



# THE Wheelhorse

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY

NL 220

Representing Carriage Driving in the United States and Canada

September 2014

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## Lucky Camper in Canada

By Peggy Dills, Aiken SC

Snow capped mountains everywhere. Open windows at night and 48 degree mornings. This southern girl really liked this picture! In scenic British Columbia, every day was beautiful for a week at CanDrive Driving Camp at the House of Friesians owned and operated by Gerard and Caio Paagman and their wonderful family.

One of the last emails from Gerard (aka Mr "Orange Pants") before camp started was 'try to get some rest before you come to camp because we WILL keep you busy!!! And indeed he did. CanDrive is all about equines, meeting new friends from the west (I was the only one from east of the Mississippi) and much more. We all shared a passion for equine and driving, SAFETY first and learning all you can in a week. I need a vacation after the vacation!



*This is not Peggy, but a likeness in spirit*

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Gerard put together an energetic staff of instructors and helpers from the USA, Canada and Holland (all dressed in orange pants) so you always knew where to find help if you needed it. Gerard always wore his yellow wooden shoes - you could hear him coming. Everyone was very helpful and shared their knowledge about driving and horses. Along with your semi private lesson scheduled every

Continued on page 7

## A Message from The Executive Director



Where does the time go? At the end of this month 150 plus members will gather in Bar Harbor, Maine at Acadia National Park, to celebrate the first 40 years of the American Driving Society.

As your staff and the planning committee feverishly work to create programs, confirm registrations, order supplies and make sure everything is in place for this gala event, we sometimes stop and grasp a moment to reflect on a tidbit of history we have uncovered or to listen to an "I remember when...story".

Having this rich history provides the society with a strong foundation. However we cannot sit back and say "Gee look at how far we have come" we need to push forward and forge a new path for the future.

What is the ADS going to look like in 3, 5 or 10 years? Our average member is now 59 years old. In 10 years that could make a majority of our members 70+ years old. How do we attract a new membership to replace the ones that are stepping down from the box seat? How do we remain an attractive equestrian sport in spite of rising costs and competition from non-horse activities that are much less expensive? Can we embrace new ideas and activities without losing our focus on the traditions that make our sport unique?

These questions and many more will need to be addressed by the new board of directors that will begin their two year term in January, 2015. It might be a difficult task but if it was easy it probably won't stand the test of time. Compromises need to be made and a spirit of cooperation needs to be embraced. Everyone needs to pull together if we are to keep this wagon moving forward.

*Susie*

## American Driving Society Honors 40 in 40

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the American Driving Society, Inc. (ADS) is honoring individuals who have made a difference for the Society, and who have also worked diligently with related associations, breeds, disciplines, education and outreach.

Nominations were submitted by friends and members of the ADS and reviewed by a diverse committee of member-volunteers. In all, over 100 nominations were received. The 40 individuals represent the past, present and future of the ADS and have contributed in significant ways to the sport of carriage driving both competitively and for pleasure.

The following individuals will be honored on September 27 as part of the ADS Annual Members Meeting and 40th Anniversary Celebration, September 25-28 at Acadia National Park in Maine.

Mike Arnold  
Debbie Banfield  
Audrey Bostwick  
Micki Bowen  
Dana Bright  
Veronica & Ted Campbell  
Barbara Chapman  
Anne Councill  
Martha Duchnowski  
Judy Gregg  
Natasha Grigg  
\*Robert Heath  
Barbara & Trish Hartlein  
\*Philip B. Hofmann  
Marc Johnson  
\*Charles Kellogg  
W. Craig Kellogg  
Elaine Kendig  
Jean & Frank Kinsella  
Susan Koso  
Bill Lawson  
Bill & Linda Long

Mary O'Rourke  
Deirdre Pirie  
Louisa N. Plummer  
Larry Poulin  
Ann Pringle  
Holly Pulsifer  
Claire Reid  
William Remley  
Mike Rider  
Thomas Ryder  
Muffy Seaton  
\*Victor & Evelyn Shone  
Lisa Singer  
Allison Stroud  
Kelly Valdes  
\*John J. P. (Jack) Weir  
Judson & Frances Wright  
Hardy Zantke  
\* denotes members of the ADS founding committee

