

## Region 5 January Update

The Holiday season has passed and we're starting another fantastic new year! I'm going to provide a bit of a Convention wrap-up and highlight a few things to note.

Congratulations to our GMO award winner at the Convention:

- Region 5 GMO Volunteer of the Year – Tania Radda – Scottsdale, Arizona – Arizona Dressage Association

A few key things from the Convention this year:

- Due increases were passed by the Board of Governors for the membership year 2025 that starts December 1, 2024. Participating membership will increase to \$100, Youth participating membership will increase to \$80, GMOs will pay \$25 per individual member (a \$1 increase) and an additional \$2 increase was passed to make it \$12 per family member.
- The Executive Board passed quite a few fee increases that will also be effective for the 2025 competition year. Some highlights include Horse Lifetime Registrations increasing from \$115 to \$140, HIDs increasing from \$35 to \$45, Non-member fees increasing from \$35 to \$55 and qualifying ride fees increasing from \$15 to \$20. If you have any questions on these, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or USDF and ask.
- The 2024/2025 USDF Budget was approved at the Board of Governors, as were several housekeeping By-Laws. GMO delegates will now be due October 31<sup>st</sup> instead of August 31<sup>st</sup>. This will give GMOs more time to determine who their representatives will be for the USDF Convention each year.
- USDF is working with the US Para Equestrian Association to merge them under the umbrella of USDF. This will be a working project for 2024 and more will be brought before the 2024 Board of Governors meeting.
- Convention numbers were up for 2023 but the Gala dinner was down slightly.
- The 2024 USDF Convention will be December 4-7, 2024 in Houston, Texas.

The USDF FEI Trainers Conference will be held again in 2024 – January 15-16 in Loxahatchee, Florida at High Meadows Farm with Sabine Shute-Kerry and Sven Rothenberger. I look forward to seeing some of you there!

The 2024 FEI North American Youth Championships will be returning to Flintfields Horse Park in Traverse City, Michigan one week earlier and the USEF Festival of Champions will be returning to Lamplight Equestrian Center in Illinois as well shortly after NAYC.

The dates of the 2024 USDF Region 5 Championships are September 19-22 and we will be at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado. Qualifying will continue through August 26, 2024. Bid documents are now available for hosting the 2025 Great American USDF Region 5 Championships and are due to USDF by February 5th. I'd love to hear from any interested parties as soon as possible so we can help you with the bid process and anything you're going to need for those bids. All Regional Championships will continue to be held by early October since the Champions and Reserve Champions of the Jr/YR (Training-Fourth Level), Adult Amateur and Open divisions will feed into the Nationals Championships through the nomination process. There are also wild card spots for those who obtain high enough scores in the Championship classes.

If you are getting ready to show for the upcoming season, here are a few reminders:

- Make sure the name on your horse's coggins matches their registered name that they show under. This is a USEF general rule and quite a few folks sadly don't pay attention to the need for all documents to have the horse's name match.
- All horses are now required to have a USEF number – with an HID, an annual or a Lifetime registration. This is a change that is effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The USEF HID is free and you can apply for one for your horse using your USEF Member Dashboard.

I'd like to once again highlight the USDF Group Member Organizations Volunteer Incentive Program - It is a fabulous opportunity for recognition of our members that isn't very well known. The Group Member Organization (GMO) Volunteer Incentive Program is a way for current USDF Group Members to earn recognition by volunteering with their GMO(s). Track your volunteer hours using the GMO Volunteer Incentive Program Hour Log below and have a current GMO officer or official of record with USDF (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, webmaster, roster contact) validate your hours with their signature. Once a milestone has been achieved, submit the form to USDF. Hours can be carried over to the following year(s), allowing you to earn recognition as time allows you to volunteer.

Finally for this month, I'd like to congratulate Ruth Edith Neilsen on receiving the Carol Lavell Gifted Memorial Fund Award for Region 5 from the Dressage Foundation. Edie is a member of the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society. Ruth plans to have an intensive training week with Jess Roberts and additional lessons with Simone Windeler. Her goal for training is to prepare for competitions to obtain her USDF bronze medal. The Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs was seeded with donations in remembrance of Carol Lavell's great dressage horse, Gifted. The Fund's purpose is for adult amateurs to set aside quality, concentrated time away from daily pressures to train and bond with their horses. The best applications include a training program of five to seven consecutive days with one trainer. Volunteerism is also an important requirement for this grant. Applications are due each year by September 15.

Happy New Year!

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director