



January 2018

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Welcome to 2018! Boy has it been cold! Hope some of you got some riding in. The AGM is coming up soon, January 20.

As ODS moves into the new year we have moved to a new website host. It is with a business called Club Express. Same web address, www.dressageoklahoma.org, new look and new capabilities. As of about 6:00 pm on January 3, everything went operational. If you have not sent in your AGM reservations, you can register and pay for it all on the website.

By now you should all have received the “welcome to the new website” email with your login information. For those that have already paid for 2018 by check, when you log in you will see that you still owe money. Don’t worry about that. We will send out an email, to let you all know how to fix it yourself. That is a good way to learn some of the capabilities of the new site and we will also be working to enter your payments.

You will be able to sign in and create your own password, update your personal information, and make your own decisions on what information you want to show. We will have a public side and a member’s side. I ask that you enter all the data requested. The only people who can see everything are the administrators, depending on what you decide to show in the electronic directory. We will be able to do our email blasts from the website, sort members in many different ways, and be able to manage the ODS data much easier. So the more information we have the better we can manage club.

So please take the time to play with the website. On your profile page will be a list of all the items you can do including links to the user’s guide and videos.

We are still working out the bugs with the horse registry. More information will be coming out shortly.

As we continue to work on getting everything on the new site, if you see something you would like to see please let us know. Sue Twitty has volunteered to be our new webmaster. We have set up emails such as president@dressageoklahoma.org. See the full list later in this newsletter.

Yes it will cost ODS more than the old website. However after being the webmaster for most of 2017, I can vouch for how much easier it is; to use, make changes, up date, and Club Express’s customer service is great!

Give it a try and let us know what we need to change, add, or delete.

I can’t wait to see what 2018 brings for ODS.

Pamela DeVore

President, ODS

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**All memberships will now be completed on [the new website](http://www.dressageoklahoma.org).
We want to ensure no one's membership get lost because of a missing piece of paper.**

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ODS Board Nominees for 2018

Marta Koenig

I am Marta Koenig. I am a CPA. I served as ODS treasurer from 2009 through 2014. When I started as treasurer in 2009 I put the ODS financial information into QuickBooks. I have been doing the ODS tax return pro bono since 2011. I came back on the board in August of this year to take over the treasurer's position as an interim board member after the resignation of the current treasurer. I recently attended the USDF conference in Kentucky and came away encouraged by the breadth and scope of USDF programs and commitment to promoting dressage in local and national venues. I would like to continue to be a part of the future of ODS making a positive difference in the lives of horses and riders in Oklahoma.

Marilyn Bassett-Coffey

For over a decade I have been an active member and volunteer within the Oklahoma Dressage Society. Over the years, I have served as a Board member for various equestrian organizations, such as: a local Equine Therapeutic Center, 4H Clubs, Green Country Chapter of ODS, and Great Plains Chapter of ODS. When asked, "Why do you want to run for an ODS Board position?" Here is one of many reasons...

"ODS built me"... It's because of the opportunities ODS offered in the past, I am the instructor, trainer, and competitor I am today. I want to make sure ODS continues to offer educational and competitive opportunities for all who show interest in Dressage... so others can fall in love with the sport, like I did. What I plan to do, if I am elected, is bring new fresh ideas to the table, refocus ODS in a direction that uphold its membership, and strive to promote further EDUCATION. After all... without trying to better ourselves, we learn nothing... therefore we gain nothing.

Within the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA), I am a certified Master Instructor, a Clinician, and a State Representative. I am also a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International Certified Instructor. In the summer of 2015, I earned my USDF Bronze Medal, and I have goals to soon earn my Silver. Currently I run my own business named MC Equestrian, teaching and training both Western and English to all ages. I regularly go to events so I can continue my education because I believe that bettering myself means my students and peers also benefit.

Emily Moser

Having horses and riding was always a "When I Grow Up" goal for me, so I got my first horse, Mojo, when I was 26. After trail riding for a couple of years, I decided I wanted to learn how to *Really* ride, so I took up dressage and eventually went to my first schooling show at 30. Getting into the sport of dressage as an adult has been very challenging, humbling, and an awesome experience! It is my goal to help the sport thrive in our state by (among other things) fostering a fun and inclusive environment—equestrian sport can be very intimidating, and it is my goal for ODS to be friendly, encouraging, and welcoming to all members, competitors, and volunteers. I love dressage and all the fantastic people I've met through the sport. Let's keep it going!

