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Region 1 Report

Director: Bettina Longaker, VA

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

Group Member Organizations (GMOs) are the backbone of each USDF Region and Region 1 shows its diversity through its sixteen GMOs. Pennsylvania is home to ten(!) GMOs, New Jersey and Maryland each have two, and North Carolina and Virginia each field one large GMO.

For the East Coast, Pennsylvania is a very large state, with the Alleghany mountains running right up its midline south to north, large rivers and even larger cities west, east, and north. It is also home to the oldest GMO in the country, International Equestrian Organization (IEO). Being close together, Lehigh Valley Dressage Association (LVDA) in Pennsylvania and Eastern States Dressage & Combined Training Association (ESDCTA) in New Jersey have joined forces to host L graduate and 'r' judges programs. COVID interceded with the 'r' program, with the program having its large training session at the 2024 Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/USDF Region 1 Championships. Both Delaware Valley Combined Training Association (DVCTA) in Pennsylvania and Virginia Dressage Association (VADA) are hosting L graduate programs throughout 2024 into 2025, and North Carolina Dressage & Combined Training Association (NCDCTA) will start their L graduate program in late 2025 into 2026.

Two of our three young CDIs continued in 2024: Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival CDI***(VA), Boutique CDI*** (PA) and our crème de la crème CDI-W Dressage at Devon, which had a huge turnout this year with a star filled Grand Prix Freestyle under the lights and through the ever present rain on Saturday night.

The 43rd Col. Bengt Ljungquist Memorial (CBLM) Championships were hosted by NCDCTA at the Carolina Horse Park on September 13-15. This earlier date separated our region's two championships by four weeks.

Mother Nature dealt a devastating blow to the southern part of Region 1 with Hurricane Helene dumping up to three feet of rain on the mountains around Asheville, NC. At this time, it is still unknown how many people perished and how long it will take to reclaim the destruction wrought upon this beautiful part of our region.

Tryon International Equestrian Center played a major role in the Hurricane Helene relief with a drive-thru emergency supply center which served more than 9,876 people through October 3rd. As of the update on October 11th, the center has been sending any remaining supplies to other nonprofits, shelters, and supply distribution points throughout the region.

The VADA hosted the 2024 GAIG/Region 1 Championships at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA immediately after Helene hit. A few competitors who had been in Hurricane Helene's path arrived days before the show started, giving the riders and horses a safe haven to recoup before competing.

Alison Head, past VADA president, 'S' judge, and now a resident of South Carolina (which was also affected by Helene) spurred on a donation drive during the championships. Business cards with QR codes to World Central Kitchen (\$4,225 raised so far), Fleet of Animals, USEF Disaster Relief, and Mountain Mule Packer Ranch were distributed in the rider packets. Yes, they are using mules to carry supplies to those in isolated mountain

areas. Susan Ellis, retired US Navy (VADA Central Chapter) put the word out on Facebook that she was going to fill her horse trailer with supplies to take to the stricken area. Susan told me she received Amazon packages from strangers on her door! Competitors were e-mailed about this supply drive and Susan left the show grounds on Sunday morning with a full trailer. The VADA was honored to be able to provide varied ways for our competitors to support the ravished area.

North American Youth Championships (NAYC) chef Debbie DelGiorno is our tour de force! Under her guidance, the fundraising goal of \$10,500 was accomplished for use in 2025. Our riders were outfitted with sponsored clothes all proudly embroidered with our new Region 1 logo, designed by Paige Zimmerman. The Young Riders fielded a full team for the first time in three years, placing fifth overall. The Junior team also fielded a full team and placed fourth overall. Traverse City continues to be our region's favorite location for these championships.

Looking forward to 2025, our region is actively recruiting youth for the FEI Childrens division and should have at least a short team for the debut of this division.

A Region 1 FEI Youth Clinic with George Williams will be held November 23-24 and will go back to the lovely Hilltop Farm in Colora, MD. Currently, there are seven applications with room for more. Continuing this year will be the mini clinic with Michael Bragdell the Friday before the FEI Youth Clinic. This is a wonderful opportunity for the up-and-coming riders to train with a senior instructor.

Debbie is in the process of scheduling the first Region 1 Youth Development Clinic with Olivia LaGoy Weltz this winter in the Pittsburgh area. Other locations will be developed where there is interest.

There were several Region 1 youth accomplishments outside of competition. The following riders were nominated and received the Shining Star Award: Taiwan Parrish, Evie Oliver, Ryleigh Koch, Marley McCourt, and Ella Austino. Tai, Evie, and Raleigh did receive the Ravel Grant for 2024. Marley and Ella had a late approval, so they will apply in 2025.

Dressage can be a very self-centered, isolating sport. Hurricane Helene brought the best out in our region's riders, allowing them to come out of their cocoon to share their good fortune with those in dire need.

In closing, I want to share the passing of Sandy Rokosz (8.26.40 – 10.12.24). Sandy was Region 1 Director when our region was huge, ranging from Maine to North Carolina. She told me she tried to make it to every state each year while working a full-time job, and this was way before the internet and Zoom. Later, she was the head scorer and record keeper of the many perpetual trophies at Dressage at Devon. Recently, Sandy traveled to Virginia twice a year to score for the VADA shows. All who knew her, especially the scoring ladies at the VADA shows and I, will miss her greatly.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettina G Longaker
USDF Region 1 Director

Region 2 Report

Director: Debby Savage, OH

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

As the fourth largest USDF Region, Region 2 spans seven states and the widest variety of members and activities from our own regional schooling show program to the USEF Festival of Champions. Membership seems to be holding steady over the past three years; these numbers are Group Members plus Participating Members for Region 2:

2023 = 3,610

2022 = 3,612

2021 = 3,622

2020 = 3,886

2019 = 4,564

Media and Promotion

Facebook continues to be the favored medium for communication. As of October 13, we have 3,400 Region 2 Facebook members. This is an increase of 13% over 2023 and 9% over 2022, versus 20% from 2022 over 2021. Previously, there was a 22% percent increase from 2019 versus 9% from 2018. We are experiencing continued growth with more activity overall.

We will hold a full pre-convention Zoom meeting in mid-November.

PM Delegates

Region 2 has twelve this year. Molly Fine has continued to be the Region 2 representative on the USDF Nominating Committee.

Competitions

Our region remains strong this year with 119 recognized shows. This is up slightly from the 2023 USDF competition year which had 114 shows, but is down from the 126 shows held in 2022. Previously, there were 112 licensed competitions in 2021 compared to 52 licensed/recognized shows in 2020 and 116 in 2019. However, it still seems like there are often more than one level three qualifiers offered on the same weekends. This lessens qualifying opportunities. Overall, schooling shows are strong for several of the usual reasons (cost, less competition, more relaxed rules, big ribbons, etc.).

Special thanks to Cathy Jacob for managing the ever popular Catherine B. Jacob Schooling Show Year-End Award Program, which benefits USDF Region 2. This program is not an “official” USDF program, but an independent program that benefits USDF Region 2. As of this writing, there are fifteen entries, but most come in right at the end of the year, so by November 5th of this year. This program always makes a significant contribution to the region’s educational budget.

The US Dressage Finals are being held November 7-10, 2024, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY.

Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/USDF Region 2 Championships

The GAIG/USDF Region 2 Championships for 2024 were held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY and put on by the Kentucky Dressage Association. Sheila Woerth and Kathy Grisolia did an outstanding job!

- 2024 stats: over 450 horses!
- 2023 at Lamplight stats: 291 total horses; 449 championship rides, 261 championship horses.
- 2022 at Waterloo stats: 313 horses in total, 1,012 total rides and 450 championship rides.
- 2021 at the Kentucky Horse Park: There 459 exhibitors, 1,305 total rides, of which 653 were championship rides. Twice as large as the previous year.
- 2020 at Lamplight Equestrian Center: There were a total of 260 competitors doing 716 rides; 367 of those were championship rides.

