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FEBRUARY 2024



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Doreen Atkinson, President

Hello WE friends,

WE clinics and Shows are already starting up. Riders are polishing their boots, dusting off their hats and scrubbing their horses. The competition manual and rulebook are updated. Licensed officials, AOs, and show managers are busy getting their schedules in order. And I am looking forward to seeing many of you soon.

Year end awards were announced and my congratulations to all the finalists! The international committee had their very first successful Train to Win clinic in Weatherford Texas with Jose Benito, WAVE Judge from Spain. Kellee Campbell and Kiki Pantaze worked their frozen fingers to the bone to make this a success.

A webinar will be offered February 22 covering the international program, giving information, goals and calendar. [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP register for the International Program webinar to listen to how this program benefits all riders. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The volunteers of this organization continue to amaze me. Hard working and caring individuals have made my job easier. This month I'd like to thank clerical assistant Kris Blacklock for her many hours, efficient detail and quick response to me and all my requests. And thank you, Jeanne Bond, the wizard of oz, behind the curtain getting all documents to tie together. Many many hours these ladies have put in.

THANK YOU.

same goal. We should be helping one another achieve this goal. Work toward harmony. And it's all about grace. Extend grace and work forward with each other. Unity creates belief. Disunity creates disbelief in our organization. Look long and hard at your attitude as we carry on. WE has room for many opinions and we all want what's best for USAWE. Unity should prevail when trivia disagreements erupt. We are all here to serve on the same ship. Stand together, strive together on our foundation of our mission and the results will be powerful. Don't let the ship run a foul, maintain unity. Thank you for your confidence in me as President and I hope to see you at the next show.

EXPLORE MORE AT [USAWE.ORG!](https://www.usawe.org)



RESULTS



EVENTS



MORE NEWS

CORPORATE NEWS

Amie Perryman, Secretary & Kris Blacklock, Clerical Assistant

2024 Annual Meeting

Annual Member Meeting of USA Working Equitation was held virtually via Zoom on **Saturday February 3, 2024 at 9:00 am PST | 10:00 am MST | 11:00 am CST | 12:00 pm EST**. Meeting Agenda, Presentation, Membership Q&A, Recording and Minutes is available online via [usawe.org](https://www.usawe.org) > Corporate > Records > Meeting Minutes > [Annual Members Meeting](#).

What's New?

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MOTIONS

Agendas and Minutes of all Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings are posted on the [usawe.org](https://www.usawe.org) website > Corporate > [Records](#) > Meeting Minutes. Below are decisions since the BOD e-Votes January 10, 2024.

Decisions by email – January 19, 2024

- Appoint **Cera Olson** (R6-MD) as member of the Marketing and Promotion committee, effective immediately.

Decisions by Special Board Meeting – January 21, 2024

- Approve requirements for Regional Championships starting January 1, 2025 (to be added to the Competitions Manual and Policies & Procedures), effective immediately.



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



PUBLIC NOTICE
Board of Directors
MEETING

2nd Wed each month
 5pm PT | 6pm MT | 7pm CT | 8pm ET

President, President Elect, Secretary,
 Treasurer, At-Large Directors and Regional
 Directors to conduct business.
 Committee Chairs invited to provide updates.

USAWE
 USA WORKING EQUITATION
 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 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.

****DATE CHANGE**** February BOD meeting is scheduled **Wednesday February 21, 2024** and March BOD meeting will be held 2nd Wednesday, March 13 2024; 5:00-6:30 pm Pacific time virtually via Zoom.

Please contact Secretary (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.

Board Agenda Topics

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

Individual Members are asked to contact their [Regional or At-Large Director](#) to request Agenda Item submission. The Board welcomes requests, proposals and recommendations so we can best serve our members and organization's needs.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial Oversight Committee Members & Kris Blacklock, Clerical Assistant

A 2023 financial review was completed by the Financial Oversight committee and will be presented to the Board of Directors on February 21, 2021. The committee report includes a review of expenditures, bank statements, checks, PayPal and credit card transactions and account statements, plus a summary of observation comments and recommendations.

Per USAWE Bylaws (Article VII, Section 4), the Financial Oversight committee is responsible for overseeing the organization's financial transactions and the implementation of the organization's financial policies. As part of its mission, the committee reviews on a quarterly basis (oversees a quarterly review of) the organization's expenditures, financial transactions, bank statements, returned checks, and credit card statements. Committee report includes recommendations, questions or concerns about the organization's finances for Board of Directors consideration.



AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Lynn Maloney, Awards Committee Chair

The Awards Committee is incredibly excited to announce that our 2023 show season results are posted to the website! Congratulations to everyone who competed in 2023, and especially to our Regional and National leaderboard rider-horse pairs and equine Breed Performance Award winners. We are so thankful you chose Working Equitation as your sport, and we love having the opportunity to celebrate you and your equine partners. Visit usawe.org > Licensed Competitions > [Leaderboards](#) and [Award Programs](#)

National Award Details

Our [National High Point and National Reserve High Point Leaderboard](#) winners in each division and performance level received an email in February with information that will allow each winner to select their choice of a USAWE branded embroidered item directly from our awards vendor. **National Award orders must be processed by February 29, 2024**, and we expect them to ship late-March. Each national leaderboard winner will also receive a high point rosette ribbon to commemorate their achievement. Questions regarding these prizes can be directed to awards@usawe.org.

National High Point Youth (7-17 years) Award Details

A National High Point Youth and National Reserve High Point Youth Leaderboard winner is determined by all points earned during the show season (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) as a Youth (7-17 years) and includes all horses ridden and all performance levels entered. The High Point Youth Champion and Reserve will receive a High Point rosette ribbon to commemorate their achievement. Youth High Point Results are located here: [2023 National Leaderboard Winners](#). National Youth High Point criteria is located here: [Award Programs](#). Questions regarding National High Point Youth awards can be directed to awards@usawe.org.

Regional Award Details

Our Regional Top 3 Leaderboard winners in each division and performance level will receive a commemorative patch in the mail late-March. The Top 2 rider-horse pairs (per division and performance level) will also receive a regional high point rosette ribbon to commemorate their achievement. Winners don't have to do anything; these will be mailed automatically by the end of March! Questions regarding awards can be directed awards@usawe.org.

Breed Performance Award Details

We appreciate your patience in analyzing licensed show horse rankings to identify equines that met award and sponsorship criteria. Each recipient of a [2023 Breed Performance Award](#) will receive a custom rosette ribbon late March. These will be mailed to the horse's owner according to our Horse Recording database (or to the rider if we don't have the equine owner's email address on file). Ribbons will include the year, breed, and equine's name. Questions regarding breed awards can be directed to awards@usawe.org.

Photos

2023 Award Winners - As you receive your awards and take photos with them, we would LOVE to feature

*Thank you again for an incredible 2023 season.
We look forward to continuing to support horses and their riders in 2024!*

USAWE Awards Committee

Interim assistance from Kris Blacklock, Clerical Assistant

Julie Alonzo

Mindy Finelli

Lynn Maloney

Pat Melton

Amie Perryman

2024 BREED PERFORMANCE AWARD SPONSORSHIP

Did you know? Though the generosity of 43 sponsors, 42 equines earned Breed Awards in 2023! [CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2023 breed sponsors and congratulate our 2023 High Point Breed Award winners! National High Point Breed Performance Award recipients are the highest scoring equine within a sponsored breed across all divisions, all levels based on all points earned during the show season (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31), regardless of rider/performance level. Our sport demands an athletic all-around horse able to perform with precision, finesse and speed.

Since USAWE competitions encourage both riders in a variety of tack/attire and horses of all breeds (including gaited), to compete side by side, the year-end award winners are the among riders of very diverse traditions and backgrounds. [CLICK HERE](#) if you, your breed association or business are interested in sponsoring a breed award. Year-end Breed Performance Awards may be sponsored by any organization, business, or a private citizen. Breed specific awards allow sponsors to spotlight the success of their chosen breed in Working Equitation. Thank you!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Professional Development Committee Members

The members of the Professional Development Committee have been hard at work upgrading and revising the Professional Instructors renewal forms and Continuing Education criteria. The new requirements for CE credits should be rolled out soon to help all of the PI's plan their events to receive the needed credits for renewals as well as credits needed to apply for PI status.

Thanks to the work of USAWE Website manager Kristine Strasburger, there have been many improvements to the website to make it more streamlined and user friendly and the Professional Development page has some new formatting and information as well. Take a look at all of the changes! <https://usawe.org/we-community/professional-instructors/>

Many of our current PI's attended the first International Committee Train to Win Clinic held in Weatherford, TX in February. What a great opportunity for the PI's to learn from WAVE judge Dr. Jose Benito whether they were riding or auditing. More opportunities like this will be coming up in 2024 and beyond.

