

The Stars are Big and Bright

Deep in the Heart of Texas

2009 Adequan® / United States Dressage Federation
National Convention & Symposium

Featuring Jan Brink

Austin, Texas



BOG Council & Committee Reports

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Adult Education Council Report

Chair: Fran Crocco, NJ

Liaison: Kathie Robertson

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Alyssa Dragnich, PA*; Region 2: Jackie Luebke-Puetz, WI; Region 3: Holly Hilliard, FL; Region 4: Jamee Amundson-Folmer, NE; Region 5: Catherine Siemiet, CO; Region 6: Frances Haupt, OR; Region 7: Barbara Keville, CA; Region 8: Sybille Crafts, CT; Region 9: Evelyn (Evie) B. Tumlin, MS
*New member(s) of the Adult Education Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 28

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): NONE HELD

2009 Objectives:

1. Oversee Adult Clinic series.
2. Improve promotion of University Program benefits.
3. Develop Dressage Camp for Adults resource materials.
4. Develop an awards program for recognizing innovative educational programming within GMOs.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Hosted seven Adult Team Competitions.
- Developed procedures for accrediting online video programs so that members may receive University credits for this type of education.
- Confirmed sites for seven Adult Clinics to be held over the next two years.
- Provided input for the national symposium.
- Published resource materials for Adult Camps.
- Reviewed and presented topics to the Executive Board for the educational sessions at the annual convention.
- Revised Adult Clinic Rider application in an effort to give Rider Selection Committees better information to help choose the riders at each of the regional clinics.
- Provided input into the budgeting process for areas that the council manages and oversees.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Reviewed accomplishments to date
- Update on Adult Clinic Series:
 - 8 dates have been confirmed
 - Region 3, 8 and 5 clinics have been completed
 - Region 4, 9 and 1 scheduled for the spring of 2010

- Region 2 scheduled for the fall of 2010
- Region 6 has just been confirmed for the spring of 2011
- Update of online education offerings
 - Reviewed University levels of recognition
- Discussed types of online education that is wanted by membership
 - Education for volunteers
 - Show Management – scribes, paddock managers, for an example
 - Basic education
 - Videos
- Discussion of Symposium programs
 - Attendees indicated they like the current programs. They felt that even though the same material is covered each year, it is presented from a different approach.
 - Attendees liked that the convention and symposium are together.
 - Suggested that if the presenter is going to ride, it should be promoted.

Items discussed at closed meeting (if held):

- **NO CLOSED MEETING WAS HELD**

2010 Objectives:

- Oversee adult clinics
- Continued promotion of University program and benefits
- Develop an awards program for recognizing innovative educational programming within GMOs
- Develop program for adult clinic series in 2011 – 2012
- Review, select and recommend educational topics for the 2010 Convention
- Provide continued input for symposium programs

New budget requirements:

1. NONE

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. NONE

Audit Committee

Chair: Charles Smith, OH

Liaison: Connie Huy

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Committee Members: Robert Higgins, FL; Karin Reid Offield, FL; Howard B. Simpson, IL

*There are no new member(s) of the Audit Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 7

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): NA

2009 Objectives:

1. Request that the selected auditor work with the Audit Committee as the Auditor prepares and completes the audit for the current fiscal year.
2. Request that the USDF staff provide the Audit Committee with the Investment Portfolio reports provided by the Investment Management Company and the quarterly fiscal documents so that the Audit Committee can monitor the fiscal health of USDF.
3. Request that the USDF staff and the auditor provide to the Audit Committee an analysis of the internal controls that are used in day to day operations so that the Audit Committee can determine the adequacy of these controls.
4. Make recommendations to the USDF Executive Board and USDF Board of Governors in any of the above areas, and others, either stated or implied in the bylaws for the Audit Committee.
5. As stated in the USDF Bylaws for the Audit Committee: "The Audit Committee shall recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF."

2009 Accomplishments:

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Audit Committee met July 29, 2009 at the USDF Education Center in Lexington, Kentucky to interview auditors from four certified public accounting firms., One firm will be recommended to the USDF Board of Governors (BOG), and followed by BOG approval would be hired to conduct the financial audit for USDF starting with the USDF Fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

All members of the committee were present: Robert Higgins, Chair; and members: Chuck Smith; Howard Simpson and Karin Offield. At the specific request of the Audit Committee, the USDF Executive Director Stephan Hienzsch and USDF Director of Finance and Accounting, Connie Huy also participated in the interview process. While the Audit Committee alone will make the final recommendation to the Board of Governors and inform the Executive Committee of their recommendation, both the Executive Director and especially the Director of Finance and Accounting will be in direct contact with the Audit firm throughout the year and thus the Audit Committee solicited their counsel during the long interview process. The Audit Committee wishes to thank them for their participation.

Following each presentation, a vigorous discussion ensued with input from both the committee members and the two USDF staff members present. Fees for the

initial year along with two subsequent years were negotiated with each of the four firms during the interview process to assess the ability of each of the firms to react to unexpected situations. At the end of the day the committee rank ordered the Audit Firm candidates. As a matter of protocol, the Chair participated in the interview process but did not participate in the final voting. While the committee was satisfied with its initial ranking order they wished to continue to follow a rigorous selection process and therefore, after the initial interviews, several references provided by the candidates were contacted. Because the Audit Committee does not wish to rush to judgment, the Committee continues to evaluate the candidate Audit Firms and will make a decision prior to the start of the BOG sessions in Austin, Texas in December 2009 and provide its recommendation to both the Executive Committee and the BOG.

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Reviewed the functions of the Audit Committee
- Discussed the selection process for evaluating and interviewing accounting firms; from which one was chosen, for recommendation to the Board of Governors

Items discussed in closed meeting (if held): NA

2010 Objectives:

1. Recommend to the Board of Governors the selection of a qualified independent certified public accounting firm, which upon approval by the Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual certified audit of the financial records of USDF.”
2. Make recommendations to the USDF Executive Board and USDF Board of Governors in any area, either stated or implied in the bylaws for the Audit Committee

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. The Audit Committee recommends Fister, Williams & Oberlander, PLLC Lexington, Kentucky be contracted to conduct the financial audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

Awards Council Report

Chair: Peggy Klump, CA

Liaison: Krystina Firth

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Kristen P. Brown, VA; Region 2: Paula J Briney, IL; Region 3: Camille Brinkman, FL; Region 4: Barbara Zukowski, IA; Region 5: Eva-Maria Adolphi, UT; Region 6:Carolynn E. Bunch, WA; Region 7:Anne B. Howard, CA; Region 8:Susan McKeown, MA; Region 9:Donna D. Meyer, TX

*There are no new member(s) of the Awards Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 21

Number in attendance at closed meeting: 10

2009 Objectives:

1. Clarify USDF/USEF equivalencies.
2. Continue to work on “standards for new awards, awards programs and re-establishment of previously existing awards programs.”
3. Continue to research if championship scores should count towards USDF year-end award median score calculations.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Provided an in depth report on the USDF Awards program to an Australian publication that had requested details on the scope and nature of our system.
- Developed a set of standards which the Awards Council will use to more effectively evaluate recommendations and/or proposals for new awards.
- Continued to review and improve requirements and guidelines for existing awards to ensure that the maximum possible scores would be considered as eligible.
- Worked with USDF staff to maximize efficiency and cost savings in accordance with budget restrictions, while still ensuring that USDF offers an exceptional awards program.
- Responded to requests for awards program guideline changes that promote increased eligibility for year-end awards standings.
- Worked with the USDF Executive Board to allow USEF special competitions, such as the Olympic Selection Trials, to count for Horse of the Year Awards in keeping with the mission of the awards program to recognize exceptional performance.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Budget items that went into affect for the 2010 competition year
- Reviewed the work the council has done throughout the year
- The need to clarify that for the musical freestyle award the non-freestyle scores must be earned in the year the award is being received.
- Equivalencies for year-end and rider awards and should we eliminate them or should we add additional equivalencies.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- Committee structure proposal

- Eliminating equivalencies for year-end award purposing to make the year-end awards program simpler and more in line with the regional championships program. The need to continue to research, review and evaluate the possibility of eliminating equivalencies for year-end and maybe rider award purposes.

2010 Objectives:

1. Continue to review and improve requirements and guidelines for existing awards to ensure that the maximum possible scores are considered for eligibility purposes.
2. Work with USDF staff to maximize efficiency and cost savings in accordance with budget restrictions, while still ensuring that USDF offers an exceptional awards program.
3. Respond to requests for awards program guideline changes that promote increased eligibility for year-end awards standings.
4. Continue to address questions, concerns and suggestions from the membership regarding equivalent scores and recommend changes for housekeeping purposes.
5. Ensure that the USDF Awards Program is responsive and current with changing conditions, rules and new initiative within the dressage community.

New budget requirements:

None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. To clarify one of the requirements for the musical freestyle award so that it will read as the following: Must have two non-freestyle scores of 60 percent or higher at the highest test of the level or any test at the next highest level earned in the current USDF competition year.

Bylaws Committee Report

Chair: Chris Trentelman, FL

Vice Chair: Barbara Cadwell, WI

Liaison: Deborah Dunivant

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Committee Members: Charee Adams, OH; Alison Head, VA; Robert Higgins, FL; Sue Hughes, MI; Paula Langan, CA; Charles Lewis, CA*; Janine W. Malone, NC; Gaye McCabe, OR; Peter Rothschild, WA

*New member(s) of the Bylaws Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at closed and open meeting: 18

2009 Objectives:

1. Recommend Bylaws changes as necessary.
2. Coordinate with the Ad-Hoc Governance Committee as to how any changes they recommend will impact the Bylaws.
3. Draft Bylaws changes as requested by the Ad-Hoc Governance Committee to be presented to the BOG in the future.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Bylaws document has been updated for 2009, which incorporated the approved amendments from the 2008 BOG, including the new transparency edit, and posted on the USDF Web site.
- The Bylaws Committee Chair recommended to the EB that a working group be formed to review the proposed Policy and Procedures transparency amendment. The EB supported the recommendation, and the Transparency Working Group was organized in May. The appointees to the Transparency Working Group were: Chair Charles Lewis; Alison Head; Sue Hughes, and Peter Rothschild. The group revised the Policies and Procedures transparency amendment. The third revision was submitted September 24 for review to the EB.
- Bylaws proxy amendments, which included the change allowing the delegate to live outside the region, were submitted to the EB for review October 2. The bylaws amendments will go before the BOG for approval at the 2009 session.
- Electronic ballot bylaws amendments, which allow electronic voting for all elections to be the primary voting, were submitted to the EB for review October 2. The bylaws amendments will go before the BOG for approval at the 2009 session.
- Drafted proposed bylaws changes, at the request of the EB, to incorporate a six year Presidential queue of succession, with a President-Elect and a Past-President. There are two parts: 1) the language that creates the succession system itself, and 2) the housekeeping sections. The original Presidential Queue draft came from the Ad Hoc Governance Committee. This is still in process and no amendment is proposed at this time (October 1).

