accredited providers such as Dressage Today Online, Pilates for Dressage®, My Horse University, and Equine Nutritional Solutions.</i>
<i>USDF GMO Education Lectures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A series of pre-packaged lectures for GMO use for short unmounted events. Each lecture is self-contained and provides the materials needed to host a lecture including lesson plan, handouts, and media.</i> • <i>All GMO Education Lecture events are automatically USDF University accredited. GMOs that submit their rosters will receive free education credits for all participants.</i>
<i>USDF Connection Archive</i> usdf.org/publications/connection.asp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Archive of issues through 2010 are available without being logged in or a current member</i> • <i>The most recent 6 issues require being logged in and a current member.</i>

USEF Online Offerings

Some Free Videos Not All Require Current Membership and Login
(<https://www.usef.org/learning-center>)

<i>USEF Learning Center Videos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professionally produced videos on a very diverse range of topics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discipline specific videos</i> • <i>Breed videos</i> • <i>Horse care videos</i>
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COVID-19 Impact on CLD Members

Anyone that shows in a CLD show, and many others in the St. Louis area, knows Leslie Burket and Brett Fisher. Leslie is a scribe and Brett is a paddock steward for show after show. Leslie also serves as Secretary for your CLD Board of Directors.

Thoughts from Leslie on April 4

March 7th 2020 - the day that changed our world! The first positive COVID-19 Missouri person was identified. March 19th -- The day that started the 'new normal'!

A simple phone call hinted I would be welcoming new computer equipment into my home. This equipment would need a dedicated area in which to reside. After a quick look around, the pick of all the options was the basement - no other 'undedicated' area for much of anything upstairs! Into work Brett goes on Monday and calls to say his little 'cubby hole' must be ready tomorrow as he will be working from home! Such pressure! So that night we got it all hooked up and working. Now Brett is also here 24/7! So - benefits - time and gas saved not driving to the office. Disadvantages - we have to prepare all of our meals - hardship!!!

So how does this work? Basically, we never see each other until the end of the day! We both have different schedules so no breakfast or lunch together. We text each other if we need to communicate! But once he's 'off' work, it's back to the new normal!

I was having such fun before this virus came to America! Many things filled my days before this virus and those days are no more. All the classes I was taking through the school systems, the Library, Oasis, LOAP, teaching bridge lessons, playing with my horse, day trips, lunches, games and movies with friends - all cancelled! Refunds but cancelled!!! And no buddies - there is no face to face socializing with any of my buddies - phone or text only!

There are two exceptions.

- 1) One of my horse friends has a large area outside - she keeps her horses at home. So we created a 'get together' and she set up chairs, separated by the correct social distancing standards, and we sat out in the sun (and wind) and yelled back and forth. It was great fun just to do it!!
- 2) I have a musician friend who, at 7pm each evening, takes her cello out on her front stoop and just plays a little song or hymn for kids or music that most recognize and the neighbors gather round. Last night it was Hokey-Pokey and everyone was doing it. Her stoop is social distance away from the visitors and all had a fun time. And yes - they are socially distanced correctly! Wonder what is next? Maybe Brett will join her one evening! How do a cello and banjo go together? Fun stuff!

And last but most important - my beloved pony - Paddington! He is happily situated in a small barn about seven driving minutes from my house. This is a happy barn with delightful owners and their five children -



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COVID-19 Impact on CLD Members

Thoughts from Leslie on April 4

all over 15. Their 15 year old son comes out to work their competing horses - riding on the Young Rider circuit, but the horses are home now. Social distance is maintained by all.

