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Region 1 Report

Director: Bettina Longaker, VA

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24 Lexington, KY

Once again, Region 1 was spared much of old man winter! The northern parts of the region had some snow, but basically spring came in by mid-February.

We held our spring Zoom meeting on March 6th with 36 participants from all over the region. With only one bid for the 2025 regional championships and one bid for the Colonel Bengt Ljunquist Memorial (CBLM) Championships, there was more time for other discussions. The meeting went for over two hours.

2024 spring meeting synopsis:

The 2024 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1 Dressage Championships will be hosted by the Virginia Dressage Association (VADA) at the Virginia Horse Center. The organizing committee is hopeful that the show will retract to its usual size (which is not small) as Regions 2 and 3 have moved to more rider favorite facilities.

The 2024 CBLM Championships will be hosted by North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association (NCDCTA) at the Carolina Horse Park, with a change in management to Kevin Bradbury and his HorseShowOffice.com crew. Last year, the region voted that these championships may be moved down to a Level 3 dressage competition, mainly to reduce the show expenses of a Level 4. But, it still has to be run as a championship competition with mounted awards presentation and other frills. www.CBLM.org is live and up to date.

2025 championships:

There was one bid from VADA, October 8-12, for the Region 1 championships. Janine Malone led the discussion and vote by the current PM delegates.

There was one bid from Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association (ESDCTA), August 29-31 at the New Jersey Horse Park for the CBLM Championships. These championships have made the move to earlier in the fall season, which should be a plus for everyone, as they will now be away from Dressage at Devon, regional championships, and the US Dressage Finals.

The 2024 US Dressage Finals were discussed. It was stressed that all riders need to confirm the USDF Region they are declared for, as regional championship is the only way to the US Dressage Finals.

The 2024 Region 1 Youth DressageTeam Challenge will be held at Rose Mount Farm in Spotsylvania, VA. With the change in venue, the organizing committee has been able to decrease some of the show fees to the riders. They now have a 501c3, Youth Dressage FUNDation and hope this will encourage even more sponsors. Another exciting announcement

is that this show is teaming up with Dressage4Kids for two new awards, the East Coast Youth Dressage Champion and Trainer awards. The three shows (riders must compete in only two) are: Region 1 Youth Dressage Team Challenge, Youth Dressage Festival in Saugerties, NY, and Atlanta Youth Festival.

Potomac Valley Dressage Association (PVDA) is once again hosting the Adult Amateur Team Challenge at their November show, held at the Prince Georges Equestrian Center. They have some cool plans in the works for this year's competition.

The 2024 North American Youth Championships (NAYC) will be held July 30-August 2 in Traverse City, MI. Currently, our region does not have the usual number of either junior or young rider applicants, but Debbie DelGiorno is confident they will apply (hopefully before the fees increase).

The 2024 youth clinic with George Williams is confirmed for November 23 – 24. We are still waiting for the facility to confirm.

Debbie also discussed the youth outreach clinics with Olivia Lagoy-Wentz. Olivia has generously donated her time, so the only cost to the riders will be her expenses and the facility costs. These clinics are aimed at the up and coming juniors/young riders who need exposure to the FEI experience. It is planned to host these clinics in all parts of the region.

Our region is very fortunate to have at least four CDIs scheduled for 2024. The Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival, May 16-19, will kick off the 2024 Region 1 CDI season once again with a full CDI3*, and more competitions at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA. The Boutique CDI 3* will be held June 20-23 at the Rhythm & Blues Equestrian Center in Quakertown, PA. Dressage At Devon will be held September 24-29. The master class is continuing with the announcement of the presenter later this spring, and the dance off is also happening again. Dressage sport horse breeding (DSHB) starts this competition off on Tuesday, with the USDFBC East Coast Series Championships on Thursday, along with the FEI jog, young horse tests, and a full CDI schedule throughout the rest of the week. GP freestyle will again be under the lights on Saturday night. Tryon Fall Dressage 2 is scheduled for October 24-27 at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Tryon, NC. It is a full CDI3*. For more information on any/all of the CDIs, please go to: <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>

