

2026 USDF Region 9 Summer Meeting Agenda
San Antonio, Tx – River Walk
July 18, 2025

Hosted by: Alamo Dressage Association

Welcome / Call to Order

Timer keeper volunteer?

Silent Auction – closes at end of meeting today.

R9 is 37 years young. Check out the history section in the Region 9 2026 Omnibus. We are adding more history to the 2027 Omnibus.

GMO's celebrating milestones: ADA – 53 years. DDC & SEDA – 51 years. HDS – 49 years. ODS – 48 years. Tri- State – 45 years. Central Texas – 46 years. FWDC – 41 years. BACH – 40 years. Arkansas Dressage- 26 years. Austin DU – 17 years. NETDC – 11 years. Central Plains- 9 years.

We lost Sally Chionsini in Feb of this year. Any other recognitions in the past year of members we have lost?

Additions to the Agenda?

Questions to ask for the networking session this afternoon:

Suggestions: Mentoring new members? Challenges for your GMO? Solutions? How to make a positive impact or change? Ideas that are new or innovative? Traditions that still work? Long term business plans, goals? Retirement plans? Historical record keeping?

Recognitions / Introductions / Announcements

Thank you ADA, and Leah Stephens for hosting the meeting/ weekend.

{{{Lunch information – reserved by ADA. (***Photo of group before lunch.***)}}}

Saturday night dinner reservations/ information.

Past Minutes –Dec 4, 2025 meeting at Lexington Convention – posted on R9 website - **vote**

Treasurer Report – handout - **vote**

Comparison, long term budget estimates.

Transfer funds to the Emergency Fund – **vote**

Asking USDF to place some of our funds in a money market, which pays a higher interest rate.

2026 CDI Report- Jody DeStefanis

Upcoming 2026 Region 9 Championship – Oct 1-4 – Theme? New? Jody Destefanis

R9 Table – 2026 t-shirts & 2027 omnibus sales at main arena – Betty Beebe to help for a 2nd year? And Battle of the Barn baskets – benefiting the R9 Jr/YR's.

SWDC Report – Sarah Jane Martin

Region 9 Board Members Reports:

Webmaster / E-news / social media / historian- Nicole Miller. **Sign up for R9 E-news**

2027 Omnibus – Nicole Miller, Arlene Gaitan, & Bess Bruton

Proofreaders – volunteers needed.

Mailing out Omnibus – Betty Beebe was very gracious in doing this last Oct. And available at the R9 table – main arena- R9 Championship Show.

Advertising. Deadline July 31.

New 2027 dressage test will be included.

Incentives.

History section – Future ideas: Expand to include: History of Jr/YR / NAYC. History of the Regional Championships. History of SWDC. History of barns/ farms operating 30 years. (Need help to include these. Volunteers)

USDF Historical Committee wants to gather & archive information on the heritage of USDF. Photos, articles, etc.

Adult Education- R9, USDF, TDF programs & grants available (some new). Monthly R9 enews article. New: add Dressage Seat Equitation Award to the USDF Year End Awards. - Betty Beebe

R9 GMO Travel Grant. – Bess

Sport Horse – 2026 breed shows, and clinics report – Regina Milliken

Jr/YR / NAYC / & Youth – Marsha Lewis

2026 NAYC – July 28 - Aug 2, 6 horses/ riders. Cost to send riders, & chef.

Fundraising.

R9 Youth newsletter – sent out by Marsha Lewis to all R9 youth. And from USDF.

FEI Youth Clinic in Nov 14-15, 2026 with Lilo Fore at Paragon Farms, Magnolia, Tx.

Youth Outreach Clinic in Jan 9-10, 2027 with John Mason, at Texover Farm, Conroe, Tx.

D4K

New: At Regional Champs- prizes to the 1st & 2nd highest placed Jr – Age 13 & under, in the Jr/Yr Championships.

R9 HPOY nominees – deadline Aug 15, send to Carolyn VandenBerg.

GMO- GEI Virtual Education Series. Other programs offered by USDF. GMO awards. Need for more entries. - How many R9 GMO's have less than 25 members? - Jennifer Jarvis

Membership- Town hall meetings for all members. Her report. - Leslie Rohrer

Nominating – PM Delegates. GMO Delegates/proxy – Christina Harmon or Alecia Daniel

Competition Mgt – USDF is holding educational seminars for managers. Split AA Training & 1st Level by age- to 47/ 47 & older. - Marilyn Kulifay

Judges & L's – Black Horse One. On the Levels is being revised – coming soon. CE programs available.

