

# The CANTER



Official Publication of Washington State Horsemen Inc.  
www.WashingtonStateHorsemen.org / 7210 E Fairview Ave - Spokane Valley WA 99212-1526

VOLUME SIXTY-TWO

SECOND QUARTER 2026

## 2025 HORSE SHOW DIVISION HALL OF FAME

*Hollywood Summit*  
2006-2025



**Owned, Loved, and Shown by the Kuster Family  
(Jennifer, Ryan, Lindsay, Corbin, and Lauren) and Friends.**

## Board of Directors

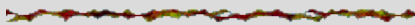
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Vice President - Steve Bryson  
360.888.6675 / threebeatlope@yahoo.com

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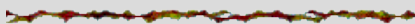


Director 1 (NC) - Arlene Marquart (12/31/27)  
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Zone President (NC) - Makayla Markwell  
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Zone President (Zone 1) - Kimberly Lansing  
509.539.0247 / ms.berly@yahoo.com

Zone President (West) - Barbara Manning  
253.882.8123 / bjlanman@gmail.com

The Board of Directors is here to serve you, the organization's members. They are here to provide you the support and resources you need to succeed. Please feel free to contact any of them should you have questions.

## President's Message

The Year is Off and Running!



Happy spring to all. Horse show season is about to begin, and games division is already off and running. Here's to everyone having a fun and competitive year. I hope all of you and your equine partners have a safe and fun 2026.

This 2026 will see horse shows returning to the west side of the State. We're so excited to welcome these riders and show managers back! Let's support them and help make them a huge success. How? Submit your entries and attend the show or contact the show manager and offer your help as a volunteer. If you can help them out, please do so. It is also nice to see the rejuvenation of the Dressage Division this year in WSH.

We are seeing some growth in our organization and I want to encourage all of us to do our part to keep it growing. Please bring ideas for growth and if you know people who could benefit from WSH then please see if you can encourage them to join.

Another reminder to youth that are 17 and under...join the Youth Merit Program. Additional information is contained within this issue of the Canter but this is a FREE program (once you've joined WSH) that rewards you for what you learn as well as what you DO. The program is here as a bonus to your membership and youth from all divisions are invited to participate.

As a reminder, all WSH Board Meetings are open to our members. If you would like to attend (typically via Zoom), please reach out to me for the Zoom link about 3 days prior to the meeting.

I know it's only April but please keep in mind convention this year returns to Clover Island in Kennewick. Please plan to attend and help us celebrate 2026 awards and plan for the 2027 year.

-- George Chick  
#wshlifestyle



The Canter or e-Canter are published in January, April, July, and October each year. Deadlines for submission are the 15th of the month immediately prior to publication. Please e-mail articles to wshcanter@yahoo.com.



The WSH Board of Directors met on January 10 and held a "Board Brief" on March 26 (the next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 30). During the meetings the following items were discussed / decided upon.

- The following Committee Chairs were ratified to the Board of Directors – Gloria Marley (Awards), Jessie McLaughlin (Convention), Tammy Call-Jones (Enforcement), Angie Argo (Financial Review), Mary Brady (Historical), David Masengale (Licensed Officials), Emma Tanner (Marketing / Publications), Janet Edwards (Membership), Shane Laib (Nominating), and Jessie McLaughlin (Youth Merit). Until a Bylaws Chair can be selected, Jessie McLaughlin will continue to serve in the interim. The Legislative Committee Chair position remains open at this time... interested members should contact President George Chick. As outlined in the WSH Bylaws all Board Members must serve on at least one of the WSH Committees. WSH Members may also serve on committees by contacting the Committee Chair and/or President George Chick. The Enforcement Committee members are defined in the Bylaws as to be the President and/or Vice President, the Directors of the Major Divisions, and the four Zone Directors for 2026.
- Jessie McLaughlin was reappointed to the position of Treasurer for another two-year term; Joy Bjerke was reappointed to the position of Secretary for a two-year term.
- As a reminder, only the Vice President position will be open for election at the 2026 Convention as it is a one-year term. Zones are reminded to hold their elections in September or early October. Zone Presidents must be elected annually by their members. Zone Directors are every other year thus in 2026, Northeast and West Side Zones will need to elect this two-year position. Once elected by their respective Zones, members at the Annual Convention will vote to ratify them to the Board of Directors.
- Financially – all Zones and Divisions utilizing the WSH Tax ID # have returned their financial information. Taxes are to be completed and filed by CPA Nancy Hayes. Jessie McLaughlin relayed that WSH ended the year with \$36,805.98 in savings and \$11,881.56 (less a check that had not cleared to the WSHGD for \$202.20). The profit and loss for the year showed a loss of \$100.78 due to the decrease in memberships from 2024 (\$6005.70) to 2025 (\$5255.10). The annual report for the Washington Secretary of State has been filed for WSH.
- Due to a sizable increase in rental fees and concerns raised by members over the 2025 Convention, a new location was secured...the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA. Due to the hotel's status of "still under construction", enough double-rooms were unavailable during the preferred week-end of November 6-8 thus the 2026 Convention was changed to November 13-15.
- Games Division changed the dates of their annual championship show in Cashmere to August 14-16. Their preferred dates of August 28-30 would put the event into school dates this year.
- Horse Show Division noted that their members have been busy updating and uploading the 2026 rulebook to the website. Jole Chick has also updated all of the forms and they are posted as well. New shows are being approved in the West Side Zone as well as in Zone 1.
- Board Members, per the bylaws, were asked to serve on at least one of the WSH Committees (not necessarily as Committee Chair, however). Committee Chairs are asked to contact their committee members and devise an action plan for their committee for 2026. This continued support of the organization will improve WSH as a whole as well as make the experience even better for the members. Jessie McLaughlin, as Bylaws Chair, will be working with the Committee Chairs this year to review their "job descriptions" within the bylaws as many of the duties may have changed since they were last reviewed.
- The Royalty program will be revisited as well in 2026.

Let's take a walk back in time to 1981 and this sweet article about our current WSH Games Division Director, Melissa Kelsey!

June 1981 WSH Canter



### MELISSA KELSEY NEZ JUNIOR GAMES RIDER

The 1980 Northeast Zone High Point Junior Games Rider, Melissa Kelsey, was without a doubt born to be an outstanding horsewoman. Her mother, Sharon Kelsey, was the 1961 Diamond Spur Rodeo Queen and a very competitive showman. She is the granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kelsey, PRCA Rodeo stock contractors of Tonasket, Washington, and Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cloke, well known competitors in horse show circles, of Wenatchee and now Spokane. Melissa has accumulated many trophies and ribbons in horse show and games events which represent an enthusiastic and popular horse owner that has always loved orses.

Twelve year old Melissa began riding on her sister's shetland pony, Daisy, before she could walk. At age four she

began competing in horse shows on her grandmother's quarter horse gelding, Calypso Harmony, placing third in 1974 and second place in 1975 in the Kindergarten Class in the Northeast Zone. The next year Melissa not only was the Northeast Zone champion in the Kindergarten Class, but was the Washington State Reserve Champion and placed third in the 10 & under stock seat equitation in the NEZ.

In 1977 she continued her winnings in the NEZ by adding placings in the quarter horse youth western pleasure, and 18 & under quarter horse western horsemanship, competing against young people much older than she. Melissa's grandmother sold good, old reliable Calypso, so her mother purchased Gypsy, a 13-hand paint mare, on which she started gaming and running bar-

rels. From 1977 through 1980 she and her sister competed at Omak's Barrel-O-Rama and brought home their share of the winnings. Melissa also competes in Junior rodeo events winning the goat tying at the 1979 Hearts of Gold Junior Rodeo, the barrel buckle at the 1979 Pend Oreille Roping and goat tying at the North Idaho Jr. Rodeo.

1980 was a big year for Melissa and Gypsy accumulating enough points to become the high point junior games rider for the NEZ. The Saddle Warmers presented her with a horse blanket for high point jr. of their club. She also attended her first State Finals and rode in flags.

In 1981 Melissa sold Gypsy to a new Buckaroo to start on who had a good home for her.

This warm hearted little (Next page)

lady is not only a fine horseman, but is a six-year Campfire girl. Her school principal honored her a lunch for being Citizen of the Week a number of times. She is outstanding in school sports and is working for the Presidential Citation for the second time. Her teachers report that she is a very willing and cooperative student. Melissa lives near Spokane with her mother and sister, Jessie, who is also an enthusiastic horseman. She is in the sixth grade at Millwood Grade School.

Melissa has many goals for

the future, but foremost will be to attend a near-by college where she would hope to win a place on their Rodeo Team. This next year will be spent training an appaloosa gelding that her paternal grandparents gave her.

All of Melissa's friends wish the very best for her in her competition on horseback and know that this fine student with all her perseverance will succeed in school activities and her goals in the future, and certainly horses will always be a part of her future.

