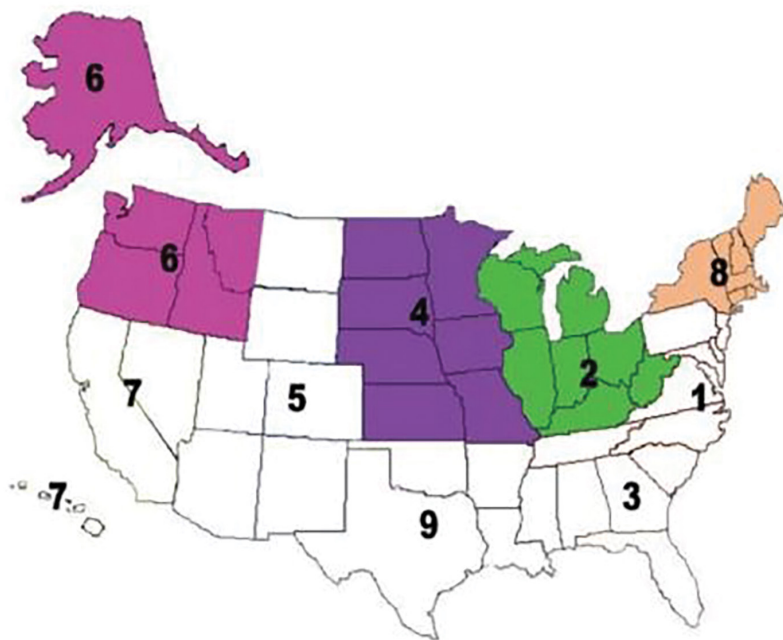


Meet the Candidates

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



ON THE BALLOT: This year, the USDF Board of Governors will elect directors of USDF's even-numbered regions, as well as a new USDF president and treasurer

During the 2024 Ad-equan®/USDF National Convention, December 4-7, the USDF Board of Governors will elect two USDF officers—president and treasurer—as well as directors of USDF's even-numbered regions (2, 4, 6, and 8), all of whom will serve as members of the USDF Executive Board.

Like all organizations, USDF needs committed leadership in order to enjoy continued growth and thoughtful direction. The USDF Executive Board functions as a cohesive team and strives to further the organization's mission and goals.

Current USDF president George Williams will step down at the end of 2024. Running unopposed to succeed him as president is current USDF vice president Kevin Reinig.

Likewise, current USDF treasurer Lorraine Musselman's term concludes at the end of 2024. Her

immediate predecessor, former USDF treasurer Steve Schubert, is running unopposed to step back into the treasurer's seat.

The incumbent directors of USDF's even-numbered regions (Debby Savage, Region 2; Anne Sushko, Region 4; Noah Rattner, Region 6; and Helen van der Voort, Region 8) all are running unopposed for reelection.

The USDF thanks all of the current Executive Board members for their service to the organization.

To learn more about USDF's governance process, visit usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/.

Officers

For the 2024 election cycle, the USDF Nominating Committee asked the candidates for president and treasurer to submit a brief biography and to answer the following questions:

1. *What special professional or technical skills would you bring to the Executive Board to help implement the strategic plan of the organization (i.e., financial, legal, business, management, technology, human resources)?*

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

3. *What specific goals and objectives do you have for USDF?*

4. *How will you, as an officer, encourage greater member participation and help make USDF the “go to” organization for dressage in the United States?*

Here are the candidates' biographies and responses.

Candidate for president:

Kevin Reinig

My wife, Ericka, and I have a dressage training and show program, training horses and riders of all levels and traveling to shows including the Young Horse Championships and the US Dressage Finals. I feel I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board and look forward to continuing my service on the USDF board to progress the sport of dressage.

At 15 I started working at a local Hanoverian breeding farm. I worked my way through high school and then college, earning a finance degree. In college I was hired at a



community bank. I enjoyed my work at the bank, but I missed the horses so I went back to the breeding farm, eventually starting our own dressage training business.

I served for nine years on the Executive Board of the California Dressage Society (CDS), six of those as president. I served on many committees, including as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and of the Championship Show Committee. My time on the CDS board showed me the value of the GMOs and the work they do on the local level.

