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Region 1 Report

Director: Bettina Longaker, VA

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

Region 1 truly had a real winter this year! I must say, it was a bit of a surprise, but hopefully some of the harmful bugs, ticks in particular, had a chink thrown into their life cycle. Some of our members got to travel south to Florida for the winter season and from what I have read, they too had a winter, albeit a Florida winter.

We held our spring Zoom meeting on March 6th with approximately thirty-five participants, including at least three first timers. It was a busy meeting that ran for two hours and fifteen minutes, starting at our usual time of 7:30 pm; going forward at our fall Zoom meeting on November 6th, we will start at 7:00 pm. What a great way to find out what is going on in our region.

The 2025 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1 Championships will be hosted by the Virginia Dressage Association (VADA), October 2-5 at the Virginia Horse Center (VHC) in Lexington, VA. The VHC has implemented an aggressive upgrade with Attwood Equestrian Surfaces to: Reel Arena & Big Lonely warmup (East Complex), Wiley Arena & Wiley warmup arena, Tardy arena (halfway up the hill), Northern Arena & Northern warmup arena, building upon the success of the Dee Dee Arena. The Anderson Coliseum, Ault & large covered arena will not have a change in footing, as these arenas are multi-purpose use and have to accommodate many different equine disciplines and non-equine activities. The famous Doggie Costume class will be held, along with at least one competitor party.

The 2025 Col. Bengt Ljungquist Memorial (CBLM) Championships will be hosted by Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association (ESDCTA) August 29-31 at the Horse Park of New Jersey in Allentown, NJ. Our long standing peer-to-peer championships is now into its third year of rotating from the northern to southern parts of our region. Along with a date change moving it earlier in the fall schedule, this allows our riders from the entire region to participate every other year without added distance, wear on their horses, and expense. ESDCTA is very excited to host the inaugural CBLM Dressage Seat Equitation (DSE) Championships.

New for 2025, the CBLM Championships will be offering six DSE Championship Divisions: Junior (Jr) under 13; Jr 14-18; Young Rider (YR) 19-21; AA Training level; AA First level; AA Second level & above. All will use the USEF/USDF Semi-Finals score sheets and have two judges. All riders who submit CBLM qualifying forms who are eligible will be automatically placed in their division by the qualifying secretary. If an AA rider later submits a qualifying form at a higher level, the qualifying secretary will move them to the new level. Also new in 2025 is an online qualifying form using Google forms, but riders may still submit the old form via e-mail. The 2025 qualifying period is September 2, 2024-August 17, 2025.

Due to the conflict that I have with the regional championships, the presentation, discussion, and voting for both 2026 championships were led by PM delegate Janine Malone.

There was only one bid submitted to the USDF office for the 2026 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1 Championships. It was from VADA at the VHC, October 1-4. The motion to accept the bid was made by Debbie DelGiorno with Jill Ekis seconding. Motion carried by all the PM delegates present.

There was only one bid submitted to the regional director for the 2026 CBLM Championships. It was from North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association (NCDCTA) at the Carolina Horse Park, September 11-13. The motion to approve the bid was made by Chris Dickeson and seconded by Miranda Kettlewell. Motion carried by all the GMO delegates present.

YR team chef Debbie DelGiorno gave information on the 2025 North American Youth Championships (NAYC). The 2025 NAYC will be held July 29-August 3 at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival (GLEF) at Flintfields Horse Park in Traverse City, MI. Deadlines/Fees: March 11-\$50; April 22-\$100; May 6-\$300 (last date).

Debbie is trying to get applications in by March 11th to save them some money. We have five Yrs and four Jrs (hopefully more coming). For Childrens we have two (lost two due to timing) and maybe have two more coming. We are very thankful to all our sponsors from 2024. Our 2025 online auction will start in June. New for this year, we will offer team apparel sponsorship by division, allowing more sponsors to participate.

A 2025 Region 1 FEI Youth Clinic will be held November 22-23 with George Williams at Hilltop Farm in Colora, MD.

We are making strides with our youth development program, with our first Youth Development Clinic, with Olivia Lagoy-Weltz, being held March 29-30, 2025, at the Keepsake Equestrian Center in McDonald, PA. Debbie is working with NCDCTA for a good date and location for a clinic in late fall in North Carolina. We are very grateful to Olivia, who is donating her time to our developing youth riders.

The 2025 Youth Team Challenge competition, presented by Jen Koch, will be held June 21-22 at Rosemont Farm in Spotsylvania, VA. It is being hosted by the 501c3 nonprofit organization Youth Dressage FUNdation. They are looking for GMO sponsorship and gave special thanks to all the 2024 sponsors. Jen asked that GMOs make sure your youth know about this competition. She is very excited to announce a new awards program in 2025 to encourage youth riders to participate in USDF/USEF recognized dressage shows. In other exciting news, the Dressage4Kids Youth Dressage Festival is moving to Region 1! It will be held at the Horse Park of New Jersey on August 8-10.

Region 1 is so fortunate to have three CDIs in our region!

MADFest CDI3* takes place May 15-18 in Lexington, VA. The organizers are thrilled with the footing improvement for the show. This year it will be a US Equestrian Series Open Qualifier, offer three divisions of amateur in the CDI, along with a full open show offering. It was suggested to make hotel reservations early due to the graduation weekend in small Lexington.

Tryon Fall Dressage (CDI/CPEDI) is scheduled for October 24-26 in Tryon, NC.

Dressage at Devon is September 23-28. The Devon organization is so excited to be hosting this 50th anniversary competition! Ingrid Klimpke will be hosting the Master Class, which will be available to stream online after the competition. Hillary Clayton will lecture, and the Professional Development Program will have a New Bolton Center speaker. There will be a USDF Judge Training session. Vendor and sponsorship spaces are still available. Kids are not forgotten with the Dressage Explorers on Sunday just for them. Legends of Dressage at Devon will be highlighted this year. 2025 will be very busy with the East Coast Breed Final, Pony Division, CDIW, US Equestrian Open Series Qualifier, with Fourth level and Young Horse classes being held in the national level competition.

For Region 1 Youth and Adult Contribution Awards, GMs are asked to look at their volunteers to see who is doing the work in the GMO. They may submit nominations anytime via the online form on the Region 1 website. There are two distinct awards that have different deadlines. The USDF sponsored deadline is over the summer. Region 1 Contribution Awards applications are due by November 5th, with the plan of presenting at the Region 1 meeting being held at the 2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Lexington, KY this December.