Items discussed in the closed and open meetings:

- **Proposed Bylaws changes were discussed with some recommended changes made to proposed Bylaws changes, and approved to go before the BOG. The changes were incorporated into the Proposed Bylaws changes which are at the end of the report.**
- **Handouts were distributed on the motions that were discussed and recommended at the EB meeting December 1.**
- **Committee voted not to recommend proposed change concerning PM delegates having preference to appointment of vacancies.**

2010 Objectives:

1. Recommend Bylaws changes as necessary.
2. Continue to coordinate with the USDF Committees, as needed, on how changes they recommend will impact the Bylaws.
3. Draft Bylaws changes as requested by the Executive Board to be presented to the BOG in the future.

4. Set up a system on how a person submits a bylaws proposed proposal and clarify the language and format.

New budget requirements:

2. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

Bylaws Proposed Changes – Submitted Fall 2009

Article V

Page 4

MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Group Member Organizations

Add:

- j) A Group Member Organization shall annually elect or appoint from its membership a Delegate to the USDF's Board of Governors **for a term of not less than one year, under procedures established by each Group Member Organization.** Such Delegate shall not be an elected officer or Regional Director of the USDF. Such Delegate shall be entitled to one vote for every 25 (or major fraction thereof) dues-paying members of the Group Member Organization. Group Member Organizations having more than 200 members may elect one additional delegate per every 200 additional members. (Example: 25 members – 1 delegate, 201 members – 1 delegate, 399 members – 1 delegate, 400 members – 2 delegates, 600 members – 3 delegates.)

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: Language added for better clarification.

Effective: Immediately

Article V

Page 4

MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Group Member Organizations

Add and reletter remaining:

- i) **All USDF GMO Family Members are considered GMs of USDF, whether Primary or Supporting, and are counted toward the GMO's voting strength at the BOG.**

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Reason for proposal: Housekeeping

Effective: Immediately

Section 3. Participating Membership

Change to read:

- e) The Participating Member Delegates, **and** Group Member Organization, ~~and Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Member Delegates~~ of each Region shall elect a Regional Director from among the members of that Region.

Submitted by: Melissa Holzwarth

Reason for proposal: Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Member Organizations will not exist in 2010.

Effective: Immediately

Article V

Page 6

MEMBERSHIP

Add new and renumber remaining:

Section 6. Education Membership

1. **An Education Membership, as defined in the Policies and Procedures, is created as of December 1, 2010. Membership shall begin upon receipt of the application form and all necessary fees, and shall expire November 30.**
2. **An Education Member shall be a non-voting member.**

Submitted by: Melissa Holzwarth

Reason for proposal: This new membership type is being proposed by the Membership Ad-hoc Committee to the 2009 Board of Governors. Further information on this membership type can be found in the committee's report.

Article V

Page 7

MEMBERSHIP

Delete and renumber remaining:

~~Section 6. Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership~~

- ~~a) An Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organization shall be any accredited middle, secondary, or post-secondary educational institution.~~
- ~~b) An Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organization shall pay an annual fee. The Executive Board shall establish the amount of this fee.~~
- ~~c) Only full time students in good standing of an Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organization are eligible to become Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members of the USDF. All Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Memberships shall be in the name of one specific individual. Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organizations shall pay annual dues for each student. The Board of Governors shall establish the amount of annual dues to be paid.~~
- ~~d) Each Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organization shall appoint one School Representative, who shall not be a student at the institution, and pay dues in the same amount as paid by students.~~
- ~~e) Organization, School Representative and student memberships shall begin upon receipt of the application form and all necessary fees, and shall expire one year later, unless~~

renewed.

- f) ~~Corrections and additions to membership rosters, along with the appropriate fees, shall be filed with the USDF office at the beginning of each school term.~~
- g) ~~An Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Member shall be a voting member.~~
- h) ~~Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members are entitled to one vote for every 25 (or major fraction thereof) members in good standing of an Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organization.~~
- i) ~~When there are 25 or more Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members in good standing of any Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Membership Organization, such Organizations are entitled to elect or appoint a delegate to represent them on USDF's Board of Governors. Such Delegates may be Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members, Intercollegiate/Interscholastic School Representatives, Group Members or Participating Members in the Region. When there are 200 or more Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members of the USDF in one Region, one additional Delegate may be elected or appointed from that Region for every additional 200 Intercollegiate/ Interscholastic Members and the number of votes so generated shall be divided equally among such delegates.~~
- j) ~~The number of Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members in a Region as of November 1 shall determine their voting strength at the Annual Meeting.~~
- k) ~~Candidates for Delegates to represent Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members shall be nominated in the method established in the USDF Policies and Procedures.~~

Submitted by: Melissa Holzwarth

Reason for proposal: Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Member Organizations will not exist in 2010.

Effective: Immediately

Article V

Page 8

MEMBERSHIP

Section 8. Termination of Membership

Change to read: .

- a) ~~Participating, **and** Business, and Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Memberships shall be terminated at the time membership renewal dues are not paid. Participating, **and** Business, and Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Members may reinstate their membership by paying the current membership dues. Participating, **and** Business, and Interscholastic Memberships will expire on November 30, with exceptions being Associate Participating, Special Associate **Five-Year** Participating and Life Participating Members, which expire according to the Membership Classifications contained in the USDF Policies and Procedures. Any member of the USDF may terminate membership in the USDF by written resignation submitted to the Executive Board.~~

Submitted by: Melissa Holzwarth

Reason for proposal: Intercollegiate/Interscholastic Member Organizations will not exist in 2010.

Effective: Immediately

MEMBERSHIP

Section 8. Termination of Membership

Change to read:

- b) Group Member Organization's memberships shall be terminated on the date dues are delinquent if dues and membership rosters have not been received by that date. Memberships may be reinstated if the appropriate dues and later-fines are paid and will expire at the end of the membership year. Any Group Member Organization of the USDF may terminate membership in the USDF by written resignation submitted to the Executive Board.

*Submitted by: Melissa Holzwarth
Reason for proposal: Housekeeping
Effective: Immediately*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1. The Board of Governors shall consist of the following:

Change to read:

- a) ~~Delegates representing Group Member Organizations shall be elected or appointed to the USDF's Board of Governors for a term of not less than one year, under procedures established by each Group Member Organization. The Delegate shall not be an elected officer or Regional Director of the USDF. It shall be the responsibility of each Group Member Organization to notify the USDF in writing (*which includes electronic means*) as to the identity of the Delegate or Delegates so representing such Group Member Organization **by August 31**. Failure of a Group Member organization to so notify the USDF will constitute a forfeiture of representation on the Board of Governors. **If a Group Member Organization fails to notify the USDF of the identity of its Delegate or Delegates, the President of the Group Member Organization shall be designated as the Delegate.** In the event that a Group Member Delegate shall either 1) die, 2) move from the Region, 3) resign, or 4) 3) be removed as Delegate by the Group Member Organization, then the Group Member Organization shall appoint or elect a new Delegate to serve the remainder of the one year term and notify the USDF as to the identity of the new Delegate.~~

*Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant
Proposed by: Chris Trentelman
Reason for proposal: Housekeeping
Effective: Immediately*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Change to read:

The Delegate of a Group Member Organizations may be represented on the Board of Governors by ~~written~~ proxy, signed by an officer of the Group Member Organization and filed with the Secretary of the Board of Governors **as set forth in Section (a) below**. ~~, except for emergency reassignment, all delegate assignments, reassignments, and~~

~~proxies must be completed by 6:00 pm the day before the meeting begins. No Delegate shall hold more than one proxy and no other Member shall hold more than two proxies at any meeting, except that in the event there are no other eligible persons present at the meeting from a given Region, then the remaining number of proxies may be held by a Delegate from the Region as stated below. Elected officers and Regional Directors of the USDF shall not be delegates or hold proxies. The Secretary in consultation with the Regional Director shall assign, in an emergency, the undesignated proxies at the commencement of roll call and as soon as proxies are assigned, roll call shall be read. Undesignated proxies shall be assigned as follows:~~

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of appointing a GMO delegate or assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO delegate appointments or proxy assignments.

Article VI

Page 11

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Change to read and reletter as a:

a ~~ε~~) Proxies may be **either “designated” or “undesignated” and shall be** made by facsimile bearing the signature and title of an authorized officer representing the Group Member Organization, **by email or other means as described in the Policies and Procedures** subject to approval by the Executive Board. **A “designated” proxy identifies the Member who shall vote the proxy and an “undesignated” proxy does not identify the Member.**

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO proxy assignments.

Article VI

Page 11

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Change to read and reletter as b:

b a) **Undesignated proxies** Proxies shall be assigned first to a USDF Member of the Group Member Organization, **according to the instructions of the GMO**, who is **agrees to be** present at the meeting. No member shall hold more than two (2) proxies.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO proxy assignments.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Change to read and reletter as c:

c b) **Undesignated proxies** Proxies shall be assigned secondly to those Delegates present from the respective Region who does not already hold the proxy of another Group Member Organization. No delegate shall hold more than one (1) proxy, unless there are no other eligible persons present at the meeting from the given Region, in which case the Delegate may hold two (2) proxies. ~~Except for emergency reassignments, all delegate assignments, reassignments, and proxies must be completed by 6:00 pm the day before the meeting begins.~~

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO proxy assignments.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Add:

d) **Except for emergency reassignments, all proxies must be completed by 6:00 pm the day before the meeting begins.**

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO proxy assignments.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Add:

e) **The Secretary in consultation with the Regional Director shall assign, in an emergency, the undesignated proxies at complete emergency reassignments prior to the commencement of roll call and as soon as proxies are assigned, roll call shall be read.**

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO proxy assignments.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6

Add:

- f) **Any Delegate proxy granted under this Section shall be valid only for the meeting specified.**

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To define the process of assigning a GMO proxy.

Effective: Starting with 2010 GMO proxy assignments.

OFFICERS

Section 6

Change to read:

Any Officer may be recalled and removed from his/her office and position on the Executive Board in the following manner: Written recall petitions, signed by the President of at least 25% of the Group Member Organizations, must be submitted to the Executive Director, who shall immediately notify the Officer affected of the recall action. The Executive Director shall cause said signatures to be validated, and shall then schedule a Recall Initiative Referendum, to be held within 30 days of the validation date, by secret ballot. Ballots shall be provided to all current and active delegates to the Board of Governors, who shall vote in the same manner as stated in **Article XIV, Section 2**, except that a vote to recall must obtain a 66% approval from the votes received. ~~All ballots must be returned within 30 days~~ **voting must occur within 30 days, the last day of which shall be the Return Date (as defined in Art. XI, Section 6H)**, and shall be counted and validated by the Chairperson of the Nominating Council. Ballots representing at least 50% of the current voting rights of all delegates to the Board of Governors must be received to constitute a valid referendum. ~~All ballots~~ **votes** shall be verified by the Executive Director as of the stated return date. Formal written notice of the results shall be submitted to the Executive Board and the Officer affected.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: Bylaws language change to incorporate other methods of voting.

