

2019-2020 ADS Board of Directors Candidates

The ADS Nominating Committee completed its work and is proud to provide a highly qualified slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 term of office. Fully 40% of the slate is new to the ADS Board of Directors or returning after an absence. The nominees include four new committee chairpersons, two new regional directors and two new officers.

Due to changes in New York law and our bylaws, you'll see some differences from our past slate of nominees. All our nominees for director are listed as a group. The nominees for regional representative and committee chairpersons are listed separately since that is no longer required by our bylaws. For this election year, all the committee chairperson nominees have asked to be

considered for election as a director but that may not happen in the future. Finally, we've listed our nominees for the officer positions. As you may know, the newly elected Board of Directors will elect their officers.

Our bylaws offer the opportunity for nominations from the floor for any director position at our Annual Membership Meeting at The Grand Oaks Resort, Wiersdale, FL on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

I want to say that your nominating committee worked very hard – and through some difficult decisions – to provide you; the ADS members, with its best efforts. I thank and applaud their efforts. So should you.

Pat Cheatham • Newnan, Georgia
Chairperson, ADS Nominating Committee

2019-2020 ADS Board of Director Nominees

- Maren Amdal
- Leona Anastasi
- Jessica Axelsson
- Gwen Bassetti
- Dana Bright
- Teresa Bron
- Allyn Carman
- Pat Cheatham
- Ann Craig
- Kacy Tipton-Fashik
- Suzanne Edwards
- Heidi Ferguson
- Ruth Graves
- Maureen Grippa
- Margaret Grillet
- Marc Johnson
- Pam Miller-Mitchell
- Tracey Morgan
- Jeff Morse
- Jada Neubauer
- Dan Rosenthal
- Rochelle Temple
- Kelly Valdes
- Lynn West
- Esther "Boots" Wright
- Hilda Wilkins

2019-2020 ADS Officers Nominees

- President – Dan Rosenthal
- Vice President – Dana Bright
- Treasurer – Pat Cheatham
- Secretary – Teresa Bron

2019-2020 Committee Chairpersons Nominees

- Northeast Region – Leona Anastasi
- Mid-Atlantic Region – Heidi Ferguson
- Southeast Region – Maureen Grippa
- Central Region – Lynn West
- Midwest Region – Jada Neubauer
- Southwest Region – Hilda Wilkins
- Pacific Region – Pam Miller-Mitchell
- Northwest Region – Ann Craig
- Governance & Bylaws – Margaret Grillet
- Finance & Audit – Pat Cheatham*
- Combined Driving – Marc Johnson
- Education – Dana Bright
- Event Standards – Esther "Boots" Wright
- Development – Kelly Valdes
- Dressage – Tracey Morgan
- Licensed Officials – Jessica Axelsson
- Pleasure Driving – Jeff Morse
- Recreational Driving – Heidi Ferguson
- Rules – Allyn Carman

* Treasurer is Chairperson of Finance & Audit Committee



Maren Amdal - Maren is a seasoned leader whose career with nonprofits and associations started in the early 00's. From 2008 through 2016, Amdal worked with CFA societies around the world, first as Executive Director for CFA Minnesota, later adding consulting work with

regional societies as diverse as Houston, New York, and Beijing and ultimately assuming leadership of CFA Society San Francisco in 2012. Through her work with

dozens of associations, foundations, and non-profits, she has collaborated with senior professionals across numerous industries. Also an accomplished professional musician, Amdal has experience as a choral director and on-stage performer, and has worked with arts, social justice, educational, and non-profit organizations in developing purposeful organizational plans and mission-focused strategies. She is currently engaged in consulting work through a new strategy – and non-profit-focused role with *Interpro, Inc.* – a Bay Area consulting firm with 25 years of excellence in project, program, and knowledge management. In addition, Amdal serves on several boards

including the Bay Area Regional Council for the California Society of Association Executives (CalSAE), as well as on her local park board in San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood.

Amdal was recognized as one of the 2011 Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal's *40 Under 40*, an annual list of the Twin Cities' "40 sharpest, most successful professionals under 40 years of age." In addition to holding an AA in Vocal Performance and a BA in Marketing, Amdal earned the Claritas Investment Certificate offered by CFA Institute, and is a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) through which she maintains the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation. She is currently working toward a M.Sc. in Strategic Planning through Edinburgh Business School at Herriot Watt University, and is enjoying both the coursework and the periodic adventures to Scotland.



