

Regional Board Reports
Aug. 2010

Adult Program:

We have had 2 conference calls, May 11th and July 13th. Our next call is Sept 14th.

The committee has addressed the current mission statement - To increase adult participation in dressage by providing education and recognition. And its goals- To provide concepts for new adult education programs, increase the number of participation in USDF supported adult programs and to get Regions and GMOs more involved in adult education through increased and improved communication with Adult Education Regional Coordinators. A new statement is felt needed and is to be decided upon by next conference call.

Adult education clinician ideas for 2011 were discussed and a list prepared of names that the committee thought were good "people" person types, relate well to an audience and also be able to discuss body awareness. We are to shorten list to top 3 to submit to executive committee for approval by next call also.

Symposium ideas for the future- should we continue? USDF was only game in town when first started but now everyone is doing them leading to smaller turn outs and similar concepts. There is a plan to do one in San Diego in 2011 and Stephen Peters has been asked but the executive board has made a decision NOT to do one in 2012. Questions that came up are if no symposium can we broaden the educational opportunities at the convention? If there was no symposium would/could the meeting be moved closer to the weekend making it a bit easier for people to attend?

After much discussion the committee felt it could support NOT doing a symposium in 2012 and 2013 in favor of a broader educational program during the convention. This would give USDF time to see if people missed the symposium.

Then another idea came forward regarding the Trainers Conferences held each year.

Rename the TC to be 'The USDF National Symposium', and open it up to absolutely ALL USDF members and their guests (who need not be USDF members, but maybe pay a little bit more). At this meeting the speaker/clinician should be a top ranking dressage 'star' in order to attract the largest possible audience. By allowing 'guests' to attend, we may be able to interest more people in dressage and encourage them to become USDF members. These NS should be held annually at top class equestrian centers in high density dressage areas in different states.

In place of the symposium at the Annual Convention, we should strive to combine meetings with CIs and the L Program (and eventually also the judges). These meetings should be strictly educational events addressing/concerning these groups. Clinicians could be people like Hilary Clayton, Susanne von Dietze, some specialist in Work-in-Hand, etc. etc. This event could be called Trainers Conference, or maybe another title that reflects education encompassing both groups. It should be held during the week, not at the very end of the Convention when people are keen to go home.

The EB was open to exploring this suggestion. Further discussions/recommendations regarding Trainer's Conference for 2011 and going forward:

1. Recommend to NOT do the traditional Trainers' Conference in early 2011 in CA. but to do the Symposium in 2011 at convention
2. Recommend to do an educational conference during the 2011 Convention targeted toward L Grad, Certified Instructor, and other designated guests.
 - a. The conference would include an evening classroom session on Thursday as part of the University Education program and would be open to all Convention attendees.
 - b. The conference would include a day in the field (Friday) as we do now and would be open to our 'target' group only.

- c. Suggested presenter for this conference are Dr. Hilary Clayton and Suzanne con Dietz.
3. Recommend reevaluating the National Symposium concept for 2012;
 - a. Consider moving around the county and working with regions to give them more of a vested interest in the success of the symposium.
4. Recommend continuing with the educational conference in 2012 at the convention.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Meyer

Awards:

Until the last moment the awards committee was being absorbed by other committee's in the new structure but in the end it is still its own committee lead by national chair Peggy Klump. The committee, however, is made up of entirely different individuals with myself being the only committee member asked to return.

The first conference call on April 27th was the committee getting to know each other, discussing backgrounds, which awards the committee was responsible for, and a request for all to review the current mission statement and see if any changes should be made. Our next conference call is Aug 24th.

Also discussed were the issues regarding equivalences and the awards program. These issues include the FEI making changes to the FEI tests at short notice. These changes have resulted in equivalencies being changed with USEF and not immediately with USDF since these equivalency changes have always been taken to the BOG for approval. By taking these equivalency changes to the BOG for approval this has resulted in these changes not occurring until 2 competitions seasons later. It was suggested that the Awards Committee make a motion to the BOG this year asking that small housekeeping changes such as equivalency changes to the awards program not require BOG approval and that these changes could be approved via the Awards Committee and USDF Executive Board. This would allow the equivalency changes to become effective a year sooner.

Communication to our members regarding changes was also of strong importance along with education on if a rider and or horse is qualified for an award. It's very disturbing in the office when a participant thinks they are qualified only to find they have not fulfilled certain requirements. A 2010 goal is to promote awareness and education regarding awards requirements.

Peggy also mentioned for discussion the GMO's that have eventing members and the possibility of recording scores from eventing tests so that these scores could be applied towards rider awards. This would give the eventing members some benefit of USDF. This might encourage USDF membership. Krystina stated that for USDF to record these scores the scores must come from USEF-Licensed/USDF-recognized competitions.

Peggy informed the committee of the new 'Western Dressage' classes within the Morgan division of the USEF rulebook. Peggy suggested the USDF and/or this committee need to work on developing a way that USDF can work with this new dressage division. Peggy does not feel it would be in the best interest of USDF to just ignore this new dressage division. This may be a way USDF can increase membership?

