

NODA News



2023, Issue 12



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Use the **Mail in Form** to use your NODA Bucks!

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is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit
Education Organization

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Board Meetings

Second Wed. of the Month

Conference Call

Notify your GMO Liaison if you
want to attend

Your ideas are welcome

Editors Notes

Hello Readers,

As I write this, people all over the United States are preparing for Thanksgiving with family and friends. Or perhaps even preparing to spend the day in an unexpected way, which I have done a few times. Many of us will include as many horses, dogs, and other critters in our holiday plans as we will family and friends. No matter how you spend your holidays we all have cause to be thankful and the NODA Year-end Celebration reminded me of that.

I had fun at the Celebration Brunch this year even though I didn't apply for any awards. No matter, it was fun to chat with everyone and especially those of you who send your stories and photos to put in the NODA News; sharing your goals, dreams, and journeys and talking about those who support you on your equestrian journey. Dressage isn't easy. It's one horse and rider pair in the arena doing their best for all to see for 6 minutes. No one knows your back story, except maybe your trainer and good friends. So I thank each of you for having the courage to share and celebrate your journey and letting us in on your moments of joy, fun, and even your hardships. I was taken by the comments of a rider who works so hard, has accomplished so much, and yet was thanking me for putting them in the newsletter. No, my dear rider, I thank you! The sport of dressage and NODA members are the reason we exist and NODA is fortunate to be a part of your journey.

Several people at the brunch mentioned personal health issues they have had to overcome this past year; limiting their ability to do what they love. Yet here they were at the NODA brunch celebrating the success of their fellow NODA members and enjoying the company of good friends they have made over the years. Of course it's great to see all the happy riders receiving their awards, but it's remarkable to see all those who come and share the day, even those that don't ride - people who just love their NODA members. And then there are the members who come just because NODA has been such a big part of their lives and they want to be a part of this annual gathering. Thanks to each of you for supporting NODA from outside the dressage arena!

And last, but never least, a hearty shout out to the volunteer banquet committee who takes the time to bring us all together with their behind the scenes planning, scheduling, set up and tear down. Creating a few hours where we can socialize and celebrate our equestrian lives. The annual celebration and awardees will be highlighted in Issue 1, 2024.

We are all so fortunate to be able to follow our dreams. As you head into 2024, cherish every minute and celebrate each small milestone with your horse and know that NODA will be here with education opportunities and competitions to support those dreams!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to ALL!

Mosie Welch, Editor mosie-editor@nodarider.org

Cover: Member Jill Ekis from Pittsburg, PA volunteering for her second year at the U.S. Dressage Finals in Lexington, Kentucky. Find out more about NODA members who volunteer and volunteering at the U.S. Dressage Finals on [page 12](#). Photo by Mosie Welch

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Silent Auction

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Year-End Awards Banquet

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NODA News You Can Use



Northern Ohio Dressage Association

The Northern Ohio Dressage Association is a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Group Member Organization.

All members of NODA are USDF group members.

For USDF participating membership, apply directly to the USDF at www.usdf.org

SAVE THE DATES! 2024!

Adult Clinic with Lendon Gray

April 5 Flow Equestrian

D4K Clinic with Lendon Gray

April 6 & 7 Flow Equestrian

NODA Recognized Shows

May 11 Dressage 2024
May 12 Dressage 2024 Encore
at Chagrin Valley Farms

NODA Schooling Shows

*qualifier for the NODA Championships

May 19 *Chagrin Valley Farms
June 23 *Chagrin Valley Farms
July 28 *Chagrin Valley Farms
August 18 *Chagrin Valley Farms
September 8 *Brecksville Stables
October 5 Chagrin Valley Farms
October 6 Championship Show
Chagrin Valley Farms

Ride-a-Test Clinic

May 18 Chagrin Valley Farms

Dressage Adventures and More

June 13-16 Brecksville Stables

Board Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month
6:45 pm via ZOOM All are Welcome!



NODA is Proud to Host
a Youth D4K TEAM Event
April 6 and 7, 2024

with Lendon Gray

at FLOW Equestrian Center
9269 Stafford Rd, Chagrin Falls, OH



D4K
OPEN
NOW!

