

## Committee Reports Index

<b>Administrative Council .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Bylaws .....	2
Group Member Organizations .....	3
Historical Recognition .....	5
Nominating.....	6
<b>Technical Council .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Competition Management .....	9
Instructor/Trainer Development Program .....	10
Judges .....	12
L Program .....	14
Technical Delegates .....	16
Para Dressage .....	17
<b>Activities Council.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Adult Programs .....	20
Awards.....	22
FEI Youth.....	23
Regional Championships .....	25
Sport Horse.....	27
National Youth Programs .....	29

# **Administrative Council Committee Reports**

## Bylaws Committee Report

**Chair:** Chris Trentelman, FL

**Liaison:** Sarah Garn

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Janine Malone, NC	Sue Hughes, MI
Barbara Cadwell, FL	Robert Higgins, FL
Heather Petersen, CO	Gaye McCabe, OR
Diane Nell, CA	Bess Bruton, TX

\*There are no new members of the Bylaws Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To provide for the fair and equitable governance of the United States Dressage Federation.

#### **Goals:**

1. Recommend bylaw amendments as needed.
2. Present amendments to the USDF Board of Governors (BOG) General Assembly for ratification.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Recommend proposed bylaws amendments as needed.
2. Discuss and draft bylaws amendments as required by the USDF Executive Board, committees, and members to be presented to the BOG in the future.
3. Develop and formalize policies and procedures for how the Bylaws Committee deals with proposed amendments submitted by a third party member (not the Bylaws Committee, Executive Board, or USDF staff).

#### **Progress to Date:**

- The proposed bylaws amendments that were approved by the 2024 BOG were incorporated into the USDF Bylaws document.
- The revised Bylaws document was posted on the USDF website and distributed to USDF's governance representatives.
- Submitted a proposal to the Executive Board to add new language to the USDF Policies and Procedures to address how the Bylaws Committee is to handle bylaws proposals from individual USDF members (not the Bylaws Committee, Executive Board, or USDF staff).

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## Group Member Organizations Committee Report

**Chair:** Loretta Lucas, FL

**Liaison:** Jill Chamblin

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Dr. Lisa Toaldo, NJ	Jeri Fuller-Matheny, KY
Megan Ward, IA	Bobbi Lehman, AZ
Kathryn Lewis, WA	Regina Antonioli, CA
Dawn Mackenzie, MA	Jennifer Jarvis, TX

\*There are no new members of the Group Member Organizations Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To accelerate the growth and development of Group Member Organizations (GMOs) to broaden and strengthen the dressage community and increase access to education.

#### **Goals:**

1. To promote the education of GMO leadership.
2. To offer support and materials.
3. To provide a network of others with experience.
4. To administer the GMO awards.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Complete outreach to PMs and encourage participation in their local GMO.
2. Continue promotion of GMO educational programs and material.
3. Choose topics and moderators for GMO roundtable discussions.
4. Request USDF Executive Board approval for a GMO educational session at the annual convention, providing suggestions for a topic and lecturer.
5. Continue to provide "Did You Know?" topics for the newsletter..
6. Make GMO Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) pins available to members that earn them.
7. Secure judges for the 2025 USDF GMO Awards Program.
8. Discuss and develop ways to reach out to other equestrian groups and encourage membership in USDF GMOs.
9. Discuss and develop ways to help smaller and new GMOs meet their challenges.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- The first e-mail to PMs who are not GMO members has been deployed. This e-mail included a highlighted GMO program, and GMO programs are also being highlighted on the USDF GMO Officials Facebook page.
- The following topics for the GMO roundtable discussions have been finalized. The committee is in the process of securing moderators.
  - Cybersecurity for GMOs
  - Social Licensing/Code of Conduct for GMOs
  - Group versus Personal Liability
- The topic for the GMO education session at the 2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention has been agreed upon by the committee: "How GMOs can best use various social media

platforms” with USDF Senior Marketing Coordinator Chelsey Burris and USDF Region 7 Director Regina Antonioli presenting.

- Designated committee members are selecting judges for the GMO awards.
- The first “Did you Know?” question/answer has been provided for the GMO Officials Quarterly eNews.
- The first batch of VIP pins have been mailed to designated GMO contacts.
- The committee has a short list of potential committee members who would represent the para equestrian community. Committee members are discussing which would be the best fit.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:**

1. GMO education session at the 2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention: “How GMOs can best use various social media platforms” with USDF Senior Marketing Coordinator Chelsey Burris and USDF Region 7 Director Regina Antonioli presenting.

## Historical Recognition Committee Report

**Chair:** Jennifer Bryant, PA

**Liaison:** Chelsey Burris

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Lauren Annett, PA	Margaret Freeman, NC
Bettina Longaker, VA	Anne Moss, PA
Roz Kinstler, FL	Charlotte Trentelman, FL
Roberta Williams, FL	Lin Nelson-Mayson, MN*
Sally Davenport, MA	Betty Beebe, TX*

\*New member(s) of the Historical Recognition Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To recognize and celebrate the rich heritage of dressage in America through education and promotion.