GMO happenings:

- Commonwealth Dressage and Combined Training Association will offer five schooling shows and one licensed show in June, along with clinics and fix-a-test clinics.
- Delaware Valley Combined Training Association is offering a schooling show series.
- ESDCTA will host a freestyle clinic and seminar April 13-14 with Terry Ciotti Gallo. Their Memorial Day weekend show will have both performance and DSHB classes. Other licensed shows are scheduled throughout the summer and early fall. All licensed shows offer CBLM qualifying classes. They are working on a youth outreach program and their year-end awards will include some for breeders and handlers.
- Lehigh Valley Dressage Association is using 2024 as a restructuring year. The new focus will be on education for the equestrian athlete. They are working with the Red Cross for a first aid/CPR class with emphasis on the trainers in the area. They will host a series of how-to with Samantha St. Jacques, including a cavetti clinic and seven schooling shows. Their

year-end awards have been expanded to include awards for riders on school horses. To facilitate volunteer sign up, they will use Sign-up Genius.

- Maryland Dressage Association has six schooling shows in their pipeline, cumulating with a championships show. A fix-a-test is planned and they are revamping their volunteer program to hopefully find a better way to reward their current volunteers and recruit even more.
- NCDCTA will have four licensed shows, including the CBLM Championships. Jillian Klein will be the presenter for their yearly educational event to be held July 19-21. It will focus on the neck of the horse as a part of its functional anatomy . They are adding pony and small horse championships to their end of the year championships. They also offer a structured scholarship program.
- PVDA will host five licensed competitions this year, with their spring show moving to Loch Moy. They have seventeen schooling shows planned, a balanced partnership clinic, and the annual chapter challenge.
- VADA will host an L program starting in December at Old Raptor Farm in Louisa, VA. Four of the eight chapters host licensed competitions with most hosting clinics and/or schooling shows. VADA itself hosts Dressage at Lexington (July 14-16), featuring the Sporting Horse Amateur Challenge (SHAC), Maestro Cup Grand Prix, PSG, Int I, USDF and FEI FS Challenge classes, ending the year with the 2024 Adequan/USDF Region 1 Dressage Championships.

A new logo contest was undertaken by Debbie DelGiorno. A flyer was posted on our Region 1 website asking for possible logo submissions from our members. Debbie received thirteen! After careful review, Debbie then contacted the embroiderer used by the region for their input. All were very creative but would either not embroider well, expand to banner, or contract to business card sizes. Our region is very fortunate to have so much talent! The final choice was submitted by Paige Zimmerman. We are so excited to have a new, modern logo and I personally can't wait to use it!

Treasurers Report, current as of January 31, 2024: ASSETS: Current Assets: Checking/Savings Omnibus account 7,062.10; FEI Junior/Young Rider account 15,488.07; Education account 2,113.20; General account 4,198.30; Youth account: 375.00. Total Checking/Savings 29,236.67; Total Current Assets 29,236.67; TOTAL ASSETS: 29,236.67; LIABILITIES & EQUITY: Equity Retained Earnings 26,574.94; Net Income (2,661.73); Total Equity 29,236.67; TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY: 29,236.67.

Debbie DelGioro noted that the FEI Junior/Young Rider account is quite flush from the 2023 fundraising activities by the NAYC kids. All NAYC applicants take part in the fundraising activities for the next year. If the number of applicants for 2024 does not reach the usual level, there may be a drop in their fundraising amounts and Debbie hopes the region's members will continue to be as supportive as they have been in the past.

Lori Kaminski and I are working hard to fill the region's Participating Member delegate slots, but regrettably Houston seems to be a hard sell.

I'm now one third of the way through my third term as Region 1 Director. Every regional Zoom meeting amazes me with the commitment to and by our GMOs to their members. The level of volunteerism in our region is a tribute to the GMOs ability to listen and react to their members.

Going forward into 2024, I look forward to getting the new logo out for all to see and I will continue to educate the GMOs on what USDF has to offer and is currently doing for their members.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettina G. Longaker
USDF Region 1 Director

Region 2 Report

Director: Debby Savage, OH

2024 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. Our competitors reflect the values and training they have received as they successfully compete on the regional and national levels. We had excellent representation at the 2023 convention.

