



UNITED STATES *Dressage* FEDERATION

INTRODUCTION

In 1995 at the 23rd Annual Convention of the United States Dressage Federation (USDF), the Group Member Organization (GMO) Council was formed. This was in recognition of the fact that the Group Member Organizations of the United States Dressage Federation was very important to the success of dressage in the United States.

The USDF has a broad mission statement and important goals which assist in the implementation of the varied purposes of smaller organizations. To that purpose, the GMO Committee's mission statement is:

To accelerate the growth and development of Group Member Organizations (GMOs) to broaden and strengthen the dressage community and increase access to education.

The goals of this Council are:

- to promote the education of USDF leadership,
- to offer support and materials, and
- to provide a network of others with experience.

Many who have served on the Board of our respective Group Member Organizations have realized that there is no reason to reinvent the wheel. Therefore, this collection of documents and editorial content are being submitted so that each GMO may have an idea of how other GMOs go about their daily business.

Some of the organizations that make up the United States Dressage Federation are small (less than 50 members) and some are large (over 1,000 members). Some have chapters and some have a few staff, but most are totally run by volunteers. Some overlap other dressage organizations and work cooperatively. Some are so isolated that getting to a meeting or an event is a full day commitment. The United States, being so diverse geographically, is certainly reflected in the 9 USDF regions and through the GMOs that make up that region. But in spite of this diversity, there is a common thread – a need for information. This is not a “How To” manual, but selections from those GMOs that felt that they had something to share that is working well for them.

This project was started in 1993. Many have contributed to it over the past few years. Some of the materials used have lost the name of their contributors. We hope that anyone who recognizes a contribution here will let us know. If you feel that your organization has something to contribute to the handbook, please submit it to USDF at 4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 to the attention of the GMO liaison.