Safe Sport Update: Sheli King, President of VADA, shared the Safe Sport (SS) policy it adopted for their GMO and its chapters to supplement the USEF SS Program. VADA and all its chapters will adopt the MAAPP protocols as club rules. In addition, any member who is involved in a VADA or chapter activity that could reasonably be expected to bring them into contact with a minor will be required to take SS training. If someone is not an active USEF member, VADA will reimburse them the cost of a subscribing membership when they submit documentation showing the completion of such training.

Region 1 Digital Omnibus: The omnibus has had no change in pricing; it is \$35/show; \$10/clinic; \$20/schooling show. The online form is now available on the Region 1 website, and you may make payment by mailed check or credit card using the link to the USDF credit card page.

Treasury Update: Our region has a steady balance with most of our funds in the Jr/YR account. Region 1 Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2025:

ASSETS

Current Assets Checking/Savings

Omnibus Account 7,058.23

Education Account 2,113.20

General Account 2,448.50

Jr/YR Account 20,513.84

Youth Account 375.00

Total Checking/Savings 32,508.77

Total Current Assets 32,508.77

TOTAL ASSETS 32,508.77

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity Retained Earnings 28,783.77

Net Income 3,725.00

Total Equity 32,508.77

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 32,508.77.

Committee Reports:

- Group Member Organizations: Lisa Toaldo reported the committee has had one meeting so far, with planning for next year.
- Historical Recognition: Anne Moss reported they are looking for nominations for Hall of Fame (human and horse), Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction. It was also mentioned that Region 1 has great representation on this committee, five members, including the chair.
- Nominating: Lori Kaminski reported they have not had a meeting yet this year, but announced we have sixteen nominations for PM delegates and are still looking for more. She noted it would be great to have a real election this year.
- Technical Delegates (TD): Michelle King reported the USDF TD learning modules are really helpful and good winter reading.
- Para Dressage: Bettina Longaker reported the first ever USDF meeting was held on March 10th.
- Adult Programs: Jill Ekis reported they are working on two more online education events via Zoom, which are free, and are also working on topics for convention. She reminded everyone not to forget about the USDF Book Club.
- FEI Youth: Was covered under the specific programs.
- Regional Championships: Janine Malone, vice chair, reported for both her and Ellen Brindle-Clarke. They have reviewed the feedback from the 2024 championships to make improvements for 2025. The site selection committee meets next week. They are looking at possible ways to improve the participation of the younger riders in the regional championships. They approved the rules for 2025 and will look at them again for 2026.
- Sport Horse: Natalie DiBerardinis informed us they are working on the events for this year. These include the USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Forum June 28-29, and the USDF Sport Horse Seminar November 8-9, to run concurrently with the USEF/USDF DSHB Judge Training Program and exam November 9-10, both at Hilltop Farm in Colora, MD. Our region is so fortunate to have such a dedicated staff and facility with the Hilltop Farm.
- Awards: Jessie Ginsburg reported the committee is examining the USDF Year-End Awards for champion and reserve with the possibility of awarding different awards. These awards have not been changed in many years and some rider/owners have earned the same award for many years.

For the remaining committees, either the members present had to leave before we got to this part of the meeting or there were no committee members present.

GMO Updates:

- Commonwealth Dressage and Combined Training Association: Their awards banquet was in the beginning of February in which they raised over \$8000 through their online auction! They are planning: an educational talk, First Aid for Equestrians; Fix-a-test; recognized horse trials in April and September; schooling shows May through August; one recognized show.
- Delaware Valley Combined Training Association is finishing an L Graduate Program Part 1 Session C; Part 2 will be in May. They hold monthly lectures before the board meeting and have an extensive schooling show schedule.

- Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association: Ellen Brindle-Clarke is the new president. They are excited about CBLMs and are doing some sponsorship plans for both the club and CBLMs. The Memorial Weekend show will be held and there is a hold on the Summer Days licensed show at the USET Headquarters for 2025.
- International Equestrian Organization (IEO) is looking at holding a recognized competition in 2026 in the Harrisburg area. Most likely it will be a one day, one ring show. This is great news, as IEO, our oldest GMO, also hosted the first Dressage show in the US.
- Lehigh Valley Dressage Association will not be running a recognized show this year. Their awards banquet went well with a new School Horse Award. They have held one clinic so far and will be holding two others, including a “how to” education series.
- NCDCTA: Their Equine Festival at Carolina Horse Park will have several different clinicians for the educational event and they will run a one-day schooling show attached to the festival. Their championship show was moved to December 12-14 as Winter Solstice competition; this will get their championships off conflicted fall dates. An L Graduate Program is starting the end of 2025 running through into 2026.
- Potomac Valley Dressage Association: The Region 1 Adult Team Competition is November 8-9 at Prince Georges Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. They have five recognized shows and fifteen schooling shows in the works for 2025. Their awards banquet was held in January with silent auction.
- VADA is very excited about their planned weekend of activities May 2-4 with a Lilo Fore Clinic including: judges education session in Leesburg, VA for L graduate candidates, L graduates and judges Friday afternoon offsite, and the riders clinic with auditors to be held at Morven Park Saturday and Sunday. The L Graduate Program third session is in March at Old Raptor Farm, Louisa VA. Their two USEF/USDF licensed shows are both held at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA and will keep their volunteers busy; Dressage at Lexington and the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1 Championships. The seven chapters are busy with licensed shows, schooling shows, and clinics. A virtual education session in the works that will be first aid centered.

For the remaining GMOs, there was not a representative present.

Once again, we had a very engaged spring meeting. Our region is lucky to have such verbose volunteer members. They make running our meeting fun! I did announce at the end of the meeting that it is time for the odd regions to have elections for their regional directors and that I am happy to run one last time. Lori asked for any other interested nominees for the regional director to let her know.

In closing, I would like to add that thanks to my time on the USDF Executive Board as Region 1 Director, I was asked in late 2024 by then USDF President, George Williams, to serve on the USEF Para Dressage Committee. I happily accepted. Over the years, my region has given me so many opportunities to grow and I hope my work for them is comparable.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettina Longaker
USDF Region 1 Director

Region 2 Report

Director: Debby Savage, OH

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

Region 2 continues to be well represented on USDF committees and within the ranks of USEF officials, adding a new youth coordinator, Shari Wolke, to the FEI Youth Committee. We had excellent representation at the 2024 convention.

