

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**  
USDF Annual Convention – Kansas City, MO  
Friday, December 1, 2006

USDF President Dr. Samuel J. Barish called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. Sam asked for any changes to the agenda and moved the Bylaw Committee report earlier in the agenda. He also moved the Treasurer's report near the end of the meeting, prior to the approval of the 2007-2008 budget. Sam announced that the President's Report would be given before the Roll Call.

**President's Report - Sam Barish**

Sam reported that the ribbon cutting for the USDF National Education Center was the highlight of the USDF year. Nearly 200 people attended the ceremony. USDF will benefit from lower operating costs due to home ownership. The USDF Capital Campaign has been successful with approximately \$3.5 million of the \$5 million campaign goal reached at the time of the meeting. In addition, Phase I has been completed of the three phase joint member services project with USEF. Phase I entails a joint membership verification tool that allows members of both organizations to access and print membership information from both organizations in a few easy steps. Membership information to enter USEF/USDF competitions can be printed on one page. The next goal of both organizations is to print a joint membership card with both USEF and USDF information.

During the 2005 USDF convention, USDF approved support for a North American Junior Championship (NAJC) to begin in 2006. USDF quickly developed qualifying criteria. The 2007 criteria for both the NAJC and North American Young Riders Championship (NAYRC) are similar.

Meredith Baker was chosen as the USDF nominee for the inaugural USEF Youth Sportsman's Charter Award and Sam outlined her qualifications for this honor. USDF has continued to work with Regional Championship managers to develop a stand alone event of high quality. USDF will continue to provide feedback to managers regarding competition standards. The Great American Insurance Group (GAIG) of Cincinnati, OH is now a long-term sponsor of both the Regional Championships and USDF Breeders Championships (USDFBC). At the Salute Gala, USDF inducted Major Robert Borg, Sally Swift (who attended the event), and Roemer into the USDF Hall of Fame. Sam outlined qualifications of each honoree. Veronica Holt won USDF Volunteer of the Year award. In 2006, Hubertus Schmidt conducted a very successful FEI-Level Trainers' Conference in FL. Jane Savoie will conduct the USDF Adult Clinic series in 2007-2008. The theme of the series is "Believe you can, Ride the Possibilities." Jennifer Bryant's *USDF Guide to Dressage* was published in 2006 and provides an introduction to dressage through Second Level. Sales have been excellent, exceeding the publisher's expectations. The new USDF Competitions Handbook contains resources for competitions and can be downloaded from the USDF website. Sam noted that USDF is still financially healthy, completing the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2006 in the black for the third consecutive year. In closing, Sam thanked the USDF volunteers and staff and all who helped to make the USDF National Education Center a reality.

**Roll Call**

Janine Malone, Secretary, conducted the delegate roll call. A quorum was declared. Chad Compton conducted a brief delegate orientation and explained the procedures for computer kiosk voting.

**USEF Report – David O'Connor, John Long and Jim Wolf**

Sam introduced David O'Connor, USEF President, John Long, USEF CEO and Jim Wolf, USEF Executive Director of Sport Programs.

Jim Wolf reported that all three Olympic disciplines qualified for the 2008 Olympics at the 2006 WEG. In addition to Germany, the U.S. was the only other country to qualify all three Olympic disciplines. The focus for 2007 is the Pan American Games (PAG) with the Selection Trials to be held at Gladstone in June. The PAG will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July. The test event for the Olympic Games is in 2007, with a three-day event to be held on August 8-12 in Hong Kong. Initial planning, including horse shipping, has been worked out. The equestrian events will be held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club which is a very good venue, although the weather will be very hot. The U.S. will be very well prepared.

David O'Connor spoke on the USEF strategic-planning process and its potential effect on USEF programs. He noted that USEF was created as an umbrella organization and is continuing to evolve in that direction. He noted recent changes in the USEF Drugs and Medications program. Dr. John Lengel, who had worked for USEF for almost 30 years, recently retired due to health problems. Consequently, the Drugs and Medications program has been reevaluated. Two new people have been hired: one to run the new lab in Ithaca, NY and another to replace Dr. Lengel as program director. In the future, the testing program will incorporate an external review process. More outside organizations, such as AQHA, have signed on for the USEF to run their drug-testing programs. The USEF hearing process has also been improved. Going forward, two experienced teams will serve during hearings. Essentially the process has become more professional. Primarily, the hearing process is regulatory in order to maintain the integrity of the sport.

USEF is financially stronger than ever in its 90- year history and now has the necessary funds to invest back in outreach programs, such as giving grants to shows that are struggling financially. USEF has formed a new strategic-planning committee made up of Gary Zimmerman, Andrew Temkin (USEA), Smith Lilley (Saddlebred), Ellen Di Bella (Morgan), Chrystine Tauber (Hunter/Jumper), Scott Hassler (Dressage), David O'Connor and John Long. The strategic-planning committee has held several conference calls. The intention is for USEF to become more professional in its future role in the sport.

John Long noted that the new strategic plan will change the relationship between the Federation and its affiliates. He noted that USEF has recently invested significant funds to update its IT systems. USDF will benefit by working with USEF on joint membership. John also noted that the organizing committee for the 2010 WEG is essentially the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The organizers are planning for WEG to be a big entertainment event and have already signed Alltech as title sponsor – for a \$10 million sponsorship. The total budget is approximately \$9 million. Kentucky will be able to handle more spectators than could be accommodated in Aachen. In response to several questions from the floor, John noted that there are many hotel rooms within 100 miles of the Kentucky Horse Park, and no shortage of rooms is expected. Network TV rights have not yet been sold, but the organizers expect to have network, cable, and online components to cover the event.

#### **Executive Director's Report - Stephan Hienzsch**

Stephan acknowledged the support of USDF Region 4 volunteers, in particular Linda Landers, for their help in planning this convention. The 2007 convention will be held in Orlando, Florida from November 30-December 2 in the Disney Coronado Springs Resort, which is about 30 minutes from the Orlando International Airport. The hotel is conveniently located near the theme parks, restaurants and shopping. The convention will begin on Thursday with business meetings and educational sessions and these will continue on Friday. Saturday will offer the Board of Governors meeting and the Awards Banquet. USDF will not host a symposium in 2007 but will expand the University sessions to include a horse health program in conjunction with the AAEP convention. The 2008 USDF convention and symposium will be held on December 3-7 in Denver, Colorado. The convention will be at the Adam's Mark hotel in the downtown area. The symposium will be held at the National Western Complex. The complex is only about 10 minutes from the hotel and is an indoor, climate-controlled facility with stadium seating. Its location and layout are a perfect fit for a USDF symposium.

Stephan said that USDF is excited to be in the new headquarters at the Kentucky Horse Park. He noted that the National Education Center (NEC) was delivered on budget and on time with a final cost of \$3,255,000 – which includes everything . The construction loan has been paid down to \$1.2 million and USDF's facility costs are less now than when we rented space at Lexington Green. The goal is to be debt-free by 2011. 2006 has been a successful year for sponsorship, with \$1,453,000 in sponsorship secured. Stephan thanked the USDF sponsors and specifically The Dressage Foundation (TDF) for its direct support of programs in the amount of \$47,000. USDF has enjoyed a significant increase in sponsorship, marketing and other income. However, we have not kept pace in other areas, and as a result, USDF has cut the budget wherever possible. Stephan said that the 2007-2008 projected budget had a \$164,000 deficit coming into the convention. As a result, the Executive Board discussed several ways to reduce the deficit without raising dues.

Regarding the Capital Campaign, Stephan said that the total amount raised is approaching \$3.5 million, with \$1.5 million left to reach our goal. Seventy-four GMOs have contributed a total of \$332,000 and 22 GMOs have reached one of the GMO recognition levels. He said that \$300,000 has been raised towards building the Educational Endowment Fund, eventually to the level at which income can start to fund programs. During the convention, a

raffle will be held to benefit this fund. VIP tickets to the 2010 WEG and an “Anky” dressage saddle will be auctioned at the Awards Banquet to benefit the Educational Endowment Fund. In closing, Stephan showed a video of the new NEC.

