

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Reineman, TX

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

The region and GMO's have a busy year planned...coming off a wonderful attendance for the 2010 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships & HDS Autumn Classic, held in Katy, Texas. A record number of horses and riders turned out for the event. It was the best championship ever, as weather was perfect, facilities were recently updated, arena footing was good, and management came together to hold a superb show.

We are hoping for the same success for the USDF Region 9 CDI 1*Y/J/P and HDS Spring Classic Open Show, to be held April 29 – May 1, 2011, in Katy, Texas. The Houston Dressage Society is hosting this CDI, in conjunction with its Spring Classic Open Show. Region 9 is the name sponsor for the CDI, and many others are stepping up to the plate to help with sponsorship. A lot of fun activities are planned for the competitors and spectators. The region is looking forward to a great show.

Houston Dressage Society is also gearing up for the 2011 Great American/ USDF Region 9 Championship at Katy in November.

A few seminars and symposiums that offer our members continuing education:

In January the Platinum Performance/USDF Region 9 Jr /YR Clinic with George Williams, held at Tex-Over Farm, in Conroe was outstanding. Despite the cold weather, the riders and auditors enjoyed a positive and educational presentation by George.

Alamo Dressage Association hosted an awesome East Meets West Equine Symposium, November 13-14, 2010, in San Antonio, at the Rose Palace, featuring Walter Zettl with Craig Johnson.

Austin Dressage Unlimited recently held a judges seminar with Maryal Barnett - Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills – What Judges are looking for in the New Tests. This is the second judge's seminar held by ADU, and both have been a roaring success, with over 70 attendees.

Oklahoma Dressage Society is holding a new test symposium with Lilo Fore in April, and USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshops in February, March, and May. They are also hosting the Youth & Adult Team Competition in June, three sessions of the "L Grad" Program this coming summer and fall, and a summer dressage camp.

Mississippi Eventing & Dressage Association is holding a June dressage camp for the seventh year in a row.

And scheduled in March is a USDF Instructors Certification Tests to be held at Diamond M, outside San Antonio.

The Region 9 Board has two new members: Elaine Hildreth is the newly appointed Region 9 "Public Relations" person. Anne Kuhns is now the Region 9 "Youth" board member and a member of the national "Youth Programs" Committee.

We are proud of the regional members that help by serving nationally. Several are new to serving on the USDF national committees:

Donna Meyer is now on two national committees – Awards and Adult Programs. Kathy Jones is on the Regional Championship Committee. Carolyn Vandenberg is on the TD Committee, Whit Watkins as the competitor representative on the Competitions Management Committee, and Marilyn Kulifay is now a member of the Judges Committee, Susan Howard a member of the Freestyle Committee, Jan Colley – Sport Horse Committee, Sherry Guess – the Membership Committee, and Vera Muckleroy on a I/T Subcommittee.

A new Region 9 fundraising working group, with Marilyn Kulifay, Susan Howard, and Arlene Gaitan has been formed.

And a new Adult Amateur working group of Paul Kathen, Arlene Gaitan, and Susan Howard is researching the needs of the adult amateurs in our region.

We want to thank Tess Wheat, who is stepping down, for her extensive work the last three years publishing the Region 9 Omnibus. She and Liz Grimsley's volunteerism and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Our new Region 9 FEI Jr/YR representative, Richard Howard, has started a Jr/YR group list, so emails can be sent out easily, providing information about upcoming deadlines and events. Several benefits are being planned for the Jr/YR's to help fund the cost of participating at the Jr/YR national championship this summer, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Three regional members are also serving on national working groups – Paul Kathen, Anna Burtell, and Bill Eash.

The Region 9 Web site continues to improve - offering banners for advertisers, a Region 9 Facebook page, and new pages (with photos) to help keep the regional members informed. Nicole, the webmaster, has also taken over the arduous job of sending out the monthly regional e-news using Mail Chimp. And she is the new Region 9 Historian.

The 2011 Omnibus 15th Anniversary Edition, with an unforgettable bright pink cover, is now available for purchase and as a PDF on the Region 9 Web site. Thanks to Sue Casey for her generous sponsorship of the new USEF & USDF Test pages.

PM Delegate nominees are signing up for upcoming elections. Six delegates will represent the participating members at the national convention, in San Diego in December. Later the GMO's will be sending in delegate proxies. Those delegates will represent their respective GMO members.

In 2010 Region 9 awarded several grants. The grants are made possible thru the Region 9 Omnibus advertisers and donations. Thanks for supporting our GMO's and the region!!!

Educational Grants:

Alamo Dressage Association - East Meets West Symposium - \$500.

Fort Worth Dressage Club - Fall Dressage Camp - \$500.

Houston Dressage Society - Freestyle Seminar - \$500.

GMO Travel Grants:

Mississippi Eventing & Dressage Association - for Molly Morrison - \$500.
Central Texas Dressage Association - for Jen Jarvis - \$500.

We have finally paid for the Region 9 Bench that proudly sits in the courtyard of the USDF National Education Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Thanks to all the Bench Fund donors over the last three years. It took the whole region with many contributors...below are those that gave \$200 or more.

GMO's:

Houston Dressage Society	Tri State Dressage Society;
Fort Worth Dressage Society	Dallas Dressage Club

Major individual contributors:

Laura Freeman	Bruce Lawrie	Kathryn Lubianshki
Kathy Jones	Kat Kyle	Evie Tumlin
Bess Reineman	Sally Chinosini	

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed thru The Dressage Foundation, is in its third year, with the nomination period now open until July 1. This prestigious award is gaining momentum, and more instructors are stepping up their skill level to be eligible.

Congrats to the following, in addition to the ones I recognized in the fall RD report, for their dedication and achievement:

2010 USDF Volunteer of the Year Award

Congrats to Sherry Guess – Sherry has been the chair of the GMO Council/Committee for many years. Though retired January 1 as the national chair...she will remain actively involved with her GMO – Oklahoma Dressage Society.

USDF Region 9 GMO Volunteer of the Year

Barbara Harty received this well deserved USDF award. She has been the president of Fort Worth Dressage Club for eight years, and newsletter editor, too. She manages shows, writes for grants, finds volunteers, and also volunteers her time to work other shows in the region.

Alltech FEI WEG Recognition & Accomplishment

Region 9 is very proud of: Jonathan Wentz – Para Equestrian Team and Individual Rider. And Kai Handt – Trainer and Coach of Jonathan, and Owner of NTEC Ritcher Scale – horse ridden by Jonathan at WEG. Their tireless pursuit of such an accomplishment is only the dream of others.

Two USEF ratings were awarded to Region 9 members in 2010: Donna Meyer, who recently received her USEF "r" Judges rating. And Marilyn Kulifay recently received her USEF "r" TD rating.

The Dressage Foundation recently published a list of its Century Club members. Region 9 is proud that seven riders have achieved this very extraordinary award.

Congrats to USDF Region 9 – Christy Sanantonio (LA) and her horse, Grenadier, as the 2010 recipients of The Dressage Foundation - Carol Lavell Gifted Scholarships for Adult Amateurs. She is a member of Southern Eventing & Dressage Association.

Read about regional events (including the Region 9 Summer /August Meeting in Galveston, Texas – Fun in the Sun), news, and award recipients, on the Region 9 Web site: www.usdregion9.org

It takes many volunteers giving hundreds of hours to keep our region running smoothly. Thanks to all for their time and dedication!!!