

Welcome to a fresh new year filled with lots of opportunity to increase your knowledge, improve your riding skills, and grow in your enjoyment of our sport of dressage. I would like to thank everyone once again for allowing me to be President of such a wonderful organization. I look forward to meeting all of you at the clinics and shows, and love finding out more about you and what your concerns and suggestions are for our organization. Our mission is “Promoting Dressage through Education and Opportunity”, and our Board is a very committed group of volunteers who work very hard to bring you quality programs and shows to help you reach your riding goals.

This year will be the second year of the Vista Vintage Award Program. Congratulations to our 2008 winner, Cornelia Hamilton and her esteemed horse of 22 years of age, Belladonna Kovara. This program was established by Ted Plaut and his horse Vista Geewhiz to bring special recognition to our older horses who work so hard for us. If you have an older horse that you currently show, find out how you and your horse can qualify for this wonderful program in our Omnibus.

As many of you are aware we will not be holding a recognized show this year. The location is no longer certain since Kasson Ridge Farm is up for sale and we really have to utilize our volunteer and monetary resources on making the USDF instructor certification program successful this year. We are very pleased to be able to jointly sponsor the USDF instructor certification program this year. It is a valuable program for participants and auditors, and we feel there is a great need for it in our region at this time. It will be held at Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts, where the facilities will provide the necessary room to offer two sessions. To make this program a success, we will need sponsors, volunteers, and demo riders. So please contact us if you are interested in getting involved. Make sure you make it a point in 2009 to take advantage of this wonderful learning opportunity by participating, auditing, or volunteering. As a CDA member you will receive a reduced rate to audit or enjoy free admission if you volunteer.

Thank you so much to all of our sponsors. Your funds help subsidize our Omnibus, events, and shows. With the support of our sponsors we can bring our members reduced rates for programs and activities. Members, please let our sponsors know you appreciate their support, and give them business when you can.

I would like to thank all who volunteers for the CDA, without you none of this would be possible. Our volunteer base dictates the size and quality of our shows and activities. Volunteering is a very rewarding experience and a way to meet others who share the same interests as you. If you have some free time, and wish to help, we can always use more help...just call or e-mail. I would like to offer special thanks to John Gordon. He is an outstanding Board member who selflessly gives his time to bring you our “Centerline” newsletter every month. He also takes on the huge task of organizing and compiling our Omnibus once a year. We appreciate all that he does and has done. He goes above and beyond the definition of “volunteer”.

In closing, I would like to thank our members again for their dedication to the CDA. Whether a long time member or new just this year, the CDA is here for you to help you reach your dressage and riding goals. If you have suggestions or comments about anything at any time we truly would love to hear from you. We are all riders and horse lovers like you, and appreciate any suggestions you can give. I hope you find your experience as a CDA member to be rewarding in every way. As a member of the CDA, we hope you will grow in your enjoyment and love of the sport, and will make new friends to last a lifetime.

I look forward to seeing every one of you at our upcoming shows and events in 2009!

M. Chris Rogers Aquilio