

# Meet the Candidates

Get to know who's nominated for USDF Executive Board office this year

**D**uring the 2020 Adequan®/USDF National Convention this December, the USDF Board of Governors will elect the USDF Executive Board's three at-large directors (ALDs). The ALDs represent the USDF Activities Council, Administrative Council, and Technical Council.

Candidates are nominated by the committees that constitute each council. The Activities Council comprises the following committees:

- Adult Programs
- Awards
- FEI Junior/Young Rider
- Regional Championships
- Sport Horse
- Youth Programs.

The Administrative Council comprises these committees:

- Bylaws
- Group Member Organizations
- Historical Recognition
- Membership
- Nominating.

The Technical Council consists of these committees:

- Competition Management
- Freestyle
- Instructor/Trainer
- Judges
- L Program
- Technical Delegates.

The current Activities Council ALD, Susan Mandas, is running for reelection, as is the incumbent Technical Council ALD, Susan McKeown. Current Administrative Council ALD Kevin Bradbury is stepping down at the end of this year, and the USDF is grateful for his many years of service. Nominated to fill that seat is Barbara Cadwell.

The USDF Executive Board functions as a cohesive team and strives to further the organization's mission and goals. For the 2020 election cycle,

the USDF Nominating Committee asked each candidate to submit a brief biography and to answer the following questions:

1. *Why do you wish to run for the position of at-large director?*

2. *If elected, what do you wish to accomplish?*

3. *With so many diverse committees within your council, how will you support and represent each committee chairperson on the USDF Executive Board?*

4. *How has your involvement in local, regional, and national USDF activities promoted and enhanced dressage, both regionally and nationally?*

The candidates' responses follow.

## ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

### Incumbent: Susan Mandas

Sue has been involved in the sport of dressage as competitor, trainer, breeder, and instructor for over 40 years.

She is a USEF "S" dressage judge, an "R" sport-horse breed judge, and a member of the USDF sport-horse faculty. A longtime member of the USDF Sport Horse Committee, she currently also serves as the Activities Council at-large director on the USDF Executive Board.

Involved with breeding warm-blood sport horses for many years, Sue's first Grand Prix horse was one she bred, raised, and trained herself, with instruction through clinics. Sue is a USDF bronze, silver, and gold medalist who has also earned the USDF silver and gold freestyle bars. She has trained many horses to the FEI levels, winning regional-champion or reserve-champion titles at every level from Second through



Grand Prix, and several times she has made the US Equestrian Team long list. She lives in Centerville, Ohio, where she rides a young red mare, trains, and teaches.

### Responses to questions:

1. I am running for Activities Council at-large director because I feel I can bring a voice to the Executive Board that represents the committees on this council.

2. I see my position as being a conduit who is informed about the activities and intent of the committees, and can represent and communicate these intentions to the Executive Board.

3. I feel I can represent each committee chair because of my involvement and experience working with them for the past seven years.

4. I have been involved with the USDF and worn many hats: longtime competitor, trainer, instructor and coach through Grand Prix, dressage and sport-horse judge, sport-horse faculty member, breeder, and member since the organization's creation. I have witnessed the tremendous impact USDF has had on the growth and development of dressage in this country, and I am happy and proud to be a part of its governance!

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

### Nominee: Barbara Cadwell

I attended my first dressage show as a spectator in 1963.

Bodo Hangen had just come to this country, and

Kay Meredith was riding Blue Jay. My mother, Anne L. Barlow Ramsay, and I decided that this was something we could do together. Little did we know!

We started taking lessons together,



and eventually my mother bought a horse, Luke. We took him to some shows, and we did not do very well, but we weren't very good riders. We kept at it, though, and my mother bought another horse, Czardaska, whose USDF number was 39. We were active with the Illinois Dressage and Combined Training Association.

