

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Reineman, TX

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

New to the **Region 9 Web site** is “**Mail Chimp**” – I send out a newsletter to over 350 members once a month using this web based email newsletter service. In addition to the new Mail Chimp newsletter, I send an Eblast newsletter out – thru the USDF office - once a month to all Region 9 members. The Region 9 Web site has also become our historical regional record. The regional meeting minutes, reports, and financials are now posted monthly, along with show and event calendars, and the Region 9 Omnibus in PDF form. Included is the Region 9 Policies & Procedures, which were revised this year. On the home page regional deadlines, regional award winners, and any up-to-date news is posted. All our forms and applications are now “online friendly”. Nicole Landrenau – the regional webmaster – is doing an awesome job with keeping the Web site updated so our members stay informed. The goal is an all inclusive Web site to benefit all our GMO's and members.

The **Region 9 Summer Meeting** in New Orleans, Louisiana was productive and fun. Thanks to Southern Eventing & Dressage Association for their work and support in making it a success. Regional and GMO reports, along with the summer meeting minutes, are posted on the Region 9 Web site. Our 2011 Summer Meeting will be in the Houston area – possibly Galveston, with Houston Dressage Society as host. These meetings are very important for our region's GMOs and members to get together, brainstorm, discuss, and plan the future of our region so dressage will continue to grow.

We are gearing up for a huge (record breaking number of riders/horses) **Region 9 GAIG /USDF/SWDC (4 day) Championship Show in Katy, Texas**. Kathy Jones, HDS, and the show committee have worked long hours planning and preparing. It is an arduous task to say the least. Over 100 volunteers (along with hopefully good weather) will help to make it a success.

The 15th edition of the **Region 9 2011 Omnibus** will be available by the end of November as a PDF on the Region 9 Web site, or for purchase as a printed book, CD, or flash drive. Thanks to Tess Wheat and Liz Grimsley for their patience and tireless work.

Since our region is financially stable, we offer grants for GMO's to help with dressage camps, judges, and instructor/trainer seminars. A couple of GMO's have already applied this year for the **Region 9 Educational Grant**. We also offer a **Region 9 GMO Board Travel Grant** to help a GMO send a member to either the regional summer meeting or the USDF Convention.

We are hopefully less than a year away from paying for the beautiful **Region 9 Bench** which proudly sits in the USDF National Education Center courtyard. It was viewed and set upon (a perfect photo op) by many Region 9 members during WEG in September.

Two major Regional Awards are given each year. In its 18th year is the **Region 9 Horse Person of the Year**. Evie Tumlin is the much deserved recipient for 2010. The **Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award**, in its 2nd year, goes to Paul Kathen for a job well done.

The **Region 9 FEI Jr/YR's** were busy fundraising this year. They pay for the entry fees and give each NAJYRC rider and the chef funds to help with NAJYRC travel expenses. A full team of four Jr's and four YR's were funded this year. They are busy planning the upcoming January 2011 FEI Jr/YR clinic with George Williams.

The **Dr. Bob Fund** awarded \$1000 to Jill Cowie and \$750 to Tara Gleason as the 2010 recipients. This award helps with the expenses of declared riders campaigning for NAJYRC.

A million thanks to Joan Darnell for guiding the Jr's and YR's, and being the Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Coordinator for the past six years. She is retiring as the coordinator in December due to work conflicts, but will be greatly missed.

Mary Wetzel is also retiring as our regional Youth Coordinator. She has given tirelessly, and with determined dedication over nine years of service to the youth of our region, and kept the fires and dressage desires burning for the future of our sport.

Our GMOs, shows, clinics, and members remain active despite the continued economic recession. There is a drop in attendance from 2009 in many shows, events, and clinics. GMO's and members are very careful where they spend their dollar, but we are still spreading the news about the benefits of dressage one person/horse at a time.

Thanks to all the regional board - (past coordinators) and regional committee chairs. Our regional board structure is changing for 2011 to closely follow the new USDF Committee Structure. Board appointments are made by January 1. We are in hopes it will benefit our members and make the business side of our region more effective and efficient.