

Regional Director Reports Index

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Region 1 Report

Director: Bettina G. Longaker, VA

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

2023 lived up to its hype in Region 1.

Five CDIs (one with a CPEDI) scheduled and completed, check; send riders to North American Youth Championships (NAYC), check; added bonus from NAYC medal winners, check; successful Region 1 Finals, check; successful 41st Col. Bengt Ljungquist Memorial (CBLM) Championships in New Jersey (for the first time since 2015), check. Kudos to all for your very hard work making so many high level competitions available to our riders this year.

At this time, we have eleven applicants for the USDF FEI Youth Clinic with George Williams at Hilltop Farm, Inc, in Colora, MD this November 4th and 5th. Just prior to this clinic, on November 3rd, Michael Bragdoll will conduct a mini clinic for riders 11-18 years old with aspirations of competing (with the horse listed on their application) in one of the following FEI youth divisions in the 2024 or 2025 season: children's (12-14), pony (12-16), junior (14-18) or young rider (16-21). The horses must be at least six-years-old and no older than 20.

Also, in the pipeline for the Region 1 FEI youth riders is a series of FEI Youth Development Clinics with Olivia LaGoy-Weltz. These will be held across the region throughout 2024 and will include both mounted and unmounted sessions.

We are so fortunate to have an accomplished FEI rider come forward to mentor our up and coming FEI youth riders. Thank you, Olivia and Debbie DelGiorno, for all your dedication to our youth riders.

The magic is back at Dressage at Devon! This year's Dressage at Devon, presented by Kingsview Partners, is our region's heritage competition with the featured events of the NorCordia Catherine Laudrup-Daufour Master Class (presented by Running 'S' Equine Veterinary Services) and the Friday night inaugural dance-off. Both events were enthusiastically received and augmented the premier CDI World Cup qualifier classes. The World Cup qualifier classes culminated with ten riders competing in the Grand Prix Freestyle, won by Ben Ebeling on Indeed with 77.325%. A total of 156 riders competed in both the CDI and national divisions.

The Dressage at Devon breed division had 200 horses and ponies, showcasing the best of both young and mature horses in the USDF Breeders Championships (USDFBC) East Coast Series Final. They also had a pony division sponsored by Moore's Furniture. On Wednesday, the qualifier classes were very competitive. The Dressage at Devon grand champion was Love Dance, a six-year-old Oldenburg mare owned by Iron Spring Farm, Inc. Reserve grand champion was R Stetson, a two-year-old KWPN colt owned by Lauren Chumley.

Commonwealth Dressage and Combined Training Association (CDCTA) took a step back from USEF/USDF licensed competitions in 2023. Instead, they held numerous successful schooling shows with a big plus of having the facility at Great Meadow to use for their Thursday night shows during the hot summer. CDCTA will be sponsoring adult team members for the USDF Region 1 Adult Team Competition hosted by Potomac Valley Dressage Association (PVDA) on November 11-12.

In March, Delaware Valley Combined Training Association (DVCTA) hosted a well-attended freestyle clinic with Lois Yukins and Terry Ciotti-Gallo. With one USEF/USDF licensed competition held in June, they outdid themselves by approving 50 USEF/USDF licensed and schooling shows at nine different facilities in both Maryland and Pennsylvania.

East Coast Regional Dressage Association (ECRDA), one of our smaller GMOs, had eight USEF/USDF licensed competitions in their area. Riders were given many opportunities to qualify for the Region 1 Finals or the CBLM Championships or both! There were 42 schooling shows in the state of New Jersey with a few dedicated to western dressage only. ECRDA made sure to offer what their riders needed to fulfill the extensive awards program offered by this GMO.

Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association (ESDCTA), one of the larger GMOs in our region, had a busy season hosting both dressage and combined training events throughout the year, culminating with the 41st CBLM Championships at the New Jersey Horse Park in October. This GMO also hosts its championship show at the USET facility in Gladstone, NJ. What a treat that is!

Endless Mountain Dressage and Combined Training Association (EMDCTA) serves our members in the Scranton, PA area of our region with a small but active membership. They hosted a Fluer Bryan Clinic for riders 18 and under in August at the Quantum Leap Horse Park, LLC in Nicholson, PA. Together with Central New York Dressage and Combined Training Association (CNYDCTA) in the southern central New York area, EMDCTA held schooling shows offering dressage, combined tests, jumpers, and cross country derbies throughout the summer.

French Creek Dressage Association (FCDA) hosts unmounted seminars during the winter months that count towards the members French Creek University credits. This program is quite impressive with topics ranging from “Equine Digestion” with Heather Layton, to “Why is My Horse Bad? Dealing with Behavior issues” with Dr. Matilda Johansson, to “Trailer Safety & DOT Regulations” just to name a few. They also offer an extensive year-end awards program for the members who compete.

International Equestrian Organization (IEO) is our oldest GMO with a growing membership in 2023. They hosted six stress-free, friendly dressage schooling shows that offered Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) Awards along with Standardbred Incentive Program (SIP) Awards. MMXX Standardbreds and the Highland Enthusiasts of America sponsor year-end awards, and IEO sponsors the year-end Top Volunteer and Fountain of Youth Awards.

Keystone Dressage and Combined Training Association (KDCTA) held three diverse clinics: The Beginner Learn to Drive Clinic, Musical Freestyle Lecture & Clinic with Evelyn Pfoutz-Martin, and WE Obstacle Play Days. They also have an active drill team who practice

throughout the warmer months. Four schooling shows rounded out this smaller GMOs busy summer schedule in May, July, and two in September.

Lehigh Valley Dressage Association (LVDA) hosted seven schooling shows, including the Region 1 Youth Team Challenge in Culpeper, VA and one USEF/USDF licensed competition at Buck County Horse Park. All the LVDA shows are ESDCTA recognized. LVDA offers educational videos for its members online, ranging from yoga for dressage riders with Jennifer Shober to the LVDA virtual class “Developing a Winter Training Program” with Ange Bean and Lauren Annett

Maryland Dressage Association (MDA) held six schooling shows, culminating with the Schooling Show Finals on October 22 at the Baltimore County Ag Center. Their year-end awards ranging through maiden, young rider (21 & younger), young horse (six-year-old and younger), musical, USEA, WDAA and gaited, instructor, and rider achievement. Their diverse membership will be well rewarded for their participation and volunteering.

North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association (NCDCTA), our largest GMO and only group with over 600 members, had a thriving show and clinic season for both their dressage and event riders. With four USEF/USDF licensed competitions utilizing the Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh and the Carolina Horse Park in Raeford, this GMO had a busy year. They offer an impressive junior scholarship for their dressage riders and an instructors workshop called “Demystify working for yourself and work ON your business, not just IN your business” happening this November.

Oley Valley Combined Training Association (OVCTA) is located mainly in Chester, Berk and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania. Their spring USEF/USDF licensed competition was a big success and they offer educational seminars, unmounted and mounted clinics, one schooling show, and year-end awards.

PDVA is our second oldest GMO. They hosted a new test symposium with Janet Foy in January. Their Ride For Life licensed competition, started in 2004, is a major fundraiser for the Johns Hopkins Breast Center. In 2023, their 20th year, they met their \$1,000,000 mark!

Three Rivers Equestrian Association (TREA), located in the Pittsburgh area, offers one USEF/USDF licensed competition and numerous schooling shows. Along with their shows, they offer educational events that span the disciplines of dressage, western and gaited dressage, hunter/jumper, eventing, working equitation, and para-dressage.

Virginia Dressage Association (VADA), founded in 1972, has continued its active schedule through its eight Chapters. Four hold USEF/USDF licensed competitions and all hold schooling shows and clinics. VADA itself hosts Dressage at Lexington in July, and has been fortunate to host the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 1 Dressage Championships in recent years. The 2023 championship was even larger than 2022. President Michelle (Sheli) King was named the USDF Region 1 Volunteer of the Year, and the VADA website was the winner of the 2023 GMO Website Award of GMOs with 500 or more members.

Western Pennsylvania Dressage Association (WPDA) is one of our older GMOs, founded in 1974. By offering numerous clinics, this GMO is striving to live up to Founder Joe Lane’s vision for the club. He believed the discipline of the day to day work will become the foundation for

accomplishment in dressage as it will in life.