All seventeen GMOs are accounted for; however, it seems that many memberships are coming in slowly or perhaps they are not being reported yet.

Regarding GMO award banquets, most GMOs did have one this year, although many are held in January or February instead of 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 Region 2 can elect twelve delegates.

Region 2 Education Update:

- The Region 2 Education Committee is headed up by Anna Cluxton and includes Cathy Jacob 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 (CBJSSA) Program participants over the past year
- A Jr/YR clinic has been scheduled for this fall with Lilo Fore
- GMOs continue to offer USDF programs as well as their own original activities

Region 2 Competition Update:

- There are currently 110 recognized shows on the books for 2024. For comparison, in 2023 there were 109, 2022 there were 114, in 2021 there were 100, in 2020 there were only 58 and in 2019 there were 120.
- Region 2 continues to benefit from and support the CBJSSA Program via the Region 2 website and Facebook page. This year, the CBJSSA Program contributed over \$750 to our education fund.
- National Dressage Pony Cup (NDPC) and Small Horse Championships and NDPC Partner Show will again be in July at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Wilmington, OH.
- The North American Youth Championships (NAYC) will be held in Traverse City, MI:
 - Region 2 chefs d'équipe for the juniors will be Shari Wolke and for the young rider team will be Laurie Moore. Roz Kinstler continues to be our youth coordinator.
 - We need a fundraising chairperson! 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 Insurance Group/USDF Region 2 Dressage Championships will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park in September.
- The US Dressage Finals will be held November 7-10, 2024, at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current Assets:
 - FEI Jr/Young Rider account \$7,231.21
 - Education account \$7,876.44
 - General account \$1,351.80
 - Total checking/savings \$16,459.45

A date for the fall Zoom meeting will be determined sometime in mid-October.

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

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24 Lexington, KY

The backbone of our regions is our Group Member Organizations (GMOs). They welcome and nurture the newest members in dressage, creating our grassroots seeds that allow us to advance to the highest levels. Without this base, we don't evolve.

Region 3 currently has nineteen GMOs. All five states have them. Our largest, Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, has 594 members. Six still need the minimum number of members for a vote at the annual meeting, but they are growing. We currently have 1,518 GMO members.

Two points have come up this spring that Region 3 needs to be thinking about: 1) We would like to establish a "mentor" system to help smaller GMOs thrive and 2) It has been suggested that an "umbrella" GMO be established in areas where there are no GMOs for riders who want to belong to one. The idea of chapters has come up. Currently, only one GMO in Region 3, Deep South Dressage and Combined Training Association, has chapters.

Show numbers are up this year. We have 160 shows listed on the USDF website calendar. Eighteen are CDI's. Florida and Georgia make up more than 50% of those listed. With the most southern climates, they have a longer show period. All of our states have listed shows. A lot of riders choose to come south to train and show in the winter. Many join our GMOs; it's hard to tell at times how many are full time residents.

USEF lists 25 "S" judges in Region 3, 5 of whom are also FEI. Also, we have 14 "R" judges, 15 "r" judges, and 60 L graduates, 28 being with distinction.

In education, the South Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association is holding two programs for instructor development in March and May. They are being offered remotely and will allow continuing education credits for L graduates.

Elizabeth Molloy organized both the FEI Young Rider Clinic with Lilo Fore in January at Noble Steeds Farm in Canton, GA and the USDF Region 3 Youth Outreach Clinic, also at Nobel Steeds, in March. Liz will again be leading our teams to the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) as chef d'equipe. Applications are currently coming in for the NAYC young rider and junior teams. We have five listed as junior hopefuls, two of which are returning riders from the 2023 team.

The survey/wrap up of the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, FL showed that the riders appreciated the hospitality and effort by the organizing team. The use of tenting for stalls again was a concern, and increasing the amount of time allowed for schooling was suggested.

In 2024, our regional championships will move, but not too far. They will be held at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Ocala. Since its opening, competitors have asked for this venue.