#### **Capital Campaign Recognition Presentations to GMO Leaders – Charles Smith**

Charles requested that GMO leaders review the GMO challenge levels to see how each GMO can contribute to the fund. He asked for new donations before the end of the BOG to match his personal check for \$5000. Carol Tice, CDS vice president, and other CDS members presented a check for \$25,000 to USDF. This check represented CDS’s final Capital Campaign contribution.

Charles, Stephan and Margee Koffler recognized GMOs for their pledges this year: At the GMO Champion level : Centerline Dressage Association, North Carolina Dressage and CTA, Oregon Dressage Society, Westchester Fairfield Dressage Association, and Western Pennsylvania Dressage Association. At the GMO Benefactor Level: Dallas Dressage Club, and Northeast Florida Dressage Association. At the highest level – GMO Builder: Houston Dressage Society, Kansas City Dressage Society, New England Dressage Association, Mid-Ohio Dressage Association. It was noted that these GMO donors are in addition to the GMOs recognized in 2005. Several donations were made towards matching Charles Smith’s \$5000 challenge.

#### **Treasurer's Report - Barbara Tuohino Funk**

Barbara noted that USDF has the audited financial statement for the last fiscal year (2005-2006) on the website. A handout was distributed with the unaudited financial report for the current fiscal year as of November 22, 2006. Barbara noted that USDF continues to be financially healthy. Although the statement for the current fiscal year shows a \$260,039.87 loss for the year to date, this is primarily a temporary cash flow shortage due to a change of the membership year. To date, USDF has received only 20 percent of the income expected for membership income due by December 1. It was noted that USDF is now able to track very accurately expenses and cash-flow trends on a yearly basis. USDF expects its forecasting ability to improve in future years since the change in membership year is the last major change expected, so that the organization can track better in the future. Therefore, in the future, we will have better financial information for planning purposes. A mistake in the printed report was noted, due to a computer accounting error. This mistake has been corrected in the program. Barbara answered a question regarding a particular budget item that is deferred revenue for the Capital Campaign. Ken Levy noted that the final report printout was hard to read. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **Executive Board Acknowledgement - Sam Barish**

Sam recognized the members of the Executive Board and gave special recognition to two outgoing regional directors: Region 6 Director Gaye McCabe and Region 4 Director Linda Landers.

#### **Nominating Council Report and Officer Nominations - Miki Christophersen, chair**

Miki announced the winners of USDF five-year and lifetime memberships, awarded by a drawing of those members who voted online for Participating Member delegates in 2006. Denise Driscoll from Region 2 was awarded a USDF lifetime membership, and Patricia Green from Region 5 won a five-year USDF membership. Miki said that motions from the council would be presented in the Bylaws Committee report. The Nominating Council had no other motions or budget requests. Miki asked if there were any questions on her printed report and there were none. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Dianne Holston SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

Miki announced the following candidates for regional director positions: Region 2 candidates are Sue Hughes and Deborah Garris. Region 4 candidates are Ann Cizaldo, Joyce Hardesty and Sarah Patrick. Region 6 candidates are Donna Edwards, Donna Longacre and Peter Rothschild. The Region 8 candidate is Fern Feldman. After each candidate’s name was announced, Miki asked three times for additional nominations. No additional nominations were received. It was announced that the election of regional directors for Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8 would take place during the afternoon session of the BOG meeting.

### **Bylaws Committee Report – Beth Clarke, chair**

Beth said that her committee report is included in the meeting handout. She said that the Bylaws Committee makes the following recommendations to the Board of Governors, and she explained each proposed amendment to the USDF Bylaws. The first two changes were proposed by the Nominating Council:

**A.1) Overlapping Officer Terms:** *The primary purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure continuity in governance by providing that there is not a complete turnover of the USDF officers at one time. Beth explained that accepting this amendment would extend the terms of the current officers for one year for President and Treasurer and for two years for Vice President and Secretary in order to create the new election cycle for Officers. Officers not able or wanting to serve extended terms can resign and be replaced until the next scheduled election as per Article VIII, Section 3. However, officers can be replaced, if needed.*

Article VIII, Section 2. ~~Said [O]fficers shall be elected by the Board of Governors at the applicable Annual Meeting of United States Dressage Federation, and shall hold~~ ***overlapping terms beginning on the first day of January after the election as follows: Beginning at the 2009 Annual Meeting, the President and the Treasurer shall be elected each to a three year term at the same Annual Meeting as the Regional Directors from even numbered Regions, and the Vice President and Secretary shall be elected each to a three year term at the same Annual Meeting as the Regional Directors from odd numbered Regions, as those elections are set out in Article XI, Section 2.*** ~~office for a three year term, or until a successor shall have been duly elected. The officers are to be elected for terms to begin the first day of every third year.~~

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Ken Levy SECONDED a motion to approve this bylaw change. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A.2) Officer Term Limits:** *The purpose of this amendment is to avoid conflicts of interest in the case that an Officer or Regional Director should need to be removed from office, and to provide that mid-term vacancies, regardless of why they are created, are filled by elected replacements at the earliest orderly opportunity.*

*Add to the end of Article VIII, Section 2:*

***Beginning with the Officers elected in 2009, no person may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office, though any person having served three consecutive terms in the same office may again be elected to that office after not holding the office for at least one term.***

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve this bylaw change. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **B. Replacement of Officers and Regional Directors not serving their entire term:**

*Beth explained that the purpose of the following changes is to give an opportunity to have an elected rather than appointed replacement of an Executive Board member for the remaining portion of the term.*

Article VIII, Section 3. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of an [O]fficer other than the [P]resident, an appointee of the President, approved by the Executive Board, shall fill such vacancy ~~for the unexpired portion of the term~~ ***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 [O]fficers ~~for the unexpired portion of the term~~ ***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.*** ~~Such~~ ***The*** appointments ***of an interim replacement Officer*** shall be made within a thirty-~~(30)~~ days period following said death, or resignation ***or removal.***

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Ken Levy SECONDED a motion to approve this bylaw change. MOTION CARRIED.**

Article IX, Section 3. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of a Regional Director, an appointee of the President, approved by the Executive Board, shall fill such vacancy ~~for the unexpired portion of the term~~ **until the next Annual Meeting, at which time there shall be a special election to fill the position for the remainder of the term.** ~~Such~~ **The** appointment **of an interim replacement Regional Director** shall be made within a thirty-~~(30)~~ days ~~period~~ following said death, resignation or removal.

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve this bylaw change. Debra Reinhardt MOVED and Jeanie Ahrenholtz SECONDED a motion to amend the motion to strike that the approval comes from the Executive Board and to require that regional delegates approve the interim replacement.** Questions were asked on the number of delegates that normally respond to such voting requests. It was explained that such a request has been made only once in recent years. Lynn Flaherty asked how votes would be distributed in such a situation. USDF Secretary, Janine Malone, explained that the delegates and voting strength is the same as in the BOG roll call, except that GMOs still retain their votes even if they are not represented in the BOG. Kathy Moffitt and Peter Rothschild spoke against amendment. Sarah Patrick was in favor of the amendment.