#### **Goals:**

1. Oversee and coordinate Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction selection.
2. Work with USDF and assist in the development and selection of materials and criteria for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame building.
3. Gather and archive information on the heritage of USDF.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Nominate suitable candidates for the Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction.
2. Provide input regarding content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame.
3. Continue recording interviews or other media content with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients for use in USDF educational resources, on the USDF website, in *USDF Connection*, on *YourDressage.org*, and/or the National Education Center.
4. Evaluate recognition categories and potentially recommend new or altered criteria.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- Initial solicitations for 2025 Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Member of Distinction nominations have gone out on the USDF's social media pages, with more reminders scheduled leading up to the May 1 deadline. A promotion to nominate people/horses will be a featured news item in the April 2025 USDF eNews, which will be deployed to all members the first week of April.
- Videos (including acceptance speeches and interviews featuring the 2024 recipients) are scheduled to be posted on *YourDressage* and across social media to promote interest.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## Nominating Committee Report

**Chair:** Linda Mendenhall, MA

**Liaison:** Sarah Garn

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

#### **2025 Regional Representatives:**

Region 1:	Lori Kaminski, MD	Region 2:	Molly Fine, IL
Region 3:	Danielle Perry, GA*	Region 4:	Lin Nelson-Mayson, MN
Region 5:	Ann Damiano, AZ*	Region 6:	Tabitha Hopp, WA
Region 7:	Paula Langan, CA	Region 8:	Kate O'Connor, MA
Region 9:	Alecia Daniel, TX		

\*New member(s) of the Nominating Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To procure quality candidates to govern the United States Dressage Federation.

#### **Goals:**

1. Secure nominations for regional Participating Member (PM) delegates and the USDF Executive Board.
2. Ensure that all Group Members (GMs) are represented on the Board of Governors (BOG) by Group Member Organization (GMO) delegates.
3. Educate the membership about the candidates and oversee the election process.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15.
2. Procure nominations for the following USDF Executive Board positions by June 1, aiming for each position to have one or more qualified candidates: vice president, secretary, and regional director in USDF Regions 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.
3. Obtain GMO delegate and proxy appointments when designated by each GMO.
4. Oversee the election process.
5. Notify each GMO who fails to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests that they lacked representation at the BOG.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- GMOs who failed to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests were notified they lacked representation at the 2024 BOG meeting and were encouraged to appoint representation for the 2025 BOG meeting. The respective regional director and regional representative on the Nominating Committee were copied on these notifications.
- Nominations are being procured for PM delegate positions in all nine regions, with the deadline for nominations being April 15 and the deadline for nominations to be accepted being April 30.

The chart below indicates status of PM delegate nominations as of March 24, 2025.

Region	# PM Delegates Allowed to Elect	Total # Nominations	Nominations Accepted	Nominations Declined	Have Not Responded
1	16	18	10	0	8
2	12	19	12	1	6
3	17	16	9	0	7
4	4	3	2	0	1
5	5	5	1	0	4
6	6	6	1	0	5
7	10	9	4	1	4
8	10	7	2	0	5
9	6	4	3	0	1

- Biographies from each PM delegate will appear on the USDF website, in e-mail communications to each region's PMs during the month of June (when voting takes place), and on *YourDressage.org*.
- Nominations are currently being procured for vice president, secretary, and regional director in USDF Regions 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. The deadline for nominations is June 1. Nominations are also accepted from the floor of the BOG meeting. As of March 13, 2025, the following nominations have been received: Debra Reinhardt for vice president, Carol Tice for secretary, and Regina Antonioli for Region 7 Director.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

# **Technical Council Committee Reports**

## Competition Management Committee Report

**Chair:** Marinea St. Amand, WA

**Vice Chair:** Kevin Bradbury, MI

**Liaison:** Elena Sandidge

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Kathryn Grisolia, KY	Andrea Davenport, AL
Carlie Evans, FL	Debra Reinhardt, FL
Heather Petersen, CO	Michael Taylor, ID
Regina Antonioli, CA	Anita Jaffe, NY
Marilyn Kulifay, TX	

\*There are no new members of the Competition Management Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To provide a network of competition managers and secretaries to promote quality and compliant dressage competitions.

#### **Goals:**

1. Provide competition management education.
2. Increase the number and quality of recognized competitions.
3. Review and communicate United States Equestrian Federation rule change proposals.
4. Provide the appropriate tools and processes for successful competitions.
5. Strengthen the communication between the Competition Management Committee and other committees, as well as the USDF office staff.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Continue to support and assist new up-and-coming managers and secretaries.
2. Provide educational opportunities for competition management.
3. Review and address issues relevant to competition management.
4. Continue to work with other committees and the USDF office.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- Held a well-attended educational event at the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, “Competition Management Coping Strategies”.
- At the request of the Rules Advisory Working Group, reviewed and provided feedback on proposed rule changes.

**Concerns:** None

#### **Items to come before the Executive Board:**

1. Competition management education session for the 2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

## Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee Report

**Co-Chairs:** Lilo Fore, CA and Sarah Geikie, CT

**Liaison:** Katherine Robertson

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Debbie Bowman, VA	Bailey Cook, NC
Sarah Martin, FL	William McMullin, FL
Cathy Zappe, AL	Janet (Dolly) Hannon, CO
Kathy Simard, CO	Lendon Gray, NY
Ann Guptill, CT	Vicki Hammers-O'Neil, CT
Fern Feldman, CT	

\*There are no new members of the Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To promote the pursuit of excellence in dressage instruction and training.