Effective: Immediately

OFFICERS

Section 11. Executive Director

4. Duties of the Executive Director:

Change to read:

- n) Shall oversee ~~mailing~~ **preparation and distribution** of the ballots for the election of delegates to represent the Participating Members.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: Language change to reflect that online voting is now USDF's primary voting method.

Effective: Immediately

Article IX

Page 17

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Section 6

Change to read:

A Regional Director may be recalled from his/her position on the Executive Board in the following manner:

Written recall petitions, signed by current and active Delegates to the Board of Governors representing at least 33⅓% of the voting strength of the Region must be submitted to the Executive Director, who shall immediately notify the Regional Director of the recall action. The Executive Director shall cause said signatures to be validated, and shall then schedule a Recall Initiative Referendum, to be held within 30 days of the validation date, by secret ballot.

Ballots shall be provided to all current and active delegates of the Region, who shall vote in the same manner as stated in **Article XIV, Section 2** except that a vote to recall must obtain a 66% approval from the voting strength of the region. All ~~ballots must be returned within 30 days~~ **voting must occur within 30 days, the last day of which shall be the Return Date (as defined in Art. XI, Section 6H)**, and shall be counted and validated by the Chairperson of the Nominating Council. All ~~ballots~~ **votes** shall be verified by the Executive Director as of that date. Formal written notice of the results shall be submitted to the Executive Board and the Regional Director affected.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: Bylaws language change to incorporate other methods of voting.

Effective: Immediately

Article XI

Page 20

NOMINATING COUNCIL

Section 6. Nominating of Delegates to represent the Participating Members:

Change to read:

b) A Canvassing Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Nominating Committee to oversee ballots cast for Participating Member Delegates. Canvassing Committee members shall be members in good standing and may not be members of the Executive Board, Nominating Council or nominees for a position as Delegate or on the Executive Board.

1. All ~~written return~~ ballots must be ~~postmarked~~ cast within thirty (30) days of the mailing of said ballots (the return date).

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: Language change to reflect that online voting is now USDF's primary voting method.

Effective: Immediately

Article XI

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NOMINATING COUNCIL

Section 6. Nominating of Delegates to represent the Participating Members:

Delete and renumber remaining:

- b) A Canvassing Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Nominating Committee to oversee ballots cast for Participating Member Delegates. Canvassing Committee members shall be members in good standing and may not be members of the Executive Board, Nominating Council or nominees for a position as Delegate or on the Executive Board.
- 2. ~~All E ballots must be received and date/time stamped at the USDF office by midnight (Eastern Standard Time Zone) of the return date.~~

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To be in line with new voting structure.

Effective: Immediately

Article XI

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NOMINATING COUNCIL

Section 6. Nominating of Delegates to represent the Participating Members:

Renumber and delete:

- b) A Canvassing Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Nominating Committee to oversee ballots cast for Participating Member Delegates. Canvassing Committee members shall be members in good standing and may not be members of the Executive Board, Nominating Council or nominees for a position as Delegate or on the Executive Board.

~~2.3. All ballots, both written and e-ballots, shall be submitted to the Canvassing Committee not later than 10 days after the return date.~~

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To be in line with new voting structure.

Effective: Immediately

NOMINATING COUNCIL

Section 6. Nominating of Delegates to represent the Participating Members:

Delete:

- c) If in the final vote count four or fewer votes separate the candidates, a canvassing committee member other than the one responsible for that vote count will audit the results from all the paper ballots in that election. ~~This mandatory audit will be conducted by utilizing the private audit web page provided by the USDF office to confirm the data entered from the paper ballots into the computer, and comparing the original paper ballots to the audit screen.~~ If any errors are found, the canvassing committee member conducting the audit will immediately contact the USDF staff liaison for correction, and the ballots will be re-audited to confirm all errors are corrected. The result of this audit and correction process will constitute a recount and the result of the audit after any corrections shall be the final election result. The paper ballots shall then be sealed in an envelope, which shall be identified and stored as in Section 6(b) 5, above.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To be in line with new voting structure.

Effective: Immediately

NOMINATING COUNCIL

Section 6. Nominating of Delegates to represent the Participating Members:

Change to read:

- d) Any ballots ~~postmarked~~ **cast** after the closing **Return Date** shall be discarded.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To be in line with new voting structure.

Effective: Immediately

NOMINATING COUNCIL

Section 6. Nominating of Delegates to represent the Participating Members:

Add and renumber:

- h) For the purposes of ~~this Article~~ these Bylaws, the following definitions shall apply:**

- 1. Mail or Mailing – shall mean any form of distribution, physical or electronic**
- 2. Return (returned) – shall mean received by the USDF in either physical or electronic form or postmarked by the USPS**

- 3. 2. **Return Date** – shall mean the date by which votes must be received by the USDF in either physical or electronic form ~~or postmarked by the USPS~~
- 4. 3. **Ballot** – shall include a physical or electronic form
- 5. 4. **Cast** – a ballot is cast when it is ~~sent to~~ received by the USDF in either a physical or electronic form

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: Language added to define Bylaws, Article XI, Nominating Council.

Effective: Immediately

Article XIII

Page 25

MEETINGS

Section 8

Change to read:

Voting shall be conducted by voice vote; standing vote; hand vote; roll call vote; or in the case of elections or as requested, by secret ballot. The Executive Board may also conduct voting by mail, fax, or e-mail, **or other means**, in accordance with the USDF Policies and Procedures. A secret ballot shall also be used in case of doubt when either voice votes or roll call votes cannot accurately determine the decision. Where there is a voice vote, the Chair shall have the prerogative to determine the results.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Chris Trentelman

Reason for proposal: To ensure all voting methods are included.

Effective: Immediately

Article VIII

Page 13

OFFICERS

Section 3

Add:

In the event of the death, resignation or removal of an Officer other than the President, an appointee of the President, **said appointee to be a currently elected Participating Member Delegate**, approved by the Executive Board, shall fill such vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, at which time there shall be a special election to fill the position until the next regular election for that Office. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of the President, the Vice President shall assume the position of President for the remainder of the President's term, and a special election shall be held at the next Annual Meeting to elect a replacement Vice President. In the event the Vice President is unable to fulfill the duties of President, the Executive Board shall fill such vacancy with one of the other current Officers until the next Annual Meeting, at which time there shall be a special election for a President, who shall serve until the next regular election for President. The appointment of an interim replacement Officer shall be made within thirty days following said death, resignation or removal.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Judith Fiorentino

Reason for proposal: To enhance the status of the Participating Member Delegate.

Effective: Immediately

Article VIII

Page 14

OFFICERS

Section 7. President

2.Duties of the President:

Add:

- e) In the event of death or resignation of a Regional Director or officer, the President shall appoint a replacement, **said replacement to be a currently elected Participating Member Delegate and if a Regional Director is replaced, said Participating Delegate shall be from the same Region**, within 30 days with the approval of the Executive Board.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Judith Fiorentino

Reason for proposal: To enhance the status of the Participating Member Delegate.

Effective: Immediately

Article IX

Page 17

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Section 3

Add:

In the event of the death, resignation or removal of a Regional Director, an appointee of the President, **said appointee to be a currently elected Participating Member Delegate from the same Region**, approved by the Executive Board, shall fill such vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, at which time there shall be a special election to fill the position for the remainder of the term. The appointment of an interim replacement Regional Director shall be made within thirty days following said death, resignation, or removal.

Submitted by: Deborah Dunivant

Proposed by: Judith Fiorentino

Reason for proposal: To enhance the status of the Participating Member Delegate.

Effective: Immediately

Competition Management Council Report

Chair: Kathy Moffitt, NJ

Liaison: Krystina Firth

**2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas**

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Bettina G. Longaker, VA; Region 2: Kevin Bradbury, MI*; Region 3: Sherry G. Pride, TN; Region 4: Joann Messersmith, SD;

Region 5:Heather Petersen, CO; Region 6:Rose M. Newman, WA; Region 7:Maureen Van Tuyl, CA; Region 8:Debra J. Reinhardt, CT; Region 9: Jan Colley, TX
*New member(s) of the Competition Management Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 60

2009 Objectives:

1. Prepare and send a brochure to all members on how to properly prepare and submit entries to a show. Discussion of Master Verification procedures to be included. Working title, "Save a Tree and the Show Secretary's Sanity."
2. Keep all publications updated and current.
3. Write a new "Guidelines for FEI Recognized Dressage Competitions for the US" – project of FEI Managers Subcommittee.
4. Stand ready to assist competition management in providing quality shows, as requested.
5. Liaise with other councils to identify outstanding issues and improve the quality of all competitions.

2009 Accomplishments:

- A draft of the "Save a Tree and the Show Secretary's Sanity" is in process. It has not yet been submitted for review by the council, and we respectively are withdrawing the project from our goals.
- The offer to write a new "Guidelines for FEI Recognized Dressage Competitions in the US" has been withdrawn by the FEI Managers Subcommittee, as we have been informed by Janine Malone that this is exclusively the job of USEF.
- The Competition Management Guidelines have been revised for 2009.
- Some sections of Show Biz have been revised; others will be revised over the winter if there is funding to print the revised sections.
- The council discussed and recommended a number of items to help balance the USDF budget.
- Council chair and members participated on the Regional Championships Committee and on the Dressage Ratings and Levels workgroup.
- Council members have presented regional workshops on several management levels such as Fox Village training, manager, secretary and scribe training.
- A two-level FVD seminar presented by council members will be held at the 2009 convention in Austin.
- Council members stand ready to advise show management upon request.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Levels of Dressage competitions and why they were established
- AQHA dressage competitions and who is hosting them
- Opportunity classes
- Rule changes to be effective for the 2010 competition year
- Use of TD Coop list

2010 Objectives:

1. The FEI Managers Subcommittee would still like to write a guideline for FEI Managers since USEF does not appear to have one in planning or process.
2. Update additional sections of Show Biz as required pending funding for production.
3. Assist new and current show managers upon request.

New budget requirements:

None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

None

Competitors Council Report

Chair: Anneliese Vogt Harber, GA

Liaison: Donna Rocchetti

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Trisha L. DeRosa, MD; Region 2: Brad Cutshall, MI; Region 3: Holly Scherzer, AL; Region 4: Anne Cizadlo, IA; Region 5: Lynn Boice, AZ*; Region 6: Paige Inscoe, ID; Region 7: Jodie Cressman, CA; Region 8: Dee L. Loveless, MA; Region 9: Paul Kathen, TX

*New member(s) of the Competitors Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 20

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): None held

2009 Objectives:

4. Create an article in USDF Connection for introducing new competitors to competition etiquette/rules.
5. More timely review of competitor evaluations.
6. Communicate information gathered on the competitor evaluation forms with the USEF Federation Representative program.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Reviewed competition evaluations consistently on time during 2009.

- Gathered input from Competitors Council members for USEF query on officiating areas of concern in the dressage industry.
- Evaluations for the most part have not shown any serious areas of concern expressed by competitors.
- Responded to the queries from the Judges Committee and TD Council issues requiring Competitors Council input.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Discussed the competitors' evaluations that were received in the USDF Office during 2009.
- Janet Foy reached out to the competitors encouraging them to utilize the USEF Judge's evaluation forms and made assurances that the forms are reviewed by USEF.
- A short video be developed for warm-up etiquette.

