



**2010 Adequan[®]/United States Dressage Federation
National Convention & Symposium**

**November 30-December 5
Jacksonville, Florida**

Regional Director Reports

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Region 1 Report

Director: Alison Head, VA

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

This spring, because we were hosting the adult clinic with Charlotte Bredahl in May, we opted not to hold a Spring Regional meeting. Instead, we had a conference call (the first I have had with GMO leaders in the region) to discuss our championship show bids for 2011, followed by an e-mail vote to decide both the GAIG Regional Championship location and the BLM Championship location. This procedure worked quite well. The call was very well attended and, in fact, some of the smaller GMOs that don't usually attend the meetings were able to participate. There was a lively discussion that included input from the management teams of all three bidding organizations. We also had a very high level of participation in the voting process. The end result was that VADA was awarded the 2011 Regional Championships at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington the third weekend of October, and ESDCTA was awarded the BLM Championships at the New Jersey Horse Park the weekend before. This is the first time we have run these championships on back-to-back weekends, so it will be interesting to see if attendance is affected. NCDCTA did not receive a championship for 2011. The consensus was to see how this year's Regional Championships went before awarding another show as many are not familiar with the Williamston facility.

The following events have taken place during the past year:

- GAIG/USDF Championships – to be held in Williamston, North Carolina, hosted by NCDCTA the third week of November. NCDCTA has put great effort into promoting this show and the “new to the region” facility and we hope it will be a great success.
- BLM Championships were held October 21-24, at the Virginia Horse Center run by the highly experienced VADA team. Entries were very high with large and competitive championship classes and the show was graced with superb weather for the duration. Some interesting judging issues arose during the show and I imagine will be a topic of discussion at this convention.
- USDF Adult Clinic with Charlotte Bredahl at Hassler Dressage in Chesapeake City, Maryland. The clinic went off well with some great riders at a variety of levels and plenty of auditors. As an added attraction, we were given a preview of Hassler Dressage's nearly completed new facilities which are just amazing. Charlotte was a pleasure to work with throughout.
- Youth Team Competition – again hosted by VADA/Nova in Leesburg, Virginia and managed by me. Despite fears of lower entries due to the economy, the show was as large as usual and very successful. Sponsorship remained steady, allowing us to again have the free pizza party and lots of great prizes including bridles, halters and a helmet from Antares. Heat was a major factor, with both days near 100 degrees, but horses, riders and volunteers held up amazingly well.

- Adult Team Competition – the Adult Team Competition was also back this year, hosted by VADA at Commonwealth Park, a HITS facility. Although entries were a bit lighter than hoped for, it was a great show and the facility was in good shape. This year, the competition was run in conjunction with two one-day licensed shows. This provided some logistical complications, but proved to be popular as riders could actually do both shows if they wanted. The lower divisions were run as “opportunity classes” within the licensed shows, thus keeping costs down for the riders.
- Advanced Jr/YR Programs – Scott Hassler again offered to host low-cost training sessions for our declared Juniors and Young Riders at Hassler Dressage. The riders also participated in a fundraising freestyle exhibition, which was one of the inaugural events at the new Hassler Dressage facility. This was a great experience for the Juniors and Young Riders and we are grateful to Scott and Suzanne for continuing to make this education possible. Despite a slightly disappointing result at the NAJYRC, our teams worked well together, assisted by the new Chef D’Equipe, Anne Moss, and everyone had a great time and enjoyed being in Kentucky just prior to the WEG.
- Region 1 Omnibus – retains the same format as prior years. The cover contest is very popular and we had a great cover photo this year. Raising the cost per book to \$15 seems to have slowed losses, but there is little if any profit in the book at current prices. I hesitate to raise costs to the shows or advertisers at this point in time. We are currently struggling with USEF’s decision to raise costs to commercial rates for reprinting tests in the book. We can’t afford those rates, but do feel that the tests encourage people to use the Omnibus, thus increasing distribution and advertising.
- Region 1 Awards – Nominations are still open at this time. We seem to have trouble getting submissions although those we do get are usually very qualified. The awards need better advertising. For some of these regional activities there is a need for more volunteer help to keep things running.
- Dressage at Devon – 35th anniversary year. Entries and revenue were down due to the conflict with WEG and, unfortunately, the weather was not very cooperative either. However, things mostly went well including a quite successful Grand Prix division, and plans are already underway for more improvements for 2011.