Our fall regional Zoom meeting will be November 16th with lots to discuss prior to the annual convention in Nebraska.

I am grateful to have such a dynamic region to represent.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettina G Longaker
USDF Region 1 Director

Region 2 Report

Director: Debby Savage, OH

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

As the fourth largest USDF Region, Region 2 spans seven states and has a wide variety of members and activities from our own regional schooling show program to the USEF Festival of Champions. Membership seems to be holding steady over the past three years. These numbers are GMO members plus Participating members.

Currently for Region 2 = 3,610

2022 = 3,612

2021 = 3,622

2020 = 3,886

2019 = 4,564

Media and Promotion:

Facebook continues to be the favored medium for communication. As of October 4, we have 2,900 Region 2 Facebook members. This is an increase of 9% over 2022, versus 20% from 2022 over 2021. Previously, there was a 22% percent increase from 2019 versus 9% from 2018. We are experiencing continued growth with more activity overall.

The fall PM delegate meeting was held on August 16 via Zoom. There were 21 attendees (seven PM delegates). Highlights from educational programs, recognized and schooling shows were shared. There will be a full pre-convention meeting held via Zoom on November 15.

Participating Member (PM) delegates:

There will be twelve PM delegates representing Region 2 this year. Molly Fine has continued to be the USDF Nominating Committee representative for our region.

Competitions:

Our region continues strong this year with 114 recognized shows. This is down slightly from the 2022 USDF competition year, which had 126. Previously, there were 112 licensed competitions in 2021, 52 licensed/recognized shows in 2020, and 116 licensed/recognized shows in 2019. However, it still seems like there is often more than one Level 3 qualifier offered on the same weekends. This lessens qualifying opportunities. Overall, schooling shows are strong for several of the usual reasons (cost, less competition, more relaxed rules, big ribbons, etc.).

Special thanks to Cathy Jacob for managing the ever popular Catherine B. Jacob Schooling Show Year-End Award Program, which benefits USDF Region 2. This program is not an "official" USDF program, but an independent program that benefits USDF Region 2. As of this writing, there are eighteen entries but most come in right at the end of the year, so by November 5th of this year. This program always makes a significant contribution to the region's educational budget.

Championships:

The US Dressage Finals will be held November 9-12, 2023 in Lexington, KY.

The Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 2 Dressage Championships were held at Lamplight in Chicago.

- 2023 stats: 291 total horses; 449 championship rides, 261 championship horses
- 2022 at Waterloo stats: 313 total horses, 1,012 total rides and 450 championship rides
- 2021 at the Kentucky Horse Park: There were 459 exhibitors, 1,305 total rides, of which 653 were championship rides. Twice as large as the previous year.
- 2020 at Lamplight Equestrian Center: There were a total of 260 competitors doing 716 rides, 367 of those were championship rides.

Junior/Young Riders:

- North American Youth Championships (NAYC)
 - Fundraising done by the teams was around \$3,000. The region matched that towards their USDF expenses. Total expenses for the six riders was approximately \$12,000. That includes entries, stabling, golf cart, and chef expenses. We need to greatly increase this effort going forward as money is only being depleted from the account and no revenue generated.
 - Roz Kinstler was chef d'equipe and did a fantastic job as always.
- The FEI Jr/YR clinic with George Williams was held on Sept 9-10, 2023, at the beautiful Renaissance Farm in Saline, MI.

Education:

- Two awards will be presented at the convention.
 - First, a participant of The Catherine B. Jacob Awards Program for schooling shows, which continues to provide funding for the Region 2 educational fund, will be awarded a \$200 USDF gift certificate. Cathy Jacob will draw the name of a participant out of a hat at our annual convention.
 - Second, an Education Challenge Award will be given to the Region 2 member with the most USDF University credit for the full year 2022 (ending December 1st).
- USDF accredited programs remain the same the past three years, with ten per year.

Finances:

Balance Sheet As of August 31, 2023

ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| Jr/Young Rider Account | \$11,116.34 |
| Education Account | \$7,756.44 |
| General Account | \$1,350.22 |
| Total Assets: | \$20,223.00 |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Equity | |
| Retained Earnings | \$17,402.04 |

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Net Income | 2,820.96 |
| Total Equity | \$20,223.00 |

Summary:

Overall, the region was fairly strong this year from a competition standpoint for both recognized and schooling shows. USDF education programs could still be much stronger. Communication is primarily via e-mail or personal conversations, which is sporadic. Social media has been the best way to share information and positive experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Savage
USDF Region 2 Director

Region 3 Report

Director: Charlotte Trentelman, FL

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

As this is written, the 2023 Greater American Insurance Group/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships and Wellington Classic Dressage (WCD) Ocala Fall 1, held October 5-8 in Ocala, FL, have been in the books less than 72 hours. It is by far the largest show in our region and close to the largest regional championship nationally, if not the biggest.

Noreen O'Sullivan and her staff conducted the multiple ring affair with eleven judges seeing 393 horses from fifteen states in championship competition. Show secretary, Angela Goodwin-Volpert, managed the entries and welcomed riders with rarely more than two or three people in a line at the office, which is something hard to do with that many competitors. Even the weather performed beautifully for us.

Region 3 had a hospitality/information tent with a reception, daily raffles, and sponsored giveaway items. Members of our GMO, STRIDE, coordinated the tent. Many thanks to Loretta Lucas and Sandy Wagner for taking up this task.

Congratulations to the champions, reserves, and all who made the show so special! May you all have surpassed your expectations.

Next year's regional championships will be held again in Ocala, FL at the World Equestrian Center (WEC). Teresa Uddo will be the manager for the WEC. Riders from all our Region 3 states have expressed a desire to hold the regionals at WEC, and the Region 3 Championship Site Selection Committee responded unanimously to go forward with it. Mark your calendars for September 19-22, 2024.

Region 3 added two GMOs to the eighteen we started out with this year, the Central Alabama Dressage and Combined Training Association and the Walk Trot Canter Association (FL).

The John P. Kimball Region 3 Adult Amateur Championships will be held once more in Newberry, FL before we start to rotate the venue to other states. The dates for the Kimball championships are June 1-2, 2024. A committee has been formed to advise where we could move the show in 2025 and to explore the possibility of adding levels and team competitions.

Our participation at the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, MI in August, gave way to a fairytale ending for the young rider team with Elizabeth Molloy as their chef d'equipe. Mary Claire Piller led the way with team members Celsianna William, Kat Fuqua, and Acacia Tsamoutales, picking up the gold medal in the team competition. Mary, Celsianna, and Kat also went 1-2-3 in the individual test and swept the podium in the freestyles. Mary was also awarded the Fiona Baan Award of Excellence for the show.

Our juniors, with chef d'equipe Grace Burley, also shined with the silver team of Madison Summer, Justine Boyer, Tesse Geven, and Virginia Woodcock. Madison also won the individual silver and the freestyle gold medal.

Alice Burley (GA) has been selected as the USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year. The nominations are selected on dedication, participation, and giving time to advance the sport of dressage. I hope to see a lot of friends from Region 3 watch her receive her award at the annual meeting in Omaha.

Our junior/young rider clinic with Lilo Fore will be held in the Georgia area at Noble Steed Farm, January 20-21, 2024. We need to keep our young riders moving upward!

Again, the trainers conference will come to Loxahatchee, FL, at High Meadows Farm on January 15-16.

On the wish list is still an IT volunteer to help restart the Region 3 website. Also, possibly developing a youth outreach clinic designed to interest young riders. Auditors could come from any branch of riding; participants must be able to ride a Training Level test.

Like all the regions, we salute our winners, encourage our riders, and try to keep that balance between shows, training, and education.