I am the vice president of USDF, I sit on the USDF Regional Championships Committee, serve on the US Dressage Finals OC Committee, and serve on the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. Today we face many new challenges moving the sport forward in a positive direction. Ensuring the health and welfare of horses and people in our sport is a top priority, as are keeping a level playing field and cultivating riders and trainers of all levels. I look forward to continuing our work to educate, grow, and promote the sport of dressage.

Responses to questions:

1. I have a strong background in finance and business management. I have worked in the horse industry for over 30 years; my wife and I have owned and operated our dressage training business for 21 years.

2. My work on the CDS board and as USDF vice president keep me in touch with what is going on in the sport of dressage and the direction the membership would like to see the sport develop. I am constantly looking for ways for the GMOs to support the national programs and work with other GMOs to coordinate their programs that promote dressage locally.

3. My goal is to improve communication with dressage enthusiasts, using social and classic media outlets to help them see that the best way they can support and progress the sport of dressage is through membership in both USDF and their local GMO.

4. Yes, I want members to think of their USDF membership as so much more than a way to access education, competition, and awards opportunities. Dressage enthusiasts need to look at USDF membership as a way for them to do their part in shaping the direction and future of the sport of dressage, both here in the United States and internationally.

Candidate for treasurer:

Steve Schubert

Steve Schubert is a former USDF treasurer who completed three consecutive three-year terms ending in

December 2018. He lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, with his spouse, USEF "S" judge and Grand Prix rider/trainer Cindi Wylie. Steve has two children, Kayla and Jared, as well as two grandchildren, Zoey and Connor. He is currently the CFO of numerous companies in the United States as a forensic accountant specializing in criminal investigations, fiscal controls, and financial reporting. He specializes in accounting and taxation.

Steve began his career with United Brands, spending the past 46 years in various executive financial roles, including as CFO and CEO of



several \$300 million-plus corporations. Over his nine years as USDF treasurer, he worked tirelessly with the USDF Executive Board alongside president George Williams and executive director Stephan Hienzsch to ensure that the Federation had sound fiscal practices, internal controls, and delivered quality educational programs to the membership in the most cost-effective manner. Steve has missed donating his time to the USDF Executive Board and feels it is a good time to reinvolve himself in helping reassure the continuous fiscal soundness of the organization, balanced budgets, and a commitment to the membership of best business practices and sound programs to promote dressage education and knowledge throughout the United States to all levels of its membership.

Responses to questions:

1. Steve's prior experience with the USDF for nine years as well as his multidimensional financial background, including large nonprofit member organizations, have allowed him to participate as an experienced financial advisor to the Executive Board and Management Committee of the Federation in the past. His lifetime experience of having direct reports of all levels allows him to help keep customer service at the highest level to the membership.

2. Steve looks forward to his continued involvement in many regional and national programs. By being involved, he hears opinions of many members personally, from young riders, adult amateurs, professional trainers, and judges of all levels. His continued involvement will help him provide feedback to the Executive Board on how to improve communications, information

technology, and the implementation of programs throughout the country.

3. Steve looks forward to setting several goals for the next three years. He will help look at ways to increase USDF membership, revisit current programs to make sure the Federation is currently meeting the needs of current and future members, and help ensure that the organization maintains a high level of fiscal responsibility to the membership.

4. Steve will continue to encourage new and existing members to participate in helping to grow USDF membership. He feels by helping the organization reach out to the average dressage rider, the organization can then help make them aware of the education and benefits available to them by becoming members, which will help with the continued growth of the sport throughout the country.

Regional Directors

For the 2024 election cycle, the USDF Nominating Committee asked the regional-director candidates each to submit a brief biography and to answer the following questions:

1. *What special professional or technical skills (i.e., financial, legal, business, management, technology, human resources) would you bring to the Executive Board to help implement the strategic plan of the organization?*

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

3. *What specific goals and objectives do you have for USDF and your region if you should be elected regional director?*

4. *How will you, as a regional director, encourage greater participation by each member within your region?*

Region 2 incumbent:

Debby Savage

Debby

Savage has served two terms as Region 2 director and is up for a third and final term. She has an extensive and

varied equestrian background: started in Texas at the age of 10 in Western equitation, reining, and barrel racing as a 4-H member, then rode hunters in high school and evented after college. Moving from New York City to New Jersey in the late 1980s, she began specializing in dressage, teaching and pursuing the dressage judge's track. She earned her USDF silver and gold medals and then her USEF "S" dressage judge's license in 2010.