Brian Rogge

I am a (very) amateur rider with about 2 years in the saddle. Currently ride Western Dressage and some western performance. I work as a system administrator for the Chickasaw Nation overseeing work management processes and practices in their enterprise asset management software. I have also worked as a software consultant implementing business solutions for our clients as well as system administrator at other locations. I am a recovering Yankee, having moved to Texas in 2008 and Oklahoma in 2012. Prior to that I worked and lived in various places in the South as part of my tour in the U.S. Navy submarine service.

My focus as an ODS board member will be to:

1. Develop strategic partnerships with equestrian clubs around the state and region
2. Expand the base of young riders within the organization.
3. Provide continuity of leadership and governance within the ODS organization

Erin Nelson

I first got my start into horses when I was 12 and went to a YMCA camp. I came home and told my parents that we had a horse for the winter as the camp leased their horses out for the winter. We lived in town with no truck and no trailer. I rode with the local round up club, then when we moved to Bartlesville, had the opportunity to participate in Pony club. Through college I could not afford to have a horse, so I spent my money on lessons and rode whatever horse anyone would let me ride. I have participated in ODS education clinics and shows over the years, and with some amazing opportunities, have fallen in love with the sport of dressage. I currently work as a physical therapist and was finally able to purchase my own horse a couple of years ago. I believe in the importance of dressage remaining accessible to all levels of riders throughout the state. I served on the ODS board in 2016 as an interim secretary of the board and look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the dressage community.

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Horses newly registered with ODS:

No new registrations reported this month.

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Upcoming ODS Meetings:

AGM in Tulsa on January 20th, 2018- Tulsa Country Club

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Chapter News:

Great Plains Chapter of ODS News



No news reported.

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Green Country Chapter News



The board is currently firming up judges for our five schooling shows and preparing a schedule for the adult rider camp to be held March 9-11, 2018. More information to follow!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Jessie Korver- Chairwoman | 2. Roberta Clark- Vice Chairwoman |
| 3. Elizabeth Richards- Secretary | 4. Kat Greubel- Treasurer |
| 5. Amanda Edwards- Show Committee | |

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North Central Chapter News No news reported.

NEW ODS EMAIL ADDRESSES

President@dressageoklahoma.org

Education@dressageoklahoma.org

Newsletter@dressageoklahoma.org

Treasurer@dressageoklahoma.org



*Congratulations to all the
ODS Recognized and
Schooling Show winners
for 2017.*

*Please join us for a
presentation of your
achievement at the ODS
Annual General Meeting
and Banquet*

*January 20th at the Tulsa
Country Club.*



ODS Horse of the Year Award
Erin Nelson & Sister Sara SF

ODS 2017 Recognized Show Year End Awards

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL			
Jr/Yr			
	1	Anna Droegemueller/ Kaigenutt	64.250
Amateur/Vintage		none qualified	
TRAINING LEVEL			
Jr/YR			
	1	Olivia Mauldin/LR Ami Twilight	67.045
Amateur	1	Erin Nelson/Sister Sara SF	74.659
	2	Courtney Vaughn/Won Direction	66.522
	3	Annie Houchin/Noah BEH	66.080
	4	Rietta Miller /Debutante	64.654
	5	Annie Houchin/Asgaard	62.680
	6	Janet Cagle/Kit and Caboodle	62.190
Open	1	Kristin Knutson/Sandro Skip	70.227
Vintage	1	Courtney Vaughn/Won Direction	66.522
FIRST LEVEL			
Jr/YR		none qualified	
Amateur	1	Laura Custer/Bushido LNF	66.400
	2	Christine Cook/Titanium	65.656
	3	Amanda Edwards/Landstrider	63.520
	4	Courtney Vaughn/Hit it to Heaven	61.480
	5	Brittany Hall/Love the Footwork	61.029
Open		none qualified	
Vintage		Laura Custer/Bushido LNF	66.400
SECOND LEVEL			
Jr/YR			
	1	Olivia Bracken/Cobridge El Dorado	59.717
Amateur	1	Pamela DeVore/Fauston NAF	58.902
Open			
	1	Carolyn Hoekstra/Deacon	64.146
	2	Michelle Lundy/Wintergreen Replica	61.795
	3	Heather Grady-Gelvin/Satchels Memory	58.400
Vintage		Carolyn Hoekstra/Deacon	64.146

