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AUGUST 2023



## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

*Chris Stanko, President*

**Greetings USAWE members,**

WOW! We are more than halfway through the year. My time flies. Shows are going strong all over the country. We are getting close to the Zone Championship shows for 2023.

USAWE sent out a survey to the membership asking opinions of Zone versus Regional Championship shows. We received a huge number of replies. It was one of our biggest responses to a survey. The board discussed this survey a couple of times. We listened to our membership. The board voted to move to Region or Multi Region Championship/National Championship shows. This will take some time. 2024 will be our transition year. We will have a task force to roll out the specifics on how this

members to promote and support events, licensed shows and championships within and outside of your regions. Stay tuned, more on this to come!

Elections are coming up soon. Nominations open up Sept 1st. Let's keep going forward with USAWE. It is always good to have new ideas, new energy and new faces moving us forward.

I am so excited that we have 3 Senior judges going to Spain for a WAVE Judge training. The education they will receive will be shared with our Judges, TD's and trickle on down to the membership. This is an incredible opportunity.

*Ride Softly*

*Ride With Grace*

*Ride with Rhythm*

*Ride with Tact*

## CORPORATE NEWS

*Kris Blacklock, Secretary*

### Did you move or change email accounts?

Members are asked to send an email to [Membership@usawe.org](mailto:Membership@usawe.org) and [Secretary@usawe.org](mailto:Secretary@usawe.org) if you moved since joining USAWE to ensure your email and mailing address are correct. Elections are right around the corner and we wish to ensure you receive the correct ballot for your new location.

### What's New?

The Board of Directors appointed a **Quality Assurance** audit team tasked with making sure that our scoring system, Gira.io, customized for USAWE is working optimally and accurately for our members. Initial assessment started with a questionnaire sent August 11 to show organizers, scorers and licensed officials, asking for feedback (any difficulties you may have experienced, what works well, suggestions for improvements or enhanced functionality). Responses due Sept 15th.

Appreciation to the following board appointed members for volunteering their time:

**Task Force: Quality Assurance | Team Lead:** *Lidia Taylor* | Email: [QualityAssurance@usawe.org](mailto:QualityAssurance@usawe.org)

**Members:** *Kris Blacklock, Karen Boso, Joy Chadsey, Barbara Crawford, Deb Quillinan, Layn Russell*



### BOARD OF DIRECTOR MOTIONS

Agendas and Minutes of all Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings are posted on the usawe.org website > Corporate > [Records](#) > Meeting Minutes. Below are decisions since July 19, 2023.

#### Decisions by Email August 2

- Amend the 3/8/2023 motion "Appoint Katie Franklin (AZ) to fill the remaining term as Region Director 2 through November 30, 2023." to read Appoint Katie Franklin (AZ) to fill the remaining term as Region Director 2 through November 30, 2024.
- Approve up to \$750 to contract the online election firm Simply Voting to conduct the 2023 USAWE elections.
- Establish a standardized format for candidate statements (not exceed 500 words, including question prompts) in order to provide a side-by-side assessment of candidate experience, qualifications, and plans.

1. My name is
2. I live in [Region#, State]
3. My involvement with Working Equitation:
4. My relevant professional/work experience:
5. Why I think I am a good candidate for this position:
6. What I hope to accomplish during my term of service if elected:

#### Board of Directors Meeting - August 9

- Allocate up to \$400 for 2023 USAWE GIRA.io software enhancements.
- USAWE will move to a Regional or Multi-Regional Championship/National Championship show structure; final structure and timing of shows to be determined. Details to be finalized by no later than 10/1/2023 by a task force appointed by the BOD.
- Approve the 2024 Eastern Zone Championship Show proposal that was submitted by the May 31, 2023 deadline.

score for California horse-rider pairs participating in the 2023 Western Zone Championship.

#### Executive Session (Full Board) Meeting – August 9

- Approve a GIRA.io Feedback eBlast and online survey to solicit Show Management and Licensed Officials feedback and establish a Quality Assurance Task Force.

Appoint Kris Blacklock (R5-WI), Karen Boso (R5-IL), Deb Quillinan (R6-NY), Joy Chadsey (R2-AZ), Lidia Taylor (R5-IN), Layne Russell (R3-KS) and Barbara Crawford (R7-SC) to the Quality Assurance Task Force, effective immediately.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

# Board of Directors MEETING

**2nd Wed each month**

5pm PST | 6pm MST | 7pm CST | 8pm EST

President, President Elect, Secretary,  
Treasurer, At-Large Directors and Regional  
Directors to conduct business.