All sixteen GMOs are accounted for; however, it seems that many memberships are coming in slowly or perhaps they are not being reported yet. One GMO, NEWDA, combined with Wisconsin Dressage and Combined Training Association.

Regarding GMO award banquets, most GMOs did have one in 2024, although many are held in January or February instead of around the end of the year.

Region 2 Communications:

- The region continues to promote dressage clinics, schooling shows, and education programs via social media outlets (website and Facebook).
- PM delegates continue to be handled by Molly Fine of IDCTA. This year we can elect twelve.

Region 2 Education Update:

- The Region 2 Education Committee is headed up by Anna Cluxton and includes Cathy Jacobs and Kristine Downes.
 - Education Challenge Award winners were drawn at the convention.
 - One for the most USDF credits earned in the past year.
 - One from the Catherine B. Jacob Schooling Show Awards Program (CBJSSAP) participants over the past year.
- Shari Wolke is slowly taking over the reins from Roz Kinstler. She is doing a super job.
 - A Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Outreach Clinic has been scheduled for May 3rd and 4th with Angela Jackson at Michigan State University's Mary Anne McPhail Dressage Arena.
 - There is a FEI clinic in the works for the fall.
- GMOs continue to offer USDF programs, as well as their own original activities.

Region 2 Competition Update:

- There are currently 113 recognized shows on the books for 2025. For comparison, in 2024 there were 110, in 2023 there were 109, in 2022 there were 114, in 2021 there were 100, in 2020 there were only 58, and in 2019 there were 120.
- Regional Championships Selection Committee – February 2025: In accordance with the agreed upon process for selecting a regional championship venue, this year we had five volunteers on the committee who participated with the evaluations. We received one application from HITS to be held at Lamplight. The committee has recommended it for the 2026 Great American/USDF Region 2 Championships.
- Region 2 continues to benefit from and support the CBJSS Year-End Awards via the Region 2 website and Facebook page. This year, the CBJSSA Program contributed over \$750 to our education fund.

- The National Dressage Pony Cup and Small Horse Championships and NDPC Partner Show I will again be held in July at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH.
- North American Youth Championships – Traverse City, MI:
 - We need a fundraising chairperson! We are starting with an earlier fundraising campaign. All riders that put in declarations are required to contribute. The goal is \$13,000.
- The U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions will be held in August at Hits Lamplight in Wayne, IL.
- The Great American/USDF Region 2 Championships will be held at Waterloo Hunt Club on September 10-14, 2025.
- The US Dressage Finals will be held October 30-November 2, 2025, at WEC in Wilmington, OH. This is huge for Region 2!

Treasurer's Report:

- Current Assets:
 - FEI Jr/YR Account: \$4,224.50
 - Education Account: \$6,489.52
 - General Account: \$1,355.27
 - Total Assets: \$12,069.29
 - Compared to 2024 Total Checking/Savings: \$16,459.

The Region 2 fall Zoom meeting date is to be determined but will be sometime in mid-November prior to the convention.

Many thanks to our GMOs who have run great educational events this past year!

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Savage
USDF Region 2 Director

Region 3 Report

Director: Charlotte Trentelman, FL

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

Region 3 wrapped up 2024 well with a strong contingent at the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Houston. All GMOs were represented by either members present or proxies.

Currently, we have 2,672 Participating Members (PMs) in USDF that claim Region 3 as their permanent residence. We also have sixteen GMOs, for a total of 1,346 members.

We lost three GMOs this year and are down to sixteen. The three largest are Georgia Dressage and CTA (475 members), STRIDE (FL) (215), and South Carolina Dressage and CTA (97). Four of our GMOs have dropped into the new small number (under 25) memberships category. However, this is very early in the year for most of our region and traditionally, those numbers will increase.

Region 3 currently has 149 shows listed for competition. Listed are ninety-two in Florida, twenty-two in Georgia, eighteen in South Carolina, seven in Tennessee, and one in Alabama. There were nine cancellations early in the competition year, mainly due to bad weather in January and conflicts during the championship season. Of all the USDF Regions, Region 3 has the most shows listed.

There is no way to count the number of schooling shows and combined events in the region in which our members participate. Our educational programs benefit our members who do not participate in recognized shows and our GMOs are a major educational source for them.

There are currently five FEI judges and five FEI technical delegates (TDs) listed, along with twenty-five “S” judges, seventeen “R” judges, eleven “r” judges, twenty-eight L graduates and thirty-two L graduates with distinction. We also have twelve “R” TDs and nine “r” TDs.

We also have nineteen listed USDF certified instructors. Our region offers virtual and real time learning opportunities through USDF. Two USDF Instructor/Trainer Dressage Development Seminars are being held in Williston, FL in March. South Carolina Dressage and CTA will be launching an L Program in June. Recently, Northeast Florida Dressage and CTA received funding from the GMO Education Incentive Program for a seminar with Ida Norris in Jacksonville, FL. Traditional and western dressage rides participated.

Applications for participation for the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, MI are currently coming in and it looks like Region 3 may produce three complete teams. The addition of the Children’s Division mandates that we will need three chefs d’ equipe. Region 3’s FEI Youth Chair, Elizabeth Molloy, is currently looking for volunteers to take on the chef d’ equipe positions.

Our best form of communication is the Region 3 Facebook page. It is monitored by Loretta Lucas. Currently, we do not have a website and are still looking for volunteers to help create one.

Our balance sheet through January 31st shows a balance of \$13,588.46. Most of this is from the Junior/Young Rider and Youth accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Trentelman
USDF Region 3 Director

Region 4 Report

Director: Anne Sushko, IA

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

It continues to be my pleasure to serve as Region 4 Director. The region is sustaining its growth through its Group and Participating member involvement and through participation with USDF. We continue to be represented on most USDF committees. Although our number of USEF licensed officials is low, those who hold licenses are active! Members throughout the region are actively participating in programs directed towards becoming licensed officials. We all owe a debt to those GMOs and groups willing to offer educational opportunities to make this possible. Our competitors reflect the values and training they have received as they successfully compete on the regional and national levels.

We once again had excellent representation during the 2024 convention in Houston. Due to an increase in membership in the region we maintained our roster of four Participating Member (PM) delegates. All four attended the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. We had a high number of designated GMO delegates in attendance and all GMOs submitted proxies prior to the start of the BOG. Thank you! We also had a large number of non-delegate attendees for the region meeting and at the education sessions. The 2025 convention will be held in Lexington, KY.