## WSH FULL BOARD MEETING

**OCTOBER 10**

10:00 a.m.

Kittitas Valley Event Center

**SEE YOU THERE !**

As a reminder, WSH Board Meetings are open to all WSH Members.

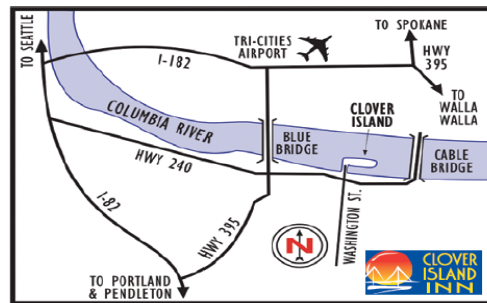
## CONVENTION 2026

Get ready – this year’s Convention is set to be one you won’t want to miss! We’re heading back to the beautiful heart of Washington wine country for a weekend full of connection, energy, and unforgettable experiences. Mark your calendars for **November 13-15, 2026**, as we gather at the welcoming Clover Island Inn (435 Clover Island Drive) in Kennewick. Whether you’re a longtime member or attending for the first time, Convention is your chance to reconnect with friends, build new relationships, and be part of something bigger.

**WHY YOU SHOULD BE THERE** – Convention is more than meetings, it’s an experience. Expect inspiring sessions and meaningful conversations, opportunities to connect with members from across the region, fun social events and shared memories, a chance to help shape the future of our organization, and of course...plenty of laughs.

**HOST HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS** – Our home base, the Clover Island Inn, offers beautiful riverfront views of the Columbia River, comfortable rooms with modern amenities, mini refrigerators and microwaves in all rooms, easy access to local attractions, and it’s the perfect setting to relax, recharge, and enjoy your Convention weekend. The Crow’s Nest (restaurant) is still undergoing renovation but great food is nearby at the Cedar’s, the Ice Harbor Brewery, and various other amazing restaurants off the island.

**DISCOVER THE TRI-CITIES** – The surrounding Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco) is packed with unique charm and surprising experiences. The region is known as the “Heart of Washington Wine Country” with 200+ wineries nearby. The mighty Columbia, Snake, and Yakima Rivers all meet here, creating stunning scenery and outdoor recreation. Howard Ammon Park offers gorgeous riverfront walking trails and views. The area enjoys 300+ days of sunshine a year. Agriculture thrives here – this region produces apples, cherries, grapes, and more. If you have extra time, consider wine tasting or brewery visits, scenic walks along the river, and/or exploring local shops and markets.



**MAKE IT A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER** – We’re planning opportunities for fun and connection beyond the main sessions – because some of the best Convention moments happen in between. Think relaxed gatherings, shared meals, and maybe even a few surprises. The committee, consisting of Steve Bryson, Arlene Marquart, Jessie McLaughlin, Emma Tanner, Laurie Tufford, and Anne and Erin Wieldraayer are hard at work on making this year’s Convention one of the most memorable yet.

**START PLANNING NOW** – Registration details, schedules, and special activities will be coming soon – but now is the time to save the date, start making travel plans, and invite fellow members to join you. Come for the Convention...stay for the experience. We can’t wait to see you in Kennewick this November!

**IT’S NOT TOO EARLY** – The Clover Island Inn is already taking reservations and doubles are highly sought after so call them today at 509.586.0541 and let them know you are seeking the Washington State Horsemen group rate (\$120 for singles and \$140 for doubles plus tax per night). The rate includes access to their morning breakfast on the fourth floor and FREE parking. Pets are allowed with a weekend pet rate. Visit at your next Zone Meeting to determine if you would like to donate a fun basket for the silent auction or donate \$25-50 to have one created. All funds raised help offset the award prizes for the Youth Merit Program...thank you!

**DID YOU KNOW** - Pasco was the first of the Tri-Cities to be incorporated, in 1891? Kennewick was incorporated in 1904, and Richland followed in 1910. West Richland, a suburb of Richland, as well as the fourth largest city in the metropolitan area was incorporated in 1955. And did you know that the confluence of the Snake and Columbia River was a stop on Lewis and Clark’s historic expedition? Today, Sacagawea State Park stands as a testament to her influence on the journey. Plus, Richland was home to Santino Fontana, the voice of Prince Hans in "Frozen." So whether you’re a history buff, a Disney fan, or just love delicious, locally grown produce, Tri-Cities has something for everyone . One of the oldest and most significant human remains ever found in North America (known as Kennewick Man) was discovered here in 1996 and is estimated to be over 9,000 years old. Additionally, in 1999, a nearly complete Ice Age mammoth skeleton was discovered in the area and it’s one of the most intact Columbian mammoths ever found in North America. The nearby Hanford Site played a crucial role in the Manhattan Project, helping produce plutonium used during World War II. The Manhattan Project was an unprecedented, top-secret World War II government program in which the United States rushed to develop and deploy the world’s first atomic weapons before Germany. The use of these weapons by the United States against Japan in August 1945 ultimately became one of the most important historical events of the 20th century. The project ushered in the nuclear age and left enduring legacies that echo all around us today. The Manhattan Project took shape at three primary locations across the country: Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Typically, the tours of the Hanford site are over for the season by the time we reach Convention in November but if you are that direction this summer, visit the National Park Service website and book a free tour!



**FAMOUS TIES** - Brandi Carlile (Grammy-winning singer-songwriter), Shawn Kemp (Seattle Super Sonics), Drew Bledsoe (Super Bowl-winning QB), Damon Huard (Kansas City Chiefs and New England Patriots), Jon Kitna (long-time NFL QB and later a coach), Tyler Johnson (NHL standout), Sam Jaeger (known for roles in Parenthood and the movie American Sniper), Derrike Cope (Daytona 500 winner). Take a moment and look up these individuals to see how they actually “tie” back into the Tri-Cities. There’s probably even more if we start looking around.

**MORE ABOUT THE REGION** - Kennewick sits in a high desert and receives only 7-8 inches of rain a year making it closer to a desert than a forest climate. The Tri-Cities area produces not only wine grapes but also a huge amount of table grapes, hops, and other crops helping make Washington one of the top agricultural states in the United States. The Columbia River hosts one of the most exciting stops on the H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Series each summer. Are you excited yet to join us in Kennewick! We can’t wait to see you there!



Each year WSH awards special perpetual trophies to deserving members and clubs. Further information and criteria will be included in the October issue of the *Canter*. Please begin thinking about worthy nominees for this year’s Club of the Year, Twin Benson Memorial (Member of the Year), Junior Inspirational Award, and the Jesselyn Roehr Lifetime Achievement Award.



# 2026 WASHINGTON STATE HORSEMEN

Annual Convention Registration  
**November 13-15, 2026**  
 Clover Island Inn - Kennewick WA

Those registering early will save by paying the "early bird" fee for registration and meals. Room reservations may be made by contacting the Clover Island Inn at (509) 586-0541. We have blocked only a few rooms this year so reserve early to get the group rate (under WA State Horsemen Convention). On the dinner portion of this form, please write either "A" for adult or "C" for child (12 and under) in the appropriate date column. Refunds (registration and dinners) will not be granted after November 6.

Attendee's Name (Please Print)	WSH #	Dinner <10/1	Dinner 10/1-15	Dinner >10/15	Mtg <10/1	Mtg 10/1-15	Mtg >10/15	Line Total

A = Adult Dinner Cost - \$45 (<10/1), \$47 (10/1-15) or \$50 (after 10/15)  
 C = Child (12 and Under) Dinner Cost - \$27 (<10/1), \$29 (10/1-15), or \$32 (after 10/15)  
 Individual Meeting Registration Fee - \$35 (<10/1), \$40 (10/1-15), or \$45 (after 10/15)  
 Family Meeting Registration Fee (include on just one line of an attendee) - \$55 (<10/1), \$60 (10/1-15), or \$65 (after 10/15)

### Buffet Menu

6 oz Flat Iron Steak  
 Herb Crusted Chicken,  
 Scalloped Potatoes,  
 Seasonal Vegetables,  
 Green Salad with Assorted Dressings, Macaroni Salad,  
 Rolls and Butter,  
 Coffee, Lemonade

SUBTOTAL OF LINES ABOVE:	\$
DINNER DISCOUNT:	\$ -20.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED **:	\$

\*\* New this year! If at least one of the attendees registered to attend meetings is ALSO purchasing a dinner ticket, reduce your total by \$20.00 !!