The bottom line as of August 31, 2023:

Region 3 Assets

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Current assets: | |
| Championship Account | 880.88 |
| Education Account | 834.90 |
| General Account | 1,620.54 |
| Jr/YR Account | 18,240.78 |
| Youth Account | 400.00 |
| Total Assets | \$21,977.40 |

Liabilities and Equity

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Retained Earnings | 11,879.82 |
| Net Income | 10,097.58 |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$21,977.40 |

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Trentelman
Region 3 Director

Region 4 Report

Director: Anne Sushko, IA

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

Where has 2023 gone? When the reminder came from Sarah Garn at USDF that it was time to do this end-of-the-year report, I could not believe it! That means we are quickly approaching our annual convention, and this year it is in our own great region! I know that I will be seeing many of you in Omaha!

This year we celebrate the 50th birthday for USDF. Of the 26 charter GMOs, five are from Region 4: Dressage and Combined Training Association (now Central States Dressage & Eventing Association), Kansas City Dressage Society, Nebraska Dressage Association, St. Louis Area Dressage Society, and Winds Reach Dressage and Combined Training Association (now Eastern Iowa Dressage & Eventing Association). Iowa Dressage & Combined Training Association is not on the charter but is celebrating 50 years as well. Thank you for being the bedrock of our organization!

The winners of the GMO awards have been announced and once again GMOs from throughout Region 4 will be recognized at the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. The following GMOs will be honored:

- Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant: Jen Lowe of Newell, SD (South Dakota Dressage Association). Our brand new GMO!
- Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year: Stacey Bates of Holts Summit, MO (Columbia Dressage & CTA)
- GMO Photography Award (Best Amateur Photograph) for GMOs with less than 75 members:
 - 1st Place – Eastern Iowa Dressage & Eventing Association, On the Bit, September-October-November 2022, Photographer Hannah Owens
 - Honorable Mention – Columbia Dressage & Combined Training Association, Direct Rein, September 2022, Photographer Anne Borgmeyer
- GMO Newsletter Award (first person experience article):
 - Honorable Mention: Columbia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Direct Rein, March 2023: Old Horse Story; Sonja McDanel
 - Honorable Mention: St. Louis Area Dressage Society, Hoofprints, October 2022: Two Local SLADS Members Try Something Unique: Sharing a Dressage Horse; Laura Vandiver and Mary Beth Malen
- GMO Newsletter Award (general interest article)
 - GMOs with less than 75 members: 1st Place – Columbia Dressage & Combined Training Association, Direct Rein, June 2023: The Hidden Legacy of Black Equestrians: Let's Make it Unhidden; Maggie Maginnis
 - GMOs with 75-174 members: 1st Place – St. Louis Area Dressage Society, Hoofprints, June 2023: Rider Fear; Taffy Ross

The 2023 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 4 Dressage Championships were held at the Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center in Cumming, IA. Our regional championships continue to grow. Competitors came not only from every state in Region 4 but a number of other

regions as well. There were many comments about the welcoming atmosphere at the Region 4 championships wherever it is held. The volunteers were amazing! It certainly takes a village to run a show of this nature! Each day, bright and sunny skies created temperatures that were abnormally warm for the end of September. We were also privileged this year to welcome Krystina Wright from USDF to the show. She was active, meeting as many people as possible. Next year, we return to the National Equestrian Center in Lake Saint Louis.

Regionals saw the advent of a program long discussed and finally implemented, the Region 4 Resident Recognition Program. This program takes the place of the former regional championship awards, which were not restricted to residents. The program recognizes the highest scoring Region 4 resident in each of the championship classes, no matter their placing within the class. Each awardee received a Region 4 bag, large container of horse treats (donated by Mrs. Pastures), zippered pouch (handmade by Deb Gregoire), and a beautiful custom sash. Winners proudly sported their sash in each of the award celebrations. Thanks go out to those who supported this program with their sponsorship of each award. Many thanks go to the committee that worked long and hard on this program (Stacey Bates, Jill Fragomeni and Lin Nelson-Mayson). A list of the winners and sponsors can be found on the Region 4 web page and below.

2023 WINNERS

| | OPEN CLASSES | SPONSOR | WINNER |
|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Training Level Open | Elise Vandover | Jenna Butler |
| 2 | First Level Open | Elise Vandover | Katie Shellenberger |
| 3 | Second Level Open | Betsy Gresham Johnson | Jonni Allen |
| 4 | Third Level Open | Gray Cat Farm | Michael Sjerven |
| 5 | Fourth Level Open | Gray Cat Farm | Kate Mikulay |
| 6 | PSG Open | Ruth Rensink | Jonni Allen |
| 7 | I-1 Open | Ruth Rensink | Heather Salden-Kurtz |
| 8 | I-2 Open | Ruth Rensink | Sarah Travis |
| 9 | Grand Prix Open | Green River Farm – Colleen Rull | Jaime Wickander |
| | FREESTYLES | SPONSOR | WINNER |
| 1 | First Level Open + JR/YR | William Woods University Dressage Club | Jenna Butler |
| 2 | First Level AA | Shangri-La | Tara Denke |
| 3 | Second Level Open, JR/YR | Barry Upchurch Realty | Kate Phillips |
| 4 | Second Level AA | Shangri-La | Denise Garbe |
| 5 | Third Level Open, JR/YR | Barry Upchurch Realty | Kate Phillips |
| 6 | Third Level AA | Shangri-La | Jill Fragomeni |
| 7 | Fourth Level Open, JR/YR | William Woods University Dressage Club | No entries will carry over to 2024 |
| 8 | Fourth Level AA | Shangri-La | Abigail Marie Askegaard |

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 9 | I-1 Open, JR/YR | Rhythm and Blues Freestyles | Heather Salden-Kurtz |
| 10 | I-1 AA | Rhythm and Blues Freestyles | No entries will carry over to 2024 |
| 11 | Grand Prix, Open, JR/YR | Salden Training (Tara D) | Mary Fischer |
| 12 | Grand Prix AA | Orchard View Stables (Tara D) | No entries will carry over to 2024 |
| | ADULT AMATEUR CLASSES | SPONSOR | WINNER |
| 1 | Training Level AA | Summit Veterinary Services | Denise Jostes |
| 2 | First Level AA | Greystoke Dressage – Jenna Butler | Nicole Lynn Bangasser |
| 3 | Second Level AA | Northland Dressage – Heidi Williams | Stacey Knox |
| 4 | Third Level AA | Northland Dressage – Heidi Williams | Jennifer Colby |
| 5 | Fourth Level AA | Ruth Rensink | Patti Blackmore |
| 6 | PSG AA | Ruth Rensink | Mickayla Frederick |
| 7 | I-1 AA | Ruth Rensink | Erica Krenner |
| 8 | I-2 AA | Ruth Rensink | Mariah Crumbaker |
| 9 | Grand Prix AA | Ruth Rensink | Karen Spradling |
| 10 | AA Equitation Regional Final | Cynthia Russell Lippincott | Isabelle Gallagher |
| | JR/YR CLASSES | SPONSOR | WINNER |
| 1 | Training Level JR/YR | William Woods University Dressage Club | Lexi Kment |
| 2 | First Level JR/YR | Stacee Collier Dressage | Joslyn Schoemaker |
| 3 | Second Level JR/YR | Stacee Collier Dressage | Claire Tucker |
| 4 | Third Level JR/YR | EAS Dressage | Katie Szwejbka |
| 5 | Fourth Level JR/YR | EAS Dressage | Averi Allen |
| 6 | PSG JR/YR | EAS Dressage | Lorraine Pray |
| 7 | I-1 JR/YR | EAS Dressage | None – will carry over to 2024 |
| 8 | I-2 JR/YR | Post Office Bar and Grill | None – will carry over to 2024 |
| 9 | Grand Prix JR/YR | Equiventure Educational Dressage Vacations | None – will carry over to 2024 |
| 10 | FEI JR Championship | Barry Upchurch Realty | Katie Szwejbka |
| 11 | FEI YR Championship | Better Bend Farms (Debbie Hubbard) | None – will carry over to 2024 |
| 12 | Dressage Seat Medal Finals 13U | USDF Provided | --- |
| 13 | Dressage Seat Medal Finals 14-18 | USDF Provided | --- |

Then, there was the second regional silent auction! Thank you to all who answered the call for donations! Lessons from instructors throughout the region, sets of books, handmade items, judging donation, tea and wine baskets, and barn baskets were all well received. Winning bids totaled over \$1300.00, all of which will go into the resident recognition, education, and grant lines of the region's budget.

The USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Program recognizes the accomplishments of youth dressage riders in not only dressage but also in academics, volunteerism, and equestrian education. We have not had youth participate in the past. This year I am thrilled to recognize the following young people:

Darian Kauk (NE)
 Adalynn Nelson (IA)
 Emma Szachneiski (MO)

Although our region does not have the number of licensed officials found in some parts of the country, those we have are active throughout the country. It looks like we have to get some officials from the Dakotas!

Region 4 Licensed Officials:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Coleman, Joe | 'r' TD | Overland Park, KS |
| Denman, Nena | 'r' Judge, 'R' TD, Equitation, Freestyle | Earlham, IA |
| Ely, Jodi Marie | 'S' Judge, Freestyle, Young Horse | Mound, MN |
| Kraus, Jean | 'R' TD, FEI Chief Steward L3 | Fulton, MO |
| Lang, Susan M | 'r' TD | Wichita, KS |
| Maloney, Marie | 'r' Judge, Freestyle | Wichita, KS |
| Phillips, Kate | 'R' Judge, Freestyle | Sauk Rapids, MN |
| Sushko, Anne | 'r' TD | Dubuque, IA |

Thanks to the efforts of GMOs in the region, we are lucky to have a number of L graduates within the region. This is very helpful to those who organize schooling shows and also indicates the interest within the region for continuing education.

L Graduates:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----|
| Del Mundo, Lisa | With Distinction | KS |
| Farmer, Julie Ann | With Distinction | MO |
| Fernandez, Scott | With Distinction | MO |
| Fucinaro, Jane | With Distinction | NE |
| Jacoby, Elizabeth Helen | With Distinction | MO |
| Kok, Katelyn | With Distinction | KS |
| Martinson, Samantha | With Distinction | MN |
| Matheus, Gail | With Distinction | KS |
| O'Bea, Rebecca Lynn | With Distinction | KS |
| Salden-Kurtz, Heather | With Distinction | MN |
| Gorton, Nancy | | MO |
| Holderle, Lisa | | MO |
| Hofsommer, Jenevieve | | MN |
| Johnson, Loline Anne | | IA |
| Koehler, P.J. | | IA |
| Kostenbader, Kate | | IA |

Lang, Susan M
Williams, Heidi

KS
MO

2023 Participating Member (PM) delegates:

Nancy Gorton (MO) Samantha Martinson (MN) Nancy Porter (MN) Megan Ward (IA)

USDF Certified Instructors:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----|
| Coley, Claudia | Training – Second | MO |
| Del Mundo, Lisa | Training – First | KS |
| Fucinaro, Jane | Training – Second | NE |
| Nelson, Leah | Training – Second | MN |
| Ostlund, Eileen | Training – First | IA |
| Penshorn, Julie | Training – Second | MN |
| Salden-Kurtz, Heather | Training – First | MN |
| Smith, Emma Anne | Training - First | MN |

There are not enough words to thank those who have stepped forward to serve on the regional committees. Kathy Hanford continues to bring her financial expertise to the position of treasurer. Melissa Ward continues to provide her expertise and experience in working with the website and leading the Communication Committee. Nancy Gorton continues to provide guidance and support to the NAYC team. Jessica Foschi keeps me on my toes with reminders about education and the scholarship offerings. It is definitely a team effort!

REGION 4 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES:

Region 4 Director:

Anne Sushko (IA)

Region 4 Treasurer:

Kathy Hanford (NE)

Region 4 Communications Committee:

Melissa Ward, Chairperson (NE)

Laurie Ryan (MO)

Jessica Foschi (MN)

Region 4 Education Committee:

Jessica Foschi, Chairperson (MN)

Bianca Schmidt (MN)

Lois Pienkos (IA)

Region 4 Scholarship Committee:

Jessica Foschi, Chairperson (MN)

Laureen Van Norman (NE)

Region 4 Junior/Young Riders:

Nancy Gorton, Chairperson (MO)

Goals for 2024:

1. Support development of youth clinics. Plan for three in 2024.
2. Strengthen involvement in the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) Program – co-director on committee.
3. Establish committee to promote the silent auction at regionals to benefit regional recognition, education, and grants.
4. Support and encourage the equitation program throughout the region.
5. Support the USDF Breeders Championship Series within the region.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Sushko
USDF Region 4 Director

Region 5 Report

Director: Heather Petersen, CO

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

Welcome to our “western region” USDF convention! I am so excited to see everyone as we are fairly close to our homes. I hope many of the folks from Region 5 are able to join us both for our pre-convention Region 5 meeting and our in-person meeting in Omaha!

2023 was a very good year for our region. We have a fall regional meeting scheduled in October (prior to my writing this report) and a pre-convention regional meeting also scheduled for November 20th. For the most part, the shows had great attendance. Many of the shows in Colorado still have waitlists, and we worked hard to add judges and arenas as best we could. There were many different educational programs presented by our GMOs in geographically diverse areas. Congratulations to Utah Dressage Society for starting in on the USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program! They’ve had great attendance and participation. Rocky Mountain Dressage Society finished a USDF L Education Program, Part 1, with excellent participation. If anyone has an interest in hosting educational programs, please don’t hesitate to let me know if there is any way I can help.

Congratulations to our many riders who qualified for the 2023 US Dressage Finals this year! Many great things about the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships were posted on social media; three cheers to the Arizona Dressage Society! I was sad that I was unable to come cheer you on at our regional championships in Scottsdale, AZ due to a conflict with another show I was running. We will see you and be rooting for you at the Kentucky Horse Park for the US Dressage Finals. Quite a few of you in the northern part of the region changed over to Region 4, and we’re proud of your successes there as well! Last year, we had our largest number of competitors representing Region 5 ever at the US Dressage Finals. It was thrilling to see how well everyone did. The level of excitement continues this year, and we look forward to meeting everyone there!

The bid process for the 2025 regional championships opens very soon. I hope we’re able to keep as many parts of our region in the process as possible and that the championships will continue with a rotation to another great facility. Diversity is important and since our region is so large, it’s very important to host the regionals in various areas. Here’s hoping we can keep the regional championships moving throughout our region to better serve the membership. If you know of a facility we should consider, please let me know. In 2024, the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 5 Dressage Championships will be hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society on September 19-22 at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO.

The North American Youth Championships (NAYC) were held in Traverse City, MI this year. We had the privilege of sending seven talented horse/rider combinations: four young riders and three juniors. We were honored that Olivia Williams with Rolando, Elizabeth Petersen with Captain Brownie, Katherine Nayak with MW Fabulous, Audrey Allen with Hugo, Kali Riddell with Hashtag, Taylor Allen with Fleur de Lis, and Megan Kelleghan with Rhetoric attended. They represented our region really well and did a great job of raising sponsorship and funding for helping to make the trip. Next year the NAYC will again be held in Traverse City, MI. We have our first fundraising meeting for 2024 on November 14th to help support sending both a junior

and a young rider team. For more information on fundraising or participating in the NAYC program, please don't hesitate to reach out to Joan Clay, our amazing FEI Youth Committee coordinator for Region 5, at jnclay@comcast.net.

We had quite a few combinations attend the USEF Festival of Champions at Lamplight in Illinois, and they represented Region 5 very well! Congratulations to everyone who participated and thank you for your hard work. Several championships and reserve championships were earned, along with top placings. It's an honor to even qualify, and we're so proud of you.

The USDF Junior/Young Rider Clinic was held September 16-17 at Nighthawk Equestrian Center in Longmont, CO with George Williams. We had quite a few applications, and eight riders were chosen to ride. Many thanks to Nighthawk Equestrian Center and Karen Whitman, Kim Luther, Eleanor Harrison and Gedeon LaFarge for donating their facilities for this clinic. Congratulations to the following riders that were selected to ride with George: Olivia Williams, Elizabeth Petersen, Ryler Horansky, Bailey Armbrecht, Candice Christopher, Catherine Burlew, Kyra Bowman and Maya Rosenthal.