2010 Objectives:

1. Communicate information gathered on the competitor evaluation forms with the USEF Federation Representative program.
2. Create an article for introducing new competitors to competition etiquette/rules.
3. Continue the timely review of competitor evaluations.
4. Continue to communicate with other USDF councils and open discussion for feedback about issues.
5. Produce an article in Connection asking competitors to give more feedback on judges.

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. None

Freestyle Committee Report

Chair: Terry Ciotti Gallo, FL

Liaison: Kim Sodt

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Committee Members: Stephanie Alvord, VA; Elaine Donoghue, MA; Jane Escola, CA; Ann Guptill, CT; Janet Hannon, CO; Alexsandra Howard, CA; Anna Lucy Keller, ID; Tracey Lert, CA; Michael Matson, MD; Tigger Montague, VA; Debra Reinhardt, CT; Marilyn Rickman, CA; Marlene Schneider, MN

*There are no new member(s) of the Freestyle Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 31

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): N/A

2009 Objectives:

1. Continue to track judges who have completed freestyle education.
2. Continue to improve and update freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille pages on the USDF Web site.
3. Review freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille Rules and Guidelines.
4. Complete Quadrille Handbook.
5. Refine the format for an adult education camp on music as it applies to the training scale.
6. Submit articles to be printed in *USDF Connection* magazine.
7. Start a pilot project to include pas de deux and quadrille at Regional Championships.
8. Work on ideas to further promote freestyle, pas de deux, and quadrille.

2009 Accomplishments:

- The Quadrille Handbook has been revised and is ready to be sold through the USDF store. It will also be available to members as a free download on the USDF Web site.
- In preparation for the 2011 test cycle, the Rules, Guidelines and Definitions (RGD) are being clarified and updated for freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille. Changes are also being made so the formatting of all three areas will be consistent with one another.
- In preparation for the 2011 test cycle, the quadrille freestyle score sheet has been revamped. The new tests will have required elements, and the new format will match the freestyle and pas de deux score sheets.
- The quadrille freestyle section of the Quadrille Rules and Guidelines was rewritten to reflect the wide-ranging changes in the 2011 score sheet.
- The 2009 convention university session entitled “Fabulous Freestyles – Hot Tips from Top Source” was approved and will be presented in Austin.
- On behalf of the Freestyle Committee, articles were printed in the following issues of *USDF Connection*:
 - a. April – “Inside the Rider’s Studio” by Tigger Montague. An interview with Debbie McDonald on the design and impact of Brentina’s “Respect” freestyle.
 - b. June – “Tackling Choreography” by Terry Ciotti Gallo. Covered design basics and how-to’s.
 - c. October – “The Sound of Music” by Sharon Biggs. Information on various sound systems for home and competition venues, indoor versus outdoor installations, and personal communication devices for trainers.
- We are currently coordinating with the Judges Committee on 2011 freestyle test changes.
- A first draft for a proposed GMO Challenge is underway. GMO’s will be encouraged to run either a freestanding show or be part of a sanctioned event. In order to promote freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille, as well as raise money for a charitable cause, points can be accrued as to the number of teams entered (weighting PDD and quadrille more heavily), the amount of money raised, etc. Point accumulation will be tiered according to the size of the GMO. Prizes TBD.
- Ann Guptil and Tigger Montague successfully tested the format for an adult education camp on music as it applies to the training scale.
- The freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille pages of the USDF Web site have been streamlined and updated.

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Informed membership how to find information on Freestyle, Pas de Deux, and Quadrille on USDF website.
- Informed membership about our new streamlined web pages and what links were on them.
- Promoted purchase of CD with tests and told of the advantages of CD vs web-based only information.
- Briefed membership on 2011 Quadrille Freestyle changes and showed new score sheets.
- Explained content of new handbook Why Do Quadrille? and told where it could be purchased.
- Briefed membership on any changes to Freestyle, Pas de Deux, and Quadrille Rules and Guidelines; explained new USEF consecutive level rule as it applies to Pas de Deux and Quadrille.
- Discussed changes for 2011 score sheets. Committee voted on the following changes to be presented to Judges Committee:
 - First Level
 - Change trot requirement from 10 m circle to 10 m or smaller.
 - Change canter requirement from 15 m circle to 15 m or smaller.
 - Second Level – add counter canter as requirement; remove coefficient from medium trot.
 - Third Level – remove counter canter requirement; give shoulder-in a coefficient of 2.
 - Fourth Level – wait until USEF Test Writing subcommittee reveals new tests to determine requirement for tempis.
 - All levels – allow .5 judging on technical and .1 judging on artistic.
 - Under Choreography, strike “ingenuity” and “inventiveness”.
 - Change category #5 (Music Choice and Interpretation of Music – coefficient 4) under Artistic Impression to:
 - #5 Music – Suitability, seamlessness, cohesiveness of style -- coefficient 2
 - #6 Interpretation – Music expresses gaits, use of phrasing & dynamics -- coefficient 2
 - Change quote of USEF eligibility rule to reflect newest version.
 - Strike rule regarding Ties on the back cover since it is on inside of score sheet.
 - Add USEF rule on music failure.
- Committee defeated a motion to add a score for the halts.
- Discussed a proposal to institute a GMO Challenge.
 - To benefit charity.
 - How points could be accrued.
 - Graduated as to size of GMO.
 - Asked membership what kind of prize offering would motivate a GMO to participate.

Items discussed in closed meeting (if held): N/A

2010 Objectives:

1. Continue to track judges who have completed freestyle education.
2. Continue to improve and update freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille pages on the USDF Web site.

3. Complete changes to the freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille Rules and Guidelines.
4. Complete changes to the freestyle, pas de deux and quadrille tests.
5. Continue to develop the GMO Challenge.
6. Continue to develop the format for an adult education camp on music as it applies to the training scale.

New budget requirements: N/A

Motions to come before the Board of Governors: N/A

FEI Jr/YR Council Report

Chair: Roberta Creek Williams, OH

Liaison: Donna Rocchetti

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1:Patsy W. Albers, MD; Region 2:Rosalind Kinstler, MI; Region 3:Susan Bender, AL*; Region 4:Nancy Gorton, MO; Region 5:Susan Rudman, CO*; Region 6:Pat Irving, WA ; Region 7:Leslie Pooley, CA*; Region 8:Karen Davis, NY*; Region 9:Joan Darnell, TX

*New member(s) of the FEI Jr/YR Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 25

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): none held

2009 Objectives:

1. Field teams for the 2009 NAJYRC at the Kentucky Horse Park.
2. Publish 2010 criteria on Web site by August 2009.
3. Organize USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinics based on current economic trends.
4. Work with USEF to continuously refine criteria for NAJYRC and National Championships, and create, in cooperation with USEF, an online NAJYRC entry process.
5. Work to develop FEI Jr/YR web presence to generate more activity and information exchange.

2009 Accomplishments:

- There was a reduction from nine to five clinics as a result of the re-budgeting of the program per the 2008 BOG. No clinics were held in the spring, as the budget and go ahead could not be approved until the April EB meeting.
- Traditional funding from The Dressage Foundation was no longer available as a result of the financial market breakdown. However, Renee Isler, through The

Dressage Foundation, established a separate fund to help enable the continuation of the clinics.

- Clinics were held in the following locations: September 5-6, Longmont, Colorado, with George Williams; September 12-13, Elk Grove, California, with Jan Ebling; October 17 -18, Gig Harbor, Washington, with Sue Blink; November 7-8, Alpharetta, Georgia, with George Williams.
- Qualifying criteria was posted to the USDF Web site by August 2009.
- Qualifying competitions for 2010 were approved by the USEF by September 2009.
- NAJYRC – July 21-26, 2009, at the Kentucky Horse Park
 - No waivers requested.
 - The traditional Townhall meeting held during the NAJYRC was sponsored by Platinum Performance and was held at the USDF NEC. The meeting included USEF representatives, coaches, riders, parents, Chefs, etc. Good discussion was generated regarding the FEI Jr/YR program and the issue of the “Code of Conduct”.
 - Despite the obvious construction issues facing the Kentucky Horse Park, the event ran relatively smoothly. A conference call was held to “debrief” after the event.
 - Canada sent two Junior teams, each with four riders – Canada Ontario and Canada West. The USA fielded four teams of four riders (Regions 1, 2, 3, and 9) and three teams of three riders (Regions 5, 7, and 8). Region 6 sent one individual rider. Region 4 did not field a team or individual rider.
 - Canada sent one Young Riders team of four riders – Canada East. The USA fielded five teams of four riders (Regions 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8). Region 9 sent a team of three riders. Region 6 sent two individual riders. Regions 1 and 5 did not send teams or individuals.
 - Complete scores can be found at: <http://www.youngriders.org/home.aspx>
 - This was the first year that the USEF was the event organizer.

Top Three Individual Results and Medal Placings ~Young Riders

Mary-Cameron Rollins	70.2635%	Region 3	Individual Gold
Kristen Becker/Ramses	68.684%	Region 2	Individual Silver
Brian Hafner/Lombardo LHF	67.842%	Region 7	Individual Bronze
Kassandra Barteau/GP Raymeister	73.00%	Region 2	Freestyle Gold
Brian Hafner/Lombardo LHF	69.60%	Region 7	Freestyle Silver
Kristen Becker/Ramses	69.60%	Region 2	Freestyle Bronze

Top Three Individual Results and Medal Placings ~Junior Riders

Nicole DelGiorno/Lamborghini Dane	66.316%	Region 1	Individual Gold
Lauren Knopp/Rho Dance	65.842%	Region 3	Individual Silver
Megan Lane/Caravella	65.842%	Can-Ontario	Individual Bronze
Nicole DelGiorno/Lamborghini Dane	68.55%	Region 1	Freestyle Gold
Megan Lane/Caravella	68.00%	Can/Ontario	Freestyle Silver
Heather Ots/Varekai	68.00%	Region 2	Freestyle Bronze

Team Medal Placings~Young Riders

<u>Region 7</u>	198.631 pts	Team Gold Medal
Brian Hafner/Lombardo LHG		68.842%
Brianna Dutton/Tibet		64.105%
Amanda Harlan/Liberte		65.684%
Christine Stephenson/Markant		62.526%(drop)
<u>Region 2</u>	197.315 pts	Team Silver Medal
Kristen Becker/Ramses		67.789%
Kassandra Barteau/GP Raymeister		67.579%
Ashlee Todosjevic/Sjoerd		61.947%
Britanny McCarthy/Gabelle		61.895% (drop)
<u>Region 3</u>	197.315pts	Team Bronze Medal
Mary- Cameron Rollins/Rose Noir		66.474%
Amanda Stearns/Revanche		67.368%
McKenzie Jenkins/Tsarina Bint Rill		60.737%
Caroline Roffman/Accent Aigu FRH		60.526% (drop)

Team Medal Placings~Junior Riders

<u>Canada - Ontario</u>	196.433 pts	Team Gold Medal
Lane, Megan/ Caravella		67.189%
Dvorak, Alexandra/ Fling		63.676%
O'Sullivan, Maura /Pik Czar		65.568%
Ball, Zachary /Karajan		59.459% (drop score)
<u>Region 3</u>	190.594 pts	Team Silver Medal
Deimler, Jessica/ Ragtime V		62.811%
Knopp, Lauren/ Rho Dance		63.459%
Wall, Ellen/ Tvauri		64.324%
Dagge, Katrin/ Dream of Love		56.27% (drop score)
<u>Region 1</u>	189.026 pts	Team Bronze Medal
Montagano, Melanie/ Ga Deva		62.216%
Coyle, Alison/ Bariton		60.324%
DelGiorno, Nicole/ Lamborghini Dane		66.486%
Blythe, Kaitlin/ Daverden		57.135% (drop score)

- Kassandra Barteau and GP Raymeister, of Region 2, won the USDF Fiona Baan "Pursuit of Excellence" trophy, which designates the overall winner in dressage.
- Caroline Roffman, of Region 3, won the "Style Award", which the dressage judges award to the rider who combines the best seat and overall dressage impression in demeanor during the entire event.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Establishment of a chef d'equipe sportsmanship trophy
- Defining the role of the chef d'equipe

- The use of Facebook to promote the program
- Appointing a Facebook contributor – Jessica Rattner
- Discussed the Region 6 team approach to promoting the Jr/YR on a regional level. Lloyd Landkamer, the NAJYRC secretary spoke about the 2010 program and the Kentucky Horse Park.