Junior/Young Riders (Jr/YR)

- North American Youth Championships (NAYC):
 - Fundraising done by the online auction was around \$1,732. The region matched that towards their USDF expenses. Total expenses for the four riders were approximately \$10,000. That includes entries, stabling, golf cart, and chef expenses. We need to greatly increase this effort going forward as money is only being depleted from the account and no revenue generated.
 - Laurie Moore and Shari Wolke were chefs up until the last minute when teams were combined, then Angela Jackson was assigned. Roz Kinstler did a fabulous job of managing it all off site.
- A FEI Jr/YR Clinic with Lilo Fore was held on October 18th and 20th at the lovely Duncan Run Farm in Galena, OH. Thanks to Mid-Ohio Dressage Association (MODA) for hosting. Auditors were welcome.

Education

- Instructor/Trainer clinics hosted by Illinois Dressage and Combined Training Association; the first in our region!
 - October 26-27, Riding
 - November 23-24, Teaching
 - January 4-5, 2024, Lungeing
- Two awards will be presented at the convention.
 - First, a participant of The Catherine B Jacob Awards Program for schooling shows, which continues to provide funding for the Region 2 educational fund, will be awarded a \$200 USDF gift certificate. Cathy Jacob will draw the name of a participant out of a hat at our annual convention.
 - Second, an Education Challenge Award will be given to the Region 2 member with the most USDF University credit for the full year 2022 (ending December 1st)..
- USDF Accredited Programs are down from the average of ten the past three years, with eight this year.

Finances

Balance Sheet As of August 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

- Jr/Young Rider Account \$ 5,978.45
- Education Account \$ 7,469.39

- General Account \$ 1,354.00
- Total Assets: \$14,801.94

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

- Equity
- Retained Earnings \$ 15,303.19
- Net Income - \$ 501.35
- Total Equity \$ 14,801.84

Summary

Overall, the region was fairly strong this year from a competition standpoint both recognized and schooling. USDF Education Programs could still be much stronger. Communication is primarily via e-mail or personal conversations which is sporadic, but social media is the best way to share information and positive experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Savage
USDF Region 2 Director

Region 3 Report

Director: Charlotte Trentelman, FL

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

One could say that all areas of the United States are growing, and the development of cities and the ensuing traffic is monumental. Region 3 can also say that, but we are the South, and the South has a history of green pastures and farmland. More and more members are discovering the beauty of our states and coming for more than the winter months. We are currently recovering from two major hurricanes in less than two weeks. It says a lot for our members who have taken the time to check on others and offer help when needed. We are the South.

Currently, we have 3,483 USDF Participating Members (PMs) residing in Region 3. They will be represented by eleven PM Delegates at the annual Board of Governors meeting in Houston, TX. They are Judy Downer, Cindi Wylie, Amy Bradley, Chris Trentelman, Jean Thornton, Loretta Lucas, Robert Higgins, Stephany Fish Crossman, Tracey Corey, Barbara Cadwell, and Carol Freligh.

Region 3 lists 33 members on the fifteen USDF committees, six of which are committee chairs. Admittedly, this is due to many moving to our region who were active in their previous home states.

We also have 2,010 USDF Group Members (GMs) from nineteen Group Member Organizations (GMOs). Florida lists eleven GMOs, Georgia and Tennessee list three each, and Alabama and South Carolina each have one. The four largest GMOs are: Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association (761 members), STRIDE (Florida, 230 members), South Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association (193 members), and Central Tennessee Dressage Association (179 members). Two other GMOs, Deep South Dressage and Combined Training Association and Northeast Florida Dressage Association also have more than 100 members. We have GMOs in all of our five states. Six of our GMOs have less than twenty-five members and concerns are for a type of mentorship to be formed for their assistance.

The show roster for 2024 lists 161 shows in Region 3. They are offered in all states. South Carolina lists thirteen, and Alabama and Tennessee each offer four. The remaining shows are divided between Florida and Georgia with about two-thirds of the shows in Florida. Admittedly, Florida has a longer season for shows.

Currently, we list twenty-six 'S' dressage judges, seventeen 'R', and thirteen 'r'. There are 60 L graduates listed with twenty-nine graduates with distinction. Six were added at a testing in August and another testing is scheduled in December.

The 2024 Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/USDF Region 3 Championships were held September 18-22 in Ocala, FL at the World Equestrian Center (WEC). The selection committee that chose the venue was unanimous and the choice of earlier dates in September turned out to be fortunate, as late September and October this year had major hurricanes which affected Florida, Georgia, and other states.

The WEC had finished an air-conditioned indoor arena in time for warm-up shows during the summer and, with manager Noreen O'Sullivan, produced a show to be proud of. The photos of the filled stands during the evening freestyles showed that we had success in attracting riders and spectators.

To recap the regionals:

- Five days of competition (the first day only national/warm up classes)
- 569 horse/rider combinations
- Four USEF/USDF outdoor national rings
- Three GAIG/USDF championship rings air conditioned, with a full day schedule each day, followed by three full evenings of freestyles
- Twelve judges and three technical delegates

Next year's regional championships are scheduled for October 3-5, 2025, in Conyers, GA and will be hosted by the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association.

Our success at the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, MI continued this year as Region 3's coordinator Elizabeth Molloy and chef d' equipe Grace Burley led our Junior team of Justine Boyer, Virginia Woodcock, Alexis Troutman, and Alice Burley to team gold, as well as individual and freestyle gold.

Our Young Rider team of Alicia Berger, Kat Fuqua, Alison Berger, and Jessica Nordqvist (combined from Region 5) also won team gold. Kat went on to the individual gold and Alicia took the bronze in freestyles. I cannot say enough about the leadership and workmanship that goes into our Junior and Young Rider teams. They are our future!

Two Young Rider clinics have been scheduled this year, both in Canton, GA. The first was a very cold weekend in January with Lilo Fore. The final will be in November with George Williams. In March, one Youth Outreach Clinic was also held in Georgia.

The Deep South Dressage and Combined Training Association also held a good footing webinar.

Finally, the glue that keeps Region 3 "in the know" is our Facebook coordinator, Loretta Lucas, who keeps ahead of me most of the time. Many thanks go to her!

We cannot survive without a large village to help, and I want to send out sincere thanks to all who pitch in to create a fantastic region.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Trentelman
USDF Region 3 Director

Region 4 Report

Director: Anne Sushko, IA

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

It seems like it was just January 2024 and here I am writing the end of the year report! When the reminder came from Sarah Garn at USDF that it was time to do this report I could not believe it! That means our annual convention is quickly approaching. This year it's in Houston, TX. I hope to see many of you there!

The 2024 Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/USDF Region 4 Championships were held at the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, MO. Our regional championships continue to grow. Competitors came not only from every state in Region 4 but a number of other regions as well. There were many comments about the welcoming atmosphere at Region 4 championships and the volunteers were amazing. Many thanks to Sarah Szerchinski and Dawn White from St. Louis Area Dressage Society (SLADS) for taking charge of this task. It certainly takes a village to run a show of this nature! We will be returning to St. Louis in 2025.

This was the second year for the Region 4 Resident Recognition Program. This program takes the place of the former Regional Championship awards, which were not restricted to residents. This new program recognizes the highest scoring Region 4 resident in each of the championship classes no matter what their placing within the class. Each awardee received an embroidered picnic blanket and a beautiful custom sash. Winners proudly sported their sash in each of the award celebrations. Thanks go out to those who supported this program with their sponsorship of each award. Many thanks go to Jill Fragomeni for spearheading this program this year. A list of the winners and sponsors can be found on the Region 4 website and at the end of this report.

This year saw the inaugural Region 4 Open Equitation Challenge! This class featured many of our region's open riders contending for the honor of being named Equitation Champion! There were eight original entries in the class but by the time it started we were up to eleven! The stands were full, with the audience cheering on their favorite open rider. It was a tough decision for the judges and we ended up with a tie between Lindsey Fuchs and Tillie Jones. There are already numerous requests to offer it again next year. We are making plans to add a team component to this challenge. Many thanks to Anne Cizadlo for suggesting this class.