### ADS North American VSE Champions

#### 2014 Preliminary Single VSE

Champion - Marcia Wright  
Reserve - Isabela Mailman

#### 2014 Preliminary Pair VSE

Champion - Tamara Hinck

#### 2014 Intermediate Single VSE

Champion - Mandy Hood  
Reserve - Karen Lenberg





# American Driving Society, Inc.

## Return by September 19, 2014 to:

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PO Box 278  
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Phone: (608) 237-7382 • Fax: (608) 237-6468 • e-mail: [info@americandrivingsociety.org](mailto:info@americandrivingsociety.org)

### AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY LIMITED PROXY

I am a member of the American Driving Society, Inc. (the “ADS”). I hereby appoint

\_\_\_\_\_, as my proxy to vote on my behalf at any meeting of the membership at which I am not physically in attendance, provided that this proxy may be used to establish a quorum for the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting to be held at the The Bar Harbor Regency Hotel, Bar Harbor, Maine on September 27, 2014, including any adjournment and continuation of said meeting, to vote on my behalf at said meeting, and that this proxy shall be used for no other purpose.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

*This Proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors with the following explanation:*

In accordance with the law of the state of New York, the state in which the American Driving Society is incorporated, our annual membership meeting must have at least 100 voting members present, in person or by proxy, in order to be considered a legal meeting. In the event that we do not have a quorum at a meeting, no legally binding actions can be taken.

Your prompt return of a signed proxy to the ADS office, at the address above, will allow the ADS to conduct legal business at the Annual Members Meeting, September 27, 2014. Please note that if you wish to send this proxy to the ADS office, it must be RECEIVED in the ADS Office by September 19, 2014. Proxies carried in person to the meeting must be submitted to the Secretary. If you have any questions please feel free to direct them to the ADS office at (608) 237-7382 or e-mail them to [info@americandrivingsociety.org](mailto:info@americandrivingsociety.org)

While we all prefer seeing as many members as possible attend in person, sometimes that’s not always possible. Many members have expressed a wish to be able to participate despite the limitations of time and distance.

