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Region 1 Report

Director: Lisa Schmidt, NJ

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

Having been Regional Director not yet a full quarter, I am still getting up to speed on responsibilities, USDF Bylaws and Policies & Procedures. Everyone at USDF and in the region can not be more helpful, especially the previous Region 1 Director, Alison Head.

The biggest accomplishment so far in 2011 has been the redesign and updating of the Region 1 Website with a new webmistress volunteer. GMO's now have another avenue to promote their educational activities and the region can keep up to date on all news related to dressage. I have also appointed a Social Media Coordinator to keep regional news prominent on the new Region 1 Facebook and Twitter pages. I am also sending out monthly e-newsletters to supplement e-news sent by the USDF office.

Updates on 2011 Events

- GAIG/USDF Regional Championships: Will be held the fourth weekend in October at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia, hosted by VADA. This facility and management always run a first class show and will be run as a level 4 competition.
- BLM Championships: Will be held the third weekend in October at the Horse Park of New Jersey in Allentown, New Jersey, hosted by ESDCTA. While this GMO and facility have had success running championships in the past, there is some concern that running championships on back to back weekends may or may not affect entry numbers.
- Youth Team Competition: Will be hosted by VADA/NOVA July 23 and 24, at Morven Park as in the past. Looking forward to improved GMO sponsorship.
- Adult Team Competition: Will be hosted by ESDCTA at the Horse Park of New Jersey September 24 and 25. A local Pony Club is hosting a horse trial at the facility on that Sunday which will help keep costs down and opens the possibility to expose more youth to dressage.
- Region 1 Omnibus: The format and price has remained the same for 2011. Costs are always an issue with USPS delivery sometimes being a problem. The region, however, relies heavily on the omnibus for show information and we were able to obtain permission to reprint the new USEF tests for this first year. Paying the cost to reprint next year may be prohibitive.
- Young Horse Selection Trials: VADA/NOVA is again hosting the East Coast Selection Trials for the World Breeding Championships at Morven Park June 3-5, 2011. This date unfortunately conflicts with the CDI Dressage Classic in Raleigh,

but both show managements are coordinating for 2012 so this does not happen in the future.

- CDI's: We are lucky in Region 1 to host three CDI's for high performance riders. ESDCTA's Memorial Weekend CDI 3* May 26-29, 2011, in Allentown, New Jersey, Capital Dressage Classic 3* June 3-5, 2011, in Raleigh, North Carolina and Dressage at Devon CDI W-3* September 27-October 2, 2011, in Devon, Pennsylvania.
- Instructor Programs: Averett University in Danville, Virginia, hosted Instructor Workshops and a pre-certification on March 23-26, 2011. Hilltop Farm in Coloma, Maryland, will host the final exam on April 1-3, 2011.
- Judge's Continuing Education Programs: ESDCTA hosted a review of the new USEF tests in December 2010, and VADA is hosting a review of the new USEF tests with Linda Zang on April 23, 2011.
- Region 1 Awards: Recipients of the Region 1 Awards were again selected by the Region's GMO's.

Achievement at the USEF Levels – Alison Head
Achievement at the FEI Levels – Lauren Spreiser
Contribution to Dressage (Junior) – Peyton Morris

Region 1 Spring Meeting

On March 20, 2011, Scott and Suzanne Hassler opened their home and beautiful facility at Riveredge, in Chesapeake City, Maryland, to host the spring Region 1 Meeting. The day before, they also ran a clinic with Linda Zang to review test riding strategies. We are lucky to have such a lovely facility in our region for educational events. They have also offered Riveredge for a Youth Training Camp for the Region with Jeremy Steinberg, the new USEF Youth Coach.

There were 21 representatives from eight GMO's, and nine PM delegates that attended the meeting. The region voted on the dates and venues for the 2012 GAIG/USDF Regional Championships and the BLM Championships. NCDCTA was awarded the Regional Championships at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center in Williamston, North Carolina, November 1-4, 2012. VADA was awarded the BLM Championships October 18-21, 2012, at the Virginia Horse Park in Lexington, Virginia.