The rings used for the championships will be the indoor arenas with the adjacent stabling. Teresa Uddo will be heading up the management for 2024. Our eight person/five state committee who is reviewing applications for 2025 is currently making their recommendation to the national committee and Executive Board for their approval.

The Region 3 John Kimball Adult Amateur Championships will be held June 1-2, 2024, in Newberry, FL. A committee headed by former Region 3 Director, Sue Bender, is researching a venue in another state to move the "Kimball Championships", hoping to involve more riders from other states. This is where our adult amateurs shine in the spotlight. There is also a full card of open and junior classes. The facility, formerly Canterbury Show Place, has been purchased by Alachua County and many upgrades have been made in footing and stabling.

As of January 31, here is the bottom line of our assets for Region 3:

Championship Account	880.88
Education Account	834.90
General Account	1,622.83
Jr/YR Account	8,943.23
Youth Account	400.00
Total Current Assets	12,681.84

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Trentelman
USDF Region 3 Director

Region 4 Report

Director: Anne Sushko, IA

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 22-23 Lexington, KY

It continues to be my pleasure to serve as Region 4 Director. The region continues to grow through its member involvement. We are well represented on USDF committees. Although our number of USEF licensed officials is low, those who hold licenses are active! We have members throughout the region 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, national, and international levels.

We had a fantastic time at this year's 2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention! Omaha was an exciting and welcoming city with many opportunities for attendees. Due to an increase in membership in the region, we maintained our roster of four Participating Member (PM) delegates. All four were in attendance this year at the Board of Governors (BOG). For as many years as I can remember we had the highest number of designated Group Member Organization (GMO) delegates in attendance and all GMOs submitted proxies prior to the start of the BOG. Thank you! There was a large number of non-delegate attendees for the region meeting, as well as in attendance at the education sessions. The 2024 convention will be held in Houston, TX. Make your plans now to attend!

Region 4 continues to have a 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 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! Region 4 will be offering the new instructor/trainer clinic format this spring/summer in Nebraska.

Nancy Harrison Gorton will continue as our Region 4 North American Youth Championships (NAYC) coordinator. She will be joined by Stacey Bates as co-coordinator! Both bring a wealth of knowledge and broad experience to this position. The 2024 NAYC is scheduled to, again, be held in Traverse City, MI. Laurie Virkstis will join Nancy onsite as chef d'equipe for our juniors. We already have young people declaring their intent to participate. 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 website. You will also see them offering services at shows throughout the region. The group has already held one online auction and a Sees candy fundraiser this year. The group also plans to hold a second online auction.

A youth development clinic was held in Nebraska in March. The clinician was Anne Cizadlo. Thank you to those who supported this clinic either financially or by attending as an auditor.

We received one application to host the 2025 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 4 Dressage Championships. The committee will evaluate the application and will have a recommendation by the deadline. Due to the cost of putting on the regional championships, Maffitt Lake has notified me that they will no longer be submitting applications to host. It will be difficult to replace this facility. If you know of any facilities/groups towards the middle of the region that might be interested in hosting future regionals, please let me know! It would be wonderful to have multiple options.

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 will 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 with us. How we do this is the challenge, but it is a challenge we are able to take on. The key to this is establishing a positive and welcoming atmosphere and environment. Reach out! Invite! Support!

Goals for early 2024:

1. Identify nominees for PM delegates.
2. Encourage qualified people to run for regional director.
3. Support education programs with the emphasis on licensed officials and instructor/trainer programs.
4. Continue emphasis on using a variety of officials (TDs and judges) at shows within the region.
5. Continue emphasis on involving more youth in our sport.
6. Further develop instructor/trainer listing on website. Include notations on their continuing education efforts (clinics/workshops taken).
7. Begin process of identifying GMO representatives for convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Sushko
Region 4 Director

Region 5 Report

Director: Heather Petersen, CO

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24 Lexington, KY

The 2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention held in Omaha, NE, had a decent turn out of Region 5 folks for the meetings and awards gala. It is so productive to be able to sit down and talk with people, gather and have chats about various programs and issues, and plan for future endeavors. 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 2024 for the convention in Houston, TX. It's another convention close to home, so I'm hoping for a good turnout from Region 5.