Leona Anastasi - Although my love for the arts has been my life, I have moved on to carriage driving. I have a BA in fine art and a Masters Degree in metal smithing.

My husband and I have had horses of all sizes and shapes for forty-one years. We raised our daughters in the Pony Club world contributing not only as eager parents but officials.

My husband John and I sailed the east coast on our fifty foot ketch from Maine to Bermuda. Our love for sailing moved on to upland game hunting in Europe and South America to an Africa Safari in South Africa. Our passion for outdoor activities has never stopped.

We presently live in Connecticut on a one hundred and twenty acres horse farm. We became infatuated with combined driving many years ago when John volunteered at a CDE event in Hamilton, MA sponsored by the Myopia Club. The carriage driving bug bit us and here we are today with four fabulous driving ponies and way too many carriages! We both love combined driving and taking friends and family out for a casual drive around the beautiful country roads surrounding our farm.



Jessica Axelsson - Jessica Axelsson is a ADS/USE R PDJ, ADS r Driven Dressage, L Pleasure Driving TD USE (formally USEF), ADS, and a CAA Member. She began driving commercially as a tour guide in her hometown of Cape May NJ with the Cape May Carriage Company while she was still in high school. She went on to attend college at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown PA where she studied Equine Science, competed on the Intercollegiate Dressage Association team, and helped to student teach driving courses before

graduating in 2004. Upon graduation Jessica worked as a groom for CDEs and pleasure shows, as well as two different teams of draft horse hitch horses, one six horse hitch and one eight horse hitch. In 2006 she began Single Tree Stable, which specializes in helping beginner drivers get started. Jessica continues to teach both beginner equines and their humans the sport of carriage driving.

Jessica has successfully competed at many pleasure driving shows throughout the eastern US including, The Walnut Hill Driving Competition, Lorenzo Driving Competition and Orleton Farm Pleasure Show, as well as some combined driving competitions closer to home. She is proud to have also had students compete successfully at Walnut Hill, Garden State CT and Chapter One ADT, along with other local and regional events. She has served as a judge at many wonderful shows throughout the country, notably the Grand Oaks Classic in Florida, Connecticut Morgan, Morven Park in Virginia, and Villa Louis in Wisconsin. In addition to driving Jessica continues to develop her skills as a dressage rider and is currently working towards USDF bronze medal.



Gwen Bassetti - Gwen is the founder and now retired CEO of the Grand Central Baking Co., a collection of artisan bakeries and cafes in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

Growing up in Sudbury, Massachusetts she rode hunters and occasionally drove her father's old Thoroughbred. She became interested in competitive driving almost 20 years ago when she bought a Haflinger for her grandchildren that was broke to drive. By now she has competed three generations from that original pony in West Coast CDEs.

Gwen has served on a variety of Boards over the years and is currently a trustee of the Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, Washington. She is a member of the Puget Sound Equestrian's Institute, The Haflinger Association, USEF, CAA, and ADS and is active in supporting her granddaughter's Pony Club activities.



Dana Bright - I was born in New York City, and spent all of my childhood plotting how to leave the city and have horses in my life. I managed to convince my high school to let me spend the last part of my senior year studying for the British Horse

Society's Assistant Instructor's Exam. I graduated with a degree in Animal Science from Michigan State University, then completed the Instructor's Course at Morven Park International Equestrian Institute in Virginia. During my riding career, I was fortunate to learn from Hubert Rohrer, Karl Mikolka and Jeremy Beale, as well as being a working student for International competitor and Olympian Bruce

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Davidson, Sr. I competed through the Preliminary level in Eventing, and Second Level in ridden dressage. When my children were young, I was a United States Pony Club DC and trained many teams for Regional activities and ran many camps. I began carriage driving in 1982 with a tiny black pony which had been purchased as my event horse's buddy.

