



*Northern Ohio
Dressage Association*

*2016 Year-end
Award Winners*

Northern Ohio Dressage Association

Year End Awards

Unrecognized Shows Awards

Novice Intro Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Jennifer Cooper and Arwen's Arrow 61.875%

Reserve: Brandon Evans and Sedona 60.781%

Intro Level Open - Adult Amateur

Champion: Bitsy Gascoigne and CLF Foreign Currency 67.110%

(Owned by Noell Sivertsen)

Reserve: Pam White and Flash in the Knight 66.407%

3rd: Nicole Rader and Aim High 63.597%

Intro Level Open - Junior Rider

Champion: Kim Shepard and BigBundle 65.157%

Novice Training Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Pam White and Flash in the Knight 60.880%

Novice Training Level - Junior Rider

Champion: John Sandy and Flash's Painted Dazzle 63.427%

(Owned by Margaret McElhany)

Open Training Level - Professional

Champion: Anne McClintock and Jericho 69.087%

Reserve: Sabine Walker and Zappoli 68.986%

(Owned by Barbara Brown)

Unrecognized Shows Awards (Continued)

Open Training Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Jerry Chuey and Lees Little Pockets	74.710%
Reserve: Mila Sambunjak and Baila Con Migo	70.210%
3rd: Mary Lynn Hooser and TC Discrete	69.292%
4th: Lea Wojtkiewicz and Winter Sky	68.335%
5th: Leigh Mooney and Remarkable	68.261%
6th: Sally Burton and Oreo Blizzard (Owned by Becky Kirk)	66.530%
7th: Leigh Mooney and Foster	66.149%
8th: Heidi Miller and Merlin	63.125%
9th: Nicole Radar and Aim High	62.987%
10th: Danielle Bolm and Jimmy	62.390%

Open Training Level - Junior Rider

Champion: Noelle Ignagni and MRF Bello di Notte	70.142%
Reserve: Maria Sandy and Classy Tradition (Owned by Margaret McElhaney)	60.526%

First Level - Professional

Champion: Anne McClintock and She's a Spitfire	66.321%
Reserve: Jacqueline Ann Schafer and My Country Cowboy	61.434%
3rd: Sarah Freeman and Zigfried (Owned by Barb Hertzling)	60.510%

First Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Megan Barnhizer and Fascination Starr	70.460%
Reserve: Barbara Tuskas and Stonewall's Ronan	67.337%
3rd: Peggi Ignagni and MRF Bello di Notte (Owned by Noelle Ignagni)	66.324%
4th: Patti Valencic and Fox Meadow Dancer	63.846%

First Level - Junior Rider

Champion: Noelle Ignagni and MRF Bello di Notte	63.755%
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Unrecognized Shows Awards (Continued)

Second Level - Junior Rider/Adult Amateur

Champion: Barbara Tuskas and Stonewall's Ronan	66.919%
Reserve: Megan Barnhizer and Fascination Starr	64.814%
3rd: Susan Desimpel and Currituck	60.274%

Third Level - Professional

Champion: Victoria Patterson Pirko and Fantasia	68.870%
Reserve: Sabine Walker and CA Hudson Bay	64.464%

Third Level - Junior Rider/Adult Amateur

Champion: Linda Cooley and KnightHawke	63.139%
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Fourth Level - Junior Rider/Adult Amateur

Champion: Cindy Bank and Idlehour McHenry	61.111%
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Champion: Jessica Paine and Royal Thomas (Owned by Kirsten Thomas)	62.982%
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Dressage Seat Equitation - Adult Amateur

Champion: Leigh Mooney and Remarkable	75.333%
Reserve: Sally Burton and Oreo Blizzard (Owned by Becky Kirk)	69.000%
3rd: Pam White and Flashin the Knight	68.333%

Rider Test - Adult Amateur

Champion: Sally Burton and Oreo Blizzard (Owned by Becky Kirk)	69.000%
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Western Basic - Adult Amateur

Champion: Jerry Chuey and Lees Little Pockets	72.721%
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Western Basic - Junior

Champion: Skylar Young and La Bella Lune	71.030%
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Recognized Shows