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks / Money Orders Out to WSH and Mail To:  
 7210 E Fairview Ave - Spokane Valley WA 99212-1526



# HORSE SHOW DIVISION

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:** The Horse Show Division is EXCITED for 2026! Year End Award sign ups have been flowing in for both A System and B System. Show Date Applications have flooded my desk as have prize lists. The Horse Show Division has seen a few quiet years on the West Side and in the Dressage section. That is not the case in 2026! The West Side and Dressage are making what I call 'THE COME BACK'. This year we will see 6 WSH-Approved Horse Shows in the West Side Zone and we are over the moon excited! The shows will be at the Tacoma Unit in Spanaway, Hollywood Hill Saddle Club in Woodinville, Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Port Townsend, and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. On the Dressage front, we will see 5 WSH Approved Dressage Shows! These shows will be at the Franklin County Saddle Club in Pasco, Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, and Riverside Arena in Yakima. We will see all of our long-standing Horse Shows in Spokane, Moses Lake, Pasco and a NEW show added in Pasco in the fall! Our show committees have been working tirelessly to bring these shows together and are excited to see all of the exhibitors this year! During April / May the Horse Show Division will be running a 50/50 drawing to support the Year End Awards program, watch for posts about this! During the Fall Classic in Pasco, we will host an exhibitor dinner as a fundraiser also for Year End Awards! As always, sign up for Year End Awards! See the Steward at a show and they will help you! Email me, email Jole Chick, our Points Keeper, or find us at a show! We are all here to help you enjoy our Division and get the most out of it -- Erin Wieldraayer.

**Reminders:**

- WSH Shows ONLY accept WSH Amateur cards for the Equitation Division which also includes Showmanship.
- All Other Breeds Classes and Year End Awards! If your horse has multiple papers, you must provide copies of each. If you have Paint and Pinto papers, sign up for Paint and Pinto Year End Awards. If the horse show does not offer Paint and Pinto classes, enter the ALL OTHER BREEDS class and designate on your entry if your points are for PAINT or PINTO. This way our phenomenal points keeper can put them in the appropriate class. If your horse does not have any registration papers, sign up for Year End Awards in All Other Breeds and show those classes! You cannot sign up for All Other Breeds Year End Awards unless your horse has a set of papers for a breed that is not recognized as a primary breed or offered at Washington State Horsemen. Example: American Blazer, Gypsy Vanner, Saddlebred.

**APPROVED SHOW DATES:**

- APRIL 10 - 12: LET'S GO SHOW - SPANAWAY
- APRIL 18: RIDE INTO SPRING DRESSAGE SHOW - PASCO
- APRIL 18 - 19: FAT AND FUZZY BENEFIT OPEN SHOW - SPOKANE
- MAY 2 - 3: SPRINGTIME OPEN - PASCO
- MAY 23 - 24: KNIGHTS OF SANTIAGO DUAL OPEN SHOW - SPOKANE
- JUNE 5 - 7: EVERGREEN SPECTACULAR - SPANAWAY
- JUNE 6 - 7: SUMMERFEST OPEN - PASCO
- JUNE 26: WASHINGTON STATE CLASSIC DRESSAGE SHOW - MOSES LAKE
- JUNE 27 - 28: WASHINGTON STATE CLASSIC - MOSES LAKE
- JULY 25 - 26: FOUR SEASONS HORSEMEN 3 IN 1 OPEN SHOW - SPOKANE
- AUGUST 15 - 16: CWDS SUMMER CLASSIC - YAKIMA
- AUGUST 15 - 16: CWDS SUMMER CLASSIC DRESSAGE SHOW - YAKIMA
- SEPTEMBER 5: HOME STRETCH OPEN HORSE SHOW - PORT TOWNSEND
- SEPTEMBER 6: HOME STRETCH OPEN DRESSAGE SHOW - PORT TOWNSEND
- SEPTEMBER 19: FALL CLASSIC DRESSAGE SHOW - PASCO
- SEPTEMBER 19 - 20: FALL CLASSIC - PASCO
- SEPTEMBER 26 - 27: LATE LATE DUAL OPEN SHOW - SPOKANE
- SEPTEMBER 26 - 27: WASHINGTON STATE FINALS SHOW - MONROE
- SEPTEMBER 26 - 27: CWDS FALL CLASSIC DRESSAGE SHOW - YAKIMA

**Join the Horse Show Division on Saturday evening during the Fall Classic (Sept. 19) in the FCSC Clubhouse for an end of season dinner with friends to support the WSH Horse Show Division!**



We will have dinner and refreshments!

Thank you Rock N Horse Club and Franklin County Saddle Club for allowing the Horse Show Division to host this fundraising dinner during the show!

If you are interested in helping with the dinner, please email Erin at WSHHSD@GMAIL.COM or text to 509-760-6462

**HORSE SHOW DIVISION**  
+ DIRECTOR +

In accordance with the WSH HSD Rulebook the Horse Show Division is posting their listing for a Horse Show Division Director. Applications are accepted on even numbered year (ie 2026).

If you are interested in the position please submit a resume and cover letter by August 1 to the Advisory Committee.

Voting for the Horse Show Director will happen at the Annual Horse Show Division meeting at the WSH Convention.

Please mail your cover letter and resume to:  
Tammy Call-Jones - HSD Advisory Member  
klahowya@aol.com


Resumes and Cover Letters are Due August 1.

**HORSE SHOW DIVISION**  
**2026 SADDLE**  
*Sponsored By:*  
*Licensed Officials Committee*



**LICENSED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE:**

We have a prospective new Steward, her name is Staci Maiden from Burbank, Washington. We are looking for comments of our applicant. Comments can be submitted to Tammy Call-Jones at klahowya@aol.com. All correspondences will be kept confidential. Evaluation Forms can be found on the website under the Licensed Official Form Page if you need assistance. For more information contact LOC Stewards Chair, Tammy Call-Jones, at the e-mail listed or via phone at 360.710.3049.



# CLUB CONTACTS

## NORTH CENTRAL

- ◆ **Desert Duellers** – Scott Howe  
509.771.1097 / dsh.scott.dh@gmail.com
- ◆ **Sun Basin Riders** – Erin Wieldraayer  
509.760.6462 / erin.wieldraayer@gmail.com

## NORTHEAST

- ◆ **Four Seasons Horsemen** – Cheryl Moriarty  
509.299.4191 / tpappys@gmail.com
- ◆ **Knights of Santiago** – Jole Chick  
509.954.3913 / chickfamily1999@gmail.com
- ◆ **North Country Riders** – Melissa Kelsey  
509.220.9099 / mkaquatherapy@gmail.com

## WEST SIDE

- ◆ **Kitsap Saddle Club** - Stephanie Simpson  
253.363.3388 / mrsslynn@gmail.com
- ◆ **Lope On In** – Lisa Gardner  
253.208.8319 / cuteloper@aol.com
- ◆ **NW Saddle Club** - Allison Aurand  
360.510.7180 / allisonaurand@gmail.com

## ZONE ONE

- ◆ **Franklin County Saddle Club** – Laurie Tufford  
509.528.9026 / fcsc@franklincountysaddleclub.org
- ◆ **Rock N Horse** – Kimberly Lansing  
509.539.0247 / ms.berly@yahoo.com

## STATE-WIDE CLUBS

- ◆ **Washington Equestrian Club** - Sherri Williams  
509.949.0291 / swluvs2trot@yahoo.com

Equine enthusiasts can join Washington State Horsemen as a non-club member, but joining through a club often comes with additional benefits such as...

1. Lower base rate for memberships.
2. Club awards programs.
3. Networking opportunities such as potlucks, Christmas parties, and fun service projects.
4. A local resource system for times when in need such as wild fire evacuation and floods.
5. Clubs provide support and a sense of belonging.

**Reach out to the club contact listed above to begin enjoying these extra perks!**

Interested in placing an ad in the July 2026 issue of the e-Canter?

Please send the ad (jpg format) to wshcanter@yahoo.com no later than June 15.

Business Card - \$25      Quarter Page - \$40  
Half Page - \$80          Full Page - \$160

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Horse Protection Act (HPA) has long served as a safeguard against the abusive practice of soring, helping ensure the welfare and fair treatment of horses across the country. It is a Federal law enacted in 1970. As we move through 2026, the Act itself remains unchanged - but how it will be enforced in the future is a developing story that every horse enthusiast should keep an eye on.

**A Law in Transition.** Over the past two years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) introduced major updates aimed at strengthening enforcement of the HPA. These proposed changes represent the most significant overhaul in decades and are designed to eliminate long-standing gaps in oversight. However, most of these updates have been delayed until December 31, 2026, meaning current rules remain in place for now.

