



WISCONSIN
Dressage & Eventing
ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14, 2026

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Osthoff Resort -Elkhart Lake, WI

The vice president, Stephanie Severn, welcomed WDEA members to the annual meeting and awards banquet. The current roster for the board members and committee chairs was reviewed, noting that the newsletter editor position is still open. The board members present at the meeting were introduced to the wider membership.

Board Members:

- President - Caryn Vesperman
- Vice President - Stephanie Severn
- Secretary - Carol McKinnon
- Treasurer - Morgan Winter
- Membership Chair - Diane Brault
- Newsletter Editor - OPEN
- Webmaster - Stephanie Severn
- Member-At-Large - Melinda DeLuca
- Member-At-Large - Mary Hanneman
- Member-At-Large - Heather Klopp
- Member-At-Large - Celeste Pauli
- Member-At-Large - Cindy Riffle
- Member-At-Large - Jessica Sims
- Eastern Chapter President - Nicole Trapp
- Eastern Chapter Representative - Jessica Kaczmarek
- Eastern Chapter Alternate - Tammy Risseeuw

Committees:

- Awards Committee Chair - Celeste Pauli
- Wisconsin Horse Council - Heather Klopp

Melinda DeLuca, the former president, was recognized for her years of service on the board of directors in roles of both president and secretary.

The Eastern Chapter, in particular Nicole Trapp and Jessika Kaczmarek, were recognized for their work in organizing the annual meeting and awards banquet event at the Osthoff Resort.

The new role for the six members-at-large was presented. Each of the six members-at-large will have an assigned geographical area of the state and will serve as a liaison person between members and the state board.

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- Call to order by the Vice President
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Eastern Chapter Update
- Member Survey
- Adjourn

Call to Order: 5:40 pm

Jessica K moved to approve the agenda and start the meeting. Nicole seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Secretary's Report:

February minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next board meeting in April.

Treasurer's Report - Morgan

The Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ending on December 31, 2025 were reviewed.

- The year 2025 ended with slightly negative net receipts, typically right around breakeven.
- The total receipts were down slightly compared to 2024.
- The 2025 disbursements were a little higher than in 2024.

Membership Report:

- As of February 2026 there are 90 new and renewing members.
- Monthly, targeted emails are being sent to people who haven't yet joined, encouraging them to renew.
- The Early Bird award winner was Ingrid Krause. She will receive a saddle pad.
- The Grow Our GMO winner was Nicole Trapp. She received book ends in the form of horse heads.

Eastern Chapter Update - Nicole Trapp

The Eastern Chapter President reviewed the various activities and events being planned by the Eastern Chapter.

- Up coming is the clinic with Suzanne Galdun, Rider Biomechanics, March 28-29, in Elkhart Lake.
- The Eastern Chapter Schooling Show will take place June 6-7 at Ozaukee County Fairgrounds, Cedarburg. Plans are to incorporate a tack sale at the show.

Member Survey - Stephanie Severn

Some of highlights from the respondents to the member survey were shared.

- Nearly 70% interested in traditional dressage clinics.
- 21% interested in Western dressage clinics.
- 13% interested in eventing clinics.

- Nearly 60% want to attend an in-person or barn social gathering.
- Nearly 70% indicated they'd be willing to drive up to an hour for the gathering - with 28% saying two hours.

- Top topics of interest receiving 50% of votes: fitting and purpose of bits, designing freestyles, equine massage, and used tack sale.

- Other topics receiving at least 40% of the votes: nutrition, cross-training the dressage horse, equipment rules, judging conformation/movement.
- More were interested in a virtual Ride-N-Review dressage test (42%) than a virtual dressage show test (33%).

The WDEA board will be reviewing the survey in depth over the next few weeks to discuss ideas that can better serve members in the future.

It was noted that one recent change made by the board is that **owners** of horses no longer have to be members of WDEA only the **rider** has to be a current member to compete in the showing awards programs.

Adjournment:

Mary Hanneman moved to adjourn the annual meeting. Tammy Risseuw seconded. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Carol McKinnon, Secretary