THIRD LEVEL			
Jr/YR		none qualified	
Amateur	1	Holly Luke/Lust in the Wind	64.091
	2	Nicole Burris/Like a Rock	60.897
	3	Nancy Eytcheson/Big Ben Hancock	59.848
	4	Kimberly McKenzie/Shamans Chance	58.333
	5	Pamela DeVore/Fauston NAF	57.949
	6	Tamera Mayo/Clair NAF	54.740
Open	1	Richal Flannery/Checkers	61.538
	2	Michelle Lundy/Wintergreen Replica	60.180
	3	Mary Shappee/Deer Park Echoing Lark	59.138
Vintage		Kimberly McKenzie/Shamans Chance	58.333
FORTH LEVEL			
Jr/YR		none qualified	
Amateur		none qualified	
Open	1	Nancy Burba/Rowan	61.222
Vintage		Nancy Burba/Rowan	61.222
FEI PSG, I-1, I-A, I-B			
Jr/YR	1	Niki Weitzenhoffer/Charisma	59.868
Amateur	1	Chris Cashel	63.684
	2	Shelly Williams	62.500
	3	Kimberly McKenzie	56.184
Open	1	Kristen Knutson/Vashti	68.553
	2	Roberta Clark/Divino	59.605
	3	Carolyn Hoekstra	55.329
Vintage	1	Chris Cashel/Buena Vista	63.684
FEI I-2, GP			
		no one qualified	
FREESTYLE			
Training-First Level		no one qualified	
Second-Fourth Level		Anthea Kin/Finian	73.167
FEI		Kristen Knutson/Vashti	66.500

ODS 2017 Schooling Show Year End Awards

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL		
Jr/YR		
1	Abigail Butts/Tahkosabi	68.747
2	Sarah Buller/Blue Me Away	67.500
3	Connor West/Illusive Mirage	67.190
4	Connor West/Shadow	67.125
5	Sienna Busking/ Sundance	61.781
6	Abigail Drogemeuller/Kaigenutt	61.325
Amateur		
1	Michelle Becks/Liam XO	73.125
2	Janet Cagle/Precious Baby J	68.437
3	Sarah Scott/Slewdazzle	64.531
4	Bobbi Bassler/Supersticious	64.219
5	Tanja Cox/Scandia's Angel Eyes	62.500
6	Nancy Spring/Lilly	62.499
TRAINING LEVEL		
Jr/YR		
1	Alaina Butler/Blue Me Away	65.199
2	Mary Misener/Tony	63.380
3	Abigail Drogemueller/Kaigenutt	62.391
4	Kendra McDermott/Semper Fi	62.000
5	Sienna Busking/Sundance	61.739
6	Sydney Berg/Kaigenutt	61.100
Amateur		
1	Annie Houchin/Noah BEH	65.571
2	Cathy Orban/Splash of Salsa	64.545
Open		
1	Marylin Bassett/Om El Pashahn	66.521
2	Victor Glunt/Onyx	61.363
FIRST LEVEL		
Jr/YR		
1	Kendra McDermott/Semper Fi	63.880
2	Ivy Orban/Kismet	63.330
Amateur		
1	Christy Cook/Titanium	66.296
2	Courtney Vaughn/Hit it to Heaven	64.412
Vintage		
1	Courtney Vaughn/Hit it to Heaven	64.412
WESTERN DRESSAGE - ALL LEVELS		
All Divisions	Janet Cagle/Precious Baby J	74.000



Annual General Meeting & Awards Banquet
Saturday, January 20, 2018

Tulsa Country Club

701 N. Union Avenue, Tulsa, OK. 74127

3:30 pm	Registration / Cocktail Hour
4:30 pm	Annual Meeting
6:30 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Year End Awards Presentation
8:30 pm	Silent Auction Ends

Don't miss this opportunity to socialize with friends & celebrate our members achievements.

AGM Registration Form

RSVP by January 6, 2018

Name: _____

Current Member (2018): ☐ Y ☐ N

Number attending dinner: _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Number attending meeting only: _____ (no fee)

Make checks payable to ODS and mail reservation form and payment to:
Pamela Rhodes, 1712 S. Gary Ave. Tulsa, OK 74104

Any questions can be directed to Diane Smith – text or call (405) 641-1718

Registration on the new [Website is available](#) and you can pay by credit or debit card.

