

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2021 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 1 – 4

2021 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Championships

Our 2021 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 & Southwest Dressage Championships and Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Autumn Class was again held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. HDS, the staff, and volunteers did a great job.

As always, we look forward to seeing the improvement in our riders, their horses, and their scores! We had 335 exhibitors and 1,122 rides this year. We were excited that the “Battles of the Barns” silent auction, benefitting the Region 9 Jr/YRs, was able to return to its traditional format at our championships show. We had our usual stall decorating contests, the popular daily horseshoe hunt, and the new axe throwing! Happily we were also able to hold our awards banquet this year.

CDI

HDS also organized the Tex-Over Farms CDI 2* and HDS Spring Classics I and II at Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX on April 29-May 2, 2021. This was our largest CDI to date, with 29 total entries, many of them 'first-timers'.

This was the tenth year HDS has provided a CDI and \$16,450 in CDI prize money was claimed! Sadly, we were unable to hold this show in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. An unspoken aspect of the Tex-Over Farm CDI is that it provides opportunities and training for judges and other FEI officials who are seldom given a chance at the coastal CDIs. This is the only show of this type in the Midwest and our members' support is what allows them to continue to be held.

GMOs

We currently have thirteen GMOs. We had four new presidents joining them, which also meant four retired. Jim Humphreys for Alamo Dressage Association, Emily Mullins for Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship, Kathy Maxwell for Central Plains Dressage Society, and Angie Hughes for Northeast Texas Dressage Club are our new faces. This is the first time we've had so many new people as presidents and it's exciting to have all this new blood joining us!

Sadly, we say goodbye to Arlene Gaitan, Julie Brown, Chris Cashel and Denise Fowler. We thank them for all their hard work and for finding such qualified people to head their GMOs.

Region 9 Horse Person of the Year

Begun in 1993 to recognize those who have provided outstanding service to our region, the 2021 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year Award went to Arlene Gaitan, for her drive to advance dressage in our region. Arlene served as president of Alamo Dressage Association for many years, leading the organization of their shows, many educational events and several L program sessions. She also served as editor of the Omnibus for five years and now manages its advertising.

Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award

Alex du Celliee Muller was selected to receive the Teaching Excellence Award, which is managed by The Dressage Foundation. Established by Meg Flemming, with help from

Bess Bruton, this is the thirteenth 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 and their teaching ability.

Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund

Also unique to Region 9, we offer the Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund managed by The Dressage Foundation. Evie was an integral part of promoting dressage for 40 years. Its goal is to provide financial assistance to Adult Amateur riders of Region 9 to aid in their dressage development. Grants range in the amount of \$250-\$750 to be used for educational experiences.

Educational Events

COVID-19 has limited the number of educational events in our region this past year. The Region 9 Education Fund awards up to \$500 to help support the GMOs providing education for their members. Alamo Dressage Association offered a "Taste of the L Program" featuring Kathy Rowse in three one-hour Zoom sessions. Dallas Dressage Club provided a freestyle clinic with Joan Darnell and Oklahoma Dressage Society offered a judging seminar weekend with Dolly Hannon. USDF also provided a mini-clinic June 11-13 in Houston, TX for recognized judge education.

Region 9 Junior/Young Riders

Becky Brown is serving her second year as the Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) coordinator and has been very actively raising funds for the Jr/YR fund.

Becky and her assistant Inez Campbell have established new activities for the youth, such as a newsletter specifically for them. They also began organizing Lendon Gray's Dressage4Kids (D4K) that will hopefully stimulate more young people to move into the North American Young Championships (NAYC) program. Three D4K events were held this year:

- May 15-16 at Proud Meadows, Waxahachie, TX
- June 26-27 at Rolling Ridge Stables, Manor, TX
- September 25-26 at Tex-Over Farms, Conroe, TX

We gratefully thank the facility owners Jeanene Will, Jennifer Riggs, and Paul Kathen for making their farms available for this.

The 2021 NAYC was held August 9-15 in Traverse City, MI. Benny Pfabe who has served as chef d'equipe since 2016, was awarded the Patsy Albers Award for his dedication, enthusiasm, and ability to keep the best interests of his team in the forefront.

Junior team members were Madison Waller on Diablo DC, Savana Garvey on Don Larson, Isabella Fielder on Conan Star (owned by Mystere Moyes), and Zainab Shah on Dr. Schiwago 9. Young Rider team members were Sarah Evans on Carzanola (owned by Nancy Hinz), Sydney Lipar on Kerzkonig, and Olivia Patton on Lorino.

Savana Garvey was selected to be the USDF nominee for the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award. The USEF Youth Sportsman's Award was designed to develop leaders in the equine industry from all breeds and disciplines. Since its inception in 2010, Region 9 has had four youth selected for this honor: 2013 - Anna Campbell, 2014 - Jessica Fan, 2017 - Jackson LaTorre. More than any other region.

Labor Day weekend, September 4-5, Proud Meadows in Waxahachie hosted the USDF 2021 Jr/YR clinic with clinician George Williams. A first-class facility with first-class instruction!

There were riders from the far corners of our region. What a wonderful opportunity to build a stronger region. Those attending from Arkansas were Addy Batcheller on Panic at the Disco and Aislin Falasco on Unscripted. Daniel Patterson on Shatner drove from Olive Branch, MS. Those from Texas were Flavie LeMenor on Cartwheels Belle Star, Tegan Pedigo on Cantor, Emma Claire Stephens on De Nouvelle Vie, Lucero Limones on Dafour and Lauren Vega on Wrocket.

Regional Business

Our Region 9 summer meeting was held August 7 on Zoom, with more than 22 members attending.

The t-shirt design submitted by Nicole Miller was selected to be placed on the 2021 Region 9 t-shirts. The shirts are then sold as a fundraiser for the region. Purchasers may pay to have them mailed, or they may be picked up at the regional championship show.

The Region 9 Omnibus celebrated its 26th year of publication in 2021. Nicole Miller was editor, and Arlene Gaitan headed up advertising. Bess Bruton and Sherry Guess helped proofread the copy. In addition to regional information, all recognized shows, GMOs, and the USDF, USEF and FEI tests, are a part of the booklet. We appreciate our advertisers, who continue to make it possible to underwrite activities in our region. Full page advertisers are listed on our monthly e-blasts, as well as on our website. The Omnibus is also available for free viewing on our Region 9 website.

We are fortunate that the knowledgeable Nicole Miller continues to serve as our webmaster. She also sends out e-news blasts to all members, serves as historian and monitors our Facebook page.

Our six USDF PM delegates for the 2021 convention will be Betty Beebe, Elizabeth Clifton, Arlene Gaitan, Marilyn Kulifay, Sarah Jane Martin, and Sandy Venneman.

Our Region Director since 2014, Sherry Guess, resigned due to family obligations, and I have stepped in as Interim Director. A special election will be held at the 2021 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention to affirm me in this position.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Bruton
USDF Region 9 Director