Ideas which were presented and agreed to pursue included: NAJC/NAYRC Team fundraisers/silent auctions at three shows in the region, NAJC/NAYRC Team volunteer incentives, a regional educational symposium, fundraising through Web site ads, Youth training session with Jeremy Steinberg, new Region 1 Trainer award and annual Region 1 Hall of Fame induction at Dressage at Devon.

GMO's in attendance exchanged ideas for educational events, competitions, membership increases and enhancements.

The next regional meeting will be October 20, 2011, in Leesburg, Virginia.

GMO Activities

Region 1 GMO's have planned many educational events in 2011 which are too numerous to list in this report.

However, GMO activities in the first three months of 2011 included:

- Fox Village Training Session for Region 1 hosted by OVCTA Saturday, March 5, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.
- Tea is for Training presented by PVDA , training for dressage show volunteers Sunday, March 6, Clarksville, Maryland.
- The Virginia Dressage Association – Charlottesville Chapter, hosted a New Test-Ride and Review Clinic with Carter Bass on March 6, Gordonsville, Virginia.
- LVDA hosted a New USEF dressage tests discussion March 23, with Lisa Schmidt, Hellertown, Pennsylvania, at 7PM.

Region 2 Report

Director: Ken Levy, IN

***2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17
Lexington, KY***

Key Accomplishments for Q1 2011

- Filled all Region 2 volunteer positions for National committees.
- Region 2 Nominating Committee has secured a full contingent of candidates for the 2011 election of PM Delegates. As of February 20, we have 13 candidates for 12 positions.
- Maintained an active and up to date Region 2 Web site. Schooling shows, clinics and educational programs are updated monthly.
- Region 2 selected as the first test site for the USDF Youth Clinic and Talent Search with the USEF National Youth Coach Jeremy Steinberg. The clinic will be held March 26 – 27, 2011, at Tempel Farms in Wadsworth, Illinois.
- Established 2012 Region 2 Regional Championship selection Committee. In addition to the Regional Director, the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Committee: Sue Mandas, Gail Anderson, Deb Heier and Nancy Lewis-Stanton. Upon close of the submission date for Regional Championship candidates, we have three facilities that have successfully submitted applications. One in Michigan, one in Illinois, and one in Kentucky.
- Finalized the list of the Region 2 schooling champions and ribbons have been distributed.

Disappointments for Q1 2011

- Lost one GMO (Little Egypt) due to low number of members interested in competing and interest in pursuing equestrian disciplines outside of Dressage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Levy Ph.D., MBA
USDF Region 2 Director

Region 3 Report

Director: Kimberly Taylor, FL

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

This is my first report as a new Regional Director. I emailed all GMO presidents asking for news from each of their GMO's. My thinking is this should be their report on what is happening in Region 3.

Personally, I have been working on Championships 2011 at HITS with Barbara Petti. It is shaping up to be a wonderful show for the competitors. Also, I had three wonderful sites apply for the 2012 Championships. Each would be wonderful, so a very tough decision!

I am working on dates for an Adult Clinic with Lilo in 2012, looking for a facility, and coordinator.

Being new to the Executive Board, I contacted Region 9 Director, Bess Reineman, asking for guidance since she is a seasoned Director. She was very helpful. In January, I participated in my first conference call. I was more of a listener getting the hang of what is going on.

Early in January, I emailed all GMO presidents asking for a membership drive. I have really been speaking about membership and the need to grow. I have had some of the GMO presidents email me back with great results and being very creative in their endeavors. Very exciting!!!

Kimmie Arredondo is having a benefit clinic for the Horse Protecting Association of Florida on April 17 at Canterbury equestrian showplace in Newberry. Each clinician donates one-two lessons that they will auction off online, held at Canterbury. They are also having a used tack sale and lots of raffle items. Kesmarc, the horse rehab center, has given two one-week sessions at the spa and Craig Roberts has donated horse evaluations and supplements. Last year they raised over \$3000 for HPAF. This year is a great line up of instructors.

The Northwest Florida Chapter of the Deep South Dressage Combined Training Association had its 4th Annual St. Jude Benefit Horse Show on February 26, 2011, to help raise money for the cancer children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This event was held at Willow Bend South, Cottondale, Florida. The demo exhibition was fun to watch with drill teams, reining, western pleasure and equitation, barrel racing and roping. They also had a tack swamp sale that day, where 10 percent of the sales went to St. Jude. It was a huge success!