**Laura Kern MOVED and Don Faso SECONDED a motion to the amendment to require a response from delegates within 30 days. Debra Reinhardt accepted this as a friendly amendment to have the interim replacement appointed by the President to be approved by a quorum of the regional delegates within 30 days.** It was clarified that if the appointment by the President was not approved within 30 days by the delegates, the Executive Board will move to approve, but if the delegates disapprove the appointee, a new appointment and vote will be necessary. **The MOTION CARRIED to amend the original motion. The original MOTION CARRIED.**

**C. Annual certified audit requirement and establishment of USDF Audit Committee:**

*This amendment is to replace the audit provision that was removed from the Bylaws at the 2005 Annual Meeting because it provided an explicit conflict of interest for the Treasurer, and to replace it with audit procedures that provide for independent assurance of sound financial practices and that protect USDF members, Officers and paid staff from problematic financial practices. This amendment is also intended to bring USDF up to date to the extent possible with current best practices standards for corporate financial oversight. This is for the creation of an independent Audit Committee.*

Add a new Article X as follows and re-number succeeding Articles:

**Article X AUDIT COMMITTEE**

***Section 1. USDF shall have an independent Audit Committee composed of at least three and not more than five current USDF Participating Members, who may not be members of the USDF Executive Board, employees of USDF, delegates to the Board of Governors or have significant financial dealings with USDF. The Audit Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Executive Board. The Chairman shall appoint the other members of the Audit Committee, with the approval of the Executive Board. Each Audit Committee member shall be appointed for a one year term, and may be re-appointed at the discretion of the President or Chair, as appropriate. Members of the Audit Committee should have substantial business, finance, or legal experience.***

***Section 2. 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.***

***Section 3. In addition to recommending an accounting firm for the annual audit, the Audit Committee shall have the following duties:***

- a) Manage the relationship with the independent auditors, review the independent auditors' findings and management letter and recommend actions to the Executive Board and the Board of Governors as appropriate;***
- b) Monitor and oversee USDF's internal financial controls to ensure quality financial reporting and financial statements at least quarterly;***
- c) Review procedures for the receipt, documentation and resolution of complaints received by USDF regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing;***

- d) Review and approve USDF procedures to ensure that USDF Members and employees have adequate “whistle blower” protection, which shall protect the reporting party from any retaliation for reporting concerns or issues to the Audit Committee;*
- e) Investigate all questions and matters of fiscal control including but not limited to budget control, risk management, and financial conflicts of interest;*
- f) Report investigation findings and recommendations to the Executive Board and the Board of Governors; and*
- g) Recommend to the Executive Board and the Board of Governors policies and controls with regard to activities that impact the financial wellbeing of USDF as appropriate.*

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve this motion. MOTION CARRIED.** Beth noted that the creation of an Audit Committee will require further changes to the Bylaws to ensure changes so that references to the Budget and Finance Committee are changed or removed.

**D. Procedure for Bylaws Amendments:**

*Beth explained that the purpose of the following amendment is to ensure that member initiatives regarding or requiring amendment of the USDF Bylaws get a hearing at the Board of Governors meeting, while also ensuring that revisions to the primary governing legal document of the Corporation are made in an informed and responsible manner, with a minimum of unintended or unanticipated consequences. The purpose of the time period for review and comment is to provide time for consideration of budgetary and other ramifications of proposed amendments so that the Board of Governors has the chance to make fully informed decisions on proposed changes. The reviewing parties can express their opinions to the BOG regarding proposed amendments, but cannot prevent the proposed amendments from being presented.*

[Current] Article XXIII. These Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the Board of Governors at any Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors or at any special meeting of the Board of Governors called for that purpose. ~~Notice of any proposed amendment shall be submitted to each Delegate to the Board of Governors and to each person entitled to notice of Board of Governors meetings at the last known address not less than sixty (60) days preceding the meeting, at which such amendment will be submitted to a vote. Provided, however, that said sixty (60) day notice shall be waived in the case of any proposed amendment which is introduced for the first time from the floor at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Governors. Following full discussion, said proposed amendment may be submitted for a vote at the same meeting in which it has been introduced.~~ **No motion to amend these Bylaws shall be presented to the Board of Governors unless it has first been submitted at least 60 days beforehand to the Executive Board and the Bylaws Committee for review and comment.**

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve this bylaw change.** Peter Rothschild asked if this change would remove the possibility for amendments to a bylaws proposal to be made from the floor. Beth replied that, as long as the provisions of Robert’s Rules were followed, amendments would be permissible. Some asked if councils and committees could recommend changes to the bylaws at the same convention. Kevin Bradbury expressed concern that, in cases of emergency, there is no provision for changes in less than 60 days. Ken Levy asked if the Executive Board could reject a bylaw motion. It was clarified that this is a mandatory review process, but the EB or the Bylaws Committee cannot reject any proposal submitted according to the rules. Several other questions and clarifications were given by Beth. **Lisa Hennessy MOVED and Dona Faso SECONDED a motion to call the question. MOTION CARRIED. MOTION CARRIED to approve the original motion.**

**II. “Housekeeping” (non-substantive) Amendments:**

*Beth explained that the purpose of the following amendments is to “clean up” the Bylaws document. None of them change the substantive meaning of the affected sections. Most are grammatical or syntactical corrections. Others are deletions of repetitive provisions or revisions to ensure that the Bylaws conform to standard legal drafting conventions, and in the case of Article V, Section 4(a), to recognize the existence of a relatively recent form of business entity not previously listed. .*

Article I. The name of the organization shall be the United States Dressage Federation, Inc. (**hereinafter “USDF”**), a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, which is now maintained in Lexington, Kentucky.

*(The corporation then needs to be consistently referred to as "USDF" throughout the remainder of the Bylaws.)*

Article V, Section 1(a). Any member **of USDF** as defined in Article V, ~~in good standing,~~ will comply with all applicable [**B**]ylaws of ~~the United States Dressage Federation hereafter referred to as USDF~~ **in order to remain in good standing.** Any member not in good standing with or suspended by the National Governing Body **for Equestrian Sport**, ~~herein referred to as US Equestrian Federation,~~ shall not be a member in good standing with USDF.

Article II, Section 2 (c). To cooperate with **the United States** Equestrian Federation, **Inc.**, the United States Eventing Association, ~~and~~ United States Pony Clubs, Inc. and other national and international organizations having an interest in training horses, riders, instructors and judges through the principles of classical dressage.

Article V, Section 4(a). A Business Membership ~~shall~~ **may** be any entity[:] sole proprietorship, partnership, **limited liability company** or corporation.

Article VI, Section 4, second sentence. Whenever at least 30% of the Participating Members or at least 20% of the Group Member Organizations request in writing an interim meeting of the ~~United States Dressage Federation~~ **Board of Governors**, the [**P**]resident shall call such a meeting at the earliest possible time.

Article VII, Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the ~~four elected~~ [**O**]fficers elected ~~from~~ **by** the Board of Governors; and one Regional Director elected from each USDF Region ~~by the Delegates to the Board of Governors.~~ The number of Regions and their boundaries; shall be determined by the Board of Governors. The immediate Past President and the Executive Director shall sit as advisors on the **Executive** Board, but shall not have a vote and shall not be considered when determining a quorum. Employees of ~~the United States Dressage Federation, Inc.~~ shall not be members of the USDF Executive Board.

**OMIT ALL of Article VII, Section 3.** ~~The Executive Board Members shall serve three year terms to begin on January 1, and shall be Participating Members of the United States Dressage Federation in good standing.~~ **and re-number remaining sections.**

*Totally redundant to other sections.*

Article IX, Section 5, first sentence. Any Regional Director may be removed by the Executive Board; whenever in the judgment of the Executive Board ~~and~~ the best interests of ~~the United States Dressage Federation,~~ would be served thereby.

Article XXI. Notwithstanding any other provision of these [**B**]ylaws, no member, Regional Director, ~~and~~ Officer; or employee; ~~of the United States Dressage Federation~~ shall take any action or carry on any activity....