Region 2 Report

Director: Ken Levy, IN

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

The competitive season is wrapping up in Region 2. The summer was quite variable in terms of weather. Too hot and wet most of the summer, and much of Region 2's August and September brought drought. Competition participation was inconsistent. Many show managers communicated that the economy was still the primary reason why show attendance was down. Many shows kept closing dates open without penalty and as Regional Championship qualifying deadlines drew near, the competitions that were held close to closing date did experience increased show attendance. The World Equestrian Games, held at the Kentucky Horse Park (Region 2) will have taken place by the time this report is published, but I'm sure much will be written about this event. We had outstanding TV coverage and the feedback that I have read is that the USDF headquarters at the park did all of us proud. I heard rave reviews about the USDF staff and that they made everyone welcome. Congratulations Stephan and the rest of the USDF staff.

Regional Championships

Region 2 Championships were held September 11, 12 and 13, 2010, at the Horseshow by the Bay facility in Travers City, Michigan. Attendance at the competition included 246 competitors riding 246 horses. There were 220 riders and horses competing in the championship classes. This is down considerably from previous years and after speaking to many who qualified for the championships and did not show in Travers City, I have come to the conclusion that many competitors elected to travel to St. Louis to compete in the Region 4 Championships. When I inquired why they elected to travel outside their region, distance to the competition was the number one reason given. The championship this year was extremely well run and the facility was fantastic in terms of stabling, show rings, warm-up rings and an overall focus on making the competitor happy. The Saturday evening competitor's party was something to be experienced. It was sponsored by Hampton Green Farm and was conducted during the FEI Freestyle competition and the food and beverage was something that I have not experienced at a horse show. As Regional Director I attended the Regional Championships and also, upon request from Stephan Hienzsch, I participated in the Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning Championship Awards Ceremonies. Carrie Schwartz did an outstanding job of keeping everything on time and safe.

The 2011 Region 2 Championships will be held September 22-25, 2011, at Majestic Farms in Batavia, Ohio.

Region 2 FEI Jr/YR Teams

Roz Kinstler again did an outstanding job of Chef d'Equipe for both the Junior and Young Rider teams. We had a full Junior team but only three qualified riders for the Young Rider team. Although the team did not finish in the top slots, I am very proud of their team spirit, their sportsmanship and the effort that each team member displayed. I am also very proud of the Region 2 GMOs. When asked for financial support, 17 of the Region 2 GMOs stepped-up and donated to the cause. This really helped the teams

and they demonstrated their appreciation by creating a super banner thanking the GMOs for their help. This banner was displayed during the FEI Jr/YR Championships and will be brought to the annual meeting in Florida. Region 2 was very proud of our own Roz Kinster for being the co-award winner of the Inaugural Albers Award. Roz's co-winner was Jeremy Steinberg from Region 6. Congratulations to both Roz and Jeremy.

FEI Jr/YR Clinic

We did not have a clinic in Region 2 this year; however we are scheduled to hold a clinic in March 2011 at Temple Farms. More information will be available in the report for the annual meeting.

Clinics and Education

There were numerous high quality educational programs and clinics conducted this year. We have two Judge's continuing education programs scheduled, a Freestyle clinic, a USDF L Program was conducted and Region 2 will have the USDF Adult Clinic on October 30 – 31, 2010. Of special note was the four-day clinic held by Jennifer Conour with Dr. Gerd Heuschmann. This clinic was especially exciting since J. Ashton More and Jim Masterson were also in attendance. Riders and auditors were treated to extensive discussions on each horse and how to improve performance through training of the horse and rider and how to improve the horses through massage therapy.