D4K TEAM events are \$250, payable directly to D4K

Interested Youth **MUST** go to the [TEAM page](#) on the D4K website
or follow this link to the TEAM page;

<https://dressage4kids.org/programs/team-program.html>

then click on how to register.

Youth already in the D4K system, [register here](#) at our event!

Stabling: \$25 each day and \$50 overnight, payment is due to Tracy Browne, owner of FLOW, complete this form [FLOW Equestrian Center](#) or contact Tracy at 440- 384-3225. **NODA will pay \$50 per NODA Member Youth for Stabling - contact Jennifer Cooper before paying for stabling.**

Stabling NOTE: All youth **MUST** stable onsite during clinic hours on both Saturday and Sunday. Overnight on Saturday into Sunday is \$50. You have the option to haul in Friday night, arriving after 6, so that the adults can haul out first; this will allow your horse to be fresh if you have a morning ride time (\$100). All horses must be on the property with riders ready for opening remarks by Lendon at the start time on the first day (usually 8 am) and horses and riders **MUST** remain onsite through the hours of the event each day for auditing other riders' lessons, guest lecturers at lunch and after/before rides.

LUNCH: Provided to Youth Participants. \$10/day for auditors, grooms, friends, family, or trainers who would like to have lunch onsite, add any of the three days lunches through the NODA web-site. www.nodarider

Auditing is FREE - all are welcome!

Lendon Gray Adult Clinic

Friday April 5th, 2024 at FLOW Equestrian Center

9269 Stafford Rd, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

Rides: \$200 Opens February 1 on NODA's website

www.nodarider.org/event-5454980

Stabling: \$25/day Complete this form [Flow Equestrian Center](#)

Auditing is FREE

LUNCH: \$10 for auditors, grooms, trainers - order thru NODA's website.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Jennifer Cooper at
216- 469-3920 or Jr-YR@nodarider.org

What's on your Holiday Wishlist?



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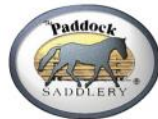
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Renew Your NODA Membership for 2024 TODAY!



Northern Ohio Dressage Association 2024 Membership Form

**NODA membership runs
12/1/2023 through 11/30/2024**

NODA is a United States Dressage Federation Group Member Organization (GMO)



A portion of your NODA membership dues goes towards your group membership in USDF. A USDF Group Membership (GM) makes you eligible for USDF Rider Awards. Group Members may participate in recognized shows without the payment of USDF non-member fees, are eligible to earn university credits, receive member discount rates for USDF events, and receive the *USDF Connection* magazine. (Supporting Family members do not receive a subscription to the *USDF Connection* – one magazine per "family.") See www.nodarider.org or www.usdf.org for eligibility to qualify for USDF regional and national championships. Note that Participating Membership in USDF is needed to compete in USDF Regional Championships.

Important INFORMATION:

- NODA By-Laws, club information, newsletters, details about shows, awards and events, and online registration are all available at www.nodarider.org.
- Online sign up fees are \$2.00 more because of processing fees
- **Two ways to join:**
 - Mail this form along with a check or cash,
 - Sign up ONLINE from the MEMBERSHIP page at www.nodarider.org

Sign Up Online!

Date _____ Renewal New

Approval to release your contact information to Big Dee's Tack and Vet Supplies?

(Big Dee's reimburses club 5% on members' purchases.) Yes, I approve _____ No, I do not approve _____

Name _____ USDF # _____

Adult Amateur Professional Youth, birth date required: _____

Youth is a NODA membership category that includes both Juniors (JR) and Young Riders (YR). Sign up for YOUTH membership unless you turn 22 or older in 2024. If you turn 22 or older in 2024, you must sign up for Adult Amateur or Professional membership.

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Additional Family Member Name _____ USDF # _____

(Must live at same address; includes ALL benefits except for USDF magazine and NODA newsletters)

Adult Amateur Professional Youth, birth date required: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Additional Family Member Name _____ USDF # _____

(Must live at same address; includes ALL benefits except for USDF magazine and NODA newsletters)

Adult Amateur Professional Youth, birth date required: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

To add more family members, use other side of form, or contact membership@nodarider.org

Membership Dues (Check or cash)

Adult Amateur or Professional	\$49.00	\$ _____
Youth	\$35.00	\$ _____
Golden-Ager (at least 75 years old)	\$24.00	\$ _____
<small>Must be 75 years old or older as of December 1, 2023</small>		
Additional Family Member	\$20.00	\$ _____
<small>Full membership, must live at same address</small>		
Additional Family Member	\$20.00	\$ _____
<small>Full membership, must live at same address</small>		
Additional Donation		\$ _____
Subtract NODA Bucks enclosed.....		-\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

Please make checks payable to NODA.