**Robert Higgins MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve previous motions. MOTION CARRIED. Paul Cormier MOVED and Ken Levy SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Competition Management Council Report - Chair: Kathy Moffitt, NJ**

Kathy thanked Krystina Firth, staff liaison and Sally Davenport for spearheading the Competition Management Clinic at the convention. Accomplishments by the council in 2006 include: Revising the *Show Biz* publication, reviewing and revising the Competition Management Checklist, reviewing the Spectator's Guide to Dressage, presenting a competition management/secretary's clinic in some regions and working on the presentations for the Competition Management Clinic for the convention.

During the council meeting, the group discussed joint USEF/USDF recognition, the current problems with data transfer with USEF and that it is still the responsibility of the show manager to apply for USDF competition recognition. The council requested an online competition recognition form that could be completed online and submitted electronically to the USDF. The council also discussed the development of a membership card that clearly differentiates between GM and PM members, as well as non-members.

**Judith Fiorentino MOVED and Jeanne Ahrenholtz SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Membership Committee Report - Chair: Kenneth Levy, IN**

Ken thanked Cindy Vimont for her work with the committee. Highlights of the committee report include: During 2006, the Membership Committee worked in consort with input from the GMO Council and the Executive Board to draft a policy that addresses GMO compliance with USDF Bylaws, specifically requiring the President of each GMO to commit to complete reporting and dues submission of all their GMO members to the USDF. A policy was submitted to the Executive Board for approval during the 2006 USDF Annual Convention. In addition, a letter to USDF GMO Presidents and a GMO Letter of Compliance (to be signed by the GMO President and the USDF Executive Director) were drafted. A timeline for implementation of the policy was also crafted and was forwarded to the Executive Board for approval. Due to the contractual nature and potential implications, the Executive Board directed the Membership Committee to further investigate and develop a plan which will align itself with the USDF strategic direction.

Items discussed at open meeting include: Membership statistics—It was noted that there has been an increase overall in membership by 5 percent. 2006 is the first time in three years that total USDF member numbers have increased. It was also noted that the PMs who are not GMs declined by 50 percent, thus indicating that the value proposition of dual Participating and Group membership is being recognized. Business memberships have declined by 11 percent. A review of this category is needed. The AQHA and Arabian Horse Association (AHA) outreach activities are being conducted by staff. Strongly supported in the meeting was charging non-members a fee at recognized competitions. There was extensive discussion, both pros and cons, of eliminating the PM rebate for dual membership. There was an update on the Membership Committee's recommendation on addressing GMO membership compliance. The Membership Committee and the Executive Board are aligned in supporting GMO compliance to the Bylaws; however, the method of enforcement needs to be further investigated.

**Kathleen O'Connor MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ParaEquestrian Dressage Committee - Chair: Hope Hand, PA**

2006 accomplishments of this committee include: USDF has corresponded with the USEF ParaEquestrian liaison regarding the proposed ParaEquestrian NAYRC program. The USDF ParaEquestrian Clinic pilot program has experienced a setback due to the clinician's sudden unavailability. The clinician will be available to do one clinic this coming spring, which would occur in the current fiscal year. The ParaEquestrian Dressage Committee has submitted a business plan proposing that the ParaEquestrian Clinic Pilot Program become an annual USDF program.

During its meetings, the committee discussed the ParaEquestrian Selection Trial and International Qualifier that is being hosted by the United States at Morven Park in 2007. It is anticipated that the United States will fill 10 entries. The undeveloped countries expect to borrow horses for this event. The United States organizing committee will solicit willing horse owners to participate in this event and will provide the contact information for riders and coaches. The committee briefly discussed a proposal for a ParaEquestrian award program. This will be pursued further by the committee after the convention. Also discussed was the proposed ParaEquestrian Clinic program for Judges, Trainers and Instructors and proposed rule changes to the USEF ParaEquestrian Dressage division rules. A motion was made to make a recommendation to the USEF to change the rule of disallowing spurs with rowels to conform with the FEI ParaEquestrian rule.

Hope requested approval of the following motion:

The committee proposes a recommendation to the USEF to change the proposed rule, PE112.4.b, of disallowing spurs with rowels to conform with the FEI ParaEquestrian rule, Article 8427 Dress 1.8, which allows spurs with smooth rowels that are free to rotate.

**Beth Glass MOVED and Elaine Donoghue SECONDED a motion to approve the motion. MOTION CARRIED. Judith Fiorentino and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Historical Committee Report - Chair: Anne Moss, PA**

Anne thanked members for attending the Salute Gala and encouraged GMOs to continue to supply their historical information to the committee. Committee accomplishments in 2006 include approval of the 2006 Hall of Fame inductees, working with the USDF staff to plan for the future growth of the Roemer Foundation/USDF Hall of Fame and the Gypsy Woods Farm Resource Center, communication with all GMOs in regards to an Annual Data form with the intent to collect GMO statistics and continue to act as a voluntary repository, and reviewing the selection and nomination process of the Hall of Fame inductees and the Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **GMO Council Report - Chair: Sherry Guess, OK**

Sherry said her council was opposed to deleting the Group Member discount for PM membership. The council proposed charging a non-member fee, increasing the HID fee and increasing the Lifetime Horse Registration fee from \$65 to \$100. The council had no motion or budget requests.

2006 council accomplishments include: Posting information from the 2005 Convention on the GMO PrezList. The GMO Handbook was reformatted and has been made available online. Judges were provided for the GMO Educational Sessions. The GMO PrezList continues to be a useful avenue of communication and was used to keep presidents abreast of pertinent information and upcoming deadlines. The council asked the GMO presidents to make sure their bylaws were on file with USDF. **Peggy Klump MOVED and Ken Levy SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Freestyle Committee Report - Chair: Terry Ciotti Gallo, FL**

2006 accomplishments include: Materials for the new Pas de Deux section of the USDF website have been submitted. They were posted in November 2006 to coincide with the rule implementations for the next quadrenium. Final recommendations for Freestyle and Pas de Deux rule changes were made. Changes for the 2007 Directory, as well as the Freestyle and Pas de Deux Rules, Guidelines, & Definitions were submitted. Refinements were made to the Continuing Education Freestyle Weekend program, as well as updates regarding rule changes. Freestyle-related words and their definitions were submitted for the Glossary of Judging Terms. The Freestyle Resource List was submitted. An educational session for ParaEquestrians was held at the USEF Championships in Gladstone, NJ. Beginning January 2007, a new section on Freestyle, Pas de Deux, and Quadrille will be added to *USDF Connection* magazine. There will be monthly articles highlighting a range of topics on these subjects, including how-to's, various perspectives (rider, judge, trainer), sound systems, crossword puzzles, etc.

Terry reported that the committee would like to propose the following changes to the freestyle Goals to include Quadrille. However, it was clarified that committee goal changes are approved by the Executive Board, not the BOG.