Region 4 maintains its strong emphasis on education. The GMO calendars for January-April reflect this with numerous clinics and seminars planned in all areas of the region, with some occurring virtually. There are offerings on what to do in the case of a rider fall, book clubs, overcoming fears, physical fitness, Safe Sport requirements, review of new rules, musical freestyles, and equitation, just to name a few. GMOs have embraced the use of Zoom for virtual meetings, educational events, and awards programs. I encourage all to take advantage of the courses offered through USDF University. They are a benefit of your membership!

Nancy Harrison Gorton will continue as our Region 4 North American Youth Championship (NAYC) coordinator. Nancy brings a wealth of knowledge and broad experience to this position. The 2025 NAYC is scheduled to be held in Michigan. We already have young people declaring their intent to participate. Their numbers include some aiming to represent Region 4 in the newly added Children Division. We also have some strong candidates for the U25 competition held as part of NAYC. The biggest issue with NAYC continues to be the need for financial support. The short qualifying season (for our riders) and the expense of traveling to the competition create financial issues for many. Please remember that you are able to contribute to this group through the Region 4 webpage. You will also see them offering services at shows throughout the region. The group also plans to hold another online auction.

Plans are underway to hold Youth Development Clinics in four areas of our region. The first will be in March near Lincoln, NE. In May we will be holding one in Potosi, WI (slightly outside our region but serving many Region 4 youth). Plans are underway for others in Missouri and Minnesota.

We received two applications to host the 2026 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 4 Championships. The committee will evaluate the applications and will have a recommendation submitted by the deadline.

Many thanks go to Melissa Ward for continuing to maintain the Region 4 website and Facebook page and to all the GMO presidents and board members who keep our members informed and involved. Kathy Hanford continues to keep our financial records in top form. This is definitely a team effort, and you all make it possible!

I continue to focus on how we can promote growth in our sport here in Region 4. I firmly believe we can attract more people to join us. How we do this is the challenge, but it is a challenge we can take on. Key to this is establishing a positive and welcoming atmosphere and environment. Reach out! Invite! Support!

Goals for early 2025:

1. Identify PM delegate nominees.
2. Support education programs with the emphasis on licensed officials and instructor/trainer programs.
3. Continue emphasis on using a variety of officials (technical delegates and judges) at shows within the region.
4. Continue development of the Youth Development Series.
5. Further develop the instructor/trainer listing on website. Include notations on their continuing education efforts (clinics/workshops taken).
6. Begin process of identifying GMO representatives for convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Sushko
USDF Region 4 Director

Region 5 Report

Director: Heather Petersen, CO

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

The 2024 Adequan®/USDF Convention, held in Houston, TX, had a good turnout of Region 5 folks for the meetings and awards banquet. There were a few new faces, lots of the usual suspects, and all willing to step up to learn and help. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2025 for the convention in Lexington, KY. I hope to see many of you there!

My thanks to those of you who are serving on the boards and committees of your local Group Member Organization (GMO). Your dedication to our sport is very much appreciated. We are blessed to have additional dedicated folks serving on our various USDF committees and folks who are participating and attending meetings and calls on a regular basis as well as actively contributing.

- Bobbi Lehman – Group Member Organizations Committee
- Heather Petersen – Bylaws and Competition Management Committees
- Ann Damiano – Nominating Committee
- Janet Foy – Judges Committee
- Dorie Vlatten-Schmitz – L Program Committee
- Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez – L Program Committee
- Dolly Hannon – Judges, Instructor/Trainer Development Program and L Program Committees
- Kaye Phaneuf – Technical Delegates Committee
- Katherine Simard – Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee
- Holly Bergay – Para Dressage Committee
- Gwen Ka'awaloa – Adult Programs Committee
- Natalie Mendik – Adult Programs Committee
- Julie Barringer-Richers – National Youth Programs Committee
- Joan Clay – FEI Youth Committee
- Jessica Greer – Regional Championships Committee
- Anne Sparks – Sport Horse Committee
- Cecilia Cox – Awards Committee

We had our largest representation at the US Dressage Finals this year and quite a few folks did well in the USDF Year-End Awards standings. Congratulations to everyone and great job on all of your achievements in 2024. It was amazing to watch your success acknowledged during the awards ceremonies and it was wonderful to be able to cheer you on as you walked across the stage. We are proud of all your hard work. For those who don't show or weren't able to show this year, the time spent with your horse is also a great reward in its own right and I know I'm very thankful for those daily moments with my own horses.

The 2025 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Championships will be held September 18-21 in Parker, CO at the Colorado Horse Park and hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society (RMDS). Be sure to check out the USDF website for more information. We are currently evaluating bids for the 2026 regional championships, though only one bid was

received for the region. If any organizations have an interest in exploring putting in a bid for 2027, please reach out to myself or USDF and let us know how we can help!

Joan Clay is continuing as our FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) coordinator extraordinaire, and we are very blessed to have her and her guidance and experience. She and I will be working again with the NAYC teams as chefs for 2025. NAYC will be hosted once again this year in Traverse City, MI. We love this venue. They have been very welcoming, the weather is usually amazing, and the surrounding area offers lots for families to do. We hope to raise enough funds to have a stronger presence in 2025 and we are adding teams for the Childrens Division this year as well. We currently have one Young Rider declared, but hopefully as the deadline approaches we will have more interested. Good luck to everyone in their qualifying endeavors. We do need help with fundraising efforts! If you have any thoughts or would like to contribute, please contact Joan at jnclay@comcast.net.

We will be hosting a USEF/USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Clinic for Region 5 October 18-19, 2025, in Colorado this fall with USEF Youth Coach George Williams. Many thanks to Nighthawk Equestrian Center for once again donating your facility for this great educational opportunity.

Virginia (Ginny) Sorenson did a good job getting a geographically well-rounded slate of Participating Member (PM) delegates for the 2024 Board of Governors (BOG) meeting at the convention. Many thanks to those who ran for the positions and to those who attended the convention. Unfortunately, Ginny has had a lot on her plate and she stepped down from the Nominating Committee near the end of 2024. Many thanks to Ann Damiano from Arizona for stepping onto the Nominating Committee and for representing Region 5. We are currently looking for PM delegates for the 2025 convention in Lexington, KY. Ann has had some returning interest from previous delegates, but if you would like to also run for PM delegate, please drop her an e-mail at adamiano@cox.net. We would love to have a couple of extra folks so that we can assure we send full representation to the convention. There is a \$200 grant available for our PM delegates to help them offset their convention expenses.