Then, there was the third Regional Silent Auction! Thank you to all who answered the call for donations! Lessons from instructors, sets of books, tea and wine baskets, barn baskets, activity bags for children, even a day of TD or secretary services; all were well received. Winning bids totaled over \$1000.00, all of which will go into the Education and Grant lines of the region's budget.

Regionals also featured information displays about North American Youth Championships (NAYC), youth programs, Region 4 GMOs, PM delegates, Region 4 sport horse breeders, the Resident Recognition Program, and the USDF Breeders Program. All were well received and plans are to continue them in the coming years.

Goals for 2025

1. Support development of youth clinics. Plan for four in 2025 – Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa/Wisconsin, and Missouri.
2. Increase participation in the USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Program.
3. Strengthen involvement in the NAYC Program – co-director on committee.
4. Support and encourage the equitation program throughout the region.
5. Support the USDF Breeders Series within the region.

There are not enough words to thank those who have stepped forward to serve on the regional committees. Kathy Hanford continues to bring her financial expertise to the position of treasurer. Melissa Ward continues to provide her expertise and experience in working with the website and leading the Communication Committee. Nancy Gorton continues to provide guidance and support to the NAYC team. Stacey Bates has come on board to assist Nancy with the youth programs, including NAYC. Jessica Foschi keeps me on my toes with reminders about education and the scholarship offerings. Jill Fragomeni has been instrumental in the success of the Resident Recognition Program. It is definitely a team effort!

2024 PM DELEGATES

Nancy Gorton (MO)	Samantha Martinson (MN)	Nancy Porter (MN)	Megan Ward (IA)
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REGION 4 LICENSED OFFICIALS

Coleman, Joe	'r' TD	Overland Park, KS
Denman, Nena	'r' judge; 'R' TD. Equitation, Freestyle	Earlham, IA
Ely, Jodi Marie	'S' Judge Freestyle Young Horse	Mound, MN
Kraus, Jean	'R' TD; FEI Chief Steward L3	Fulton, MO
Lang, Susan M	'r' TD	Wichita, KS
Maloney, Marie	'R' Judge Freestyle	Wichita, KS
Phillips, Kate	'R' Judge Freestyle	Sauk Rapids, MN
Sushko, Anne	'r' TD	Dubuque, IA

L GRADUATES

Childs, Kathy Lowe L graduate with distinction	Topeka, KS 785-221-0909
DeVries, Deb L graduate	Cedar Falls, IA 319-240-7392
Farmer, Julie Ann L graduate with distinction	Carthage, MO 417-438-7096
Fernandez, Scot L graduate with distinction	Holt, MO 816-686-7800
Fucinaro, Jane Elizabeth L graduate with distinction	Omaha, NE 402-504-8113; www.ifequestrian.com
Gorton, Nancy L L graduate	Kansas City, MO 816-695-3305
Hofsommer, Jenevieve L graduate	Aurora, MN 218-780-3817

Holderle, Lisa L graduate	St. Louis, MO 314-962-9979
Johnson, Loline Anne L graduate	Van Meter, IA 515-238-1652
Koehler, Pamela Jean L graduate	Peru, IA 636-577-1449
Kok, Katelyn Victoria L graduate with distinction	Kansas City, KS 508-463-6482
Kostenbader, Kathryn Pilyar L graduate	North Liberty, IA 319-621-9483
Lang, Susan M L graduate	Wichita, KS 316-461-1374
Martinson, Samantha Jo L graduate with distinction	Sartell, MN 612-600-5976
Matheus, Gail Rae L graduate with distinction	Towanda, KS 734-679-5019
Nelson, Leah Nicole L graduate	Duluth, MN 218-940-2138; www.sweetwaterequestrian.com
Novotny Pasker, Alexandria N L graduate with distinction	Cedar Rapids, IA 515-509-4474
O'bea, Rebecca Lynn L graduate with distinction	Leavenworth, KS 913-683-8160
Ostlund, Eileen Noel L graduate	Boone, IA 515-231-9810
Salden Kurtz, Heather L graduate with distinction	Chanhassen, MN 612-360-0848; www.saldentraining.com

USDF CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

Coley, Claudia Certified Instructor Training – 2	Walnut Grove, MO 417-827-9209; www.claudiamisnerdressage.com
Fucinaro, Jane Elizabeth Certified Instructor Training – 2	Omaha, NE 402-504-8113; www.jfequestrian.com
Nelson, Leah Nicole Certified Instructor Training – 2	Duluth, MN 218-940-2138; www.sweetwaterequestrian.com
Ostlund, Eileen Noel Certified Instructor Training – 1	Boone, IA 515-231-9810
Penshorn, Julie D Certified Instructor Training – 2	Lindstrom, MN 651-257-9825; www.sunbornstables.com
Salden Kurtz, Heather Certified Instructor Training – 1	Chanhassen, MN 612-360-0848; www.saldentraining.com
Smith, Emma Anne Certified Instructor Training – 1	Mound, MN 952-428-9056; www.emmasmithdressage.com

REGION 4 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Region 4 Director	Anne Sushko (IA)
Region 4 Treasurer	Kathy Hanford (NE)
Region 4 Communications Committee	Melissa Ward, Chairperson (NE) Laurie Ryan (MO) Jessica Foschi (MN)
Region 4 Education Committee	Jessica Foschi, Chairperson (MN) Lois Pienkos (IA)
Region 4 Scholarship Committee	Jessica Foschi, Chairperson (MN) Laureen Van Norman (NE)
Region 4 Junior/Young Riders	Nancy Gorton, Chairperson (MO) Stacey Bates

2024 WINNERS

OPEN CLASSES		SPONSOR	WINNER
1	Training Level Open	Summit Veterinary Services	Katie Cumberland
2	First Level Open	Trish Edlund	Heather Salden Kurtz
3	Second Level Open	Brooke Drassal Equine Bodywork	Brianna Langworthy
4	Third Level Open	Brooke Drassal Equine Bodywork	Sarah Travis
5	Fourth Level Open	Brooke Drassal Equine Bodywork	Colleen Rull
6	PSG Open	Ruth Rensink	Jonni Allen
7	I-1 Open	Ruth Rensink	Kate Phillips
8	I-2 Open	Ruth Rensink	Heather Romriell
9	Grand Prix Open	Ruth Rensink	Anna Eklund

NOTES: Lindsay Fuchs & Tillie Jones

FREESTYLES		SPONSOR	WINNER
1	First Level Open +Jr/YR	Brooke Drassal Equine Bodywork	Rachel Tomczak
2	First Level AA	Julia Pohlman on behalf of Ballys Jax of Spades	Julia Pohlman
3	Second Level Open, Jr/YR	Brooke Drassal Equine Bodywork	Jennifer Thelen
4	Second Level AA	Erin Buie on behalf of CJ Quick on the Trigger	Kate Sargent
5	Third Level Open, Jr/YR	Rhythm & Blues	Rachel Tomczak
6	Third Level AA	Rhythm & Blues	Cynthia Russell Lippincott
7	Fourth Level Open, Jr/YR	William Woods University Dressage Club	None
8	Fourth Level AA	Julia Pohlman on behalf of Marilyn Pohlman	None
9	I-1 Open, Jr/YR	Karen Spradling	Kate Phillips
10	I-1 AA	Rhythm and Blues Freestyles	None
11	Grand Prix, Open, Jr/YR	Green River Farm	None

12	Grand Prix AA	Orchard View Stables (Tara D)	Karen Spradling
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ADULT AMATEUR CLASSES		SPONSOR	WINNER
1	Training Level AA	Barry Upchurch Realty	Patti Blackmore
2	First Level AA	Summit Veterinary Services	Patti Blackmore
3	Second Level AA	Barry Upchurch Realty	Julia Pohlman
4	Third Level AA	Julia Pohlman on behalf of Heather Salden	Susan Keil
5	Fourth Level AA	Ruth Rensink	Marikay Asberry
6	PSG AA	Ruth Rensink	Kindra Wilson
7	I-1 AA	Ruth Rensink	Rebecca Hunt
8	I-2 AA	Ruth Rensink	Mariah Crumbaker
9	Grand Prix AA	Ruth Rensink	None
10	AA Equitation Regional Final	Karen Spradling	Kindra Wilson