The Deep South Dressage and Combined Training Association membership is currently hard at work raising funds and working on ideas to promote the Region 3 Dressage Championships on October 14-15-16, 2011, at the HITS Post Time Farm in Ocala, Florida. Also in the works for DSDCTA are four recognized shows (two with sport horse divisions), clinics, and the annual Adult Horse Camp. Any Region 3 GMO is invited to

take an active part in assisting with the championships. If you missed Amerika at the WEG, she will be visiting a DSDCTA chapter soon. If you don't know who Amerika is, visit dsdcta.org.

Reitergeist continues to grow! They now have over 45 members in a total of seven months in existence. They had their first clinic of the season scheduled for the end of March with noted author and biomechanic specialist Holly Mason of Rhode Island, also a long time student of Karl Mikolka's, and then on April 16, they have a two-day clinic scheduled with Shannon Peters, another long time student of Karl's. Both clinics are full which says good things about the enthusiasm level.

Delta Dressage in Memphis, Tennessee is holding a New Test Seminar with "S" judge, David Schmutz. They are using the new *On the Levels* video in the presentation. They also just received word that they were granted \$1000 from the Dressage Foundation towards their June clinic with Heather Blitz on biomechanics. This will be a riding clinic. Their shows are listed at www.Deltadressage.com. Their club also made the Helmet Pledge available at the Annual Awards Banquet. They gave away t-shirts and had a drawing for a Troxel Helmet.

Region 4 Report

Director: Lloyd Landkamer, MN

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

2011 is the Year of Communication for Region 4.

We launched our bulk email system (USDF Region 4 E-news) to 1648 subscribers. This is a huge percentage of the dressage population within the region.

Started a Facebook page “USDF Region Four” for members and interested parties. Debbie Walkinshaw (debbiechris@gmail.com) will help in the administration of the page. The bulk email is equipped to post the information to the Facebook page.

Upgrades to the Region 4 Web site are in process. It will include the posting of the GMO newsletters for everyone to read.

Campaign for sponsorship of Region Four’s FEI Junior and Young Rider teams has begun. They are taking a different approach by using donated hotel points, restaurant points, and frequent flyer miles to help fund different projects for education and their stay at the Championships.

Nancy Gorton has organized a Freestyle Clinic with Luna Tunes on April 16-17, at Pine Hills Farm to help in the education of the FEI Junior and Young Riders about and the development of Freestyles. Partial funding is being provided by The Dressage Foundation.

Nebraska Dressage Association (NDA) will be hosting the USDF Adult Clinic with Lilo Fore on November 5-6, 2011.

CSDEA will be hosting the Instructor Certification Series throughout the 2011 year with a final testing. The clinics are being organized by Colleen Holden of Minneapolis.

Kansas City Dressage Association continues with the L program that started in 2010.

DSHB shows have been developed throughout the region with a finals scheduled to be held at the Region 4 Championships.

Two judges promoted from “r” to “R” in the last USEF R Dressage Program – Ms. Anne Cizadlo and Ms. Cheryl Holekamp.

Region 5 Report

Director: Heather Petersen, CO

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

Region 5 would once again like to thank Theresa Hunt for her many years of great leadership in our region. We have had some change in personnel this spring on a couple of committees. Kathleen Donnelly has stepped up as our new FEI NAJYRC coordinator, while Susan Rudman, our previous coordinator, will be staying on as Chef. This will help the transition along over the coming year. We have seven Young Riders and eleven Juniors declared at this point for the FEI NAJYRC Championships teams. Good luck to all of them in their qualifying endeavors.

Kay Lorenzen has already done a great job as our new Nominating Committee member. We have currently eleven people running for our five available participating member delegate positions.

The Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund of The Dressage Foundation awarded two grants to individuals in Region 5. Congratulations to Jasmine Becker of Colorado who received \$1400 to train with Nick Wagman. And another congratulations to Catherine Chamberlain of Arizona who received \$400 to train with Shannon Peters.