This year, Region 5 was allocated five participating member (PM) delegates to the USDF Board of Governors meeting. Dorothy Kapaun, our Nominating Committee member, rounded up a nice diverse roster of five individuals to fill those spots. Your delegates are Joan Clay, Cecilia Cox, Judi DeVore, Karen Harkin and Kaye Phaneuf. These five members are your representatives, so feel free to reach out to them with any concerns or questions. Their contact information is available on the USDF website under the 'About' tab, then under 'Governance'; the link is <https://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/nominating/Delegates.asp?Type=PM>. You must be logged in to view delegate contact information. Dorothy also worked hard to get representation for all our eligible GMOs in the region or proxies to cover their votes. If you are interested in being a PM delegate for 2024, please don't hesitate to let us know. Dorothy is stepping down as our Nominating Committee member, and we are looking for someone to fill her shoes. If you are interested, please let me or Sarah Garn know. We will be looking for a few extra individuals again this next year to run for PM delegate, so that we have a full slate of representation.

Kaye Phaneuf provided a great report from the USDF Technical Delegate (TD) Committee:

- 1) I have been a member of the USDF TD Committee for...ten years? Maybe a little longer? Our primary ongoing activity of late has been the development and maintenance of various learning modules. Intended primarily for TDs, they are available to all USDF members, and the module quizzes earn USDF University credit. Members will find these learning modules by logging in to the USDF website and choosing 'Technical Delegates' from the Education tab at the top of the home page. After perusing the materials on this page, click the green button to dive deeper into the TD educational materials. I also chair the PR group for this committee. Our mission is to raise awareness of dressage competition participants, judges, riders, trainers, and management about what TDs do and how we can help them have a better show experience.
- 2) Region 6 member Peter Rothschild and I created and administer the Dressage Competition Management Forum on Facebook. As you know, this is a closed group where TDs, managers, and secretaries of all levels of dressage competition and experience can share with and learn from each other. I encourage all managers and secretaries of any kind of dressage competition, any level, to join the group and bring their questions.

The Competition Management Committee worked on a great sport horse online presentation that had quite a few attendees, and I enjoyed helping present with other members of our committee. There is also an educational presentation planned for the USDF convention, so be sure to set aside some time to attend!

Finally, I would personally like to take a moment to thank all our Region 5 members who have served on USDF committees, our local GMO boards and committees, volunteered at shows and clinics and/or hosted/organized events. The region is lucky to have you and is grateful for your wisdom, time, and efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Petersen
USDF Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

Director: Noah G. Rattner, OR

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) 2023:

2023 has been a spectacular year for USDF Region 6. Our athletes have represented us at major competitions held in the United States and Canada to much success. In addition to excellence in the competition arena, our GMOs and local organizers have been hard at work hosting educational opportunities for our region.

This year, Region 6 fielded a full junior team at the FEI NAYC presented by USDF. The competition, held once again in Traverse City, MI, offered a superb venue and a very international competition experience. Our team included Daphne Glenn (WA), Olivia Martz (WA), and Norah Wright (OR), and a combined team member from Region 4, Lexie Kment (NE).

While a team of three riders is considered a full team, combining regions allowed for us to have a drop score in the team competition. In the wind-up to competition, our team was well-represented beginning with the FEI horse inspection and parade of athletes. Nicki Grandia, our FEI youth coordinator, did an exceptional job provisioning hats, shirts, and jackets for the athletes, which were embroidered with our region's refreshed logo graphic. Nicki's efforts leading up to the competition ensured that our riders were compliant with all of the requirements for FEI-level competition. Noah Rattner, Region 6 Director, served as chef d'equipe for the team onsite at the competition.

Camaraderie was the theme of the week and our team did an exceptional job supporting one another in every aspect of the event. Ringside for one another's rides, helping one another braid, clean stalls, and prepare for their rides, it was a pleasure to watch our team in action. Trainers Kelly Irving-Burris, Brook Martz, and Michelle Haefer were on-hand to support their riders. One-by-one, our athletes put in solid ride after solid ride in the team test, which led us to the top of the podium and our first NAYC team gold medal in Region 6 history.

Moving forward to the FEI individual test, our riders kept laser-focused and made their mark as they vied for individual medals. After 33 total riders completed their tests, Norah Wright & Baccos do Retiro found themselves on the podium as individual bronze medalists. Daphne Glenn & Romanesque finished 9th, and Olivia Martz & Ronvair ended in 26th. After the individual test was over, the team enjoyed a lovely potluck dinner hosted at the Kment Family's home to celebrate an outstanding week and fantastic riding culminating in team gold!

On the final day of competition, the top 18 athletes from the individual test advanced to the freestyle. A very competitive class of FEI juniors went head-to-head for the final set of medals. Norah Wright finished in 7th and Daphne Glenn finished in 8th place and we were all thrilled to watch Region 6 in the lap of honor celebrating tremendous results. During the final award presentation, Olivia Martz was recognized by the FEI ground jury and FEI stewards with The Dressage Style Award, presented to the rider who has shown "style" throughout the competition, not only when mounted, but also in manners and overall demeanor. Not only was it a special moment for Olivia to receive this award, but our very own Mike Osinski, president of the ground jury, was the official who presented Olivia with the award during the prize giving. Our athletes

did a phenomenal job representing Region 6 and the future is very bright for us as we look to defend our title in 2024.

In addition to our FEI junior team, Cameron Wyman & Thys (Washington) competed in the inaugural U25 championship. Although Cameron is living and working for HITS in New York, we still claim her as part of Region 6 and were thrilled to see her in the saddle making history at NAYC this year.

Excellence in Officials:

Several Region 6 officials have earned new ratings or promotions within the USEF and FEI officials' tracks this year. Mr. Mike Taylor (Pocatello, ID) earned his promotion to USEF 'R' dressage technical delegate (TD), which will allow him to serve as the primary TD at Level 4 and Level 5 competitions. Ms. Jo Renn (Olympia, WA) earned her USEF 'r' dressage TD license. Mike Osinski (Olympia, WA) was promoted to FEI 5*/Level 4 at the start of 2023 and was appointed late this summer as a member of the ground jury for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Mike is the first FEI 5* dressage judge in Region 6 history and the first FEI dressage official from Region 6 to officiate at World Cup Finals, Pan American Games, and soon, the Olympics. FEI 5* para dressage judge, Kristi Wysocki (Coupeville, WA) was appointed to the ground jury for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Congratulations to all of our licensed officials in Region 6 on your promotions and appointments. We are extremely proud of your contributions to our sport.

USDF FEI Youth Clinic Series:

The 2023 USDF FEI Youth Clinic Series was held at DevonWood Equestrian Centre (Sherwood, OR) in early November with a full roster of youth athletes who were fortunate enough to earn a clinic slot with our newest USDF youth clinician, team USA's Olympic silver medalist, Sabine Schut-Kery. Clinic riders included:

- Audrey Panno
- Olivia Martz
- Trinity Schatzel
- Finn Kriess
- Ella Curtin-Rothenberger
- Abigail Holzman
- Maryn Geck
- Elyse Edison

Sabine did an amazing job working with each combination over two days and an amazing pizza dinner and discussion were held in the DevonWood Clubhouse on Saturday night. Sabine discussed strategy, goal setting, grants, and we watched footage from her Olympic grand prix special, as well as footage from the FEI NAYC. A big thank you to Tory Kelly from Equine Video Productions and Ella Chedester Photography who were both onsite throughout the clinic to document this special event.

If you have a youth rider that is interested in getting involved in dressage (at any level) please be sure to complete the USDF Region 6 Youth Talent Pipeline Survey which is available online at <https://devonwood.formstack.com/forms/r6talentpipeline>.

USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Forum:

In late October, Sonnenberg Farms in Sherwood, OR hosted the USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Forum. Clinicians Willy Arts from DG Bar Ranch and Scott Hassler from Hilltop Farm were slated as clinicians for the event. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the organizer, Mr. Hassler was unable to attend the clinic and Lindsey Holleger and Lehua Custer stepped forward to fill in. Thank you to Sonnenberg for serving as hosts of this clinic and for being one of the leading KWPN breeders in North America. Sonnenberg Farms also hosted the KWPN-NA Keuring Tour in early September resulting in multiple championship recognitions.