1. Design and provide educational programs for ~~general~~ Freestyle, *Pas de Deux, and Quadrille education for the general membership* and *for* judge education.
2. Continue to review Freestyle, ~~and~~ Pas de Deux, *and Quadrille* Rules, Guidelines, and Definitions and score sheets.
3. Coordinate with Judges, ~~Quadrille, and Test Writing~~ Committees and with Competition Management and Awards Councils.
4. Maintain a Freestyle web page on the USDF web site to increase exposure as well as to create promotional activities for ~~Musical~~ Freestyles, *Pas de Deux, and Quadrille and create promotional activities for Freestyle.*

**Ken Levy MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Competitors Council Report - Chair: Lisa Schmidt, NJ**

Lisa reported for the council. 2006 accomplishments include: A poll subcommittee was appointed and a sample survey was developed. It was discovered that the maintenance of a poll was too labor intensive to continue with the project at this time. A template was developed in Excel to track comments and ratings of received Competition Evaluation Forms. However, again due to the labor-intensive nature of this project for USDF staff and the Regional Coordinators, it could not be completed in 2006. Ideas were discussed regarding sponsorship funding of the online dispersal of the evaluation forms, but the Council was advised not to pursue this until the use of USEF evaluation forms for licensing of competitions was further clarified. The Council, in collaboration with the Technical Delegates

Council, updated the Warm Up section of Dressage Protocol for inclusion in the 2007 *USDF Directory*. The Council coordinators reviewed all Evaluation Forms received for 2006 competitions and discussed concerns with their Competition Management Council counterparts. The Council was told that for legal reasons, the regional coordinators could not discuss concerns on the forms with individual competition managers. Due to the marketing efforts of the Council, the number of evaluation forms received increased 1percent from 211 in the first nine months of 2005 to 214 in the first nine months of 2006. However, the number of shows receiving evaluations decreased marginally from 97 in 2005 to 95 in the first nine months of 2006. **Kate O'Connor MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Nominating Council Report and Regional Director Nominations – Chair: Miki Christophersen, KS**

Miki announced the following candidates for regional director positions. After each candidate's name was announced, Miki asked three times for additional nominations. No additional nominations were received. Region 2 candidates are Sue Hughes and Deborah Garris. **Ken Levy MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to close nominations. MOTION CARRIED.** Region 4 candidates are Ann Cizaldo, Joyce Hardesty and Sarah Patrick. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Kate O'Connor SECONDED a motion to close nominations. MOTION CARRIED.** Region 6 candidates are Donna Edwards, Donna Longacre and Peter Rothschild. **Diane Holston MOVED and Kate O'Connor SECONDED a motion to close nominations. MOTION CARRIED.** The Region 8 candidate is Fern Feldman. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Diane Holston SECONDED a motion to close nominations. MOTION CARRIED.** Fern was elected by acclamation.

Miki called the Canvassing Committee to supervise the kiosk voting and Regions 2, 4 or 6 to vote, in that order. The following Regional Directors were elected: Sue Hughes, Region 2; Sarah Patrick, Region 4; and Donna Longacre, Region 6. Sam invited them to participate in the EB meeting, immediately following the BOG meeting.

**Youth Executive Board Report –President: Claire Darnell, TX**

Claire Darnell, President of the Youth Executive Board, introduced outgoing and incoming members of the board. Claire reported that 2006 was a year of transition. She thanked Sheila Forbes, former Youth Executive Board liaison, for her work with the Youth EB. During the convention, the Youth Executive Board organized a Youth Educational Session entitled, "What the Judge Looks For" with Janet Brown Foy. Seventeen applications for the Youth Convention Scholarship were received. Four scholarship winners were chosen. The four winners were recognized. Claire asked for support for the Youth Silent Auction which funds the scholarship program. Objectives for 2007 include increasing awareness of youth programs, including the Youth Volunteer of the Year award and the Youth Scholarship. A goal for 2007 is to increase communication and participation among youth. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Young Rider Graduate Program Committee Report - Chair: Roz Kinstler, MI**

Roz thanked the USDF staff and new committee liaison, Karin Glassman, for their support. She also expressed appreciation to The Dressage Foundation (TDF) for their financial support of the program.

A 2006 USEF/USDF Young Rider Graduate Program Seminar Weekend was planned to be held October 20-22, 2006, at the USDF National Education Center in Lexington, KY; however, the program was cancelled due to the low number of applications (14). The participants of the 2005 Young Rider Graduate Program were invited to attend the 2006 USEF Training Sessions in Florida and the 2006 USDF FEI Level Trainers Conference in Florida. The Young Rider Graduate Committee decided that the program needed a fresh dimension that would meet the following goals: provide USEF a higher profile and level of participation, create a more meaningful program with an added element of "exclusivity" for the participants and maximize participant applications by scheduling at a time of year that is more compatible with academic schedules and that does not conflict with regional and national dressage championships. The committee hopes to organize the next Young Rider Graduate Program Seminar in winter 2008, to be run in conjunction with a USEF High Performance Training session. **Dianne Holston MOVED and Kate O'Connor SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Development Committee Report - Chair: Margee Koffler, KY**

Margee thanked Charlotte Williams, committee liaison, and reported that the committee has no motions but approved several recommendations to the Executive Board, to include: Dissolving the Development Committee, establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the governance and administration of the National Endowment Fund,

and handling of the Annual Campaign by the USDF Development staff. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Sue Edelen SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Judges Committee Report - Chair: Lois Yukins, MA**

Kim Sodt reported for Lois. 2006 accomplishments of the committee included: Updating the USDF Judges Checklist and Glossary of Judging Terms, holding five "Continuing Education Program for Judges and USDF "L" Graduates" in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9; holding a total of 10 "L" Program sessions in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in 2006. Three of these programs completed their final exams in 2006. Of the three programs and 33 candidates that completed the final exam, 20 graduated, with 11 of those graduating with distinction. "L" Program packets have been updated and revised to become "L" Participant Binders, including more educational material in a more organized fashion to benefit the organizers and participants and to create better continuity of the program material. **Melissa Creswick MOVED and Jane Sheehan SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Adult Education Council Report - Chair: Cindy Dix-Weathersbee, TX**

Cindy said focus of this council is on the grass roots of dressage. There were a total of ten Adult Team Competitions held in 2006. During council meetings the following items were discussed: how to improve the grant application process and guidelines; ways to improve the University program through crediting structure and promotion of the program; and, the 2007-2008 Adult Clinics. Among other objectives, in 2007 the council will explore the idea of an awards program to recognize innovative GMO programming. **Judith Fiorentino MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Youth Council Report - Chair: Dorothy Mueller, MI**

Dorothy thanked her Youth Council regional coordinators. She explained that the council has no budget requests since the amount originally requested is already in the budget. Council accomplishments in 2006 include: The council is in the final stages of revising a Youth Activities Booklet that was previously created several years ago by former council chair Lendon Gray. The council hopes to update the book for downloading from the USDF website by the end of 2006. The 2006 Youth Art Contest winners were determined (94 entries in fourteen divisions). Many Youth Team Championships were held in 2006. **Dianne Holston MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**FEI Managers Committee Report - Chair: Connie Davenport, CA**

Connie reported that this committee will be dissolved in 2007 to become a subcommittee of the Competition Management Council. During 2006, members of the committee have kept in touch by email to discuss concerns caused by FEI rule changes. During the convention, the committee discussed how to resolve calendar conflicts and the need for CDIs to become CDI-Js in 2007. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**The Dressage Foundation (TDF) Report - John Boomer**

John reported on the TDF Olympic Dream project, in which almost 24 young riders have participated as of 2006. He noted that two participants have gotten married to each other. John also noted the large number of programs held over last eleven years as part of the Violet Hopkins grant program.

**Quadrille Committee Report - Chair: Tigger Montague, VA**

Tigger reported that Quadrille will be part of the Freestyle Committee starting in 2007. 2006 accomplishments of this committee include: Revision of all quadrille tests and guidelines to be effective 12-1-06, use of the standard vs. small arena for all quadrille tests to be effective 12-1-06. **Jennifer Mitchell MOVED and Beth Glass SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Marketing Committee Report - Chair: Lindsey Perrow, SC**

Stephan Hienzsch reported that the Executive Board passed a motion to dissolve the Marketing Committee, effective in 2007, upon the recommendation of staff. During the convention, a presentation was made regarding marketing dressage that included various exercises to brainstorm and come up with new solutions for local leaders. Also, a template for press releases was given. Also discussed were resources available through USDF for local clubs and leaders to access. **Ken Levy MOVED and Kate O'Connor SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Test Writing Committee Report - Chair: Betsey Berrey, FL**

Kim Sodt reported for Betsy Berrey that the committee will become part of the Judges Committee in 2007. In 2006, the committee monitored feedback on Introductory tests and worked with the Freestyle and Quadrille Committees on test and score sheet changes for 2007. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Kate O'Connor SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **USEF High Performance Dressage Report: Gil Merrick**

Gil reported that the U.S. World Cup League Final was held in Florida in 2006. Arlene Page on Wild One and Leslie Morse on Tip Top represented the U.S. at the World Cup Dressage Final. A strong team was selected to represent the U.S. at the WEG and competed in Europe prior to the WEG competition. The WEG team consisted of Debbie McDonald on Brentina, Steffen Peters on Floriano, Guenter Seidel on Aragon and Leslie Morse on Tip Top. The alternate was Catherine Haddad on Maximus. The U.S. team won the Bronze Medal with Steffen finishing fourth in the Special and sixth in the Freestyle. With the WEG placing, the U.S. secured eligibility to participate in the 2008 Olympic Games. Gil briefly described the new developing programs for youth and young horses and the preparations for the 2007 World Cup in Las Vegas.