Mail to:

**Fran Cverna
NODA Membership
12212 Snow Rd
Burton, OH 44021**

QUESTIONS?

**Membership questions: Contact Fran Cverna
440-834-1774 or Membership@nodarider.org**

NODA is a 501(C)3 Educational Organization. All donations are tax deductible.



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 22910 Old Mill Rd Hudson Oh

 aerand22@gmail.com

Education Report for Dec 2023

Sally Burton and Patti Valencic

We had a very busy year in NODA Education! We started with the **New Test Clinic** at the Bainbridge Library on January 7, 2023. Over 40 participants from as far away as Pittsburgh came to hear Margaret Freeman discuss all the new tests. A delicious lunch from Honey Baked ham kept us fueled for the 7 hour day of amazing information and insights.

March 15 we offered a **Learn to Scribe Clinic** with Barb Soukup also at the Bainbridge Library. 14 people attended, learning all about the art of scribing. We played videos and Barb "live scored" so that everyone could practice scribing. This was a very fun event full of laughter, funny tales of showing "incidents" and support for new scribes.

Year two of the **Dressage Professionals Initiative** kicked off April 16-17 with Jen Baumert from Wellington, Florida. Part one was hosted by Endeavor Farm and 11 professionals attended and worked together to learn more about teaching. Since we had Jen in town we hosted **An Evening with Jen Baumert** on April 16, also at Endeavor Farm. 15 plus local dressage enthusiasts turned up to hear all about her career, the highs and lows of the sport and to learn tidbits of information from the mind of a well-known professional. **Our last event was also the Dressage Professionals Initiative part 2 with Jen Baumert**, September 30-October 1 at Flow Equestrian with 6 enthusiastic pros. At this session some amateur riders brought horses to learn from an instructor other than their regular teacher.

Next up on the Education program was our annual four day **NODA Dressage Adventures and More**. This year we moved the program to Brecksville Stables. Riders were thrilled with dressage instruction from Barb Soukup and Danielle O'Donnell. The fun continued with Working Equitation lessons taught by Emily Gill. This is a very popular program and we are looking forward to our return next year to Brecksville.

On July 29 we hosted a **Ride-a-Test Clinic** with Barb Soukup. This day included a new twist- you could ride with your instructor coaching you via electronic device. Some riders chose this option and found it very helpful. This day was full of education about the specifics of test riding and participants came away with many new insights.

As the year ends we would like to thank every participant who joined us on our education journey. Special thanks to all the instructors and clinicians. Finally, we could not run these events without the wonderful venues that support all of our endeavors. Stay tuned for more Education in 2024.

Volunteering at the U.S. Dressage Finals

by Lisa Gorretta

I've volunteered at the US Dressage Finals 10 years, since year one. Four years as a "regular volunteer" and 6 as Volunteer Chairman of the Organizing Committee (OC) for the competition, which is more of a 10 month gig.



Over the years I've had the opportunity to do everything from equipment check to crossing guard in the drizzle in the first few years to my current role. Currently my work includes ensuring that all of the parts work in sync, that each person has sufficient support without interference.

I run the meetings of the U. S. finals Organizing Committee and coordinate with our primary staff liaison Krystina Wright. I review hospitality plans with Anne Kuhns who heads that part of the Finals. Each year there is a review and sign off on the gifts, apparel, and swag. I also review the current site map, rings we will need, and class schedules with the Show Manager Debra Reinhardt. I'm also responsible for the final approval of all officials. Of course there is a budget and it requires review with the Executive Director and USDF President.