I served as the ADS Mid Atlantic Regional Director for 10 years. During my tenure Gayle Stinson, Diane Unger, and Sarah Bruce and I created and organized the American Driving Society's Mid-Atlantic Regional Recreational Driving Weekend at Fair Hill, Maryland. (Now called "MARD") I have been chair and a member of many ADS committees. I am currently working on the ADS Education Framework and am a member of the Pleasure Driving and Driven Dressage Committee. I was the recipient of the ADS President's Award in 2006.

I hold multiple Combined Driving, Driven Dressage and Pleasure Driving licenses with the ADS since 1997 and USEF since 1998. Officiating has been a wonderful way to travel all over the country and meet people. I have judged major Pleasure Driving Shows such as Walnut Hill and Lorenzo and in 2016 judged the USEF National Pairs Championship (CDE).

I am committed to seeing the sport of driving and my love of it—whether for pleasure, show or Combined Driving competitions—passed on. I've instructed ADS Young Driver's camp at the Carriage Barn in New Hampshire and a day camp for the Brandywine Valley Driving Club. I've represented the ADS at many horse expos, developing and teaching the two-part "Introduction to Driving" clinic offered by My Lady's Manor Driving Club. I volunteered with United States Driving for the Disabled with Sybil Dukehart and Mickie Bowen. I organized one of the ADS's longest held shows, The My Lady's Manor Pleasure Show for 17 years. I've contributed many articles to the ADS' The Whip magazine and to Driving Digest.



Teresa Bron - Teresa is a lifelong horsewoman who has participated and competed in many different equestrian disciplines which include Western riding, Dressage, Hunter Jumper and Recreational Trail Riding.

Becoming involved in carriage driving was a natural evolution and she has been an active Combined Driving Event competitor for the past 15 years, training and competing several different breeds including Friesians, Fjords, and a Fell pony. Teresa is an ADS Board Member, currently serving as Executive Secretary and is a CDE Learner Judge working towards a full license.

In addition to a full schedule of training and competition with her horses Teresa is also a PATH Intl. Advanced Driving Instructor, Registered Riding Instructor, Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, and Mentor. She is currently the PATH Intl. Eastern Washington State

Chair and serves on the Regional Leadership Team. Teresa works with Pegasus Project in Yakima, WA as the Equine Coordinator and Instructor for both riding and carriage driving.

In their spare time Teresa and her husband Will enjoy traveling and organizing tours to Europe in the winter, specifically to the Netherlands for the annual Friesian Stallion Show in Leeuwarden, Friesland every year when it's too cold to do anything else!



Allyn Carman - Allyn Carman lives in Grass Valley, California with Norman (childhood sweetheart turned husband) their son Orren and his family, a herd of commercial beef cattle, and several ranch, driving and draft horses. Everybody drives at the

Carman Ranch - Allyn is an avid CDE competitor with her Clydesdale/Hackney Pony cross "Bud Lite", Norman and Orren both compete and drive their farm style draft horses, and five-year-old Eli can usually be found up on the box with Grandpa or on the back of Grandma's carriage. Allyn spends her winters in Florida, hanging with the driving crowd, competing in the winter circuit events, and driving the forest searching for the elusive alligator sighting. The family got into driving back in the 90s when Allyn's Mom got a miniature horse, then had to figure out what to do with it. Allyn is a staunch supporter of the ADS, and has served on committees for several years. A freelance graphic designer, she has taught digital graphics at Sierra College for 22 years, and now, nearing retirement, looks forward to spending more time and energy helping the ADS.



Pat Cheatham - Pat Cheatham lives in Newnan, Georgia with Sally, five ponies, three dogs, three cats, 15 sheep, a dozen chickens and a parrot. Pat has served on the ADS Board as an At-Large Director, Southeast Regional Director, Vice President and twice as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.



Ann Craig - My name is Ann Craig and I live in Aumsville, Oregon. I was raised in Eastern Colorado on a 2,000 cattle ranch and grew up riding horses. I moved to Oregon in 1972 and after finishing college, rekindled my love of riding horses. In the mid 1990s, my daughter and I

visited the county fair in Salem and saw miniature horses and it was love at first sight. I bought a miniature named

Robbie and we learned to drive and began showing in American Miniature Horse shows. As is said, “you can’t have just one”, so another miniature was added to the herd of one. In 2002, my daughter became involved with Oregon High School Equestrian Team with Hardy Zantke, her miniature horse. We were heavily involved with the breed show, OHSET and 4-H with the growing herd, now up to four miniatures.