Because it is a small boarding barn, there are no restrictions and we are allowed to exercise our horses during this time. It's been wonderful and we went every night! That, too, has changed now,

Brett is going alone each evening, after dark, Rarely is anyone else there, thanks to the virus! Paddington's barn has five of the owner's Three-Day Eventing horses in it, Paddington, and one other boarder. It's nice to have something that is

a reminder of yesterday and how simple existing was before the virus wandered to America! Dimetro is on the property 24/7 and takes care of the feeding and turnout as well as the cats, chickens and Brighty, the Sicilian donkey. Now the management of possible contagious elements is challenging. When Brett was still going to the office, he would leave a set of clean clothes in the garage and would carefully change with the 'contaminated' clothes going directly to the washer! Then he would spray/wipe down anything that might have anything on it. All groceries are wiped down, fruit is washed. It goes on and on! He still does all of this when

COVID-19 Impact on CLD Members

Thoughts from Leslie on April 4

warranted. When he returns from the barn, if no one else is in the barn, he thoroughly disinfects what he is wearing and changes, leaving the used clothes for another day. He is only driving one of the vehicles so one is always 'clean'.

Tomorrow is Saturday morning and we need a couple of very important things from the store, not much but ice cream, cookies and general shopping stuff fill the list.

Fortunately new rules are not yet enforced.

Before heading out, Brett changed into his 'outside' clothes and left his 'inside' clothes in a different 'clean' spot. He left before 7. There wasn't a line so he got right into the store. It took almost two hours to pick up what we needed - and, yes, there was plenty of ice cream (he took all 8 cartons - specific flavor, not all ice cream) and cookies!

It's now 9:40a, freezing cold outside (36 degrees) and raining! Brett is still in the garage 'cleaning' the groceries and, yes, even his teeth are now chattering! That took well over an hour. Now they come into the house, a group at a time. All the meats, etc, will be repackaged into inside packaging. Veggies, etc will be scrubbed and dried.

He is finally ready to change to his inside clothes (yes, still in the freezing garage!) and come inside.

Brett went to Schnucks and said you can really see the changes. Different products, some not available, no paper goods what-so-ever, limited fruits and veggies, many items not fully restocked. Different kinds and cuts of meat. The checker and customer are separated by a plastic shield to protect them. On a regular basis, there is an announcement and checkers stop what they are doing and 'clean' their areas while customers stand in a specific spot!

Can hardly wait for the 'new' shopping rules to be unleashed - You can only enter specific food stores at specific times (based on age), with a limited number of people who MUST always maintain their social distance and you can only move forward - no wandering around collecting what you might have missed - at the same pace as the 'leaders' and you can't pass anyone!

Every new day continues to be a surprise! Stay happy - Stay Healthy - Stay Busy for Together we shall all make it through to the other side of this pandemic!

I never realized I had so much to do until I had nothing to do!

Claudia Nissley lives in CO, but has a job that requires flying around the country. She visits her horses at StarWest usually at least once a month. She maintains two more horses at home where she raises alfalfa for sale.

Thoughts from Claudia on April 4

I admit I'm struggling now. For many people, other than wearing gloves and face masks, not much has changed. So here I am, for the first time ever, enormous amounts of time and not being able to do what I had hoped to do (not to

mention being creative about potential sources of income for this year).

I'm memorizing Training through Second Level tests by riding them on my Quarter



COVID-19 Impact on CLD Members

and Fox Trotter horses; not that they can match dressage trained horses but at least I can commit the patterns to memory in a full-size outdoor arena.

I dug out all my Clinton Anderson videos and manuals on basic groundwork and horsemanship skills. You remember him, the Australian who was quite popular and did clinics everywhere, now I think he owns a training place in TX.

I'm rereading every basic dressage book ever written, and finding some more useful than others; part of it is the original language of the author, part is perspective and changing times. I find the older standard books more useful than some of the new "interpretations." The German authors are the best in terms of explaining movements (of course they are!).

My last trip to StarWest I took two lessons from Gerhard Politz. So I'm "replaying" his voice and words and "practicing." Although it's not the same, I'm trying to commit to my body to being consistently correct in alignment.

In the meantime, staying in touch with my work colleagues and planning for some potential opportunities for sometime this year (hopefully).

