

2010 Regional/Convention Report-

The USDF Convention held in Jacksonville, FL was my fifth time representing our Region and CTDS, as a GM (Group Member) delegate. This year Region 9 generously granted CTDS \$500.00 to help pay expenses for our GMO to have representation. This representation at the BOG (Board of Governors) meeting and other Committee meetings is how our Club and Regional member voices are heard. While networking with other Regions' members, I learned that we have one of the more active Regions, with regard to meetings and support.

USDF has been condensing meetings and functions, while shortening the number of meeting days, thereby cutting expenses in an effort to keep member costs down and use our monies on member benefits. Condensing the meeting time makes for long days of sitting (I'd rather sit in a saddle), but seems to have created a more efficient and creative group. More is discussed prior to the meetings with the use of the GMO Prez List and the Delegate Yahoo groups. There is also more transparency as EB (Executive Board) reports and preliminary Committee reports are available prior to the meeting on the USDF website. This was by far on of the least contentious and heated BOG meetings I've attended.

There were two Region 9 meetings held during the Convention. The meeting minutes will be posted on the Region 9 website, but some highlights are as follows:

- Evie Tumlin was awarded her Region 9 Horseperson of the Year award.
- Paul Kathen was honored for receiving the Region 9 Teaching Excellence award.
- Bench Fund- with the help of the Cupcake Wars @ Championships, only about \$127.00 remains to be paid. Sherry Guess and Kathy Jones graciously offered to pay this off. The Bench Fund was our Region's part in donating to the USDF Building Fund of the new USDF Headquarters. This is wholly paid for this year.
- Omnibus discussion- The Region's only income maker has continually declined in profit over the past several years. Largely due to a decrease in advertising. I volunteered to contact present advertisers to secure their continued support for the 2012 Omnibus. Marilyn Kuligey is working new ads on a commission basis. Others may contact Bess, if they also have an interest in seeking out new business. Bess also announced that Tess will be moving onto other things and we will need another person to help Liz produce on-going issues.
- VP Candidate visits- All three candidates for the VP position on the USDF EB spoke. The candidates were: Peter Rothschild, Beth Jenkins and Janet Foy. See results in the BOG report!
- Visit from Steve Schubert- USDF Treasurer serving his first year in this position, Steve came to update us on finances. He said that USDF has gained back its investments and will be presenting a balanced budget at BOG for approval. GO Steve!
- CDI- to be put on by HDS at the end of April 2011 at their Spring Show. Kathy Jones spoke about the sponsorship opportunities available. They would like this to be a Regional effort, much like Championships. We voted for the Region to be the "Name" sponsor for a \$2500.00 donation.

This money will come out of the Region's "Rainy Day" account rather than the Operating account. There are GMO sponsorships available from \$150.00 up. Any GMO sponsor will get banner hung and advertising in Program and on Web. It will run similar to Championships with regard to volunteers, with Silent Auction and \$ back to GMO's for Volunteer hours. This in itself seems to be a good reason for our GMOs to support HDS in this effort.

- Regional Championships- Kathy again spoke and stated that there were approximately 300 horses and 4 arenas run. Many volunteer hours were provided. Kathy gave checks out to participating GMOs. CTDS was given \$173.00 with only three volunteers donating hours. The largest check went to ADA for over \$800.00. About \$2000.00 was raised and dispersed. The 2011 Championships will be held Nov. 3-6, 2011 at GSEC in Katy, again hosted by HDS. Judges contracted to date: Gary Rockwell, Dolly Hannon, Linda Zang, Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, Paula Lacey, and Charolette Brendhal-Baker has been approached as well. 2012 bids for hosting Regional Championships are due in now.
- Highlights from Committee Meetings-
- Freestyle Committee- Artistic value on tests was increased to more accurately honor the spirit of the Freestyle. Lower level test attendance was up, while FEI tests down. GMO Charity Challenge postponed 1 year by EB.
- Regional Championship Committee- Standardized closing date to 4th Monday prior to start of show. *Closing date will be received date, not postmarked date.* Qualifying % for National level Freestyles was decreased from 65% to 63%.
- JR/YR Committee- USDF and USEF are working on a pipeline to track talented riders. YR Championships will be in Lexington 7/26 thru 7/31/2011. The qualifying period ends 7/1. USEF is moving away from Fall qualifiers. Also will only allow to compete in Region of permanent address. George Williams clinic will be 1/8 and 9, 2011 at Tex-Over Farm. There are now only 5 clinics nationally.
- GMO Committee- There was discussion to move the penalty date for GMO roster submissions to 12/31, instead of the 12/1 date currently in place. Rosters would still be due by 12/1, but the penalty period would be graced until 12/31. This change will necessitate a change to the P&P's.
- Nomination Committee- Minor change to sign in at BOG for each vote. New at Large Directors (ALD's) to be elected at Spring Board Meeting. Need Job Descriptions. The three Councils with Committee groupings will each elect a member from within to represent them on the EB.
- Awards Committee- There were 4 motions made that passed, that were as follows: The first motion was to allow a horse to only be eligible to be ranked at two consecutive levels within the same competition year for USDF Dressage Horse of the Year, Musical Freestyle, the Young horse divisions. The second motion called for a horse/rider combo to be eligible in their division at two consecutive levels during a completion year. The third motion was that housekeeping changes for equivalencies affecting eligibility for awards programs can be made by joint agreement of EB and Awards Committee. The fourth motion effective 10/1/2011, is that the FEI

YR Prelim and Team Tests will be listed as equivalent to PSG for the Silver Medal and the FEI JR Team and Individual tests would be listed equivalent to Third level for the Bronze medal. The full motions can be seen on the USDF Website.