Through the 12 or more years that I have been learning, driving and competing, I have driven singles, pairs, unicorn and a four-in-hand of VSES at various CDEs in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. I have been active since 2002 with the Oregon High School Equestrian team as a coach/advisor. I have been privileged to provide two of my seasoned minis for the athletes to learn to drive and compete in district meets, and every year, qualifying at least one driver, often both, to attend the state meet I have been active in 4-H, providing minis for driving and in hand events for ten years. I completed my 14th year with OHSET in 2016. I have served on the board of Western Whips and Wheels for four years as Secretary and am currently Vice President. I have been the Volunteer Coordinator for the CDE at Inavale for two years and help with the planning and volunteers for club activities.

And yes, the mini herd has continued to grow.



Suzanne Edwards - Suzanne Edwards lives near Dodgeville, Wisconsin on her small hobby farm. She enjoys restoring horse-drawn vehicles she buys at auction and training and showing her Standardbred cross and pony cross geldings.



Kacy Tipton-Fashik - I am a 20-year veteran driver and driving instructor from Weirsdale, Florida, sixteen years at the same location in Florida. As both a member and supporter of the driving industry and its future growth I hereby request your favorable consideration in continuing as an At-Large

Director for the American Driving Society, Inc. (ADS). My driving career began in earnest when I was employed by Stewart Title Company working directly for Mr. Stewart Morris Jr. along with Mr. Stewart Morris Sr. at the Morris Ranch in Wharton, Texas. The learning curve was furious as I became comfortable with this new position behind the horse! I was my good fortune to be introduced to Ms. Gloria Austin by Mr. Mark Schofield which permitted my joining the Florida Carriage Museum and Resort in 1999. My experience with turn out and intricacies of pleasure driving were further developed by Gloria when I was

invited to travel to all her shows and drives as she competed in the United States, Canada and Europe. In later 2008 the focus for the Carriage Museum turned to training, events and promotions designed to promote the Carriage Museum and Gloria’s significant expertise in the history of the horse and carriage. My duties included managing all staff, carriages and events.

In March 2011 the Carriage Museum and properties previously known as the Florida Carriage Museum were purchased by the Grand Oaks LLC. I was invited to remain in the position of Equine Manager with the enhanced responsibilities for training horses, drivers, and turf management, together with both long and short term marketing strategies for the new resort. This has given me the opportunity to show my driving skills in public events, outings and shows. I give single, pair, tandem and four-in-hand lessons on a regular basis. I have completed my Level 3 CAA Proficiency Evaluation and I am a Level 1 Evaluator. I have organized all Pleasure driving shows that have taken place at the Resort since 2008. I am proficient in what a proper turnout should look like and more, I can assist in the training of others to do the same. In recent years I have also competed in combined driving events in Florida and Kentucky.

I am passionate about all aspects of driving and enjoy the many facets of my sport and profession. I am also committed to proper training, safety, young driver development and the future of driving. I look forward to continuing in the ADS organization as an At-Large Director.



Heidi Ferguson - Originally from Long Island, the Mid-Atlantic and Delaware became my home while following my husband’s sea-going career.

Horses have been a large part of my passion: whether fox hunting side saddle, deeply involved with US Pony Club and 4H activities, or driving my home-bred father-son pinto pony pair, I have rarely been far from the barn. Today, I continue this life-interest as ADS Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, ADS Recreational Driving Chair and organizer of MARD—a four-day regional event held annually to emphasize and promote recreational driving.

With two grown sons and a now-retired husband, I may also be found sailing boats, RVing about the countryside, enjoying photography or venturing overseas.

Being a retired teacher I continue to instruct seasonal naturalist/environmental programs to local school districts, scout groups and other interested parties at a nearby nature center, which I thoroughly enjoy.

I am intent on remaining active, assisting others, and enjoying the freedom retired living provides.

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Ruth Graves - Ruthie is a lifelong horsewoman who has worked in several equestrian disciplines throughout those years. Her equine driving experience initially came in the Standardbred industry in her home state of Massachusetts many years ago.