#### **Goals:**

1. To provide education from the grassroots to the professional level.
2. To provide access to online resources and learning modules.
3. To set instructor certification standards of proficiency.
4. To provide instructor certification opportunities.
5. To align the education of dressage participants at every level to the standards and levels of proficiency from Training Level through Grand Prix.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Continue review of curriculum and manual updates.
2. Review, update, and develop online education modules.
3. Host 2025 FEI level trainers conference.
4. Host nine dressage seminars: three riding, three lungeing, and three teaching.
5. Host two professional development assessments, followed by needed exams.
6. Host one FEI level workshop and exam.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- Hosted the 2025 Adequan®/USDF FEI Level Trainers Conference on January 20-21, 2025, with Christine Taurig and Moncia Theodorescu. There were 329 attendees at this conference.
- An FEI level workshop and exam are being planned for July (in KY) and this winter (in FL). Dates are still being confirmed. We have the first set of applications for the FEI A level of certification to be evaluated during our workshop and exam.
- Heidi Chote spoke about the program to the United States Pony Club examiners during their virtual meeting held February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The following outlines the schedule of seminars, assessments, exams scheduled for 2025
  - Dressage Development Seminars
    - March 1-2, 2025, in Williston, FL with Bill McMullin and Sarah Martin, focused on riding

- March 24-25, 2025, in Williston, FL with Bill McMullin and Sarah Martin, focused on teaching
- October 13-14, 2025, in Rocklin/Loomis, CA with Bill McMullin and Heidi Chote, focused on teaching
- November 15-16, 2025, in Wilton, CA with Bill McMullin and Heidi Chote, focused on riding
- February 7-8, 2026 in CA with Bill McMullin and Heidi Chote, focused on lungeing
- Dates TBD, in Oregon, WI with Ann Guptill and Bailey Cook
- Assessments
  - July 11-13, 2025, in Omaha, NE with Bill McMullin, Vicki Hammers-O'Neil, Sarah Geikie
  - TBD in CT; faculty assignments will be done when date and locations are confirmed.
  - December 2025 in Loxahatchee, FL; faculty assignments will be done when date is confirmed.
- Exam – March 2026 in Loxahatchee, FL
- Discussions are underway for seminars to be held in DE, MA, NC, TX, and WA in late 2025 or 2026.
- The Florida Horse Park reached out to local faculty and volunteers about the program. Discussions are underway with the Florida Horse Park to host a seminar series, assessment, and exam annually.
- In addition to the schedule of activities outlined above, there will be a four-hour education seminar during Dressage at Devon. This will be held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 in the Devon classroom.
- The Professional Development Education Series started on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The topic for this session was *"The State of the Industry"* with USDF Certified Instructor Reese Koffler-Stanfield and Eliza Sydnor-Romm. These sessions will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 p.m.
- The review of the curriculum continues.
- Current online modules are being enhanced and expanded to provide more online education opportunities.
- Invitations continue to go out to members of the faculty to attend the USCCE sessions. This year the sessions will be held in Oklahoma City, OK and Lexington, KY. For these sessions, USEF pays for the registration fees, while the faculty members are responsible for travel and housing.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## Judges Committee Report

**Chair:** Gary Rockwell, FL  
**Vice Chair:** Michael Osinski, WA  
**Liaison:** Sharon Vander Ziel

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Jeanne McDonald, PA	Marilyn Heath, FL
Amy Bradley, FL	Janet Foy, CO
Janet (Dolly) Hannon, CO	Joan Darnell, WA
Teresa Stewart, WA	Kristi Wysocki, WA
Lois Yukins, MA	

\*There are no new members of the Judges Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To promote the pursuit of excellence in dressage judging.

#### **Goals:**

1. Provide educational opportunities for all levels of judges.
2. Continue to improve the training of individuals currently licensed or aspiring to be licensed judges.
3. Recognize progressive development of judges.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Provide educational opportunities for all levels of judges and L graduates through the USDF Continuing Education (CE) Programs.
2. Work with the L Program Committee to carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities within the area of judge education.
3. Continue to review/revise the licensed officials training programs, including quizzes and exams.
4. Support the Test Writing Working Group in the revision process for the 2027 test cycle.
5. Provide input on proposed rule changes that pertain to judges and judging tests.
6. Streamline communication between working groups involved in judging, judge training, and test writing, including equitation, freestyle, and sport horse.
7. Monitor complaints about judges submitted by USDF members.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- The committee held a live judges roundtable in conjunction with the judge training session at the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.
- Committee member Amy Bradley authored the article, “The Road to Becoming a Dressage Judge”, for “The Judges Box” in the January issue of the *USDF Connection*.
- The US Eventing Association will be using the “Know the Movements” program as part of their judge training in 2025.
- Dressage 4 Kids (D4K) will be hosting “Upgrading your Judging Eye” with Margret Freeman on April 5 as a fundraiser for their programs.