The USDF Adult Clinic with Lilo Fore will be held in Region 5, April of 2012. The Utah Dressage Society will host the clinic, which is a first for our region and we look forward to reaching a new group of folks, yet hope that others in our region will travel to this beautiful area to learn from Lilo.

The 2011 Great American/USDF Region 5 Championships will be held November 4-6, 2011, in Scottsdale, Arizona. We have received one bid for the 2012 Championships from The Collectives. The Collectives have bid to host the show in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Most of the GMOs in our region have been quite active since the USDF convention over the winter months and they are getting ready for busy springs and summers.

Big Sky Dressage Association has definitely been affected by the economic downturn as seen by the reduced numbers of willing participants and members. Their members who show have to travel over eight to fifteen hours to reach a recognized show. Their upcoming activities include a Desensitization Clinic on April 8-10, with Sgt. Alan John. He specializes in preparing horses for police work in bigger cities. BSDA felt this would benefit dressage, eventers and western horses for preparing them for the "spooky areas" at shows and clinics. BSDA will be bringing back Ms. Jutta Schott Reitlehrer, FN, Warendorf for a series of four clinics starting in May. Jutta formulates a systematic progressive instruction plan for each individual and horse. This is very helpful in an area where many individuals work on their own.

Rocky Mountain Dressage Society held their annual L Graduate Continuing Education program in January with Sandra Hotz and had over 50 people in attendance. They hosted their Technical Delegate and Show Management Seminar in February with

Laurie Mactavish, Heather Petersen and Laura Speer, which was also well attended. RMDS will have an open Adult Amateur forum with Janet Foy on March 16, a Foxvillage Education clinic with Heather Petersen on March 22, and an AA clinic with Heather Robertson on June 4-5, in addition to a busy show season. RMDS participated in the Horse Expo in Denver from March 11-13, to reach out into the horse community and attract new members. It went very well. More information on all events is available at the RMDS Web site - www.rmids.org or you can become a fan of RMDS on Facebook.

The Utah Dressage Society hosted a very nice awards banquet in February. They are starting a new UDS level of schooling shows that will allow the membership an opportunity to show outside of the USEF/USDF show level and also earn them awards and rewards. They are working on several different projects for 2011 and looking forward to a great year.

New Mexico Dressage Association is also implementing some changes to their awards system for 2011. NMDA has established a new scholarship program. They hosted a two day clinic with Seana Adamson on relaxation and preparing self and rider that was very well attended. They are looking forward to hosting several shows this coming year.

The Arizona Dressage Association will finish hosting the USDF L program this year. The L program is held in conjunction with several of the ADA USEF/USDF recognized competitions. They also have several educational events and schooling shows on their calendar.

Paso del Norte Dressage Society has several clinics and schooling shows happening within their area this spring to help their members get ready for show season. They are working to increase their membership by offering several different incentives to keep older members and bring in newer members. Their awards program has also been updated and thus, it has caused some changes in their schooling show policies. PdNDS is also working hard to prepare for their "Amigos de Dressage" show in May of 2011. This show benefits Therapeutic Horsemanship of El Paso.

Region 6 Report

Director: Donna Longacre, WA

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

Spring has been a long time coming to the Pacific Northwest. Snow and rain showers are still in the forecast in parts of the Region, with just enough warm, sunny days as “teasers” to make us thirsty for more!

The winter weather didn't slow down organizers from offering an ambitious schedule of events for our hearty Northwesterners! Many bundled up head to toe and risked the cold weather and questionable roads to attend.

There were at least two clinics covering Riding the New Tests. One with Janet Foy and Debbie McDonald at Donida Farms in Washington, which was a huge success with over 200 attendees, and a second with Dolly Hannon sponsored by ODS which was also well attended.

The FEI Jr/YR clinic, with guest instructor George Williams, organized by our regional coordinator Emma Dye, was enthusiastically received by the participants but unfortunately was a victim of a Seattle snow event. The snow and two mountain passes didn't discourage the Idaho contingency from arriving on time with horses in tow. They must have been doing something right as they just made it thru when another snow storm hit, and the roads were closed to traffic behind them.time to buy that lotto ticket!

Youth Programs abound with Gaye McCabe organizing the very popular Team Competition. This competition is very popular with the youth riders and has grown to be a very prestigious show.

