

Region 9 Report

Director: Sherry Guess, OK

2021 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 27 and 28

Region 9 survived COVID-19, as well as a brutal winter with early rain and more snow and sleet than usual, and many days with temperatures below zero. Definitely not our normal weather. Many of our state governors have lifted restrictions throughout the region, but our GMOs and all shows are still adhering closely to all USDF and USEF regulations.

The Tex-Over Farm CDI 2* and Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Spring Classic I & II will be held at Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX on April 29-May 2, 2021. This will be the tenth CDI HDS has produced for our region (it was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19) and \$16,450 in CDI prize money is being offered!

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, plus the comfort of a familiar venue. Although regulations are limiting the events that normally highlight this show, with a theme of Springtime in Paris, HDS is promising several socially distanced fun activities.

We are extremely proud to be the only USDF Region that offers a CDI that isn't on one of the coasts, and the continued support of our GMOs sustains this effort.

We have four new GMO presidents this year, our largest incoming group ever. 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 people. It's exciting to have all this new blood joining us, which means we say goodbye to Arlene Gaitan, Julie Brown, Chris Cashel, and Denise Fowler. Thanks to all our outgoing presidents for their hard work and for finding new talent to head their GMOs.

Last year, our Region 9 summer meeting was attended by 38 members, which is more than are usually able to attend. The decision was made to again hold our August 7, 2021 summer meeting by Zoom. Perhaps in the following years we will be able to hold our meeting in-person with Zoom available for those who don't wish to travel. The additional participation makes this an extremely attractive idea.

Educational events were curtailed last year, but are already lined up for this year.

Musical freestyle education and clinics seem to be popular. Dallas Dressage Club has already hosted a freestyle judging seminar with Joan Darnell on February 6, 2021. Oklahoma Dressage Society had to reschedule their freestyle judging seminar with Dolly Hannon due to temperatures below zero! The new date is set for April 24-25, 2021. Tri-State Dressage Society will be holding a musical freestyle clinic with Cynthia Collins of Luna Tunes on May 7-9, 2021.

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 are available on our website.

Most of our GMOs have found ways to utilize Zoom to provide a multitude of educational opportunities for their members and are now back to bringing in clinicians.

Our Region 9 Jr/YR coordinator, Becky Brown, assisted by Inez Campbell (a former Jr/YR coordinator) have been extremely active. They were able to hold a clinic with George Williams last year and have another scheduled for September 4-5, 2021, again with George. They have organized several fundraising events and have established a new Jr/YR newsletter. They are also on Instagram at region9_jryr. In hopes of involving more youth and growing their base, they are soliciting names of those interested in attending a Lendon Gray's Dressage 4 Kids Clinic.

Our shows are back in full swing, with all the regulars in place for this year. Additionally, Central Texas Dressage Society has returned with their Bluebonnet I & II on May 15-16 at the new Williamson County Expo in Taylor, TX. Another new show has been added by Oklahoma Dressage Society (ODS). ODS Summer Show I & II at the Shawnee Expo in Shawnee, OK on August 21-22.

Schooling shows are extremely popular, with many adding eventing tests and western classes. With so many of these being video shows last year, it's exciting to return to in-person showing.

With the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention scheduled for Houston this year, we are already making plans for a big Region 9 "Welcome"! Let's hope restrictions are sufficiently lifted that way we can have lots of participation and fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Guess
USDF Region 9 Director