

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 3-6, Lexington, KY.

A milder than usual summer across the region prevailed, with-it numerous shows (over 36 recognized shows region wide), clinics, & seminars were held. Sport Horse Breed Shows increased, with 6 shows this year.

The 2025 GAIG/ USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships, Houston Dressage Society Autumn Classic, & Southwest Dressage Championships were a great success. 312 exhibitors, with 1054 rides down centerline. 6 rings, 9 judges, 3 TDs. This year's theme was "Fairy Tales". The weather was good, and the facility along with their staff was superb. HDS, the volunteers and officials all did an awesome job to put on a top-rated show. Activities included a competitor's party, stall decorating contest (won by Rocking M Stables), Battle of the Barn Baskets – benefiting the R9 Jr/YR's; the Region 9 Banquet; and a scavenger hunt. All had a great time. Region 9 sets up a table every year to greet members, & sell the newly published Region 9 Omnibus, and new Region 9 T-Shirts.

Congratulations to the **2025 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year**-Barbara Richardson-Lewis. Barbara has been on the board of Dallas Dressage Club 12 years, and serving in many different areas as a volunteer for over 20 years. She has also served on both the Region 9 Board, and on USDF National Committees. And has been, many times, and is again this year...a PM Delegate to the annual USDF convention. Barbara is always there to help, and generous with her time, as a hard-working valuable member.

The **Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award** was not given this year. We encourage all instructors / teachers to apply in the future. Go to The Dressage Foundation for more information. www.dressagefoundation.org

The **2025 Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund** is for amateur riders to help them pursue education for themselves and their horses. Congratulations to this year's recipient- Dawn Petraitis. To find out more information about this fund go to The Dressage Foundation.

Our 13 **GMOs** were busy holding shows, clinics, camps, and seminars this summer. Of note, we have two new GMO presidents...welcome- Arkansas Dressage Society- Joanne Homeyer, and Tri-State Dressage Society- Katie Jo Kitchings. Those elected on the boards, committees, etc., who keep these organizations running...are all volunteers. We thank them for sharing information/education about dressage.

Educational Events:

Region 9 has grants available for GMOs to assist in offering educational; opportunities. So far this year we have awarded grants to: Central Texas Dressage Society- JJ Tate Symposium; Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship- Lauren Fisher- Cavaletti Seminar; Southern Eventing and Dressage Association- Lauren Sprieser – Maximize Opportunity.

Other events included a Feb 2025 Musical Freestyle Clinic with Joan Darnell held by Dallas Dressage Club, and in April, an Oklahoma Dressage Society -Spring Symposium with Willy Arts. To find out about Region 9 Grants for GMO's, go to: www.usdfregion9.org

Region 9 Jr/YR's are preparing for the USDF FEI Youth Clinic coming up in November, at Paragon Farms, with Anne Gribbons. Thanks again to Paragon Farms for donating their facility, for this very important clinic.

2025 NAYC- seven riders went- In the Jr division MK Connatser and Sage Smith won a Silver.

The Young Riders of Cate Schmidt, Addy Batcheller, and Nathan Morehead achieved fourth place.

And the new Children's Division, with Zoe Lewis, and Charlotte Garver was a success winning a Silver. Congratulations to all the riders !!!

Congrats to Ruby Lewis who won a special award, the Howard Simpson High Five Award – for enthusiastically volunteering and supporting athletes of NAYC.

Thanks to Marsha Lewis, the Region 9 Jr/ Yr Coordinator, and Chef de Equipes Ben Winger & Marsha Lewis for all her hard work, and long hours. We also want to thank everyone who helped raise funds this summer for the Jr/YR program.

The **2025 Region 9 (in person) Summer Meeting** hosted by Southern Eventing Dressage Association- celebrating their 50th year- was held in New Orleans, LA, French Quarter- at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, on Bourbon Street, July 18 - 20. It started on Friday, offering a tour of the Garden District, and an evening on the City of New Orleans Paddlewheel Boat, with Dinner Cruise. Our members also took advantage of other site seeing opportunities of New Orleans.

On Saturday we had an all-day meeting / networking session, with a group lunch, and the GMO & R9 board members/ representatives gave reports, and exchanged ideas. Several of us all went to dinner together on Saturday night, at The Original Pierre Maspero's Restaurant.