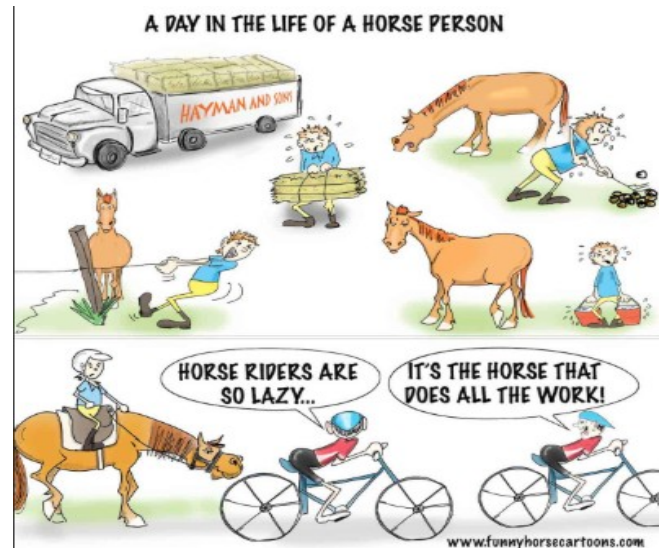
**What's Changing?** When fully implemented, the new regulations are expected to replace industry inspectors with federally trained inspectors, ban certain devices and practices linked to soring, and expand oversight across more breeds and disciplines. These changes are intended to create a more consistent and transparent system nationwide but many are questioning the cost involved to show managers for inspectors.

**Why the Delay?** The updated rules have faced legal challenges from parts of the horse industry, resulting in court reviews and temporary blocks on portions of the rule. Additionally, concerns about enforcement fairness and structure have contributed to the USDA pushing back the implementation timeline.

**What Does This Mean for Me?** For now, it's largely business as usual but with an eye on the future. Exhibitors and Trainers - continue following current guidelines but be prepared for stricter oversight ahead. Event Organizers - no immediate changes, though future events may require federal inspectors. Horse Owners and Enthusiasts - stay informed as this transition could impact shows and standards nationwide.

**The Bottom Line.** We're in a transition period for the Horse Protection Act. While the law's mission remains the same, protecting horses, the way it's carried out is on the verge of significant change. Stay informed now and help ensure you're ready for what may come next.

**Where Do I Follow Updates to the HPA?** There are many sources that you can follow for current information including the USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) HPA page. This is where official rule changes, delays, and enforcement updates are published first. The Federal Register can provide legal details. This official U.S. government publication is best for tracking the "why" behind changes. Industry media sources provide understandable summaries. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), DVM360, and the American Farriers Journal assist in providing easy-to-understand summaries. These trusted outlets regularly break down complex updates into practical takeaways. Association websites such as the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) as well as breed and horse industry associations / organizations often provide real-world impact statements.



# GAMES DIVISION

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:** Not much has been going on yet, but shows are just around the corner. Our kick off for the year (WSCS Benefit Show) was held on March 29 with all profits heading right into state award fund. Desert Duellers, North Country Riders, and Cowgirl Up have their show dates set...thank you show committees! Big change coming for the Washington State Championship Show...due to school and fair conflicts, State Finals is couple weeks earlier this year (August 14-16) at the Chelan County Fairgrounds in Cashmere. It will require a bit of a quicker turn around on things but it will still be a great time. With that being said I would love to get a jump start on sponsors and ads for the program. Please obtain those awesome sponsors ASAP so that and we can make up program ads and not have to be in a time crunch - better yet, please provide a print-ready jpg of your ad so that we can just "drop it in" the program. The ads could be really fun this year tying into our WSCS theme of "The Games We Play". But to attend to first and foremost, join Washington State Horsemen through your local club (least expensive way to join), complete any additional paperwork with your Zones Timeskeeper, and if you are an official (Judge or Timer) make sure to renew your card. We always welcome NEW officials as well and remember...the written test is open book so you can do it! Happy riding to all enjoy those four-legged friends -- Melissa Kelsey.

March 31 brought an end to your current Judge / Timer card. Those that attended the 2025 WSH Convention and attended the Games Division Annual Meeting, your new cards will be sent to you (typically via Facebook messenger) as soon as your 2026 WSH Membership is confirmed. If you were not at Convention, please send a message to Jessie McLaughlin at [Ldsmax@comcast.net](mailto:Ldsmax@comcast.net) requesting a "Clinic Test" so that you can update your official's card.

The WSHGD Rulebook has been updated and is available on the WSH website under "Forms". Changes made at the 2025 Convention can be found in blue font in the rulebook. As a reminder, all rule changes must be submitted to [mkaquatherapy@gmail.com](mailto:mkaquatherapy@gmail.com) and the deadline is September 10. A couple of the bigger changes to the rules passed by the membership at the 2025 WSH Convention include the following -

- **Page 6 / General Rules:** Change 5<sup>th</sup> sentence to read, "Western shirt defined as collared with either snaps, buttons, or zipper – buttons and zippers do not need to extend from top to bottom of shirt."
- **Page 10 / ABCD Classifications:** Change #10 to read, "Show management will offer a Jackpot Open Class for all individual events and optional for all team (2-man and 4-man events) at any W.S.H. approved show. Entry fee will be a minimum of \$5.00. State and Zone to receive same cents per ride as in ABCD classes. Times run in this class will count for classifications and 5-time (individual) and 3-time (2-man and 4-man team) average. A rider may appear multiple times in the Jackpot class, individual and team events, as long as it is on a different horse."
- **Page 26 / Second Timer:** Change paragraph to read, "Second Timers do not need to take the WSHGD Timer's Test. Second Timers may be any age to time at a regular season show and do not need to be a member of WSH. Second Timers must be 13 years of age or older and a member of WSH to Second Time at the WSCS".
- **Page 31 / WSCS Awards:** Add a paragraph under the event listings to read, "All WSCS riders must work in the arena for a set amount of time (amount determined by the WSHGD Rules Committee prior to the WSCS and published in the WSCS registration packet in order to receive WSCS awards. Those in Super Senior C are invited to work but will not be required to do so."
- **Page 32 / WSCS Special Awards:** Change 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> sentences to read, "~~Three~~ Four or more riders, each competing in at least 5 of the 7 individual events, are required to compete to be eligible for High Point Age Division Awards at the Washington State Championship Show. If less than ~~three~~ four riders qualify to compete at the WSCS, age groups will be combined and ride together under the age group with the most riders."

## SHOW SCHEDULE (As of 3/20/26)

March 29:	WSCS Benefit Show (404 N Havana St - Spokane)
April 11-12:	North Country Riders (1618 W Antler Rd - Deer Park)
April 11-12:	Desert Duellers (12596 Rd A NW - Ephrata)
May 2-3:	North Country Riders (1618 W Antler Rd - Deer Park)
May 9-10:	Desert Duellers (12596 Rd A NW - Ephrata)
June 6-7:	North Country Riders (1618 W Antler Rd - Deer Park)
June 13-14:	Desert Duellers (Ted Rice Arena - Coulee City)
July 11-12:	North Country Riders (1618 W Antler Rd - Deer Park)
July 25-26:	Cowgirl Up Show (Pend Oreille Co Fairgrounds - Cusick)
August 14-16:	Washington State Championship Show (Chelan Co Fairgrounds - Cashmere)
September 26-27:	North Country Riders (1618 W Antler Rd - Deer Park)
September 26-27:	Desert Duellers (Ted Rice Arena - Coulee City)
October 3-4:	North Country Riders (1915 W Antler Rd - Deer Park)
October 17-18:	Desert Duellers (12596 Rd A NW - Ephrata)

## 2025 WSCS SPONSORS

### AGE GROUP HIGH POINT

Bob-Mart  
 Coe - Lowry Family / Lunch Ladies  
 Devil's Rope Ranch  
 Honest Ed's Tires  
 Hawkins Family  
 River City Electrical / TnT Cycles  
 Travis / Shaunna / Halsey Robb (Leadline Awards)  
 Triple Creek Ranch / Jim Riddle  
 Steve and Betty Waggoner Memorial

### SUPPORTERS

ALT Horsemanship and Training  
 Basin Wellness Massage and Beauty Hub  
 Bob Coe Memorial  
 Brews Bro Coffee Bar  
 Cross Cannon  
 Sally Cloke Memorial  
 Coe Creations / Ben Coe  
 Cowgirl Up  
 Crottsley Designs  
 Hales Farm and Feed  
 Jack and Ruby Hart Friends and Family  
 Henery Hardware  
 Josie's Hat Artist  
 LB Ranch  
 Markwell Equine Services and More  
 North Country Riders  
 North Wild Coffee  
 Spin-Em Rodeo Co.  
 Springdale Concessions Volunteers  
 Bob and Kathy Thompson  
 Tractor Supply Co. (Deer Park)  
 Will Rogers Saddle Company  
 Yoke's Fresh Market

### 2026 OFFICERS

Melissa Kelsey (Director), Kimberlee McCoull (East Side Vice), Vacant (West Side Vice), Jessie McLaughlin (Secretary), Cheryl Beck (Treasurer), Mary Jane Lowry (Times Keeper), Arabella Howe (Jr. Rider Rep), Ellie Snyder (Jr. Rider Rep.), and Rules Committee Sharon Kelsey (Chair), Amelia Shay, Terri Lowry, and Arlene Marquart (Alternate)