Training Level - Junior/Young Rider

Champion: Maggie Tifft and Comfortably Numb (Owned by Jessica Silver)	67.330%
Reserve: Lydia Young and Flying W Farms Prince Kodiak (Owned by Natalie Pantone)	64.266%

Training Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Robin Wulf and West Pointe	68.217%
Reserve: Rachel Caracci and Anikan	64.415%

Training Level - Open

Champion: Shannon O'Hara and Slew-O-Details (Owned by Maggie Tifft)	62.584%
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First Level - Junior/Young Rider

Champion: Emily Van Zeeland and Pushthelight (Owned by Helen Rutter)	65.755%
Reserve: Kalyn Priemer and JC Ivy League	63.392%
3rd: Maggie Tifft and Comfortably Numb (Owned by Jessica Silver)	62.945%

First Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Robin Wulf and Lasting Impressions	66.625%
Reserve: Barbara Tuskas and Stonewall's Ronan	64.676%
3rd: Susan Desimpel and Currituck	61.140%

First Level - Open

Champion: Janeen Grava and Davi's Danseur OBX	67.941%
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Second Level - Junior/Young Rider

Champion: McKenzie Miavitz and Capricious	63.593%
Reserve: Kalyn Priemer and JC Ivy League	61.148%

Recognized Shows Awards (Continued)

Second Level - Adult Amateur

Champion: Robin Wulf and Lasting Impressions	64.421%
Reserve: Susan Desimpel and Currituck	57.317%

Second Level - Open

Champion: Janeen Grava and Davi's Danseur OBX	67.747%
Reserve: Shannon O'Hara and L'Akira (Owned by Maggie Tifft)	64.900%

Third Level - Jr./Young Rider/Adult Amateur

Champion: Kimberly Apicella and Der Checker 3	63.910%
Reserve: Linda Cooley and KnightHawke	63.823%
3rd: Lauren Wade and Ghalewind	63.667%
4th: Cindy Bank and IdleHour McHenry	62.078%

Third Level - Open

Champion: Victoria Patterson Pirko and Fantasia	68.497%
Reserve: Janeen Grava and Don Bagheero (Owned by Lisa Antoniou)	67.083%
3rd: Jessica Paine and Dado HM (Owned by Patricia Siegel)	66.836%
4th: Sarah Freeman and Weinkoenig LHF (Owned by Barb Hartzing)	64.971%
5th: Sarah Freeman and Adante (Owned by Jan Thompson)	63.980%

Fourth Level - Jr./Young Rider/Adult Amateur

Champion: Lauren Wade and Ghalewind	61.499%
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Recognized Shows Awards (Continued)

Fourth Level - Open

Champion: Shannon O'Hara and Udor (Owned by Maggie Tifft)	69.458%
Reserve: Janeen Grava and Don Bagheero (Owned by Lisa Antoniou)	65.333%
3rd: Jessica Paine and Dado HM (Patricia Siegel)	64.472%

Prix St. George - Jr/YR/AA

Champion: Lauren Wade and Ghalewind	56.473%
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Prix St. George - Open

Champion: Jessica Paine and Westen	68.283%
Reserve: Shannon O'Hara and Udor (Owned by Maggie Tifft)	66.283%

Intermédiaire I - Open

Champion: Jessica Paine and Westen	70.198%
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I2/A/B/ Grand Prix Combined - Jr/YR/AA

Champion: Jennifer Gaffney and Fabio (Owned by Kristy Truebenbach Lund)	61.938%
Reserve: Regina Sacha and Arabella	60.075%

Musical Freestyle

Champion: Patty Keim and Java Joe (3rd Level)	68.992
Reserve: Jennifer Gaffney and Fabio (GP) (Owned by Kristy Truebenbach Lund)	64.667

Trophies & Awards - Recognized Shows

The Alessandria Memorial Trophy

Sponsored by Lisa Gorretta and The Paddock Group
Jessica Paine and Westen

The Fabian Schoolmaster Trophy

Sponsored by Regina M. Sacha-Ujczko and
Heather Soones Booher
Janeen Grava and Lego

The Michael Von der Nonne Award

Sponsored by Dagmar Zimmerman
Janeen Grava and Davi's Danseur OBX

The Randeck Memorial Trophy

Sponsored by Carey Smith-Wilson
Jenifer Gaffney and Fabio
(Owned by Kristy Truebenbach Lund)