2010 Objectives:

1. Review and improve the “Code of Conduct” with the assistance of USEF.
2. Continue to improve the NAJYRC entry process. Work with USEF for an on-line NAJYRC entry process.
3. Offer a Chef d’ Equipe trophy – “The Albers Award” (in honor of Patsy’s years of dedication) – to be given to the Chef that demonstrates dedication, enthusiasm and team spirit during NAJYRC. This award will be donated by Lloyd Landkamer.
4. Further define the role of the Chef d’ Equipe.

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. None

GMO Council Report

Chair: Sherry Guess, OK

Liaison: Melissa Holzwarth

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Karen Puchalsky, PA*, Jan Denno, MD*; Region 2: Carrie Vacolas, OH, Nancy Spear, IL*; Region 3: Margaret Gaboury, TN; Region 4: Kate Walter, MO, Anne Sushko, IA*; Region 5: Beth Geier, CO*, Scarlett Fahrenson, AZ; Region 6: Corinne Stonier, OR, Karie Lashbrook, ID*; Region 7: Carolyn Tice, CA, Martha McDaniel, HI; Region 8: Cindi Rose Wylie, MA, Kelli J. Mason, MA; Region 9: Bruce Lawrie, TX, Renee Smola, TX

*New member(s) of the GMO Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 40

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 13

2009 Objectives:

1. Make the GMOPrez List a more resourceful tool for GMOs. Utilize one week of each month to post GMO activities.
2. Contact any individual requesting information regarding formation of new GMOs.
3. Provide one educational session and one roundtable discussion at the 2009 convention.
4. Assist with the management of the GMO awards program.
5. Assist USDF staff in contacting GMOs who have not returned the Annual GMO Affiliate Verification form.
6. Provide one conflict resolution specialist in each region to assist GMOs when a mediator might be necessary to help resolve an issue.
7. Offer guidance to GMOs as needed in the area of conflict resolution.
8. Implement a mentor program for first time convention attendees.
9. Post information from GMO roundtable discussion on GMOPrez list.

10. Add President's Checklist and Timeline, along with USDF council and committee information, to the GMO Handbook.
11. Determine a way to select judges for the GMO newsletter and Web site awards.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Provided judges for the GMO Web site awards and secured judges from American Horse Publications for the GMO newsletter awards.
- Secured a speaker for the GMO educational session at the 2009 convention.
- Provided topics for the GMO roundtable discussion at the 2009 convention.
- Contacted GMO officials regarding compliance documents required by USDF.
- Encouraged GMO officials to utilize the GMOPrez list.
- Proposed an honorable mention award for the GMO awards.
- Contacted individuals regarding the start-up of new GMOs.
- Assisted certain GMOs with dispute resolution.
- Discussed the proposed governance structure and how its implementation might affect the GMOs.
- Revised judging criteria for the GMO newsletter awards.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Use of GMOPrez List
- Additions to GMO Handbook
- Reduction in documentation required by USDF from GMOs.
- How GMOs will be represented in the new governance structure.
- USDF privacy policy versus GMOs having access to member information.
- Ability of USDF to assist GMOs in their marketing efforts by sending customized e-news.
- Restructured judging of GMO newsletter awards.
- Need for restructuring of GMO web site award judging.
- Pros and cons of GMO Council proposal of limiting winners of newsletter awards.
- Possibility of requiring a date of birth for youth members submitted on GMO rosters for demographic purposes.

Items discussed at closed meeting (if held):

- Convention attendance
- GMO Roundtable Discussion moderators
- Proposal for limiting newsletter award winners
- Change in criteria for judging newsletter awards
- Additions to GMO Handbook

2010 Objectives:

1. Due to the governance restructuring, the objectives for the GMO sub-committee will be determined at a later date.

New budget requirements:

None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. The GMO Council proposes that any GMO or author that has won first place in any division of these categories for two consecutive years is not eligible for nomination in said category for the third consecutive year.

Reason for proposal: Certain GMOs have dominated their award category/division for several years. Limiting the number of consecutive years a GMO can win an award in a category/division will provide more GMOs the opportunity for recognition on the national level.

Historical Committee Report

Chair: Anne Moss, PA

Liaison: Kim Sodt

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Committee Members: Jennifer Bryant, PA; B.R. Cannon, TN; Sharon K. Cannon, TN; Max E. Gahwyler, CT; Becky Johnston, FL; Anna Lucy Keller, ID; Rosalind Kinstler, MI; Susan Lombardi, CA; Bettina Longaker, VA; Alice Martin, IL; Anne Ramsay, FL; Dianne H. Stanley, MT; Charlotte L. Trentelman, FL; Roberta Williams, OH

*There are no new member(s) of the Historical Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 13

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): None held

2009 Objectives:

1. Nominate suitable candidates to the Hall of Fame and for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
2. Continue to work and provide the USDF staff and Hall of Fame Advisory Subcommittee with input regarding displays and content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame building.
3. Continue the concerted effort to collect historical information regarding the GMOs, acting as voluntary repository.
4. Continue recording interviews with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, as well as induction ceremonies, to make available to membership.
5. Review and clarify the selection and nomination process of Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.
6. Continue to educate members and advertise the Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award nomination process.
7. Discuss historical based educational opportunities that the committee may provide for general membership at future USDF conventions.
8. Develop a "Memories" book of members' stories about Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Nominated two Hall of Fame inductees for 2009; Linda Zang and Brentina (equine).

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Brief introduction about HOF/LAA nomination process and brainstormed for better nomination screening process.
- Requested feedback and suggestions for educational topics to provide in Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame.

2010 Objectives:

1. Nominate suitable candidates to the Hall of Fame and for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
2. Continue to work and provide the USDF staff and Hall of Fame Advisory Subcommittee with input regarding displays and content for the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame building.
3. Continue the concerted effort to collect historical information regarding the GMOs, acting as voluntary repository.
4. Continue recording interviews with the Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, as well as induction ceremonies, to make available to membership.
5. Continue to educate members and advertise the Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award nomination process.
6. Discuss ways to promote awareness of historical recognition within GMOs and Regions.
7. Develop an electronic "Memories" book of members' stories about Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

New budget requirements:

1. N/A

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. N/A

Instructor Trainer Council Report

Chair: Lendon Gray, NY

Liaison: Kathie Robertson

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Candyce Allen, VA; Region 2: Barbara Bern, KY; Region 3: Jos Sevriens, GA; Region 4: Colleen L. Holden, MN; Region 5: Sarah M Martin, CO; Region 6: Paula B. Kierkegaard, WA; Region 7: Rachel S. Saavedra, CA; Region 8: Ann L. Gupstill, CT; Region 9: Vera Muckleroy, TX

*There are no new member(s) of the Instructor Trainer Council for 2009.

Subcommittees

FEI Level Trainer's Conference: Lendon Gray, Chris Hickey, Ann Gupstill, Fern Feldman
Instructor Certification Steering Committee: Lendon Gray, Fern Feldman, Beth Clark, Rachel Saavedra, Debbie Bowman, Charlotte Bredahl-Baker

Number in attendance at open meeting: 15

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 15

2009 Objectives:

1. Hold two USDF Instructor Certification testings in 2009.
2. Hold one USDF FEI Level Trainers' Conference in 2009.
3. Increase number of workshops held.
4. Evaluate program, including development of FEI Level certification.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Hosted one USDF FEI Level Trainers' Conference.
- Hosted two USDF Instructor Certification Final Exams, as of the date of this report, with a third final exam scheduled for October.
- Certified fourteen new instructors:
 1. Training through Second Level – 8
 2. Third through Fourth Level – 6
- Began review of program and development of new levels for certifications.
- Revised *Classical Training of the Horse* and the *USDF Lungeing Manual*. Both are available for purchase through the USDF Bookstore.
- Provided input for national symposium.
- Provided educational opportunity for certified instructors at the convention in Denver, Colorado.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Reviewed accomplishments
- Program promotion
 - Suggested articles for Connection
 - Networking and resources
- Concerns of organizers regarding workshop, pre-certification and testings
 - Organizer resources
 - Financials concerns
- Instructor education and networking

Items discussed at closed meeting (if held):

- Reviewed statistics from the year.
- Reviewed the Master Plan

2010 Objectives:

1. Finalize "Masterplan"; full review of the program and recommendations for modifications to existing levels of certification, including new levels. This includes implementation.
2. Hold three USDF Instructor Certification Final Exams in 2010.
3. Hold one USDF FEI Level Trainers' Conference in 2010.
4. Develop plan for USDF FEI Level Trainers' Conference in 2011.
5. Provide educational opportunity at convention for certified instructors.
6. Provide continued input for symposium programs.