USDF Region 2 PM Delegates

There were 25 nominations for the 12 delegate positions. After the election the following were named as the 2010 PM delegates: Kevin Bradbury, Paula Briney, Barbara Cadwell, Ed Eichelberger, Lisa Gorretta, Sue Hughes, William Maybee, Bonnie Gray, Susan Posner, Barbara Soukup, Jennifer Truett and Nancy Wentz.

Region 2 Communication

As the candidate for Region 2 Director, I ran on a platform of expanded communication and involvement of the GMO and PM delegates. To this point we developed a new Region 2 Web site, which has been extensively used to communicate competition information, educational opportunities, regional news and important facts that help the region stay in touch with each other. In addition, we have also provided regional input on two regional newsletters. As Regional Director, I also meet with a number of GMO representatives in Michigan and reinforced the importance of the GMOs to the USDF.

USEF Youth Sportsman's Award

Region 2 GMO Presidents and PM delegates were asked to support the one applicant from Region 2. After reviewing Marlena Vande Streek's (Kalamazoo, MI) application, a unanimous agreement was reached to support Marlena's application for the award.

Region 3 Report

Director: Sandi Bishop, FL

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

The Regional Championships went back to Conyers, Georgia this year. It was held the 15-17 of October. The weather was perfect for the event and the organization was excellent. It was held over three days, with the third day ending fairly early. There were five rings going all day, with the freestyles on Saturday evening in conjunction with a catered dinner. With one exception, it ran very smoothly. The TD was, and prior to the preparation of the day sheets, it was evident that she found a discrepancy with one rider who had entered three different levels. She scratched her from her non-championship class and kept her in her other two championship classes, which she won.

Unfortunately, she didn't tell either the day secretary or the show manager and the rider then rode her test. Evidently, she thought this show was considered two separate shows and there was no reason for her not to ride three levels. After a meeting of all involved, she was stripped of all of her medals.

The next championships for 2011 will be held again in Ocala with the same team as 2007. With one exception, Lloyd Landkamer will be the secretary. Barbara Petti is the organizer and she is very hands on. She brought a bunch of volunteers to Conyers to prepare for the 2011 championships.

The convention is the next big event in Region 3 and preparations are definitely underway. As you know, the symposium will be in conjunction with a recognized show at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center. The point of the symposium is to introduce the new tests which would be in effect at this show.

I had asked all of the GMO's in my region to contribute to a social event at the convention. I heard from exactly four of the approximately 32 GMO's, and they did contribute. I didn't hear anything from the remaining GMO's.

The show season is just starting in Region 3 and I expect it to be a banner year.

As you know, this is my last convention as Region 3 Director and I would like to say that I have been truly blessed to have worked with some of the most brilliant minds in our world and I thank you all for allowing me to participate. We have done some remarkable things together and it was a really good ride.

Region 4 Report

Director: Lloyd Landkamer, MN

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

Junior/Young Rider Championships

Juniors Riders rode in a combined team with Region 3. This combined team achieved a bronze in the team standings.

The Advanced Young Riders combined with Region 8. This combination earned a team bronze medal.

Shows

Shows were successful throughout the region, with some reporting entries were down, while others reported an increase in entries.

Cancellation of Sport Horse Final

The 2010 Sport Horse Final for our area was canceled due to the lack of entries. The USDF Sport Horse Committee is looking at different locations for this show to make it more accessible for the region and provide this championship to the membership. The USDF Sport Horse Committee is establishing an over site committee to review applications.

E-mail Newsletter

The e-mail newsletter began through an e-mail service. We have had a great response from the membership for adding members to the distribution list. There are almost 2000 on the list within our region.

Web site

The regional Web site is under an overhaul. Areas to be added include posting of GMO newsletters and direct links to each GMO.

Special Note

Clare Krska won her age division at the Dressage Seat Medal Finals.