# Circles and Bridles

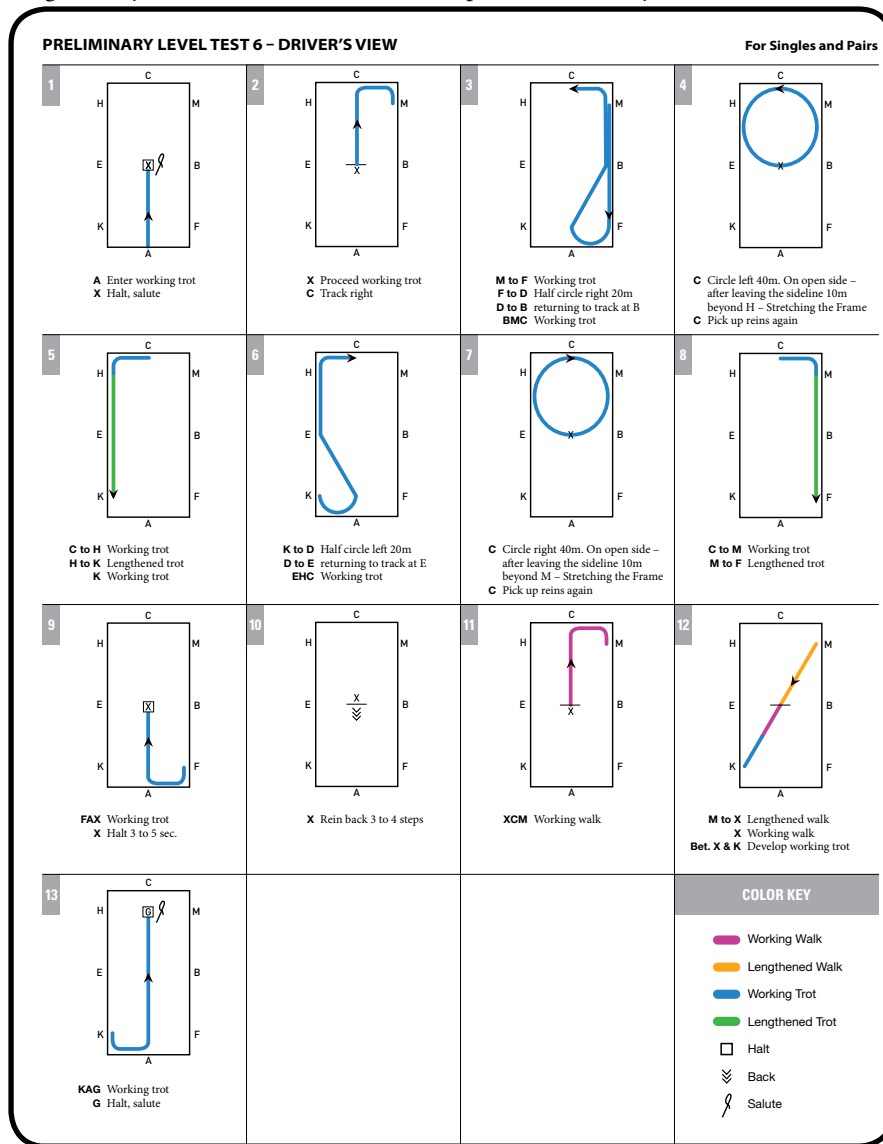
By Boots Wright, Ocala FL

I was recently able to judge Preliminary Test 6 which includes the 40 meter circle figure which asks for stretching the frame. I got very tired of saying as the comment for this movement; "Circle not square". There was not one competitor who drove the circle correctly. Yes, there may have been stretching to one degree or another but the SHAPE of the circle was repeatedly square.

I have always said that the 40 meter circle is very difficult to drive and really doesn't belong in a Prelim test. It requires the horse to stretch his neck out and down, not that difficult when trained and prepared correctly. What IS difficult is making sure that the circle is ROUND. The circle should cross over X touch A and the ring rail halfway between E and B and their respective corners. The rest of the time the driver SHOULD be driving an arc, no matter where in the figure they are.

When I learn a new test, or have difficulty driving a movement correctly, I give myself landmarks in my ring so that I drive the figure correctly and then after a while, muscle memory takes over and I can drive the figure from feel. I think the horse benefits from this, too as he gets used to doing the same thing at the same place when asked. Since I spend 90% of my time driving circles of one size or another, the 40m circle could become part of my daily regime, at least until I can drive it well.

The landmarks could be spots of lime, shavings or something similar. My friend John Porter gave me surveyor's whiskers which work really well in our sparse dormant winter grass. These are coloured plastic filaments which can be pressed into the ground and withstand most mowing machines. They are available for purchase at many online stores. I would measure from X to C



What I saw, sitting at C, was drivers very nicely driving into the corners at either side of C. They were not driving a circle, they were driving a diamond. Not being at either E or B, I couldn't tell if they were driving the arc as they (mostly) drove over X.

and mark the 20m spot. Then, taking the loop end of the tape, pin that end onto that spot with a screwdriver and walk the radius of the circle. Ideally you will have a 40m circle. You could spray the circle with marking paint...whatever works. Anyway, you would see where to drive to avoid a square circle and a very disappointing mark for that movement. *Continued on page 5*

As to bridles... Recently the Events Standards Committee was asked to comment on the possibility of regulating the vet areas at the ends of the Walk and B. ( Notice, I now use the new titles for those sections. I still want to call them D and E...) A very serious accident occurred when a horse lost its bridle and, seeing the confusion in the vet area, panicked and ran away. I was not at the scene or the event and may have the details wrong. However, the driver was seriously hurt and the event disrupted.

I am the poster child for a wreck happening when a pony, one of my wheelers, having its bridle rubbed off by the other wheeler, ran away in a panic and turned the carriage and both wheelers over. I got to spend 8 hours unconscious in the hospital and consequently am driving a pair not a team... This was 6 years ago, I see it in my brain like yesterday.

