

## Region 9 Report

**Director:** Bess Bruton, TX

### ***2023 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 6-7 Omaha, NE***

Spring seems to have come early to Region 9, at least the trees and flowers are believing it has already arrived.

Shows, clinics, and seminars are all off to a great start. The GMOs are busy planning and holding educational events for their members.

Two major seminars geared toward judges, but beneficial for all, were held in February. Alamo Dressage Association held an "Improve your Judging Eye" dressage through the levels seminar with Cesar Torrente. Dallas Dressage Club held a freestyle seminar with Joan Darnell.

Oklahoma Dressage Society is holding the L Education Program Part 2, sessions D1, D2, and final exam. The sessions start in April, with the final exam held in August.

Besides seminars and clinics, over 30 recognized shows are scheduled for the year, and each GMO is offering schooling shows. There are lots of opportunities for riders new to dressage and for seasoned veterans.

Our region is fortunate to have a CDI. The Houston Dressage Society (HDS) CDI2/1/Am/YH/Y/J/P/CH and HDS Spring Classic show is April 27-30, at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, TX. This is a wonderful opportunity for riders in the middle of the country.

The Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships, Southwest Dressage Championships, and HDS Autumn Classic is scheduled for October 5-8, in Katy, TX. Thanks to the hard work of HDS and volunteers from across the region, as well as the riders and their support group. All come together to continue making this a successful show.

Our region has nineteen regional board chair positions, with several individuals serving as multiple chairs:

Adult Education – Betty Beebe  
Awards Committee – Elizabeth Clifton  
Competition Management – Marilyn Kulifay  
FEI Jr/YR – Marsha Lewis  
Freestyle – Susan Howard  
GMO – Jennifer Jarvis  
Horse Person of the Year – Carolyn Vandenberg  
Judges & L Grads – Marilyn Kulifay  
Membership – Leslie Rohrer  
Nominating – Alecia Daniel  
Omnibus Advertising – Arlene Gaitan

Omnibus Editor – Nicole Miller  
Secretary – Sarah Jane Martin  
Sport Horse – Regina Milliken  
Teaching Excellence Award – Meg Flemming  
TD & Regional Championships – Carolyn VandenBerg  
Treasurer – Nettie Olsen  
Webmaster/E-newsletter/Historian – Nicole Miller  
Youth Programs – Jessica Fan

From putting together and publishing an omnibus, to attending the national annual convention and keeping our members informed, this devoted group helps to keep our region running. Each board member brings their unique expertise and knowledge to the administration part of our sport. We appreciate their giving nature and loyalty.

Marsha Lewis is the new Region 9 Jr/YR coordinator. She is following Becky Brown who has tirelessly worked to help our youth. Becky also served as our chef d'equipe at the 2022 North American Youth Championships (NAYC). Thanks to Becky for her dedication and love for our young people.

Marsha is already busy with planning the youth clinic, along with getting feedback from the region's members about how she can help. Fundraising has also begun through donations, auctions, etc.

The Region 9 Horse Person of the Year (HPOY) award is celebrating 30 years with a tribute to past recipients. A program will be included with the Saturday night dinner during the October Region 9 championship show. Hopefully, all past HPOY award winners will attend. Thanks to Carolyn VandenBerg, our HPOY chairperson, for planning this momentous event.

Our very own Region 9 adult education chair, Betty Beebe, along with Sarah Denham, have joined the USDF National Adult Program Committee. We are fortunate to have many of our regional board as members of national committees. They help our regional members through decision making, feedback, and spreading news about programs, funds, etc. offered at both the national and regional level.

Some of the regional funds available include the adult education fund, youth education fund, Jr/YR funds, travel funds for smaller GMOs, and for members attending the national convention.

The region is financially stable due to the continued success of the Region 9 Omnibus, its sponsors, advertisers, and supporters. Thanks to all who help. The monies made from the omnibus support the regional funds.

The omnibus committee of Nicole Miller, Arlene Gaitan, Sherry Guess, and Nettie Olsen is already working on the 2024 Region 9 Omnibus, which will be published in October. It will be available in hardcopy format and online through the Region 9 website.

The November 2022 regional Zoom meeting was well attended with lively discussion. The regional meeting in December at the Adequan@/USDF Annual Convention, our first in-person meeting in over two years, was appreciated by all who made the trip to Lexington, KY.

A few board members were missed at the convention due to family or business. The Region 9 PM delegates were Sarah Jane Martin and Elizabeth Clifton, and they carried all the PM votes at the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. Eight Region 9 members represented the GMOs at BOG as GMO delegates/proxies: Kelly Martinez, Barbara Lewis, Susan Howard, Jane Holman, Angie Hughes, Natasha Fernandez, Sarah Jane Martin and Elizabeth Clifton. We all enjoyed getting back together again in person!

The next Region 9 meeting will be in-person on July 22 in Sulphur Springs, TX. It is co-hosted by Northeast Texas Dressage Club and Dallas Dressage Club.

Recently, the region suddenly lost Kat Kyle. She was a past Region 9 Director from 2002-2007. She was involved in all aspects of dressage, from GMO president to licensed official, breeder, teacher, trainer, regional board, and national board chair/member, and PM delegate. Her dedication, love, and support will carry on in the many lives she touched. She is truly missed by all who knew her.

The region currently has thirteen GMOs. Many of them held year-end board elections. Jinny Johnson was elected the new president of Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship (BACH). BACH was also the winner of the 2022 GMO Challenge, followed by Southern Eventing and Dressage Association, and Tri-State Dressage Society.

The region has two new USEF licensed technical delegates (r/M), Alecia Daniel and Arlene Gaitan. We also have one new judge; Mary Mahler is a new "r" USEF licensed dressage judge. Congrats to all for a well-deserved achievement.

Many of our Region 9 members won awards this last year; too many to list here. They, along with all dressage enthusiasts, are the pulse of our region and the life we love. Our region is working on honoring our past this year. We know how important it is to recognize those who have worked diligently through the last 50 years to grow dressage. Their unwavering love through the years helps to carry forward a bright future. Thank you, one and all.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Bruton  
USDF Region 9 Director