Emily Wagner qualified in the Young Horse Selection Trials and went on to compete in the World Young Horse Championships.

Region 5 Report

Director: Theresa Hunt, AZ

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society started the year with their annual TD/Show Management Continuing Education Seminar with Laurie Mactavich and Heather Petersen in Castle Rock, Colorado in February. RMDS sponsored an L Program Session D2 May 15-16, at Somerset Farms in Longmont, Colorado with the final exam July 24-25 at Autumn Hill. RMDS also hosted a judges' continuing education that was open to all the membership and had 60+ people attend! Dolly Hannon was the instructor for 2010 and Sandy Hotz will teach it in 2011. RMDS also hosted a Region 5 Adult and Youth Team Competition at Autumn Hill. Other educational events included a symposium with Janet Foy and Steffen Peters, many private barn clinics and several RMDS chapter clinics.

Utah Dressage Society also hosted a Technical Delegate and Show Management Seminar in February led by Heather Petersen and Eva Marie Adolphi. UDS continued their L Program with Session B January 23-24, at Sage Creek; Session C March 13-14, in Salem, Utah; D1 May 8-9, in Nampa, Idaho; and the final exam November 6-7.

In Arizona, Central Arizona Riding Academy started an L Program with Session A October 23-24, and Session B December 11-12, in San Tan Village, Arizona. Tucson Dressage Club had a University session, "Horse Training in Hand", in January and a 2011 New Dressage Test Clinic with Hilda Gurney in November.

Colorado saw the first CDI in Region 5 in almost 15 years. Paragon Dressage CDI, presented by 2 White Feet, Inc., August 20-22, at Estes Park had almost 20 CDI competitors and then another 150 open show competitors. They are planning to host a CDI3* in 2011 that will be the final Pan-Am Games Qualifier and will have the complete Grand Prix tour.

The 2010 Region 5 Championships held in conjunction with the RMDS Championships had 273 horses competing over five days from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota. It had a very nice turnout, great weather, good parties each night and wonderful sportsmanship. Historically, we have had the championships in these states: 1996-NM, 1997-WY, 1998-AZ, 1999-CO, 2000-CO, 2001-NM, 2002-AZ, 2003-CO, 2004-AZ, 2005-CO, 2006-NM, 2007-CO, 2008-AZ, 2009-NM, 2010-CO, 2011-AZ.

Gold for Region 5 again! Congratulations to the Region 5/6 FEI Young Rider Team: Madeleine Birch and Starlight, Laura DeCasari and Cheenook II, Brandi Roenick and Nobel from our region; along with Jhesika Wells and Intrepid from Region 6. She was the only Young Rider from Region 6 so was added to our team. She also won the individual gold medal after contributing a high score for our team gold medal. Junior rider Catherine Chamberlain and Verdicci won the individual silver medal and then went to Gladstone to the Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Dressage Festival of Champions to place second in the Junior Championships. In 2008 our teams won three gold medals at the

NAJYR Championships. Thanks to our FEI Junior/Young Rider Coordinator, Susan Rudman, and Chef d'Equipe Ellie Stine-Masek, as well as all of our supporters and competitions.

The Region 5 FEI Junior/Young Rider Clinic was held on October 23-24, 2010, at Stellar Stables in Parker, Colorado with George Williams.

Congratulations to Region 5 riders who qualified for the Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Festival of Champions held at Gladstone, New Jersey---Junior, Catherine Chamberlain; Young Rider, Brandi Roenick; and Intermediare I, Cyndi Jackson.

Our region gained three more Century Club members in 2010: Cynthia Dunoyer on Casanova, Dr. Jane Rutlege on Gandolf the Gray, and Virginia Wegener on RT Loki. Congratulations to these senior Colorado riders!

