

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2018 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 18 Lexington, KY

Our 2017 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships and Southwest Dressage Championship and HDS Autumn Classic were 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 26-29, 2018 at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. This will be the ninth CDI HDS has produced for our region and interest continues to build. This will be the sixth year for Shoofly Farm to be the named sponsor and we greatly appreciate their support. The DICH (FEI Children Division) will again be offered in the CDI and is a qualifier for the new USEF FEI Children Dressage Division National Championship.

Due to the financial burden borne by HDS, the Region 9 Board voted to issue a \$5,000 challenge. The region will provide matching amounts up to \$5,000 for any donations from GMOs or individuals to the CDI.

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

- Austin Dressage Unlimited began their year with a Global Dressage Education event with Gary Rockwell in Florida where their headsets allowed them to hear his ongoing commentary on the tests they were watching. They continued with a Breeding Seminar and Riding Clinic with Bert Rutten from Holland and April will bring a Bo Jenna Dressage Clinic.
- Central Texas Dressage Society will offer an educational symposium with Betsy Steiner on June 2-4, 2018, in Hutto, TX. The twice daily lectures and demonstration rides will focus on the correct development of the horse, rider position, and rider fitness.
- HDS has already begun its third year of the FEI Training Series with Conrad Schumacher. Their goal is to improve the abilities and scores of FEI riders in Region 9. They have included an additional day of instruction for national level horses.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society is bringing Anne Gribbons to deliver a two-day symposium on the "Use of Exercises and Movements in the Progression of Training".

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

- Austin Dressage Unlimited began the year with Gary Rockwell in Florida and will end it back in Georgetown, TX with Stephen Clarke.
- Elisabeth Clifton is again offering Part 1 of the USDF L Education Program at the Mid-South Dressage Academy in Hernando, MS.
- Central Texas Dressage Society will also offer Part 1 of the USDF L Education Program in Bastrop, TX.

Congratulations to our three new L Education Program graduates: Becky Brown*, Jamie Lawrence*, Danielle Stout.

The 2018 USDF Youth/Young Adult Dressage Sport Horse Breeders Seminar will be held June 23-24, 2018 at Oak Hill Ranch in Folsom, LA. Oak Hill is well known for its breeding program.

Our new Region 9 Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Coordinator, Tracy Augustine, has been hard at work with fundraising and organizing the Jr/YR Clinic. Tracy and Benny Pfabe as chef d' equipe will shepherd our FEI Jr/YR team to the championship in Saugerties, NY.

Fort Worth Dressage Society will host our Region 9 summer meeting on August 4, 2018 in Fort Worth, TX.

Most of our Region 9 Board members will be continuing to serve this year. We are grateful for the time they invest in serving our region. Tracy Augustine came on board this year as our Jr/YR coordinator, replacing Kathy Jones.

The 2018 Omnibus 22nd Edition is now available for purchase, as well as free for viewing on the Region 9 website. 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 2017 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year was Barbara Harty from Fort Worth Dressage Society (FWDS). Her dedication to improving the shows and riders of Region 9 has been demonstrated throughout the years as she has continued providing shows and events for riders throughout the region. Through her leadership, the FWDS volunteers continue to serve far from their home territory.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed through The Dressage Foundation, is in its tenth year. Martin Arnold of Concordia Dressage in Coupland, TX, was the 2017 recipient of this award. As a result of his innovative teaching and consistent drive to improve the education of his students, he will receive \$5,000 from The Dressage Foundation fund to pursue his 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 eNews 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 for thinking of, and implementing, this program.

Read about regional events, news, and awards 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.