

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2017 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 21 Lexington, KY

Our 2016 GAIG/USDF Regional Dressage Championships for Region 9, Southwest Dressage Championship and HDS Autumn Classic was again held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. Hosted by Houston Dressage Society, attendance continues to be substantial.

Houston Dressage Society (HDS) is also planning for the CDI2*/ CDI1*/ CDIY/ J/ P/ CH/ Am/ CDIU-25/ CDIYH and Houston Dressage Society Spring Classics I and II to be held April 27-30, 2017 at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. This will be the eighth CDI HDS has produced for our region and interest continues to build. This will be the fifth year for Shoofly Farm to be the named sponsor. The CDICH (FEI Children Division) will again be offered in the CDI and is a qualifier for the new 2017 USEF FEI Children Dressage Division national championship.

Region 9 GMOs have begun offering educational events throughout the region:

- HDS has already begun its second year of the FEI Training Series with Conrad Schumacher. Their goal is to improve the abilities and scores of FEI riders in Region 9.
- Central Texas Dressage Society will offer an educational symposium with Betsy Steiner on June 2-4, 2017 in Hutto, TX. The twice daily lectures and demonstration rides will focus on the correct development of the horse, rider position, and rider fitness.

There are several opportunities for judge's education in our region this year.

- Dallas Dressage Club again hosted a freestyle judging seminar with Joan Darnell on February 24, 2017.
- Austin Dressage Unlimited's 7th Annual "Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills" featured retiring FEI 5* International Judge Lilo Fore. It was held February 18-19, 2017 at the Southwest University campus in Georgetown, TX.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society will host "The Judge's Perspective: Training for Riding a Dressage Test" with William Lee Tubman on April 8-9, 2017 at the Tulsa Expo in Oklahoma.
- Elisabeth Clifton is again offering Part 1 of the USDF L Program at the Mid-South Dressage Academy in Hernando, MS.
- Central Texas Dressage Society will also offer Part 1 of the USDF L Program in Bastrop, TX.

Region 9 Jr/YR Coordinator Kathy Jones has already set up our Jr/YR Clinic featuring Jeremy Steinberg. It will be held April 15-16, 2017 at Fran Kehr's Windy Knoll Farm in Magnolia, TX.

Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship will host our Region 9 summer meeting on August 5, 2017 in College Station, TX.

There have been three additions to our Region 9 Board of Directors this year. Cecelia Cox of Austin Dressage Association will serve on the Awards Committee, Leslie Rohrer of HDS will join the Membership Committee and Regina Milliken will serve on the Sport

Horse Committee. We are grateful to those who continue to serve throughout the year and appreciate the years of service from those who have served in the past.

Our FEI Jr/YR team of Kathy Jones as coordinator and Benny Pfabe as chef d'equipe will shepherd our team to the championship in Saugerties, NY.

The 2017 Omnibus 20th Edition is now available for purchase, as well as free for viewing on the Region 9 website. Thanks again to Sue Malone-Casey for her generous sponsorship. Our omnibus team of Arlene Gaitan, Veronica Moody, and Nettie Olsen are to be thanked for their considerable time investment in this endeavor. Our omnibus provides funding for the Region 9 education grants to our GMOs and helps support Region 9 board members in travel to the Region 9 summer meeting and the USDF convention.

The 2016 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year was Leslie Rohrer. Her dedication to improving the shows and riders of Region 9 has been demonstrated throughout the years as she has continued improving and updating our region's only CDI and leading HDS into new avenues of educational endeavors.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed through The Dressage Foundation, is in its ninth year. Yvonne Kusserow of Rocking M Stables in Dallas was the 2016 recipient of this award. As a result of her innovative teaching and consistent drive to improve the education of her students, she will receive \$5,000 from The Dressage Foundation fund to pursue her own dressage goals.

The Region 9 website continues to improve, offering banners for advertisers, and a Region 9 Facebook page, with new pages (with photos) to help keep the regional members informed. Nicole Landreneau, our webmaster, sends out the monthly regional e-news using Mail Chimp. She is also the Region 9 Historian.

Region 9 has a unique addition to the regional website. This addition is a way for instructors who continue to keep up with their education to get recognition, even if not certified. Also, this addition will be a way for clients to see which instructors might best be able to help them by the courses attended. Check out the Region 9 website for more information. Thanks to Vera Muckleroy, Region 9 Instructor/Trainer Committee member, for thinking of, and implementing this program.

Read about regional events, news, and award opportunities on the Region 9 website:
www.usdfregion9.org

Thank you to all our Region 9 committee members, sponsors, organizers and GMO participants for providing educational opportunities and the southern hospitality that makes Region 9 special to all of us.