Our 2010 Region 5 Lifetime Achievement Award recognized Dr. Rudolf Vlatten. Unfortunately, he passed away prior to being presented the award. He trained and competed on the Lipizzaner stallion Favory Dubowina and the Thoroughbred gelding Academy Formal to Grand Prix, as well as several other horses to the Prix St. Georges and Intermediare Level. In 1981 he founded the Central Arizona Riding Academy (CARA), now owned by his daughter, Dorie, and her husband, Uli Schmitz. CARA hosted many USDF programs including a trainers' conference and "L" Programs, as well as several CDI competitions. Dr. Vlatten was an AHSA (now USEF) "S" judge since 1984. As a judge he was very encouraging and he wrote short bits of advice for the Arizona Dressage Association newsletter. His motto was "Don't go too fast. Take it easy. Be patient with your horse and it will pay back with interest." He earned the respect of those who met him.

Region 6 Report

Director: Donna Longacre, WA

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

2010 has been a banner year for Region 6 and its members! We have had Juniors, Young Riders, Adult Amateurs, professionals, and coaches all recognized for their hard work, dedication and talents this year.

Professional trainer and member of Equestrians Institute, Jennifer S Williams (Yelm, Washington) received the \$25,000 Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Grant from TDF to travel to Europe to study and compete on her mount "H.S.Wistar". She is sending frequent updates and Region 6 is pulling for her as she gains valuable experience on the European front.

Adult Amateur rider Paula Pugh of Whidbey Dressage Society was awarded the coveted USDF Region 6 Gifted Scholarship from TDF for study with a professional of her choice. She wrote a delightful recounting of her week long training experience with Jeremy Steinberg.

Emma Dye, Young Rider coordinator, and Jeremy Steinberg, Chef d'Equipe, can be credited with guiding our Young Riders on their road to VICTORY!! A combined team from Region 5 and 6 earned the TEAM GOLD MEDAL at the NAJYRC in Lexington, Kentucky. Jhesika Wells and "Intrepid" went on to win the INDIVIDUAL GOLD MEDAL. This was their first time experiencing such a high level competition. Sadie Lahay, the region's Junior Rider, also represented the PNW well on her mount "Up to Date P" and scored a presentable 63 percent. Sadie was also nominated by USDF as alternate for the USEF Youth Sportsmanship Award.

Jeremy Steinberg was awarded the National Patsy Albers Perpetual Trophy for his outstanding level of dedication, enthusiasm, and team spirit as Chef d'Equipe at the NAJYRC competition. And ON TOP OF THAT, Jeremy has also been invited by USEF to coach our National Young Riders, who will be vying for the opportunity to represent the US in International competitions. Region 6 is proud of Jeremy and his accomplishmentsand the fact that he "chooses" to live here.

Kelly Irving-Burris and her mount "Cascade" traveled to Kentucky to compete in the Brentina Cup in August. In spite of a family tragedy, Kelly pulled off a respectable performance and kept her fans apprised of her progress. Kelly and her family are a testament to the level of strength and support that is required to compete at this level even in the face of turmoil.

Though our summer was short and sweet, (if you blinked, you missed it), the shows and clinics were well attended, and both youth and adult camps were successful and relatively dry. This was the first year for the Region 6 Youth Camp that was held at the lovely Devonwood Equestrian Center in Sherwood, Oregon. Six instructors gave of their talents for three days to approximately 40 youth riders so they could have the unique opportunity to work with and learn from our region's up and coming young professionals.

Jessica Rattner and Heather Oleson co-organized the camp and pulled it off in style. The purpose of the camp was to not only scout and identify horses and riders with potential, but to develop and foster camaraderie and a sense of “team” amongst the youth in our sport. The camp will serve as a venue to raise funds for the teams that are chosen to represent our region. Our goal is that any rider, regardless of their financial backing, can have the means and therefore the opportunity to compete at the NAJYRC. Many hands make light work.

The adults are chomping on the bit waiting for the final clinic of the USDF Educational series with Charlotte Bredahl-Baker, which is scheduled for March 19-20, 2011, at Summervale Farm in Roy, Washington. Jana Stepffen from EI has stepped up to organize the clinic for our Adult Education Chair Francie Haupt who has been busy on the national front planning educational programs and helping with the new mission statement for the committee.

