

## **ADS Board of Directors 2021 – 2022 Term Nominees**

### **Director Nominees:**

Maren Amdal  
Danute (Dana) Bright  
Teresa Bron  
Pat Cheatham  
Dana Diemer  
Kacy Tipton-Fashik  
Heidi Ferguson  
Ruth Graves  
Maureen Grippa  
Margaret Grillet  
Rebecca Gutierrez  
Marc Johnson  
Dianne Koopman  
Colleen Kuust  
Pam Miller-Mitchell  
Jeffrey Morse  
Jada Neubauer  
Lauren Reece  
Dan Rosenthal  
Rochelle Temple  
Kelly Valdes  
Lynn West  
Daphne White  
Hilda Wilkins  
Esther R. “Boots” Wright

### **ADS Officers Nominees:**

President – Dan Rosenthal  
Vice-President – Danute (Dana) Bright  
Vice-President – Rochelle Temple  
Treasurer – Pat Cheatham  
Secretary – Teresa Bron

### **ADS Committee Chairpersons Nominees:**

Affiliate Relations – Rochelle Temple  
Combined Driving – Marc Johnson  
Education – Danute (Dana) Bright  
Event Standards – Esther R. “Boots” Wright  
Development – Kelly Valdes  
Dressage – Dana Diemer  
Governance & Bylaws – Margaret Grillet  
Finance & Audit – Pat Cheatham \*  
Licensed Officials – Rochelle Temple  
Membership – Teresa Bron  
Pleasure Driving – Jeffrey Morse  
Recreational – Heidi Ferguson  
Rulebook – Lauren Reece  
\*Treasurer is Chairperson of Finance & Audit Committee

### **Regional Director Nominees:**

Northeast Region – Dianne Koopman  
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 – Colleen Kuus

The ADS Nominating Committee has developed a slate of candidates for the 2021 – 2022 term of office. We were fortunate to have most of our current Directors choose to stay on for the next term. We would like to thank those Directors that chose to step down to pursue other

interests for their service and thank them for their recommendations of replacement candidates. We will have two new Committee Chairpersons as well as some new faces in an At-Large capacity.

Some of our Committee Chairpersons have identified future candidates for the 2023 – 2024 term of office, with the goal of “training” future nominees so that we retain continuity within some of these Committees.

Due to changes on New York law and in our bylaws, all of our nominees for Director are listed as a group. The nominees for Regional Directors and Committee Chairpersons are listed separately. Once again, all committee chairpersons have asked to be considered for election as a director. 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 on December 5, 2020.

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for their recommendations. We have developed a broad range of talent and commitment to our sport.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Matheson  
Aiken, SC  
Chairperson, ADS Nominating Committee

### **Nominee profiles:**



#### **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.



**Danute (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 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 the Chair of the ADS Education Committee 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 serves on the American Driving Society (ADS) Board of Directors as Secretary and is an ADS Combined Driving Licensed Official. She is the current Chair of the ADS Membership Committee.

Teresa is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemen (PATH Intl.) and is an Advanced Certified Riding and Level II Driving Instructor, and is the current PATH Intl. Region 9 Representative.

Teresa lives in Eastern Washington State where she teaches riding and driving (therapeutic and able bodied) and trains driving horses. Her hobbies include Garrocha pole training, trail riding, traveling, dog agility, and raising Friesian horses.



### **Pat Cheatham**

Pat Cheatham of Newnan, Georgia has been involved in driving and the ADS for almost 25 years. Along with his wife, Sally, they have competed singles and pairs as well as served as organizer of the Georgia International CDE and a local Driving Trial. Pat has served on the ADS Board as an At-Large Director, Southeast Regional Director, Vice President, Treasurer and Chairman of the Nominating Committee.



### **Dana Diemer**

Dana is an active competitor in Combined Driving and has been heavily involved in all aspects of equestrian competition for over twenty-five years. She was an organizer of horse trials at the Carolina Horse Park from 2001 through 2009, and most recently spent six years coordinating the cross-country phase of events there up to the four-star level. Dana is also a FEI Level 2 Steward for Eventing and hopes to add Jumping and Driving licenses in 2021. She has officiated at major competitions both here in the US and abroad to include the Land Rover Kentucky 5\*, The Event at Rebecca Farm and Tattersalls International.

Dana and her husband own several upper level event horses.

Dana has also been active in the sport of Polocrosse, serving as a national committee member for that sport with United States Pony Club and as Team Manager for the 2012 National Junior Team during their test matches in Australia.