AGM Buffet Dinner Includes:

Artisan Greens Salad

Fresh field greens, diced cranberries, candied pecans, balsamic vinaigrette

Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast with Apricot-Ginger Glaze

Pan Seared Salmon with Chimichurri Sauce

Assorted Variety of Cakes, Pies, & Cheesecake

Oklahoma Dressage Society's 2018 AGM Agenda
January 20, 2018
Tulsa Country Club

- 3:30 **Registration/Absentee Ballots Due**
- 4:00 **Call ODS AGM Meeting to Order**
Welcome ODS new members and first ODS AGM attendees
Introduction of Board of Directors
Minutes
Treasurer's Report – Marta Koenig
Committee Reports
 Presidents Report – Pamela DeVore
 Education – Kay Kamish
 Summary of 2017 Events
 Planned Events for 2018
 Brain Storming for additional 2018 Events
 Membership – Laura Custer
 ODS Education Scholarship – Diane Smith
 Convention Report – Sherry Guess/Marta Koenig
 Newsletter – Michelle Beckes, **LOOKING FOR NEW EDITOR**
 Webmaster – Sue Twitty
 Western Dressage
Chapter reports
 GPC – GPC Board Members
 GCC – GCC Board Members
 NCC – NCC Board Members
Old Business
 Spring Show Report
New Business
 New website Brian Rogge/Pamela DeVore
 Updated Recognized Show Year End Award Rules
 Updating Bylaws and P&Ps – need committee
 Financial Planning – need committee
 Communications - need committee
 Fund Raising – need committee
 Spring Show – need complete committee
Around the Table/Announcements
Nominations from the floor/Election of new Board Members
Announcement of new ODS Board Members
- 6:00 **Dinner**
- 6:30 **Awards**
Recognition of outgoing Board Members
Winner of Free Membership
Volunteer of the Year
Year End Awards

Oklahoma Dressage Society

2018 Recognized Show Awards Rules

General Program Rules:

- Award year is October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.
- Rider – Must be an ODS member in good standing on the date of the ride.
- Horse – Must be registered with ODS on the date of the ride.
- The horse and rider are considered a team for each level of competition.
- A horse/rider combo may not repeat as champion at the same level in succeeding years (FEI excluded).
- Awards will be presented at the Annual General Meeting or Awards Banquet.

Score Requirements:

- Minimum of five scores per level except FEI which requires a minimum of four scores per level.
- Minimum of three different judges.
- At least one score from the top test of the level (excluding Introductory Level).
- All scores must be from USEF/USDF shows.
- At least two scores must be from Oklahoma Dressage Society shows.
- 2013 rider tests (training, 1st and 2nd) will **NOT** count toward year end award scores.

Submission Requirements and Award Divisions

- All eligible scores will be used to calculate the median.
- Year-End Awards will be presented to the following levels. Awards are 1st – 6th in all divisions at all levels unless noted otherwise:

Level	Divisions		
Introductory	Amateur	Junior/YR	
Training	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
First	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
Second	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
Third	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
Fourth	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
FEI (minimum of 4 scores required)			
• PSG, I-I; I-A/B	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
• I-II; Grand Prix	Amateur	Junior/YR	Open
Musical Freestyle (minimum of 3 scores required)			
• Training/First	Open		
• Second/Fourth	Open		
• FEI	Open		

Additional Awards include:

- One Vintage award per level
- An overall pony high score will be awarded to the horse/rider combination with the highest score (not a median) earned at an ODS recognized show. Pony must have an official pony card from USEF.
- An overall Horse of the Year will be awarded to the horse/rider combination with the highest median (excluding introductory level and musical).

Save THIS date !!!

April 28 – 29, 2018



Anne is one of the most preeminent women in US Dressage today. She is a USEF "S" judge, as well as an FEI 5* judge, and has just been invited to be President of the Judge Panel at the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC.

Anne served as the USEF Technical Advisor for Dressage from 2010 through 2012. She guided the US Team riders through the World Equestrian Games, Pan American Games, and the 2012 London Olympics. She has trained and shown 16 of her own horses from start of their training to competing at Grand Prix. In the recent Region 3 Championships in Wellington, FL, she qualified for the National competition in Kentucky on her own horse at Intermediare 2, as well of 6 of her students at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, PSG, and Grand Prix.