Like so many who became interested in the carriage discipline later in life, she decided to revisit driving equines after years of competition in a breed environment because she wanted to embrace an equine endeavor that would include her husband and grandchildren. The diversity of breeds suitable to drive and the friendliness of those involved in carriage sports had a great deal of appeal.

She has since become seriously involved in carriage sports on both the local and national level, as a competitor in both combined and pleasure driving, as well as an event organizer and as an American Driving Society, Inc. official with a registered card in Pleasure and a recorded Driven Dressage card. She served four years as the ADS Southwest Regional director, is the former ADS Licensed Officials Committee Chair, and is a member of the ADS Pleasure Driving Committee.

Ruthie is passionate about educating potential drivers to assure safety and full enjoyment of this wonderful horse sport. She strongly believes that driven dressage is a pathway to superior communication with one's equine, and feels pleasure driving competitions have much to offer all carriage drivers in the diversity of classes offered and the expression of our beautiful traditions.



Maureen Grippa - Maureen M. Grippa is a highly energized professional, dedicated to empowering people and organizations to use their natural talents for maximum results.

With over 35 years of corporate experience, she is a profit-oriented executive with outstanding leadership skills and demonstrated capacity to achieve results in diverse business, organizational and economic conditions. She is uniquely qualified to provide creative ideas and deliver innovative solutions based on her proven track record as a senior executive in roles ranging from Management and Human Resources to Financial and Operations.

Ms Grippa completed her BS in Business Administration at Adelphi University going to school at night for 8 years while managing a full time career. She received her Certified Public Accountant license from New York State, while working as an Auditor for Arthur Andersen.

Maureen has been involved with horses since early childhood. She and her husband Paul have a horse farm in Vass with their three Turbo Friesian Horses. They actively compete in Combined Driving Events and she enjoys trail riding.

She is looking forward to sharing this combination of

business experience and her passion for horses in her new role as the Southeast Regional Director of the American Driving Society.



Margaret Grillet - Margaret Grillet recently retired as a Delaware Certified Senior Paralegal in the corporate section of K&L Gates LLP, Wilmington Delaware. She recently served as a director, Secretary and member of the Executive and the Governance and Bylaws Committees of the ADS. She is also a past director and president of the Brandywine Valley Driving Club, Inc., past trustee of The Hoopes-Addis Educational Trust and past secretary and director of the National Capital Area Paralegal Association.

Margaret lives in Chester County, Pennsylvania with her husband, Jacques. They both enjoy their two Australian Shepherds and horses Kazimer and Odin. Kazimer has been driving for many years and Odin, a young Cleveland Bay, is just starting out. Pleasure shows, combined tests, starter horse trials and hacking through Fair Hill keep them all busy!



Marc Johnson - Marc Johnson has been active in driving since 1978, starting his driving career under the guidance of the late Deirdre Pirie. During this time, he has navigated at Four-In-Hand, Pair and Single World Championships. Marc has driven in FEI divisions with both Four-In-Hands and Pairs, also representing the US as an individual at the 1993 World Driving Championships. On the pleasure driving side, in 2008, with Anne Bliss' ponies, he won the Tandem Championship and the Four-in Hand / Unicorn Championship at the Walnut Hill Driving Show.

When not on a carriage, Marc has spent over twenty years helping all disciplines of driving on the ground as an instructor, official and organizer. He is a licensed Combined Driving TD with ADS, USEF and Equine Canada and as a USEF, Equine Canada and FEI Course Designer. Marc is the current Chairman of the ADS Combined Driving Committee and participates on other ADS committees. He was also honored as one of the ADS "40 in 40" recipients in 2014.

At home in Hamilton, Massachusetts, Marc is the current President of the Myopia Driving Club and shares a training business with his wife, Ferial.



Pam Miller-Mitchell - Like so many of us in the driving world we came from other equine interests. I was a trail rider and competitive trail rider. My husband got the idea we should get into harness racing. I think

we are done training two-year-old Standardbreds. I now love driving my ponies. I started going to ADS shows in 1997. Professionally, I have worked in education and health care.

