

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2017 Fall Executive Board Meeting, November 29 and December 2 Lexington, KY

Our 2017 Great American Insurance Group /USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships, Southwest Dressage Championships, and Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Autumn Classic was again held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. It is exciting to see the improvement in our riders, their horses, and their scores! We had 320 horses entered, which is particularly important since Hurricane Harvey delivered up to 50 inches of rain along the Texas and Louisiana coast just two weeks prior to the cut-off date for qualifying for the championships. We ended up losing four days of qualifying shows and our Southern Breeders Championship Series. Alamo Dressage Association's final show of the season was increased to three arenas to allow more competitors opportunities for late date qualifying. With the help of USDF and USEF, Fran Kehr, Kristi Wysocki and many accommodating officials, Marilyn Kulifay put together a 'pop up' show that was approved in four days, allowing two more days of showing and the breeders series to be held!

HDS also organized the Shoofly Farms CDI2*/1*/YH/Y/J/P/U-25 and HDS Spring Classics I and II held April 27-30, 2017. This was the seventh CDI HDS produced in our region. This CDI was the first in the US to offer the new FEI Young Horse Seven-Year-Old division and the FEI Children's division (12-14 year old riders on a horse or pony). Starting in 2016, the FEI expanded the Adult Amateur division through Grand Prix so HDS offered the full complement of classes for the Adult Amateurs. CDI prize money has increased to over \$15,000!

There were nineteen entries this year. This is down from last year primarily because there was only one Young Rider and no Juniors. Since the 2017 NAJYRC was held in upstate New York, most of the Region 9 riders did not plan on going because it is too far and, therefore, did not need to come to the CDI for qualifying. The good news is that the Open, Adult Amateur and Child divisions continue to grow.

We had top judges and stewards, including an FEI4* judge from New Zealand judging for the first time in the US. Mike Osinski, FEI4* from California, served as President of the Ground Jury for his first time in this position. An unspoken aspect of the Shoofly Farm CDI is that it provides opportunities and training for judges and other FEI officials who are seldom given the chance at the coastal CDIs.

Region 9 welcomed two new Group Member Organizations (GMOs) this year: Central Plains Dressage Society in Oklahoma and Memphis Area Dressage and Eventing Society in Mississippi.

Once again, a Region 9 youth was selected to be the USDF candidate for the US Equestrian's Youth Sportsman Award. Jackson LaTorre, 16 years old, from the Alamo Dressage Association impressed all with his riding and humanitarian efforts.

Started in 1993 to recognize those who have provided outstanding service to our region, the 2017 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year went to Barbara Harty for her drive to advance dressage in our region. During her years as president of Fort Worth Dressage Club, Barb has been recognized for her enthusiasm, professionalism and ability to

inspire others to enjoy the volunteer experience. Her group continues to bring several volunteers to the championships in Houston, provide a recognized show, and support other Region 9 activities.

Martin Arnold was selected to receive the Teaching Excellence Award, which is managed by The Dressage Foundation. Established by Meg Flemming, this is the eighth year this award has been presented. The recipient is awarded \$5,000 for their unique contribution to the sport of dressage.

Education continues to be a strong focus for our region. Each GMO has produced a variety of educational offerings, schooling shows, and recognized shows. In addition, the Region 9 Education Fund has financially helped our GMOs produce their events. Grants are awarded up to \$500 to help support education for our members.

Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship hosted our Region 9 summer meeting August 1, 2017, in College Station, TX. During the meeting, Nicole Miller's design was selected from the many submitted by talented Region 9 members to be placed on the 2017 Region 9 Championship t-shirt. These shirts are sold as a fundraiser for the region. Half of the profit will be given to a Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund.

The Region 9 Omnibus celebrates its 22nd year of publication in 2017. Arlene Gaitan and Veronica Moody head this endeavor. The USDF, USEF and FEI tests will be a part of our Omnibus. We appreciate all our advertisers, who continue to make it possible to underwrite activities in our region. The Omnibus will also be available for free viewing on our Region 9 website.

We are fortunate that Nicole Miller continues to serve as our webmaster. She also sends out news blasts to all members and serves as historian.

We have filled all of our six delegate positions.

It takes many volunteers giving hundreds of hours to keep our region running smoothly. Thank you to all for your time and dedication.