

Hello Fellow Region 2 Members

On 10/2/2011 your GMO Presidents and PM Delegates met via conference call to discuss the status of Region 2 and to prepare for the USDF Annual Conference. The minutes below reflect a summary of the meeting.

Present on the call: Chris Gemmell, Joann Smith, Connie Esposito, Sue Hughes, Lisa Gorretta, Jennifer Truett, Charli Stevens, Susanne O'Brien, Alice Martin, Paula Briney and Judy Norstrom

Ken reviewed his spring report to the Executive Board and requested additional ideas for the year-end report.

Topics discussed during the conference call:

Website/Newsletter:

- Agreed to continue to add regional clinics to the website. Ken asked that all GMOs send their schedule of schooling shows and they will be added to the website.
- Ken pointed out that the web site has been kept fairly up to date with news and press releases regarding clinics and shows.
- Ken reminded everyone to send press releases early so that they can be submitted to the Region 2 newsletter as well as the web site.

Education:

Dancing Horse Farms Completed Part I of the L program (held last January, March and May).

- Region 2 needs an Education Committee.
- Ken asked for volunteers to head the committee (Kelly Gage has offered to lead the education program)
- Joann Smith, Connie Esposito and potentially Jennifer Truett have also offered to work on the committee
- Discussion about holding a Region-wide clinic in 2012 vs. 2013. Due to having Lilo F. at Lake Erie College for the USDF Adult Clinic it was deemed that holding a traditional clinic would not be in our best interest. It was agreed that a non-riding clinic might be acceptable.
- Ideas on non-riding clinics included: Holding a clinic like MDA conducted which was an all-day educational program with 16 different tracks. Another suggestion was to utilize Michigan State University. and the McPhail Clinic. We might consider having Dr's Gerd Heuschmann and Hilary Clayton as the key speakers. Connie has excellent contacts with Mich. State and also agreed to work on the committee. We could ask each GMO to contribute to this educational program. There was also a suggestion that we could consider doing the educational program on-line. Some members have experience doing "live-streaming" videos for private lessons. Jennifer Truett is experienced with live-streaming video lessons and is a great resource to help explore the possibility of using this approach. The technology is fairly straight forward and this would open up the clinic to many more people. It was suggested that we consider approaching one of the on-line Equestrian education services and see if they would be willing to donate their services. It was believed that either Dressage Training On-Line or Dressage Clinic On-line offers live streaming video capability.

Budget

- Ken did a quick review of where the region stood financially. As of the end of the month, the region 2 budget was virtually the same as it was a year before. For the annual meeting, Ken will ask Cathy Jacob to prepare a report for the Region 2 meeting. Ken also pointed out that to use funds from the Region 2 budget to "seed" a regional education program we would have to have a vote by the GMO Presidents and the region 2 PM delegates. It was agreed that we would have to have a well outlined plan prior to asking for approval and Ken pointed out that this would be one task for the education committee.

Region 2 Schooling Show Awards

- This year has been challenging for Cathy Jacob and it would be great if we could provide Cathy with some assistance. Ken was provided with some ideas and he agreed to contact Cathy and the people suggested. Overall this is a really good program and we need to promote it much more via the newsletter and web site.

Misc. Topics:

- The economy continues to impact show attendance. Overall attendance seems to be down, however schooling shows appear to be doing fairly well.
- Ken brought up the idea of offering Western Dressage at schooling shows. Rules and tests are available on-line at www.usef.org
- Ken noted that Region 2 membership is down and that we have lost 2 PM delegated (down to 10 from 12)
- We had two full FEI Junior and Young Rider Teams. Ken thanked the GMOs that contributed again this year. We need to push the FEI JR/YR program and try to encourage participation. Region 2 did not medal this year but we should be proud of all of our riders.
- For the Region 2 Year-End report we should add some recognition that we lost three long-time dressage supporters. Rosemary Herman and Lillian Zimmermann both passed-away this year (Rosemary December 2010). Rosemary, a USEF registered steward and TD was a life-long equestrian and educator. Lillian (one of the founders of Mid-West Dressage Association) was a visionary and leader, bringing dressage to the Mid-West. Ed Rothkranz, a German transplant to Kentucky. Mr. Rothkranz was trained in Germany and after moving to Canada rode on the Canadian Olympic team at the 1980 Alternate Olympics. Ed owned and operated Rhineland Stud Farm in Kentucky.

The call was ended at 8:00 pm and Ken agreed to write-up the minutes and distribute them. Ken asked that each GMO President and PM delegate review the notes for accuracy and provide changes and additions as deemed appropriate.

Best regards,

Ken Levy
USDF Region 2 Director