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Accomplishments, education, sport growth and young horse development are this year's focus Jan. 19-21 in Sacramento.

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Starting in January, the California Dressage Society heads into its next 50 years with the Executive Board Meeting, Annual Meeting and Symposium, Jan. 19-21. It will be held in Sacramento: The meetings take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel and the Symposium takes place at Starr Vaughn Equestrian in nearby Elk Grove.



If you have never attended an Executive Board Meeting this one on the 19th is a good one to attend. We will be reviewing all the plans for the year and talk about our plans for the future as well as approving the budgets. It's a great opportunity to see all that CDS does for the members and find out how you can get involved. The Annual Meeting on the 20th is a time for representatives from each chapter to get together and share what is going on locally and what they have planned in the upcoming year. It is also a great opportunity for the chapters to share ideas and look for ways to collaborate on events and ideas.

Saturday evening's awards banquet is a great time to celebrate with friends and honor everyone's accomplishments for the year.

Finally, our Symposium is Sunday the 21st at Starr Vaughn Equestrian. The title of the Symposium is "So I have this young horse, now what do I do with it?" with our presenters Willy Arts and David Wightman. Both presenters have competed at the national and international level on horses they have bred and raised. Willy has campaigned countless young horses, qualifying and attending the National Young Horse Championships many times.

Additionally, he and many of his clients have competed successfully on DG Bar-bred horses, participating in CDS Championships and the Futurity each year. David Wightman has trained many top young horses over the years, competing in the National Young Horse Championships and traveling to Europe to compete in the World Young Horse Championships. David and his clients enjoy much success in the competition arena, regularly participating in the CDS Championships and Futurity. Together Willy and David will discuss and demonstrate starting a young horse and training a young horse through the levels by giving them a foundation for success. They will also discuss evaluating your young horse and how you can decide the correct path for you and your horse with your long-term goals in mind.

If you are thinking, "I don't have a young horse so there won't be anything there for me," you are wrong. These tips and training will lay the foundation for all your training and can be built on. It is so important to reinforce all these basics throughout all your training, whether you are just starting your horse under saddle or ready to go down centerline in the Grand Prix arena. It is a great time and educational for all, I hope to see you there.