Dana is an advanced driver, currently driving in the single pony division. She began competing ten years ago, one of the highlights of her competition career thus far was winning

the 2018 North American Single Pony Championship with her partner Clarwood Mack the Knife. About six years ago she began to organize the highly successful Timberland Horse Driving Trial, an annual event on the fall driving calendar at the Carolina Horse Park. She looks forward to serving the American Driving Society.

When not on a carriage, Dana serves as head groom for her husband Manny and son Andrew who both event at mid-level. The Diemers live on a horse farm just outside of Raeford, North Carolina.



### **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 my becoming 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! It 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.



### **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 as well as an ADS at large Board member. Ruthie is also the Chair of the Trustees of the Hoopes-Addis Education Trust.

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 role as the Southeast Regional Director of The American Driving Society, Inc.



### **Margaret Grillet**

Margaret Grillet currently serves as an ADS director at large and is chair of the Governance & Bylaws Committee and a member of the Executive Committee. She is also currently a board member of the Brandywine Valley Driving Club, Inc. and The Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America, Inc. She is a retired Delaware Certified Senior Paralegal in the corporate section of K&L Gates LLP and is a past Trustee of the Hoopes-Addis Educational Trust, president of the Brandywine Valley Driving Club, Inc., and 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 still enjoys getting out there. Odin, a young Cleveland Bay, enjoys being ridden and driven and is looking forward to doing more!



### **Rebecca Gutierrez**

Rebecca Gutierrez has been involved with horses for most of her life. Her early equestrian experiences included involvement in 4-H in upstate New York, which introduced her to the world of harness racing at a summer camp and planted the seed to pursue carriage driving later in life. She began driving as an adult in miniature horse breed shows until discovering the world of Combined Driving in 2003. Since then she has worked her way up the levels competing with single minis, ponies and horses, and pair horses. Rebecca actively competes in carriage driving events at the FEI

level in Aiken, SC and along the east coast. She is also a Combined Driving Technical Delegate for ADS and USEF, and recently became a member of the ADS Licensed Officials Committee.

Rebecca lives in Windsor, SC with her teenage daughter and works as a Realtor in the Aiken area. She is also the new owner of New Heritage Farm Carriages. Her background includes a degree in Technical Journalism from Colorado State University and more than ten years experience in corporate sales and marketing in the healthcare and textile industries. She has been full-time in the real estate world since 2002. Rebecca has served on the boards of several civic groups and has many years in leadership roles with the Aiken County Pony Club.



### **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. Marc is currently involved in Coaching, helping Harvey and Mary Waller at Orleton Farm in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

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 is a USEF and FEI Course Designer. Marc is the current Chairman of the ADS Combined Driving Committee. He was also honored as one of the ADS "40 in 40" recipients in 2014.



### **Dianne Koopman**

I grew up in Los Angeles, California. Bob and I have been married 51 years. We have three children and four grandchildren. The oldest is 10 and loves to drive. We have always taken care of our horses and animals ourselves. They're our health care program. We got into driving when Anna (age 6) was given a standard bred horse just off the track. It rode like a jack hammer so Bob decided to drive it. He took the girls to pick out a carriage. They choose a blue velvet surry with fringe on the top. That was our first carriage. He made a harness. That horse was a saint. The girls drove that horse in parades, sleigh rallies and competitions. The next carriage was a Meadowbrook.

Over the years we have developed wonderful friends.

Being on the board is a privilege and my way of giving back to a community that has given so much to my family.





### **Colleen Kuust**

My name is Colleen Kuust and I live in Salem, Oregon. I have had horses throughout my lifetime, and have only been a driver the last 10 years. The world of driving has given to me a better understanding of my horse, thanks to my trainer, and the opportunity to have met some dear friends for life. The joy of horses has been passed down from my dad to me, and I have had the good fortune to share this special relationship with my daughters. I currently have one riding horse, a breeding stock paint named Lulu, and I drive a VSE. When I am not teaching my 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, I am at the barn driving my mini Jazz. My time is also filled with visiting my grandkids, and being a servant to my miniature schnauzer, Sasha.

For years I have been Mom following my kids around to 4-H and OHSET events. We got our first driving miniature thanks to one of my daughters who insisted they would be fun – and from there, I found my new hobby! I truly enjoy competing in CDEs, as well as recreational driving. I also enjoy being the event coordinator for just one of Oregon's driving clubs called Western Whips and Wheels. In addition, I am part of a hardworking group of people who organize the CDE at Inavale.

The future of driving depends upon all of us to share our passion for driving with all levels of drivers, and provide opportunities for improving our skills. Like other drivers, I am hopeful for the continued success of driving in our country, and I look forward to sharing this sport with the next generations of drivers.