We are lucky to have great folks serving on our various USDF committees who participate, attend meetings and calls, and actively contribute on a regular basis. Thank you to those serving on committees and subcommittees. Our region is better for the time and effort you have contribute..

- Bobbi Lehman – Group Member Organizations Committee
- Heather Petersen – Bylaws and Competition Management Committees
- Virginia Sorenson – 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
- Gwen Ka'awaloa – 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

Congratulations to everyone on all of your achievements in 2023. We had good representation at the 2023 US Dressage Finals and quite a few folks did well in the USDF year-end awards standings. 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 a great reward in its own right. I know I'm very thankful for those daily moments with my own horses.

The 2024 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships will be held September 19-22 in Parker, CO at the Colorado Horse Park, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. Be sure to check out the USDF website for more information. We are currently evaluating bids for the 2025 regional championships, though only one bid was

received for the region. If any organizations have an interest in exploring putting in a bid for 2026, 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 2024. NAYC will be hosted one week earlier this year in Traverse City, MI. We had a great group of kids go to the competition in 2023, and we really enjoyed returning to the venue and lovely area. We hope to raise enough funds to have another strong presence in 2024. We currently have two juniors and two young riders declared but hope as the deadline approaches there will be more interest. 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 inclay@comcast.net.

Region 5 will be hosting a USEF/USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) Clinic October 19-20, 2024 in Colorado with USDF President and USEF Youth Coach, George Williams. We will also be offering our first USDF Region 5 Youth Outreach Clinic this year! The clinic will be October 5-6, 2024 in Arizona and will feature Brandi Roenick as our clinician. Brandi is a veteran of the NAYC Program, having won team and individual gold medals. She currently resides in Germany and has received many accolades as a professional rider at stallion shows and competitions throughout Europe.

Dorothy Kapaun did a good job getting a geographically well rounded slate of participating delegates for the 2023 convention. Many thanks to those who ran for the positions and to those who attended the convention. Unfortunately, Dorothy has had a lot on her plate, and she stepped down from the Nominating Committee near the end of 2023. Many thanks to Virginia Sorenson from Utah for stepping onto the Nominating Committee to represent Region 5. We are currently looking for PM delegates for the 2024 convention in Houston, TX. Virginia has had some returning interest from previous delegates, but if you would like to also run for PM delegate, please drop her an email - g_sorenson@yahoo.com. 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):

RMDS had a very active winter, offering a technical delegate training, a show management training and a 2024 new rules presentation. The board has been meeting monthly for the last year to help keep on top of new programs and educational events. They have a fabulous adult amateur clinic planned this November with Jodi Lees, a Jr/YR camp planned for this July, and our professionals committee is looking at several different presentations.

RMDS is very excited to host the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships once again. It has been five years since the regional championships were last in Colorado. They are working to secure some sponsors and offer several fun dinners and/or events. 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 will be out soon. This beautiful, glossy magazine was made possible by 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, information for several shows, and so much more from our sponsors and advertisers.

We will be present at the Denver horse expo to encourage visitors to consider the sport of dressage.

Kaye Phaneuf, our representative on the USDF Technical Delegates (TD) Committee:

1. I continue to serve on the USDF TD Committee as the Region 5 representative. Our primary ongoing activity continues to be the development and maintenance of various learning modules and reference resources. Intended primarily for TDs, these materials are available to all USDF members, and the module quizzes earn USDF University credit. (Members will find these learning modules by logging in to the USDF website and choosing 'Technical Delegates' from the Education tab at the top of the home page. After perusing the materials on this page, click the green button to dive deeper into the TD educational materials.)
2. I also chair the PR group for this committee. Our mission is to raise awareness of dressage competition participants -- judges, riders, trainers, management -- about what TDs do and how we can help them have a better show experience.
3. Region 6 member Peter Rothschild and I created and administer the Dressage Competition Management Forum on Facebook. This is a closed group where TDs, managers, and secretaries of all levels of dressage competition and experience can share with and learn from each other. I encourage all managers and secretaries of any kind of dressage competition, any level, to join the group and bring their questions, concerns, and advice.