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Marilyn Weber is a pro trainer from Chesterfield, IL, owning Wallebb Arabians. You need to know there are a lot of words to describe the indefatigable Marilyn, but "lazy" is not one of them. Her usual tongue in cheek humor is in her report on Coronavirus impact on her life as a go-go-go trainer and judge.

Thoughts from Marilyn on April 4

I have been closed down since the Governor ordered closing non essential businesses. Prior to that I had to disinfect everything after a boarder or lesson had been on site. I have one boarder who would like to work with her horse so I will arrange to put him in a paddock for her. When she leaves I'll bring him in and disinfect but only outside areas, halter and lead. When shut down is lifted I will allow lessons to resume but will still be disinfecting. I have horses that have not come in for training and that's fine since it limits exposure.

On the bright side I am getting some long needed projects and repairs done. So far MAHA and two April shows are canceled. I expect May

and June shows will start canceling soon. This virus just keeps spreading westward. I am waiting for shows I was to judge to cancel.

We are getting lazy. Feed and clean, eat breakfast. I work some horses, then it's a hike or break in the yard before afternoon chores. Our grass seed is germinating...I'm watching it! LOL On the bright side I'm saving a fortune not horse showing. Our woods will be beautifully cleaned up.

P.S. Introductory is more exciting than watching grass grow.

February 29, 2020 CLD Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm by President Teresa Litchfield. Attendees included Teresa Litchfield, Kate Fleming-Kuhn, Malcolm Kuhn, John Simpson, Casey Eiten, Marilyn Weber, Judy Nordstrom, and Paula Briney, by phone.

Treasurer Report - Katie Keim

- Bank Bal: \$5,086.45
- Savings: \$25,910.01
- Net Loss: (\$651.13)
- 2019's 1099's were mailed prior to the 1/31/2020 deadline and the 2019 990 e-postcard was filed and accepted by the IRS.

Webmaster Report - Martin Kuhn

- Newsletters sent out since last report: 4
- Subscribers: 141 - unchanged from last report
- Average opening rate: 45 - 56%

Website Traffic

Site visits are down slightly, while page views almost doubled. Fewer people are visiting the site but those that are visiting it, are viewing more pages and spending more time on the site.

Membership Chair - Jordan Wilton

Jordan reports that we currently have 37 members on our roster. She is currently working on getting letters out to past members to boost our membership numbers.

Social Media Chair - Judy Nordstrom

- Facebook followers: 761, up 61 from last report.
- Twitter followers remain at 41.
- CLD has received additional attention on Facebook with the posting of the Reader (CLD Newsletter), information for upcoming schooling shows and the potluck for the CLD Shows.

Symposium Chair - Kate Fleming-Kuhn

Due to unexpected changes, Lilo Fore will not be

our judge for the Classic shows this year. Therefore, there will be no Lilo clinic to follow. Kate has been in touch with Susanne von Dietze and is working to secure a clinic date in May or June for this year.

Classic Shows - John Simpson

- John reports that he needs more prizes. We discussed ordering more salt licks, bucket hangers and treats. Judy will look into ordering these items.
- The \$100 high point awards will not be offered for these shows.
- Marilyn will order fancy ribbons for high point winners for each level and categories, AA, Jr/YR and Open.

Marilyn motioned, and Casey seconded, to adjust the following fees:

- Stall fees from \$100 to \$120 per show,
- Office fee to \$30, up from \$25.
- Class fees will increase by \$5 across the board.
- Fees for Training through 3rd level will be \$35 and \$50 for Qualifying
- Fees for Fourth Level through FEI will be \$45 and \$60 for Qualifying.
- Intro classes will stay the same.
- All schooling show fees will stay the same.

The vote was unanimous and the motion to change fees was approved.

John announced he will not be sponsoring the chicken dinner this year. It was determined that we would like to continue having the dinner and we will try to find a new sponsor.

We will need to find a sponsorship chair and volunteer coordinator for the show this year.

All meeting minutes online at centerlinedressage.com/minutes

February 29, 2020 CLD Executive Board Meeting Minutes

...concluded

John is working on hiring judges for the 2021 shows.