- Three CE in Judging Freestyle Programs are scheduled for 2025. Two of the programs are hosted by GMOs and one will be in conjunction with a judge maintenance clinic. Licensed dressage judges who attend these programs and pass an online exam will receive the USEF freestyle designation.
- A new presentation, “Judging Dressage Seat Equitation”, has been approved and is available to GMOs to host as a remote or live session.
- CE in Dressage Judging Programs are scheduled in Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9. There are eleven programs scheduled at the time of this report:

Start Date	Title	Host Region	GMO	Instructor
1/18/2025	Upgrading Your Judging Eye	1	ESDCTA	Marilyn Payne
2/17/2025	Assessing Rider Marks and DSE	1	VADA/NOVA	Lisa Schmidt
2/22/2025	Focus on Collectives	1	Three Rivers	Debby Savage
2/11/2025 2/25/2025 3/11/2025	Know the Movements – remote	3	River’s Edge	Jodi Lees
3/1/2025	Taste of the L Program	5	Utah Dressage Society	Dolly Hannon Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez
3/8/2025	CE in Judging FS Live	9	Dallas	Joan Darnell
3/25/2025	Focus on Collectives	3	River’s Edge	Jodi Lees
3/24/2025- 4/7/2025	Know the Movements – remote	4	Iowa DCTA	Jodi Ely
3/29/2025	CE in Judging DSE	9	Dallas	Kathy Rowse
4/5/2025	CE in Judging FS Live	5	Grand Valley Chapter of RMDS	Dolly Hannon
4/5/2025	Upgrading Your Judging Eye	8	D4K	Margaret Freeman

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## **L Program Committee Report**

**Chair:** Joan Darnell, WA

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Rowse, VA

**Liaison:** Sharon Vander Ziel

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Debbie Rodriguez, VA	Lisa Schmidt, NJ
Jayne Ayers, WI	Judy Downer, FL
Marilyn Heath, FL	Jodi Lees, SC
Janet (Dolly) Hannon, CO	Debbie Riehl-Rodriguez, CO
Dorie Vlaten-Schmitz, AZ	Michael Osinski, WA
Kari McClain, WA*	Lois Yukins, MA

\*New member(s) of the L Program Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To provide a comprehensive educational program for the entire dressage community to learn about the equestrian discipline of dressage from the judge's point of view.

#### **Goals:**

1. Provide trainers, instructors, competitors and spectators insight into the evaluative techniques of judging dressage.
2. Prepare and evaluate candidates who wish to pursue entry into the USEF 'r' Judge Training Program.
3. Provide continuing education (CE) for licensed judges and L graduates.
4. Select and provide teaching materials to L faculty members.

#### **2025 Objectives**

1. Continue to develop and enhance the USDF L Education Program website to supplement what is presented in the classroom setting and to provide CE for L graduates and USEF-licensed dressage judges.
2. Work with the Judges Committee to carry on with "The Judge's Box" in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities.
3. Continue communication with competition managers to promote the importance of their support of the Part 2 sessions.
4. Continue to review the USDF L Education Program processes to ensure the quality of candidates applying to the USEF 'r' Judge Training Program.
5. Update L faculty application and apprentice process to help ensure appropriate L faculty candidates are selected to start the apprentice program.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- L Education Program guidelines/forms have been reviewed and updated for 2025.
- The course material and presentations are being reviewed by the faculty and will be updated once the Part 1s currently hosting sessions have been completed (4/19/2025).
- The committee worked with the Judges Committee to create a new CE in Judging Dressage Seat Equitation Program that is approved for L graduate CE.

- The online options for L graduate CE will be updated April 1<sup>st</sup>. This enables graduates to get a portion of their CE online through the education library and the L Education Program website.
- There are twenty-one L Education Program sessions scheduled for 2025 at this time. Programs are being hosted in Regions, 1,2,3,5,8 and 9, by the below GMOs:
  - Central States Dressage and Eventing Association (Part 2)
  - Delaware Valley Combined Training Association (Part 1 and 2)
  - GLASS-ED (Part 2)
  - Houston Dressage Society (Part 2)
  - North Carolina Dressage and CT Association (Part 1)
  - Utah Dressage Society (Part 1)
  - Virginia Dressage Association (VADA) ( Part1)
- There are four final exams scheduled for 2025.
- In 2024, twenty-one L candidates completed the final exam. Seventeen passed and nine of those passed with distinction.
- In 2024, over 250 members purchased access (\$15.00/year) to the L/ Judges resource website.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## Technical Delegates Committee Report

**Chair:** Jean Kraus, MO

**Liaison:** Bonnie Barr-Briggs

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Karen Cederholm, IL *	Doris North, CA
Paul Cormier, MA	Kaye Phaneuf, OR
Michelle King, VA	Diane Stanley, FL
Marilyn Kulifay, TX	Michael Taylor, ID *
Susan Lang, KS	Cheryl Tobey, GA

\*New member(s) of the Technical Delegates Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To provide education and an organized voice for technical delegates (TDs).

