

Greetings from your President!

As we are heading into the fall season (even though it is still in the 90's), I want to remind you all that we have one last competition where you may complete your volunteer hours or earn scores toward year-end awards.

On October 20, SWVADA and BREA are co-hosting our fall competition at GHPEC and we invite you to join us as competitors, volunteers or just to spend the day with friends and horses.

On October 26 SWVADA is holding another cavaletti clinic at GHPEC with Tracey Smith-Oliver. The first one was well received and I know that I have used the exercises I learned to school my horses at home.

I and some friends attended Dressage At Devon last weekend and want to share with you the benefits of standing ring side, especially at the warm up, and simply watching how some of the best riders warm up their horses. We can offer a similar experience at the VA Horse Center next weekend as the cBLM finals will be there.

Did you know that, as a member of SWVADA, you are a member of VADA, your GMO? The cBLM's are the Region 1 finals for the GMO members. There is no additional cost to ride a qualifying class at a licensed show, and the finals competition will be fiercely contested. Even if you have not qualified this year, I invite you to come and watch, or to volunteer for your GMO, VADA.

Did you know that, as a member of SWVADA, your licensed and schooling show scores can be submitted to VADA for year-end awards? In 2018, a SWVADA member won the Training Level award for schooling shows against all other chapters of VADA! This is a big deal.

As we get closer to the end of the year, it is time to consider volunteering for the board of directors. We meet monthly for dinner and business discussion, and this is how you can help shape the future of dressage in SW VA. We will also be looking for a new volunteer coordinator for 2020. If you compete, this is a way to get all of your volunteer hours out of the way with one job!

We will be putting all of our volunteers into a drawing for a gift certificate to either your favorite tack store or to Southern States. The more you volunteer, the more chances you have to win.

If you have questions about any of the opportunities that I have mentioned here, shoot me, or any board member, an e mail or check the website for more information. In the meantime, cross your fingers for rain and cooler temperatures before snow, and happy riding!

Laura