

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2022 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 30 – December 3 Lexington, KY

Below are the highlights since the April Spring report:

Shows

16 recognized shows were held, with good turnout. 4 shows to go to close out 2022. Our GMO's & some stables also offer a full slate of schooling shows throughout the year.

In September Haras Dressage Sport Horse Breeder In Hand Qualifiers & Finals show was held in Magnolia, Texas. This is the region's only sport horse breed show.

GAIG/USDF Region 9 Championships & Southwest Dressage Championships & HDS Autumn Classic. It was a resounding success. Houston Dressage Society, the staff, and volunteers truly stepped up to the plate, doing an outstanding job. 320 exhibitors, with great weather, and an incredible facility. The staff at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center is top notch.

The theme of the show was: "Region 9 in Wonderland". A welcome Bar-b-que kicked things off. Followed by the annual and much coveted stall decoration contest, horseshoe hunt, themed tea party, croquet contest, and doggie costume contest. Along with the Region 9 Jr/YR "Battle of the Barns" Auction. The festivities ended with the yearly championship awards banquet & region 9 awards presentation.

The Southwest Dressage Championships have been in existence since 1988. Our riders have enjoyed the competitiveness and camaraderie through the years. The championships are solely funded by sponsorships/donations. Director chairs, along with money is the chosen award for the champions of each class.

The HDS Autumn Classic is a good compliment show held along with the 2 championships. Its title sponsor, St Joseph Medical Center, helps tremendously. A good, fun set of shows for all.

Region 9 Horse Person of the Year

In its 29th year. The 2022 HPOY award went to Donna Meyer, for a lifetime of promoting dressage in Region 9. Showing dedication & passion through the years as an instructor, trainer, judge, volunteer, and competitor. Donna has served on both the regional board, & national committees for many years. As well as being active and serving on GMO boards and committees. We appreciate her for sharing this passion, and hope she will continue for many years to come.

Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award

This is the 14th year this prestigious award has been presented to a Region 9 dressage teacher, exemplifying their educational contribution and outstanding teaching ability. This year's recipient was Christina Hall. The Teaching Excellence Award chair Meg Flemming, presented the award and a check for \$5000., at the Region 9 championship banquet. Several past recipients were present welcoming Christina into the "tribe".

The Dressage Foundation generously supports and manages this grant.

GMO's

We currently have 13 GMO's. Some have held their elections for board members. We have 4 new presidents: Lynn Smith for CTDS, Jane Holman for HDS, Natasha

Fernandez for SEDA, and Donna Canapes for Tri-State. We want to thank the outgoing presidents for their service - Betty Beebe, Chris Renne, Nicole Miller, & Amy Rokaw.

Educational Events

Many GMO's were busy offering educational events for their members, who were happy to have in person seminars and clinics once again. Our region offers funding up to \$500. to help support the GMO's educational endeavors. In August Central Texas Dressage Society received \$500 to help fund the Tara Stege Symposium. Fort Worth Dressage Club has applied for a grant, to help fund their adult camp with Janet Foy, to be held in Oct.

An L Program is holding its last session in Oct. This has been a successful combined effort of three GMO's.

Region 9 Jr/YR's

Becky Brown has worked tirelessly as our Region 9 Jr/YR Coordinator, actively raising funding for our regional junior/ young rider fund. She also organizes clinics and events throughout the year.

This year, Becky served as the Chef D Equipe at the 2022 FEI NAYC in Traverse City, Michigan. For the first time, Region 9, along with Region 3 brought home the Young Rider Team Gold. Congrats to Sydney Schultz/ Dunkirk, and Sydney Lipar/ Zerragmo, our Region 9 team members, for a job well done.

The 2022 USDF FEI Youth Clinic with Lilo Fore will be held in Nov, at The Equestrian Center at Twinwood, in Simonton, Texas.

A couple of Dressage4Kids TEAM Clinics have been held, with great response.

Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund

For Region 9 Adult Amateur riders, in helping them with their educational goals.

Congrats to Molly Ralstin of Oklahoma, for being awarded this grant, managed by The Dressage Foundation. She will use the funds to participate in the L Education Program.

Regional Business

The Region 9 Summer Zoom meeting was held on August 4th, with more than 20 members attending. Our regional board members gave their reports, with good, active discussion following. The Region 9 P & P's updates were approved. Nicole Miller, our social media guru and webmaster recently revamped the Region 9 website.

Sherry Guess has been working on a Region 9 GMO Challenge...with the results to follow.

Marilyn Kulifay is our new Region 9 Competition Management Chair, after longtime board member Jan Colley stepped down, due to travel and relocating. We want to thank Jan for her years of service, and wish her well in retirement.

Marilyn also serves on our regional board as the Region 9 Judges & L Grad chair. We appreciate her work and dedication.

The annual T-Shirt Design was voted on and selected. Thank you Nicole Miller for the beautiful artwork. The t-shirts are printed and sold as a fundraiser for the region. This year for the first time, we offered them through an online store, along with caps and visors.

The **Region 9 Omnibus**, which is our main fundraiser, and is the to-go to publication in the region for shows, clinics, programs, awards, GMO information, regional board contact information, list of officials, judges, TD's, instructors, and this year...the new 2023 Dressage Test. Thanks to Nicole Miller, Arlene Gaitan, Sherry Guess, and Bess Bruton for their work on volunteering countless hours to get this published. A free electronic version is available on the Region 9 Website. We truly appreciate all the

sponsors & advertisers for their support, which funds several regional programs/activities.

Our next Region 9 meeting is Nov 18th, by zoom. Then followed by an in person meeting during the USDF Annual Convention in Lexington, KY. We are all looking forward to the in person convention, after a 2 year hiatus.

This year, 4 PM Delegates will represent Region 9 at the convention: Betty Beebe, Elizabeth Clifton, Marilyn Kulifay, & Sarah Jane Martin.

Our GMOs also send delegates to the convention, to vote at the Board of Governors, on items which help to shape our organization.

One of our goals this year, and next, is to gather historical documents, both on a regional and GMO level.

As the years roll by, we realize the importance of knowing and understanding who came before us...who paved the way for our existence. We think that in many years to come, the new guard will look back on us now, and wonder who we were, and hopefully grasp our passion, & love for dressage and our equine partners. And continue our journey with the same enthusiasm, and devotion.

It takes everyone of us, every member, every friend, family, giving of ourselves in selfless ways. Thank you all for your time, dedication, and diligence.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Bruton