Directors at Large

- Paula reported on Horse Fair, noting that she needs more freestyle horse and rider combinations for the Melanie Michalak freestyle clinic and the competition.

New Business

We discussed the possibility of hosting the educational classroom section of the USDF L

Program. Paula is looking into the application process. This would be a great learning opportunity for many! If there is enough interest, and the first section of the program goes well, Kate has offered to host the judging aspect of the program's training.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 3:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Nordstrom for Leslie Burket

Illinois Horse Fair Report

by Marilyn Weber

This year the Illinois Horse Fair had popular and well attended clinics. Western Dressage had eight riders aboard Arabians, Saddlebreds and Paint horses entered for three days of clinic rides with Marilyn Weber. One rider sold her horse before the fair so seven horses participated.

On day one we worked on gaits and rider position with a lecture on protocol and equipment. The second day was spent working on figures and movements such as leg yields, shoulder in, circle sizes and serpentines. The third and final day, cones marked the perimeter of a dressage court and some test type riding was done. I explained about centerlines, salutes and accuracy of figures.

The saddleseat clinic with Smith Lily was very popular. Two five gaited horses worked on getting that extra sparkle in the show ring. There were also two Morgans, four Arabians and a Hackney pony that worked on getting the most from their rides.

There were also talks and demonstrations on a variety subjects like emergency rescue, overcoming fear in riding, shoeing, trail obstacles and many more.

The Expo building was full of vendors and shoppers. Saturday had the barns and shopping and clinics full of fairgoers. Lots of people stopped by the ARAB, Inc. stalls to visit the demo horses. The Arabian demo had horses provided by Hollow Crest Farms and Wallebb Arabians. Our handlers were Jessica Hollewell, Jayme Geisler, Heather Voyles and Cindy Butler. Cindy, president of the Western Dressage Association of Illinois, was kind enough to catch ride Forte for Marilyn Weber, who was still wearing her stylish airboot because of a foot abscess.

The evening rodeos were packed with the Governor attending on Friday night. Although the fair was a bit spread out, there was certainly something for everyone, including pony rides for the kids.

Lighter Side

From Judith Franklin, former "R" dressage judge and clinician who judged for CLD and Al Khamsa Dressage Shows in the '70's and '80's. Judith retired from teaching biology at a university in Michigan to a dream job in the Four Corners area. She counts wildlife and plants for the US Forest Service, riding to remote areas.

From Judith

This is my Davenport mare Sabrina CF taken on the occasion of my 84th birthday, February 27, 2020. With us is my Grand Champion Dalmatian "Honey."

Me 84, Sabrina 23, Honey 10. Hope you enjoy this and may it help all get through these stressful times.



*Judith in Hovenweep National Monument,
CO*

Current Club Officers & Personnel

President	Teresa Litchfield	president@centerlinedressage.com
Vice-President	Casey Eiten	vice-pres@centerlinedressage.com
Treasurer	Katie Keim	treasurer@centerlinedressage.com
Membership Secretary	Jordan Wilton	membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
Secretary	Leslie Burket	secretary@centerlinedressage.com
Newsletter Editor	Alice Martini	reader@centerlinedressage.com
Awards Chair	Casey Eiten	awards_chair@centerlinedressage.com
Social Chair	Judy Nordstrom	social@centerlinedressage.com
Web Site	Moiety Design	admin@centerlinedressage.com
At Large Members	Paula Briney	Jordan Wilton



I'm social distancing, but I don't have to like it!



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	\$50 Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form)	\$ _____
Junior Membership (21 & under)	\$30 Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form)	\$ _____
Family Membership	\$70 Includes 1 Reader, 2 Votes, 2 USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form)	\$ _____
Total Dues:		\$ _____

Please send to:

Jordan Wilton
 CLD Membership Secretary
membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
 1736 South Farmingdale Road
 New Berlin, IL 62670

DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



CenterLine Dressage

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