

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2018 Fall Executive Board Meeting, November 28 and December 1 Salt Lake City, UT

Our 2018 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Dressage Championship, Southwest Dressage Championship, and Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Autumn Classic were 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 380 horses entered, up 40 from 2017 when Hurricane Harvey swept through, devastating the southern portion of our region with more than 50 inches of rain. We had 43 more exhibitors than last year and 1273 rides this year compared to 956 last year.

HDS also organized the Shoofly Farms CDI2*/1*/YH/Y/J/P/U-25 and Houston Dressage Society Spring Classics I and II held April 27-29, 2018. This was the eighth CDI HDS produced in our Region and 22 competitors were entered, some with two horses. 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!

The Region 9 Board issued a \$5,000 challenge to the GMOs for matching funds. Alamo Dressage Society, Dallas Dressage Club, Fort Worth Dressage Club, and Oklahoma Dressage Society all responded with the result that for the first time the CDI finished in the black.

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.

We were particularly excited to be able to financially support two Para-riders going to the FEI World Equestrian Games! Roxanne Trunnel and reserve Katie Jackson proudly represented Region 9 at this event.

2018 marks the 30th year for our Southwest Dressage Championships. Generally held in conjunction with the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships, they actually pre-date them!

Both of the GMOs established last year, Central Plains Dressage Society in Oklahoma and Memphis Area Dressage and Eventing Society in Mississippi, are still flourishing and bringing activities and education to their areas. They bring the total GMOs in our region to fourteen.

Started in 1993 to recognize those who have provided outstanding service to our region, the 2018 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year went to Carolyn VandenBerg for her drive to advance dressage in our region.

Although the recipient was unknown at the time of the report, each year a trainer is 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. Unique to Region 9, the recipient is awarded \$5,000 for their educational 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. Two of our GMOs utilized the USDF National Education Initiative funds to defray expenses of clinics. Oklahoma Dressage Society utilized the fund to subsidize a mounted and dismounted pilates clinic with Janice Dulak while Tri-State Dressage Society held a mounted clinic.

Fort Worth Dressage Society hosted our Region 9 summer meeting August 4, 2018, in Fort Worth, TX at the Cowgirl Museum. During the meeting, Nicole Miller's design was selected from the many submissions of talented Region 9 members to be placed on the 2018 Region 9 Championship T-shirt. These shirts are sold as a fundraiser for the region. HDS will host our 2019 summer meeting.

The Region 9 Omnibus celebrates its 23rd year of publication in 2019. Arlene Gaitan and Veronica Moody head this endeavor. The USDF, USEF and FEI tests will be a part of our Omnibus. We appreciate all of 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, as well as monitors our Facebook page.

Our six USDF delegates for the 2018 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention are Tracy Augustine, Jan Colley, Arlene Gaitan, Marilyn Kulifay, Kathryn Kyle, and Sarah Jane Martin.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Guess

USDF Region 9 Director