- Finally, Bess asked that all GMOs send Press Releases for Clinics, Shows and other relevant programs to her for Regional links and communication.

I also attended the GMO Committee meeting. Aside from the discussion of moving the penalty from 12/1 to 12/31 for GMO member roster submission, we also discussed eligibility for delegates and proxies. Proxies can only be submitted for positions already delegated. There was much discussion over a more community spirit amongst national GMOs by utilizing the Prez list to communicate issues and ideas. Some people expressed frustration over not knowing where to go for info and new Presidents and Board members feeling they had to dig to find this info was also an issue. Some of the discussion over this was the issue of current Boards not passing this info along to their new Boards. The USDF liaison to the GMO Committee said that they could invite new GMO Board Presidents to the Prez list group after the submission for Affiliate and Officer update forms are received. These are still due by 11/30. They will also send out info on where GMO resources are on the USDF Website. Finally there was much discussion over the USEF requiring \$1,000.00 to print the national level tests in non-commercial publications. This was also discussed at the USDF EB meeting. Pressure needs to be put of USDF Dressage Committee to USEF for change, but USEF sees this as a money making entity. They are selling test books for \$5.00 (national level tests, including USDF Intro tests). Although it was noted that their book's printing is small and not for the "Reader" needing masses. Our Region was fortunate to have Sue Malone-Casey donate the fee for submission in our Omnibus.

The Adult Programs Committee was another meeting I sat in on. The biggest discussion point was on ETrak, developed for the new Educational membership, but available to all USDF members. This is an on-line Educational site with over 800 pieces of educational material and growing. We also discussed ideas for educational sessions for next year's Convention. The Adult Clinic series was brought up, as far as the requirements for hosting. This will be announced in January, as to who and what it will be. This is applied for Regionally.

Another GMO meeting is the Round Table discussions with various topics, sat in on by GM members from all around the country. I sat in at the "Education" table, which discussed different ideas for educational sessions that worked or didn't work. Some ideas for ensuring success of events was to hold them at the same time of year, so that people got used to holding the date open to attend. Also promote local professionals by advertizing their attendance as a sponsorship in promotional material for the event. Other tables were; Show Fundraising, Recruiting Volunteers, Helmet Safety, Marketing Strategies and Record Keeping. Ideas too numerous to list, but I have notes if anyone is interested in any info from these discussions.

Finally we all attended the BOG Meetings held over two days. First announcements were made, that the final mortgage payment was made on the USDF Building. The new Educational membership is up and running with ETrak, and USDF will get marketing materials to GMOs to help gain memberships. The 2011 Convention will be in San Diego at the Town & Country Resort and a Symposium is being planned at Del Mar. The 2012 Convention will be in New Orleans at the Sheraton.

David O'Connor talked about the success of WEG being help outside of Europe for the first time, and the legacy it leaves with the facility and USEF Network.

He also encouraged shows to apply for grants with USEF.

Nominations were announced and for VP there were three candidates, mentioned previously in this report. Beth Jenkins was elected on Sunday. Also nominated was Janine Malone for Secretary and Bess Reineman for Region 9 Director. Both were elected by proclamation, as they ran unopposed.

There was a budget discussion, showing a balanced budget presented by Steve Schubert.

The Ruth Arvanette grant recipient was announced. It was awarded to a member of our region, Nettie Olsen. This award is given to allow a GM to attend the Convention.

The USDF Regional Volunteer of the year award went to Barbara Harty.

A motion was made to approve all Committee Reports that didn't have motions. This was passed

The rest of the Committee Reports and their motions came before BOG, were discussed and voted on. These reports, along with motions and results are on the USDF website.

Many people who have served USDF for numerous years and were stepping down were recognized. Amongst them was Sherry Guess, who served as GMO Council Chair, and is from our region. Others were Terry Gallo, Freestyle Committee Chair, Allison Head, Region 1 Director, Sandi Bishop, Region 3 Chair, Teresa Hunt, Region 5 Director and Melissa Cresswick, VP.

During the long BOG meetings, GMO Baskets (donated by the GMOs) were drawn and awarded to attendees. Several of our Region's members received baskets!

There is a lot of information in the Committee Reports, that goes through what those committees accomplished during the year and what they will work on for the new year. If you want to understand what goes on behind the scenes at USDF, this is a good place to start. These reports along with the EB reports are posted on the USDF website for all to see. Many people work long hours to service our organization, mostly on a volunteer basis.

All in all this was a busy and informative Convention, with a feeling of cooperation amongst all. I thank Region9 for helping our GMO to be represented at this national event.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Jarvis, GM Delegate/CTDS