**For more information contact the Games Division Chair:**  
 Melissa Kelsey at [mkaquatherapy@gmail.com](mailto:mkaquatherapy@gmail.com) / 509.220.9099

# YOUTH MERIT

Join, Enroll, Submit, Select, Inform, Earn

The Youth Merit Program is making a comeback in 2026...especially in Eastern Washington. As you've already read in the North Central Zone report, the youth from the Sun Basin Riders Club is meeting regularly and putting together some really fun activities! They have even selected youth leaders to help begin the process of training the next generation of leaders for our organization. A big "thank you" to Erin Wieldraayer for her continued efforts in making this program fun for all. The Northeast Zone has begun holding monthly Zoom meetings due to the large geographic area of the zone members. January's meeting was focused on "Getting to Know WSH" where we identified this year's leadership (most of those answers can be found on Page 2 of this issue of the Canter) and even had a few guest appearances so that the Youth Merit Members could actually put a face to a name. February's meeting, the members were able to learn more about equine dentistry from Dr. Abby Wagemann DVM. Dr. Wagemann was a youth member in the Northeast Zone competing in the Games Division several years ago and it was absolutely wonderful to see her giving back to WSH as an adult. NEZ looks forward to meeting again with Dr. Wagemann this summer for a fun hands-on activity. In regards to equine dentistry, did you know that adult horses have 36-44 teeth. Horse teeth are hypsodont meaning they continuously erupt throughout much of their life. This is necessary because eating over the years causes them to wear down. Sharp enamel points can develop on their molars requiring the need for floating. For you to research...What is quidding? The 4-H Tack Swap is held in March each year, so the Northeast Zone YM Members met and went over bridle, saddle, and pack pieces. At the conclusion of the meeting, they had earned 20 points by successfully completing the worksheet. If you are in the Northeast Zone and would like to attend the Zoom meetings (next one is April 15), reach out to Emma Tanner for a Zoom invitation.

The awards earning levels are the same this year. Let's review the awards offered as well as the 2025 winners:

- Participation Plaque (50 Points) - Alexis Cox (NC), Maya Cox (NC), June Eilers (NC), Kyra Evens (NC), JoLee Owens (NE), Jacob Sieverkropp (NC), and Levi Sieverkropp (NC).
- Yellow Tag / Certificate of Merit (100 Points) - Alexis Cox and Seth Dillman (NC).
- Red Tag / Certificate of Excellence (200 Points) - Alexis Cox, Sage Dillman (NC), Clay Markwell (NC), Jayda Markwell (NC), and Kaysen Tanner (NE).
- Blue Tag / T-Shirt / Honor of Excellence (300 Points) - Wade McCoul (NE), Clay Markwell, Colt Markwell, and Jayda Markwell.
- Bronze Medallion (500 Points) / Max Award for 1st Year - None.
- Superior Jacket (650 Points) - None.
- Silver Medallion (800 Points) / Max Award for 2nd Year - None.
- Supreme Buckle (1,000 Points) - None.
- Gold Medallion (1,200 pts) / Max Award for 3rd Year - None.
- \$50 / 75 / 100 Cash Awards (1,400+ points) / 1 Cash Award Per Year - None.

Each year, Zones and individuals donate baskets to the convention silent auction and help raise funds to cover the awards our youth receive. Thank you, so much! Thank you, also to those that purchase during the auction (and to those that bid thus raising the winning amount). We raised, due to your generosity, \$402.06 at the 2025 Convention (up about \$30 from 2024). Thank you, all, so very much - it is through your generosity that the program continues to make a difference with awards for these very-deserving youth!

How easy is it to become a Youth Merit Member and earn some really great prizes like those above?

1. **Join** WSH. Become a member of the Washington State Horsemen organization to access the Youth Merit Program and other amazing benefits.
2. **Enroll** in Youth Merit. Complete the short, one-page application by emailing LDSMacs@comcast.net or downloading it from the WSH website under "forms".
3. **Submit** your application. Mail the application to Jessie McLaughlin (7210 E Fairview Ave - Spokane Valley WA 99212-1526) or simply e-mail a photo of it to LDSMacs@comcast.net. The best part? Joining Youth Merit is free with your WSH membership!
4. **Select** your workbook. Download and print the appropriate workbook from the WSH website. If you're not yet writing, use Workbook 1 for your parents to track your activities. If you're comfortable writing, use Workbook 2 to document your progress.
5. **Inform** us of your progress. On August 1st, reach out to Jessie McLaughlin for instructions on submitting your points and workbooks for review.
6. **Earn** awards. Enjoy the fruits of your labor at the annual WSH Convention, where you'll receive awards based on your points. If you can't attend, a Zone representative will bring your awards back to your area for you.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Youth Merit Committee Chair Jessie McLaughlin or your Zone's local Youth Merit Advisor. We are so excited to see where this year's journey takes you!

### For more information contact:

Chair - Jessie McLaughlin at  
LDSMacs@comcast.net or 509.434.4555

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Head over to the WSH website to uncover all the details for the events listed below.

APR 10-12 - Horse Show (Spanaway)  
APR 11-12 - Games Show (Deer Park)  
APR 11-12 - Games Show (Ephrata)  
APR 18-19 - Dressage Show (Pasco)  
APR 18-19 - Horse Show (Spokane)  
APR 30 - WSH Full Board Meeting (Zoom)

MAY 2-3 - Games Show (Deer Park)  
MAY 2-3 - Horse Show (Pasco)  
MAY 9-10 - Games Show (Ephrata)  
MAY 20 - WSH Officers Meeting (Zoom)  
MAY 23-24 - Horse Show (Spokane)

JUN 5-7 - Horse Show (Spanaway)  
JUN 6-7 - Games Show (Deer Park)  
JUN 6-7 - Horse Show (Pasco)  
JUN 13-14 - Games Show (Coulee City)  
JUN 15 - Canter Article / Ad Deadline  
JUN 18 - WSH Board Brief (Zoom)  
JUN 26 - Dressage Show (Moses Lake)  
JUN 27-28 - Horse Show (Moses Lake)

JUL 11-12 - Games Show (Deer Park)  
JUL 23 - WSH Full Board Meeting (Zoom)  
JUL 25-26 - Horse Show (Spokane)  
JUL 25-26 - Games Show (Cusick)

AUG 1 - Youth Merit Workbooks Due  
AUG 10 - Horse Show Proposals Due  
AUG 14-16 - Games WSCS (Cashmere)  
AUG 15-16 - Horse Show (Yakima)  
AUG 15-16 - Dressage Show (Yakima)  
AUG 20 - WSH Officers Meeting (Zoom)

SEP 1 - Bylaws Proposals Due  
SEP 1 - Trails and Pleasure Proposals Due  
SEP 5 - Horse Show (Port Townsend)  
SEP 6 - Dressage Show (Port Townsend)  
SEP 10 - Games Proposals Due  
SEP 15 - Canter Article / Ad Deadline  
SEP 19 - Dressage Show (Pasco)  
SEP 19-20 - Horse Show (Pasco)  
SEP 24 - WSH Board Brief (Zoom)  
SEP 26-27 - Games Show (Deer Park)  
SEP 26-27 - Horse Show (Spokane)  
SEP 26-27 - Games Show (Coulee City)  
SEP 26-27 - Horse Show (Monroe)  
SEP 26-27 - Dressage Show (Yakima)

OCT 1 - Early Early Bird Deadline for Convention  
OCT 3-4 - Games Show (Deer Park)  
OCT 10 - WSH Board Meeting (Ellensburg)  
OCT 15 - Early Bird Deadline for Convention  
OCT 17-18 - Games Show (Ephrata)  
OCT 23 - WSH Special Award Nominations Due

NOV 13-15 - Annual Convention (Kennewick)

DEC 15 - Canter Article / Ad Deadline

Games Division  
Horse Show Division  
Trails and Pleasure **OR** Youth Merit  
Washington State Horsemen General Info

Save the Dates

# HORSE SHOW DIVISION

**ARABIAN / HALF ARABIAN:** Angie Argo nee Stephens has been showing horses for most of her life, having grown up showing Arabian horses, especially in the B System, throughout the 70's and 80's. This is her story and what comes after. Thank you, Angie, for sharing your story of you and Bode, and your adventures through good and bad.