In 2013, Ann was inducted into the USDF Hall of Fame

Symposium will be held at
Redlands Community College, Royse Ranch Arena
El Reno, Oklahoma

Oklahoma Dressage Society Presents:

A Symposium with Anne Gribbons

The Use of Exercises and Movements in the Progression of Training

The Symposium format will be designed to show how the exercises and movements required in dressage tests are designed for the progressive gymnastic development of the horse. We will begin with young horses in their first or second year of training, and show how the basic exercises aid in the development of strength and balance. As the horses continue in their training, the beginning exercises take on new significance, and more complex exercises are gradually introduced. At each stage of training, Anne will explain the purpose of each exercise and how it is designed to enhance the development of the ideals of dressage, culminating in work with Advanced horses.

Fees: Riders \$200/ \$250 (non-ODS members)
Auditors \$40 (45)/day or \$70 (75)/ 2 days

For further information please contact:

Kay Kamish: kkamishODS@aol.com
918.808.61258

Dressageoklahoma.org

[Facebook.com/dressageoklahoma](https://www.facebook.com/dressageoklahoma)

Absentee Ballot 2018 Annual General Meeting Board Election

(Listed in Alphabetical Order)

*3 Board Positions are up for Election – Please ✓ your top 3 picks
(see nominee Bios on the following pages)*



- ☐ Marilyn Bassett-Coffey
- ☐ Marta Koenig
- ☐ Emily Moser
- ☐ Erin Nelson

Any senior member wishing to vote by mail-in ballot shall fill out this ballot and return it to [Diane Smith, 912 Glen Eagles Dr. Edmond, OK. 73013.](#) This ballot must be received by mail delivery Jan 19, 2018 or presented before the start of the voting process at the Annual General Membership meeting. Nominations from the floor at the AGM will not be reflected on this ballot.

All bio's of each candidate can be viewed in the December and January newsletters published on the ODS website. www.dressageoklahoma.org

Brian Rogge was appointed to the Board by the Directors to a position vacated by the resignation of a Board member. The term of that position runs through 2018. Per ODS Policy and Procedures section IV(E)3 his appointment must be confirmed by the membership at the next AGM. Check the box below to confirm Brian's appointment.

- ☐ I confirm Brian Rogge's appointment to the Board of Directors
- ☐ I do not confirm Brian Rogge's appointment to the Board of Directors

Voting Member Name (Print)

Voting Member Signature



2018 10 reasons to make a new year's resolution to become a better partner for your horse.....Ridermanship®

This is the clinician who will be instructing at the 2018 Adult Rider Camp, hosted by the Green Country Chapter!! March 9-11, 2018.

1. **This is NOT an exercise course!** Be prepared to study the biomechanics of the body and learn how your Psoas, abdominals and gluts work together—or don't, for proper riding.
2. **Be prepared to change.** This course is about changing your "way of going." Stop being a pedestrian on a horse and begin to retrain your body to move in a different way! After all, if you do what you have always done, you will get what you always get.
3. **You will learn that dressage is not a mystery.** A half halt is just the reorganizing of your self-carriage. But do you know what rider self-carriage is?
4. **Learn to self-carry like a dancer.** You will develop your body to have the presence and grace of a dancer, or the elegance of an FEI rider.
5. **You will learn exercises...but you will learn to do them in a way that will CHANGE your posture.** Getting fit is ok, but it doesn't help change the way you carry your skeleton around. Doing exercise without being "through" is like doing shoulder in without being on the bit. It is just movement. Learning HOW to do the exercises while being through, on the bit, engaged in the haunches correctly is key to changing how you self-carry.
6. **Are you tired of your seat leaving the saddle and bouncing on your horse?** Go watch a video of yourself— if you see space between your seat and the saddle, you are banging on your horse's back with every stride. Think about what that does to your horse. This course will give you the tools to change your riding position and biomechanics to stabilize your spine while being able to open and close your hips freely, much like a saloon door will swing open and close...only it will be your horse swinging through your hips. Only then will your full seat breeches help you stay in the saddle :)
7. **Frustrated your horse goes beautifully with your trainer, but you can't seem to get him to move that way?** It's not because you are not capable. It is because you have never been taught how to use your body that invites the horse to move underneath you. Dressage trainers are not body experts—they are horse experts. Very few have the same expertise in how the human body works to be able to troubleshoot your physical issues.
8. **You owe it to your horse.** If my husband and I wanted to do ballroom dancing, and he took lessons to learn how, but I just showed up on the dance floor without any training...how fair is that? I would block his progress with my untrained movements.
9. **You will do anything for your horse.** Buy it a new saddle, get the best saddle pads, the best bridle. How much would you pay to make your horse comfortable?
10. **It is the right thing to do.** It is hard to face yourself. I know. As a dancer I faced myself every day in the studio in a leotard and tights. It is not easy to realize it's not your horse, but it's you. It is a brave rider who will look at themselves and commit to change.