Here are some updates from a few of our GMOs and committees on their upcoming activities:

The Rocky Mountain Dressage Society (RMDS) has had a very active winter, hosting our BOG meeting in November, offering a technical delegate training in February, and a show management training in March. The board has been meeting monthly for the last year to help keep on top of new programs and educational events. RMDS is very excited to once again host the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Regional Championships in Parker, CO. We really enjoyed having everyone come to visit last year! The volunteer committee has worked very hard this last year to facilitate volunteer recruitment and reward our amazing volunteers for their efforts. They had many fantastic drawings at the RMDS Championships, in addition to snacks, gifts and t-shirts for all the volunteers.

Our omnibus magazine has come out for 2025. This beautiful, glossy magazine was made possible by our two of our very talented members who are professionals in graphic design and editing. Our magazine includes all the dressage tests, along with heartwarming stories from our scholarship recipients, pictures of our members doing what they do at clinics, shows and at

home, prize lists and information for several shows, and so much more from our sponsors and advertisers.

Utah Dressage Society just hosted the first ever in-person Taste of the L Clinic with Dolly Hannon and Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez at the beautiful Diamond Equestrian Center and it was a big hit! There were fifty-eight people that signed up for this in-person event. We even had a few people travel from Colorado for it. The clinic started with a lecture and videos summing up what people can expect to learn in the L Program. We then moved to the barn, where demo riders rode through different segments of Training-Second level, as well as the highest test of the level. Debbie and Dolly spent a great deal of time explaining what judges are looking for and how to score the movements. On Sunday, we had a modified ride-a-test clinic. Dolly judged aloud for the auditors and it was very informative to listen to her reasoning for giving certain scores, as well as relate it to how she would work on mistakes in training. Dolly would then give a mini lesson to the rider and Debbie explained her scoring of the rider and how she worded things for the scribe. It was the most engaging ride-a-test clinic for the auditors and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Having Debbie and Dolly together made somewhat dry information much more entertaining and gave some great perspective on the subtle differences in how people judge. We are hosting the L Program beginning in October 2025 and this clinic really sparked interest and excitement for that. We will have applications for the L Program up on the website on or before April 1st and we encourage everyone from the region to consider applying. We are able to take thirty participants and unlimited auditors. Even if you are not planning to become a judge, the information that you can take away from this program to apply to your own training, as well as clients if you have them, is invaluable.

The Arizona Dressage Association hosted a wonderful sequence called the Core Transformation Series and they had great attendance and wonderful educational opportunities. They will be offering a Part 2 for the series in 2025 with several great clinicians!

The Competition Management Committee continues to work on providing quality educational events, both online and at the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention. They are also available to all competition management to help with mentoring and answering questions thorough the year as needed.

Many thanks to our GMOs who were able run a few educational events this past year and many thanks to our private barns who also have hosted some wonderful events. We could not be the strong region we are without your efforts. I look forward to working with you again this coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Petersen
USDF Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

Director: Noah Rattner, OR

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

2025 is off and running and we've got a busy year ahead! Before we start looking ahead to the coming year, let's look back at all we accomplished together in 2024.

In October 2024, DevonWood held the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 6 Championships. Close to 180 combinations competed for top honors at the largest event in Region 6 for the competition year. We had traditional Pacific Northwest weather, but it was a great weekend overall. USDF Executive Director, Stephan Hienzsich, joined us and was on-hand to socialize with and congratulate competitors. On Friday night, we held a regional meeting with over 200 riders, trainers, friends and family in the VIP tent. USDF members and guests enjoyed a complimentary pizza dinner with desserts and a hosted bar. It's always great to see so many of our members at the same place at the same time and hear how we can better serve them as the organization looks towards the future. DevonWood will also serve as hosts of the 2025 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 6 Championships on October 2-5.

Shortly after regionals, DevonWood served as host of the USDF FEI Youth Clinic with featured clinician Sabine Schut-Kery, and the USDF Youth Outreach Clinic with clinicians Jesse Collins and Benjamin Pfabe. Nearly forty youth applicants applied for what became the largest youth clinic in the nation, in history. As a result of the tremendous level of interest in the youth clinic, USDF allocated additional funding, which enabled us to expand the participant headcount from sixteen to twenty-four combinations. Thank you to all the riders, families, trainers, coaches, and staff who made this such a wildly successful event. On Saturday night, we hosted a regional meeting with all twenty-four participants, families, coaches, and clinicians where we discussed fundraising for the North American Youth Championships (NAYC), our region's bank balances, and the USDF Regional Director's Year-End Report. Following that, the clinicians and riders had a very fruitful Q&A session.

After such a successful USDF FEI Youth Clinic and Youth Outreach Clinic, we have received the greenlight to duplicate the 2024 event. There are eight slots that will be available with Sabine Schut-Kery (who has signed on as our FEI Youth Clinician once again), and sixteen slots with Benjamin Pfabe and Jesse Collins. The clinic will be held at DevonWood on November 22-23, 2025. Applications for these clinics are already available at <https://www.usdf.org/online-services/applications/youth-clinics.asp?type=fei>.

With the start of competition season ahead, we're also at the beginning of the FEI NAYC qualifying season. Phase 1 applications have closed and nearly twenty combinations have already declared for this season. In 2025, the NAYC will include a total of four FEI youth rider divisions:

- FEI Children Rider Championships
- FEI Junior Rider Championships
- FEI Young Rider Championships
- FEI U25 Championships

At the time of this report's submission, we have five or more declared horse/rider combinations in each division. There are two additional phases of the declaration period and additional applications have already been received. All four divisions will be held concurrently at the NAYC venue in Traverse City, MI. Nicki Grandia, your FEI Youth Committee representative, and Noah Rattner, your Region 6 Director, will serve as co- chefs d' equipe for our three teams. The U25 Division is chef'd by the USEF coaching staff.

We had six wonderful people who raised their hands to represent USDF Region 6 (you) on the national level as USDF PM Delegates. As the 2024-2025 delegate term comes to a close, I'd like to thank our outgoing PM Delegates:

- Tabitha Hopp (WA)
- Jessy Olson (WA)
- Jo Renn (WA)
- Peter Rothschild (WA)
- Renae Talton (MT)
- Michael Taylor (ID)

PM Delegate nominations close on April 15, 2025, and we're looking for six (or more) candidates who'd be willing to serve Region 6 in this capacity. If you're interested, please message our Nominating Committee representative, [Tabby Hopp](#), who can help you get nominated. Thank you in advance for your interest in representing our region!