Jr/YR CLASSES		SPONSOR	WINNER
1	Training Level Jr/YR	William Woods University Dressage Club	Taylor Hewitt
2	First Level Jr/YR	Safe & Sound Saddle Fitting	Adalynn Nelson
3	Second Level Jr/YR	Emma and Sarah Szachnieski	Adalynn Nelson
4	Third Level Jr/YR	Kathryn Kostenbader	Joslyn Schoemaker
5	Fourth Level Jr/YR	William Woods University Dressage Club	CeCe Holst
6	PSG Jr/YR	Mikulay Dressage	None
7	I-1 Jr/YR	Haybales and Barbells LLC	Leah Harris
8	I-2 Jr/YR	Post Office Bar and Grill	None
9	Grand Prix Jr/YR	Trish Edlund	None
10	FEI Jr Championship	Willowood Farm	Claire Tucker
11	FEI YR Championship	Jill Fragomeni	Averi Allen
12	Dressage Seat Medal Finals 13U	Sarah Travis Dressage	Megan Steckelberg
13	Dressage Seat Medal Finals 14-18	Willowood Farm	Claire Tucker

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Sushko
USDF Region 4 Director

Region 5 Report

Director: Heather Petersen, CO

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

We are excited to be in Houston for the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention this year! I hope many of you from Region 5 are able to join us and I look forward to catching up with you at the convention.

2024 was a very good year for our region. We have a fall regional meeting scheduled in early November and a pre-convention regional meeting also scheduled for later in November. Dressage shows in Region 5 seem to still be doing well and holding their own. Many of the shows in Colorado still have waitlists and we worked hard to add judges and arenas as best we could. Two local Colorado facilities are adding in mid-week one day shows to see if it will help with the waitlists for the weekend competitions. There were many different educational programs presented by our GMOs in geographically diverse areas. Arizona Dressage Association is in the middle of their Core Transformation Educational Series and have had very well attended sessions. If anyone has interest in hosting educational programs, please don't hesitate to let me know if there is any way I can help.

Congratulations to our many riders who qualified for the 2024 US Dressage Finals this year. I cannot wait to cheer you on! Many great things about the Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/USDF Region 5 Championships were posted on social media and well done to the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society! There was one evening of heavy rain which made things a bit interesting on Sunday, but everyone rolled with the punches and all of the championship classes were held. It was wonderful to have so many folks from all over our region attending the show. Last year we had the most competitors representing Region 5 ever at the US Dressage Finals and it was thrilling to see how well everyone did. The level of excitement continues this year, and we look forward to meeting everyone there!

The bid process for the 2026 GAIG/USDF Region 5 Championships opens very soon. I hope we're able to keep as many parts as possible of our region in the process and that the championships will continue with a rotation to another great facility. Diversity is important and since our region is so large, it's very important to host the regionals in various areas. Here's hoping we can keep the regional championships moving throughout our region to better serve the membership. If you know of a facility we should consider, please let me know. 2025 will see the GAIG/USDF Region 5 Championships hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society again, September 18-21 at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO.

The North American Youth Championships (NAYC) returned to Traverse City, MI this year and we sent two talented horse/rider combinations. Catherine Burlew riding Flynn and her combined team of Regions 4/5/7 earned the team silver medal and Jessica Nordquist riding First Date with her combined team of Regions 3/5 earned the team gold medal! Next year the NAYC will again be held in Traverse City, MI. We have our first fundraising meeting for 2025 coming up soon to help support sending both a Junior and a Young Rider team. For more information on fundraising or participating in the NAYC program, please don't hesitate to reach out to Joan Clay, our amazing FEI Youth Committee coordinator for Region 5, at inclay@comcast.net.

We had quite a few combinations attend the USEF Festival of Champions at Lamplight in Illinois, and they represented Region 5 nicely as well! Congratulations to everyone who participated and thank you for your hard work. Several championships and reserve championships were earned, along with top placings. It's an honor to even qualify and we're so proud of you.

The USDF Junior/Young Rider Clinic will be held October 19th-20th at Nighthawk Equestrian Center in Longmont, CO with George Williams. We had quite a few applications and eight riders were chosen to ride. Many thanks to Nighthawk Equestrian Center and Karen Whitman and Kim Luther for donating their facilities for this clinic. Congratulations to the following riders that rode with George: Catherine Burlew, Elizabeth Petersen, Candice Christopher, Maya Rosenthal, Claire Wolf, Bridget Kelly, Victoria DeWitt, and Grace Hiramoto.

This year Region 5 was allocated five Participating Member (PM) delegates to the USDF Board of Governors meeting. Ginny Sorenson, our Nominating Committee member, rounded up a nice diverse roster of five individuals to fill those spots. Your delegates are Joan Clay, Cecilia Cox, Karen Harkin, Kaye Phaneuf, and Carole Weamer. These five members are your representatives and feel free to reach out to them with any concerns or questions. Their contact information is available on the USDF website under governance (<https://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/nominating/Delegates.asp?Type=PM>).

Ginny also worked hard to get representation for all the eligible GMOs in the region or proxies to cover their votes. If you are interested in being a PM delegate for 2025, please don't hesitate to let us know. Ginny is stepping down as our Nominating Committee member and we are looking for someone to fill her shoes. If you are interested, please let me or Sarah Garn know. We will be looking for individuals again this next year to run for PM delegate so that we have a full slate of representation.

The Santa Fe Dressage Association had a great show this year and would like to let folks know that they are moving their show earlier to June 7-8, 2025, so that it fits into the Level 3 qualifying calendar for both festival and now NAYC!

The New Mexico Dressage Association (NMDA) took a big leap this year and brought back a USDF/USEF rated show! Maribeth St Cyr shares the following for everyone.

NMDA's Road to a Rated Show:

In the past, NMDA has focused on hosting six to eight schooling shows each year. After many years it became apparent that the majority of the participants in the schooling shows did not compete at the three or four USDF recognized shows that were hosted in the state. The board of NMDA decided to discover the obstacles that our core schooling show group had to competing at rated shows. We found that the number one obstacle was the considerable expense. Participation in rated shows were at least \$500 to \$800. In addition, we found that many competitors were unhappy with the venue that most rated shows were held, that there was an intimidation factor at the rated shows amongst competitors, and that the additional expense of maintaining USEF and USDF memberships for themselves and their mounts added to the feeling of overwhelm and expense.

As a board, we made a plan for 2024 that would remove these obstacles. We rolled out the plan to the membership at a meeting in January explaining that we would be holding a USDF recognized show the following September at our regular schooling show venue; a small, friendly facility owned by a local family that the competitors and their horses were familiar with.

Because the show would be a one day show there would be no stabling or trailer in fee. Using our own regular volunteers, we were able to staff the show with ring stewards and managers that did not cost anything, yet had a high level of competency.

In addition, we began to coach the members in the fees and responsibilities associated with their national organization memberships. Because these fees were spread out over the nine months prior to the show, competitors were able to fit them into their budgets. We also hosted educational meetings and events that reviewed award programs and turn out and equipment rules so that every aspect of member's show responsibilities could be met with confidence on show day.

On September 29th we had our first USDF recognized show. The fees for competing averaged \$200 per horse for two tests. All of our core group of schooling show participants were able to compete and receive their first scores for their rider awards. Having no 'S' judges or TDs in state, we used a neighboring state's officials, keeping travel costs low. The show was a huge success. Due to using a 'r' judge and having classes only up to Second Level, the show was small with only sixteen horses. Even with the low participation and entry fees, we broke even financially.

We are already planning two shows for the 2025 show year and will be using 'S' judges so that we can fill the show and offer all classes. The small additional expense will be covered by the increased participation.