Festival of Champions:

Region 6 was everywhere you looked at the 2023 US Dressage Festival of Champions. Bravo/a to all of our representatives in this year's national championships. Not only did our riders persevere through an arduous journey to Chicago's Lamplight Equestrian Center, but they also experienced extreme heat and humidity at this year's competition.

Intermediate I National Championship

- Sarah Gammie & Flash (OR)
- Kelly Irving Burris & Fresco LD (WA)

Brentina Cup/U25 National Championship

- Quinn Iverson & Beckham 19 (OR) – **CHAMPIONS**
- Cameron Wyman & Thys (WA)

Markel/FEI 5YO National Championship

- Sven Smienk & Superior 9 (WA)

Markel/USEF Developing Prix St-Georges National Championship

- Sabine Schut-Kery & Sonnenberg's Jersey (OR) – **CHAMPIONS**
- Quinn Iverson & Gremlin 41 (OR)

Markel/FEI 6YO National Championship

- Sven Smienk & Fontenay (WA) – **CHAMPIONS**

USEF Children Dressage National Championship

- Maryn Geck & Herr Karlson (OR) – **CHAMPIONS**
- Ella Curtin-Rothenberger & Shenandoah (OR)

Dressage Seat Medal Finals (13YO & Under)

- Adelyn Burris & Squirtel (WA)

Dressage Seat Medal Finals (14-18YO)

- Olivia Martz & Ronvair (WA) – **BRONZE MEDALISTS**
- Trinity Schatzel & Hercules (ID)

In addition to our incredible field of athletes representing USDF Region 6, we also had multiple officials invited to serve on the ground jury at this prestigious event. Congratulations and thank you to Mike Osinski (WA), Teresa Stewart (WA), Dr. Christel Carlson (WA), and Kristi Wysocki (WA).

Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 6 Dressage Championships:

DevonWood Equestrian Centre served as hosts of the 2023 Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 6 Dressage Championships & Cascade Dressage Festival. Held over the first weekend in October, it was a week of fantastic weather and excellent competition. Congratulations to all of those who qualified for this prestigious event and best of luck to those of you who declared for the 2023 US Dressage Finals in Kentucky, taking place November 8-12 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

A special congratulations to our Big Dee's Tack & Vet Supply Regional Adult Amateur Equitation Champion Tonna Faxon, Esq. (Newberg, OR). Tabby Hopp (Chehalis, WA) was Reserve Champion.

I would also like to commend Jessica Wisdom and Kari McClain at Miari Stables and the many clients working with these fine individuals. On arrivals day for regionals, Jessica and Kari reached out to the hosts of the regional championships with the unfortunate news that some of the youngsters at the farm had snotty noses. Out of an abundance of caution, all entries originating at Miari were subsequently withdrawn from competition. Thankfully, the results of the PCR tests were all negative and the horses were all fit to have competed.

We realize the great sadness and frustration experienced by all of those who spent countless hours, money, and energy preparing for these championships, but we're extremely grateful to them for making the health and safety of their fellow competitors a priority and sitting this one out in order to reduce the risk. If only all of the players in our industry would be so considerate and respectful. I would also like to recognize our friends at Miari Stables who came down and volunteered all weekend at regionals, even though they intended to compete: Reiko Weigel, Ella Insko, Claire Raymond, and Tabby Hopp. Thank you to everyone at Miari Stables at Equilibrium Equestrian for leading by example; we are grateful.

Educational Programming:

Idaho Dressage and Eventing Association (IDEA) hosted their "Friends & Facts" and year-end award presentation in early November. Their educational event featured Paralympian and Region 6 athlete, Dr. Kate Shoemaker who presented on laminitis, Dr. Max Schmidt who presented on hoof care, Mr. Mike Taylor who presented on USEF rules and regulations, and Deanna Wirz who presented on saddle fit and function.

Oregon Dressage Society (ODS) hosted their ODS Trainer's Workshop at Sonnenberg Farm featuring USEF Young Horse Coach, Christine Traurig. The event was well-attended and offered a private learning opportunity for trainers on day one and a general session for attendees on day two. The Cottage Equine Dressage Boutique was onsite as an event sponsor, Saturday's lunch hosts, and even offered a dressage fashion show during the event.

Closing:

What a tremendous year it has been for USDF Region 6! I continue to be humbled to serve as your regional director. Thank you to all of the show organizers, officials, educational program organizers, and volunteers for making all of the events in Region 6 this year so wildly successful. I am grateful to each and every one of you for stepping up to make dressage in the Pacific Northwest such a vibrant and thriving endeavor. Happy holidays to everyone!

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Rattner
USDF Region 6 Director

Region 7 Report

Director: Carol Tice, CA

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

North American Youth Championships (NAYC):

Region 7 was well represented at the 2023 NAYC. FEI Juniors were Sophia Beck (Saratoga, CA) with Chachi, Emme Chisholm (Ramona, CA) with Winzalot, and Carmen Stephens (Saratoga, CA) with Fox. FEI Young Riders were Josh Albrecht (Oroville, CA) with Espresso and Josephine (Jojo) Hinnemann (Murrieta, CA) with Co Cobana MRF. Dennessy Rogers (Camarillo, CA) with Chanel was a first time FEI U25 rider. Alison Burt-Jacobs again was chef d'equipe for both the junior and young rider groups. Dennessy and her US Star Spangled Team rode to a silver medal finish and was the highest scoring US rider, and then went on to capture the silver medal in the individual competition, the Grand Prix 16-25, with her personal best score. Junior riders Sophia, Emme, and Carmen had an impressive week with all nine of their combined rides being personal bests. FEI Young Riders, Josh and Jojo, were combined with Averi Allen and Ella Fruchterman from Region 4 for the team competition and came away with the team silver medal. Winzalot, owned by Jamie Shortz and shown by Emme Chisholm, was recognized with the HorsePower trophy, which recognizes an outstanding horse from any of the championship disciplines who best demonstrates determination, courage, class, heart, and the ability to inspire athletes and spectators alike throughout the competition. Overall, over the six days of competition these athletes earned a total of two team silver medals, one individual silver medal, and fifteen personal best scores in a CDI competition with six top five finishes. Two members of these teams expressed exceptional sportsmanship and team camaraderie. Anna Yost's horse, Irieno-S, was unable to travel to Michigan with her but Anna did and supported her teammates. When Josh's horse was unable to compete and traveled back home, he stayed in support of the teams as well.

US Dressage Festival of Champions:

There were 20 riders and 30 horses from Region 7 that traveled to Lamplight for the festival. Some first timers and some returnees came home with many success stories. Miki Yang on Grey C Carrus claimed first place as the Young Rider Champion; Sabine Schut-Kerry brought home first place in Developing PSG on Sonnenberg's Jersey and Seven-Year-Old Champion on Gorgeous Latino. Second place finishes were earned by Lizzie Oshman on Webster in Children's Champion, Alyssa Doverspike Burkett and For Edition in the Five-Year- Old Champion, David Blake on Delilah in the Developing PSG, and David on G Q in the Six- Year-Old Champion. Rebecca Rigdon on Lionell VE in the Seven-Year-Old Champion and Sage Chacon on Apfelkorn in the Children Champion each earned a third place. Congratulations to all who made the trek!

Short List for US Dressage Team for Santiago 2023 Pan Am Games:

Congratulations are in order for current Region 7 riders Charlotte Jorst and Zhaplin Langholt and Christian Simonson and Son of a Lady and Zeaball Diawind, for making the short list. Christian and Son of a Lady made the team!

Other Interesting Region 7/USDF info:

Region 7 will have eight CDI/National shows available throughout the 2024 show season. Three located in Thermal, CA, three located in San Diego, CA, and two located in Temecula, CA.

Walker Lefkowitz (NV) was a first year recipient of the USDF Youth Dressage Rider Recognition Pin. This program recognizes the accomplishments of youth dressage riders in not only dressage but also in academics, volunteerism and equestrian education. Each recipient is required to achieve and submit two dressage scores of 60 percent or higher at any level, maintain a 2.5 GPA, record sixteen hours of equine-related education, and complete 20 volunteer hours for each year of enrollment in the program.