As many of you know, in early 2025, Brook Irving passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Brook played an integral part in helping grow and develop our region's youth program and we will continue to emphasize and prioritize these programs to ensure the survival and ongoing success of dressage in the Pacific Northwest for generations to come, in her honor.

The Irving Family invites you to contribute to the newly created 'Brook Fund' which was recently established with USDF. Donations are considered tax deductible and tax letters are available for contributions of any amount. You can contribute by visiting the USDF website:

<https://www.usdf.org/online-services/applications/region-cc-processing.asp?region=6>

As of today, the fund has grown to approximately \$12,500. Once the fund reaches \$50,000, we will transfer it to The Dressage Foundation where it will be distributed as grant money to youth riders pursuing FEI-level training, education, and competition. Memorial services for Brook will be held at Kellenbrook Farm on June 29, 2025, from 12-3 pm.

As of February 28, 2025, the USDF Region 6 bank balances are as follows:

General Fund:	\$16,175.00
Jr/YR Fund:	\$14,354.04
Travel Grant:	\$1,060.00
Brook's Fund:	<u>\$12,375.00</u>
Total bank balance	\$43,964.04

I am grateful to represent USDF Region 6 as your regional director. Please don't hesitate to e-mail me at region6dir@usdf.org if there's anything that I can do to better support you in your dressage endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah G. Rattner
USDF Region 6 Director

Region 7 Report

Director: Regina Antonioli, CA

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

2025 World Cup:

Congratulations to Region 7's Genay Vaughn (Elk Grove, CA) on earning a spot to represent the US at this year's World Cup in Switzerland. The 30-year-old and the 14-year-old KWPN gelding Gino (by Bretton Woods x Haarlem) won all three West Coast World Cup qualifiers. The pair posting numerous personal bests is a testament to her partnership with Gino, purchased by Vaughn's mother when he was six. Vaughn is also in the top standings to qualify for the new US Open of Dressage to be held in Thermal, CA.

2025 USEF Dressage Training Series – West Coast:

The clinic took place at the HITS Del Mar Horsepark in Del Mar, CA, February 20-23, 2025. The Dressage Training Series is designed to identify and develop the next generation of top US dressage team athletes and includes mounted and unmounted sessions with top professionals on topics related to riding, competing, and horse care. This year's instructors for the mounted sessions were George Williams, Sabine Schut-Kery, and Benjamin Pfabe. The number of invited athletes increased from ten to fifteen, five more than 2024. "I'm happy to say that in reviewing the applications we received it became very clear to me that with the many talented combinations I was looking at we needed to increase the number of athletes we could accept into the clinic," said George Williams, US Equestrian Dressage Youth Coach and High Performance & Pathway Development Advisor. Athletes were automatically invited to participate in the 2025 USEF Dressage Training Series based on their results at various high-level competitions or through the application process. Region 7 athletes participating included: U21 Athletes: Sage Chacon (Riverside, CA); Emme Chisholm (Ramona, CA); Mia Folk (Fullerton, CA); Ryder Mosqueda (Hemet, CA); Emma Schneider (Sunland, CA) U25 Athletes: Ellanor Boehning (Rancho Santa Fe, CA); Hannah Johnson (Carlsbad, CA); Haley Smith (Woodside, CA); Miki Yang (Los Altos Hills, CA).

Aloha State Dressage Society (ASDS):

ASDS is excited to announce that their Alberto Conde Clinic has been rescheduled to March 22, 23, and 24 at both Maunawili Farms and Hilltop Ranch. Portuguese Master Alberto Conde was raised on his father's Lusitano Stud farm - Dona Maria. He grew up riding with the Masters in Portugal. At 26 years old, Alberto won the European Championship of Working Equitation riding for the Portuguese team. Alberto has traveled the world and currently lives in California where he trains horses and riders in working equitation and dressage. ASDS will host its first USEF/USDF show of the 2025 season June 14 and 15, with judge, Katy Barglow, "S", of California.

2025 California Dressage Society (CDS) Annual Meeting:

Due to the devastation caused by the fires in Los Angeles, the 2025 CDS Annual Meeting was held via Zoom instead of in-person. Some special activities were missed, including the awards banquet, where Steffen Peters was to be inducted into the CDS Honor Roll, and a live symposium with Christine Traurig. Both these are being postponed to a later date. Chapter

reports were all delivered via Zoom, but any disappointment at not being together was quickly mitigated by the enthusiastic sharing of ideas.

CDS 2025 Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Clinics:

US team rider, Anna Buffini was a big hit at the CDS Northern Jr/YR Clinic, hosted by Mari Naten at her Pacific Equestrian in Wilton, CA. Riders were (in alphabetical order): Saraphina Allen, Kiran Banga, Marie Charlotte, Graclyn De-Nijs, Tilde Elwing-Jacobo, Ellen Gudiksen, Lillian Ramirez-Fuerst, Dominique Scarpete, Amelia Vann, and Rachel Westover. All had great fun and learned so much. The Southern Clinic will be held in April.

CDS 2025 Linda O'Carroll Memorial Adult Amateur Clinics:

The first two of the three CDS 2025 Linda O'Carroll Memorial Amateur Clinics were held with Lilo Fore: Riders in the Southern Clinic, held January 24-26 at La Cresta Equestrian Center included: Lena Persson, Ann Blyth, Sharmane Kuhlmeier, Carrie Sheridan, Nancy Michalski, Hailey Hall, Cyndi Willis, Kimberly Adams, Heather Hornor, Carly Fields Davis, Brenna Girardlts. The Northern Clinic, held March 7-9 at Starr Vaughn Equestrian, included: Kim Aguilar, Alyssa Buening, Cathy Divodi, Barbara Fogarty, Heather Greaves, Maureen Lamb, Rachael Masen, Julia Mitchell, Pam Porter Englund, Ruth Shirkey, Lisa Sires, Julie Wood. The Central Clinic will be held in May. Participation is a benefit of being a CDS member and is supported by the Linda O'Carroll Scholarship and Bobby Keville Scholarship funds. In addition to CDS, thanks also goes to the USDF for grant assistance, Las Vegas, Marin, Valley Oaks, and Pomona Chapters of CDS, Laurie Daniels, Michel Vaughn, Lynda Palmer, Suzanne Paulson, Nancy Johnson, Elizabeth Ruiz, Stephanie Field, Terry Griggs, Nancy Michalski for their generous help and donations. There was a lot of great riding and excellent coaching by Lilo Fore.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Antonioli
USDF Region 7 Director

Region 8 Report

Director: Helen van der Voort, NY

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

Greetings from Region 8!