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

Many thanks to our GMOs who were able run a few educational events this past year and 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

***2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24
Lexington, KY***

No Report Available.

Region 7 Report

Director: Carol Tice, CA

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24 Lexington, KY

Aloha State Dressage Society (ASDS)

ASDS will again hold its four show series but it will now be two days of shows each weekend. “S” judges Melissa Creswick, Katy Barglow, and Barbi Breen-Gurley will be at Hilltop Farms and “S” judge Cindy Canace will be judging at Maunawili Farms.

It was a pleasure to see two representatives from ASDS attending the 2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention to carry votes and glean information.

- Hawaii State Dressage Society
- M & N Maui Dressage Society
- Orchid Isle Eventing

As usual, these GMOs continue to provide education and shows for their members to continue and grow with their horsemanship.

California Dressage Society (CDS)

This 2024 show season currently has 100 approved shows, which is a bit less than the normal (120 shows in a season). While a few dates have been cancelled, a few other shows are hoping to pick up those available dates; and others are considering chapters and private individuals adding dates to their calendars.

There is a trend for some CDS chapters; moving from 3* shows to 1* shows or moving from 1* to a schooling show. This is mostly due to high fees, lack of facilities, or high facility costs. But, CDS members are still willing to show, and so far, there are 343 riders who have nominated themselves for the CDS championships, 70 riders for the two junior/young rider championships, and 275 riders for the three regional adult amateur championships (RAAC). Qualifying for these three types of special events can be done at a 1* show.

CDS continues to offer scholarships for everyone: juniors, young riders, adult amateurs and professionals, judges, educational events, and some which are specific to individual chapters.

The Linda O’Carroll CDS Adult Amateur Clinics: one held in each of the three regions, and were very successful with Heidi Gaian as the 2024 clinician. The two junior/young rider clinics will be held in May with David Wightman.

In keeping up with education and information, CDS has had three “Ask the Experts” webinars with Melissa Creswick, Joan Williams, and Axel Steiner. Chapters are offering Zoom clinics that cover balanced riding, breathing, and other topics. They are open to all members and non-members alike. There are still live clinics offered with exceptional clinicians, such as Lisa Wilcox.

Other interesting things going on:

- US Equestrian appointed Region 7's Christine Traurig to the role of development coach and she will be the chef d' equipe for the Olympics.
- A USDF Handler Clinic at the Pacific Equestrian in Wilton, CA.
- While ten CDI's were planned, only eight will be held in the 2024 show season in the Southern California area.
- Congratulations to our two riders, Josh Albrect and Dennessy Rogers from Region 7, who participated and medaled in the U25 FEI Dressage Nations Cup in Wellington; and to the two former Region 7 riders, Erin Nichols and Jan Ebling, riding on the Dutta Corp Nations Cup Team.

Region 8 Report

Director: Helen van der Voort, NY

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24 Lexington, KY

Greetings from Region 8!

This has been our slow season as New England weather is more than just a bit temperamental. However, looking back, the 2023 US Dressage Finals in Kentucky were a great success again. There were approximately 50 Region 8 competitors in attendance, the weather was wonderful, and everything ran smoothly. Generous donors, including SmartPak, provided contributions that allowed gifts of tote bags, saddle pads, and hats to all the competitors. Susan Stickle was on hand to take a picture of the group. Region 8 is the only region that does this for their people, and I think it is something very special and gives our competitors a team feeling. Congratulations to everyone who made it there.

Region 8 has a silent auction every year to raise funds to defray the travel expenses for PM delegates to the convention. This year, I would like to thank Kate O'Connor, Diane Holston, Jamie Fell, Jane Hannigan, Molly Maloney, and Bobbi Carleton for their generous donations to make the PM delegate travel fund silent auction a huge success. Funds were available to at least cover the delegates' hotel expenses.

At our regional meeting in November, Regina Cristo volunteered to put together a group to create a Region 8 adult amateur freestyle award. She envisions it applying to Training – 4th Level with cash prizes. More details to come in the spring.