#### **Goals:**

1. Provide educational programs for TDs and aspiring TDs.
2. Maintain regular communication with all TDs through the TD Information Tree.
3. Maintain and develop all TD educational content and resources.
4. Review United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) rules and rule change proposals.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Continue our efforts to grow the ranks of licensed dressage TDs with help from the Veronica Holt Fund and the USEF Licensed Officials Grants. Continued promotional efforts will be utilized to make our applicants and officials aware of these funds.
2. Continue to build our TD public relations and communications efforts to educate competitors, judges, and competition management about the role of the TD.
3. Continue to find the best approaches to keeping TDs as informed as possible.
4. Continue in our efforts to build communication between TDs and competition management.
5. Continue to develop new, and update existing, educational learning modules.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- The first meeting of 2025 was held in February:
  - All of the TD content was distributed for review.
  - New approaches to promoting the Veronica Holt Fund and the USEF Licensed Officials Grants will be developed.
  - TD promotion efforts are being reinstituted to build the TD applicant pool.
  - The problem-solving case studies development is continuing with beta tests.
  - Approaches to TD resource sharing with judges and competitors is being developed.
- A TD town hall meeting was held February 25<sup>th</sup> and had sixty-two attendees. The topics included yellow cards, legal bridle parts, and information available on the USDF TD Resource web page.
  - Typically, two town hall meetings are held, with the second being held mid-year.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## Para Dressage Committee\* Report

*\*The Para Dressage Committee was newly formed in 2025.*

**Chair:** Jennifer Baumert, FL

**Liaison:** Ross Creech

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Carole Laulis, PA	Bettina Longaker, VA
Ellie Brimmer, FL	Lehua Custer, FL
Fiona Howard, FL	Jean Kraus, MO
Holly Bergay, CO	Kristi Wysocki, WA
Megan McQueeny, CA	Joan Williams, CA
Tina Wentz, OK	

**Mission:** To foster, encourage, and advocate for the full integration of para dressage into the USDF structure and mission in a way that effectively embraces and represents the true 'parallels' of dressage and its benefits, as well as serving as a resource to outside entities on para dressage related topics and opportunities.

#### **Goals:**

1. To increase the inclusion of para dressage within the organization.
2. To enhance para dressage offerings and participation at USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions.
3. To establish a national pathway for para dressage athletes to progress through the sport comparable to those available to able-bodied athletes.
4. To review and update all USDF para dressage athlete, instructor/trainer, and official education related to topics such as professional careers and development.
5. To serve as a resource on para dressage specific guidelines and best practices, and other topics of interest that serve the committee's overall mission.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Advocate for para dressage interests and help guide its integration within and into USDF's framework.
2. Serve as a resource for, and work in tandem with, other entities within the USDF structure, as assigned and requested, to promote and further para-dressage education and interests.
3. Liaise with USPEA, USEF, The Dressage Foundation, and other outside/related entities to develop, identify, and establish opportunities that promote para dressage inclusion, recognition, and interests on behalf of USDF.
4. Propose new para dressage initiatives that further the committee's mission and further integrate para into the overall USDF structure and community.
5. Develop educational and outreach materials to assist GMOs in the promotion and integration of para dressage into their events.

**Progress to Date:**

- The Para Dressage Committee held their first official meeting on March 10, 2025, where the following items were identified as the first topics for the committee to evaluate and focus on as its work gets underway:
  - Increased offering of para classes at competitions. (Incentivize competition management, rule change to make para classes a required offering, educate show management on what actually goes in to offering para classes at a competition, and assuage fears associated; such as liability, risks, etc.)
  - Inclusion of para in the regional championships.
  - Debunk the notion that para riders must have Olympic goals.
  - Develop a national pathway for para, similar to USEF's international pathway.
  - Create national level tests (easier/simpler for the different grades paralleling USDF and USEF tests).
  - Put forth rule change proposals that potentially include that Grades I-III must be done in a 20x40 ring, as opposed to its current optional status, and that para classes be required offerings at competitions.
  - Put together an ad campaign promoting the inclusion of para that can be shared with GMOs and other entities to increase awareness, excitement, and participation – building off the success of the Paralympic Team from Paris.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

# **Activities Council Committee Reports**

## Adult Programs Committee Report

**Chair:** Holly Hilliard, FL

**Vice Chair:** Gwen Ka'awaloa, CO

**Liaison:** Evelyn Lancione

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Jill Ekis, PA

Tashina Hadley Heiser, FL

Frances Haupt, OR

Sarah Denham, TX

Ken Levy, IN

Natalie Mendik, CO\*

Kimberly Ransdell, WA\*

\*New member(s) of the Adult Programs Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To encourage, increase and enrich adult participation in dressage by providing educational opportunities and recognition of achievement.

