

Minutes of the meeting of USDF Region 9 on July 22, 2023.

Bess Bruton, Regional Director, called the meeting to order at 8 AM. She started a discussion of what USDF could do for the membership or GMO. The discussion lasted an hour.

Marilyn volunteered to contact USDF to get the technology to have zoom at our December meeting at the USDF Convention to include members that could not attend in person.

We went around the room for introductions with everyone talking about their history. Those present included Betty Beebe, Becky Brown, Bess Bruton, Robyn Callahan, Donna Meyer, Barbara Harty, Jane Holman, Marilyn Kulifay, Angie Hughes, Dyanna Lawson, Barbara Lewis, Sarah Jane Martin, Alicia Schordine, Lynne Smith, Charna Watts.15 People.

GMOs members were from BACH, CTDS, DDC, FWDC, HDS, NETXDC, SEDA, with FWDC having the most representatives.

A motion to approve the minutes of our last meeting as posted on the webpage was made by Betty Beebe and seconded by Becky Brown. The motion passed.

Bess announced that Nettie Olsen, our Treasurer resigned. She has served for over 10 years, doing a great job. Bess presented the treasurer report. The region finances are strong, with both t-shirt and omnibus profit. A motion was made by Donna Meyer, and seconded by Marilyn Kulifay to approve the report. The motion passed.

Because USDF handles our money and holds our regional account, Bess suggested that we do away with the position of treasurer. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Donna Meyer to try having the Financial committee become overseer of the finances. Marilyn Kulifay seconded and the motion was passed. Bess said that she will email the monthly statements produced by USDF, to the committee.

We had a break and Bess distributed some door prizes.

Betty Beebe discussed regional educational grants. These are \$500 per GMO preapproved money (we are capped at \$3000 per year total for all GMOs). Betty also included discussion of USDF GMO grants, stating that educational information was on the USDF website under education. She then led a discussion of ways that your club can request money. She said that the trick was to call it a symposium not a clinic or camp. She included guidelines and tips because there are strict guidelines and rules for applying. Discussion then came on how to ask for additional funds through local sponsorships. One idea was to use 10% profit of show to a local nonprofit which is giving back to community.

Sarah Jane Martin then gave the SWDC report. She reported that the SWDC board consists of eight members. She asked anyone wishing to become a board member contact her. The annual SWDC meeting will again be at the championships during the lunch break after the awards ceremony in the main arena stands on Thursday. There are several rule change proposals to come before the board this year. There has been a request to add pony classes for 2nd, 3rd and 4th levels. Currently we only have two persons qualified for 1st level pony. There is a proposal to raise the fees for championship classes. Currently they are capped at \$60. There is a proposal that if there are less than 6 qualified for a division/class that no prize money be awarded but medals, ribbons and prizes still be awarded. This would increase the amount of prize money awarded to those classes with large amount of qualifying fees collected. Another proposal is that we do not require participation of the riders in the awards ceremony. Currently the top three competitors are required to come. Our rules require that applications to host the Championships be made 30 days before the USDF Region 9 Summer Meeting. Currently SWDC does not have any applications for 2024. She announced that the prizes for 2023 will be Championship Directors Chairs and Reserve Championship etched glass vases. SWDC again will pass out free drinks and snacks from Sarah Martin's golf cart.

Jane Holman, President of the Houston Dressage Society, reported on the CDI. The show continues to be a loss. In 2022 the loss was 20 to 30 thousand dollars. She did not have an exact amount. She then talked about the Regional Championships. They have a title sponsorship advertising with money from St. Joseph Medical Center which helps on the costs. For this year, 2023, the theme is board games. There is a plan to have live music at the dinner. Angel is

planning to not have it above the main arena. This year there is a plan to recognize prior Horse Person of the Year recipients.

We had a discussion of the Dressage Foundation. This was created by Lowell Boomer and provides money grants for different things...riders, judges, TD's, GMOs, etc. Our region has two Region 9 awards with TDF, One is the Teaching Excellence award of \$5000, and the second is the Evie Tumlin grant for amateurs. Nationally the Century Club awards are provided by TDF.

We then had more door prizes and broke for lunch.

After lunch we had regional board committee reports. Most were listed on the region 9 website. A number of committee chairs were not present.

Information to the membership is provided several ways. Nicole Miller hosts our website. We also have a monthly newsletter produced by Nicole. Nicole keeps our Facebook account. A large amount of our members go to Facebook and about 60% of the Facebook group open Facebook per month. There are 692 members getting the newsletter.

