

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2020 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 2 – 6

It's difficult to write a report this year. Having to cancel so many shows, our CDI, and most of our educational events was discouraging. But, watching the GMOs regroup and coordinate their new show dates after June was heartwarming.

Our show managers and facilities were very proactive in observing all USDF and USEF safety requirements. With everyone working together, we were able to have enough show dates so that those wanting to qualify for championships had plenty of opportunities.

The 2020 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships, Southwest Dressage Championships, and Houston Dressage Society Autumn Classic were again held in Katy, TX. Even with all the difficulties this year, we were only down a few horses from last year. Again, the proximity of the Region 4 championships to the northern part of our region pulled a number of riders/instructors away who might normally attend.

Although the North American Youth Championships was cancelled, our new coordinator, Becky Brown, has kept the riders motivated and several competed at the Festival of Champions. They have continued to have fundraisers, some even online. The Jr/YR clinic initially scheduled had to be cancelled, but they are back on track for one coming up.

Also encouraging is that all thirteen of our GMOs remain viable and are planning shows and educational events for next year.

Our Region 9 summer meeting was held on Zoom this year on August 1. More than 30 people attended, many of whom had not been able to attend before. During the meeting, a design by Olva Stewart Pharo was selected for the 2020 Region 9 t-shirt. We also decided to sell masks with the Region 9 logo on them.

The Region 9 Omnibus is in its 25th year of printing in 2020. Nicole Miller, Arlene Gaitan, and Sherry Guess head this endeavor. We appreciate our advertisers and will mention them each month in our e-blasts. The Omnibus is available for free on our website.

Nicole Miller was the 2020 recipient of the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year award! Started in 1993, this award recognizes those who have provided outstanding service to the region.

Leslie Morris was selected to receive the Teaching Excellence Award, managed for Region 9 by The Dressage Foundation. Unique to Region 9, the recipient is awarded \$5000 for their educational contribution to the sport of dressage.

As always, thanks go to the Region 9 Board members who give so freely of their time and keep everything running smoothly. Our GMO Presidents and their clubs deserve praise for continuing to come up with innovative ways to provide education and competitive

opportunities. Thank you to all the volunteers who work to provide service, creative ideas, and keep everyone in good spirits while planning for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Guess
USDF Region 9 Director