Educational opportunities abound for Region 6 members with an “Intro to the 2011 Tests” Clinic sponsored by ODS in January; an “L” Judge’s Educational Program, Part 1, A, B and C sessions in January, February, and March, also sponsored by ODS and to be held at Devonwood; and Part 2, in the works is sponsored by EI and scheduled to start in April in the Seattle area. A USDF Region 6 Young Riders Clinic with Sue Blinks is scheduled for early spring at Bear Creek in Woodinville; Central Washington Dressage Society is talking about having an Adult Camp, though it’s still in the planning stages. Region 6 Youth Camp is scheduled for the second weekend in July in 2011, and will return to Devonwood for one more year....WOW, what a schedule!something for everyone! So many opportunities, (too many to list them all) ...so little time!

And how about that Region 6 Championship show?!?! Officially known as the GAIG/USDF and NW Dressage Championships! Rose Newman did a super job of organizing her staff into one mean green working machine! Donida Farms was exquisitely groomed and Johnny-on-the-spot with a helping hand when needed. The show was a resounding success with a huge turnout, good footing, decent weather, well trained volunteers, lovely facility, friendly show personnel, lightning fast scores, efficient awards ceremonies, good food, outstanding trade fair, and, oh ya, did I mention decent weather?!OK, so it rained a little, at least it wasn't a “monsoon” and the footing held up,that's what's important!!

See you all next year in Idaho, Sept 22-25, 2011..... Ya'll come!!

Region 7 Report

Director: Terry Wilson, CA

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

CDS (California Dressage Society) strives to provide opportunities for the various segments of its membership. The 43rd Annual CDS Championship Show, held in conjunction with the GAIG/USDF Region 7 Championships, showcased the top horses and riders in the region. The three RAAC (Regional Adult Amateur Competition) shows offered a chance for amateurs to attend a prestigious event without the stress of competing against the professionals. The Northern and Southern Junior Championships were special shows devoted to the younger members.

Clinics abound in California with many outstanding instructors. The three CDS Amateur clinics featured lectures, lessons, receptions, and discussions with Debbie McDonald. Two special events took place at Starr Vaughn Equestrian Center, due to the generosity of Michele Vaughn. Charlotte Bredahl –Baker conducted the USDF Adult Clinic, and Lendon Gray led a USEF sponsored Junior clinic.

At least twelve California riders traveled across the country to compete at the Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Festival of Champions, and two teams went to the NAJYRC in Kentucky. The Junior Team; Jamie, Genay, Meg and Stephanie, won the silver medal, their best showing since Region 7 started sending Junior Teams to these championships, and Jamie Pestana earned the gold medal. The Young Rider team also did well, placing 4th.

The CDS Scholarship and Travel Grant Funds both helped defray expenses for riders when traveling to these distant shows and for chapters when sponsoring expensive educational activities.

This large GMO has many chapters that plan local activities. All get together for the annual meeting that in 2011 will be held on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. In addition to the working sessions, there will be dinner, dancing, and a live auction on Saturday night.

DASC (Dressage Association of Southern California) held its 13th Championship Show in September at El Sueno, a lovely facility in Somis. Their Web site featured a new member survey as they are attempting to increase the membership and offer them educational and competitive experiences. Last year DASC won national awards for this outstanding Web site. Although the association only sponsors its one championship event, it recognizes many private shows throughout the southern part of the state so riders can qualify for the year-end event.

The GMOs in Hawaii were also very active this year. ASDS (Aloha State Dressage Society) had eight shows and several clinics; Hawaii State Dressage Society, in addition to its shows and clinics, sponsored “The Festival of the Young Rider” with Regional Team Championships.