New budget requirements:

1. NONE

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. NONE

Judges Committee Report

Chair: Lois Yukins, MA

Liaison: Kim Sodt

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Committee Members: Trenna Atkins, WA; Janet Brown-Foy, CO; Hilda Gurney, CA; Marilyn Heath, FL; Natalie Lamping, CA; Marianne Ludwig, FL; Janine Malone, NC; J. Ashton Moore, CA; Beverly Rogers, AZ; David Schmutz, CA*; William Solyntjes, MN
*New member(s) of the Judges Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 55

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 60

2009 Objectives:

1. Monitor all FEI and USEF rule changes and make proposed rule changes available to membership as soon as possible.
2. Continue to promote and enhance the Continuing Education Program for judges and USDF "L" graduates by adding more potential program formats.
3. Promote and facilitate the implementation of the Musical Freestyle "L" Elective Weekend format of the Continuing Education Program for judges and USDF "L" graduates, as well as all other program formats.
4. Expand "L" Program video/DVD library to supplement and modernize the educational material presented in the program by faculty.
5. "L" Program Subcommittee created working groups to evaluate and select footage of movements and complete tests. Footage will be edited and packaged into judge-related educational material.
6. Encourage "L" Program faculty to solicit 2007 test video contributions from competitors at shows where they judge for the "L" educational material.
7. Preparation for 2011 test year transition for judge-related educational material.
8. Discuss and develop a strategic plan regarding continuing education for "L" graduates, researching potential requirements and ideas.
9. Continue to promote and educate membership on the philosophy of the "L" Program by utilizing *USDF Connection* and the USDF Web site.
10. Continue to solicit and encourage membership feedback regarding the 2007 tests to compile and send to the pertinent organizations; FEI, USEF or USDF.
11. Carry on with "The Judge's Box" in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities within the area of judge education.

2009 Accomplishments:

- A total of eight "L" Programs held sessions in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 in 2009. Six of these programs will complete their final exams in 2009. Only five programs, with 47 candidates, have completed the final exam, as of September 30. Of the 47 that took the final exam, 40 graduated, with twelve of those graduating with distinction.
- The Continuing Education Program for judges and USDF "L" graduates will have had six programs take place in 2009, and have been held in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 7. To date, there have been five programs held as of October. Evaluations from all programs have been positive.
- A couple of articles have appeared in the *USDF Connection* magazine under the title of "The Judge's Box," including:
 - a. "Get More 10s on the 6.5 Horse"
 - b. "Show-Season FAQ"
- Supplemental educational material in judge related programs have been completed and will be used in the following year's programs.
- Steps have been outlined for implementation in order to prepare for updating educational material for the 2011 test cycle.

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Brief introduction and report from members and their areas of responsibility such as USEF rule changes, Para Equestrian, Sport Horse, "L" Program and Continuing Education for Judges and "L" Graduates.

- Discussion of topics and questions that were gathered throughout the year regarding judging.

Items discussed in closed meeting (if held):

- Brief overview of areas within the committee including FEI, USEF, Para Equestrian, “L” Program and judges’ concerns.
- Discussed inconsistency in judging and feedback from judges and competitors gathered throughout the year.
- Feedback was given for potential formats for further education for judges.
- Contracts and cancellations were also discussed.

2010 Objectives:

1. Monitor all FEI and USEF rule changes and make proposed rule changes available to membership as soon as possible.
2. Continue to promote and enhance the Continuing Education Program for judges and USDF “L” graduates by adding more potential program formats.
3. Promote and update the Musical Freestyle “L” Elective Weekend format of the Continuing Education Program for judges and USDF “L” graduates, as well as all other program formats.
4. Expand “L” Program video/DVD library to supplement and modernize the educational material presented in the program by faculty.
5. L” Program Subcommittee will continue creating working groups to evaluate and select footage of movements and complete tests. Footage will be edited and packaged into judge-related educational material.
6. Begin implementing new 2011 test videos for judge-related educational material.
7. Discuss and develop a strategic plan regarding continuing education for “L” graduates, researching potential requirements and ideas.
8. Continue to promote and educate membership on the philosophy of the “L” Program by utilizing *USDF Connection* and the USDF Web site.
9. Develop further material to promote the “L” Education Program to general membership through GMOs.
10. The USDF Test Writing Subcommittee will continue to work with the USEF Test Writing Subcommittee on the rewriting of the 2011 tests and present some of the changes at the 2010 open meeting.
11. Carry on with “The Judge’s Box” in *USDF Connection* to further open communication and promote educational opportunities within the area of judge education.

New budget requirements:

1. N/A

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. N/A

Membership Committee Report

Chair: Kenneth Levy, IN

Liaison: Cindy Vimont

**2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas**

2009 Committee Members: Beth Beukema, MA*; Judith Fiorentino, AL; Sherry Guess, OK; Debra Carr-Kirk, MA; Paula Langan, CA; Peter Rothschild, WA

*New member(s) of the Membership Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 41

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): n/a

2009 Objectives:

1. Continue to implement, monitor and report on GMO Affiliate Verification form responses.
2. Finalize USDF/AQHA competition awards program processes and reporting.
3. Investigate and potentially work on plans to implement proposals agreed upon by the Executive Board from the Membership Growth and Retention Working Group.
4. Development of implementation plans for changes to the USDF membership structure as approved by the Board of Governors.

2009 Accomplishments:

- After many years of discussion, the AQHA Executive Committee approved the following Dressage initiatives:
 1. Approval of Dressage as a recognized discipline within AQHA
 - Establish at USEF/USDF licensed competitions.
 - AQHA class held within existing class starting with Training Level 4.
 - AQHA competition approval fee of \$50 sanctioned 60 days in advance.
 2. Judges
 - AQHA will accept USEF/USDF licensed judges.
 - Must have current AQHA membership.
 - Abide by AQHA rule 438 Judges.
 3. Eligibility
 - Exhibitor must ride AQHA registered horse and be a current individual member.
 - Open, amateur and youth eligibility based on AQHA criteria.
 - Competition license fee of \$85 for lifetime of horses paid to AQHA.
 - Exhibitor must declare division (open/amateur/youth) with AQHA.
 - AQHA to supply information to USDF on eligible exhibitors.
 4. Point conversion

DRESSAGE SCORE CONVERSION

	SCORES			
	60-65	66-70	71-75	76+
	POINT CONVERSION			
Training Level	1	2	3	4
First Level	1.5	3	4.5	6

Second Level	2	4	6	8
Third Level	2.5	5	7.5	10
Fourth Level	3	6	9	12
FEI	4	8	12	16

POINT LIMITS

Training Level	20
First Level	20
Second Level	10
Third Level	10
Fourth Level	10
FEI	No limits

- An Ad-hoc Committee, consisting of the Membership Committee along with regional representatives from all nine regions, was formed in February as directed by the 2008 BOG General Assembly. This committee was assigned the responsibility of evaluating the USDF membership structure and fee structure and providing a proposal to the Executive Board. This report was submitted to the Executive Board on June 26, 2009. The Executive Board accepted the report at their July 17, meeting and thanked the committee for their excellent work. The Executive Board suggested that the Ad-hoc Committee solicit member feedback on the proposal.
- On August 20, the Ad-hoc Committee posted a report to the membership on the USDF Web site, and notified the delegates, council and committee chairs, and GMO presidents, asking for feedback.
- At the time of this report, this feedback is being reviewed, and final recommendations are being drafted for delegate review prior to the convention.

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Reviewed the AQHA points program and discussed the AQHA requirements that shows must be registered with AQHA and that judges must be AQHA members to judge the classes.
- Informed attendees about the Ad Hoc committee on Membership and Fee Structure proposal going forward to the BOG.
- Discussed the education membership and what the benefits would be of this membership. Also discussed on line education strategies, and marketing of this new membership type.
- Addressed questions regarding GMO roster submission.

2010 Objectives:

- Reevaluate the goals and objectives of the committee based on the committee restructuring plan being implemented in 2010.
- Define the benefits of the new Education Membership in more detail, if approved.
- Develop a strategy for implementation of the new Education Membership.
- Evaluate PM Family Membership opportunity.

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. Motions regarding dues and fees increases will be made by the Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Membership Dues and Fee Structure

Nominating Council Report

Chair: Miki Christophersen, KS

Liaison: Deborah Dunivant

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Delores Kaminski, MD; Region 2: Betty Forsyth, MI*; Region 3: Barbara M. Petti, FL; Region 4: Rebecca Hafner, MN*; Region 5: Dianne Stanley, MT*; Region 6: Marsha Williams, OR; Region 7: Kathy Pavlich, CA*; Region 8: Elaine S. Donoghue, MA ; Region 9: Kathryn Kyle, TX
*New member(s) of the Nominating Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 15

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 13

2009 Objectives:

1. Procure nominations for USDF President and USDF Treasurer by June 1, 2009.
2. Procure nominations for Regional Director in regions 2, 4, 6, and 8 by June 1, 2009.
3. Procure nominations for PM delegates in all nine regions by April 15, 2009.
4. Procure nominations for Youth Executive Board in regions 2, 4, 6, and 8 by April 15, 2009.
5. Obtain GMO delegate appointments when determined by each GMO.
6. Educate membership about the candidates.
7. Recruit Canvassing Committee member from each region.
8. Oversee the election process.
9. Continue the promotion of online voting with incentives for returned ballots.
10. Send notification letter to GMOs who failed to respond to delegate/proxy requests for the 2008 convention in Denver.

2009 Accomplishments:

- The following USDF Officer candidates were secured by June 1: President – George Williams; Treasurer – Robert Higgins, Betsy Hussey, Steve Schubert. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor of the BOG.
- The following USDF Regional Director candidates were secured by June 1: Region 2 – Ken Levy, Susan Posner; Region 4 – Barbara Zukowski; Region 6 – Donna Longacre; Region 8 – Fern Feldman. Additional nominations from the floor of the BOG are anticipated in at least one region.
- Biographies of PM delegate candidates and Youth Executive Board candidates were posted on the USDF Web site. PM delegate biographies also appeared in the June issue of *USDF Connection*. Biographies of Officer and Regional Director candidates were published in the October issue of *USDF Connection* and were also posted on the USDF Web site.
- PM delegate elections took place in all nine regions and notification of the election outcome to the candidates occurred in early August.
- The following Youth Executive Board members were elected: Region 2 – Lauren Griffin; Region 4 – Amira Neathery-Fuller; Region 6 – Lily Thompson; Region 8 – Stephanie Nowak.
- No incentives were offered for returned ballots in the PM delegate and Youth Executive Board elections in 2009 due to budget constraints. The chart below shows a lower percentage of voting returns between 2008 and 2009.

PM Delegate Voting Returns

	2008 Mailed	2008 Online	2009 Mailed	2009 Online	2008 Total % Return	2009 Total % Return
Region 1	163	322	91	339	17.759	16.57
Region 2	123	321	77	319	20.651	18.75
Region 3	119	251	71	263	17.754	17.146
Region 4	76	148	34	136	28.035	21.384
Region 5	83	132	70	119	19.926	18.052
Region 6	102	165	61	160	20.682	18.026
Region 7	134	299	96	325	17.292	18.913
Region 8	106	225	82	235	18.409	18.43
Region 9	91	185	65	168	23.35	21.435

Youth Executive Board Voting Returns

Region	2009 Mailed	2009 Online	2009 Total % Return
2	11	16	11.203
4	1	12	8.28
6	1	8	5.806
8	10	2	5.714

- Beginning in 2010, paper ballots for PM delegate and Youth Executive Board elections will be discontinued “unless requested” by the member, and the primary

method of voting will be online. As a result, a smaller Canvassing Committee is anticipated for counting paper ballots annually.

- The office is currently in the process of receiving GMO delegate appointments and proxy-holder assignments.