Committee Chairs invited to provide updates.



USAWE.org > WE Events > Calendar

**OPEN to Members**

TO RSVP, EMAIL

**Secretary@usawe.org**

Meeting take place virtually via Zoom. All USAWE Members in good standing are welcome to attend as a silent participant.

Please contact the Secretary (Secretary@usawe.org) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting if you would like the Zoom meeting room access info.

#### Corporate Meetings

The Board of Directors (BOD) regular meeting is scheduled the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All USAWE Members in good standing are welcome to attend as a silent participant.

Next BOD meeting is scheduled **Wednesday September 13, 2023** 5:00-6:30 pm Pacific time and will take place virtually via Zoom. Agenda topics due August 30<sup>th</sup>

Please contact Secretary Kris Blacklock ([Secretary@usawe.org](mailto:Secretary@usawe.org)) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting if you would like the Zoom meeting room access information. Requests for access arriving less than 24 hours prior to the meeting are not guaranteed a response.

BOD agendas and meeting minutes are posted to USAWE.org > Corporate > Records > [Meeting Minutes](#) in accordance to the Bylaws of USA Working Equitation.

A *Log of Motions Passed* is posted to USAWE.org > Corporate > [Records](#)

#### Agenda Topics

Agenda items for board consideration shall be submitted using an online Google Form located on the usawe.org website > Corporate > Records > [Board Agenda Item Request Form](#)

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs will use the new *Board Agenda Item Request Form* to submit agenda items for board consideration. Individual Members are asked to contact their [Regional or At-Large Director](#) to request Agenda Item submission. The Board welcomes requests, proposals and recommendations submitted through Committee Chairs, Regional Directors and Officers, so we can better serve our members' and organization's needs.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN

### September 1st



The Election process for USA Working Equeitation (USAWE) will begin on September the 1st! Any U.S. Adult member of USAWE is eligible to run for the President-Elect or At Large Director 1 positions. The Region Director positions are open to residents of that region.

**President-Elect**  
**At Large Director 1**  
**Region 1 Director**  
**Region 3 Director**  
**Region 5 Director**  
**Region 7 Director**

**Here is a list of important dates in the election process for USAWE. Please note that each due date ends at 11:59 pm, Pacific**

- **September 1** - Nomination announcements emailed to all U.S. Adult members with a link to online nomination form
- **September 14** - Last date to join USAWE as an U.S. Adult member in order to run for a seat on the board
- **September 15** - Nominations close
- **October 1** - Candidate acceptance & statements due
- **October 10** - Last date to join USAWE as a U.S. Adult member to receive an emailed ballot to vote
- **October 15** - List of all candidates and candidate statements posted on the USAWE website and provided to an independent elections firm for distribution to voting members
- **November 1** - Ballots emailed to all U.S. Adult members
- **November 15** - Voting closes
- **December 1** - Those elected take office

Also on the Election ballot will be a question where each voter can choose where to designate \$5 of their membership dues to. The choices will be the USAWE General Fund, the Youth Scholarship Fund, or to an Affiliate Organization of the voter's choice.

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## **AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Awards Committee Members*

### **2023 Leaderboard Awards Survey Results**

Survey conducted July 5-31 | 975 Recipients | 120 responses; 4 duplicates, leaving 116 individual responses.

- For the 2022 Season, the National Top 2 on the Leaderboard for the country received their choice of embroidered apparel, the options were a Puffer Jacket, a Puffer Vest, or a hoodie in colors offered by the vendor and shipped to the recipient.
- Our regional Top 3 riders received a Top 3 embroidered patch with the season year 2022; in addition, our Regional Top 1st rider and 2nd Rider for each division received a First and Second place ribbon with the USAWE logo.

**[CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY RESULTS](#)**

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**GIRA.io Feedback**  
*Share your Thoughts*

**USAWE**  
USA WORKING EQUITATION.

“ USAWE is seeking your feedback on GIRA.io, the competition scoring and placing software USAWE subscribes to for the benefit of our members and show organizers. The Board of Directors appointed a Quality Assurance Team tasked with making sure that our online scoring system, Gira.io, is working optimally and accurately for our members. Let us know how it's working for YOU!

