



August 2022

Year in Review so far.....

Current Board Members

Interim President:	Jane Holman
Vice President:	Angel Gunn
Secretary:	Jessica Jemison
Treasurer:	Terri Harlan
Acting Membership:	Jody DeStefanis
Recognized Show Chair:	Angel Gunn
Schooling Show Chair:	Alexis Stephenson
Historian:	Vacant
Education:	Jody DeStefanis
Awards:	Ashley Pipkin-Jones
Special Events:	Dawn Metzger
Advertising/Sponsorships:	Jane Holman
Juniors:	Jessica Fan
Volunteers:	Alex Evans
Publications:	Maureen Wilson

Our year began with our President finding the need to resign her post due to the success of her business. Great news for Chris! I've stepped in as Interim President until elections can be carried out this fall.

We're still a bit wobbly on the website front but after several false starts we seem to finally be on the right track. Maureen Wilson has come on board as Publications Chair and has embraced that role enthusiastically. She is also working with Beth Robison to polish the website and move us closer to something the junior riders will respect and the older member will be able to navigate!

The shows at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center have been going especially well since we've been able to relax the COVID restrictions. In 2021, we welcomed St. Joseph Medical Center as the name-in-title sponsor the Autumn Classic which runs concurrently with the GAIG-USDF Region 9 Championships. The event banquet was back with entertainment provided by Damico Dance which got everyone dancing

and having a great time. St. Joseph will be back as sponsor this year as well and we're currently working on entertainment to top 2021. The theme of the Championships and Autumn Classic is Alice in Wonderland a/k/a Region 9. Stand by for announcements of wacky contests and excellent special functions.

We've had a very active schooling show season and are expecting another full show for our 14th Annual Schooling Show Championships on December 10. Many thanks to Alexis Stephenson who is in the process of rewriting the rules and regulations for participation in the Championships.

2021 saw the introduction of the Nancy Murray Award – a lovely trophy commissioned by Dawn Metzger and Pati Pierucci, and created by Olva Pharo in honor of Ms. Murray who passed away earlier in the year. The award is presented to the high point Adult Amateur in an FEI class at the Autumn Classic.

The Great Southwest Equestrian Center, HDS, Pin Oak and other equestrian organizations have agreed to purchase a trophy case to be on display in the upstairs banquet room at the Center. The case will house perpetual trophies honoring the great equine athletes and their partners who have made GSWEC the center of equine activities in the Southeast.

Jody DeStefanis has been working on an adult amateur "camp" but has run up against a few roadblocks with regard to budget and availability. We are hoping to make this a reality in 2023 with new clinicians and workshops in the areas of nutrition, physical fitness for horse and rider, and trailer maintenance.

Our membership is holding steady at 288 but we need to work on engaging the younger riders and keeping the trainers interested in our programs. We are planning to have an awards banquet in January 2023 – last two years were cancelled due to the virus that won't go away..... Hoping that the winter weather doesn't bring a fresh onslaught of illness. Actually at this point just hoping for winter weather and a break from the summer furnace.

TTFN

Jane Holman

Interim President

Houston Dressage Society