Mark your calendar for the first Pro Dev Zoom gathering March 28th 5:00 pm PST. Please watch for a letter to be sent out with the link to the meeting as it gets closer.

On behalf of the PDC, thank you all for your patience, your questions and interest in the program. If you have any questions, feel free to contact prodev@usawe.org

To learn more about our coaches or how to become a Professional Instructor visit: usawe.org > [Professional Instructors](#)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Total 2024 Members as of 2/14/24: 739 (110 New, 629 Renewal)

Members by Region 2024

- Region 1 – 189 (1 AK, 13 ID, 28 MT, 78 OR, 69 WA)
- Region 2 – 168 (51 AZ, 108 CA, 8 NV, 1 UT)
- Region 3 – 52 (22 CO, 27 KS, 1 NE, 2 SD)
- Region 4 – 61 (3 AR, 1 LA, 3 NM, 7 OK, 47 TX)
- Region 5 – 77 (3 IA, 15 IL, 2 IN, 4 KY, 15 MI, 7 MN, 1 MO, 12 OH, 18 WI)
- Region 6 – 97 (2 DE, 5 MA, 11 MD, 2 ME, 4 NH, 3 NJ, 7 NY, 28 PA, 29 VA, 6 VT)
- Region 7 – 85 (7 FL, 8 GA, 1 MS, 36 NC, 19 SC, 14 TN)
- International – 10 (9 Canada, 1 Germany)

Members by Competition Status 2024

- Amateur 482 (3 Youth)
- Open 211
- Youth 36
- Not Competing 10

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

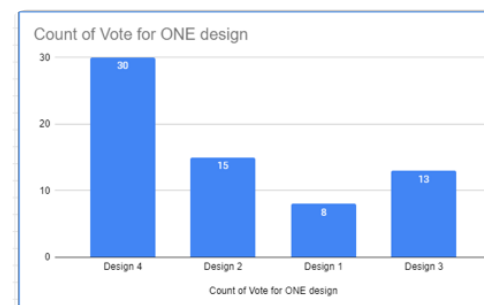
Kasey Riddle, Youth Development Committee Chair

Lots of exciting things are in store for the Youth of this organization!

This year our committee's focus is OUTREACH and youth member recruitment as well as enhancing opportunities for our youth members.

DESIGN CONTEST

Congratulations to Adrienne Dymesich for her design being chosen by the membership for our youth item that every 2023 youth member will receive. That design is in its final stages of editing then will be sent to the press!



SPECIAL DONATIONS

The Youth Development committee received two special donations this month to be placed into the Youth Development Fund, to directly benefit our youth members.

Thank you so much to Biddie Lowry and Jeanne Bond for your donations!



Biddie's donation was made because she "wanted to support the development fund as I know a lot of kids don't have the money to go to clinics or shows."

When asked what led Jeanne to making this donation, Jeanne replied, "I want to help young riders participate as fully as possible in this wonderful sport. Watching their "try" and seeing them have so much fun in the process is a true pleasure."

The youth committee is working hard developing programs to give this all back to the youth of our organization.

If you are led to contribute to the youth directly, WE welcome your tax deductible donation to support our youth in developmental programs today!

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/...>

YOUTH			
National Youth L1 - Introductory			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Kayla Peltin	Freckled Suit Badger	21.0
2	Amelia Avery	Aisling's Royal Image	16.0
National Youth L2 - Novice A			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Talitha Long	Carly	21.0
2	Allison Richardson	Journey Into My Imagination	19.25
National Youth L3 - Novice B			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Allison Richardson	Zorro	19.25
2	Maverick Wright	Racky	18.0
National Youth L4 - Intermediate A			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Amelia Avery	Went That One	10.5
2	Name		
National Youth L5 - Intermediate B			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Name		
2	Name		
National Youth L6 - Advanced			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Name		
2	Name		
National Youth L7 - Masters			
Placing	Member	Horse	Total Points
1	Name		
2	Name		

YEAR END AWARDS

Congratulations to all the youth who participated and reached your personal goals in Working Equitation last year! Special shout out to our National Year End Award Winners! Please share your photos and awards with us when you receive them.

FACEBOOK PAGE

PLEASE JOIN OUR [USAWE YOUTH CLUB](#) FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TO BUILD COMMUNITY WITH OTHER YOUTH AND PARENTS!