I'm a member of my local driving club, Whip'r Snapper Driving Society of Southern CA. I have managed and worked a number of our events. I'm proud that in our club we have put on some first rate events. We have also included novice, recreational and young drivers. I have been an officer in our local Equestrian Trails group. We have reached out to the recreational and younger driver with fun drives and play day events.

I'm getting ready to compete this year on the West Coast Preliminary Triple Crown. I am also looking forward to seeing more competitions in other regions.



Tracey Morgan - Tracey has been an ADS member for 20 years and is currently in her third term as the Chair of the Driven Dressage Committee. Currently an active competitor, trainer, clinician and "R" Judge she previously owned and

operated corporations in the rental and franchise industries for more than 20 years.

Based in Maryland, Tracey has trained and competed extensively in the ADS, USEF and FEI competitions in Combined Driving. She has earned eleven USEF National Championships and participated in six world Championships. Tracey started riding as a teenager first competing in eventing and earning an instructor's certification prior to attending college. During her business career she competed in Dressage earning USDF bronze and silver medals. Tracey has bred and raised many of the horses and ponies that she has trained and competed.



Jeff Morse - Jeff is the third generation owner of Green Meads Farm in its 90th year in Richmond, Massachusetts. He began training horses in 1976 and is a founding member the Morgan Sport Horse Association, and founding member of the Morgan Trotting Horse Association.

Jeff has served as a Director and Vice President of New England Morgan Horse Association, President, Vice President, Director and currently Treasurer of the Massachusetts Morgan Horse Association, and is a Director of the Saratoga Driving Association. Jeff has served as Director and Chair of the ADS Pleasure Driving Committee since 2006.

He currently manages Green Meads Farm, and trains people and horses for carriage driving.



Jada Neubauer - Jada is a driving and riding trainer and competitor located in Ames, Iowa. She grew up in a rural area in central Iowa and her first experiences with horses came early, working with horses at a

local farm as a teenager.

She has an associate's degree in Horse Training and Management and Agricultural Management from Ellsworth College and a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. While attending university she began working for a local driving training facility, Three G Farms, owned by Earl Morris and Mary Winter. They introduced her to driving as a sport and discipline. After graduation she became a full time employee and later manager, spending much of her time teaching young equines to drive.

In 2010 she started Midwest Driving Company to train and teach driving and in 2013 purchased the facility, renaming it Skunk River Equestrian Center. She continues to run it today, training driving horses and teaching drivers for CDEs, pleasure shows, and recreational driving.

Jada has been a member of ADS and USEF since 2002, and has been actively competing in CDEs and pleasure driving since that time. Jada is currently president of the driving club in Iowa, Best of Iowa in Traces Society (BITS).



Daniel M. Rosenthal - A CPA for the past 40 years, I graduated from the University of Chicago with degrees in Biology and Psychology and an MBA in Finance and Industrial Relations. After graduation I joined the

accounting firm of Touche Ross & Co. in Chicago in 1978, I became a partner in 1986 and specialized in providing accounting services to the banking industry. I stayed with the firm through its merger with Deloitte ending up as Managing Director of its US Depository Institutions practice. I left the accounting profession in 1995 and joined Reuters US as the CFO of its brokerage subsidiary - Instinet and eventually became the founder and CEO of the latter's securities processing subsidiary - Instinet Clearing Services. Since leaving ICS I have worked as a financial consultant to individuals and businesses.

Though I came late to carriage driving (I drove a pony for the first time in 2005 when I bought Balsuma the Gipper from Boots Wright), I have been involved with horses all my life - I rode for the first time in New Delhi, India in 1956! I live with my wife, Ann, on our farm in Milford, New Jersey with our three dogs, seven cats, seven horses and five Dartmoor ponies. Ann and I are long time students of French Classical Dressage and I am a devoted driver of my ponies, competing actively in CDE's with two or four of my ponies, currently competing at Preliminary and trying hard to get to Intermediate.