I have to add that because I had never managed a recognized show that Heather was critical to keeping me on track as well as reducing my anxiety! I am available to anyone that would like to attend a Zoom call regarding this program at any time. I can also be reached for questions or feedback at nmdressageassociation@gmail.com

Julie Barringer-Richers provides us with a great report from the National Youth Programs Committee:

Calling all USDF Region 5 youth! The USDF National Youth Programs Committee has been busy approving recipients of the USDF Youth Shining Star Award, Dressage Spirit Award, Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pins and Ravel Education Grants, as well as choosing recipients of the USDF Youth Convention Scholarships and making plans for the youth programs that will be offered at this year's convention. Plus, we are planning an exciting program for the upcoming USDF/USEF Young Rider Graduate Program*.

Do you know someone who is worthy of one of the many different awards we offer for USDF youth? You can find links to the various awards and grants, and so much more, at the attached link. <https://www.usdf.org/education/youth.asp>

Here is a breakdown of awards given in 2024 by the National Youth Programs Committee:

- Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin Recipients: Twenty-three pins awarded
Region 5 Recipients: Candace Christopher, CO (2nd year recipient); Mariska Sherlin, AZ; Felicity Thunes, AZ
- USDF Youth Shining Star Program: Six pins awarded
- Ravel Education Grant: Three were awarded this year
- Dressage Spirit Award: Five were awarded
- USDF Convention Youth Scholarship: Four were awarded
- USDF Nomination for the USEF Youth Sportsmans Award: Virginia Woodcock, GA

In 2025, I hope to get Region 5 youth better educated about the different award and scholarship/grant programs we have to offer. Please let me know if I can be of any help!
Julie Barringer-Richers
USDF Region 5 National Youth Programs Committee member

The Competition Management Committee has worked on updating resources for competitions throughout the country, reviewing proposed rule changes and how we can best disseminate information to management. There is also an educational presentation planned for the USDF convention, so be sure to set aside some time to attend!

Finally, I, Heather, would personally like to take a moment to thank all of our Region 5 members who have served on the committees for USDF, our local GMO boards and committees, volunteered at shows and clinics and/or hosted/organized events. The region is lucky to have you and is grateful for your wisdom, time and efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Petersen
USDF Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

Director: Noah Rattner, OR

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

We made it to the finish line of another big year here in Region 6!

On November 2-3, the USDF FEI Youth Clinic and (new this year) USDF Youth Outreach Clinic will be held at DevonWood with Sabine Schut-Kery serving as our FEI youth clinician. Additionally, Region 6 also bid to the Youth Committee to host a USDF Youth Outreach Clinic. We were awarded the 'bonus' clinic and had so much interest that we were approved to add a second youth outreach clinician. In November, we'll also welcome Benjamin Pfabe and Jesse Collins as our youth outreach clinicians, bringing a total of twenty-four youth riders together for the largest youth clinic in the country. Thank you to Nicki Grandia, our Region 6 youth coordinator, and all of the trainers and coaches in the region for encouraging so many youth riders to apply and participate in the clinic. I'd also like to commend Sarah Delahanty from USDF who has been invaluable to our region in processing the flood of applications and clinic documents.

At the 2024 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, MI, Region 6 fielded a full team of Juniors and two Young Riders. It's super exciting to see so much growth in our youth programs and a pipeline of talent building in these divisions. In 2023, the U25 division was officially added to the NAYC and in 2025, the Children rider division will officially join the NAYC, too. The addition of these divisions to the NAYC more closely aligns the USEF Dressage National Championships (Festival) with the NAYC and solidifies the successful pathway from youth programs to senior programs and hopefully more podium finishes for Team USA! If you have questions about the new(er) division(s), please don't hesitate to reach out to me and/or Nicki Grandia.

In early October, DevonWood served as hosts of the Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/USDF Region 6 Championships. This was the largest regional championships show in the past decade and a great indicator of the health of our sport in the region. We were pleased to welcome USDF Executive Director Stephan Hienzsch, who was present throughout the championships to meet members and congratulate competitors. We're eager to see many combinations who will move forward to the US Dressage Finals in Kentucky this November.

In 2025, DevonWood will once again serve as hosts of the GAIG/USDF Region 6 Championships. Be sure to save October 2-5, 2025 on your calendar! Bidding will open for the 2026 championships in November 2024 and close in February 2025. Interested bidders can find all the information about hosting on the USDF website under the 'Manager' tab. If you're a new bidder and have questions about hosting regional championships, I would be happy to connect with you.

Important changes to the regional championships for 2025: please note the 2025 USDF qualifying fee has increased to \$20 per 'Q' ride. Also, the Young Rider team and Junior team divisions have been sunset from the regional championship program. Be sure to review the updated Program Rules, specifically Section C (Qualifying System) which addresses test

equivalencies. While removing divisions from the regional championships is not ideal, the thought here is that our youth riders have NAYC, Festival, and US Dressage Finals offering multiple youth-restricted 'championships'. Removing divisions that have historically low participation rates yet still high administration costs while utilizing the equivalencies for Third and Fourth Level championships is less of a removal of divisions and more a reallocation of expenses. As youth participation rates increase in future years, these two divisions will be re-evaluated for possible re-integration, when justified.

At the start of September, Oregon Dressage Society, under the leadership of President Emily Park, hosted their largest championship in recent years, too. Emily has done an amazing job bringing the 'fun' back to the state championships with a nonstop party vibe to their annual show. We can all take a page from them on including games that are horsey enough to bring the horse show competitors, but non-horsey enough to get the spouses, friends and family to show up, too. Their stick horse competition (now in its second year) proved wildly popular and it's easy to see why hobby horse has become so popular.

Lower Puget Sound Dressage Society and Equestrians' Institute have both been busy hosting L Programs, 'r' Dressage Apprenticeships, and spectacular clinics. Thank you to these GMOs for providing our community with so many local opportunities to grow their knowledge and advance their training. It's imperative that we continue to grow our licensed officials population as it is one of the many ways that we can keep costs low for show organizers.

Region 6's licensed officials are also in 'growth' mode and I'd like to commend them for pursuing advancement and continuing education for their respective licenses. A quick glance at our licensed officials population by the numbers:

- FEI Dressage/Para Dressage Judges: 4
- DSHB 'R' Judges: 2
- 'S' Judges: 11
- 'R' Judges: 4
- 'r' Judges: 5
- 'L' Graduates (Active): 22 (and 3 'L' Faculty)
- 'R' DTDs: 1
- 'r' DTDs: 2

We have several licensed officials in the pipeline and many making solid progress towards their next promotion. I am incredibly grateful to each of them for sharing their expertise and knowledge with our community and being tremendous resources to our show organizers. Thank you!

Throughout the 2024 competition year, Region 6 hosted a huge number of licensed competitions. There were 60 USEF/USDF licenses issued in 2024, including 1 x Level 5 (CDI), 1 x Level 4 (regional championships) and 21 x Level 3 (USEF qualifiers). Here's a glance at competitions by state:

- Idaho: 13
- Oregon: 14
- Washington: 25

- Western Montana: 4
- Alaska: 4

Our bank account has seen significant growth in the Youth Fund with nearly \$12,000 in donations/auction proceeds (great job Nicki and youth riders). Otherwise, minimal financial activity this year with a handful of reimbursements for the Region 6 website and rider/team expenses at NAYC. Our Region 6 account balance sits at \$32,513.35. A brief breakout of the bank balance includes \$17,199.31 in the General Fund, \$1,060.00 in Grants, and \$14,254.04 in the Jr/YR Fund.