The Regional Youth Dressage Rider (RYDR) Camp is up and running for summer 2011. It is being organized and hosted by Jessica Rattner at Devonwood Equestrian Centre. Jessica is doing a bang-up job of organizing the camp, as well as soliciting for sponsors so that costs can be kept down. Scholarships are also being offered for those that are in need. There will be instruction by our own past YR competitors, guest speakers on several specialized topics, and even a unique event souvenir t-shirt. Last year's free shower by the automatic watering system is promised NOT to return. This program is a Region 6 fundraiser for the benefit of our Region 6 NAJYRC teams.

All three sessions of part “A” of the “L” Program were sponsored by ODS and conducted at Devonwood Equestrian Centre in Oregon, in January, February and March, with good attendance of participants and auditors. The second part of the course will be held in the PNW as well.

The Adult Education clinic with Charlotte Bredahl-Baker made an end of the fiscal year debut at Paula Helm's and Jessica S. Williams' Summervale facility in Roy, Washington. The clinic was well attended, well organized, and showed a good selection of demo riders and horses. Francy Haupt set up the clinic with help from EI member Jana Stephan, who took the reins while Francy helped out at the Annual Horse Affair in

Oregon. Francy is also very active on the Adult Ed conference calls where they are making plans for convention in the fall, and setting up the next round of clinics.

Except for one or two early indoor shows, the main thrust of the PNW show season doesn't start until late spring, so members should be able to transition smoothly from clinic season, then home to make improvements, and finally on into our short but intense show season.

The Region 6 Championship Show Committee has already had two conference calls with the leadership of Rose Newman. They are well on their way to planning another prestigious event at the Idaho Horse Park this September. The four day format was well received and will continue in order to facilitate the number of riders that are interested in riding, as well as hiring professional staff for certain aspects of the show. The committee is currently considering how to maximize the use of the Idaho facility with its vast outdoor amenities, yet keep things simple enough that there can be a workable foul weather contingency plan in place just in case Mother Nature tries to throw a monkey wrench in things again.

There seems to be interest stirring and requests to offer the FEI package of classes. Chairs stepping up are Gwen Blake with FEI Ponies, Debra Hausman with FEI Young Horses, and Pat Irving with Brentina Cup. Members interested in these classes should contact myself, the Championship show Manager, Rose Newman, or the appropriate chairman of each division. Cathy Rivers will be heading up a Sport Horse Committee to help coordinate and promote the In Hand/Sport Horses.

Kaye Phaneuf is heading up our TD's in the Region and they are gearing up for show season with the new helmet rule coming out on short notice. Unfortunately, Region 6 is short on TD's and no new prospects in the ranks, so this may be another big expense for recognized shows in the future.

Corinne Stonier is a whirlwind of energy, and keeps in touch with GMO's, as well as is a valuable contributor to the USDF Membership Committee. She is tech savvy and very generous with her time and talents on behalf of USDF and a valued asset to the dressage community.

Marsha Williams is our Nominating coordinator and has been busy campaigning for PM delegates. I think we have more nominees that we have had for quite a few years, and all are very well qualified to do the job. I do believe that our being able to offer even a small stipend for attendance has been appreciated by those that are volunteering to serve in this important voting position.

There are plans for a Region 6 conference call this spring and the addition of some committee chairs. With the restructuring of the Committees and Councils of the main organization, there is now no longer a regional chair for every program to coordinate and promote local activities. Some volunteers have stepped up, but more are needed to promote the availability and participation in all the programs.

The Mini-Convention is on the map for the third weekend in November again, just before USDF's annual convention. With the convention on the West Coast (San Diego), we are hoping to have more "natives at the pow wow". See you there.

Donna G Longacre
USDF Region 6 Director

Region 7 Report

Director: Terry Wilson, CA

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

Region 7 has been fortunate to escape the devastating winter weather that has caused so many problems in the rest of the country. Consequently, many equine activities are already well underway.

The California Dressage Society held its 44th Annual Meeting on the elegant, historic Queen Mary. Everyone raved about the wonderful food and accommodations and the “ghostly” memories on the haunted decks. In addition to meetings, parties, and auctions, there were several educational sessions including Hilda Gurney’s review of the new tests and Mette Rosencrantz and Jan Ebling’s talks on their dressage experiences.