Marilyn Kulifay gave several reports. She is on the USDF committee for TDs and Competition management. She reminded us to contact the Competition management committee via email or telephone. She reminded us that our website is listing L graduates who have kept up with their education requirements. Marilyn also spoke about the Breeders Championships which will be held at Haras. The final will be in September. Regina Milliken the Breeders Show representative was not present.

Becky Brown, former jr/yr coordinator, gave the JR/YR and Youth discussion for Marsha Lewis- the current jr/yr coordinator. She mentioned that there are lots of opportunities for youth through USDF; and TDF grants. This year we have two riders qualified for the NAYC YR Championships and no junior riders for the Juniors championships. This year qualifying scores were raised. Last year our region won a gold medal in Juniors. When regions don't have four riders qualified for championship classes they are blended with another region. The youth do their fundraising and have their own regional fund.

There was no TD report from Carolyn VandenBerg.

Bess gave a report on the Region 9 HPOY for her. Carolyn wants to have special activities for prior HPOYs at the championships. Hopefully they can gather in the arena club for a reception before the Saturday dinner. She is asking for sponsorship money. If you want to nominate a 2023 HOY it needs to be in soon.

Leslie Rohrer for the Membership committee was not present and Bess gave her report. The National Committee has been disbanded. Leslie wants feedback on how to help grow regional membership. Bess passed out papers to fill out. Leslie wants honest feedback.

Nominating chair, Alicia Daniels, couldn't come to the meeting. Bess announced the 6 PM delegates. Bess reminded that GMOs need to send the form to USDF stating their GM delegates. GMO Presidents can designate a proxy. We need to have 100% representation.

Arlene Gaitan was not present. Bess led a discussion of the possibility of having a Kat Kyle memorial. Kat, passed away Dec 2022. She was a former Region 9 Director, and served on national and regional committees. ADA and Region 9 hopes to donate something to TDF in her name. Tabled until Dec meeting.

We then gave time for GMOs to discussions speaking about what they are doing. A large number of GMO reports are posted on the website.

Marilyn Kulifay gave the SEDA report. They offer family memberships. They offer eventing shows and two recognized dressage shows. These are listed on website.

The DDC report was discussed by Becky Brown aided by Barbara Lewis. They have three recognized shows and three schooling shows each year. Most of the schooling shows are two-day shows. They are going to have another freestyle

clinic in 2024. Becky Brown said that DDC gave out scholarships. Usually, they give out \$10,000. These cover amateurs, professionals, and juniors.

Angie Hughes gave the NETXDC report. They have a core group of driving dressage, in addition to beginning riders. They have youth and vintage awards at their shows. They now have four schooling shows which include Lead Line classes. They pay a person to produce their website.

Jane Holman gave the HDS report. She said that the club was mainly a horse show producer rather than education or social.

We then had a discussion of FWDC by Barbara Harty. She said that they offer Western dressage in their schooling shows. They continue to offer a camp. They get educational grants to keep the expenses down. You need to volunteer to get in the camp.

Lynne Smith gave the report on CTDS, which is 43 years old this year. They have 3,161 followers on Facebook. They produce six schooling shows a year and a 2-day symposium. They have one recognized show a year. They produce a Free member clinic a year. This year they had a Quadrille clinic. CTDS is hosting an L program part one offering A, B, C. At their schooling shows they have a class where you can do whatever you want in the arena for 5 minutes. They use Wild apricot for their membership hosting site and Sign Up Genius for volunteers.

Donna Meyer spoke about BACH. She announced that their membership is waning.

Bess announced that ADU is not communicating with her.

Alamo did not come to the meeting. They say that they had a successful year. Their organization/show was 50 years old this year. It was started as a Texas Dressage Society.

Bess gave the Omnibus report. The Omnibus 2023 made almost \$7000. Deadline for advertising in the 2024 omnibus is August 25th. They have not gone up on the rates in several years.

This year USDF Convention is in Omaha, Neb. USDF is celebrating 50 years.

The 2024 convention will be in Houston. We will discuss our hosting at our December meeting. Such as how much money we will give to help. Our December meeting will be Thursday after noon, during the convention. We will probably have a zoom meeting 2 weeks before the convention.

We then voted on this year's T shirt design.

Bess also mentioned that the USDF is looking for old photos.

We then decided that our next summer meeting will be the July 20, 2024. Bess is looking for a host GMO.

We announced the silent auction winners.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by Sarah Jane Martin, Secretary