

## June 2018 Region 5 Message

Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their summer with your families and your horses. They are truly a blessing in most of our lives and even a quick snuggle or scratch with the equines or a hug and snuggle with the humans helps bring us happiness and peace.

The USDF Executive Board Spring Meeting took place in April at the USDF offices in Lexington, Kentucky and we had a productive day. This year once again I was able to enjoy a wonderful walk in the Horse Park with Margaret Freeman, Lisa Gorretta and my mom, Anne in the morning before the meetings started and we explored the Landrover cross country course. It made it a little easier to work through the meetings.

We had a very ambitious schedule and sadly, though we covered a lot of the items, we didn't quite make it through the entire agenda and several things have had to be dealt with on conference calls, but we're almost caught up! George Williams and Stephan Hienzsch opened the meeting with a status update on the organization since we had last gathered in person at the USDF convention in December, 2017. We discussed many different programs, our strategic plan, the overall budget and approved the Regional Championship locations for 2019. We will be in Parker, Colorado for Region 5 in 2019. It's great to have the competition rotate throughout our large region! There are several new programs in effect for 2019 including the 3 year old prospect award and the new Adult Equitation program that progresses to the Regional Championship level. The board has begun to look at an assessment of all USDF programs in the next few years and if you have any input please don't hesitate to share.

The 2018 USDF Convention will be November 28-December 1 in Salt Lake City! Coming to Region 5! If any GMOs or barns are interested in sponsoring a coffee break or snack break, please let me know, we'd love to have you on board. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with check in and several other things during the convention.

We have several declared Junior/Young Rider combinations for the 2018 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at [jnclay@comcast.net](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877. At this point, sadly I think not many will be making the journey to New York due to the large expense of travelling there, but if we can raise some funds to help them, it might change some minds! Please consider helping these wonderful and hard-working athletes go to what is commonly considered the "Junior Olympics" for dressage.

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director