Finally, this report marks the end of my first three-year term as your regional director. The election for the Region 6 Director position will take place at convention for the next three year term, 2025-2027. Presently, I am the incumbent and have been nominated to serve another term. While I am willing to serve in this capacity for another term, I also welcome other interested parties who wish to pursue this role in the years ahead. Serving as regional director has been a great privilege and simultaneously, quite challenging. I'd like to offer a brief self-reflection on my first term of service:

During my first term, I am most proud of the work we've done to increase youth programming, identifying emerging youth athletes, and helping build a pipeline for the short and long-term. We've re-engaged and reinvigorated our youth, won historic team gold medals (and individual medals) at NAYC, sent a record number of youth athletes to Festival, including great successes in the Dressage Seat Medal Finals. We built our own talent pipeline for youth athletes and used this data to identify up-and-coming youth riders. This enabled us to target programming, grant opportunities, and foster a more inclusive approach to bring youth together for more unity and build a more team-like atmosphere. Our proactive approach to the USDF Youth Clinics earned us one of the most respected youth clinicians in the country. By demonstrating a heightened interest in this clinic series, we were also able to justify to USDF that we had sufficient demand to award additional funding and clinic opportunities via USDF Youth Outreach Clinics. This newly created infrastructure will allow our youth programs to regenerate for generations to come.

In the Adult Amateur (AA) space, we've grown participation in the Regional Adult Amateur Equitation Finals (presented by Big Dee's Tack and Vet Supply) to some of the largest divisions in the country. We've spurred interest in this program and encouraged fellow show organizers (and schooling shows) to incorporate AA equitation divisions into their shows. Through partner promotion and increased awareness of The Dressage Foundation's (TDF) 'Century Club' Program, we've seen the most Century Club inductees earn their spot in history of rider and horse age over 100 years, further celebrating that dressage is for everyone and that it is a lifelong journey. This, in turn, has generated a huge increase in financial contributions from Region 6 to TDF, enabling them to fund the Century Club and other grant programs for decades to come. Congratulations to our Century Club inductees!

While I am incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together in these three years, I believe that we have a huge opportunity as a region to tap into the combined talent of our region. We have a handful of regional volunteers who have stepped forward to serve in leadership roles, both regionally and nationally, but there is a bigger opportunity to grow this talent pool even more. I look forward to establishing a similar talent pipeline to share the workload and be even more impactful at growing our sport in Region 6.

I have also come to realize, even more than before, that our region is vast and keeping in touch with each GMO and supporting their changing leadership is a daunting task. GMOs are on a shrinking trend and there is more turnover year-over-year, thus making it difficult to support more local initiatives than ever before. In my next term, I'm hoping to establish a GMO and PM Delegate Regional Council and have a monthly touchpoint to keep abreast of developments across the region and also share knowledge and resources where we can be more impactful. I continue to be grateful to the leaders who raise their hands to take on leadership roles at the GMO level and propel our sport forward.

Another area of opportunity is in the Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) space. With new ownership in a handful of venues, we've seen attrition in the volume of DSHB shows in Region 6. In my next term, I endeavor to engage more directly with show organizers to add even a single DSHB show to their existing licenses. We have prominent breeders in our region and we must continue to provide opportunities for them to showcase and develop their crop of sport horses. I'm thankful to Christel Carlson in Spokane and Deb Heier at Bello Acres for continuing to host DSHB classes at their shows.

In closing, I'd like to share my gratitude with the trust you've placed in me to serve as your regional director and the feedback you've shared with me on how I can better serve our great region. As always, my e-mail inbox is open to any of you and I'm always looking forward to connecting with fellow dressage enthusiasts from across the region.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah G. Rattner
USDF Region 6 Director

Region 7 Report

Director: Regina Antonioli, CA

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

Region 7 was excited by the representation and success of our members nationally, internationally, and regionally.

The Paris Olympics

Two Region 7 riders, Steffen Peters and Anna Buffini, made the eight athlete and horse combinations selected to the US Dressage Team Olympic shortlist for continued observation ahead of team selection for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Anna Buffini (Rancho Santa Fe, CA) and Fiontini, her own 2010 Danish Warmblood mare (Fassbinder x Rapitala), joined Steffen Peters (San Diego, CA) and Suppenkasper, a 2008 KWPN gelding (Spielberg x Upanoeska) owned by Four Winds Farm and Akiko Yamazaki. Peters and Suppenkasper (Mopsie) went on to place third out of more than forty competitors in the Grand Prix in Hagen, and then represented the US in Paris. We were also proud to have Christine Traurig (Calrsbad, CA), who has been a coach within the USEF program for nearly ten years, serve as chef d' equipe for the 2024 Olympic Dressage Team.

Other European Competitions

Josh Albrecht (Oroville, CA) and Goldenboy Vinckenburgh, a 2011 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Apache x Tandafanory) owned by Coalcyn Equestrian LLC, along with Dennessy Rogers (Santa Rosa, CA) and Chanel, a 2005 Danish Warmblood mare (Blue Horse Romance x Penelope Solyst) owned by Dorriah Rogers, were selected to represent the US Dressage U25 program in Europe.

Husband and wife, David Blake and Rebecca Rigdon (Cardif by the Sea) were selected to represent the US at the 2024 FEI Dressage World Breeding Championships in Ermelo, The Netherlands from September 4-8 in the Seven-Year-Old division. David rode G.Q., a 2017 Danish Warmblood gelding (Grand Galaxy WIN x Florencio 2) owned by Helen Stacy. Rebecca rode MSJ for VIPs, a 2017 Oldenburg gelding (Foundation 2 x Vivaldi) owned by Lauren Fisher.

International Events at Home

The Dutta Corp. US Dressage team and US Dressage U25 team featured three Region 7 riders at the Nations Cup in Wellington, FL. Erin Nichols (Yorba Linda, CA.) and Elian Royale, a 2009 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Johnson x Zafradine), owned by Premiere Sport Horses, were on the Nations Cup team. Josh Albrecht (Oroville, CA) and Goldenboy Vinckenburgh, along with Dennessy Rogers (Santa Rosa, CA) and Chanel were on the U25 Team. Nichols closed out her senior Nations Cup debut with an individual bronze medal while helping the US team take silver behind Germany. In the U25, Albrecht secured the silver medal, while Rogers took home the bronze medal.

North American Youth Championships (NAYC)

Region 7 riders took first and second when the U25 section took center stage. Christian Simonson (Ventura, CA) and Son of a Lady, owned by Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson, won the Intermediate II and Freestyle and was third in the Grand Prix. Josh Albrecht (Oroville,

CA) and Goldenboy Vinckenburgh, owned by Coalcyn Equestrian LLC, won the Grand Prix and placed second in the Intermediare II and Freestyle.

The combined Region 4 (Catherine Burlew) / Region 5 (Claire Trucker) / Region7 (Carmen Stephens) took silver in the Junior team competition.

Region 7 was able to field a full team for the Young Rider division that included: Grace Duggan on Farrucco LXXXIX (owned by James Duggan and Jane Arrasmith Duggan), Sophia Beck on her own Chachi, Anna Yost on her own Irieno-S, and Josephine Hinnemann on Copa Cabana MRF(owned by Natalie Hamilton-Hinnemann).

US Honors

Region 7 members received top honors at the 2024 KWPN North America Annual Meeting in Ocala, FL. Anna Beal , of Orange, CA, was named the Tony De Groot Member of the Year, while Jackie Ahl Eckhaus' Mountain View Sport Horses captured the Dressage Breeder of the Year Award. Willy Arts DG Bar Breeders, Inc. picked up a title for the 2023 Top Keuring Breeder (breeder with the most placing's in the Top 10).

US Dressage Festival of Champions

Region 7 horses and riders made their presence known at the 2024 US Dressage Festival of Champions (FOC), at HITS Chicago Lamplight Equestrian Center in Northern Illinois.

2020 Olympic silver medalist, Sabine Schut-Kery (Oceanside, CA) took home the first blue ribbon of the show in the Prix St. George class of the Neue Schule/USEF Intermediaire I National Championship. Sabine guided Sonnenberg's Jersey, the 2014 black stallion owned by Sonnenberg Farm, LLC to an impressive 73.441% victory. The pair went on to sweep the division and secure the national championship title. The upbeat soundtrack for the freestyle was created by another Region 7 rider, Marie Medosi. She rode Favorite Son PS, an Oldenberg stallion owned by The Palms Equestrian Center, to scores of 74% and 77.6% in the Four-Year-Old Young Horse.