#### **Goals:**

1. Provide concepts for new adult education programs.
2. Increase the number of and participation in USDF supported adult programs.
3. Improve communication and networking within and between regions, GMOs and the Adult Programs Committee to increase support of and participation in adult education.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Increase awareness of the GMO Education Initiative (GEI) and grant opportunities.
2. Increase awareness of and participation in USDF education opportunities.
3. Continue to develop topics for virtual education series (VES) and produce a minimum of four programs per year.
4. Continue efforts to develop GMO contact lists for education chairs.
5. Continue efforts to improve communication with USDF members.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- In 2024, the following numbers of university certificates and diplomas were awarded:
  - Certificate: 120
  - Diploma: 58
  - Bronze Diploma: 39
  - Silver Diploma: 26
  - Gold Diploma: 21
  - Platinum Diploma: 10
  - Diamond Diploma: 1
- The goal of scheduling four VES sessions per year has been met for 2025. The following sessions have been held or scheduled:
  - January 8 – *“Developing an Effective Warm-Up”* with Heidi Chote and Vicki Hammers – O’Neil; this webinar had 509 registrants and 238 attendees.
  - March 19 – *“Circles, Circles, Circles, Why Always Circles?”* with Gwen Ka’awaloa and Sarah Geikie; to date this webinar has 231 registrants.

- July 16 – *“From the Trenches: A Freestyle Primer”* with Dr. Terry Ciotti Gallo and Marlene Whitaker. They will discuss freestyle design.
- October 22 – *“Fatigue and Inflammation in Performance Horses”* with Dr. Sarah White-Springer. In a follow-up to her session held during Convention, Dr. White-Springer will share findings from ongoing research that is being published late this summer.
- In 2024, five GEI events were approved and hosted.
- In 2025, there have been six applications for GEI grants to date. Four applications have been approved, one was rejected for failing to meet guidelines, and one is still under review.

<b>GMO</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
California Dressage Society	1/24-26, 3/7-9, 5/23-25	Lynda O’Carroll Memorial Clinic Series with Lilo Fore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- each session in a different region of the state</li> </ul>
Eastern Iowa Dressage and Eventing Association	5/20-21, 7/22-23, 9/23-24, 11/11-12	Rider Development Program with Anne Cizadlo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- riders encouraged to participate in the entire series</li> </ul>
Virginia Dressage Association	5/3-5/4	Are You Satisfied? Lilo Fore Clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how to improve scores</li> </ul>
Oklahoma Dressage Society	4/5-4/6	The Dressage Path from Young Horse to FEI with Willy Arts

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:**

1. Topic and presenter recommendations to be considered for the education sessions at the 2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

## Awards Committee Report

**Chair:** Amy Bradley, FL

**Liaison:** Cristen Brown

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Jessie Ginsburg, VA	Deborah Garriss, IL
Jan Brons, FL	Mickayla Frederick, IA
Marie Maloney, KS	Cecilia Cox, NM
Jo Renn, WA	Doris North, CA
Christine Engel, CT*	Elizabeth Clifton, MS

\*New member(s) of the Awards Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To encourage participation in dressage by recognizing excellence and rewarding progressive achievement.

#### **Goals:**

1. Organize and provide awards for horse of the year, freestyle, junior/young rider, adult amateur, vintage cup, all-breeds, performance certificates, individual rider awards, DSHB horse of the year, and materiale horse of the year.
2. Review existing awards requirements and programs.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Explore the possibility of a dressage seat equitation year-end award.
2. Create an online awards tutorial featuring USDFScores.com.
3. Continue discussion of potential changes to the year-end awards for champions and reserve champions.
4. Evaluate Intermediate A and B for possible inclusion in the year-end awards.
5. Investigate the Young Horse awards for possible changes.
6. Explore marketing opportunities for the USDF Awards Programs.
7. Confirm the award requirements displayed in the *USDF Member Guide* are clear and up to date.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- Agreed to continue researching new prize ideas for year-end award champions and reserve champions.
- Committee members agreed to reach out to their local GMOs and participants at horse shows to gather information on what potential new prizes would be sought after.
- A motion was passed to investigate the possibility of adding a new dressage seat equitation year-end award.
- Began discussion about adding a FEI Seven-Year-Old Division into the Young Horse Year-End Award category.
- Considered new ideas to generate more interest in the Young Horse Awards Program.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## FEI Youth Committee Report

**Chair:** Roberta Creek Williams, FL

**Liaison:** Sarah Delahanty

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Region 1: Deborah DelGiorno, DE

Region 2: Roz Kinstler, FL

Region 4: Nancy Gorton, MO

Region 6: Nicki Grandia, WA

Region 7: Sarah Mosqueda, CA\*

Region 9: Marsha Lewis, TX

Region 2: Shari Wolke, MI\*

Region 3: Elizabeth Molloy, GA

Region 5: Joan Clay, CO

Region 7: Ann Boehning, CA

Region 8: Roberta Carleton, CT

Advisors – Laura Roberts, USEF Managing Director of Dressage; Sarah Hollander, USEF Director of Dressage Development & Emerging Programs; George Williams, USEF Dressage Program Pathway Development Advisor & Youth Coach

\*New member(s) of the FEI Youth Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To develop educational opportunities and international competition experiences for riders, ages 12-21, who ride at the FEI sanctioned Pony, Children, Junior, and Young Rider levels.