A silent auction was held, and we voted on the 2025 R9 T-shirt design contest. Thanks to Alicia Schordine, from Benbrook, Tx., for submitting the winning design. It was beautiful printed on a red R9 T-Shirt.

Alamo Dressage Association is hosting next summer's July 2026 Region 9 meeting, in San Antonio on the River Walk. Another fun city. Check the R9 e-news/website for details.

Our next Region 9 zoom meeting is Nov 13th, 2025, followed by the in-person meeting during the Lexington Convention.

We are excited to be traveling to Lexington, Ky. for the USDF Annual Convention.

PM Delegates elected to represent our Participating Members at the Board of Governors: Betty Beebe; Arlene Gaitan; Sarah Jane Martin; Barbara Lewis; Lauren Fisher, & Christina Harmon.

GMO Delegates are either the GMO President or a proxy is assigned.

Our 19 **Region 9 Board** positions consist of 15 separate members/volunteers, most are active on the national committees & programs, representing Region 9 & our members, working to keep them informed.

A recent Region 9 Board change...Carolyn VandenBerg retired with the R9 board as the Technical Delegate, & Regional Championship member, and from the USDF National Committees. We truly appreciate her many, many years of devoted service. She also recently retired as a USEF TD, after over 30 years.

Two new members are taking Carolyn's place on the Region 9 board- Leslie Rohrer in the Regional Championship position, and Christina Harmon in the Technical Delegate position. Welcome to both of them...they are enthusiastic and excited to help Region 9 dressage move forward.

Another long time Region 9 board member has retired from the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award position. Meg Flemming was the founder of this very esteem award. And a long time R9 board member in other roles, as well as serving on National Committees thru the years. The TEA award is administered by The Dressage Foundation. Thank you Meg for your life long service.

Taking over for Meg is Sarah Denham...a past TEA recipient. Sarah brings a fresh new face, with new ideas.

The **2026 Region 9 Omnibus**, celebrating its 30th year Anniversary, was published in October, (and available in electronic version on the Region 9 website), is full of information for all our members – (as is the Region 9 Website, E-News, & Facebook page). Check them out !!!! www.usdfregion9.org

100 books are printed each year – a historical document we treasure...included new this year - A Region 9 History Section- celebrating our Omnibus 30th year. We will continue expanding into next year, and following years, more Region 9 history.

Also included in the yearly published Omnibus are GMO contacts & benefits; Region 9 board members; regional award winners; SWDC info, shows; clinics; Judges, TD's & L Grads; instructors/trainers; list of USDF Certified Instructors, the current dressage test; Region 9 Jr/YR/Youth pages, a continuing educational page, a Sport Horse page, a Summer meeting section, a Convention section, and information/Region 9 Recipients of The Dressage Foundation grants.

Thank you to the omnibus staff and many others who design, format, contribute pages, edit, proofread, collect money, handle the ads, printing & mailing !!!

We are also forever grateful of those sponsors/ advertisers helping support our region and its members. Some have been helping us for over 30 years. Thank you !!!!

Speaking of...we appreciate The Dressage Foundation. It is intertwined into the fabric of our region, helping to fund, both our members and GMOs, as they work toward their dressage goals/ dreams. Check out their many grants: www.dressagefoundation.org

Our GMO's shine again with **USDF GMO Awards**:

Congratulations: to the 2025 USDF Region 9 GMO Volunteer of the Year: Claire Womack – Franklinton, LA. (Southern Eventing & Dressage Association)

And to the GMO's: 2 GMO Newsletter Awards: (75-174 members) Honorable Mentions- Southern Eventing & Dressage Association. GMO Website Award: (75-174 members) 1st Place: Southern Eventing & Dressage Association.

Our Region currently has 1910 members. All with a goal/dream in mind. The passion fueled through them is what keeps dressage ignited in Region 9. Dressage is volunteer based...from the national level to the barns/stables. Whether a USDF executive board member, or a parent/friend who cheers and supports our endeavors, we are so very fortunate to be able to do what we love every day !!!! Thank you all !!!!

Respectively submitted,
Bess Bruton, Region 9 Director