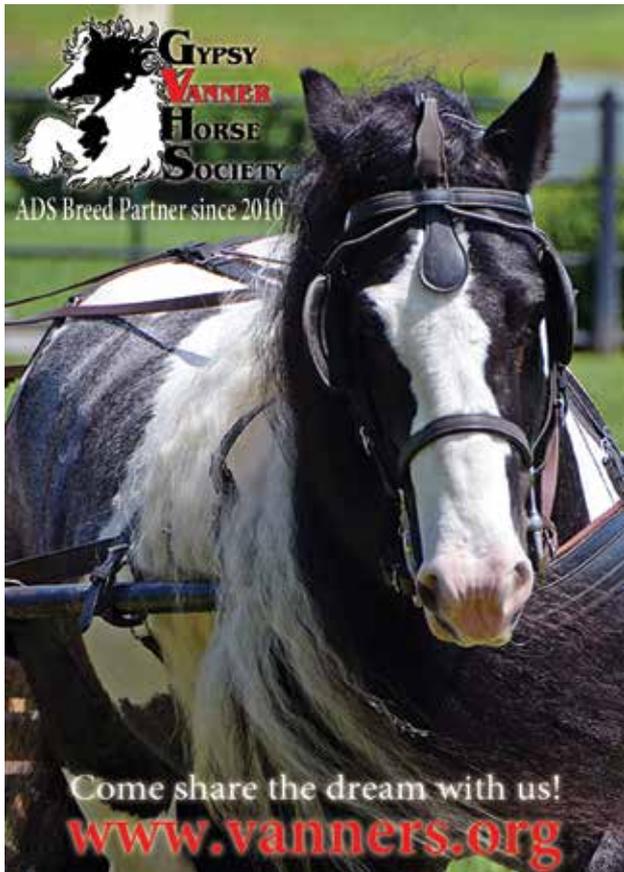
I am actively involved with a number of driving and other equine activities serving as an organizer of the Glen Willow CDE, a Trustee of the Hunterdon County Horse & Pony Association, and as tax and financial consultant to the Delaware Valley Horseman's Association and the Hoopes Addis Trust. I have been a member of ADS since 2006, have served as Vice President and now Treasurer, and have been working hard to turn my Learner CDE TD status into a full license for the past few years.



Rochelle Temple - Rochelle "Shelly" Temple lives in Windsor, SC at her Catalyst Driving Center, along with husband Fran Doto. Originally from West Chester, PA, she grew up fox hunting and competing in hunter/jumper shows.

Shelly competed in Combined Training and Dressage (at FEI level) for many years before Lisa Singer taught her to drive in 1996. After three shows at Preliminary level, she was thrust into the Advanced level and was amazed to find such a great and friendly sport. Shelly won the USEF National Championship for Single Ponies three times with her longtime partner 'Cooper' (LR Ami B-Line), a Morgan gelding, with Fran as navigator. As US

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Team members, they traveled to World Championships in Denmark in 2007, winning a Silver Medal in Dressage and a Bronze Team Medal, and again in 2011 to Slovenia, winning a Bronze Medal in dressage and another Team Bronze Medal. Along the way, she was privileged to work with trainers such as Boyd Excell and Michael Freund. In 2018 Shelly received the Bronze FEI Medal of Honor.

Cooper, in his second career, competed in FEI Level Dressage, and Shelly earned her Bronze and Silver US Dressage Federation medals with him. They competed at the FEI Intermediare 1 level and Shelly hopes to get to Grand Prix and earn her Gold Medal with Cooper.

Shelly serves on the ADS Licensed Officials Committee, trains drivers, and is involved with Judge's Training. She is an ADS, USEF and FEI judge. She enjoys traveling, her animals, and her grandchildren.



Kelly Valdes - Kelly is a lifelong horse woman who started her equestrian career, fox hunting and eventing as a teenager. In 1974, she began to work for Frolic Weymouth and traded her riding saddle for a driving harness. In the late 70s, she was on the organizing committee of the Chesterland

and Radnor driving events. In the 80s, Kelly was introduced to international driving as navigator for Deidre Pirie competing at the Windsor Horse Show, and at the 1982 Four-In-Hand World Championships in Appledorn, Holland. Kelly started her own business, Driving Disciplines, teaching horses and athletes how to be competitive and safe.

In 1989 Kelly was privileged to drive a pair of Dutch Warmbloods, sponsored by Peter Wetherill, in the World Championships held in Lake Balaton, Hungary. Over the past 40 years, her accomplishments as a driver include winning the USEF Single Driving National Championships in both 1996 and 1998, and competing on the Silver medal winning team at Single Driving World Championships in Ebbs Austria.