As usual, winter is a slow time in the Northeast but the months leading up to it have been full of activities and awards. Region 8 had a solid showing at the US Dressage Festival of Champions in late August. Riders from our region were Josie DeChaine placing 5th in the U25s, Sophia Forsyth in Young Riders placing 2nd in both the Individual and Team tests, Jane Karol, who placed 5th in the Developing GP Championships, and Callie O'Connell placing 3rd in both GP and GP Freestyle.

September featured the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 8 Championships at HITS on the Hudson which were a great success. Mother nature was at her most spectacular. The newly upgraded showgrounds were vastly improved with fresh landscaping, and horses and riders were all bright and shiny.

In October, the 2024 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium with Gareth Hughes was held at Mt. Holyoke. Gareth Hughes most recently won the 2024 Grand Prix Freestyle at the British National Championships, was Carl Hester's ground person at the Paris Olympics, and was the dressage coach for the New Zealand Eventing Team at the Olympics. The NEDA Symposium is always an excellent learning opportunity and October is a beautiful time to be in Western Massachusetts. The participating demo teams were Devon Pomeroy and Fuerst Dream FOD, Geena Martin and Tip Top, Cassandra Martin and Stella M, Allison Mathy and Legendario dos Diamantes, Rosa Murphy and Hotstuff, Leah Drew and Damons Davian, Maia Barnes and Jamaica B, and Lauren Sammis and Heilines Oh Land. The symposium was hugely successful, with several hundred auditors in attendance.

We had a fantastic turn out of Region 8 competitors at the US Dressage Finals; forty-eight individuals in all. Congratulations to everyone who made it to Kentucky! It was a great team! We all met up Wednesday afternoon to hand out logoed swag and have our picture taken by Susan Stickle, photographer extraordinaire. I believe we are the only region that does this and although people are competing as individuals, this tradition makes everyone feel part of the Region 8 team!

Region 8 had a good showing at the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Houston, TX. Several people won USDF recognition and year-end awards, including Paul Cormier for photography, Emily Larson for First Person Newsletter Article, Kari Cincotta for Regional Volunteer of the Year, and Christine Engel for Most Outstanding GMO Basket. In addition to other distinction recipients, Bobbi Carleton was at the gala to receive, among other awards, her Diamond Achievement which recognizes USDF members awarded the USDF bronze, silver and gold medals and freestyle bars. In September, Kate O'Connor put together a fantastic array of donated items for the silent auction to raise funds to help the Participating Member (PM) delegates with the cost of attending the convention. On the downside of the convention, it

continues to be a struggle to get GMOs to identify delegates or assign proxies. We will have to start the process sooner next year to ensure all the GMOs are adequately represented.

We are enthusiastic about upcoming events. At this point, there are only forty-nine days until the first recognized show at Mystic Valley Hunt Club. So far, we have eight applications for North American Youth Championships, including one Childrens entry for the inaugural 12-14 year-old competition. And finally, we are excited to welcome Sabine Schut-Kery to the FEI Youth Clinic in October.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen van der Voort
USDF Region 8 Director

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2025 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23, Lexington, KY

An early arrival of spring seems the norm in Region 9. Shows, clinics, and seminars are all underway. GMOs are busy planning and holding educational events. I hope that all members will take advantage of the opportunity to participate. GMOs are an integral part of USDF. Thanks to all the volunteers who run them!

As always, there is a lot going on. Region 9 had several members who traveled to Florida in January for the USDF Trainers Conference. It is always very educational. The Ingrid Klimke Masterclass was held in Tyler, TX at the Texas Rose Horse Park in February. Those attending gave rave reviews. Southern Eventing and Dressage Association (SEDA) held a fun Lauren Spreiser Seminar in Folsom, LA. Dallas Dressage Club (DDC) held its annual judges freestyle seminar on March 8th with Joan Darnell. All attendees gained valuable experience and had fun too. Houston Dressage Society (HDS) just finished with Session D1, D2 and the final exam for a dedicated group of L Program candidates.

Coming up on the calendar:

- DDC is holding a judging dressage seat equitation at the end of March.
- Alamo Dressage Association (ADA) is having a riding clinic with judge Cesar Torrente in May. They have also recently held several learning seminars for volunteers.
- Oklahoma Dressage Society (ODS) is having their Spring Symposium with Willy Arts the first part of April and a GMO Educational Initiative Symposium, also in April.
- SFS Dressage and Wild Oaks Ranch is hosting Michael Klimke toward the end of March.

Beneficial for our members, more GMOs are hosting educational events, and many private barns bring in well-known national and international clinicians too.

Our yearly Region 9 summer (in-person) meeting is slated for July 18-20, 2025, in New Orleans, LA French Quarter, and hosted by SEDA. Besides the business portion and networking session, we have options for a tour of the Garden District, a food tour, a ghost tour, jazz dinner/cruise on a steamboat paddlewheel river boat, going out to excellent restaurants, and lots of camaraderie and fun. SEDA will also be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Le Bon Temps...let the good times roll!

The following information (several paragraphs) can be found with more detail in the *Region 9 Omnibus* (electronic version) on the Region 9 website, including shows, past and present awards presented, list of judges, technical delegates, L graduates, certified instructors, Region 9 board members, GMO presidents, etc.

With over thirty-three recognized shows, of note is the HDS 2025 Edwards De Mata Law PLLC CDI2*/1*/Am/YH/Y/J/PCH and Spring Classic. It is the only CDI in our region. We appreciate HDS and the enormous effort they put forward to hold such a prestigious event.

HDS also hosts the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships and SWDC Championships & HDS Autumn Classic, to be held October 2-5, 2025. This is another huge undertaking, and we truly appreciate and respect all who help to make it a success.

Of the eighteen Region 9 board member positions, we welcome Sarah Denham as our new Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) chairperson. Stepping down from the Region 9 board, after at least two decades of dedicated service is Meg Flemming. The TEA was the brainchild of Meg, who is passionate about teaching dressage correctly and with excellence, hence the name of the award. In its 16th year, it has awarded more than \$75,000. We will greatly miss Meg, but thank her profusely for her forward-thinking idea, which will continue for years. And thank you to The Dressage Foundation for housing and overseeing this prestigious award.