The Richard Gascoigne Memorial Trophy

by Bitsy Gascoigne & Ann Gascoigne Nixon
Kimberly Apicella and Der Checker 3

The Richter 5 Trophy

Sponsored by Maggie Ball
Kalyn Priemer and JC Ivy League

Trophies & Awards
Recognized & Unrecognized Shows

The Freestyle Award

Adult Amateur, Owner-Trainer

Sponsored by Ledge Hollow Stables
Patty Keim and Java Joe (3rd Level)

The Joan Rapp Award

Sponsored by Gail Patton
Colin Gaffney & Timanu (Eventing)

The Gallant Lad Memorial Trophy

Sponsored by Valley Riding, Inc.
Jerry Chuey and Lees Little Pockets

The Moody Mare Award

Sponsored by Kimberly Moody
Mila Sambunjak and Baila Con Migo

Gretchen Singleton Vintage Award Trophy

Sponsored by Kathy Dennis and Sally Gries
Jerry Chuey and Lee's Little Pockets

The Full of Grace Award

Sponsored by Leslie Grimm
Mary Lynn Hooser and TC Discrete

The Sindarín Award

Sponsored by Dale Lappert
Pam White and Flash in The Knight

The Western Dressage Award

Sponsored by NODA
Jerry Chuey and Lee's Little Pockets

Trophies & Awards - Unrecognized Shows

The Fox Smith Trophy

Sponsored by Lynn Fry
Leigh Mooney and Remarkable

The Laddie Andahazy Memorial Trophy

Sponsored by The Paddock Group
Jennifer Cooper and Arwen's Arrow

The Sweeter Award

Sponsored by Janeen Grava
John Sandy and Flash's Painted Dazzle
(Owned by Margaret McElhaney)

The Rowdy Memorial Trophy

Sponsored by Cheryl Lee
Jerry Chuey and Lees Little Pockets

The Determined Effort Award

Sponsored by Niki Sackman
Jerry Chuey and Lee's Little Pockets

The Giving Spirit Award

Sponsored by Friends of English Oak Stable
Jerry Chuey and Lee's Little Pockets

Trophies & Awards - Other

The Edy Ujczko Horse Partnership Trophy

Sponsored by Regina Sacha-Ujczko
Sabine Walker

NODA's Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by NODA
Fran Cverna

Achievement Certificates

Sponsored by NODA
Danielle Struna and Famous Mr. Jones

Mini Trials—Recognized

Colin Gaffney and Timaru 30.924%

Edy Ujczó Partnership Trophy

Sponsored by Regina Sacha-Ujczó

Sabine Walker

Nomination Letter

Submitted by Peggi Ignagni

The guidelines for this award describe perfectly my longtime trainer, friend and equine-loving partner-in-crime. She has been my number one supporter of my dressage pursuits and helped me find my riding purpose. Sixteen years ago, she came to my farm for my first lesson on my English and Western Pleasure Appaloosa mare. When she described “dressage” to me, I laughed and blurted out “how hard can it be to trot a 20 meter circle”. Oh, little did I know!!! But she kept her laughter to herself, and helped me with the basics and motivated me to embrace the training pyramid, work incredibly hard and ditch the world of slow, pokey pleasure horses.

She worked with me through the Appy mare and then we entered the pony stage, after I had my children and switched to ponies for my kids. I think many trainers would be reluctant to work with ponies; view it, perhaps, as a step down -- but she was more than willing to try a challenge. We drove together to southern OH to pick a 3 year old Welsh pony out of a field as a project pony for me. Her confidence in me was amazing in dealing with a totally green pony. “Let’s walk, trot and canter on the lungeline”, first time on the back of said pony. What??? OK, if you think we can do it. That is her magic – she believes you can do anything! AND she believes in the horse! or pony, in this case. She is such an honest, true horse lover, that she tries multiple approaches to understand the horse. The horse does not have to fit into her box or method of training. She listens, waits and learns from the horse and adjusts everything to the horse’s needs. That is a true horsewoman’s understanding.

If working with this adult amateur over the years wasn’t enough, she has been offering encouragement and assistance to my daughter for several years. Kids aren’t really her specialty, but she has been patient and kind in helping my daughter with her basics and encouraging her at the shows. She has given this over-involved mother some good advice too; encourage the kid, but let her figure things out for herself.