Two talented Region 7 riders mirrored their finishes at the 2024 North American Youth Championships (NAYC), placing one and two in the Adequan[®]/USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship. Christian Simonson (Ventura, CA) and Son of a Lady (Soreldo x Western Lady), and Christina Morgan and Clifton Simonson's 2011 Danish Warmblood gelding, earned the top ribbons. The win was especially meaningful for Simonson, who trains with Adrienne Lyle, a past Brentina Cup champion herself. Lyle, in turn, trained with Debbie McDonald, the longtime trainer and rider of the horse for whom the class is named. Josh Albrecht (Oroville, CA) and Goldenboy Vickenburgh (Apache x Tandafanory), Coalcyn Equestrian LLC's 2011 Dutch Warmblood gelding, (known as "G Boy" in the barn) performed an ambitious freestyle set to music by Imagine Dragons, and secured the reserve champion position.

Region 7 competitors also placed first and second in Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championship for Seven-Year-Olds where less than one point separated the top three horses. In the end it was Willy Arts (Hanford, CA.) and Makanabria DG (Rock Forever x Gamebria DG), his homebred 2017 NA/WPN mare owned by DG Bar Ranch, who secured the win with a 73.427% overall score. Makanabria was also recognized as the highest-scoring US bred horse in the class. Reserve champion honors went to Laura Brandt (Stevenson Ranch,

CA) and Ikon (Asgard's Ibiza x Havanna Byager), her own 2017 Oldenburg stallion. Brandt admitted to having some nerves during the first test, but worked past them to post two great scores. Ashlyn Dodge (Hanford, CA), who trains with Willy, picked up fifth place.

Arts was back on the top of the standings in the Championship for Four-Year-Old Horses with Pharaoh DG (Koning DG x Parcival), a 2020 Dutch Warmblood stallion owned by DG Bar Ranch. Willy is both Pharaoh's breeder and trainer. The stunning dark chestnut stallion earned a 90.800% and perfect ten in the perspective category from the judges in the preliminary test. Dominating the Young Horse division, Arts and Serupgaards Cézanne (Torveslettens Sylvester x Serupgards Sangria), a 2019 Danish KWPN gelding, earned 81.2% in the Preliminary test of the Markel Five-Year-Old division. A tiebreaker came down to the higher average marks from the submission and perspective categories, giving Arts a Reserve. Blair Niemczek (Chino Hills, CA) took fifth on Elizabeth Jenkins' KWPN gelding, Optima, with 76.2% in the Preliminary and fourth with 77.400% in the Final test.

Region 7 participants at festival included: Stephen Birchall, in the Six-Year-Old division riding Joyce Ryder's KWPN gelding, Nero. Schut-Kery led a third Region 7 one-two podium punch when she guided Gorgeous Latino (Glock's Toto Jr. x Blackmanda), a 2016 stallion owned by Sandy Mancini, to a championship win in the Markel/USEF Developing Prix St. Georges. Sarah Mason-Beaty (Danville, CA) earned the reserve champion title with her own, Kanjer (Geniaal x Rosanne), a 2015 Dutch Warmblood gelding. Other California riders in the Developing PSG were Jaclyn Pepper (Santa Rosa, CA) on Limited Edition (fourth and fifth) and Nick Wagman (San Diego, CA) on two horses, Belvedere NRW (eighth) and Heiline's St.Coeu (ninth). The Markel/USEF Developing Grand Prix saw some quality ribbons for Region 7 riders including Kathleen Raine (Murrieta, CA) and Figaro (Furstenball x Sunshine Show), a 2014 Westphalian gelding she owns with Marti Foster (third Developing Grand Prix - 67.329% and sixth Intermediaire II - 65.686%) and Jackie Ahl Eckhaus (San Luis Obispo, CA) and her own 2014 KWPN Gelding, Jett MVS (fifth Intermediaire II - 66.128% and seventh Developing Grand Prix - 66.990%). In the Horseware of Ireland FEI Young Rider division we had two recent NAYC competitors, Josephine Hinnemann and Anna Yost. Hinnemann and Copa Cabana MRF earned the overall third place spot. Yost, riding her own Irieno S, a 2013 KWPN gelding, earned quality scores of 62.696% (team test) and 63.039% (individual test). Mia Folk (Fullerton, CA) and Coelenhage Parco, a 2013 Welsh Pony gelding owned by her friend, Sage Chacon, turned in two strong tests to win the Aspen Leaf Farm/USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship. In the Aspen Leaf Farm/USEF Children's division, Ryder Mosqueda (Hemet, CA) and Atlantico XLVI (Alfarero XI x Bombardina II), a 2008 Andalusian gelding owned by Sara Mosqueda, took second in the team test (78.750) and fourth in the individual (71.093%). Violet Evans (Clovis, CA) and Steendieks Cinemax earned 67.900% and 65.926%, respectively. Equitation featured multiple talented young athletes. In his first-time riding in the medal final, Mosqueda earned the silver medal in the 13 & Under. The 14-18 featured sixteen riders who all competed in a two-part contest consisting of group rail-work and an individual equitation pattern. Sophie Shohet, a California Dressage Society (CDS) member from Las Vegas, rode Sweet Cheese Z to a 71% and Julia Lee (San Jose, CA) rode True Colors, a horse she borrowed from Deanna Hertrich, to an impressive 79.00% and the fourth place honors.

Sabine Schut-Kery along with Adrienne Lyle was awarded the USEF Gold Medal of Distinction. This award is the highest honor within USA Dressage and is earned by achieving a specific list of criteria. Schut-Kery and Lyle represented the US together at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics where they won team silver.

GMOs

CDS, which includes California and Nevada, hosted multiple clinics. Over thirty-five participated in the 2024 CDS Linda O'Carroll Memorial Adult Amateur Clinic with Heidi Gaian at separate Northern, Central and Southern dates and locations. CDS continues to help shape the future of dressage, funding two (Northern and Southern) Junior/Young Rider clinics with David Wightman.

During its annual meeting the educational seminar featured: Sarah Geikie (Level 3 FEI judge and co-chair of the USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee) on the 'Purpose of the Movements'; Janet Jones, author of "Horse Brain/Human Brain", on bonding and trust with brain based horsemanship; Lauren Winfield, DVM on 'Behavior or Pain'; Travis Mahoney (farrier) on corrective shoeing; Jamie Shortz from Pacific Performance Chiropractic; Julie McCarthy on 'Healthy Horse Massage'; and Mehrdad Baghai Astaneh JRD on 'Horse Asymmetries and Saddles'.

CDS manned a booth at the International Horse Expo at the Murieta Equestrian Center, near Sacramento, CA to promote dressage in general and the programs CDS provides.

CDS also had the honor of hosting the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 7 Championships, along with its own championships in September where 190 competitors vied for over 75 championship titles. Numbers were slightly down from 2023. Show participants that year were 218.

Orchid Isle Dressage and Eventing and the Hawaii State Dressage Society: Both have less than twenty members recorded.

Aloha State Dressage Society: This is the most active of the Hawaiian GMOs offering four USEF/USDF in-person dressage shows and four virtual competitions. It boasts thirty-five members.

Overall Thoughts

While the Hawaiian GMOs are much smaller, all our GMOs are sharing a concern of declining numbers. In 2023, CDS membership was 2652 and for 2024 it is down to 2300. The high was in 2007 at 5016. We are aware that mirrors the national trend for dressage, but it is still a disturbing trend.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Antonioli
USDF Region 7 Director

Region 8 Report

Director: Helen van der Voort, NY

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

Greetings from Region 8!

It has been a busy summer in Region 8 on a number of fronts. Back in April, we learned that Nash Gagnon of Maine and his gelding Happy Texas Moonlight were selected to the US Dressage European Young Rider Tour. This hard-working team had a fabulous winter in Florida and capped it off with their selection to the team. They had a phenomenal time, and Nash has been able to remain in Europe continuing his education and working for a prominent organization there.