### **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.



### **Jeffrey 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).



### **Lauren Reece**

Lauren Reece fell in love with driving when she was a groom for the first Lorenzo show in the 70s and she is now an active driver in the New England Combined and Pleasure driving community. She is a board member of the American Driving Society, the Chair of the Rulebook Committee and a Combined Driving and Pleasure Show Technical Delegate for both the ADS and the United States Equestrian Society. She supports her driving community as an organizer, volunteer, presenter, and mentor.

She is also the Carriage Driving Coordinator for the New England Regional Morgan Horse Show and organizes several driving clinics and events each year as Kenya Kids Driving to provide mattresses and bedding for an orphanage in Kenya.

When she is not driving, Lauren and her husband Dale, enjoy travel and volunteering. They live in Berwick, Maine and Lake City, Florida with a variety of Morgan horses, their Springer Spaniel, Tucker and a

funny bunny.



### **Dan Rosenthal**

**Professional:** A CPA for the past 38 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, becoming 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 and today am a private practitioner serving families and their business interests from my office in New Jersey. I have served on the Boards of a number of corporate and Not for Profit entities including Reuters and (for 15 years) the League for the Hard of Hearing in NYC.

**Personal:** Though I came late to carriage driving (I drove a pony for the first time in 2006 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 Wagener SC with our 4 dogs, 4 cats, 5 horses and 6 Dartmoor ponies. Ann and I are long time students of French Classical Dressage (I had two Lusitano stallions whom I trained through the Grand Prix level and rode until they died in 2017) and I am a devoted driver of my six ponies competing actively in CDE’s with my pair as well as with a four-in-hand – 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 Educational Trust. I have been a member of ADS since 1996 and have been working hard to turn my Learner CDE TD and judge status into a full license.

ADS: I have been Vice President, Treasurer and Chair of both the Finance and Governance & By Laws committee. For the past two years I have had the honor as serving as your President.



### **Rochelle Temple**

Rochelle "Shelly" Temple lives in Windsor, SC 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 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 up to FEI Intermediare 1 level and now Shelly has a young Dutch Warmblood, Shady, that she plans to take up the levels in dressage.

Shelly is the Interim Chair of the ADS Licensed Officials Committee and Chairs the Affiliate Relations Committee, trains drivers, and is involved with Judge's Training. She is an ADS, USEF and FEI judge. She enjoys her grandchildren, traveling, and her dogs.



### **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 driving support 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 enjoyed being the Central Region Director for the past two years and would like to continue. I'm still learning how to better help all members enjoy the sport of carriage driving.

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.



### **Daphne White**

Horses captured my heart early and I spent my youth riding hunters and jumpers. As the decades progressed, I moved on to competing in dressage and eventing. Almost 20 years ago, I was introduced to carriage driving and I was hooked! As I learned more about driving and began entering combined driving events and pleasure shows, the American Driving Society was there for me. Over the years, the ADS and its members have welcomed me into the sport and helped me grow. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors, and to give back to this association that has given me so much.

I feel my experience coming from southwest Colorado, where carriage drivers are few and far between and where my nearest ADS competition is an 8-hour drive away, will help me to represent the diversity of the ADS membership from across the country. My experience also helps me to understand the variety of equine partners that ADS members bring to the sport. My first driving horse was an Appaloosa/draft cross, followed by several Morgans and then a Quarter Horse. Currently, I drive the Hackney Horse mare Halstead by Legacy. In 2014 "Lucy" and I won the ADS Intermediate Single Horse Championship, and we have competed at the Advanced level. I am a Learner for both Combined Driving TD and Combined Driving Judge, and hope to gain these licenses in the near future. I am also taking over as organizer for the Southern Pines CDE beginning in 2021.

My husband Scott and I live in Durango, Colorado, during the school year and spend our summers in southwestern Montana on my family's dude ranch. For many years, I worked in the restaurant and catering business. Returning to college mid-career, I received a PhD in Geography in 2006 and taught at the college level for many years.



### **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, I did not get the opportunity to peruse it until I was much, much older. Growing up in rural Arkansas did not lend itself for 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 and got all 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 became in love with mules.

I got my first driving animal (a very OLD mule) about 13 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 much 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 VSE and was the 2016 North American Preliminary VSE Pair Champion and a couple of small ponys too. My beloved mule, Baby Ruth and I have traveled the Midwest competing in DT's and Pleasure shows. Now to wait, not so patiently, while her little sister, Betty Ray is old enough to drive. Making driving a pair a reality again.

I have met many driving friends and learned about combined driving from the back step and had the opportunity to navigate at some of the best venues driving has to offer.

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. I am looking forward to representing the ADS Southwest Region for another year.

### Esther R. "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.

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