This year my daughter and I are sharing the showing of one pony and that has made her life even more complicated. Training level lessons with the kid one week, second level with me the next, prepping for recognized shows, organizing clinics ... she helps us do it all. Our ponies, my daughter and myself thank her for her amazing source of knowledge, support, encouragement and friendship over the years. Therefore, I humbly nominate Sabine Walker for the Edy Ujczó Horse Partnership Award.

Peggi Ignagni

2016 Fabian Schoolmaster Trophy

Essays by Liz Biddock & Lauren Hunter

I would like to nominate Janeen Langowski Grava for this award. I've asked Lauren Hunter to also contact you to co-nominate with me since she also has benefited from Janeen and Lego's teaching!

I first met Janeen and her Holsteiner gelding, Lego at the NODA sponsored USDF Instructor Training clinic in April 2013. I was impressed both by her skill as an instructor and by Lego's abundant energy during his lunging session. He still had a little buck in his later teens self! At the time I never imagined I could ride such a "fancy" horse; but I had the opportunity to lease him about a year and a half later. I was excited to ride such an educated horse but quickly realized this was a very different animal from my usual mount.

Things that seemed easy before, like trot-canter transitions proved surprisingly difficult. The tightness in my thigh and seat produced an elevated trot that was quite fun and somewhat mysterious. "What is this airy feeling I'm getting? Are we actually off the ground?" I wondered. I was used to the earthbound trot of my QH gelding.

With regular lessons Janeen's teaching has helped me strengthen my core, become more supple and improve my balance tremendously. The timing and consistency of the aides that would produce actual control have come slowly but Janeen has demonstrated, encouraged and demanded that I work to get it right. Lego's "buttons" are all there, but like most horses he doesn't "just do it!". It's taken months, and months, to make slow improvements but I'm very happy to have improved enough to show him at a few recognized shows.

Janeen's teaching and training are driven by her passion for riding in the classical tradition. That is another way she has greatly influenced me-through her teacher and mentor, Charles de Kunfy. While I am very grateful to learn so much about riding and horsemanship from him, I can see how Janeen is passing on his philosophy to all of her students. It's wonderful that we have such a strong connection to the European masters right here in northeast Ohio.

Finally, I am nominating Janeen because without her commitment to the never ending process of learning that is dressage, to the hard work that all of us who are in this business know it takes to run a barn, to maintaining an older horse like Lego, people like me wouldn't have the opportunity to be educated by such a talented and willing horse.

Liz Biddick

2016 Fabian Schoolmaster Trophy

Essays by Liz Biddock & Lauren Hunter (Continued)

A schoolmaster is the key that unlocks countless doors. For their patience, tolerance, and wisdom, riders such as myself are eternally grateful. The willingness of their owners to share them with their eager and humble students is also a blessing worth celebrating. Because of the generosity of Janeen Langowski-Grava, I learned invaluable riding and life lessons with her schoolmaster, Lego. He is truly an irreplaceable partner because of his talent and great education, as well as his kindness and patience.

Janeen's commitment to her students and to real dressage education is evident through her willingness to share this once in a lifetime horse with them. In true schoolmaster fashion, Lego is the type of horse that requires correct riding in order to perform, but tolerates imperfections and forgives mistakes. I learned to always be grateful to my teachers, both my coach and my horse. Before Lego, I had shown mostly training level and a little first level. Through their generosity and patience, Janeen and Lego helped me to show into Fourth level and earn my bronze medal. This opportunity has opened so many doors for me.

It takes a special kind of horse to be a schoolmaster, but it also takes a special kind of trainer to develop and maintain one. Janeen's hard work in training Lego helped develop him into the master he is today, and I feel lucky to have been allowed to benefit from all of Janeen's hard work. Yes, his personality is undeniably sweet by nature, but his education and attitude towards work is something I feel Janeen must be recognized for. It takes an incredible horse to be a schoolmaster, and it takes an equally incredible coach to be willing to share that gift with her students. F

For these reasons, I would like to nominate Janeen Langowski-Grava for the Fabian Schoolmaster Trophy. For the gift of Lego, I can never repay her, but I hope that through this award she will know that her commitment to me and all her students is so greatly appreciated.