My mother moved to Flourtown, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia, where she got to know Ellin Dixon Miller. I moved to Milwaukee and became active in the Wisconsin Dressage and Combined Training Association. I attended my first USDF annual meeting while Ellin was the USDF secretary. I think that I have attended almost every meeting since then.

While Mother lived in Flourtown, we routinely volunteered as scribes at Dressage at Devon. One year a friend brought her niece, Patti Becker. The rest is history. Patti became a working student at Tempel Farms in Illinois, and she rode several horses that we either bred or bought for her. She is currently riding Freedom at Grand Prix and Huey at Third Level.

In the meantime, Patti found Fridjoff for me. At that point, Fridjoff was 16 and it was clear that he was not going to be competitive at Grand Prix. He was, however, perfect for me. He was, however, perfect for me. He was incredibly safe, a lot of fun, taught me a lot, and carted me around for my USDF bronze and silver medals.

In 1988 I moved to northern Wisconsin, purchased 280 acres from the Farmer's Home Administration, and started breeding horses at Annie B Farm, along with my mother. I stayed there until 2013, when I moved to Fernandina Beach, Florida. My breeding and young stock are in Ocala, and the performance horses are in Wisconsin at Fireside Farm in the summer and Wellington, Florida, in the winter.

During all this time, I was active with the USDF. I have served on the Group Member Organizations Committee, the Bylaws Committee, and the Nominating Committee. I have served

in leadership positions in GMOs and as participating-member delegate for Regions 2 and 3. My mother was on the Historical Recognition Committee, and I worked with her on that. I have been active in debates. Thus, I have been actively involved with most of the committees that I will be working with as at-large director.

I believe that the USDF's new relationship with US Equestrian (USEF) must be reinforced and supported. The USEF is increasingly delegating its supervisory responsibilities to the USDF. The USEF is no longer revising tests over which a bunch of really smart and knowledgeable people have sweat blood. The USDF is now responsible for training and testing our national dressage judges. The USEF has recognized the USDF as the dressage authority. The USDF (i.e., the Board of Governors, or BOG) must accept that responsibility. I believe this is an opportunity to revitalize the USDF. We are going to have increased input into and authority over our sport. We must accept that authority by becoming actively involved in the BOG, the committees, our GMOs, and the USDF.

## TECHNICAL COUNCIL

### Incumbent: Susan McKeown

I have been involved with dressage for over 40

years, first as a competitor and then as a competition secretary and manager.

I earned my bronze, silver, and gold medals on my two Swedish Warmbloods, and I truly enjoyed all aspects of training and showing as an adult amateur. I have been a secretary and/or manager for more than 100 shows in the New England area, as well as manager of the 2019 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 8 Dressage Championships and assistant show secretary for the US Dressage Finals.



I got involved with USDF first as a participating-member delegate and then as a member and later chair of the Competition Management Committee. I am a member of the USEF Competitions Working Group of the US Equestrian Dressage Sport Committee. I have served one three-year term as the USDF Technical Council at-large director. I truly enjoy the dressage community, and you have given me such wonderful support, in both my personal and riding life!

### Responses to questions:

1. I want to help and to be part of the future direction of dressage in the United States. I think the way to do that is to represent the committees that are part of the Technical Council on the Executive Board, but also to bring my varied expertise in management and strategic planning to the board.

2. I would like to continue to see more shows across the US be well run and managed, and bring the ideas and practices of one area to the visibility of other areas. This would include focusing on meeting the needs of competitors, officials, show management, and the USDF and USEF. With the challenges of COVID-19, this is even more important today.

3. Listening to each committee and understanding their issues would be key. I would attend as many of their conference calls and meetings as possible, and discuss with the chairperson any specific concerns they would want taken to the other councils and to the Executive Board.

4. I have managed and been secretary for more than 100 recognized dressage shows in the New England area and in Virginia. As chair of the USDF Competition Management Committee, I have organized and helped to teach training sessions at USDF conventions. And I have volunteered at many schooling shows in our region to encourage growth in dressage, starting from the lowest levels.