In June, the FEI Youth Clinic with Lilo Fore was held at Weatogue Stables. Six athletes, Antonia Hansmeyer, Leo Tadikonda, Finley Peterson, Bella Thorpe, Emily Jackowski, and Rosa Murphy, and their equine partners spent two days riding with Lilo, discussing theory with her, and hearing about Lilo's life in equestrian sports. Lilo could not have been more supportive as she took the pairs through the basics. We had representatives from nearly all the levels, Training through Intermediate I, and the improvement from day one to day two was amazing.

The Connecticut Dressage Association continued the Dressage Development Program Seminars in July at Weatogue Stables and in August at Sperry View Farm. Bill McMullin, Vicki Hammers-O'Neil, and Sarah Geikie led the sessions. After the riding seminar, Bill and Vicki were pleased that "so many came together in this new format to gain a better understanding of the Pyramid of Training and its application to evaluating and improving with each ride."

Also in July, the Connecticut Dressage Association held a schooling show at Weatogue Stables. I mention this because the show hosted a lead line class with two adorable 2-year-olds, Hadley Balowski on Pocket Mouse and Maxine Blass on Chai Chai. Later in the day, Gretchen Stearns on Lassere, owned by Giulia Cohen, rode her Century Ride. You're never too old, or too young, to ride dressage!

August saw the North American Youth Championships (NAYC). Caroline Colby represented Region 8 on the Junior team and Quentin Sloan was on the Young Rider team. Heidi Hauri-Gill was the chef d'equipe. This was Caroline's first CDI and though she had a wonderful team ride, the combined team of Region 2 and 8 sadly didn't make it to the podium. On Thursday, Quentin, as part of a combined Region 2/4/8, got the bronze. It was a cliffhanger until the end.

The US Dressage Festival of Champions ran at the end of August. Riders from our region were Josie DeChaine in the U25s, Sophia Forsyth in Young Riders, Jane Karol in the Developing GP Championships, and Callie O'Connell in GP. Congratulations to all of them.

Finally, regionals were held September 19th through the 22nd at HITS on the Hudson in Saugerties, NY. Congratulations to all who competed, not just the ribbon winners. The long weekend was a great event. Mother nature was at her most spectacular. The showgrounds were designed with fresh landscaping, and horses and riders were beautifully turned out.

As this goes to press, we are looking forward to the 2024 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium featuring Gareth Hughes. It will be held at the Mount Holyoke Equestrian Center October 19th and 20th. Rider/horse pairs invited to participate are Devon Pomeroy and Fuerst Dream, Geena Martin and Tip Top, Cassandra Martin and Stella M, Allison Mathy and Legendario dos Diamantes, Rosa Murphy and Hot Stuff, Leah Drew and Damons Davin, Maia Barnes and Jamaica B, and Lauren Sammis and Heilines Oh Land. This promises to be a great educational experience.

Finally, along with the rest of the country, we are looking forward to seeing the Region 8 competitors who will be heading to Kentucky. Good luck to all of you!

Respectfully submitted,

Helen van der Voort
USDF Region 8 Director

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 4-7, Houston, TX

A second summer of extreme heat across the region caused several shows to have a reduced number of participants. This included the 2024 Great American Insurance Group (GAIG)/ USDF Region 9 Championships, Houston Dressage Society Autumn Classic, and Southwest Dressage Championships. Despite there being a slight decrease in the number of horses entered, the show was a resounding success. This year's theme was "Bright Lights of Broadway". The weather was good and the facility, along with their staff, was superb. Houston Dressage Society (HDS), the volunteers, and officials all did an awesome job to put on a top rated show. Activities included a stall decorating contest, Battle of the Barn baskets to benefit the Region 9 Juniors and Young Riders, an "Ask the TD" session, Mamma Mia Wedding Celebration reception, the Region 9 Banquet, freestyle rides, and a scavenger hunt. Thanks to Black Star Sport Horses for being the presenting sponsor of the Autumn Classic.

The Region 9 Horse Person of the Year recipient was Betty Beebe. Betty has been on the board of Central Texas Dressage Society for twelve years and has served in many different areas as a volunteer. She is also the Region 9 Adult Education Chair, writing several articles a year for the Region eNews. She serves as a Participating Member (PM) delegate on the Board of Governors at the USDF conventions as well. Betty is always there to help, along with a smile and a great open heart.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award was not given this year. We encourage all instructors/teachers to apply in the future. Go to The Dressage Foundation for more information. www.dressagefoundation.org. Meg Flemming, who created this idea, got it running sixteen years ago, and has been through all the growing pains, is retiring from being the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award Chair. Sarah Denham (the 2023 recipient) has graciously taken the reins. Thank you to both Meg and Sarah for a very important contribution to Region 9 and dressage!

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

Our GMOs were busy holding shows, clinics, camps, and seminars this summer. All those elected on the boards, committees, etc., and who keep these organizations running are volunteers. We thank them for spreading information and education about dressage.

Region 9 Junior/Young Riders (Jr/Yrs) held a successful and fun USDF Youth Outreach Clinic with Nancy Hinz at Rolling Ridge Stable. There is a USDF FEI Youth Clinic coming up in November at Paragon Farms with George Williams.

Six riders went to the 2024 North American Youth Championships (NAYC). There was a team of four in the Junior division: Mallory Macomber, Addy Batcheller, MK Connatser, and Ben McWhorter, who won bronze. There were two Young Riders who achieved fourth place on a

team with Region 6. Congratulations to all the riders. Thanks to Marsha Lewis, the Region 9 Jr/YR coordinator and chef d' equipe, for all her hard work and long hours. We also want to thank everyone who helped raise funds this summer for the Jr/YR program.

The 2024 Region 9 (in-person) Summer Meeting, hosted by Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship (BACH), was held in Bryan/College Station, TX, July 19- 21. It started on Friday with a tour of the Texas A&M Vet School Large Animal Hospital, followed by an all-day meeting/networking session on Saturday, which included the GMO and Region 9 board members/representatives giving reports and exchanging ideas. Amy Raines led an active discussion on attracting and keeping volunteers. We held a silent auction and voted on the 2024 Region 9 t-shirt design contest. Thanks to Nicole Miller for submitting the winning design. On Sunday we were treated to a tour of a wildlife center that rescues animals and Parsons Mounted Calvary.

Southern Eventing & Dressage Association is hosting next summer's July 2025 Region 9 meeting in New Orleans.

Our next Region 9 Zoom meeting is November 14th, followed by the in-person meeting during the Houston convention.

We are excited to be hosting the 2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Houston, TX. PM delegates elected to represent our PMs at the Board of Governors: Betty Beebe, Arlene Gaitan, Marilyn Kulifay, Sarah Jane Martin, Barbara Lewis, Carolyn VandenBerg.

Our eighteen Region 9 board positions consist of fourteen members/volunteers. They are all active in the national committees and programs, representing Region 9 and our members, working to keep them informed. There has been a recent change in the Region 9 board; Marsha Lewis is taking over as the Region 9 National Youth Chair from Jessica Fan.

The Region 9 Omnibus, which is published in October, is chock full of information for all our members – (as is the Region 9 website, eNews, and Facebook page). Check them out! Included: GMO contacts and benefits, Region 9 board members, regional award winners, shows, clinics, judges, TDs, L graduates, instructors/trainers, the current dressage test, and information/Region 9 recipients of The Dressage Foundation. We appreciate The Dressage Foundation. It is intertwined into the fabric of our region, helping to fund both our members and GMOs as they work toward their dressage goals/ dreams.

Just released, our GMOs shine again with USDF GMO Awards:

- Region 9 GMO Volunteer of the Year: Janelle Williams - Edmond, OK (Central Plains Dressage Society).
- GMO Newsletter Award (75-174 members): First place: Southern Eventing and Dressage Association
- GMO Website Award (75-174 members): First place: Southern Eventing and Dressage Association

On a sad note, we have lost two members in the last few months, Katherine Jacoby and Bruce Lawrie. They both were an integral part of our region for many years and will be greatly missed.

The hills and valleys are part of being a community in which people truly care about each other, and about a passion we all love.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Bruton
USDF Region 9 Director