Adding Facebook to the Web sites so that riders could interact with each other seemed a popular trend this year for many GMOs including Hawaii Isle Dressage and Eventing Association, CQA (California Quadrille Association), and DASC. All the Web sites are beautifully constructed and filled with good information. Many of the mission statements reflect our common goals – This “founding organization” is “dedicated to educating riders about this growing and beautiful sport” states CQA, whereas ASDS adds that the “organization is dedicated to providing educational opportunities; enhancing public awareness, . . . and fostering good sportsmanship and the humane and ethical treatment of horses.”

Even with continued economic problems and the consequent reduction of members, Region 7 continues to offer many special events that promote the sport of dressage.

Region 8 Report

Director: Fern Feldman, CT

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

With the economy still a factor and the location of the WEG being a reasonable distance away, I think many of us prioritized carefully. I know that Region 8 people were very evident at the WEG, and for those of us who made the trip, it truly seemed worth it. I am always leery of crowds, and even at the last minute, I was wondering if it simply would have been easier to catch it on my computer, but I must say, I was glad to have gone. We used the shuttle buses—never a problem; we were properly attired for that cold, rainy day; the stadium was well set-up; and, oh yes—the riding was fabulous! The biggest issue was trying to get some hot coffee on that cold day—that was practically impossible—but, to complain about just that—a pretty minor issue. We realized that the depth of the quality at the WEG compared to the World Cup was because all the top countries sent three or four of their top riders—not just one. It was a great show.

I know that our usual complement of shows managed, but I think that the depth of entries was “softer”. Our regional championships—NEDA’s—at HITS, Saugerties was very strong (and it was an amazingly good year for weather there!). That probably was helped by entries from both Regions 1 and 2—we’re always happy about that. I do have to comment on show management in our region. We are very lucky to have Debbie Reinhardt and Centerline Events. They seem to be connected to so many of our shows in some way or another. Debbie is an excellent professional, and her reputation is so strong that when one hears that she or her group has a hand in something, one counts on quality. I know there are others out there also managing and I truly do not mean to slight anyone. The fact is that I rarely hear complaints about management—and that’s a great thing.

The USDF Instructor Certification program is a signature program for USDF and it has traditionally been very strong in our region. There were workshops in both New York and Massachusetts, and testings in both states as well. I’d like to congratulate the following Region 8 people for their success: Rochelle McPherson (Recognized Teacher), Jayne Marino (Training-4th), Suzanne Markham (Training-4th), Paula Pierce (Training-4th), Lisa Pierson (Training-4th), Jessica van Eyck (Training-4th), Nikki Nobles (Training-2nd), Marie Banks (Training-2nd). Donna Leonessa has been a driving force for the last two years, organizing (with the Connecticut Dressage Association’s backing and help) workshops, pre-certs and a testing. She and others have developed mini-workshops, which have been extremely successful. In this format, a participant can sign up for what he or she needs, whether it is lunging, teaching or riding. It is particularly helpful if, after the first two-day workshop on lunging, for example, the participant feels that she still needs some help. Then at a mini-workshop, this candidate can get another chance—under expert guidance—on improving her skills in that particular area.

Dressage4Kids, Inc’s signature event—Lendon’s Youth Dressage Festival—was held at HITS in July this year. We were worried about the timing, feeling that we were not giving the kids enough time to hone their skills following the school year, but our worries were unfounded. This show was one of our largest. We are particularly proud of “alums” who

we feel have benefited from participating in our shows over the years. To mention two: Meagan Davis will be the US representative at the FEI World Cup Dressage for Young Riders in Frankfurt, Germany in December. To earn this honor, Meagan was the USEF National Young Rider Champion and the winner at Devon. Also, Isabelle Leibler has been chosen as the USDF national nominee for the USEF's Youth Sportsman Award.