During the U.S. Finals I generally troubleshoot to support any portion run by Debra, Anne, Kathy, Bettina (secretary) and staff that require help, ideally without getting in anyone's way. I'm there to greet the 6 AM people and horses when I open the overhead Alltech doors. Sometimes I am scheduled to be in awards ceremonies - it is always great to congratulate our 10th to first place ribbon winners! After the fact I review evaluations from volunteers, competitors, and officials with the whole Organizing Committee to see what we might improve upon each year.

The Finals are such an important event for the membership and the sport. It is a unique event in the U.S. in that it is the head to head culmination of the results of the regional championships program. It was the dream of George Williams, Janine Malone and the late Lloyd Landkammer - all friends and mentors to me. I will pass on these responsibilities sooner than later, however I am sure I will continue to volunteer in some capacity.



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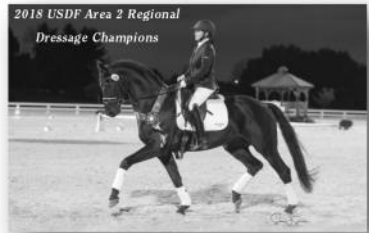
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For more information please contact:
 Holly Taylor @ email: brfhollyt@gmail.com or phone: 440.610.1606
 Or visit our website at www.blueridgefarmeventing.com

Find NODA's Calendar of Events at
www.nodarider.org

The Dressage Foundation News

Horse People - A Unique Breed

By NODA's The Dressage Foundation Liaison, Karen Puchalsky TDFRep@nodarider.org

We are truly a special breed! I've been called a horse person by many people including family, non-horse friends, and even my Chiropractor! How many times have we needed a new pair of paddock boots, but our horses needed new shoes, or a vet treatment and we made our paddock boots last a little longer so our horse could get what they needed? Many times, we joke that if we knew that buying a horse was the least expensive part of owning a horse, would we rethink our decision? I don't know about you, but my answer is NEVER!!

Don't you wish you had a Fairy God Mother that would magically give you money to advance your Dressage education? Well, there is - The Dressage Foundation! It wasn't until I became The Dressage Foundation Liaison for NODA that I learned what was available in grants to help. Whether you are a Youth/Young Adult, Adult Amateur, Trainer, or involved in show management, there are grants available to you.

Many of these grants were created in memory of people that spent years in the dressage world and wanted to help others continue their journey in the sport of Dressage. The Carol Lavell's Fund named in remembrance of her great dressage horse "Gifted" is to "give permission" to adult amateur riders to set aside quality time to concentrated on training. Up to nine \$1,500 grants are available each year (one in each USDF Region), plus two additional \$1,500 wild card grants. Wouldn't an extra \$1,500 help toward your training?

There are many grants available that you can apply for in 2024.

Youth and Young Adult Riders
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Dressage Technical Delegates
Para-Equestrian Dressage
Show Management
Western Dressage

Also, don't forget about The Dressage Foundation's Century Club. Riding doesn't have to stop when you reach a certain age, and The Dressage Foundation celebrates the riders that continue to ride despite their age. The Century Club recognizes dressage riders and horses whose combined ages total 100 years or more. Horse and rider perform a test of any level at a show (schooling or recognized) or event and are scored by a dressage judge or professional. Western Dressage riders are also welcome to join the Century Club. An application (found under the "Join the Century Club" heading) should be completed and sent to the Foundation at least two weeks prior to the ride. The Dressage Foundation (TDF) will send a beautiful black and gold ribbon to be presented to the team at the show. Following the ride, TDF sends a Century Club plaque to the new team.

Grants are awarded throughout the year and have application deadlines. Don't wait until it is too late, go to The Dressage Foundation's website at www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/apply/ to find out more!

The Dressage Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt, donor-driven organization that is dedicated to educating, supporting, and advancing the sport of dressage. The organization solicits contributions, appropriately allocates the donations, and awards grants and scholarships to dressage riders, judges, instructors, breeders, high performance teams, and nonprofit equestrian organizations. For more information, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org

Submitted by NODA's The Dressage Foundation Liaison, Karen Puchalsky TDFRep@nodarider.org

Schooling Show Year in Review and a Preview

By Sally Burton, Schooling Show Manager

The 2023 Schooling Show season ended strongly with our Championship show at Chagrin Valley Farms on October 8! Congratulations to our champions who enjoyed a victory gallop set to music. Thanks to all participants who joined us all season while we found our footing.