Items discussed at the open and closed meetings:

- Discussion held about the current candidates for 2009 BOG elections.
- Discussion held about finding more candidates for PM delegates in all regions. Financial support helps in finding GM and PM delegates to attend convention. Three regions currently offer financial support for their PM delegates.
- Discussion held about candidate screening for EB members. Under the current system, candidates nominated from the floor cannot be screened. The Council agrees it is always a good idea to have the information on a candidate available before the voting at the BOG.
- The Council discussed changing the deadline for PM delegates and YEB candidates. Discussion covered the pros and cons of this proposal, along with publication requirements. More information to be obtained before a change should be made.
- Chris Trentelman discussed Bylaws changes that would affect the Nominating council.
- Discussion was held concerning 2010 candidates for the EB officers and odd number regional directors. Deadline for nominations June 1, 2010.
- Discussion held concerning procurement of more PM delegate candidates. It was felt by some attendees that unless there was a cultural change there would be little encouragement to find candidates.

2010 Objectives:

1. Procure nominations for the position of USDF Secretary and Vice President by June 1.
2. Procure nominations for Regional Director in regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 by June 1.
3. Procure nominations for PM delegate in all nine regions by April 15.
4. Procure nominations for Youth Executive Board in regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 by April 15.
5. Obtain GMO delegate appointments when designated by each GMO.
6. Educate the membership about candidates.
7. Recruit Canvassing Committee members.
8. Oversee the election process.
9. Send notification letter to each GMO who fails to respond to delegate and proxy-holder requests.

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. None

ParaEquestrian Dressage Committee

Chair: Hope Hand, PA

Liaison: Kim Sodt

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Committee Members: Liselotte Fore, CA; Kathleen Kiesel, NJ; Lloyd Landkamer, MN; Peter Lert, CA; Julie Barringer-Richers, CO; David H. Schmutz, CA; Elisabeth Williams, PA; Lois Yukins, MA

*There are no new member(s) of the ParaEquestrian Dressage Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 13

2009 Objectives:

1. Support development efforts and education about ParaEquestrian.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Updated the *Management Guide to Hosting ParaEquestrian (PE) Dressage Classes* for Competition Management flash drive, which is sent to all show management.
- Promoted upcoming ParaEquestrian clinics hosted by the United States ParaEquestrian Association (USPEA) and their sponsors through e-news and a news release.

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Discussed proposed restructuring of council/committees as well as recommendations for new members.
- Discussed recruitment, education and training opportunities.
- Shared information about ParaEquestrian judges/steward/TD forums
- Discussed building a qualified team for upcoming WEG and need for WEG volunteers.

2010 Objectives:

1. Support development efforts and education about ParaEquestrian.
2. Discuss ParaEquestrian recruitment, education and training opportunities.
3. Promote and advertise ParaEquestrian judges, stewards, and TD forums.
4. Assist and facilitate building a qualified team for the upcoming 2010 WEG.

New budget requirements:

1. N/A

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. N/A

Regional Championships Committee Report

Chair: Veronica Holt, CO

Liaison: Donna Rocchetti

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Committee Members: Janet Brown-Foy, CO; Joan Darnell, TX;
Lisa Gorretta, OH; Lendon Gray, NY; Joyce Hardesty, KS;
Carol Lavell, NC; Lloyd Landkamer, MN*; Janine Malone, NC;
Kathy Moffitt, NJ; Dorothy Mueller, MI; Rose Newman, WA*;
Helen St. Amand, WA; Anneliese Vogt Harber, GA; Maureen Van Tuyl, CA;
Roberta Williams, OH; George Williams, OH; Elisabeth Williams, PA
*New member(s) of the Regional Championships Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 25

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 13 Committee members; 3 Regional Directors

2009 Objectives:

1. Revise the Manager's Notebook.
2. Continue to "tighten up" the timelines for action items so that management teams can secure facilities two years ahead.
3. Revise host site application, contract, and evaluations in order to address objective evaluation of Regional Championships, with minimal subjective input.
4. Review current qualifying system in terms of its effectiveness.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Developed an online evaluation for Regional Championships. To date, over 800 evaluations were submitted.
- Tightened budget to reduce costs, yet maintained USDF staff representation at Regional Championships at all but one championship.
- Revised timeline for the 2010 Regional Championships Host Application process.

Items discussed in open meeting:

- Thanked everyone who competed in the Regional Championship and filled out the new electronic evaluations. Over 800 competitors responded.
- There was a request to have all Regional Directors attend their Regional Championship.
- Noted that the Committee will continue to review the qualifying process.
- Reported that the Committee reviewed the program rule about allowing a rider other than the Championship rider on the Championship horse, and decided that it was not enforceable and will not change the rule.
- Discussed the Level of Dressage competitions that are in effect for the 2010 year.

Items discussed in closed meeting:

- Reviewed the automatic invitation language and the committee felt that no changes are needed at this time.

- A motion was made by Joyce Hardesty and seconded by Kathy Moffitt allowing a change of region to be processed from August 1 up to the closing date for a fee of \$300. The motion was approved.
- A lengthy discussion took place regarding the participation in the FEI Jr and YR Team classes. This included the possibility of looking to split out the Jr from the YR in the future but a clear definition of the age must be established. A recommendation will be sent to the USEF Dressage Committee establish the age definition.
- The Committee discussed issues that affect the TDs that officiate Regional Championships and will continue to look for ways to help enhance the competitions.
- A change that would allow other than the Championship rider to ride the Championship horse after it had completed its Championship rides was discussed. It was decided that it was too difficult to enforce and no change would occur at this time.
- The Committee reviewed the fee for stabling at Regionals and decided it was not in their jurisdiction to mandate that a one night fee be offered.
- A clarification will be requested from the USEF Dressage Committee regarding DR ????? and who will be pinned in a Regional Championship class when a score of 55% or lower is earned.
- A sub-committee will look to revise the Manager's Notebook and the Regional Championship contract.
- The discrepancies in judging scores was discussed and Janet Foy noted that this topic is being addressed by the Judge's Committee. It was requested that copies of the results be given to every Regional Judge at the end of day. This could be done at the 2010 Regionals.
- The Committee felt that the program rules should not allow any other class be combined with a Regional Championship class, effective for the 2010.

2010 Objectives:

1. Continue to revise evaluation process of championships. Revise the form used by the Regional Director/USDF representative and consider adding a similar form to be completed by the technical delegate.
2. Revise qualifying process to streamline and make more efficient and competitor-friendly for competitors, secretaries and USDF office.
3. Revise rules to clarify the procedure for qualifying outside the home region.
4. Develop selection criteria to identify senior technical delegates qualified to officiate at Regional Championships.
5. Work with the USDF Competition Management and Technical Delegates Councils to increase the knowledge of Regional Championship rules.
6. Review the Contract and Managers Handbook in order to more closely match the requirements of the Host Site Application and Evaluation Forms. Consider identifying an Ad-hoc subcommittee of managers to work on this project.

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. A motion was made by Joyce Hardesty and seconded by Kathy Moffitt allowing a change of region to be processed from August 1 up to the closing date for a fee of \$300. The motion was approved.
2. The Committee felt that the program rules should not allow any other class be combined with a Regional Championship class, effective for the 2010.

Sport Horse Committee Report

Chair: Scott Hassler, MD

Liaison: Cindy Vimont

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Committee Members: Willy Arts, CA; Ekkehard Brysch, IL; Rachel Ehrlich, MA; Douglas Langer, WI; Susan Madden Mandas, OH; Janine Malone, NC; Melanie Sloyer, PA; Charles Smith, OH; Maurine Swanson, PA; William Solyntjes, MN; Kristi Wysocki, CO

*There are no new member(s) of the Sport Horse Committee for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 30

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 8

2009 Objectives:

1. Continue to encourage Breed of the Month article submission.
2. Make "Cliff Notes" for DSHB competitors available online and on Competition Manager's CD.
3. Update 2010 Breeder's Championship rules and incorporate Current Year Foal Championship division, if approved.
4. Develop promotional support and information on the Current Year Foal Championship division for exhibitors, competition managers, and judges, if approved.
5. Develop standardized PowerPoint, videos and other visual materials, and handouts for USDF Sport Horse Seminars.
6. Schedule 2009 Sport Horse Seminar(s).
7. Evaluate positive and/or negative impacts of having additional qualifying method using the 77 percent score option, which goes into effect in 2009.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Breed of the month articles are continuing and the breed organizations continue to provide material.
- The "Cliff Notes" for DSHB competitors was completed and is now available for breed show managers to print in their programs or prizelists from the Competition Manager's flash drive or from the resource page for competition managers on the Web site. The document is entitled *Guide for Sport Horse Competitors*.
- 2010 USDF Breeder's Championship rules were updated with the Current Year Foal division and competition managers have been notified that this new division starts January 1, 2010.
- Held several conference calls to discuss several All-Breeds award issues. The committee agreed that any participating organizations must provide registration papers for each horse in order for USDF to consider them eligible for the All-Breeds Award program.
- NEDA hosted a Sport Horse Seminar taught by Kristi Wysocki in June.
- Committee developed PowerPoint presentation (approximately 130 slides – approximately six to eight hours of classroom lecture) for use at Sport Horse Seminars.

This presentation was used at the NEDA Seminar. Participant feedback on new presentation was very positive.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Showed a quick overview of the new Sport Horse Seminar power point presentation
- Asked for feedback on the new 77% score for qualifying to enter the Finals and impact on shows. It added 28 extra horses to the Devon Finals classes. Other Finals felt that there were a few additional entries.
- Explained the new addition of the Current Year Foal Division in the USDFBC Series and discussed implementation of this new division.
- Announced the change to allow a minimum of one day for the Sport Horse Handlers Clinic format. Also informed attendees that handler seminar instructors will be solicited and will require submission of video and resume for review by the committee.
- Discussed the judging of USDF BC Finals classes. The committee is proposing a motion going forward to require a minimum of two judges to judge **together**, using one score sheet, rather than independently.
- Discussed possible changes to score sheets whereby conformation scores will be broken down in order to provide more consistent and accurate scores. This will also provide more specific feedback to the competitor.
- Announced the 2010 Sport Horse Seminar to be held at Horse's Unlimited.
- Committee was asked to consider a rule change that would require a minimum distance between the wall or fence and the triangle for safety reasons. This will be discussed at the next Sport Horse Committee meeting.
- Provided information on how to order duplicate plaques for HOY and how to access on line certificates.
- Informed attendees that the committee will be developing evaluation forms for BC Finals in order to improve the quality and consistency of shows throughout the country.
- Discussion of ideas to enhance the DSHB program:
 - Develop a medal program concept for horses (i.e. horse that competes in hand and goes on to compete under saddle)
 - "Toddler to Team Horse"—offer special under saddle classes at regional championships for horses shown in hand and now showing under saddle.
 - Pilot combination division at a DSHB show, whereby the horse first shows in hand and then under saddle and a combine score is given.
 - "Born in America" Championships (BIA) at USDF BC Finals—neck ribbon and prize money would be awarded to highest scoring horse in each championship class that meets the BIA requirements. Sponsorship will be sought.
 - Encourage stallion exhibitions (non-competing) at DSHB shows, which will provide opportunities for breeders to showcase their stallions.
 - Develop a system to identify and recognize horses that develop from the DSHB program up through FEI.

