

Happy 2007! I would like to thank all of our faithful members for renewing their memberships and welcome all those who have recently joined us. As with the sport of dressage in this country, our membership is steadily growing every year. Our membership is now at 220 families spanning three states. Our leadership, the Board of Directors, is a very dedicated group of volunteers who constantly look for the best way to serve our members and help dressage blossom and flourish. We are very dedicated to bringing you the best educational opportunities we can to help you grow as a rider and in your knowledge of dressage. I would like to welcome our newest Board Members, Katja Eilers, Marisa Evans, and Doreen Jensen, who each bring special talents and experience to the Board.

In keeping with our mission we have many valuable educational opportunities planned and in the works for 2007. This March we will be holding "A 360 Review of the New Dressage Tests" with Margaret Freeman, a noted 'S' dressage judge and clinician. Since many of the tests have changed for 2007 this will provide some valuable insight on what the judges are looking for and will help you to improve your scores in the show ring. We also have several other clinics and workshops in the process of being finalized that you will not want to miss. More details will be available on these shortly.

It is very important to note that the USDF has chosen Connecticut this year to be one of the host states for the USDF Adult Clinics Series with Jane Savoie. The clinic will be held this April in Lebanon, CT. It will be a wonderful educational opportunity for all of our members, and will be an event not to be missed. The CDA is very proud to be a part of this in supplying volunteers to help the event run smoothly.

Our show season will be kicked off with a schooling show at Once Again Farm on May 6th. This is always a very popular show and a nice start to the show season. We currently have two other schooling shows planned, and several possibly in the works. Check our Centerline newsletter for updates on this. As you may already know we have a change of venue for our Recognized show this year. It will be held in Bethlehem at Kasson Ridge Farm. It will be a nice change in atmosphere, and promises to be a very popular show, so make sure you sign up early to get in.

I would like to thank all those who selflessly give of their free time and volunteer for our shows, clinics, and workshops. The CDA would not be able to function if it were not for our volunteers. Anything you do to help is always much appreciated. Volunteering is a great way to be involved if you do not have a horse, but love the sport and want to contribute. It is also a fabulous way to learn more about dressage and make many new friends. Please do not hesitate to contact Kari Bradshaw to volunteer if you are the least bit interested in giving some of your free time. You will find it to be a rewarding experience and fun too.

As always, the entire Board of Directors and I look forward to serving you and welcome all input from our members. Please feel free to contact any one of us at any time with your thoughts or comments. We would love to hear from you. We are here for you, and to make your educational and showing experience in dressage the best it can be.

Sincerely,
M. Chris Rogers Aquilio