Symposium with Steffen Peters

By Kay Kamish

A few years ago, I was fortunate enough to attend the USDF FEI Trainers Symposium and watch one of our best Olympic riders, Steffen Peters, teach and ride for two enlightening days. It was great to review my notes and refresh Steffen's philosophy in my own mind. I've condensed my notes for this month's newsletter.

The theme throughout was consistent for every horse; the goal was the same: connection, self-carriage, and how do we evaluate and find these elusive feelings? Steffen used the various movements of training to evaluate the quality of connection and the ability of the horse to maintain it. Movements were used and addressed for each ride, but the movement done for itself was not the most important thing ~ it was merely a tool to be used to evaluate the underlying more important principle of connection and self-carriage. The tone of the symposium dominated every direction or suggestion from Steffen: be a *coach* for the horse, keeping his mental and physical well-being in mind with everything we do. As riders, instructors or trainers, we must go beyond seeing what we don't like about a movement and try to understand why our request didn't produce what we wanted from the horse. What is the root cause of why the transition, the half-pass, the change was rough or awkward or late? Nothing was done that added more confusion, tension, or insecurity to the horses. Corrections were calm, and beyond that, logical. "Keep it simple," Steffen frequently repeated ~ that is, break down a complex request into smaller parts to allow the horse to comprehend the request, and to find, by doing a movement in smaller and simpler steps, that the horse can discover that they actually can perform the movement with confidence. Steffen repeatedly emphasized that repeating a difficult movement again and again will not make it better. Teaching it in smaller steps, gradually adding them together and finally trying again is what will make it better.

The ongoing theme of the Symposium was making a priority of consistent connection and self-carriage designed to produce horses with reliable rideability. And what is rideability? A horse who is so tuned to the aides that responses come easily and instantly to light aides; a horse who is so with the rider that riding becomes simpler and simpler, so that in the moment of a movement or a test, there doesn't have to be attention devoted to the details of connection and self-carriage, they are so automatic, and attention then can go to precision and accuracy. Steffen said in the midst of an advanced test there simply isn't time to have any discussion about connection, suppleness, thoroughness ~ those qualities have to become so automatic, simplified, that the rider can focus on other things about the performance. He repeatedly asked two questions: 1) Is the horse always in front of the leg? 2) Is he in self-carriage/in control of his own balance- that is, not leaning on the rein at all nor being held by the rider for control or support? If the answer was 'yes' to both it meant the horse was in a consistent connection with the rider's hand, and was, therefore, 'rideable'.

Pertinent pearls of wisdom:

- Be willing as riders to choose when a moment is right to ask for a movement. If it is not right, just don't do the movement at that moment; set the horse up to succeed.
- Ask yourself as a rider: do I have the right to ask my horse for something new? ~ Only if the horse is in a position of confidence and balance.
- Set things up to build the horse's confidence: set them up for success in a movement.
- Perform a movement only so far as the horse can stay correct and succeed. Be willing to ride out of a movement at any point that it becomes a struggle and set it up again.
- Repeating a movement over and over (badly) does not eventually make it good. Only breaking it down into simpler steps lets the horse understand and manage to make it better.
- Let the horse feel your clarity, not your impatience.
- Never accept a loss of rhythm or balance. Coach them back to it. Don't just go on hoping it will fix itself. It won't.
- If a mistake is made, ask: what can I do to help the horse *understand*? Rather than correcting or blaming the horse.
- Train in a way that anyone could be watching at any time.
- Train in a logical and respectful way (to the horse).
- A steady hand does not mean a stubborn hand.
- Bring your best self to the ride ~ physical, mental, and spiritual best.