Share your thoughts by completing a brief online survey by September 15th. ”

**FEEDBACK DUE SEPT 15TH** [www.usawe.org](http://www.usawe.org)

### QUALITY ASSURANCE TASK FORCE

*Quality Assurance Task Force Members*

**Show organizers, scorers and licensed officials**, please complete the **GIRA.io Feedback Survey** sent August 11th asking for your feedback (any difficulties you may have experienced, what works well, suggestions for improvements or enhanced functionality) on GIRA.io, a competition scoring and placing software USAWE subscribes to for the benefit of our members and show organizers. **Responses due Sept 15th.**

The Board of Directors appointed a **Quality Assurance Audit Team** tasked with making sure that our scoring system, Gira.io, is working optimally and accurately for our members. Please contact [QualityAssurance@usawe.org](mailto:QualityAssurance@usawe.org) if you didn't receive the email survey request.

We will be identifying and resolving any licensed show scoring, placement, results issues and soliciting user feedback for potential software enhancements/apps to streamline the scoring process from start to finish.

We are eager to get feedback and look forward to your thoughts, issues and suggestions for enhancements to the system. We will share your ideas with the software developer, competitions committee and awards committee.

### COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

*Competitions Committee Members*

#### COMPETITIONS – 2023 QUALIFYING SCORE ADJUSTMENT – WESTERN ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP -

Due to the outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis and it's subsequent required cancelation of many of the California licensed shows, and the inability of California riders to travel outside of California, a motion was made to make an adjustment in the # of required qualifying scores for California riders.

The board passed the motion to make an adjustment to the (2) qualifying scores criteria for California rider-horse pairs participating in the Western Zone Championship to allow participants from California to qualify for the 2023 Zone Championships with (1) a single qualifying score.

#### 2024 Eastern Zone Championship show

The 2024 Eastern Zone Championship has been approved by the board. It will be held in Bulls Gap TN at Three Bulls, LLC and put on by Working Equitation East on October 3 - 6, 2024.

#### 2024 Licensed Shows

The Competitions Committee is taking applications for 2024 USAWE licensed shows. Be sure to click on the 2024 button when submitting an application for 2024.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*Kasey Riddle, Youth Development Committee Chair*

We need help developing a **logo design**!!!! PLEASE submit your hand drawn or computer imaged design. We envision a logo that represents youth and working equitation. Make it simple!!!

The Youth Committee will narrow down the ideas to the TOP THREE CHOICES and we will let ALL MEMBERSHIP vote on their favorite!

Please have ideas turned into [youth@usawe.org](mailto:youth@usawe.org) or posted on the USA Working Equitation Youth Club Facebook Group BY SEPTEMBER 1st!

**USA Working Equitation Youth Club Facebook Group** is now ACTIVE. This private group is open to all USAWE youth and parents of youth. This community is designed for our youth riders to network and share milestones, as well as help parents stay informed about upcoming opportunities that are available. Licenced officials are welcome to join to encourage youth riders. Youth may use their parents/guardians facebook account and this page will be a safe and closely monitored space. Parents of youth should have received invites into the group via email. You can also email [youth@usawe.org](mailto:youth@usawe.org) or find the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/205217568973755>

#### **Zone Championship SCHOLARSHIPS available for Youth**

Please remember there are SCHOLARSHIPS available for the qualified YOUTH that covers your ENTRY to any Zone Championship show (entry fee only). These funds are LIMITED.

#### **DEADLINE is SEPTEMBER 1st!**

If you have two qualifying scores, and plan on attending a Zone Championship show, please apply for this scholarship ASAP so that we can process your application. Applications can be found on the usawe.org under COMPETITIONS > CHAMPIONSHIPS > YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP or [CLICK HERE](#) for the scholarship application.

*As always, please feel free to offer ideas, thoughts and ask questions freely to [youth@usawe.org](mailto:youth@usawe.org)*

## **MARKETING & PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Marketing & Promotions Committee Members*

### **DO YOU HAVE A NOSE FOR NEWS?**

The Marketing and Promotion Committee is seeking volunteers that have a nose for news, possess keen interview and editorial skills, and have a burning desire to share news worthy information about USAWE activities & events, domestic and international championships, new licensed officials, new coaches, etc. on a timely basis. This group of volunteer 'reporters' (as members of the Marketing and Promotion committee) will assist committee chairs, regional directors and executive committee officers in publishing social media posts, news articles for local newspapers (to spotlight member achievements), national magazines and other avenues that will help broadcast USAWE news within and beyond our current membership base.