Kelly moved to Southern Pines in 2000 to manage Claire Reid's Big Sky Farm and train her Welsh Ponies. She continues to use her experience and expertise to organize large competitions that provide opportunity for drivers to invest in the sport, including the Pine Tree and Southern Pines Combined Driving events held in Southern Pines, North Carolina. She is a former member of the USEF Technical Committee, and in 2016 she received the USEF Pegasus Medal of Honor. Kelly is currently a board member of the Carolina Horse Park and an honorary board member of the ADS and currently serves as head of the ADS Development Committee.



Lynn West -
I've had ponies or horses in my life over 50 years however physical limitations were making it difficult to comfortably and safely continue to ride. After about a year and a half of no horse ownership and

with "a little nudge" from a best friend and her husband, I now own, trail drive, clinic & compete in CT's & CDEs from time to time with my 34" little buddy!

As an excited driver and as a regional director I plan to continue encouraging others to participate in various events. I'd like to help make communicating a little easier especially for more local, non-sanctioned, casual types of learning or recreational activities. Facility locations and transportation needs will likely always remain a challenge in this sport. Sharing ideas more quickly might help local organizers lessen conflicting dates as well as to select topics that will encourage more participation.

When not horsing around I continue with a 30-year career selling real estate in and around central Ohio. I also participate in a referral system for equestrian property & residential homes throughout the US and Canada as well.



Esther "Boots" Wright I began driving in 1990, helped along by Bill Long. Soon, my husband Dave and I were the proud owners of a four-in-hand of Dutch horses. Bill drove this team in the world championships in Hague in 1994 and

I was hooked. During the rest of 1994 I competed that horse team. In 1995, I switched to a pony team and I drove them until 2004. Those paint ponies were truly homemade and went on to win, at one time or another, every major competition from Myopia to Live Oak.

I represented the United States in 2003 at the first-ever Pony World Championships in Karlstetten, Austria with a leased team of German ponies. I drove at the second Pony World Championships with our own team of Welsh "C" Cobs which we had bought in 2004. In 2008, I switched to a pony pair and after finding three fabulous ponies, none of whom knew how to drive (and only one was broke to ride), I have been competing them ever since. I am also an ADS "R", USEF "R" and an

FEI level 3 (formerly "I") Judge.

Dave and I live in Ocala, Florida full time. We garden and mow lots of grass and love living here.



Hilda Wilkins - I have had horses nearly all my life but had always ridden. My grandfather plowed a garden with a horse and allowed me to use the horse to pull a homemade wooden sled to haul hay and feed and that is where I fell in love with driving. Although I loved dri-ving from

a young age, I did not get the opportunity to pursue it until I was much, much older. Growing up in rural Arkansas did not lend itself to many horsey opportunities other than rodeo and playday events. The quality of the horses I grew up riding depended on how cheap they were, so I learned to ride the hard way. I was lucky enough to have a horse-crazy daughter and I was able to provide her with many opportunities in the breed show and cattle classes that I had dreamed of as a child! I inherited her hand me down horses and started taking dressage lessons. My husband loved horses as much as I did so trail riding together was great fun and where I discovered my love for mules.

I got my first driving animal (a very old mule) about 10 years ago and with the help of my friends I learned one step at a time about driving. Next came a Brabant Belgium who was a saint and then as I became more familiar with the sport it was obvious I needed a more suitable horse. I was lucky enough to navigate for some good friends and was hooked on combined driving from there on. First a VSE, then a pair of VSEs, and was the 2016 North American Preliminary VSE Pair Champion. My beloved mule, Baby Ruth, was finally old enough to drive and driving her was a dream come true.

I have met many driving friends and learned about combined driving from the backstep and had the opportunity to navigate at some of the best venues driving has to offer. Now, my own aspirations of greatness have led me to become more active in the associations that support the sport.

I have served on the board of the Oklahoma Harness Horse Association for many years and know how much hard work goes into putting on an event and keep members active and involved. This year I started reporting for The Whip for the Southwest Region and have enjoyed it. I would love to represent the Southwest Region as your director and help promote driving not only within our region, but work with other regions to keep the few venues we have here in the Midwest alive. /s/