#### **Goals:**

1. Select and provide teams for the North American Youth Championships (NAYC).
2. Promote team spirit and competition among riders.
3. Provide clinics and educational opportunities.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Monitor the progression of FEI youth and their participation in the NAYC and the Festival of Champions.
2. Help facilitate the inaugural debut in 2025 of the Children's Division at NAYC.
3. Continue to identify clinic sites in response to demand.
4. Oversee NAYC Program.
5. Provide feedback on the NAYC qualifying calendar.
6. Provide input into the NAYC selection procedures.
7. Review and revise the *NAYC Handbook and Guidelines* for regional coordinators.
8. Create guidelines for chefs d' equipe.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- Planning and scheduling are underway for USDF to host nine FEI Youth Clinics in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The following is the schedule for the FEI Youth Clinics for 2025:
  - Region 1: November 22-23 at Hilltop Farm, Inc. with George Williams
  - Region 2: TBD
  - Region 3: November 8-9 at Noble Steed, LLC with Lilo Fore
  - Region 4: September 6-7 at Serenity Rose Equestrian Center with George Williams
  - Region 5: October 18-19 at Nighthawk Equestrian Center with George Williams.

- Region 6: November 22-23 at DevonWood Equestrian Centre with Sabine-Schut-Kery
- Region 7: November 8-9 at TBD with George Williams
- Region 8: October 4-5 at TBD with Sabine Schut-Kerry
- Region 9: November 15-16 at Paragon Farm with Anne Gribbons
- NAYC
  - The 2025 NAYC is scheduled to be held July 29-August 3, 2025, at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival at Flintfields Horse Park in Traverse City, MI.
  - As of March 5<sup>th</sup>, we have received fifty-six NAYC applications:

	2022 (as of 3/9/22)		2023 (as of 2/27/23)		2024 (as of 2/22/24)		2025 (as of 3/5/25)		
	Juniors	Young Riders	Juniors	Young Riders	Juniors	Young Riders	Children	Juniors	Young Riders
Region 1	6	2	4	1	2	2	2	3	5
Region 2	3	3	6	3	3	2	1	1	3
Region 3	3	4	3	3	5	0	1	5	5
Region 4	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	4	2
Region 5	3	5	3	2	2	2	0	0	1
Region 6	0	0	4	2	4	0	1	1	3
Region 7	3	3	4	3	1	1	3	2	0
Region 8	4	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	4
Region 9	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	0
	24	21	29	17	19	12	11	22	23

- Assisted USEF by reviewing and revising the *NAYC Handbook and Guidelines* for regional coordinators.
- Assisted USEF by creating guidelines for NAYC chefs d' equipe.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:**

1. Preliminary potential chefs d' equipe for NAYC.

## Regional Championships Committee Report

**Chair:** Angela Goodwin-Volpert, IN

**Vice Chair:** Janine Malone, NC

**Liaison:** Lacy Jinks

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Ellen Brindle-Clark, NJ

Anneliese Vogt-Harber, GA

Jean Kraus, MO

Kelly Irving-Burris, WA

Anita Jaffe, NY\*

Anne Kuhns, KY

Roberta Williams, FL

Jessica Greer, CO

Kevin Reinig, CA

Leslie Rohrer, TX\*

\*New member(s) of the Regional Championships Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To promote and recognize the pursuit of excellence by providing a showcase competition that meets established quality standards for riders within each USDF region.

#### **Goals:**

1. Establish and update guidelines for qualifying as needed.
2. Educate championship management.
3. Provide recognition and rewards.
4. Promote the championships.
5. Increase the number of participants.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Review regional championship surveys to determine compliance with rules and requirements, and to identify areas for future improvements.
2. Review and amend the host site application.
3. Review rules and requirements for regional championships.
4. Continue to review dressage seat medal protocol.
5. Review award ceremony protocol.
6. Review current regional championship qualification criteria.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- Three members were recommended to the 2025 Regional Championship Site Selection Working Group (RCSSWG). The members of the 2025 RCSSWG are Lisa Schmidt, Sarah Geikie, Teresa Stewart, Jean Kraus, Dolly Hannon, and Joan Williams.
- The 2026 Regional Championships Host Site Application was reviewed and a recommendation was made to require a minimum of two technical delegates to officiate at a regional championship competition. This is effective for the 2026 championships.
- Reviewed 2024 regional championships competitor surveys and made suggestions regarding avenues of more effective competitor communication and night watch services.
- Discussed and recommended amending guidelines for allowing judge training programs at regional championship competitions.
- Reviewed the current regional championships competitors survey and appointed a subgroup to propose suggestions to shorten and simplify the evaluation.

- Discussed concerns that there is not an equitation championship/semi-final for 19-21 year olds at regional championships.
- Discussed concerns regarding the unlevel playing field due to the age differences in the Junior/Young Rider Division at regional championships and the need to recognize young Juniors. .
- Discussed concerns regarding the host site application and need for a letter of intent for proposed managers and secretaries listed within the application.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:**

1. Recommend that USDF explore options for 19-21 year olds to compete in an equitation final at the regional championships.
2. Recommend that USDF review the feasibility of adding an additional set of awards/ recognition for riders aged 13 and under in the Training and First level Junior/Young Rider championship classes.