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Kellee Campbell, International Committee Chair

You are invited to a Zoom Webinar hosted by the International Committee (IC) on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time. The IC will explain the program's procedures, goals and calendar. [CLICK HERE to RSVP](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



HORSE RECORDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mindy Finelli, Horse Recording Committee Chair

All horses competing in any USAWE recognized competitions must be recorded with USAWE. The recording fee is \$30 and is valid for the LIFETIME of the horse. Before submitting a new registration for your horse, check [here](#) to make sure the horse doesn't already have a USAWE number!

OWNERSHIP TRANSFER - Horse recordings are transferable upon the sale of the horse at no charge; simply [CLICK HERE](#) to notify us of the transfer ownership. Also use this link to notify us if your equine partner is retired or deceased.

BREED REGISTRY - Certain breed awards (i.e., APHA, AQHA, BLM, IALHA, RMHA, etc.) require breed registry; however, a horse does not have to be registered with a breed registry to be recorded with USAWE. If your horse is registered with a breed registry, please ensure we have accurate breed registry number, pedigree, breeder and horse owner information on file. Send proof of breed registry(s) to HorseRecording@uswe.org.

HORSE RECORDING CHANGES - [CLICK HERE](#) to request a Horse Recording change, please fill out ONE form for EACH of your horse(s) to correct any ERRORS or to UPDATE your horse's record. Your assistance ensures USAWE Horse Recording database accuracy.

BREED AWARD SPONSORSHIP - [CLICK HERE](#) to see the list of National High Point Breed Performance Awards offered. Don't see your breed listed? Annual breed award sponsorship is just \$40. [CLICK HERE](#) to sponsor a 2024 Breed Award.

REGIONAL NEWS



REGION 2

Communing with Cowgirls: USAWE's Robin Bond Shared her WE Expertise at Art of the Cowgirl Event in Arizona

By Virginia Aulin

Robin Bond, Director At Large for USAWE, first attended Art of the Cowgirl two years ago and, at the 2024 event, held Jan. 17-21 in Queen Creek, Arizona, she led an eight-hour clinic:

Working Equitation – a Different Kind of Ranch Horse. Of all the clinics offered, hers was one of the best attended.

Art of the Cowgirl is dedicated to celebrating and honoring the contributions of women to the culture and legacy of the west.

Robin thought that having a USAWE presence at the annual event would be fun for American cowgirls to experience because both groups have a common ancestry – and share similar demographics.

“Art of the Cowgirls’ demographics include women over 40 years old who have a little time and have made a little money and want to keep riding. They go to Art of the Cowgirl and watch the All-Girl Rodeo and the World’s Greatest Horsewomen Contest and think it’s very neat. But they also think, ‘I can’t ride like that anymore. I don’t want to go 39 miles per hour to rope a calf. I don’t want to go so hard. But I do want to keep riding and learning,’” Robin says.

[READ MORE](#)

REGION 3

Chris Stanko, Region 3 Director

Colorado

March 2nd - 2024 Kick Off Party, membership drive and silent auction fundraiser.

Spring is almost here!

Kansas

See the report below from the Train to Win Clinic!

15 WEKS Club members attended USAWE's first International Training Camp. In Weatherford, Texas, Jan.

25-28. Linda Frazier, Cyndi Harris, and Marie Gifford on their Level 4 horses participated in riding lessons with International Judge Dr. Jose Benito.

Some important takeaways from Linda, Marie, and Cyndi were:

- **Straightness is Important- not just close but STRAIGHT!**
- **Shoulder -in and Shoulder-fore are vital tools for straightness and performing movements correctly.**
- **Prepare for every part of the next maneuver. If you and your horse are not properly prepared, the movement will be poorly executed.**
- **While training, if horse anticipates abandon the maneuver and start again.**
- **Make sure horse is round before asking for a transition. Ex: Round before Rein back.**
- **Horses and Riders need to be physically fit. Establish a good conditioning program for you and your horse.**
- **90% training is the dressage maneuver, 10% is schooling the obstacle.**
- **Halt aid: Seat, legs, hands. Don't pull reins.**
- **SHORT REINS- SOFT CONTACT.**

Check out our upcoming spring events:

- **March 8-10, 2024, Clinic R&D ranch Topeka Ks.**

Seth Marshall Clinician

Sharon Reed- BR381@aol.com

- **April 6-8, 2024, Clinic R&D ranch Topeka Ks.**

Seth Marshall Clinician

Sharon Reed- BR381@aol.com

- **April 6, Clinic/Schooling Show, Diamond 8 Ranch, Hutchinson, Ks**

Marie Maloney "I" judge

Linda Frazier lindafrazier8@gmail.com



Sara Barnwell, Region 5 Director

My name is Sara Barnwell and I live in Michigan. I started riding about ten years ago to fulfill a childhood dream. My fabulous trainer, Alex Tyson, introduced me to Working Equitation. Before WE, I had no show experience and had no intention of showing. I started going to the Michigan WE shows to help and watch Alex and others from our barn. I went to shows for about two years before I competed at my first show.

[READ MORE](#)

REGION 6

Cera Olson, Region 6 Director

Region 6 - As winter comes to a middle, we turn towards registering for shows and clinics. There are a lot of great events happening, and closing dates come up quickly - WEE Frying Pan Show already officially opened for entries in Herndon, VA. Keep an eye on the Facebook pages and your AO calendars for upcoming events!

Region 6 will have several members representing USAWE at the World Horse Expo in PA, manning an informational booth for all 4 days - 29 Feb - 3 Mar.

We will have videos playing, showcasing the talented riders of Region 6!

During the same weekend, Holly Linz will be giving a live demo to students at VA Tech, with riders from 4 levels, demonstrating several key EOH obstacles.

All demo riders are from VA, truly representing the area. While they ride, there will be a narrative, explaining the sport, the levels, and obstacle requirements.

Wishing everyone a successful weekend of representing USAWE! Come visit either location if you are in the area!

KDCTA will be having 4 events in 2024.

Two playdays on Jun 15 and Aug 10; Two schooling shows on Jul 20 and Sep 22.

Registration is thru Striderpro.com.

More information can be found at our website www.KDCTA.org.

Registration opens March 1st.

New England Working Equitation

Our first USAWE Licensed show June 8 is going to be here before we know it! We're excited to partner with the only other AO in New England, Equanimity Farm in Brookfield, NH in putting on this event. Andre Ganc will be our presiding judge and the show will be followed on Sunday with a clinic with Andre. It's a rare opportunity to have Andre on the east coast and we're looking forward to it! Clinic spots are very limited so register now if you are planning on attending.

We're also partnering with Elaina Enzien of NZN Horsemanship and owner of Gelinias Farm in Pembroke, NH in hosting a cattle and EOH clinic September 8-9. If you've been to one of the Gelinias Farm Licensed shows you'll know what a master Elaina is with cattle work and many of our New England riders have had the opportunity for the cattle Trial thanks to Elaina and her livestock. There are only a few spots left for this clinic.

visit www.newenglandwe.com/calendar

REGION 7

Pat Melton, Region 7 Director

Rebecca Algar, Kasey Riddle, Lisa Wall and I (all from Region 7) had the pleasure of attending the first International Train-to-Win Clinic held in Weatherford, Texas, the last weekend of January. It is an understatement to say it was an amazing opportunity to audit instruction by WAVE Senior Judge Dr. Jose Andres Benito, given to our some of our upper level USAWE competitors. The coaching provided translated to everyone, no matter your current competition level.

Region 7 was proudly represented by the awesome Middle Tennessee WE duo of Jane Renner and Jody Fontanetta. Jane and Jody made the over thirteen-hour trek with three of their self-trained ponies for the long weekend. They made us very proud! If you can attend either of the two other planned clinics this year, I highly recommend doing so. In addition to watching some amazing rides, it was wonderful to connect with fellow USAWE members.

We've begun the year with a plethora of events happening already in our region; Ride/Fix-A-Tests, Obstacles Play Days, Cattle Clinics, and multi-day clinics with international competitors. The excitement of the participants at these events is heartwarming and will prove to prepare them when our show season begins later in the spring. Please be certain to let me know about anything happening in your neighborhood so that we can add it to the Region 7 Facebook group page.

Before closing this month's report, I want to welcome our new and renewing 2024 USAWE members. I'm proud to say that through December and January we're already 88 members strong. I anticipate that number to grow as more join to compete. Remember that USAWE could use volunteers, nationally and locally, and your Board of Directors asks that you invest your efforts in the sport we all love.



Second Picture: Jody Fontanetta & Misty Morning Stash



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