This GMO will be doing business as usual in 2011 – combining with USDF to host the Regional Finals in Los Angeles, and holding two Junior Championships and three RAAC (Adult Amateur) competitions. Donna Richardson will conduct the three Amateur Clinics. The Scholarship and Travel Grant Committees, who awarded over \$30,000 last year, will again be reviewing applications from individuals, chapters, and the FEI Juniors/Young Riders.

Finally, the 37 chapters are planning all kinds of shows and events for their more than 4100 members. The Central Office will be processing memberships; recording show results and rider scores; publishing Dressage Letters, the Omnibus, and the Roster; and answering innumerable questions.

With 134 recognized shows, nine CDI’s, and another 50 schooling events, there are plenty of opportunities for riders in California to compete. In addition to the hundreds of teachers and trainers in this area, 49 monthly clinicians are advertised in the newsletter, plus special visitors Conrad Schumacher, Stephan Kiesewetter, and Bereiter Herr Herbert Seiberi from the Spanish Riding School.

Charlotte Bredahl conducted the USDF Region 7 Clinic held in November at Michelle Vaughn’s Starr Vaughn Equestrian Center near Sacramento. Using the Training Pyramid as her theme, this instructor “expertly integrated the outlines defined in the pyramid with a weekend of focused teaching” both for the riders and the auditors. (Dressage Letters, March 2011)

Although neither USDF nor any of the dressage organizations in Region 7 had booths at Equine Affaire this February, many enthusiasts turned out for the sessions conducted by Axel Steiner. Another dressage special was Time Warner Cable’s SoCal’s Best’s presentation of Kristina Harrison, Pan Am team gold medalist in 2003.

There were four Region 7 graduates from the L program.

The Hawaii GMOs are planning their usual events including shows, clinics, and awards’ banquets. They all use their Web sites and Facebooks to communicate with their

members. Aloha State Dressage Society had a clinic in January with Lilo Fore and is organizing the next one with Thomas Poulin who often returns to Hawaii to teach. They will be having four shows at Hilltop Equestrian Center, all with S judges.

Although the California Quadrille Association remains a GMO, they do not seem to have the same member enthusiasm and participation as they did several years ago.

The Dressage Society of Southern Californian held its year-end award presentation and dinner at the beautiful Wood Ranch Golf Club in January. They honored five members with special awards: trainer, student, volunteer, show manager, and show venue. Again DASC is planning only its 14th championship show in September, though it recognizes many California shows in order for its members to qualify.

We are all looking forward to the USDF convention in San Diego this fall.

Region 8 Report

Director: Fern Feldman, CT

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

We New Englanders are proud of our record-breaking cold and snowy winter, and most are probably now enjoying mud season, as old streams and new rivulets cascade in many places. Because of the deep snow, the horses, even those turned out, have had little ability to move around, so absolutely all are looking forward to moderating temperatures. Thirty-eight degrees feels balmy and fifty degrees is sweater weather.

The main activities for the winter are GMO-related: winter awards banquets for the previous year and regular meetings to plan the schedule and activities for 2011. Dressage4Kids had its 11th successful Weekend Educational Program at the end of January for 300 kids and adults. There were Pony Clubbers, eventers, dressage riders, etc. This year there was a special track for instructors and a day devoted to Judges' education. The latter was organized by Margaret Freeman and moderated by her with the help of Sarah Geikie. Over 40 judges attended for their continuing education credits. Next year's plan includes a return of the always popular equine business and management seminar for professionals given by Beth Clarke, equine attorney.

The various Omnibuses have come out, and there doesn't seem to be much change in the number of shows. I know that our local GMO, Connecticut Dressage Association, has, in its Omnibus, more schooling shows listed than ever, and I always believe that is a great offering to the public. Even if not completely full at about 60 rides for one ring for one day, we find that they are popular with those who attend, and generally make a small profit for our GMO. Also, Vicki Hammers-O'Neil is again doing three one-day Level 1 shows, and this, too, helps riders trying to compete on a smaller budget.