Ryder Mosqueda (CA) was selected as the USDF national nominee for the 2023 USEF Youth Sportsman's Award.

Rebecca Rigdon (CA), riding MSJ for Vips, finished in the top ten of the small final for six-year-olds at the FEI World Breeding Dressage Championships in Ermelo, NED.

Haley Smith (CA), a vaulter who has embraced dressage, will be joining Blue Hors to further her education to accomplish her ultimate dream to represent the US Equestrian National Team at the Olympic Games. Haley was selected as one of the five athletes to participate in the 2021 Young Rider Dream Program. In the same year, she won the regional dressage championship in the Prix St. George.

Aloha State Dressage Society (ASDS):

ASDS continues with its traditional show/clinic series with a show on Saturday and clinics on the following Sunday and Monday. 'S' judge, Sue Kolstad, provided information to riders in classical dressage, while 'S' judge, Joan Williams, took on classical and freestyle riders. 'S' judge, Dolly Hannon, worked with classical and western riders. Those riders were able to show off their skills at the ASDS Team Dressage Schooling Show, which features classical, western, and costume classes. The fun and entertaining show features four division types.

Hawaii State Dressage Society, M & N Maui Dressage Society, and Orchid Isle Eventing:

These GMO's continue to provide information and education for their members to continue and improve their horsemanship.

California Dressage Society (CDS):

CDS was able to hold most of their shows and events despite another year with a virus that impacted entries and traveling (mainly in the southern part of the state). The three regional adult amateur competitions were again a success with 22 riders participating in the southern region, fourteen riders in the central, and 52 in the north. The CDS Junior Championships saw 34 riders participating in the north and nineteen in the south. There were three regional adult amateur clinics throughout the GMO, with Melissa Creswick as the 2023 clinician. There were two junior/young rider clinics with Nadine Schwartzman as clinician. The 2024 clinicians for both of these CDS sponsored events will be announced in the near future. The 2023 CDS Championship show, held in conjunction with the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 7 Dressage Championships at Rancho Murieta Equestrian Center, saw 230 entries. All enjoyed the nice weather, wonderful shopping, great judges, and return to big entertainment throughout the four days of shows.

It was a great pleasure to cheer on CDS members Anna Buffini and Steffen Peters at the 2023 World Cup held in Omaha this year.

The CDS Chapters continue to offer wonderful education opportunities, either live or by Zoom, to their members.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Tice
USDF Region 7 Director

Region 8 Report

Director: Helen van der Voort, NY

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

Greetings from Region 8!

Summer is a great time to be in New England, and Region 8 members were very busy. In addition to the normal show schedule, there were a few other highlights (and a lowlight) of the season.

Callie O'Connell was selected to the US Dressage European U25 Tour in April, a wonderful achievement and we wish her luck! Also, in April a number of us made the trek to Omaha for the FEI World Cup which was an amazing experience.

Highlights from our regional meeting in June included the following:

- Sally Davenport reported that our finances are in good shape. The bulk of our funds are held for junior/young rider (Jr/YR) events and PM delegate travel expenses.
- The Fern Feldman Fund was created to raise money to help the region's PM delegates with travel expenses. Fern requested that the name of the fund be changed to reflect the actual use of the funds and she suggested renaming it the USDF Region 8 PM Delegate Fund. All agreed.
- Regina Cristo reported on freestyle. The roundtable was very well attended with over 300 calling in. She also proposed a Region 8 freestyle challenge. She is happy to find a sponsor for a cash prize for high score. Details to be ironed out, but the group felt it was best to start with lower-level AA classes. All were very excited. Later she passed on a request from Dolly Hannon regarding the behavior of trainers and competitors at a recent show. Regina reiterated that there is no place for bad sportsmanship.
- Anita Jaffe reported on regional championships. They are in the process of the following initiatives:
 - Virtual scoring
 - Mentorship Program for show management training
 - Updating e-scribing directives
 - Joint working committee of technical delegates and show management
 - An education session for the convention
 - Nominated and endorsed Sue McKeown for USDF Technical Council At-Large Director (ALD).
- Sarah Geikie reported on the instructor/trainer program. The program has been restructured with input from top USEF and USDF people. She described the pilot program in place this year, with the first very successful workshop held in Utah. There were 40 attendees to the general education program on the first day, and eight professionals attended the second day. As the program rolls out, it will be extended to two tracks, general education and professional development with a mentorship program for those wishing to go on to certification. Online education is coming soon.
- Bobbi Carleton reported on the youth. A good group of youth applied for slots to the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) and we hope to be able to field full teams for both

junior and young riders. She will encourage them to get fundraising going. Last year their expenses were all covered from fundraising.

- Karry Brothers reported on the L program. She and Christy Lemoine developed an Excel spreadsheet to greatly ease the burden of scoring. HCV mentioned that Lois Yukins continues to believe Region 8 has the best training programs and is very grateful for all the support we give.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the late delivery of the *New England Dressage Association (NEDA) Omnibus*, as many use it as a tool to plan their show season. NEDA described the difficulties of getting it out on a timelier basis, which was due to updating of the tests this year, the slow response of show managers to prize list details and proofing, and lack of control over the printer. NEDA plans to institute strict deadlines for inclusion to be able to get the book out sooner. They did warn, however, that the economics of publishing the omnibus prize list are very bad, and there is a chance it will not be printed going forward.

In June, Sabine Schut-Kery held a fantastic Region 8 Youth Clinic at Weatogue Stables in Salisbury, CT. Brenna Donovan, Leah Drew, Maggie Elsbernd, Gabriel Epstein, Rosa Murphy, Callie O'Connell, Isabella Thorpe, and Cameron Wyman had a wonderful experience. Those of us there to audit also shared in her education. Sabine was so empathetic with the riders, focusing on simple exercises that improved the connection between horse and rider, both in the riding sense and the emotional sense. Thank you, Sabine and thank you Weatogue Stables for donating the beautiful facility.

Now for the bad news. This was a devastating summer for many in our region. Shows suffered through near hurricane levels of rain and wind. Surprise storms, dangerous thunderstorms, and record heat impacted our daily work. Most dramatically, Green Mountain Horse Association in Vermont was flooded out, rebuilt, then completely wiped out a week later with a rain storm of five inches in three hours, causing them to cancel one of the most popular dressage weekends of the season.

The highlight of our summer was announced in August. Sally Davenport received the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award for demonstrating a lifelong dedication to USDF and its mission through faithful volunteerism, attendance at annual meetings, and overall service to the organization. And joining Sally in the announcement, Beth Jenkins was named a USDF Member of Distinction. This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to their local area or region toward carrying out our sport's mission. All of us in Region 8 are so proud of both of them, and we look forward to the celebration at the convention.

The NAYC was held in August. Our junior team, made up of Leah Drew and Damons Davian, Sophia Forsyth and Dimagico, and Lucy Sheldon and Porche's Florencia, had a fantastic week by placing a solid third in the team competition. Leah held on to place 8th in the junior individual test. While the young rider team, made up of Gabriel Epstein and Bandito, Nash Gagnon and Eros SSF, and Isabela Thorpe and Porche's Florencia did not medal. However, they had a great experience and are looking forward to next year. My co-chef, Bobbi Carleton, and I had a great time. It was a cooperative, fun group of kids, and their parents even behaved! Furthermore, the team did a wonderful job of fundraising to offset some of the expenses and raised over \$10,000. Thanks to all who donated, entered the auction, or used Lucy's braiding services.

The Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 2 Dressage Championships and Open Show were held September 21-24 at HITS in Saugerties, NY. Over 1450 rides were scheduled with around 600 going down C-Line for their championship rides. Everything ran very smoothly.

We were blessed with two days of spectacular New England fall weather and cursed with two days of lousy New England fall weather. Kate O'Connor spearheaded the yearly silent auction to raise funds for PM delegate travel to the convention and successfully brought in over \$1380 to help offset their expenses. Thank you to all who donated, including Kate, Diane Holston, HITS, and especially, Bobbi Carleton, Jamie Fell, Molly Maloney, and Jane Hannigan for offering lessons.