Items discussed at closed meeting:

- The committee discussed and approved reimbursing Kristi for her work on the power point presentation draft that she developed for use at Sport Horse Seminars.
- It was agreed that some time at the annual meeting should be designated for reviewing materials on the power point presentation, score sheets, so that updates can be made regularly.
- Scott suggested that Kristi provide a list of areas that she feels need further development on the presentation so that the working group consisting of Scott, Sue, Bill and Kristi, can review the draft and provide feedback.
- The committee discussed the impact on the 77% qualifying rule and decided to leave it and reevaluate next year. This greatly increased the number of horses that qualified at

Devon in 2009 and did create some scheduling difficulties but may have a positive impact on participating overall throughout the country.

- The committee reviewed the Breeders Championships program and discussed upgrading the qualifier ribbons slightly.
- The committee agreed that the Sport Horse Handlers Seminars could be changed to accommodate a one day format and will be revising the guidelines. The committee hopes this will increase the number of these seminars offered.
- The committee will be reviewing the list of approved handler's seminar instructors. They would like to solicit more instructors to be added to the approved list.
- The committee will be sending their ideas for changes to the DSHB score sheets, informally to the Dressage Committee for feedback.
- The committee discussed the merits of requiring judges to judge together with one score sheet for the Breeders Series Finals classes. It was agreed that this should go forward to the BOG and then to USEF for rule changes.
- There has been a verbal commitment from Horses Unlimited to hold a Sport Horse seminar October 30-31, 2010 in Albuquerque, NM. Other possibilities are being identified for 2011.
- The committee discussed ideas for enhancing the Breeder's Championship program in the future, making the sport horse concept more exciting, and attracting more participation .

2010 Objectives:

1. Evaluate/monitor the Current Year Foal Championship division addition to the breeder series and finals.
2. Schedule 2010 Sport Horse Seminar(s).
3. Edit and expand PowerPoint presentation for Sport Horse Seminars as needed.
4. Develop manual for Sport Horse Seminars based on the PowerPoint presentation.
5. Continue to develop standardized videos and other visual materials for USDF Sport Horse Seminars.
6. Expansion and development of new divisions and pilot programs to enhance the DSHB program.

New budget requirements:

1. None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

A change in the Breeder's Championships Series starting in 2011:

Requiring a minimum of two judges to evaluate each entry **together** using one scoresheet for the USDF BC Finals classes. Currently, the rules require judges to judge entries independently using separate scribes and separate score sheets.

Technical Delegates Council Report

Chair: Sally Chionsini, TX

Liaison: Krystina Firth

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Tamla Nichols, VA; Region 2: Carolyn A. Borgert, KY; Region 3: Linda Lester, FL ; Region 4: Laura Gloor, MN*; Region 5: Rusty Cook, NM*; Region 6: Betty H. Shambrook, WA; Region 7: Rebecca Lewis, CA; Region 8: Paul D. Cormier, MA; Region 9: Sandra F. Marx, LA

*New member(s) of the Technical Delegates Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: 50

2009 Objectives:

1. Monitor rule changes and make comments where appropriate.
2. Provide a forum for TDs (via e-mail exchange) for discussing situations that cannot be easily resolved by application of the rules.
3. Review the TD Check List and update areas that are affected by current rule changes.
4. Develop a job description for regional coordinators.
5. Continue to increase awareness of the USDF Competition Handbook and encourage its use by technical delegates.
6. Continue communication with regional coordinators/council members and encourage them to share information with technical delegates in their region and to be available to answer questions from those interested in the technical delegate licensing program.
7. Review the Dressage Protocol and make suggestions for revisions, if appropriate.
8. Investigate the possibility of establishing a USDF Web page to answer FAQs on policies, procedures, protocol and rules.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Council members from almost all regions have communicated frequently regarding rule questions, changes and interpretations, and regarding changes in tests and forms.
- A series of discussions via email has addressed situations that could not be resolved by rule application.
- A job description was developed specifically for regional TD coordinators and forwarded to the council liaison. Most regional coordinators contributed to the description.
- Council members have forwarded notices regarding rules and rule changes to the TDs in their regions.
- Interest in the TD Apprentice Clinic has been promoted not only for prospective TDs, but also as general education for those involved in competition. The

council's request for clinic promotion on regional and GMO Web sites and newsletters has resulted in advertisement for the 2009 clinic at no expense to USDF.

- Expanded council goals were proposed by the Technical Delegates Council and these goals were accepted by the Executive Board in April 2009.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- New goals for 2009
- Committee structure proposal
- Reviewed work the council has done throughout 2009, including budget related items
- TD Coop list and the fact that it is not used very frequently. Adding a disclaimer to the TD Coop list.
- Welfare issues regarding hyperflexion and the FEI statement on hyperflexion.
- The need for more training from USEF regarding issuing yellow cards and verbal warnings.
- The contradiction in the USEF rulebook regarding the use of a snaffle bridle in FEI classes.
- Proposed rule changes

2010 Objectives:

1. Monitor rule changes and make comments where appropriate.
2. Promote interest in the TD Apprentice Clinic.
3. Provide a forum for TDs through email exchanges for discussion of situations that cannot be easily resolved by application of the rules.
4. Review the Technical Delegate Checklist and update areas that are affected by current rule changes.
5. Continue communication with council members and encourage them to share information with technical delegates in their regions and to be available to answer question from competitors.
6. Review the Dressage Show Protocol.

New budget requirements:

None

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

None

Young Rider Graduate Program Report

Chair: Rosalind Kinstler, MI

Liaison: Erica Powers

2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6 Austin, Texas

2009 Committee Members:

Elizabeth Barclay, IL
Kathy Beal, CA
Margee Koffler, KY
Amanda Johnson, WI
George Williams, OH
Roberta Williams, OH
Jessica Ransehausen, PA

*There are no new member(s) of the Young Rider Graduate Program for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: NO MEETINGS HELD AT CONVENTION

Goals:

1. For USEF and USDF to work in concert to track and nurture successful, talented riders for future success in both national and international competition.
2. To provide strong role models and effective mentoring to the graduates as they develop into future leaders in the sport of dressage.

2009 Objectives:

1. Plan and organize next Young Rider Graduate Program in January 2010.
2. Review program format and scheduling to enhance the program, incorporating evaluation feedback from the 2008 program.
3. Research options for utilizing audio/visual recording of the program for post-program educational purposes.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Reviewed program format and scheduling, incorporating evaluation feedback from the 2008 program. Committee consensus was to model format, curriculum, and scheduling on what was done in 2008.
- Sponsorship proposals were submitted to TDF in October 2008 and to USEF in December 2008.
- The upper age limit was increased from 25 to 28 in order to include Brentina Cup riders.
- A contract was signed with the host hotel.
- An evening reception has been planned with Henk van Bergen.

- Potential speakers have been contacted and confirmed including Anne Gribbons, Todd Flettrich and Jennifer Baumert to name a few.
- Several advertising efforts have been made to market the program, including advertising in *USDF Connection*, numerous email blasts, e-newsletters, personal and targeted group emails, Web site banners, Facebook, and communications through the Youth Executive Board.
- The application deadline was extended from September 15, 2009, to October 30, 2009.

2010 Objectives:

1. Hold the 2010 Young Rider Graduate Program with funding support from The Dressage Foundation.

Youth Council Report

Chair: Dorothy Mueller, MI

Liaison: Kathie Robertson

***2009 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 2 – December 6
Austin, Texas***

2009 Regional Coordinators: Region 1: Debbie DelGiorno, NJ*; Region 2: Jennifer Truett, OH*; Region 3: Ellen Witterstaeter, FL; Region 4: Lloyd Landkamer, MN; Region 5: Julie Barringer-Richers, CO; Region 6: Gaye McCabe, OR; Region 7: Michelle Vaughn, CA*; Region 8: Lendon F. Gray, NY; Region 9: Mary Therese Wetzel, OK
*New member(s) of the Youth Council for 2009.

Number in attendance at open meeting: Not Held at time of report

Number in attendance at closed meeting (if held): 8

2009 Objectives:

1. Provide educational opportunities.
2. Outreach to other interscholastic organizations with dressage components, such as RIFNA and IEL.
3. Provide recognition programs.
4. Increase number of youth members.
5. Promote sportsmanship at the youth level.

2009 Accomplishments:

- Recognized 20 youth through the High School Dressage Club Pin Program.
- Received a donation to support the High School Dressage Club Pin Program.

- Approved one youth through the Shining Star Program.
- Recognized fifteen youth with Shining Stars at USDF Youth Regional Team Competitions (as of September 30th).
- Recognized youth who receive a Shining Star on USDF Web site.
- Hosted twelve USDF Youth Regional Team Competitions. Competitions were hosted in all nine regions, providing educational opportunities at each. The number of competitions has remained steady and strong.
- Updated information regarding USDF Youth Regional Team Competitions on the Competitions Managers CD.
- Posted results (when received) from Youth Team Competitions on Web site.
- Sent a spring Enews targeting over 2000 youth.
- Worked with FEI Jr/YR Council and Executive Board in the selection of the USEF Youth Sportsman nominee from USDF.
- Clarified in-house selection procedures for USEF Youth Sportsman Award regional and overall winner from USDF.
- Worked with USEF to clarify criteria of the USEF Youth Council representative.

Items discussed at open meeting:

- Not held at time of report

Items discussed at closed meeting (if held):

- Reviewed objectives
- Discussed current online educational opportunities for youth
- Discussed new mentoring program in Region 6. Further discussed providing a resource through USDF for mentoring program. Each coordinator will identify potential mentors with USDF providing a complete list as a resource.
- Discussion of Shining Star Program.
- Discussion of Youth Membership dues increase. A motion was made, seconded and passed to recommend a cap of \$50 be set for youth membership dues. This will go forward to the BOG.
- Youth Recognition
 - Coordinators will provide names of youth who have received scholarships within their region for recognition.
 - High School Dressage Pin Program – more recognition opportunities are being provided:
 - Heads Up section of the Connection
 - Youth Recognition Board at convention
 - Future recognition on the USDF website.
- Youth Clinics – coordinators will develop clinics within their regions in an effort to reach grassroots youth. This may develop into a USDF clinic series in the future. Clinics can be promoted through electronic means and can be USDF University accredited.
- Out reach to youth – electronic means will be used to communicate with youth in the regions. A newsletter can be developed and used to promote youth programs and well as membership development. The newsletter can be regional specific if needed.

2010 Objectives:

- Provide educational opportunities.
- 6. Outreach to other interscholastic organizations with dressage components, such as RIFNA and IEL.
- 7. Provide recognition programs.
- 8. Increase number of youth members.
- 9. Promote sportsmanship at the youth level

New budget requirements:

1. NONE

Motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. To cap youth membership dues at \$50.00