L Grad Programs – any GMO want to sponsor one? - Marilyn Kulifay

Teaching Excellence Award – new this year. Sarah Denham

The Dressage Foundation – Evie Tumlin Award, etc. - Bess Bruton

Technical Delegates – New programs? Town hall meetings. Christina Harmon

Para update – offer Para classes. GMO's can reach out to the para committee for help. Inclusion of Para in the regional championships.

Instructor Certification program – revamp. Open to all.

P & P changes. – Bess Bruton. See handout. Main section has to do with re-structuring the regional board...due to having no legal coverage in the future, if we have issues. Discussion at the meeting.

GMO Reports:

Tri-state – new president – Katie Jo Kitchings

SEDA – Natasha Fernandez

ODS – Nicole Riffe- president / not attending- Report on website.

NETDC – Angie Hughes

HDS- Jody Destefanis

FWDC- Barbara Harty – & report on 2026 World Cup in Fort World.

DDC- Becky Brown

CTDS- Lynn Smith

CPDS- Nora West president/ not attending – Report on website.

BACH- Cynthia Werner

ADU- Dinah Babcock

ADS- Joanne Homeyer

ADA- Claire Oxley

(Written reports from GMOs and R9 board members are posted on the R9 website.)

GMO's – any new clinics or educational events?

How to get GMO's to communicate/ network? Help each other.

GMOs Hints for membership: see handout

Idea: GMO Schooling Shows - 1st time Riders Award – enter names in raffle for a donated prize or a gift certificate or money. Create a fund in honor of someone to fund the award.

Who is interested in serving on a USDF National Committee? Or USDF Task Force?

2025 Finals – WEC, Ohio – post report – Bess Bruton

2025 USDF Convention, Lexington, Ky – post report - Bess Bruton

2026 USDF Convention – Lexington, KY. update – Bess Bruton

2026 Trainers Conference – anyone attend? Report.

2027 – Region 9 Summer Meeting – Oklahoma Dressage Society has volunteered to host.

Or zoom? **Vote.**

Topics for meeting?

2026 T-Shirt Designs – **Vote**

Order T- Shirts online store. Must be ordered by Sept 3rd, 2026. Will be a royal blue or teal.

Pick up at R9 Championships, or have it mailed directly to you, from the online store.

New Business:

Safe Sport – needed for GMO boards, etc. Virginia Dressage Association has implemented. Does your insurance cover Safe Sport? USDF dedicated Safe Sport page for GMOs.

Proposal: R9 Lifetime Achievement Award? Discussion.

Proposal: Adult Amateur Clinics? Discussion

Read the USDF Enews? Your dressage? USDF member dashboard?

Communication from USDF national office. From me. Thru R9 Facebook, R9 Website, R9 Enews.

Knowledge of the programs & awards...for both USDF & R9. See Member Guide USDF. See R9 Website for R9.

Think Tank: Networking 😊

Dates to mark on calendar:

2026 Region 9 Championships – Oct 1- 4. Katy, Tx. (Hosted by HDS) Volunteers needed!!!!

2026- USDF Finals – Oct 29 – Nov 1. WEC – Ohio. Volunteers needed.

2026- FEI Youth Clinic in Nov 14-15, with Lilo Fore at Paragon Farms, Magnolia, Tx.

2026 – R9 Zoom Meeting – Nov 17. 7 pm.

2026 USDF Convention, Lexington, Ky – Dec 3- 6, Griffin Gate – close to the horse park.

R9 meeting Dec 3rd. BOG Dec 4th afternoon & Dec 5th morning.

2027- Youth Outreach Clinic in Jan 9-10, 2027 with John Mason, at Texover Farm, Conroe, Tx.

2027- Trainers Conference – Jan 18 - 19. Florida.

2027 CDI – April 22-25. Katy, Tx. (Hosted by HDS).

2027 Region 9 Championships- Oct 7- 10, Katy, Tx. (Hosted by HDS).

2027 USDF Finals – Nov 4 – 7, WEC – Ohio

2027 USDF Convention, Lexington, KY – Griffin Gate for a 2nd year– Dec 2-5, 2027