We have thirteen GMOs, and of those we welcome four new presidents: ADA's Claire Oxley, Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship's (BACH) Cynthia Werner, Central Plains Dressage Society's (CPDS) Nora Wert, and HDS's Jody DeStefanis. We appreciate the service of the outgoing presidents, Jim Humphreys (ADA), Jinny Johnson (BACH), Chris Cashel (CPDS), and Jane Holman (HDS).

Our twelve USEF licensed judges stay busy traveling the states, with some going overseas. Of the six USEF licensed technical delegates, one is new. Congrats Christina Harmon for becoming an "r". We are graced with twenty-three USDF L graduates in our region. The region is also proud of the ten USDF certified and associate instructors.

Since the 2024 fall report, we held a regional Zoom meeting in November, with twenty-five attending. Several reports were given. The Region 9 eNews, sent out by Nicole Miller around the middle of each month, has approximately 600 subscribers, with a 50% open rate. Nicole also manages the Region 9 Facebook page and website, and I send out e-mails to the GMOs, updating them on information of interest for their members.

We recognized our 2024 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year, Betty Beebe. She serves on the Region 9 board as the Adult Education Chair. She periodically writes articles for our newsletter and is extremely involved with Central Texas Dressage Society (CTDS), wearing numerous hats. Congrats Betty for many years of volunteerism, and many more to come. Congrats also to Nicole Miller for the winning design for our annual 2024 Region 9 t-shirt. We sold the most t-shirts ever with a new color and cool design.

In November, George Williams came to Paragon Farms in Magnolia, TX, as instructor for the USDF Region 9 FEI Youth Clinic. Everyone learned a lot and had fun. Marsha Lewis, our Region 9 FEI youth coordinator, is busy planning the 2025 FEI Youth Clinic that will be held in the fall with Anne Gribbons.

Marsha is the go-to person for the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) (coordinating, helping the riders, etc.). She also supervises fundraising for both the Region 9 FEI Jr/ YRs and youth and has other ideas coming down the pipeline for educational opportunities.

Region 9 welcomed open arms USDF members and delegates to the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Houston, TX. For the first time in several years Region 9 provided lapel pins for all convention attendees. They were proudly worn and are collector items.

Besides the educational sessions and meetings, one of the highlights of the convention included a night of line dancing with the “Howdy Dancers”. What happens in Houston, stays in Houston! Three members won coveted GMO baskets: Betty Beebe, Ruby Lewis, and Bess Bruton. We had thirty-one in attendance at the in-person Region 9 meeting. Our 2025 Region 9 Finance Working Group was elected: Claire Oxley, Elizabeth Clifton, and Sarah Jane Martin. Most of the meeting was convention information and discussion about the items coming forward for a vote at the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. There was discussion about the other meetings and educational seminars being offered as well.

We were fortunate to have all six PM delegates represent us at BOG: Arlene Gaitan, Barbara Lewis, Betty Beebe, Carolyn VandenBerg, Marilyn Kulifay, and Sarah Jane Martin. Our GMO delegates were Claire Oxley, Christina Harmon, Joanne Baum, Joanne Homeyer, Lynne Smith, Sarah Denham, and Nicole Miller. Each of our PM delegates did double duty carrying a GMO proxy as well. We appreciate all our delegates!

Thanks to the following Region 9 GMOs for helping to sponsor the convention in Houston: BACH, SEDA, CTDS, CPDS, ODS, DDC, Fort Worth Dressage Club, ADA, Austin Dressage Unlimited, and HDS.

Alecia Daniel, our region’s Nominating Committee representative, is busy looking for PM delegates for the 2025 convention to be held in Lexington, KY. She will be contacting the GMOs later in the summer for their delegates.

With the new year comes new members to the USDF national committees. New this year, Leslie Rohrer on the Regional Championships Committee. Other members of the national committees include: Bess Bruton – Bylaws Committee; Jennifer Jarvis – GMO Committee; Alecia Daniel – Nominating Committee; Marilyn Kulifay – Competition Management and Technical Delegates Committees; Tina Wentz – Para Dressage Committee; Sarah Denham – Adult Programs Committee; Elizabeth Clifton – Awards Committee; Marsha Lewis – FEI Youth Committee; and Regina Milliken – Sport Horse Committee. Thanks to all these members who help USDF forge a promising and bright future.

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) is an important source of funds for both our GMOs and members. Every year we turn to them for help. We had several Century Club riders inducted this past year, along with recipients for both GMO and individual grants. Congrats to all!

TDF helps with two major Region 9 grants: Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund for Region 9 Adult Amateurs (the 2024 recipient was Danielle Aymond), and the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award for instructors. Information about TDF is published in our monthly regional e-newsletters. Also in our monthly newsletters, we help our youth stay informed by providing information to encourage them along their journey. Included is the Dressage4Kids calendar and updates. The D4K Team program has two clinics scheduled in Fulshear and in Hutto, TX this spring.

Our *Region 9 Omnibus* is the region’s best fundraiser, supporting many grants and monies for the region GMOs and members. Due to its twenty-nine years of publication, the region is very financially stable. We are very appreciative of the many sponsors and advertisers who support and have supported us through the years. Thank you! Some of the regional funds available include: Adult Education Fund for GMOs, Youth Education Fund, Jr/YR Fund, Travel Funds for smaller GMOs, and members to attend the summer meeting and national convention. It takes

dedicated volunteers to put together the omnibus. We are already working on the 2026 edition, "Celebrating 30 Years", which is due out in October.

We are always excited when our members and GMOs achieve recognition through individual and GMO awards. The 2024 USDF Region 9 GMO Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Janelle Williams of Edmond, OK (CPDS). SEDA won 1st place for a GMO Newsletter Award, and a GMO Website Award for GMOs with 75-174 members.

Several of our members attended and did well at the 2024 US Dressage Finals held in Lexington, KY. Congratulations to everyone! I had the good fortune to attend to volunteer in hospitality. It was fun and rewarding.

Recognizing all our volunteers in all aspects of our sport is important. Without volunteers there would be no GMOs, no shows, no clinics, no seminars. They are necessary for the wheels to turn. Please be kind and thank them!

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Bruton
USDF Region 9 Director