"I have always liked the Arabian/Saddlebred cross, and being Pinto is like having sprinkles on frosting! My first Half Arabian Pinto/Saddlebred had passed away late in 2008 at 24 years old after a long, successful show career, our daughter was off to college, and I found myself looking through the Horse Trader in January 2010. A yearling in California that was by NV Beau Bey out of a Pinto Saddlebred mare caught my eye, but it was too far away. So, I started a search for foals sired by NV Beau Bey closer to home, and up pops this yearling gelding in Gig Harbor, WA. The owner and breeder, Heidi (Holmes) Parker, had him listed for sale. I knew Heidi from showing Pinto, and I certainly knew the dam, Hiland Shadow Dancer, from showing at pinto shows in the Northwest. A phone call was made, an appointment was booked, and my mom and I went to see him. He came home to live in Royal City in late February 2010.

My next Half Arabian Saddlebred Pinto show horse was named CA Dancin By The Bey, aka Bode (like the skier). He spent the next 3 years growing, looking gangly, and learning all of the things a baby horse needs to know. He was more challenging than any horse I had ever had before, but I took my time and brought him along, slowly but surely. We started by showing in halter as a 3-year-old, graduating to under saddle classes as a 4-year-old, and by the time he was 5, we were showing in English Pleasure Hunter Type classes. Over the next few years, Bode earned ROM's in Halter, Hunter Under Saddle, English Pleasure, Disciplined Rail English, and Ideal English. He also earned his Pinto Championship. Then, tragedy struck. In late November of 2016, Bode came in from the pasture dragging his right hind leg. I honestly thought he had broken his hip. The vet diagnosed him with a ruptured peroneus tertias dorsal surface of the right hock, and he was put on stall rest for 3 months. Bode was cleared to start a long, careful 6 months of rehab in March of 2017. By that fall, he was back to regular work, with plans to show in both Pinto and WSH B shows in 2018. I also wanted to try some Arabian Breed shows in 2019. My goal was to qualify for Regionals, which we did. We showed for the first time ever at the Region 4 Championship Show and earned a Top Five in Hunter Pleasure Select Riders. In August of 2019, Bode once again, found himself on the injured list, and another 3 months of stall rest for a check ligament edge tear. In December, he was cleared to go back to work. We began again with the WSH B System shows, and 2022 found us signing up for WSH year-end awards. Bode brought home the President's Cup B System English Show horse, Fred Hayden Memorial Trophy for Half Arabian B System, and Region V High Point Arabian. I felt that the B system was a good, happy fit for us. This past year, for 2025, he earned his WSH ROM in English Pleasure, the Fred Hayden Memorial trophy for High Point Half Arabian B System, Region V High Point Half Arabian, and High Point Pinto English Performance Horse. Bode can still be a challenge, but at the age of 17, has mellowed just a bit. We are looking forward to a few more years of showing at WSH Shows!" – Angie Argo



Angie Argo  
and  
CA Dancin By  
The Bey  
(a.k.a. Bode)



**BUCKSKIN:** If you are wanting to expand your showing or explore showing at the breed level, the American Buckskin Registry Association (ABRA) is a great stepping stone! There are two ABRA-chartered clubs in the Pacific Northwest; the Inland Empire Buckskin Horse Association (IEBHA) and the Northwest Buckskin Club (NWBC). Both clubs have shows throughout the year that can count towards WSH Year End Awards (A System). The dates are May 1-3 and September 25-27 for the NWBC NW Classics in Albany, Oregon. For more information on the show, visit their website at [www.nwbuckskin.com](http://www.nwbuckskin.com). The Western States American Breed Congress, hosted by the IEBHA, is scheduled for August 27-30 in Moses Lake, Washington. More information on the event can be found at [www.iebha.com](http://www.iebha.com). Make sure if you are wanting to participate in this option that you are taking the proper paperwork with you, found on the WSH website. Happy Showing! For more information on the Buckskin Division, please contact Breed Director Jennifer McInnis at [jennifer.mcinnis@aol.com](mailto:jennifer.mcinnis@aol.com).

## Who are the 2026 Minor Breed Division Directors?

All Other Breeds - Heather Flores

Appaloosa - George Chick

Arab / Half Arab - Kathy Norton / Pam Kiehn

Buckskin - Jennifer McInnis

Dressage - Cheryl Beaudry

English - Pam Kiehn

Hunter / Jumper - Amy Ross

Miniature - Karen Torosian

Paint Horse - Meghan Weber

Palomino - Tina Tomonelli

Pinto - Jacklyn Barnes

Pony / POA / Welsh / Driving -

Sylvia Glover / Lisa Lydon

Quarter Horse - Stephanie Simpkins

Reining - Tammy Sigears

As you can see Drill Team, Draft, Equitation, Morgan, Mustang, Paso, Saddlebred, Walking Horse, and Western do not have Division Directors at this time. Please contact Erin Wieldraayer if you would be willing to represent one of these areas.

# HORSE SHOW DIVISION

**DRESSAGE:** Are you ready for your Test? Here are some things to focus on for higher scores and a smoother dance with your equine partner.

## Intro and Basic/Training Levels: Rhythm and Relaxation in the Movements

**Know Your Test** - instead of remembering letters; I think long diagonal, middle/end circle, ice cream cone, and stretchy trot. This allows me to consolidate movements and simplify what I have to remember. If a part of your test is less than what you hoped for, just keep going, it's only one element of a long list. Take a breath and move on. If you are off course, the judge will blow a whistle and restart you - shake it off and just restart from where they ask. Again, it's just one element and you'll be docked 2 points. It's not the end of the world and you are not the only one to have this happen to. Keep your head up and move on!

**Straight Up Centerline and a Balanced Square Halt** - this isn't a reining class so let your halt flow. Think jog/trot, slow down, walk 1, 2, 3, 4, now I'm stopped square. So essentially, I'm walking into the halt. This is like braking with your trailer. You don't just come to stop sign and slam on your brakes. You want to stop level and ease off the brake not put your horse on its head or you in this case. With practice, your horse will start ending square on its own.

**Geometry** - round and balanced circles, think of a square with a plus sign in the middle. Now each quarter I'm rounding off the corners from plus line to plus line as it touches the straight sides of the square. To help yourself, measure out a 20m x 20m plus sign with cones that will act as the touchdown spots of your square / circle. Or hold a lunge line and have someone else draw out a circle with their feet 10m out. Now, start at a cone, and look at the next cone as you ride and the path you want to make. Think about the arc of your circle. From the sky, your horse's body should match that arc as you move from cone to cone around your circle.

**Free Walk** - ground-covering stride where the hind hoof over steps the print of the front hoof, the neck lowers ideally wither height or lower and nose extends forward so they can see where they are going. Nose should be slightly in front of vertical. To improve this, you need to encourage forward movement with your core as you ask them to lower their head. Swing left and right with your equine as they walk and encourage each stride to be longer with your opposite leg. If you relax and move with your equine, this will make sense. As I do this I'm also encouraging a down feel with my reins and releasing (therefore rewarding) the try every time I feel them give me something that is lower.

**Free Moving, Balanced Working Jog / Trot** - again, the idea of being relaxed and connected with the rider through the reins will then lead to impulsion. If your equine's head is in the air, their back is hollow. This will result in bracing and a bouncier step to ride. Remember the drive comes from behind, lifts through the core and into the front. Don't pump with your upper body; use your hips and legs/crop to encourage the forward motion from the rear and into your contact. Posting is also a forward motion where your knee and lower leg stays in the same position underneath you and your hips rise forward matching the stride of your equine, then guide yourself down and barely touch your saddle before lifting off again. Your hips should stay forward instead of relaxing as if you are in a recliner as this will regrettably bring your legs forward and out of balance since they are no longer underneath you.

## 1st thru 4th Levels

**Relaxation, Connection, Impulsion** - continuing on with the concepts from Basic / Training level but now we have added new requirements from leg yield / half passes to renvers/traversers, lead changes and more. For these levels, your equine should be accepting your contact reliably. Adding lift to their movements and be able to move their bodies more independently-meaning the hind end no longer travels on the same tracks as the front end. Remember all these movements are forward-stepping and should flow with balance and teamwork as you and your equine work as one unit. Don't let that statement intimidate you. Remember these are goals you are working towards. Give it time because they are very cool movements to ride and literally feels like dancing when done right. When in doubt seek help! Ride-a-tests are very useful "check ins" too. Make sure you are signed up for the Dressage Division which encompasses both traditional Dressage and Western Dressage as there are several year-end awards available. There are several Approved Dates / Locations offered across the State - but remember you need scores from 2 different judges.

So let's write our goals down, let them be clear and specific with reasonable expectations / time frames and seek out help when needed. Remember you are not alone in this journey! If you are not showing, there are other ways to be involved. Just come show your support and offer encouraging words to participants - a "Hey that was lovely," or "Way to bounce back after that missed lead," goes a long way! You can also help someone else as their groom. And shows always need volunteers from gate stewards to scribes and will welcome you with open arms. Side Note: being a scribe also gives you great insight from a judge's perspective that can help your future ride. Enjoy the dance and time spent with your equine partner and we'll see you down centerline. For more information, contact Dressage Director Cheryl Beaudry at beaudryhorsemanship@gmail.com.