Lauren Hunter

NODA Lifetime Achievement Award

Fran Cverna

Presented by Dee Liebenthal, NODA President & Linda Cooley, NODA Webmaster
2016 NODA Annual Awards Banquet Celebration

Presentation Tribute by Dee Liebenthal

This year's NODA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Fran Cverna, joined NODA in the early 1970's (1972 or 73). She got right into the swing of things by teaming up with Fatty Ferris to help put on NODA's Recognized Shows for the next few years. She has some great memories of some of NODA's first recognized shows such as hand raking the center line after every couple of ride.

She took a bit of a break from helping run things at NODA to go to graduate school, buy a house. In 1996 Fran bought her beloved horse Rocky and was very proud to earn First Level Schooling Show Champion. She remained involved with NODA, helping by volunteering often and always scribing at schooling shows.

She was the schooling Secretary from 2006-2010 helping to successfully build up participation. Her fondest memory was when Gretchen Singleton told her in her second year as schooling show secretary, that she had revitalized the schooling shows.

In 2010 Fran took over as Membership Chair where she worked on revitalizing and updating our forms and processes. She willingly offered to also include the publication of the handbook along with everything else she was doing. And most recently she has agreed organize our Historical Archives, putting her Data Management experience to work!

Don't be fooled by this busy woman. She also volunteers for other organizations, such as the Geauga Parks System. She still rides and takes lesson, always volunteers at schooling shows, the annual banquet, the recognized shows, and anything else we need her for. She has put together almost as many rings as Mary Lou Gallagher.

Presentation Tribute by Linda Cooley

Fran and I have been friends and NODA Co-Workers since 2006 when I joined the Board as Webmaster. She loves dressage, riding, and learning. When I found out she didn't have a horse to ride since her Rocky was retired, I offered my horse, Stoker, so she could take weekly lessons. When I sold Stoker, she continued lessons on my mare, KnightHawke. Both horses adore(d) their "Aunt Fran". Fran became my groom at shows, taking care of me, my horse, and our respective dogs. When my husband Doug, couldn't attend a show, she pitched in to videotape or take photos.

NODA Lifetime Achievement Award

Presentation Tribute by Linda Cooley (Continued)

Working with Fran on NODA business has always been a delight. Teamwork is everything in a volunteer organization, like NODA. For the website, she is always willing to review website changes, provide suggestions, and constructive feedback. With her years as a NODA member and volunteer, she has accumulated a vast resource of experience and knowledge. She is always willing to answer questions from NODA members. And if she cannot, she forward the question to the person who can. Since 2006, she has been the Schooling Show Secretary Extraordinaire, Membership Chair, and Handbook & Professional Services Directory Coordinator.

As Schooling Show Secretary, she implemented many time saving procedures and creative ideas which energized the series. Scheduling ride times was no easy task during her tenure, because we didn't have scheduling software yet. Ride times schedules and tracking entry issues were handled with spreadsheets, common sense, and logic. Her computer skills made it easy to share ride times, show results and other information for the website. At the shows, she was a smiling face to everyone - ready and willing to help.

As Membership Chair, she utilized her skills and focus by organizing and computerizing archived information and new information. She has created interesting graphs to reflect membership stats and demographics for the board, and been instrumental in conducting several successful member surveys.

As Handbook & NODA Professional Directory Coordinator, she has been able to reduce the size of the handbook by pruning and organizing with essential information not duplicated by the website. This has made the annual update process much easier. Her communication skills and follow-up skills come into play when contacting all the NODA Professionals who are listed in the valuable directory which accompanies the handbook.

We are all excited about her next NODA volunteer venture! She is going to organize NODA's Historical Archives in the cloud, putting her extensive Data Management background and experience to work.

I admire Fran as a person, a dear friend, and as a fellow NODA colleague. She cares about NODA and all its members, always doing her best to fulfill responsibilities – and more!

NODA Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation by Dee Liebenthal

As President of NODA I am so grateful to have Fran as an active Board Member during my time in office. She keeps us all on track with her enthusiasm, knowledge, and experience. She is and has been a tremendous asset to NODA. This year we add her name to the Lifetime Achievement Award Plaque with pleasure and gratitude.

Congratulations, Fran!