

## Region 9 Report

**Director:** Sherry Guess, OK

### ***2019 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 18 – 19 Lexington, KY***

Our 2018 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championship and Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Autumn Classic was again held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. Hosted by HDS, 2018 had our largest number of horses entered.

HDS is also planning for the CDI2\*/CDI1\*/CDIY/J/P/CH/Am/CDIU-25/CDIYH and HDS Spring Classics I and II to be held April 25-28, 2019 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. Tex-Over Farm is the new sponsor for this event. The CDICH (FEI Children Division) will again be offered in the CDI and is a qualifier for the new 2019 USEF FEI Children Dressage Division National Championship.

This year, the CDI (international show with FEI rules) is one of fewer than 25 in the US and the only CDI between the east and west coasts. Typically, half of the competitors are "first time" CDI riders. The show gives our riders a chance to compete at a CDI without incurring significant travel expense and at a familiar venue.

The Region 9 Board of Directors voted to issue a \$5,000 challenge to help support this important regional event. GMOs and individuals, in addition to the sponsors and advertisers, raised enough money that 2018 was the first year the CDI was not in the red.

Here are some of the show highlights this year:

- Welcome new CDI title sponsor, Tex-Over Farms of Conroe, TX. HDS looks forward to a strong partnership with Tex-Over while at the same time thanking Shoofly Farm for their many years of CDI support. Shoofly Farm is "retired" but not forgotten!
- The show theme is "X Marks the Spot." The theme translates to pirate treasure and FUN. There will be a treasure hunt and stall decorating contest, among other things. Pirate garb is encouraged.
- The welcome party will be Friday night; there will be a Saturday dinner banquet with entertainment and a silent auction.

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

- 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.
- Other GMOs have been bringing in clinicians such as Allison Brock, Arthur Kottas, Bert Ruttan, Betsy Steiner, Jeremy Steinberg, Christine Traurig, Mary Wanless, and George Williams.

The Region 9 Education Fund is offered to GMOs to provide up to \$500 assistance, if needed, to produce educational events they might not feel financially capable of handling. Applications so far include:

- Central Texas Dressage Society's April 5-7, 2019, Symposium with Lauren Sprieser at Cadence Ranch, in Hutto, TX.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society's April 6-7, 2019, Symposium with Christine Traurig at the Tulsa Expo, in Tulsa, OK.

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 9, 2019. Attendees traveled from as far as Pennsylvania and California to attend.
- Austin Dressage Unlimited's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills was held last fall and featured a riding clinic with Stephen Clarke, rather than their unmounted event held in past years.
- Central Texas Dressage Society will offer Part D2 of the USDF L Education Program in Glen Rose, TX at the FWDC Cowtown Dressage I and II on March 23-24, 2019. The final exam will be held September 7-8, 2019 at the GSEC Platinum I and II in Katy, TX. Scribes are always needed for this final testing.

HDS will host our Region 9 summer meeting on August 3, 2019, at Haras in Magnolia, TX.

There have been no additions to our Regional Board of Directors this year. 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, with Tracy Augustine as coordinator and Benny Pfabe as chef d'equipe, will shepherd our team to the championships, again being held in Saugerties, NY. The Jr/YR clinic will be held May 4-5, 2019 in Pilot Point, TX. Lyndon Rife has generously donated the use of his facility for this clinic. George Williams will be the clinician.

The 2019 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 2018 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year was Carolyn VandenBerg. Her dedication to improving the shows and riders of Region 9 has been demonstrated throughout the years. She has represented our region on several USDF committees, as well as on the USDF Executive Board. She continues to support the shows and clubs in the Austin area. She also serves as chair of the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year committee. This year her committee told her they felt no one was qualified for the award – in order to surprise her with this title in recognition of her years of volunteer work for the region.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed through The Dressage Foundation, is in its eleventh year. Marie Morgan was the 2018 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.

This year two Region 9 members were selected to be recipients of The Dressage Foundation's Gifted Fund. Both are from Oklahoma: Annie Houchin from Tulsa and Nancy Trait-Lira from Harrah.

Kai Handt has retired as chef d'equipe for the FEI Para Dressage, but his North Texas Equestrian Center will continue to be a hub for Para education.

Alamo Dressage Association had suffered the fate of many GMOs in the area; that of losing their primary recognized show facility when the Rose Palace in Austin announced they were closing. Unlike others who have faced this dilemma, their facility was re-opened under new management. It continues to be difficult to find facilities with open dates at which to hold our shows.

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 Miller, 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 Mucklero for thinking of, and implementing this program.

Read about regional events, news, and award opportunities on the Region 9 website:  
[www.usdfregion9.org](http://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.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Guess  
USDF Region 9 Director