

The November 13, 2025 zoom meeting of USDF Region 9 was called to order at 6:30 pm by R9 Director, Bess Bruton. Attendees included Betty Beebe, Alecia Daniel, Jody DeStefanis, Arlene Gaitan, Barbara Harty, Virginia Johnson, Barbara Lewis, Marsha Lewis, Karin Loftin, Sarah Jane Martin, Donna Meyer, Nicole Miller, Marsha Murray, Leslie Rohrer, Simone van der Schalk, Carolyn VandeBerg, Sandy Venneman, Vera Muckleroy.

Bess announced that Barbara Lewis was the 2025 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year. This was presented at the October Championships. She also announced that Sarah Jane Martin would receive the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award at the USDF Annual Convention in December.

Bess shared that Carolyn Vandenberg recently gave up her technical delegate license and her place on the USDF National Regional Championship Committee and the TD committee. She has been a Licensed TD for forty years. Leslie Rohrer took over her place on the R9 - Regional Championship Committee and Christina Harmon took over her place on the R9 TD Committee.

Also Sarah Denham is the new TEA R9 board member. Meg Flemming has retired after many years of devoted service.

Bess announced that we have some new GMO presidents. Those include: Tri-State- Katie Jo Kitchings, Central Plains- Nora Wert, Alamo- Claire Oxley. Please let her know of any president changes.

The 2025 Participating Member delegates, Betty Beebe, Lauren Fisher, Arlene Gaitan, Christina Harmon, Barbara Richardson-Lewis, and Sarah Jane Martin, were announced. Alecia announced that R9 convention delegates are 100 % complete.

Betty Beebe moved and Arlene Gaitan seconded that we approve the 2025 R9 summer meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Yearly reports from the GMOs and regional board members are posted on the R9 website.

The 2026 summer meeting will be hosted by Alamo Dressage Association. It will probably be July 17,18,19 on the River Walk, in San Antonio, Tx. They are planning a Friday night dinner cruise and offering fun tours. The R9 meeting will be all day Saturday. With group lunch and dinner.

Marsha gave the Youth report. \$1200 was made on the Battle of the Barn baskets. The recent FEI Youth Clinic with Anne Gribbons went really well. She is looking for GMO's to host the Youth Outreach Clinics for 2026.

Bess gave a brief commercial for the regional e-news. Region 9 email goes out twice a month. One is from USDF where every USDF member can open and click on region 9 and one from Bess/Nicole. You can sign up for the one Nicole does.

Bess gave the T-shirt report. The winning design was from Alicia Schrodine. All except 3 sold at the championships and we will make close to \$800.

Arlene gave the Omnibus report. On ads we made \$9130. total gross. There were at least 10 books sold at the R9 Championships. The new history section will be continued in the 2027 Omnibus. Betty Beebe mailed out the free copies, and has books you can buy.

The 2 new incentives will continue for the 2027 Omnibus. The drawing for the winner of a free ad in the 2027 Omnibus will be at the R9 Dec. meeting.

Jody announced that the Regional Championship went great.

Sarah Jane gave the SWDC report. She is still looking for a younger apprentice to take over the Chairman job. She also announced that Nicole Miller will be taking over the SWDC website. She said that the SWDC volunteer check to HDS was a bit smaller than last year due to a decrease in qualifying fees. SWDC gave \$2155 in the 2025 competition year, and the 2024 competition year it was \$2550.

Alecia reminded the delegates not to be late for BOG and sign in with their credentials before it begins. Bess reminded everyone about the GMO baskets. Everyone has a chance to win a basket if they stay in the room during the drawings. She asked the GMOs to please donate baskets.

Betty Beebe then talked about clinics in the region. She reminded everyone to let Nicole Miller know dates so that they can be put in the e-news. Bess reminded us we have an educational grant for GMOs from Region 9.

Betty Beebe is new on the USDF Historical Recognition Committee. And ask us to think of members/ names/ bio who should be sent forward for USDF awards.

We discussed the 2025 USDF annual convention which will be 12/3 to 12/6 in downtown Lexington, KY. Bess said that items coming to the BOG include changing the numbers of people necessary in a GMO is a proposal lowering it from 8 to 3. This is the year Region 9 votes for a director, a new USDF V-P, and USDF Secretary.

The Regional meeting at the convention will be on Thursday 1-2:40 pm. Bess took a straw vote on who would like to order pizza. It was decided to wear a Region 9 T-Shirt at the convention on Thursday.

The BOG will take place on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. There will be a welcome party on Thursday night with an educational opportunity after. On Friday night there will be an attendee party. And Saturday is the Salute Gala.

There was an announcement that Ft Worth will host the World Cup on April 8-12 2026.

Both SEDA & DDC GMO's celebrate 50 years this year.

There is a new TDF/ USDF Educational Fundraiser...benefiting USDF educational programs.

Bess also referenced "Your Dressage"...asking members to send in photos/ articles.

Leslie moved for adjournment at 8:22 pm. Arlene seconded and the motion carried.