Respectfully submitted, Donna Meyer

FEI Jr/YR

See report of NAJYRC – below.

Planned for 2011
FEI Jr/YR Clinic in January at North Texas Equestrian Center
NAJYRC for 2011

Dates to be determined, but will be at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

Currently there is over \$16,000 in FEI Jr/ YR account. With all riders receiving a \$1000 stipend for travel expenses there will still be over \$7,000 in the account for the next year. With fundraising planned for 2011 the FEI Juniors and Young Riders should be able to fund themselves again.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Darnell
Region 9 FEI Junior/Young Rider Coordinator

Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Team at the NAJYRC

This year Region 9 had 8 Juniors and Young Riders qualify for the NAJYRC held in Lexington, Kentucky on July 26 to August 1. The Junior team consisted of Mary Kathryn Nommensen and Dom Perignon, Nathalie Martin and Royal, Audrey Jones and Rondo Del Rey and Elizabeth Allen and Whispering Wind. The Young Rider team included Rachel Campbell and Wandango, Jill Cowie and Carnegie, Faith Morris and Garrison and Julia Handt and Frambeau. The Kentucky Horse Park was the host to the Championships this year and the site was beautiful and the weather almost perfect. The team horses all arrived safely to Kentucky and all but one rider made it in good shape. Unfortunately, Audrey Jones had an altercation with a mounting block while in New York training, and fell and broke her arm the Thursday before the competition started. Audrey tried to ride on Tuesday morning before the jog, but the pain was too much and we had to withdraw her from the competition. The team really appreciated her effort to try.

All the horses passed the jog and the competition began on Wednesday with everyone riding the team test. The Juniors did their best and finished 9th, but only a few points away from higher placings and the Young Rider team finished 7th out of 9 teams. On Thursday the Young Riders rode their Individual tests and unfortunately they all didn't have their best rides and none qualified in the top 15 for the Freestyle. On Friday the Juniors rode their Individual tests and two had very good rides. Elizabeth Allen had a super ride on her mare and finished in a tie for 10th and Mary Kathryn Nommensen rode to an 8th place finish, both qualified to ride in the Freestyle on Saturday. On Saturday, the heat got to Elizabeth and she didn't have a great ride, but still finished 14th, Mary Kathryn had a very elegant ride and was 6th. It was a very successful show for Region 9.

Some observations for the next year. It is absolutely necessary to have a golf cart at the Kentucky Horse Park. The stables are quite a distance from the competition and schooling arenas and just in the matter of time it would not be feasible to walk the distance back and forth. The Chef also attends many meetings at the USEF and USDF headquarters also quite a distance from the barns. This cost should be made separate from the reimbursement for the Chef d'Equipe expenses as it is an absolute requirement for the Chef to complete their duties. This year we only had one rider attend as a groom for the Region. The competition was run according to FEI rules and strict adherence to stable access was followed. Because of the armband policy, most riders chose to name a parent as a groom. It was an absolute delight to have all the parents behind the scenes and not have many young people to watch over and care for. The parents all pitched in and helped when needed, but also were able to back away and allow the trainers to care for their children for the competition. I think that the previous policy of naming non-qualifying riders as grooms is difficult for the chef to manage as most times the groom's parents are not in attendance and certainly would not be allowed stable access. Lastly, I must say that our stable area was the finest looking at the Horse Park and we received many complements on our stall decorations and the cleanliness of our area. The past purchases of stall drapes, stall door covers and the Region banner really made our team look professional and the riders, parents, grooms and trainers all conducted themselves in the best manner. I was proud to be the Chef for the Region 9 team this year and wish the new Coordinator and Chef d'Equipe for 2011 the best.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Darnell

Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Coordinator
Region 9 Chef d'Equipe

Instructor / Trainer:

There have been two of the Three USDF Instructors Certification Advanced Workshops held now, the first was the Advanced Teaching workshop with Vicki O'Neil and the last was the Advanced Lungeing Workshop with Gerhard Politz. The last workshop will be the Advanced Riding Workshop with Bailey Cook as the Faculty on July 24 & 25, 2010. These workshops have been full and brought in five participating auditors for the first workshop and only auditors for the lungeing Workshop. I will need two Riding Participants for the Riding Workshop but I have had requests to participate in that Workshop so I am hopeful that it will fill as well.

We plan on testing in the late fall/ winter of this year after all the championships are finished and most of our Participants have been given the recommendation to Pre-test and test. I am looking forward to this, as we have never held a testing in Texas that I am aware of.

Next year Marie Morgan has shown an interest in hosting the Intro Workshops. I will send her my Instructors list and Participants List and have offered my help in any capacity.