### **Status on USDF Strategic Plan**

Sam Barish gave a PowerPoint presentation on the USDF Draft Strategic Plan. The USDF planning consultant is Bud Crouch. USDF used data from three previously-conducted surveys for the initial planning process. USDF leaders and staff first met on August 23 for a planning session and have since reviewed two drafts of the plan. The Executive Board, other USDF leaders and staff met again early in the convention week to further refine the plan. USDF is working on better defining our role in the sport and in the future plans to work more on promotion of the sport. Better cooperation with USEF is also a goal. Other goals are to improve the USDF website, as well as to improve outreach and communication with GMOs.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Sandi Lieb expressed concern that USDF needs to focus more on grass-roots members who aren't interested in competition. She also believes that USDF needs a more viable national instructor certification program. Her small GMO has stagnated. Leslie Cummings from Houston, TX asked for clarification of the proposed Big Audacious Goal (BAG).

### **IMO Committee Report - Chair: Sarah Geikie, CT**

Cindy Vimont reported for Sarah and the committee liaison, Karin Glassman. Cindy reported that the committee had no motions or budget items and that the joint meeting for all youth programs was well received. Items from the committee report: In 2006, the IMO Committee implemented a scoring rubric to standardize judging for the Team Leadership Award. Erin Cooper (St. Andrews Presbyterian College) was named the 2006 recipient of the Team Leadership Award. There are currently 45 IMO member schools. The number of schools by USDF region is as follows: Region 1=13; Region 2=8; Region 3=3; Region 6=2; Region 7=4; Region 8=16. **Paul Cormier MOVED and Judy Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Technical Delegates Council Report - Chair: Veronica Holt, CO**

Committee liaison Sally Davenport reported for Veronica. The council report included the following items: In 2006, the technical delegate check list was updated. Veronica held conversations with USEF's Competition Services Department and the USDF Competition Management Council to see what could be done to improve the process of getting the prior TD report and the USEF comments on the prize list to the current TD of record. An article was published in Competition Contact that encourages competition management to contract with the technical delegate in time for the contact information to be published in the prize list (instead of TBA). **Barbara Petti MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Sport Horse Committee Report - Chair: Scott Hassler, MD**

Sally Davenport, committee liaison, reported for Scott. Accomplishments listed in the 2006 committee report included: Development of several working groups, in addition to the All-Breeds subcommittee to address issues, or program development in the following areas: competitions and competition management; finance and formalities; articles and promotion; education; judging, sport horse tests, judging definitions; registration, record-keeping, statistics; rules and regulations. The committee approved, and sent to USEF for approval, the revised 2007 DSHB score sheets. The revised *USDF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Class Guidelines* notebook was published. *USDF*

Connection "Briefings" articles were submitted for publication.

Sally described the following motions to come before the Board of Governors:

1. The Sport Horse Committee recommends that the minimum median for each of the USDF Year End Award categories be raised to the levels indicated below, effective 10/1/2007.
  - a. Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Horse of the Year. Raise from 58% to 65%. *Based on 2006 data, this would have eliminated 8 of a total of 389 qualified horses. The current median of qualified horses = 75.100%.*
  - b. Materiale Horse of the Year: Raise from 58% to 65%. *Based on 2006 data this would have eliminated 1 of the 61 qualified horses. The current median of all qualified = 74.900%*
  - c. FEI 5-year-old: Raise from 6.0 to 6.5. *Based on 2006 data this would not have eliminated any horses. The current median of all qualified = 7.3.*
  - d. FEI 6-year-old: Raise from 6.0 to 6.5 *This would have eliminated 1 of the 15 qualified horses. The current median of all qualified = 7.2.*

*Reason for recommended changes: The current minimum medians are well below the average for these categories. Currently, all horses meeting the minimum number of shows and judges are qualifying. Awards should be based on achievement, not just participation.*

**Peggy Klump MOVED and Lisa Gorretta SECONDED a motion to approve the four changes. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. The Sport Horse Committee proposes the following USEF rule change: USEF DR203.16. Change to read: For competition purposes, a mare's breeding status on January 1 will remain the same until December 31 of the same calendar year (i.e. a mare that is in foal or nursing will remain a broodmare for competition purposes after her foal is weaned, regardless of her actual breeding status, until December 31 of the same year. If she is not in foal on January 1 of the next calendar she will remain a Yeld mare for competition purposes throughout the next calendar year even if she is successfully re-bred during that year.) ***Exception: During the calendar year in which an embryo-transfer recipient mare is due to foal, the embryo-transfer donor mare must compete according to her breeding status the year prior to being bred.***

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Kathy Moffitt SECONDED a motion to approve this proposed rule change. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. The Sport Horse Committee proposes the following USDFBC Series guideline addition:
  - It is recommended that wristbands or other identification for handlers and assistant handlers should be of a type not able to be transferred to someone else.

**Paul Cormier MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the change. Kathy Mofitt recommended a friendly amendment accepted by Paul and Judith to change "recommended" to "required" and "should" to "must". This change would be effective 10/1/07. MOTION CARRIED as amended.**

4. Proposed USDFBC Series guideline addition to the section on Championship Finals:
  - An award ceremony must be scheduled for each championship class.
  - Failure, without prior permission of the competition manager, to be present for the award ceremony, will eliminate the official score and placing and the next highest score will move up in the placing. Specific requirement and penalties for failure to participate in prize-giving ceremonies must be announced in the prize list. It is recommended that tack for ceremonies be the same as in the competition. Black or white leg bandages are also allowed.
  - Judges should be invited to participate in the prize-giving.
  - Competition Management is responsible for the safe conduct of ceremonies and must excuse any horse that threatens the safety of participants.
  - Management must consult with the USDF Representative (if present), the Awards Coordinator and the Technical Delegate prior to authorizing an 'excused absence' from the awards ceremonies, except in the case of an emergency.
  - A tentative schedule for the awards ceremonies must be printed in the Show Program.

- The confirmed schedule for the awards ceremonies must be posted in the show secretary's office by noon on the day prior to the beginning of the competition. If the posted awards schedule is changed, all affected competitors must be notified.

**Peggy Klump MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve this change.** It was clarified that the USDFBC guidelines are mandatory. Terry Wilson questioned if, in case of safety, horses should be excused. Some people expressed the opinion that notification requirements must be more specific. **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was clarified that the following change isn't a motion since it has already been approved by the EB:

5. The Sport Horse Committee recommends the following administrative change to the All-Breeds award program.
  - Starting in the Spring of 2007, USDF will post on a limited access section of its website a list of currently competing horses "declared" for each all-Breeds Participating Organization (PO). A horse will be included on that list as soon as they have at least one score meeting the minimum for year-end award criteria.
  - Each association will be given access to their list. They can mark which horses/owners are eligible for the 2007 All-Breeds program, which ones are definitely not eligible, and which ones could be (for instance, have not yet paid their breed association dues). This information list will be updated weekly so that the associations can access the lists at their leisure.
  - At the end of the season, each association will have indicated all horses/owners eligible for the All-Breeds award program for that competition year. Just as with the other year-end award programs no changes will be allowed after October 15, 5:00 PM ET with results becoming final after October 15 as soon as they are processed by the IT Department.
  - Each association will also have submitted to USDF by January 1, 2007 a list of the All-Breeds categories/levels they will award for 2007 and the number of certificates they guarantee to sponsor at each category/level. USDF will post their lists on the website.
  - The procedure will allow USDF to program a "Preliminary Rankings" and "Final Rankings" for the POs similar to that for the other year-end awards. This will be updated in real time just like the year end awards and is certain to be a hit with competitors.
  - The other benefit will be the "Final Results" can be posted shortly after October 15 rather than the end of the first week in November. This will be helpful to competitors and USDF in planning for the Awards Banquet.