NEDA's schedule is, as usual, impressive and full, as they are having their spring symposium as well as conducting an "L" program. Blue Ribbon Farm on Long Island (Alice Peterson and Marie Banks) is doing a series of Instructor Certification workshops. Other GMO's are doing smaller but interesting things as well. Connecticut Dressage Association is doing a riding simulator clinic in Roxbury, Connecticut which really only serves a dozen or so people, as the 'auditor value' of something like that is minimal.

And finally, I expect to have a Region 8 Web site up and running in the next couple of weeks. It will essentially be a compilation of calendar items, as so many GMO's have extensive Web sites of their own. I am hoping that all calendar items can be listed, as a general resource for people looking for clinics, events, recognized shows, and schooling shows.

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Reineman, TX

2011 Spring Executive Board Meeting, April 16 – April 17 Lexington, KY

The region and GMO's have a busy year planned...coming off a wonderful attendance for the 2010 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships & HDS Autumn Classic, held in Katy, Texas. A record number of horses and riders turned out for the event. It was the best championship ever, as weather was perfect, facilities were recently updated, arena footing was good, and management came together to hold a superb show.

We are hoping for the same success for the USDF Region 9 CDI 1*Y/J/P and HDS Spring Classic Open Show, to be held April 29 – May 1, 2011, in Katy, Texas. The Houston Dressage Society is hosting this CDI, in conjunction with its Spring Classic Open Show. Region 9 is the name sponsor for the CDI, and many others are stepping up to the plate to help with sponsorship. A lot of fun activities are planned for the competitors and spectators. The region is looking forward to a great show.

Houston Dressage Society is also gearing up for the 2011 Great American/ USDF Region 9 Championship at Katy in November.

A few seminars and symposiums that offer our members continuing education:

In January the Platinum Performance/USDF Region 9 Jr /YR Clinic with George Williams, held at Tex-Over Farm, in Conroe was outstanding. Despite the cold weather, the riders and auditors enjoyed a positive and educational presentation by George.

Alamo Dressage Association hosted an awesome East Meets West Equine Symposium, November 13-14, 2010, in San Antonio, at the Rose Palace, featuring Walter Zettl with Craig Johnson.

Austin Dressage Unlimited recently held a judges seminar with Maryal Barnett - Improving Your Judging Eye & Showing Skills – What Judges are looking for in the New Tests. This is the second judge's seminar held by ADU, and both have been a roaring success, with over 70 attendees.

Oklahoma Dressage Society is holding a new test symposium with Lilo Fore in April, and USDF Instructor/Trainer Workshops in February, March, and May. They are also hosting the Youth & Adult Team Competition in June, three sessions of the "L Grad" Program this coming summer and fall, and a summer dressage camp.

Mississippi Eventing & Dressage Association is holding a June dressage camp for the seventh year in a row.

And scheduled in March is a USDF Instructors Certification Tests to be held at Diamond M, outside San Antonio.

The Region 9 Board has two new members: Elaine Hildreth is the newly appointed Region 9 “Public Relations” person. Anne Kuhns is now the Region 9 “Youth” board member and a member of the national “Youth Programs” Committee.

We are proud of the regional members that help by serving nationally. Several are new to serving on the USDF national committees:

Donna Meyer is now on two national committees – Awards and Adult Programs. Kathy Jones is on the Regional Championship Committee. Carolyn Vandenberg is on the TD Committee, Whit Watkins as the competitor representative on the Competitions Management Committee, and Marilyn Kulifay is now a member of the Judges Committee, Susan Howard a member of the Freestyle Committee, Jan Colley – Sport Horse Committee, Sherry Guess – the Membership Committee, and Vera Muckleroy on a I/T Subcommittee.

A new Region 9 fundraising working group, with Marilyn Kulifay, Susan Howard, and Arlene Gaitan has been formed.

And a new Adult Amateur working group of Paul Kathen, Arlene Gaitan, and Susan Howard is researching the needs of the adult amateurs in our region.