Remmie Graff with Elsa De Natalia

## ONE MINUTE BARN HACKS

**Spray Bottle Upgrade:** Add a few clean marbles to the bottom of your spray bottle. Helps mix contents quickly with a shake - works great for homemade fly sprays.

**Shedding Blade Cleaner:** Use a rubber curry comb to clean your shedding blade in seconds. No more stopping to pick hair out by hand.

**Quick-Grab Lead Rope:** Hang your halter with the lead rope already clipped on. Saves time when you need to catch a horse quickly. Be sure it is located where a horse cannot tangle with it.

**Tack Room Sponge Trick:** Keep a slightly damp sponge in a sealed container. Perfect for quick wipe-downs of boots or tack.

**Instant Cleanup:** Store baby wipes in your grooming tote / trailer caddy. Great for quick cleanups on horses or hands.

**Magnet Strip Magic:** Install a magnetic strip in your tack room to hold small metal tools and keep them "at the ready".

**Stacked Feed Buckets:** Pre-stack feed with supplements in individual buckets for each horse OR when traveling utilize Zip-loc bags clearly marked with a Sharpie (one per feeding) with everything pre-mixed inside. Save the bags for next time!

# NEWS FROM THE ZONES

## NORTH CENTRAL

From the Sun Basin Riders Club Reporter...Spring is in the air in the Columbia Basin and the Sun Basin Riders have been busy! We have 7 Youth Merit members who are hard at work accomplishing tasks in their workbooks. With club and community support they made 60 hygiene bags to donate to New Hope Domestic Violence Resource Center in Moses Lake in March. In April they will be making fleece tie blankets to donate to a pregnancy center in the area. We held officer elections in February and our new club officers are: President, Erin Wieldraayer, Secretary, Elizabeth Sieverkropp, and Treasurer, Anne Wieldraayer. In March we held Youth Officer Elections. Our Youth Officers are Senior Youth President, Amber, Junior Youth President, Raelynn, Junior Youth Vice President, Kyya, and Youth Secretary, Levi. We are very excited for our kids to work on learning meeting operations! Coming up this year our kids will be doing club presentations, giving service at a WSH Horse Show, making educational posters and enjoying time together! If you are in the North Central Zone and wish to join us, please reach out! We always have room for more! For more information, contact Erin Wieldraayer at erin.wieldraayer@gmail.com.

Zone President Kimberly Lansing reports, "Our Zone is gearing up for a busy year with the Washington State Junior Horse Show / Washington State Classic Dual Open Show, the Washington State Dressage Show, and the Sue Sulze / Jillian Santi Clinics June 25-28 at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake. The Fall Classic Dual Open Show and Fall Classic Dressage Show are also coming together for September 19-20 at the Franklin County Saddle Club in Pasco. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Also...all of you that have participated in Horse Judging - THANK YOU! It has been moved to Saturday at 6 p.m. (hopefully) between performance and trail classes. Anyone interested, please contact Kimberly Lansing to sign up at ms.berly@yahoo.com."

## ZONE ONE

## NORTH EAST

Emma Tanner reports that youth in the Northeast Zone are joining monthly Zoom calls and earning points in the Youth Merit Program. The flyer to the right was distributed at the NEZ Awards Banquet back in November giving every interested youth member the opportunity to "save the dates" on their calendars. The next meeting will be held on April 15 (Tax Day) and those members 10 and under (as of August 1, 2025) are invited for help with the 10 and Under page found in Workbook 2. During all meetings noted with an asterisk, a breakout room is created for "the littles" where a horse book is read to them to count towards their reading goals. The hope is to gather some guest readers for these meetings (we'll provide the book). If you are interested in being a guest reader, please let Emma Tanner know at emmamclaughlin11@gmail.com. Additionally, one final Zone Meeting will be held on May 7 before the Zone leadership takes a break for the summer. Meetings will then resume on September 3, October 1, and November 5. Elections are typically held at the October meeting so if you are interested in serving in a leadership capacity with the Zone, please reach out to Zone President George Chick. The Zone's 2026 Banquet is scheduled for December 13 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and will be a BRUNCH this year. Watch the Zone's Facebook page for further information. Beyond the amazing slate of WSH-approved horse shows and games shows (see page 9), the NEZ Games Division also holds an annual Halloween Playday / Fundraiser for their yearend awards program. The 2026 date is October 10. The Zone also has an active Trails and Pleasure Division and interested riders should contact Cheryl Beck for more information. Happy Riding!

**WELCOME TO  
YOUTH MERIT  
2026**

January 6 (T)	Getting to Know WSH
February 17 (T)	Horse Health with Abby Wagemann DVM
March 9 (M)	Tack Swap 101 (Do You Know Saddle and Bridle Parts?) *
April 15 (W)	I'm 10 and Under! Workbook 2 Page 12 *
May 4 (M)	Fat Little Pony (Do You Know Parts of a Horse?) *
June 10 (W)	WSH Discipline - Games Division *
July 14 (T)	I Think Youth Merit is Important Because...
August 6 (R)	Show and Tell with Abby Wagemann DVM
September 23 (W)	What did you enter into your local fair this year?
October 12 (M)	WSH Discipline - Horse Show Division *
November 6-8	We'll See You at Convention!
December 3 (R)	Non-WSH Discipline (Let's Talk RODEO) *

This year, monthly meetings will be offered on Zoom to accommodate our membership's large geographic area EXCEPT the August meeting. A location will be determined closer to the meeting date for August's outing. Zoom meetings begin at 6 p.m.

\* We'll be offering a breakout room for the "Littles" (those unable to write yet) where they will have a horse-related book read to them that counts towards their ability to record 10 books each year.

For more information on Northeast Zone Youth Merit, contact Emma Tanner at emmamclaughlin11@gmail.com or via phone at 208.446.4557

## WHAT YOUR HORSE WISHES YOU KNEW

A Multi-Part Series

If horses could sit down and write us a letter, it probably wouldn't be full of complaints, but it would include a few honest requests (clean water troughs and room to move would likely be on the top of the list). Our horses work hard for us, trust us, and try their best to understand what we're asking...even when we're not always clear. Here are three things your horse might say, if given the chance (more to come in future *Canter* editions):

**"My behavior is communication, not attitude."** If I pin my ears, refuse a jump, or won't stand still, I'm not trying to be difficult - I'm trying to tell you something. Maybe I'm uncomfortable, unsure, sore, or overwhelmed. Before assuming I'm being stubborn, take a moment to ask *why*.

**"Rest and routine help me feel safe."** I'm a creature of habit. Regular turnout, consistent feeding times, and a predictable routine help me relax. Sudden changes can be stressful, even if they seem minor to you.

**"My body needs maintenance, just like yours."** Regular hoof care, dental checks, and proper nutrition aren't luxuries, they're essentials. When I feel good physically, I can perform and behave at my best.



2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse, symbolizing independence, courage, and transformative energy. The Year of the Horse is the 7<sup>th</sup> animal in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle following the Snake and preceding the Goat. In 2026, it is specifically a FIRE HORSE year, which began on February 17, 2026 and will end on February 6, 2027 according to the Chinese lunar calendar. This is the first Fire Horse since 1966 and will not occur again until 2086. Are you born under a “Year of the Horse”? If you were born in 2026, 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942, or 1930 then you are indeed a “horse”. Individuals born in a Horse year, especially a Fire Horse year, are believed to be energetic and adventurous, intelligent and perceptive, independent and self-directed, optimistic and socially engaging, and decisive but sometimes impatient or impulsive. The Fire element (1966 and 2026) adds visibility, passion, and momentum making these individuals natural leaders who inspire others through bold action. In Chinese culture, the Horse symbolizes vitality, speed, perseverance, and success. 2026, as the Fire Horse year, is a time of bold action, transformation, and energetic pursuit of goals offering both opportunities and challenges for personal and professional growth. Where will 2026 take you?

# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

## Friday (November 13):

- 10:00-11:30 Finance Committee Audit
- 3:30-5:30 Social Activity Still to Be Determined
- 5:30-6:00 Registration
- 6:00-6:50 Zone President's / Vice President's Meeting - Closed
- 6:30-6:50 Registration
- 7:00-9:00 Town Hall Meeting including Finance, Membership, Bylaws, Canter, Marketing and More

## Saturday (November 14):

- 7:30-9:00 Registration
- 8:30-9:00 Opening Session / President's Message
- 9:00-10:30 Games Division Meeting
- 9:00-Noon Horse Show Division Meeting
- 10:30-Noon Games Division Clinic
- Noon-1:00 Youth Merit Meeting and Awards
- 12:30-2:30 LOC Meeting for HSD Judges / Stewards
- 1:00-1:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30-3:30 Horse Show Division Set-Up
- 2:00-3:00 Trails and Pleasure Division Meeting
- 3:00-4:00 Got Questions for the HSD Judges?
- 5:00-5:30 No Host Social "Hour" / Dinner Check-In
- 5:30-6:30 Celebration Banquet Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 Special Awards Presentation and Silent Auction to Benefit Youth Merit Program
- 7:30 Games Division Awards
- 7:30 Horse Show Division Awards
- 9:00-11:00 Inter-Divisional Activity TBD

## Sunday (November 15):

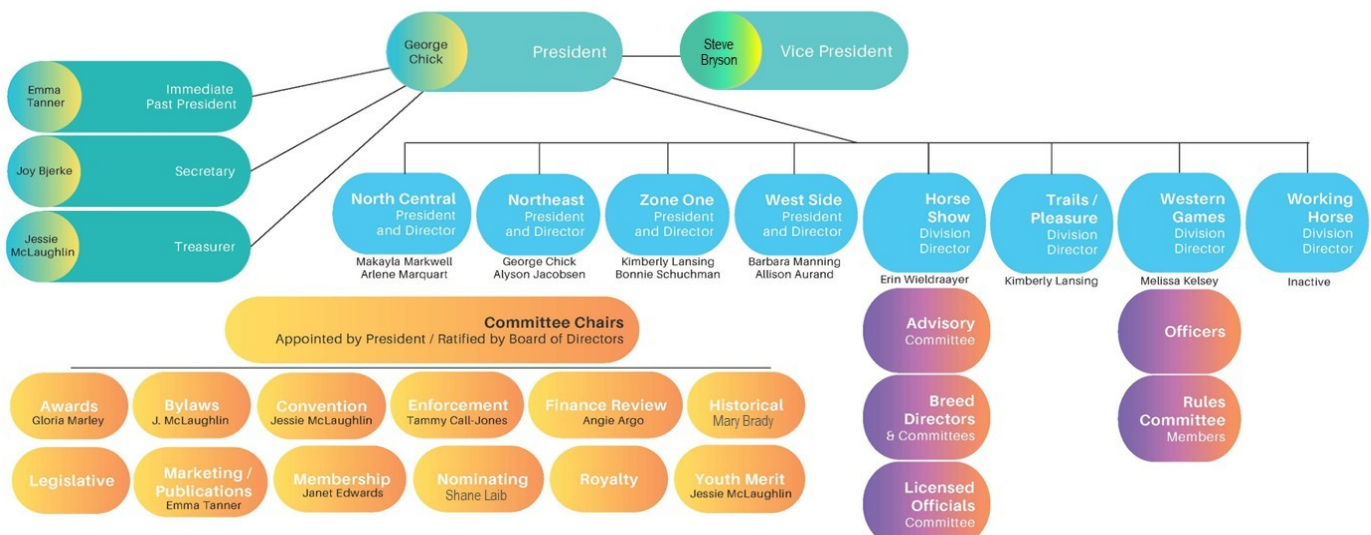
- 9:00-10:30 Annual Meeting and Elections
- Noon Check Out Time



Scan the QR Code above to go directly to the Convention page on the WSH website.

## WASHINGTON STATE HORSEMEN

### Organizational Chart



One of the best spring days is aboard our horses out on a beautiful mountain trail. Kids (and adults) - Color this page, scan it, and e-mail it to Emma McLaughlin (see Page 2). We can't wait to share your beautiful artwork on the WSH Facebook Page. #WSHLifestyle



## WSH PROFIT AND LOSS

**October 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026**

<b>Income</b>	
Convention Banquet Fees	3,217.00
Convention Registration Fees	1,073.00
Convention 50 / 50 Game	350.00
Marketing - Games	72.30
Marketing - Horse Show	243.30
Marketing - Trails / Pleasure	9.20
Membership Dues (less marketing)	2,923.20
Other (Division Reimbursement)	(12.00)
Savings Interest	1.50
Trails and Pleasure	264.70
Youth Merit	402.06
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 8,544.26</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Accounting / Filing Fees	\$ 0.00
Awards (WSH Specials)	108.34
Canter Printing and Mailing	1,272.24
Convention Banquet Fees	3,933.13
Convention (Other Expenses)	531.06
Insurance	2,426.45
Marketing Paid to Games	202.20
Marketing Paid to Horse Show	367.00
Marketing Paid to Trails and Pleasure	14.70
Postage	78.00
Subscriptions (Zoom/Con. Contact)	494.29
Supplies (Office, etc.)	40.70
Trails and Pleasure Awards	446.07
Website	101.17
Youth Merit Awards	332.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,347.35</b>
<b>Net Income / Loss</b>	<b>(\$ 1,803.09)</b>

**Account Balances As of 02/28/2026**

Games Division Marketing	\$ 72.30
Horse Show Division Marketing	240.60
Trails and Pleasure Marketing	4.80
Royalty Court	1,984.80
Trails and Pleasure	879.71
Working Horse	822.55
Youth Merit	5,371.07
Checking	\$ 12,096.37
Savings	\$ 36,806.89

## WSH DUES ARE DUE

WSH memberships run January 1 through December 31 each year. Need to renew? There are two ways to join!

1. If you are a member of a club (either 100% club or affiliated club), contact your Club Secretary for the amount due and then mail the Club Secretary a check. They will submit the information to WSH on your behalf.
2. If you are not associated with a club, utilize the form on the back page of the *Canter* or go to the WSH website for a Non-Club Membership Form. After completing the form, mail to the WSH Membership Chair, Janet Edwards at PO Box 295 - Colbert WA 99005-0295.

From our Membership Chair, Janet Edwards - As we get closer to show season and spring trail riding, be sure to pay your dues so your year end awards points will count. Signing up for awards is only half of the process. You must pay your dues! Feel free to contact me at [jwedwards295@gmail.com](mailto:jwedwards295@gmail.com) if you have sent in your dues and have not yet received your member card. I usually process within 1-3 days after receiving. Sometimes we have to nudge the post office! Also...if your card has a misspelled name, I will gladly send a corrected card - just let me know. Sometimes, it is difficult to decipher hand writing. Thank you for your continued WSH support!

## TRAILS AND PLEASURE

A huge thank you to all who have sent their applications in! We are looking forward to seeing more sign-ups. Let's get ready for a fabulous year with our equines! Here is a guide and key tips for preparing horses for spring and a successful riding season.

**Health Check**

- Schedule a veterinary check-up to assess overall health.
- Update vaccinations and deworming as needed.

**Hoof Care**

- Inspect hooves for cracks or signs of thrush.
- Schedule a farrier visit for trimming and shoeing.

**Nutrition and Hydration**

- Adjust feed to match increased activity levels.
- Ensure fresh water is available, especially as temperatures rise.

**Tack and Equipment**

- Clean and inspect tack for wear and tear.
- Ensure all equipment fits properly and is in good condition.

- - - - - Cut Here - - - - -

Complete a Separate Form for Each Horse Registering  
unless you are signing up for the Schoolmaster Division

Mail to Check (written to WSH) to T & P Director Kimberly Lansing  
831 N Forsell Rd - Grandview WA 98930

Rider's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ WSH Member # \_\_\_\_\_

What Year Did You First Participate in T&P? \_\_\_\_\_  
Or...This is My First Year (check here) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees (\$25.00 per area checked below):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pleasure Riding Logged Hours (Non-competitive)
- \_\_\_\_\_ In Hand/Ground Driving Hours (Non-competitive)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Driving Hours (Non-competitive)
- \_\_\_\_\_ School Master (multiple horses / one rider)

Total Fees Paid      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information contact:**

Kimberly Lansing at [ms.berly@yahoo.com](mailto:ms.berly@yahoo.com) / 509.539.0247



**Washington State Horsemen**  
7210 E Fairview Ave  
Spokane Valley WA 99212-1526

Please deliver to the household of:

## *WSH Membership Application*

Welcome! Thank you for joining the State's premier organization offering something for all ages and all disciplines.

NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # / E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR DIVISION IN WHICH YOU ARE PARTICIPATING: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATES OF THOSE 17 AND UNDER: \_\_\_\_\_

### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES / NON-CLUB:**

_____ Individual Member (17 or Under):	\$15.00
_____ Individual Member (18 or Over):	\$29.00
_____ Family Membership:	\$45.00

If you are joining through a club recognized by WSH, please contact the Club's Secretary for registration. If you have any membership questions, please contact the WSH Office at [info@washingtonstatehorsemen.org](mailto:info@washingtonstatehorsemen.org) or by phone at 509.954.7814 or by mail at WSH c/o Janet Edwards, PO Box 295 - Colbert WA 99005-0295.