**Peggy Klump MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**FEI Jr/YR Council Report - Chair: Roberta Creek Williams, OH**

Cindy Vimont reported for Roberta. Cindy explained that the qualifying criteria for the 2007 NAYRC and NAJC already have been approved. The council report included the following items: The 2006 NAJYRC Qualifying System ran surprisingly smoothly in spite of it being the inaugural year for incorporating the NAJC into the event. There were few rule waivers or exceptions requested or granted in 2006. USDF fielded a total of eight regional teams for the NAYRC. Region 4 was unable to field a team but did send two individuals to the competition. USDF fielded a total of seven regional teams for the NAJC with Regions 5 and 9 combining. Region 7 sent one individual as no team was fielded. The FEI Jr/YR Council made a heroic effort to rewrite the 2007 qualifying procedures as requested by the USEF Dressage Committee to be ready for publication on the USDF website by September. The criteria were submitted to USEF for final approval by the USEF Dressage Committee by September and are awaiting review by the USEF Legal Department and approval by the USEF Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was scheduled to meet to approve them on November 21. USDF Official Qualifying competitions for 2007 were approved and posted on the USDF website in September. The date for the 2007 NAJC and NAYRC is July 31 – August 5.

Recommendations to the Organizing Committee of the NAYRC and NAJC include: Improvement of stable security, improvement of timely receipt of invitation, and improvement of in-stables horse inspections. **Diane Holston MOVED and Beth Glass SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Regional Championships Committee Report - Chair: Lisa Gorretta, OH**

Lisa Gorretta thanked previous and current committee liaisons Barb Ballard and Marie Murphy for their work on behalf of the program. She welcomed new 2007 committee members Claire Darnell and Joyce Hardesty. Lisa reported that the new ten-year contract with Great American is unprecedented. She thanked Great American, Swedish Exclusives, Saratoga Horseworks and Hodges Badge Company for their sponsorship of the program. Lisa reviewed the highlights of her printed report and apologized for problems with the jackets at the 2006 championships. She reiterated that USDF is committed to awarding a jacket to each winner.

The 2006 committee report included the following items: The Committee unanimously supports counting the FEI Junior Freestyle test as a qualifier for the USDF Third Level Freestyle Championship class beginning with the 2007 qualifying season. This was approved at the April meeting of the Executive Board. An ad-hoc sub-committee was formed to develop a policy for assessment of penalties to Regional Championship licensees who have violated the Licensee Contract, Regional Championship Program Rules and/or USEF Rules. Topics included types of violations, amounts of fines, letter of notification of penalties, formation of review panel and an appeals process. The sub-committee sent its recommendations to the Executive Board, which revised and approved a policy for inclusion in the *USDF Policies and Procedures*. The Committee discussed re-introducing the approved use of the Regional Championships logo on merchandise produced for sale at the championships. This has been requested by both Management and the Championship competitors. Our recommended guidelines for usage of the logo on apparel for show volunteers and staff without charge and for logo usage on items produced for sale were forwarded to the USDF Marketing Department. That department would be responsible for contract development and/or future administration. The Regional Championship rule revision (presented in the 2005 BOG Report), allowing Champions who do not attain the minimum qualifying score in their Championship ride to continue to compete in that level and division was approved at the 2006 USEF Convention, (reference USEF DR127.5) effective 4/1/2006, applying to the results of the 2006 Regional Championship season.

**Lisa described the following motions to come before the Board of Governors:**

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the following change. MOTION CARRIED.**

1. That the Chair or appointed representative oversee the selection, style and sizing of the Championship jackets and prizes. Further, no jackets from previous years will be distributed for the current year, unless requested by competitors.

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Maureen Van Tuyl SECONDED a motion to approve the following change. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Amend program rule C.18 that provides an option for competitions that fall within the closing week of the Championships to declare as qualifying for the current year, establishing an application deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the following change. After several questions for clarification, the MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approve in principle a program rule change to (F.10.) to limit Juniors and Young Riders, as appropriate, to entry in only two Championship classes, excluding Freestyle. The definition of weekend for Junior/Young Rider classes shall be expanded to include Friday. The rule regarding contiguous classes shall not include the FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider classes.

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Dianne Holston SECONDED a motion to approve the following recommendation.**

4. (C.14) Automatic invitations shall be extended to the top twelve individuals in the NAYRC and NAJC, the top twelve invited to the High Performance National Championships at Grand Prix, I-2, I-1, and the top twelve from the USEF National Junior, Young Rider and Young Adult Ranking lists.

George Williams recommended amending the motion to clarify that the USEF High Performance National Championships are held only for Grand Prix and Intermediaire I levels. Lisa and Dianne accepted the amendments. **MOTION CARRIED to approve the following amended motion.**

4. (C.14) Automatic invitations shall be extended to the top twelve individuals in the NAYRC and NAJC, the top twelve invited to the USEF High Performance National Championships at Grand Prix, and Intermediaire I, and the top twelve from the USEF National Junior, Young Rider and Young Adult Ranking lists.

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Paul Cormier SECONDED a motion to approve the following recommendation. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Allow scores from the Young Adult test, earned in designated qualifying classes, to be used as qualifying scores for the Intermediaire II championships.

**Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Peggy Klump SECONDED a motion to approve the following recommendation. MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Amend Program Rules (F.5) regarding mandatory mounted award ceremonies adding, in the case of inclement weather, unmounted ceremonies may be held.

**Paul Cormier MOVED and Kate O'Connor SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Awards Council Report - Chair: Julia Trone, IL**

Peggy Klump thanked Krystina Firth, council liaison, and the USDF IT staff for their help, especially in making available the score-check function on the USDF website. Peggy reviewed the high-score statistics of several winners and award categories for the USDF HOY awards.

During the convention, the council reviewed 2006 statistics on participation in awards programs and the possibility of developing a standard to review and approve new awards. They also discussed ways to improve the prestige of the USDF awards program. Peggy clarified that funds are already in the proposed budget to (1) Allocate \$200 to increase the quality of the horse performance certificates, effective 10/1/2007, and (2) Allocate \$800 to provide awards for Master's Challenge award winners, effective 10/1/2007.

**Motions to come before the Board of Governors:**

**Peggy Klump MOVED and Carol Tice SECONDED a motion to approve the following request.**

1. Request approval to add a USEF Four-Year-Old award that will parallel the FEI Five-Year-Old and FEI Six-Year-Old awards, effective 10/1/2007. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Peggy Klump MOVED and Carol Tice SECONDED a motion to approve the following request.**

2. Add an USEF Four-Year-Old category to the Dressage Breeder of the year, effective 10/1/2007. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Peggy Klump MOVED and Barbara Petti SECONDED a motion to approve the following request.**

3. Recommend eliminating the existing Quadrille year-end awards, effective 10/1/2007. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Carol Tice MOVED and Kathy Moffitt SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Instructor Trainer Council Report - Chair: Lendon Gray, NY**

Fern Feldman reported for Lendon that the council had no motions. The following accomplishments were listed in the council's written report: Three USDF Instructor Certification Testings were held in 2006. The USDF FEI-Level Trainers' Conference was held in Florida. Plans are underway for the 2007 conference, also to be held in Florida. The number of Introductory Workshops was increased in 2007. The council created USDF Pre-Certification Guidelines, revised USDF Instructor Certification Testing Guidelines and revised USDF Instructor Certification Workshop Organizer Guidelines, effective 1/01/07. All program forms, applications and contracts have also been updated and all testing booklets have been revised. In 2006, the council also reviewed written test questions and compiled questions for the oral exam. **Dianne Holston MOVED and Ken Levy SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Budget & Finance Committee Report – Robert Higgins, chair**

Robert Higgins reported that there were no motions or budget requests for the committee. He outlined the Audit Committee proposal that was approved by the Executive Board.