We want to thank Tess Wheat, who is stepping down, for her extensive work the last three years publishing the Region 9 Omnibus. She and Liz Grimsley’s volunteerism and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Our new Region 9 FEI Jr/YR representative, Richard Howard, has started a Jr/YR group list, so emails can be sent out easily, providing information about upcoming deadlines and events. Several benefits are being planned for the Jr/YR’s to help fund the cost of participating at the Jr/YR national championship this summer, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Three regional members are also serving on national working groups – Paul Kathen, Anna Burtell, and Bill Eash.

The Region 9 Web site continues to improve - offering banners for advertisers, a Region 9 Facebook page, and new pages (with photos) to help keep the regional members informed. Nicole, the webmaster, has also taken over the arduous job of sending out the monthly regional e-news using Mail Chimp. And she is the new Region 9 Historian.

The 2011 Omnibus 15th Anniversary Edition, with an unforgettable bright pink cover, is now available for purchase and as a PDF on the Region 9 Web site. Thanks to Sue Casey for her generous sponsorship of the new USEF & USDF Test pages.

PM Delegate nominees are signing up for upcoming elections. Six delegates will represent the participating members at the national convention, in San Diego in December. Later the GMO’s will be sending in delegate proxies. Those delegates will represent their respective GMO members.

In 2010 Region 9 awarded several grants. The grants are made possible thru the Region 9 Omnibus advertisers and donations. Thanks for supporting our GMO's and the region!!!

Educational Grants:

Alamo Dressage Association - East Meets West Symposium - \$500.
Fort Worth Dressage Club - Fall Dressage Camp - \$500.
Houston Dressage Society - Freestyle Seminar - \$500.

GMO Travel Grants:

Mississippi Eventing & Dressage Association - for Molly Morrison - \$500.
Central Texas Dressage Association - for Jen Jarvis - \$500.

We have finally paid for the Region 9 Bench that proudly sits in the courtyard of the USDF National Education Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Thanks to all the Bench Fund donors over the last three years. It took the whole region with many contributors...below are those that gave \$200 or more.

GMO's:

Houston Dressage Society	Tri State Dressage Society;
Fort Worth Dressage Society	Dallas Dressage Club

Major individual contributors:

Laura Freeman	Bruce Lawrie	Kathryn Lubianshki
Kathy Jones	Kat Kyle	Evie Tumlin
Bess Reineman	Sally Chinosini	

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award, managed thru The Dressage Foundation, is in its third year, with the nomination period now open until July 1. This prestigious award is gaining momentum, and more instructors are stepping up their skill level to be eligible.

Congrats to the following, in addition to the ones I recognized in the fall RD report, for their dedication and achievement:

2010 USDF Volunteer of the Year Award

Congrats to Sherry Guess – Sherry has been the chair of the GMO Council/Committee for many years. Though retired January 1 as the national chair...she will remain actively involved with her GMO – Oklahoma Dressage Society.

USDF Region 9 GMO Volunteer of the Year

Barbara Harty received this well deserved USDF award. She has been the president of Fort Worth Dressage Club for eight years, and newsletter editor, too. She manages shows, writes for grants, finds volunteers, and also volunteers her time to work other shows in the region.

Alltech FEI WEG Recognition & Accomplishment

Region 9 is very proud of: Jonathan Wentz – Para Equestrian Team and Individual Rider. And Kai Handt – Trainer and Coach of Jonathan, and Owner of NTEC Ritcher Scale – horse ridden by Jonathan at WEG. Their tireless pursuit of such an accomplishment is only the dream of others.

Two USEF ratings were awarded to Region 9 members in 2010: Donna Meyer, who recently received her USEF "r" Judges rating. And Marilyn Kulifay recently received her USEF "r" TD rating.

The Dressage Foundation recently published a list of its Century Club members. Region 9 is proud that seven riders have achieved this very extraordinary award.

Congrats to USDF Region 9 – Christy Sanantonio (LA) and her horse, Grenadier, as the 2010 recipients of The Dressage Foundation - Carol Lavell Gifted Scholarships for Adult Amateurs. She is a member of Southern Eventing & Dressage Association.

Read about regional events (including the Region 9 Summer /August Meeting in Galveston, Texas – Fun in the Sun), news, and award recipients, on the Region 9 Web site: www.usdfregion9.org

It takes many volunteers giving hundreds of hours to keep our region running smoothly. Thanks to all for their time and dedication!!!