Looking forward further into fall, the 2023 Absorbine/NEDA Symposium with Kyra Kyrklund at Mt. Holyoke is scheduled for the weekend of October 14-15. This year's symposium will run in a slightly different format than prior years, with Kyra selecting training topics for each horse and rider team over the course of two days. The topics will build on each other throughout the course of the weekend, so the auditors will have a clear progression of Kyra's training philosophy. Highlights of this event will follow in the next report.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen van der Voort
USDF Region 8 Director

Region 9 Report

Director: Bess Bruton, TX

2023 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, November 29 – December 2 Omaha, NE

Despite the horrid heat, which broke a 141 year record, our region had a busy summer. We welcome the cooler weather of fall.

Shows:

So far, there have been 27 recognized shows this year. There are four shows remaining to close out 2023. Our GMOs and some stables also offered a full slate of schooling shows throughout the year.

In September, the Haras Dressage Sport Horse Breeder In-Hand Qualifiers and Finals was held in Magnolia, TX. This is the region's only sport horse breed show.

Great American Insurance Group/USDF Region 9 Dressage Championships, Southwest Dressage Championships, and Houston Dressage Society (HDS) Autumn Classic:

Once again, HDS, the staff, and volunteers did an outstanding job. There were 378 horses competing. Despite the rain on Thursday morning, after a two hour delay, the weather was perfectly cool and sunny. The staff at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center are awesome.

The theme of the show was "Board Games." There was a welcome stall crawl on Thursday night, followed by the annual and much coveted stall decoration contest, horseshoe hunt, and competitor party. In addition, the Region 9 junior/young rider "Battle of the Barns" auction was held with great success.

The festivities ended with the yearly Saturday evening championship banquet, with HDS awards and Region 9 awards presentation. This year, the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year Award celebrated 30 years. Past recipients were invited to attend an afternoon reception and the dinner. They were honored with a program and monogrammed bag. Thank you Carolyn VandenBerg, Arlene Gaitan, and Bess Bruton for helping put on this milestone celebration.

The Southwest Dressage Championships (SWDC) have been in existence since 1988. Chairperson Sarah Jane Martin and the board work tirelessly to hold a top notch championship. The riders enjoy the competitiveness and camaraderie. The SWDC are solely funded by sponsorships and donations. Director chairs, along with money, are the chosen awards for the champions of each class. Coveted medals are given for the first three places.

The HDS Autumn Classic is a good compliment show held along with the two championships. Its title sponsor, St Joseph Medical Center, helps tremendously, along with many other sponsors. It takes a village to hold such a huge undertaking. Our hats are off to HDS and all who help. We appreciate our competitors, trainers, family, and friends supporting this prestigious show.

Region 9 Horse Person of the Year (HPOY):

In its 30th year, the 2023 HPOY Award went to Nettie Olsen for over ten years of providing financial innovations as the Region 9 treasurer. She has also volunteered for her GMO, Fort Worth Dressage Club. Nettie has been a part of the Region 9 Board and is always there to help when called on.

Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award:

In its 15th year, this award is presented to a Region 9 dressage teacher; exemplifying their educational contribution and outstanding teaching ability. This year's recipient is Sarah Denham of Iola, TX. The Teaching Excellence Award Chair, Meg Flemming, along with past recipient Marie Morgan, presented the award and a check for \$5000 to Sarah during the Region 9 championship banquet. Marie was instrumental in teaching Sarah in her younger years. The Dressage Foundation (TDF) generously supports and manages this grant.

GMOs:

We currently have thirteen GMOs. They are all out there supporting their members with shows and educational events and are willing to help with the knowledge of older, experienced members.

Educational Events:

Many GMOs were busy offering educational events for their members. Our region offers funding up to \$500 to help support the GMOs educational endeavors. Central Texas Dressage Society received funds to help with the Rachel Saavedra Symposium.

Oklahoma Dressage Society held an L Program Part 2, finishing with the final exam in August. In late October, Fort Worth Dressage Club is having its annual dressage camp. This year's instructor is Bill Mullins.

Region 9 Junior and Young Riders (Jr/YR):

Our new first year Jr/YR Coordinator, Marsha Lewis, is busy with fundraising and getting information about our youth for an up to date database. She coordinated our YR team for the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, MI. Region 9, along with Region 1 and 2, earned the YR team bronze medal. Congrats to our Region 9 team members, Madison Manis and Sydney Lipar, for a job well done!

The 2023 USDF FEI Youth Clinic with George Williams will be held in November at Paragon Farms. There has been a great response to a couple of Dressage4Kids Team Clinics that have been held.

Evie Tumlin Memorial Fund:

This fund is for Region 9 adult amateur riders to help them with their educational goals. Congrats to Gerlinde Beckers (LA) and Meredith Hunter (LA) for being awarded this grant managed by TDF.

Regional Business:

The Region 9 (in-person) summer meeting was held July 21-22 in Greenville, TX. Our regional board members and GMO presidents gave their reports, which were followed by active discussion. A networking/think tank session was very well received with a ton of useful information being shared and exchanged.

Our next Region 9 meeting is November 17th via Zoom. This will be followed by an in-person meeting during the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Omaha, NE.

Region 9 Treasurer, Nettie Olsen, has retired. For over ten years, her invaluable financial reports showed comparisons and budgets. She also helped with the omnibus through the years. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Our new Region 9 Treasurer is Karin Loftin. She is dedicated to dressage and seeing the sport progress. Karin also serves on the GMO Brazos Association of Classical Horsemanship Board. We welcome her expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm.

Due to a change in the structure of the national committees, we have dissolved our Region 9 Freestyle Chair position held by Susan Howard. Susan has served the region for about 28 years, both on the regional board and committees. She is also an instructor, importer of European horses, European horse vacation travel agent, past breeder, and a licensed technical delegate. Through the years, Susan has served as both a PM and GM delegate. Her farm has hosted many clinics and symposiums. Luckily, she will still be around to continue to help. Thank you Susan for your awesome dedication and love for our region and dressage!

This year, six PM delegates will represent Region 9 at the convention: Elizabeth Clifton, Marilyn Kulifay, Sarah Jane Martin, Arlene Gaitan, Carolyn VandenBerg, and Barbara Lewis. Our GMOs also send delegates to the convention to vote at the Board of Governors meeting on items that help to shape our organization.

We are still working on gathering historical documents on both a regional and GMO level. A historical section will be added to the Region 9 website. It will be an ongoing project, one which we appreciate as we share our history with the world.

Nicole Miller, our Region 9 social guru and webmaster, also sends out a mid-monthly e-newsletter with a 50% opening rate. I also write the e-newsletter which is sent out by the USDF office the first week of every month. Between the two e-newsletters we hope to convey important news and information to our members.

Licensed Officials, L Grads and Certified Instructors:

In our region we are honored to have:

- 12 USEF licensed judges, with Connie Bridgeman as the newest 'r' western dressage judge.
- 7 USEF licensed technical delegates.
- 25 USDF L graduates available for schooling shows.
- 10 USDF certified instructors ready to share their knowledge and expertise.

Regional Fundraising:

The annual t-shirt design is voted on and selected at the summer meeting. We had several excellent designs submitted. Nicole Miller's beautiful artwork was chosen. The t-shirts are printed and sold as a fundraiser for the region. Once again, we offered them through an online store and sold them at the Region 9 championship show.

The *Region 9 Omnibus*, which is our main fundraiser, is the go-to publication in the region for shows, clinics, programs, awards, GMO information, regional board contact information, list of

officials, judges, technical delegates, instructors, and dressage tests. Thanks to Nicole Miller, Arlene Gaitan, and Bess Bruton for volunteering countless hours to get this published and to the regional board members who submitted pages. We print 100 hard copies and a free electronic version is available on the Region 9 website. We truly appreciate all the sponsors and advertisers for their support, which funds several regional programs and activities.

Regional projects which support, improve, offer education and fun are goals for our future. With dressage being 50 years young, we feel we have come a long way and think our future will be exciting. Thanks again. It takes more than a village to help our members achieve their dreams. Everyone working together is our recipe for success.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Bruton
USDF Region 9 Director