### ***Audit Committee Proposal***

The Audit Committee shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than five current USDF members who do not serve on the USDF Executive Board, are not paid USDF staff or have a financial conflict of interest. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the chairman, with the approval of the USDF Executive Board. At least one member should be a financial expert.

The Audit Committee shall recommend to the USDF Board of Governors (BOG) the selection of the Independent Auditor, manage the relationship with the Independent Auditor and oversee and monitor Management's handling of Internal Controls to ensure the quality of disclosure and the Financial Reporting of the organization. The Audit Committee shall review the Audit findings and Auditor's management letter, report to the USDF Board of Governors and recommend action as needed. The Audit Committee shall be able to investigate all matters of fiscal controls including but not limited to Budget Control, Risk Management, Legal Compliance, Conflict of Interest and Ethics/Code of Conduct; establish procedures for the receipt, documentation, and resolution of complaints received by the USDF regarding accounting, internal controls, and auditing. The Audit Committee shall review and approve USDF established procedures to ensure that USDF members and employees are granted "whistleblower protection," which would prohibit other USDF staff and/or the USDF Executive Board from taking any punitive actions against employees or USDF members who disclose information to the Audit Committee. Following the investigation of any such matters, the Committee shall promptly report its findings to the USDF Executive Board and where appropriate make recommendations to the USDF Board of Governors as needed. The Audit Committee shall recommend the establishment of policies and controls that encompass any activity that may have impact on the financial wellbeing of USDF. **Kate O'Connor MOVED and Beth Glass SECONDED a motion to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Animal Welfare Report – Barbara Tuohino Funk**

Barbara reported that the proposal for a national identification system for all livestock, including horses (NAIS) has been tabled by Congress. Also, the Horse Slaughter Consumption Bill still has not been voted on by Congress. The Unwanted Horse Coalition is now part of the American Horse Council, and USDF has joined the coalition.

### **Approval of 2007-2008 Budget – Barbara Tuohino Funk**

Barbara explained that USDF has improved its financial processes to ensure that the organization is in compliance with the Sarbanes Oxley Act. She and Stephan Hienzsch discussed the process that USDF follows in order to achieve a balanced budget. Stephan said that the task of the office is to achieve the desired objectives of the organization while maximizing revenue and minimizing expenses. He noted that the last USDF dues increase was on January 1, 2003. Some of the changes proposed to maintain a balanced USDF budget, if approved, will take about one year to implement and before USDF realizes additional income. USDF will be five years from the last dues increase at that point and can possibly avoid another dues increase for one more year after that. Stephan outlined several proposals to generate income. The Executive Board has supported raising the Lifetime Horse Registration fee from \$65 to \$75. This fee hasn't been increased since 1999. The Executive Board also supported consolidating Business Membership categories for a new fee of \$150. A proposal has been made to implement a non-member fee of \$20 per competition. Stephan explained who would pay this fee (riders and owners in non-exempt classes) and how the fee would be collected. It was also proposed to increase the show recognition fee. USDF is going to discontinue selling test copies but will allow free downloads from the website so that is a loss of revenue which the increase in the show recognition fee will help to offset.

USDF is also proposing to eliminate the rebate for PMs who are also GMs. There is a large administrative expense related to giving this rebate. Barbara added that the GMO Council had recommended increasing the HID fee from \$20 to \$25 and the Lifetime Horse Registration fee from \$65 to \$100. Sherry Guess said that another possibility is a graduated Horse Registration fee based on a horse's age. Barbara and Cindy Vimont responded that this is very expensive to administrate. Sandi Lieb expressed the opinion that many horses registered early for a low fee will never compete, so a lot of horses are lost through attrition. Cindy clarified administrative fees related to the GM rebate and some alternative recommendations that had been suggested. Rachel Ehrlich explained the pros and cons of the USEF and USDF horse registration fee structures. Some people supported keeping the horse registration fee at \$65 for young horses and \$100 for mature horses. Kathy Moffitt said the Competition Management Council did not support a non-member fee per show but did support a one-time non-member fee and a \$0.10 fee per ride down center line.

Ken Levy expressed concern for the lack of advance notice about the possible budget problems and income shortfall. He asked about certain expenses, in particular the “Dressage Resource Center” line item in the budget. Marilyn Kulifay said that increased competition fees, such as the proposed \$20 non-member fee, will hurt our potential membership and the shows, since schooling shows thrive due to their lower expenses as compared to recognized shows. Heather Petersen is in favor of a \$20 annual non-member fee. Peggy Klump made the point that GMOs charge a fee and, in her opinion, it is absurd to charge a non-member fee. Jennifer Mitchell said that the sport is expensive and she understands both sides of the issue. Sam Barish requested a straw vote on people in favor of a non-member fee, in principle. In a nonbinding show of hands, a large majority of delegates approved, in principle, charging a non-member fee. In another straw poll, delegates were asked to indicate their support of charging a non-member fee per show vs. one non-member fee per year. . In this case, the majority favored a “per competition” non-member fee. Stephan pointed out that the potential benefit of the fee increases won’t be fully realized until the next full fiscal year after the effective date of any fee increase.

A delegate asked why USDF isn’t truly paperless. Chad Compton explained the need for a paper trail. Sarah Jane Martin noted that, the last time the BOG had to deal with an unbalanced budget, the decision was made to reduce expenses in all categories.

**Don Faso MOVED and Judith Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to call the question on approval of the budget.** However, Don withdrew his motion since there was no motion on the floor to approve the budget. **Robert Higgins MOVED and Judy Fiorentino SECONDED a motion to approve the budget. Don Faso MOVED and Beth Glass SECONDED a motion to call the question. MOTION CARRIED to call the question.**

It was clarified that all original fee increases from the original budget proposal were contained in the motion to approve the budget. Voting by a show of hands was too close to determine the outcome. Voting by electronic kiosk was required on the motion.

It was clarified that the budget proposal includes the following fee changes: (1) Increasing the Lifetime Horse Registration fee from \$65 to \$85; (2) Changing the Business Memberships to one category for a fee of \$150; (3) Charging a non-member fee per person per competition; (4) Eliminating the discount for GMs who join USDF as a PM; and (4) Increasing the competition recognition fee from \$50 or \$65 to \$75 (i.e., for shows of any length).

During the voting, Bess Reineman from Region 9 reported that Region 9 had purchased a bench at the National Education Center for a cost of \$16,000. GMOs in the region are helping to pay for the bench. The region has adopted an innovative way to help fund the cost. The first ten people donating \$1,000 towards the cost will be entered into a drawing for a lifetime USDF membership. The region is accepting pledges for the \$1,000 amounts. They hope to raise a total of \$30,000 over three years, with drawings for a lifetime USDF membership for each group of ten donors.

**After voting on the budget was completed, Lisa Gorretta MOVED and Kate O’Connor SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 pm. MOTION CARRIED.** After adjournment, Sam Barish announced that the budget was approved by a margin of 978 to 913 votes, with three abstentions. **MOTION CARRIED to pass the budget.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Janine W. Malone  
USDF Secretary