We are very excited to be hosting Lilo Fore as the clinician for this year's USDF Region 8 Youth Clinic, to be held June 29th and 30th at Weatogue Stables in Salisbury, CT. Last year's clinic was very competitive, and we expect Lilo Fore to be highly sought after.

Our very own junior rider, Leah Drew, is highlighted in a wonderful article in February's Sidelines Magazine.

Starting in February and continuing through the spring, New England Dressage Association (NEDA) is once again offering its NEDA Know-How Series via Zoom with entertaining and educational speakers.

The end of February came with the extremely sad news that Beth Jenkins passed away suddenly on February 22nd. She was loved and admired by many, both in and out of the dressage community. She was honored with the USDF Member of Distinction Award at the 2023 convention. Within Region 8, she was best known as the long-time manager of the NEDA fall festival and Region 8 championships. She was a force of nature with limitless energy. She will be sorely missed.

The Connecticut Dressage Association (CDA) is running three seminars for the USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program. The dates are:

- Lungeing seminar; April 21-22 (Sunday/Monday) with Ann Guptill and Vicki Hammers-O'Neil at Fox Ledge Farm, East Haddam, CT.
- Riding seminar; July 14-15 (Sunday/Monday) with Bill McMullin and Vicki Hammers-O'Neil at Weatogue Stables, Salisbury, CT.
- Teaching seminar; August 10-11 (Saturday/Sunday) with Bill McMullin and Sarah Geikie at Sperry View Farm, Bethany, CT.

CDA very much hopes that this program is well-attended, as it is designed to educate dressage riders of all levels, both amateurs and professionals, who wish to further their education in the classical system of dressage. The first day is geared toward a general large group audience and features lecture and demonstration rides under the guidance and instruction by the two clinicians. It is a unique opportunity to watch, listen and learn as the training scale and principles of dressage are analyzed. Day 2 is limited to eight participants and is geared toward those who, in a more 'hands-on' situation, may be interested in furthering their professional development and eventually moving on to certification.

Two issues that are percolating up from regional members are concerns over Safe Sport liability for GMOs and the outcome of the investigation into Cesar Parra.

We are all looking forward to spring and the upcoming show season.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen van der Voort
USDF Region 1 Director

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2024 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 23-24 Lexington, KY

Once again spring has arrived early in Region 9. Shows, clinics, and seminars are all in full swing. GMOs are busy planning and holding educational events.

Dallas Dressage Club held its annual judges freestyle seminar on February 17th with Joan Darnell. All attendees gained valuable experience and had fun too. Oklahoma and Central Texas Dressage are both holding seminars; one with Shelly Frances and the other with Jec Ballou. Central Texas Dressage Society is in the process of holding the USDF L Program Part 1, with the last session in April. Many private barns bring in well-known national and international clinicians too.

Our yearly summer regional meeting (in-person) is slated for July 19-21 in College Station, TX and hosted by Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship. Besides the business portion, we will have a networking session, a tour of the A&M Veterinary School, a tour of the Bush Presidential Library, and lots of camaraderie and fun.

With over 31 recognized shows, of note is the Houston Dressage Society (HDS) 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 3-6 this year. 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 members, we welcome Karin Loftin, our new treasurer. Due to changes in our board structure, we have dissolved the Freestyle Committee. We appreciate Susan Howard for her years of service, not only as chair of the Freestyle Committee but in numerous and various jobs throughout the last 20 years. She has been with us through thick and thin, always there helping.

We have thirteen GMOs; of those we welcome two new presidents. Central Plains Dressage Society's (CPDS) new president is Chris Cashel and Tri-State Dressage Society's new president is Brooke Schafer. We appreciate the service of the outgoing presidents, Kathy Maxwell (CPDS) and Donna Canales (Tri-State Dressage).

Our twelve USEF licensed judges stay busy traveling the states, with some going overseas.

Congrats to Celeste Brown on becoming a "r" dressage judge and Mary Mahler who is now a "R" western judge.