## Sport Horse Committee Report

**Chair:** Kristi Wysocki, WA

**Co-Liaisons:** Bonnie Barr-Briggs and Cristen Brown

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Robin Birk, PA*	Janine Malone, NC
Christine Smith, VA	Melanie Sloyer, PA
Susan Mandas, OH	Marne Martin-Tucker, FL*
Whitney Vess, KS*	Anne Sparks, NM
Kevin Reinig, CA	Regina Milliken, LA

Advisors – Natalie DiBerardinis and Christine Traurig

\*New member(s) of the Sport Horse Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To foster and advance the breeding and development of the highest quality dressage sport horses and to promote a strong foundation for the dressage sport horse development pipeline in the United States.

#### **Goals:**

1. To educate breeders, owners, buyers, handlers, trainers, and judges about the ideals of both dressage sport horse prospects and breeding stock.
2. Encourage and acknowledge the efforts of USDF member breeders in producing the highest quality dressage sport horse.
3. Provide dressage sport horse competition management, owners, and breeders with competition guidelines and opportunities.
4. Promote USDF horse recordings and tracking of competition results.
5. Nurture and develop future generations for the dressage sport horse breeding industry.
6. Review and update all proposed USDF sport horse score sheets and instruction documents.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Host a USDF Sport Horse Seminar in conjunction with a USEF/USDF DSHB Judge Training Program and Clinic.
2. Host a Dressage Sport Horse Prospect Forum.
3. Host a USDF Handlers Clinic.
4. Continue dressage judge's education for materiale classes.
5. Review policy and methods for acceptance of breed registry papers. The digital world has changed many things, including how registries provide registry documentation. USDF has always required hard copy papers, but some registries don't provide that in current times.
6. Create a tutorial for the USDF website on the Breeder Series Championship Finals Program, how it works, qualifier competitions, finals, awards and more.
7. Review and revise all sport horse score sheets for the 2027 versions.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- The USDF Sport Horse Prospect Forum is scheduled for June 28-29, 2025, at Hilltop Farm in Colora, MD with Lehua Custer and Michael Bragdell as presenters.

- A USDF Sport Horse Seminar is scheduled for November 8-9, 2025, to run concurrently with the USEF/USDF DSHB Judge Training Program and exam November 9-10, 2025, at Hilltop Farm in Colora, MD.
- Reviewed and approved applications for the following eight ProElite/USDF Breeders Championship Series Final competitions.
  - North Central Series – September Dressage at Lamplight, September 20-21, 2025, Wayne, IL
  - Northwest Series – Bello Acres Summer Dressage Show II, August 31, 2025, Auburn, WA
  - Mid-West Series – The Archway Invitational, August 1, 2025, Lake St. Louis, MO
  - South East Series – Made in the Shade III, August 10, 2025, Camden, SC
  - Southern Series – Haras Dressage Sporthorse Qualifier III & USDF Southern Series Final, August 31, 2025, Magnolia, TX
  - North East Series - NEDA Breed Show III & USDF North East Series Breeders Championships, September 13-14, 2025, Saugerties, NY
  - Rocky Mountain Series – Rocky Mountain Sport Horse Championships, September 17, 2025, Parker, CO
  - East Coast Series – Dressage at Devon, September 23-28, 2025, Devon, PA
- Established a working group to review DSHB score sheets for the 2027 test cycle.
- The next USDF Handlers Clinic will be held in 2026.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None

## National Youth Programs Committee Report

**Chair:** Roz Kinstler, FL

**Liaison:** Sarah Delahanty

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

#### **2025 Committee Members:**

Kathy Rowse, VA	Laurie Moore, MI
Elizabeth Molloy, GA	Sophia Shults, FL
Roberta Williams, FL	Julie Barringer-Richers, CO
Rebecca Harris, CA	Lendon Gray, NY

\*There are no new members for the National Youth Programs Committee for 2025.

**Mission:** To promote dressage to young equestrians while providing for the future of the sport.

#### **Goals:**

1. Provide educational opportunities.
2. Provide recognition programs.
3. Encourage and increase youth membership and participation.
4. Promote youth sportmanship.

#### **2025 Objectives:**

1. Explore opportunities to connect with youth.
2. Explore opportunities to connect with youth instructors.
3. Continue to promote USDF Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals.
4. Continue outreach to GMOs to include youth in their programs.
5. Promote and encourage participation in the Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Program and the Dressage Spirit Award.
6. Continue to publish youth eNewsletter to keep youth members informed of programs offered.
7. Explore opportunities that engage the younger generation in the governance structure of USDF and the sport.
8. Explore partnering opportunities with other youth organizations.
9. Plan 2025 Young Rider Graduate Program.

#### **Progress to Date:**

- The following Youth Outreach Clinics are scheduled:
  - Region 2: May 3-4 at the Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center with Angela Jackson
  - Region 4: May 3-4 at River Ridge Stables with Kate Mikulay
  - Region 6: November 22-23 at DevonWood Equestrian Center with TBD
  - Region 7: Pending
- The 2025 Young Rider Graduate Program was held January 18-19, 2025, in West Palm Beach, FL with twenty participants and over twenty speakers.
- USDF/IDA National Quiz Challenge
  - Registration is open through March 7, 2025. Round 1 is open from March 17-28. Round 2 is scheduled for April 24 in St. Louis, MO.

- The committee plans to host a youth assembly at the 2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention this year. Planning is currently underway.

**Concerns:** None

**Items to come before the Executive Board:** None