Big thanks to Kirk Morehead who provided lunch and snacks for all volunteers at all of our shows! Also big thanks to Suzanne Groselle for being in charge of ring set up in 2023, ensuring that the rings were ready to go for our shows. Finally a very special thank you to both Chagrin Valley Farms and to Rocky River Stables/Valley Riding and Margaret McElheny for hosting our shows for so many years!

We are off and running for the 2024 Schooling Show Series. Hannah Mandell is returning as secretary and Sally Burton will return as show manager. All shows have been scheduled and judges hired. The new 2024 information is already available on our website, so you can plan your show schedule early.

Volunteers are so appreciated and necessary- if you have always wanted to volunteer but are worried about doing the job- just contact us and you can shadow any job for an hour or two to get the swing of it. This seems like a good time for a friendly reminder that you- or a proxy- must volunteer one shift at a schooling show in order to compete in the championship show. Plus, volunteering is a great way to learn!

We are looking forward to another great season of shows with opportunities for riders and volunteers alike.

Stay tuned for more details and the 2024 Schooling Show Prize List!



Anna Pasela and Mocha at the 2023 NODA Championship Show at Chagrin Valley Farm. Photo by Ryder St. George Photography. Thanks to Anna for sending in a photo!

NODA News Will Go Digital and to Six Issues in 2024

As of January 1, 2024 NODA News will be published six times per year as follows

- Issue 1 February, digital
- Issue 2 April, digital and print
- Issue 3 June, digital
- Issue 4 August, digital
- Issue 5 October, digital and print
- Issue 6 December, digital

NODA's executive board, advertising, webmaster, and lead newsletter editor are working together to make this a smooth transition

Advertisers Information

An advertisers and sponsors slide show is running on the NODA Website "HOME Page."

If you purchase a six month ad it will run for 6 Issues in the NODA News and 12 months on the NODA website.

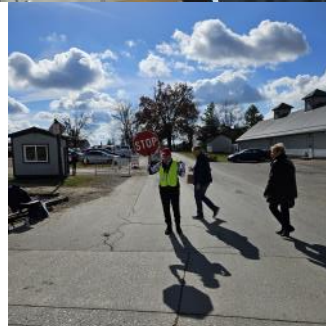
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**Please contact Advertising/Classifieds Editor with Questions
Katelyn Gerber, 740-398-9224, advertisers@nodarider.org**

NODA Volunteers at the USDF Dressage Finals



Above left and left center: Taya Workum-Byers and Jennifer Tulleners have volunteered at the U.S. Dressage Finals in 2021 and 2023 have been a ring stewards, bio management (you know what that means), traffic control on the horse highway, and in gate for the championship classes. When asked why they volunteer Taya says, " Frankly, it's an inexpensive vacation! Since I volunteer more than 1 day, my hotel room is provided and they feed us quite well! On top of that, I get to watch my friends show along with many other talented riders, I get to shop, and I get to sample some of the many other things Lexington has to offer. No show can be run without volunteers so why not help out? Maybe we can get a bigger NODA group for 2024 US Dressage Finals." Great idea, Taya!



Top right: Volunteer Check-in with hot beverages, three meals a day, and snacks. Photo by Mosie Welch



Veteran volunteers Charma Fargo and Barb Soukup (seated) who have been working the U.S. Dressage Finals for 9 years are joined by newbie, Mosie Welch. Photo by Jill Ekis



Above center: Mosie Welch working the busy horse highway near the Alltech Arena. Photo Taya Workum Byer. Above right: Mosie was relieved for a break by an eighty-seven year old volunteer who has worked every U.S Dressage Final. Photo by Mosie Welch

Left: Lisa Gorretta is closing off the stairs to the Alltech Arena Mezzanine during the awards ceremony. Lisa Gorretta has volunteered since "year one. Photo Mosie Welch



Barb and Charma staffing the hospitality shuttle with coffee, hot cocoa, and snacks for volunteers. Photo by Mosie Welch



Volunteers get to see cool horses and rides. This horse clipped in a checkerboard pattern was the most photographed horse at the finals! Photo by Mosie Welch

Right: Volunteers also meet people from all over the country and watch great riding. Jodi Heaston, my roommate from California, and me watched the Saturday Night Free-styles together. What fun!