Debby also has an extensive business background in medical publishing, marketing, education, and advertising. Originally from New Jersey in Region 1, she was the Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association's 2005 Volunteer of the Year and the awards chair from 2008 to 2013. In 2014, she relocated to the Cleveland, Ohio, area to join the faculty of Lake Erie College's School of Equine Studies as dressage instructor.

As a senior dressage judge and competitor, Debby is familiar with both the American and the international dressage scenes, including the major activities of the USEF and USDF programs. Having been the Region 2 director for the past



six years, she has gained a better understanding of that role not only in the USDF governance, but also as a conduit within the region to help promote more communication and education on the whole.

Responses to questions:

1. In addition to over 30 years of USDF/GMO membership and earning my "S" dressage judge credentials, I possess a strong business background, handling large sales, marketing, and special projects in the medical-publishing industry, which is essential to working on our Executive Board and with our USDF staff. Our leadership must be involved locally, think regionally, and understand our national issues to ensure the future growth and evolution of the USDF.

2. As a local instructor, I can help students see the big picture as well as their level. The regional director balances the needs of both GMOs and participating members. Judging around the country allows me to learn more about how other areas function.

3. The Catherine B. Jacob Schooling Show Year-End Awards have been rebranded to enable them to continue to benefit the USDF Region 2 educational fund. Our "Educational Challenge" definitely helped keep our members involved. Our youth program now has new *chefs d'équipe*, including fundraising, declarations for the NAYC Region 2 team, and a strong turnout for our young-rider clinics.

4. Inspiring participation is achieved by asking for feedback and engaging individuals. This requires an ongoing dialog with GMO leadership and PM delegates, challenging them to be involved in our regional issues and programs throughout the year.

Region 4 incumbent: Anne Sushko

It has been my pleasure to serve as the USDF Region 4 director. I would enjoy serving another term. I am currently a USEF “r”



technical delegate and also serve as the show secretary for recognized shows in Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Nebraska.

Prior to my retirement, I was a middle-school educator for 36 years. I began my career teaching language arts and finished as the teacher librarian. I also served as a mentor for new teachers and as an instructional coach in methodology, cross-curricular development, and technology integration.

I reside in Dubuque, Iowa, with my dog, Max. I currently have two horses: Critter (Sir Ishmael), a half-Arabian (semi-retired due to a leg injury), and a Quarter pony, Trigger, that I share with a delightful young man and who is keeping me riding! My daughter, Heather, son-in-law, Michael, and granddaughters, Elizabeth and Sarah, reside in Colorado. All are involved in dressage (Michael definitely has a support role!).

Responses to questions:

1. My 36 years in middle-school education bring organizational, problem-solving, and people skills to the board. My work as a mentor and instructional coach gave me the skills necessary to work with a variety of people and to identify problems and help in the development of solutions. My work as a technical delegate takes me to a variety of places in the United

States, giving me a national perspective of the issues facing our sport.

2. I have served on a number of committees prior to becoming regional director as well as while regional director. On the Omaha Equestrian Foundation board I was involved in the planning of dressage activities for the lead-up events to the FEI World Cup Finals. I also serve as a grant reader for The Dressage Foundation. Thanks to the graciousness of Janet Foy, I have had the thrill to serve as a scribe at Pan American Games in both Peru and Chile.

3. My primary goal as regional director will continue to be the promotion of education throughout the region. Education is fundamental to growth at any and all levels—and is attainable by all. I also strongly feel that all USDF members should be both participating and group members, and have challenged the members of my region to have both.

4. Encouraging participation by each member is closely tied to my answer for #3. Education applies to everyone—competitor, parent, spectator, nonrider, those new to the sport, and those who have matured in the sport. I am especially proud of the development of the Region 4 Resident Recognition Program. My emphasis on the Executive Board will also be on developing and offering educational opportunities for the membership.

Region 6 incumbent: Noah Rattner

Noah has been actively involved in the dressage world for the past 25 years. In the early 2000s, he and his



young horse Espionage won the Oregon Dressage Society (ODS) Futurity and the Training and First Level State Championships, and placed seventh in the Great American/USDF Region 6 Championships. In 2016, Noah took over as general manager of his family's venue, DevonWood Equestrian Centre, in Sherwood, Oregon.