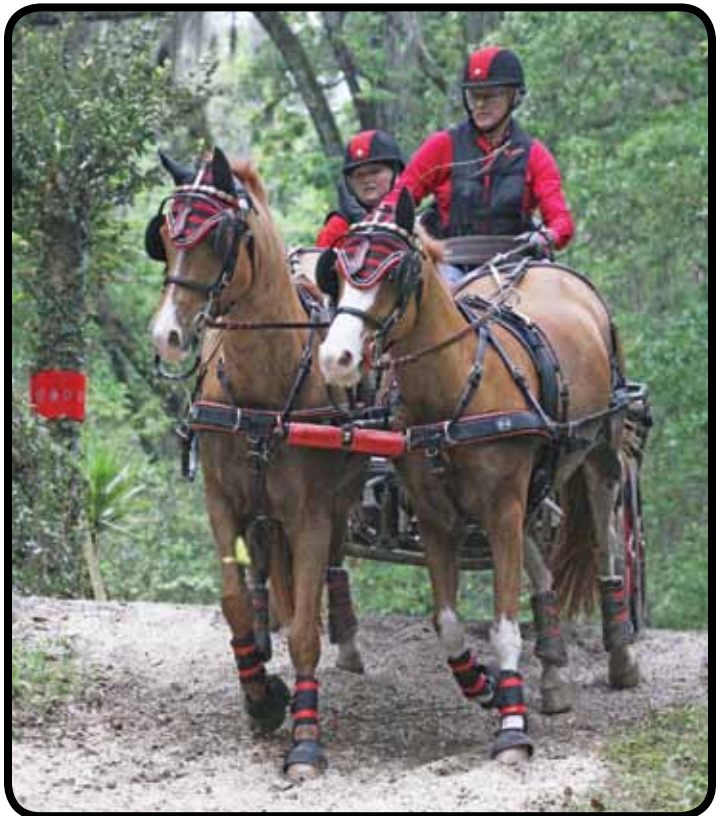


As far as the policing of vet areas goes, I ALWAYS try to put my buckets as far away from the center of the area as practical. This way, I and my ponies are removed from most of the commotion and they can be cooled with minimal fuss. Look around the area when you place your equipment and try not to be in the thick of things. If you drive a multiple, this is even more important.

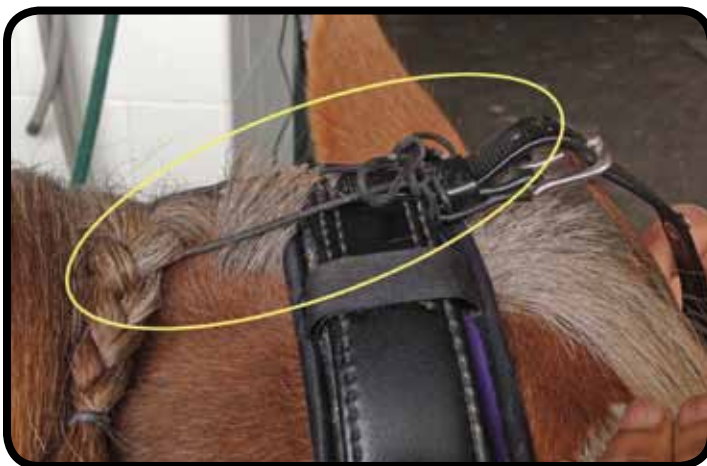
I just thought I would pass these tidbits on. Feel free to ask me about these, or any other thing. I will try to help as best I can.

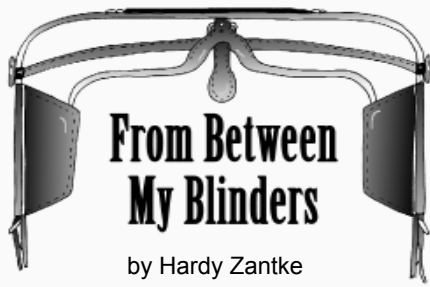


I now tie the bridle of every pony I drive into a braid just behind the clipped bridle path. EVERY bridle in my tackroom has a shoelace tied onto the crown which then ties the bridle into the braid and onto the pony's head. My dressage bridles have them as do the marathon bridles. It's an easy thing to do and takes 10 seconds. It could save you or your horse an injury.