As of right now the Regional I/T Positions are done away with as USDF is transitioning into a new governance structure. The region may decide to maintain this position to keep the Instructors/Trainers informed as to what USDF is doing on their behalf and report to the RD. Bess has asked if I would consider keeping this position for the region even though nationally is it dissolved and I would consider keeping this position as an information person but I cannot travel to meetings for three to four days anymore, I have too much going on at the farm.

I have been asked by Gerhard Politz the new I/T Chair, taking over from Lendon Gray and Katherine Robertson the USDF Education Programs Senior Coordinator, to be on the USDF Advisory Working Group, but as of right now there is nothing happening because the new Executive Board has to regroup with their new structuring. This will mostly be a conference call/ e-mail discussion type of position.

I appreciate the honor of having served Region 9 as the I/T Coordinator for the last four years and look forward to keeping our region up to date from the inside as to what is going on.

Sincerely, Vera Muckleroy

Judges & L Grads

Austin Dressage Unlimited (ADU) hosted the Continuing Education for Judges Seminar, "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills," presented by Gary Rockwell on Feb 20-21, 2010 in Georgetown, Texas. Sixty-nine people registered to attend this wonderful educational event, 21 Judges & L Graduates and 49 Auditors. The evaluation forms rated the speaker as a 4.9/5.0 and format as 4.8/5.0. The program was very well received and ADU plans to host another one in 2011.

Oklahoma Dressage Society hosted a Continuing Education for Judges Seminar "Upgrading Your Judging Eye I" with Ida Anderson covering Judging Methodology, Gaits & Paces, Collective Remarks, new rules and new tests in Sapulpa, Oklahoma July 24-25, 2010. Approximately 30 people attended this event and their feedback was very enthusiastic. Houston Dressage Society is planning to host a seminar on Freestyle, which will cover some judging topics with Trenna Atkins on August 7-8, 2010 in Houston, Texas.

Plan: Contact additional GMOs to recruit more organizations to host a Continuing Education for Judges program in other areas of Region 9 so that more educational opportunities are available throughout the region.

Respectfully submitted,; Marilyn Kulifay
Region 9 Judges & L Grad Chair

Nominations

Other than obtaining nominees for participating member delegate and reminding GMO's to submit their delegate names/proxies it has been a quite year in the nominations department.

PM Delegate:
Jan Colley
Susan Howard
Paul Kathen
Marilyn Kulifay
Kathryn Kyle
Evie Tumlin

Once again, Gillian Gourley and Jeanette Snow volunteered to be the region 9 canvassing committee. Since 2010 was the first year the paper ballots were only mailed if requested, it ended up that only 9 paper ballots were received (that is nation wide) thus the regional canvassing committees were excused and only 1 person counted the nine ballots. Thank you to Gillian and Jeanette for volunteering.

As of this date (August 8, 2010) the only GMO's in Region 9 that have turned in delegate name/ proxy to USDF are ODS and HDS. There is well under a month to get this done. The deadline has changed effective this year it is August 31 rather than the October deadline. If you have not received the form for your GMO then please contact either Sara Jones at USDF or me. Let's make this another year that Region 9 has 100% representation.

By Kathryn Kyle USDF Nominations council member

TECHNICAL DELEGATE

With the reorganization of USDF's committees and councils, the TD committee has managed to remain basically the same. Meaning there is representation from all 9 USDF regions. The committee chairperson is Diane Stanley from Billings, Montana.

The main task the committee targeted for this year has been completed – updating the TD checklist. It is on the USDF website and can be located by going to: <http://www.usdf.org/downloads/forms/index.asp?TypePass=Competitions>. It is recommended that show managers review it to know what the TD will be looking for at the shows.

These past months the committee has been busy with questions that have been sent in from competitors and several have been sent onto USEF for clarification. Their responses are as follows:

1. USEF said spursuader (rotating disk) spurs are legal.
2. Magnetic stirrup systems are legal.
3. Reins that are attached to the bit with metal clips are legal.
4. Posting of the Statement of Principle in show office is no longer required.

And the hot topic – the HSV color scale – is to be continued...

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn VandenBerg
USDF Region 9 Technical Delegate Committee member

Web Site

The Region 9 web site has been well utilized by members over the past year. Some interesting statistics: In the past twelve months, the site has received 32,067 unique visits. The month of January 2010 saw the highest traffic, the site averaged 350 unique visitors per day. June of 2010 saw the least traffic, with an average of 95 unique visitors per day. The most frequently visited pages are the Omnibus download, the show calendar, the home page, instructors/trainers, educational events, e-news. Most visitors are coming directly to the site, a significant percentage are referred by search engines, and others are coming from the GMO sites.

The top ten search terms bringing people in are: USDF region 9; region 9 dressage; USDF; region 9 dressage shows; Alamo dressage show; region 9 USDF; region 9 dressage competition, region 9 championships; and USDF 9. The majority of our visitors are coming from the US, but we have had visitors from as far away as New Zealand, Norway, Israel, India and Greece.

Please feel free to contact Nicole if you have any questions/comments/concerns or suggestions which would help make our site better.

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