As a USEF Level 5 show manager and secretary, Noah is responsible for leading the licensed events at DevonWood and several other show series across the country. He is a member of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and of the committee's Calendar and Selections Working Groups.

Noah is passionate about growing the sport and helping others advance in the competition arena or as licensed officials. He actively mentors new show-management staff and helps grow talent wherever possible. In 2019, he was recognized by the ODS with the Teresa Dunlap Award as the person who has done the most to further dressage in Oregon. In 2023, he organized the first international dressage competition in Oregon's history and the first CDI in Region 6 in nearly 30 years, a tribute to his late mother, Ginny Rattner.

Most people would recognize Noah's voice before anything else, as he travels from coast to coast announcing at many of the nation's premier competitions including the US Dressage Festival of Champions, the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, Dressage at Devon, and most recently the US Olympic and Paralympic observation events. Noah is also the voice of Equine Affaire, the largest equine expo in North America.

Responses to questions:

1. I hold a BS in business administration with specializations in international business (Singapore Management University) and mar-

keting management (Oregon State University). For 11 years, I worked in the financial-services industry at Bank of America. My combined educational and professional background gives me a business lens and risk framework that I can adapt to any organization.

2. My primary objective is to create sustainable developmental opportunities for dressage athletes and officials to advance. I work with L graduates and “r” and “R” judges to help them fulfill their requirements. Athletes pursuing USEF national championships, NAYC, and YH/WBC have also experienced a surge in qualifying opportunities that I have implemented within our region. I partner with USDF and USEF on educational programming to support adult amateurs and junior/young riders in Region 6. I also work with the USPC and USHJA to host grass-roots events aimed at growing equestrian sport. In 2023, I served as *chef d’équipe* for the Region 6 NAYC Junior team, which earned the first FEI team gold medal in Region 6 history. This led to a surge in interest in the youth programs and a record volume of NAYC declarations for Region 6 in 2024.

3. I would work to strengthen GMO partnerships within our region. Too many of our program and event calendars are uncoordinated and inadvertently sabotage one another. I would work with GMO leadership and organizers to implement effective calendars that enable each venue to improve participation rates.

4. I plan to partner more with our GMOs to have a more physical presence at events and programs within our region. I would utilize our region’s PM delegates as an extension

of myself to engage USDF members and solicit feedback as to how we can better serve them.

**Region 8 incumbent:
Helen van der Voort**

I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, and after college in Massachusetts, I moved to New York City. My career started in investment banking, which gave me the opportunity to travel extensively



and even spend a few years living in Hong Kong. I received a competitive fellowship from my firm to attend business school and earned an MBA. I now work as a consultant, which in addition to allowing me to work from home in the beautiful Hudson Valley, gives me time to pursue other interests in various nonprofit organizations. I have served in several roles on the board of The Southlands Foundation in Rhinebeck, New York, was the Treasurer of NEDA, and for many years was the volunteer coordinator for the NEDA Fall Festival and Region 8 Championships, a huge undertaking. I am a very active volunteer at local dressage shows and horse trials. And, of course, I am passionate about horses and riding! I started in hunter/jumpers as a child and like many took a break post-college, but I returned to it with a vengeance 20-plus years ago. I purchased my first horse and discovered dressage, and I haven’t looked back since. I have been the Region 8 director for the last three years, and feel I have just begun to really produce for the

region. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to return as director to continue my efforts!

Responses to questions:

1. I was formerly a vice president at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and received an MBA from Columbia University in 1990 so am comfortable with financial issues. I have also served on several nonprofit boards in many capacities, including as treasurer, vice president, and president. These experiences have helped me to be both a team player and an implementer.

2. I am an active volunteer at dressage shows in our region and for 10 years was the volunteer coordinator for our Regional Championships. That role required me to work with more than 120 volunteers—no small accomplishment! I can think of several instances where first-time volunteers like it so much they came back year after year, and others new to dressage “discovered” it and became participants.

3. I would like to continue to try to bring more awareness of what is happening across the region so the various GMOs can learn from each other, and individuals are made aware of opportunities outside of their local area.

4. I will continue to encourage participation in our regional meetings and attendance at the convention, and reach out one-to-one at local events.