*Boots Wright is a four time USEF National Champion Pony Four-In-Hand Competitor and ADS "S" level Combined Driving Judge. Boots has also served as Chef d'Equipe for the 2012 US Para Driving Team. When Boots isn't driving her ponies at her home in Ocala Florida, she enjoys helping all levels of enthusiastic carriage drivers.*





## Appeal to the ADS for a-la-carte attendance at the Annual Meeting

As we all know by now the ADS Annual Meeting is upon us at the end of this month, and while it perhaps might be too late for them by now, I still do have some critical last minute thoughts and an appeal to whoever is in charge of this for perhaps a slight last minute change:

The annual meeting moves around every year to a different part of the country, and I believe it does that for two good reasons: a) To give our members a new area to explore and b) much more importantly: To give our members in all parts of the country the opportunity to attend, and give especially those the possibility who drive on a shoestring and don't have a big budget to spend on such a meeting and fly halfway across the country. This second part is, what I consider to

be VERY important, and for that reason, as far as I remember, in the past we had the option to sign up only for certain parts of the Annual Meeting and pick and choose which parts we wanted to attend and which would fit into our budget.

Unfortunately I understand that this year we don't have that option. It's either all or nothing. The price tag for all is \$ 250,- per person.

If you come with your spouse - as probably many of us usually would, that's \$ 500,- to attend (besides hotel and travel cost). I am not debating if it's worth the \$ 500,-. We read the Top Ten Reasons which make it worth. But I am afraid with that price tag it might put it out of reach for some who don't have that money in their budget, and who otherwise might perhaps have come, especially members who live close by.

Yes, I believe they probably still could come as hopefully nobody would or even could deny them access to attend the business sections, like committee meetings, Board meetings and the actual Membership Meeting. I believe all of those really MUST be open to any ADS member, regardless if they want to take part in the other social activities, regardless if they registered and paid their \$250,- registration fee. That fee really should ONLY be for the social activities.

But it certainly would be nice, if those who can't afford the full fee for the attendance could just pay to attend some of the social activities, like perhaps the annual dinner, and / or the Welcome Reception, neither of which should cost \$ 250,- per person!

So, my appeal to the ADS: Why not open it up and let people choose and pay only for those activities which they would like to attend, please!

Perhaps there is a good reason why that option was not given this year. Perhaps hardly anybody made use of it in the past? Or is it too hard to administer? But I do know of some who would have liked to have that option this year. And if there is a good reason for why it's not offered - well then, please tell us why?

Have a great meeting and congratulations to 40 years ADS.

*Hardy*

*P.S. And just remember my title: "from between MY blinders" :-)*

### Response From ADS...

In the past, the ADS has always offered an a-la-carte pricing structure at its Annual Meetings. During that time our meal function costs have been greater than the number of tickets sold.

Guest speakers, facility rental, horse stabling all add to the overhead expense of the annual meeting. Acadia has many attractive features for our group, but the location is rather remote and expensive due to the tourist nature of the area. The ADS Annual Meeting Committee has done some very careful budgeting for expenses not to exceed registration dollars, even so the meeting is still operating in the red. Several generous sponsors donating nearly \$13,000 - both cash and in-kind, are balancing this year's Annual Meeting Budget. If it were not for their generosity, the meeting would lose money - as it has in the past - and the financial health of the organization would be compromised. As staff members, board members and committee members we have a fiduciary responsibility to the organization we need to do our best to insure that everyone attending and benefiting from this event is equally sharing in the expense.



American Driving Society, Inc.

40 Years

SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2014

## How Lucky I Was (Continued from page 1)

morning, private lessons were also available. The workshops/clinics covered a range of topics from first aid to learning to drive a four-in-hand. You could ride or drive the trails in the meadows and woodlands around the large property. When Friday came, there was the opportunity to do a "not for competition" afternoon with a chance to do a dressage test, obstacles and cones and receive a score. It all came to an end much too soon.

Banff/Calgary have always been on the bucket list for me so while I was in the area, I spent the first weekend in Banff and the second weekend in Calgary. Of course the Calgary Stampede was on and Spruce Meadows, which serves as the show grounds for the show jumping. I also experienced Lake Louise, with wildlife on every corner so to speak. The side roads have "bear jams" not traffic jams!