Membership News

Fran Cverna, Membership Chair

Membership@nodarider.org

USDF/NODA 2024 Membership Year

12/01/2023– 11/30/2024

Last year on November 21,
NODA started the year with 69
members

**This year on November 21,
NODA has 112 members!**



**Welcome
or welcome back after an absence
New Members**

Janice Boehm, Taylor McFadden, Chelsea Nau, Amy Persson, Lori Sargeant, Viktoria Sargeant, Holly Taylor, Jeffrey Taylor, Scarlett Thompson, Lauren Tisdale

**THANK YOU for Your Donations
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Email Fran Cverna membership@nodarider.org with questions

The 2023 NODA Awards Banquet is in the books!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making this banquet successful: **Janeen Langowski - Grava** and **Anne McClintock** with awards and trophies, the generous members who donated items to the silent auction, and **Suzanne Groselle** for taking the awards photos and putting together the year in review slide show.

And a big thank you to the NODA board members who helped set up and check people in : **Sally Burton** who stepped in at the last minute at the welcome/ registration table, **Fran Cverna** who handled NODA membership, and **Patti Valencic** who accepted donations for the Geauga County Animal Warden.

Thanks to **Dee Liebenthal** for checking out all our silent auction winners. This year's fantastic program was well received and designed by **Mosie Welch**. NODA is grateful to **Regina Sacha-Ujcz** for flawlessly stepping into the MC role, helping to pull this whole celebration off on short notice.

And of course, thank you to the **NODA Membership** who make the annual celebration a fun and memorable event.

**Look for ALL the details
and award photos in
Issue 1, 2024, NODA
NEWS.**

**Kirk Morehead
Banquet Chair**



Janeen Langowski - Grava, who has been managing awards for over a decade, sets up the ribbon table with daughter, Val Grava.
Photo by Mosie Welch

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NODA Riders at the USDF Dressage Finals

Right: Hallie Goss competed in first level AA championship, finished 5th with a 69.5% paired with Chapel Hill (Urlee) who is a 14 year old Oldenburg gelding by Contucci. Loren Cobb is the owner/trainer of the horse and he is at her facility Stride Forward Stables in Olmsted Township. Hallie “would like to thank my mom for all of the help and support she has given me over the years I have been riding and making all of this possible. The best part about finals was being able to watch so many amazing horses compete and being able to meet equestrians from all over the US. I am so proud of Urlee and how much we have been able to improve together as a team this competition season. He loves to show off and always gives his best when we are at a competition so it is very fun to ride him.”



Below left: Meghan Kelley is a professional riding her own Holo Holo, an 11 year old KWPN in the I-1 Freestyle at the U.S. Dressage Finals in the Alltech Arena. She was accompanied to the Finals by Zach who supports Meghan in all of her horse endeavors. Below right: NODA was a Patron of the 2023 U.S. Dressage Finals at the bronze level. Photo by Mosie Welch



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Below right: Holly Taylor riding Baileys H, owned by Jeffrey and Holly Taylor. Baileys is a 5 yo, 16.3h, imported Hanoverian gelding (Benicio/Dancier) finishing 4th at 1st level open and 6th at 2nd level open. Baileys was the highest scoring national level open Hanoverian. Holly says, “The best part of finals was having just one horse to focus on and prepare. I got to spend extra one on one time with him, which doesn't happen often! He is a goof and such a sweet guy, it was enjoyable to hang out with him. I'd like to thank my husband for being my biggest fan and supporter and for constantly believing in me. He is also the voice in my ear when I am riding (figuratively speaking of course). I also have a tremendously supportive Blue Ridge Farm barn family. Baileys lives at home on our farm Blue Ridge Farm. Left center: Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Police Patrol the show grounds.



Above: Viktoria Sargeant of Wadsworth, Ohio riding her Morgan Jax Silver Lining at Training Level at the U. S. Dressage Finals. Viktoria is appreciative of the support of her Mom, Lori. Photo by Mosie Welch



Right center: Morning in the Alltech Arena. Barb and Charma watched riders warm up before their shift. Photo by Barb Soukup.



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