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Reineman, TX

2010 Fall Executive Board Meeting, December 1 – December 5 Jacksonville, Florida

New to the **Region 9 Web site** is “**Mail Chimp**” – I send out a newsletter to over 350 members once a month using this Web based e-mail newsletter service. In addition to the new Mail Chimp newsletter, I send an Eblast newsletter out – thru the USDF office - once a month to all Region 9 members. The Region 9 Web site has also become our historical regional record. The regional meeting minutes, reports, and financials are now posted monthly, along with show and event calendars, and the Region 9 Omnibus in PDF form. Included is the Region 9 Policies & Procedures, which were revised this year. On the home page regional deadlines, regional award winners, and any up-to-date news is posted. All our forms and applications are now “online friendly”. Nicole Landrenau – the regional Webmaster – is doing an awesome job with keeping the Web site updated so our members stay informed. The goal is an all inclusive Web site to benefit all our GMO’s and members.

The **Region 9 Summer Meeting** in New Orleans, Louisiana was productive and fun. Thanks to Southern Eventing & Dressage Association for their work and support in making it a success. Regional and GMO reports, along with the summer meeting minutes, are posted on the Region 9 Web site. Our 2011 Summer Meeting will be in the Houston area – possibly Galveston, with Houston Dressage Society as host. These meetings are very important for our region’s GMOs and members to get together, brainstorm, discuss, and plan the future of our region so dressage will continue to grow.

We are gearing up for a huge (record breaking number of riders/horses) **Region 9 GAIG /USDF/SWDC (4 day) Championship Show in Katy, Texas**. Kathy Jones, HDS, and the show committee have worked long hours planning and preparing. It is an arduous task to say the least. Over 100 volunteers (along with hopefully good weather) will help to make it a success.

The 15th edition of the **Region 9 2011 Omnibus** will be available by the end of November as a PDF on the Region 9 Web site, or for purchase as a printed book, CD, or flash drive. Thanks to Tess Wheat and Liz Grimsley for their patience and tireless work.

Since our region is financially stable, we offer grants for GMO’s to help with dressage camps, judges, and instructor/trainer seminars. A couple of GMO’s have already applied this year for the **Region 9 Educational Grant**. We also offer a **Region 9 GMO Board Travel Grant** to help a GMO send a member to either the regional summer meeting or the USDF convention.

We are hopefully less than a year away from paying for the beautiful **Region 9 Bench** which proudly sits in the USDF National Education Center courtyard. It was viewed and set upon (a perfect photo op) by many Region 9 members during WEG in September.

Two major Regional Awards are given each year. In its 18th year is the **Region 9 Horse Person of the Year**. Evie Tumlin is the much deserved recipient for 2010. The **Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award**, in its 2nd year, goes to Paul Kathen for a job well done.

The **Region 9 FEI Jr/YR's** were busy fundraising this year. They pay for the entry fees and give each NAJYRC rider and the chef funds to help with NAJYRC travel expenses. A full team of four Jr's and four YR's were funded this year. They are busy planning the upcoming January 2011 FEI Jr/YR clinic with George Williams.

The **Dr. Bob Fund** awarded \$1000 to Jill Cowie and \$750 to Tara Gleason as the 2010 recipients. This award helps with the expenses of declared riders campaigning for NAJYRC.

A million thanks to Joan Darnell for guiding the Jr's and YR's, and being the Region 9 FEI Jr/YR Coordinator for the past six years. She is retiring as the coordinator in December due to work conflicts, but will be greatly missed.

Mary Wetzel is also retiring as our regional Youth Coordinator. She has given tirelessly, and with determined dedication over nine years of service to the youth of our region, and kept the fires and dressage desires burning for the future of our sport.

Our GMOs, shows, clinics, and members remain active despite the continued economic recession. There is a drop in attendance from 2009 in many shows, events, and clinics. GMO's and members are very careful where they spend their dollar, but we are still spreading the news about the benefits of dressage one person/horse at a time.

Thanks to all the regional board - (past coordinators) and regional committee chairs. Our regional board structure is changing for 2011 to closely follow the new USDF Committee Structure. Board appointments are made by January 1. We are in hopes it will benefit our members and make the business side of our region more effective and efficient.