Of the seven USEF licensed technical delegates, we have one who recently retired, Bob Cooper. The shows will miss his professional manner and expertise. We are graced with 25 USDF L graduates in our region. Congrats to Richal Flannery and Holly Luke for being added to our L graduate ranks. The region is also proud of the ten USDF certified and associate instructors.

Since the 2023 fall report, we held a regional Zoom meeting in November. Several reports were given: the Region 9 eNews sent out by Nicole Miller around the middle of each month has over 700 subscribers, with a 50% open rate. Nicole also manages the Region 9 Facebook page and website. I also periodically send out e-mails to the GMOs, updating them on information of interest for their members.

We recognized our 2023 Region 9 Horseperson of the Year, Nettie Olsen, and the 2023 Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award winner, Sarah Denham.

The 30th Horse Person of the Year Celebration held during the championships was enjoyed by many past recipients. Thanks to all who helped sponsor this momentous occasion. And congrats to Nicole Miller for the winning design for our 2023 annual Region 9 t-shirt.

Also 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. Even the weather was good. Marsha Lewis, our Region 9 FEI Youth Coordinator, is busy planning both the 2024 youth outreach clinic, scheduled for the weekend of June 29th, and the FEI youth clinic that will be held in the fall. Marsha is the go-to person for the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) (coordinating, holding fundraisers, helping the riders, etc.).

During the 2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Omaha, NE we held an in-person Region 9 meeting. Our 2024 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, Carolyn VandenBerg, Elizabeth Clifton, Marilyn Kulifay, and Sarah Jane Martin. Our GMO delegates were Claire Oxley, Christina Harmon, Audris Griffith, Sarah Denham (all first-time convention goers), and Natasha Fernandez. Also, each of our PM delegates did double duty carrying a GMO proxy. We appreciate all our delegates!

Alecia Daniel, our region's Nominating Committee representative, is busy looking for PM delegates for the 2024 convention to be held in Houston and will be contacting the GMOs later in the summer for their delegates. Speaking of the upcoming convention, our region hopes it will be awesome. We are making plans for a huge Region 9/Texas welcome!

With the new year comes new members to the national committees. New this year, Bess Bruton has been appointed to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Other members of the national committees include: Jennifer Jarvis – GMO Committee; Alecia Daniel – Nominating Committee; Marilyn Kulifay – Competition Management and Technical Delegates Committees, along with Carolyn VandenBerg, who also serves on the Regional Championships Committee; Sarah Denham – Adult Programs Committee; Elizabeth Clifton – Awards Committee; Marsha Lewis –

FEI Youth Committee; and Regina Milliken is Vice Chair of the Sport Horse Committee. Thanks to all these ladies who give tireless hours to better USDF for our members.

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) is an important source of funds for both our GMOs and members. Every year we turn to them for help with educational programs. We had several Century Club riders inducted this past year. Congrats to all! TDF helps with two major Region 9 grants: Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund for adult amateurs and the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award for instructors. Information about TDF is published in our monthly regional newsletters.

Also in our monthly newsletters we help our youth by providing information to encourage them along their journey. Included is the Dressage4Kids calendar and updates.

Our *Region 9 Omnibus* is the region's best fundraiser, supporting many grants and monies for the region GMOs and members. Due to its 28 years of publication, the region is very financially stable. We are very appreciative for the many sponsors and advertisers who support and have supported us through the years. Thank you!

It takes dedicated volunteers to put together the omnibus. We are already working on the 2025 edition, which is due out in October.

We are always excited when our members and GMOs achieve recognition through individual and GMO awards. The 2023 USDF Region 9 GMO Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Meredith Hunter from Folsom, LA. She is a member of Southern Eventing and Dressage Association (SEDA). SEDA won 1st place for the GMO Newsletter Award: GMOs with 75-174 members.

Several of our members attended and did well at the 2023 US Dressage Finals held in Lexington, KY. Congratulations to everyone!

Last, but definitely not least, we want to recognize all our volunteers in all aspects of our sport. You are necessary to keep the wheels turning. You are appreciated more than you will ever know for your dedication, hard work and long hours. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Bruton
USDF Region 9 Director