Please contact our Marketing and Promotions chair Amie Perryman at [Marketing@usase.org](mailto:Marketing@usase.org) if you are interested in helping us spread the news about USA Working Equitation.

## **COACHES NETWORK COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Coaches Network Committee Members*

### **Coaches in your region:**

#### **Region 1**

Kimberlee Barker of Corvallis, OR  
Trisha Kiefer-Reed of Wolf Creek, MT  
Laura Stutesman of Ashland, OR

#### **Region 2**

Ashley Bowers of Cave Creek, AZ  
Polly Limond of San Diego, CA  
Judy Mackenzie of Payson, AZ  
Jessica Mosbaugh of Fiddletown, CA  
Tessa Nicolet of Payson, AZ  
Sue Watkins of Riverside, CA

#### **Region 3**

Chris Stanko of Niwot, CO

#### **Region 5**

Emily Kemp of Newton, WI  
Michelle Lackey of Medina, OH  
Erica Peet of Wonder Lake, IL

#### **Region 6**

Stephanie Hayes of Johnson, VT

Rose Watt of Cochran, PA

### Region 7

Shannon Yee of Bradley, SC

Jody Fontanetta of Milton, TN

To learn more about our coaches or how to become a coach visit: [usawe.org/coaches](https://usawe.org/coaches)



### Get To Know A Recognized USAWE Coach

Rose Watt - Cochran, PA

#### What inspires you to be a Working Equitation Coach?

*I am passionate about WE. WE combines so many aspects of horsemanship with standards for positive progressive training for horse and rider. I also LOVE teaching! See one, do one, teach one!*

#### What is your favorite obstacle? Why?

*The double slalom. The progression from walking it to flying changes within that distance is a challenge for the best horses and riders.*

#### What's your best tip for competitors heading into the show ring?

*Prepare, prepare, prepare! Horse and rider's best physical and mental health leads to the confidence to achieve successful rides. THOUGHT leads to ACTION, and ACTION creates your REALITY.*

#### What's your favorite trick for remembering WE courses?

*CHUNKING. I have a background in Special Education and counseling. Grouping several obstacles together, then another set, then an ending group works with my learning style.*

#### Your all time favorite WE horse?

*Sincerrey Santiago, my Andalusian stallion, will forever be my boy! We traveled together for 15 years, and I retired him this year at Level 5. Starting again at L1 is hard.*

#### What would your students say is your catchphrase?

*"One more time." Let's do that again. I'm always pushing for better.*

#### What non-equestrian activities do you love to do?

*My 3 girls and family time are my lifeline. Also, my part-time work in mental health counseling. I absolutely am thrilled when I can help another human transition forward through life's challenges.*

Thanks for the great information, Rose! Learn more about Rose and all our coaches at: [usawe.org/coaches](https://usawe.org/coaches)

Check back next month to learn about our next featured coach from our diverse network!

## REGIONAL NEWS

### **Region 3**

Linda Frazier, Region 3 Director

#### **Working Equitation Kansas**

Kansas State Fair- Sept 8-9, 2023, Hutchinson, Ks. 67502

Two –One Day B Rated Shows, Rebecca Algar S Judge

Rebecca Algar will be doing lessons Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at Linda's Ranch,  
8915 N. Plum Hutchinson, Ks. 67502

## **Region 6**

*Karen Miller, Region 6 Director*

### **New England Working Equitation**

We're about one month away from the USAWE Eastern Zone Championship Show! The EZC show committee is busy at work to make this the best show of the year. And WE can use your support! Last minute sponsorships are still available- starting at \$15- sponsor an obstacle, a division, a high point breed of your choice and other options.

<https://www.newenglandwe.com/ezc-sponsorship-info>. Consider volunteering, too!

Raffle tickets for the custom Schleese "Adelante" Saddle can be purchased online anytime until the drawing September 23 to be held at the EZC show. Winner does not need to be present to win! \$25/ticket. Saddle is valued at \$5490.00.

<https://www.newenglandwe.com/>

There will be a Rated USAWE licensed show held in conjunction with the EZC. Entries will open soon for riders who have not qualified for EZC. Stay tuned

here: <https://www.newenglandwe.com/usawe-eastern-zone-championship>

Questions? Please email [newenglandworkingequitation@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandworkingequitation@gmail.com)



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