What a wonderful experience and a big thank you to the American Driving Society for their generous gift and to Gerard and Caio Paagman and family for an outstanding time not to be forgotten. How lucky I was!



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## U.S. Drivers Have Sights Set on Podium Finishes at 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games

By Helen Murray, USEF

Caen, France - The U.S. Driving Team heads into this week's FEI World Driving Championships on top form as team members look to capture Team and Individual medals. Held as part of the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, the driving competition will take place at La Prairie Racecourse, with dressage being held Thursday and Friday. Then drivers head out on the marathon Saturday and medals will be awarded the conclusion of the cones phase on Sunday.

On Wednesday, U.S. drivers Chester Weber, Misdee Wrigley Miller, and Allison Stroud presented their horses at the Horse Inspection, with all deemed fit and sound to compete. At the 2010 Games, the U.S. clinched Team Silver, and four years later in Normandy they look to go one better.

Weber (Ocala, Fla.) comes into these World Games in the midst of one of the best competitive campaigns of his career and looks to add one of the few titles that has eluded him, World Champion, to his resume. In March, he claimed an unprecedented 11th National title before heading overseas. Upon arriving in Europe, the two-time World Championship Individual Silver medalist went on a tear, earning victories at CAI3\* Windsor and CAIO4\* Saumur. He next went to Aachen, Germany, earning the biggest victory of his career, in the prestigious CAIO4\* competition.

Wrigley Miller (Lakewood Ranch, Fla.) makes her Four-in-Hand World Championship debut this week in France after having twice represented the United States in Pairs World

Championships. The 2013 Pairs U.S. National Champion only picked up the reins to a Four-in-Hand in December of 2013, but has quickly taken to driving a horse team. Wrigley Miller has been based in Europe for much of the summer, earning valuable experience at Windsor, Saumur, and Lahden.

Stroud (West Grove, Pa.) brings a wealth of Championships experience to Normandy, having represented the U.S. at multiple Pony World Champions, but makes her Four-in-Hand debut this week. Like Wrigley Miller, she has been driving a Horse Team for less than a year, but has spent the summer competing at prestigious competitions such as Horst, Windsor, Saumur, and Lahden.

Wrigley Miller will get the dressage underway on Thursday at 11:01am local time, with Stroud going into the arena at 4:21pm local time and Weber will close out the phase for the United States at 2:50pm on Friday.

Learn more about the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games <http://www.normandy2014.com/>

Follow the U.S. Driving Team <http://www.usefnetwork.com/featured/USDrivingTeam/>

**Omnibus Changes**

For a complete up-to-date Calendar and Omnibus, visit [www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org)

**Classified Ads**

Classified ads are accepted for the *Wheelhorse* at a cost of \$1 per word with a \$15 minimum for a one-month insertion in the next available *Wheelhorse* publication. Payment must accompany ad text (checks, Visa, Mastercard accepted).

COMPETITION FEI YELLOW CONES: \$27 each. Orange Marker Balls \$2.70 each. Number Boxes 1-20 Red and White; \$30 each. Letter Boxes A-D Red and White; \$30 each. Complete Dressage Arena with Letters now available. Accept MC/Visa. Phone Gayla Driving Center 1-800-360-5774. (KY)

**OMNIBUS CHANGES**

View Omnibus Web pages for complete updated information. [http://americandrivingsociety.org/06\\_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp](http://americandrivingsociety.org/06_omnilistings/adsomnibusindex.asp)

**September 11-14: Hermitage Classic CDE, Adds CT for all divisions.**

**September 13-14: Touchstone Farms Events, Pricing and format changes**

**September 18-21: Shady Oaks CDE, Judge change**

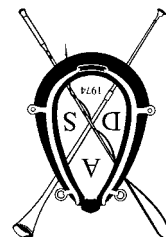
**September 19-21: Garden State CDE & CT, Early Bird entry date changed, Judge change**

**New! October 25: Union Bridge Pleasure Show, New Show in MD**

**View all ADS recognized events in the electronic version of the Omnibus**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
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