

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season! We had a very nice week at the USDF Convention in our own Region 5 location, Salt Lake City, Utah, at the end of November and beginning of December. Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were a lot of you. We had great interaction and discussions at the Region 5 meetings and more than 5 very nice tables for the awards dinner! Thank you to Joan Clay for running the second Region 5 meeting while I attend the USEF Dressage Sport Committee meeting that sadly was scheduled for the same time. Congratulations to everyone who received year end awards and congratulations again to our GMO award recipients!

- GMO Newsletter Award - General Interest Article – GMO with 500 or more members – Honorable Mention – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, The Centaur, May 2018 – Amber Clark’s article “The Shoe Fits: How The Right Shoe and A Trained Farrier Can Make The Difference”
- GMO Newsletter Award - First Person Experience Article – GMO with 500 or more members – 1<sup>st</sup> place – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, The Centaur, July 2018 – Judi DeVore’s article “Amateur Clinic with Bill McMullin”

The USDF Convention is always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. I think the biggest item to be discussed at the Board of Governors meeting was the increase in the score required from the highest test of the level to ride a freestyle going from 60% to 63%. This rule went into effect December 1, 2018. There was a motion brought forward by members of the Board of Governors addressing the change: The USDF Executive Board be directed to submit an extraordinary rule change request to the USEF to rescind the extraordinary rule change to DR129.9 under GR152.3.a. The reasoning behind this request (as stated in the proposed BOG motion) is as follows: The adopted extraordinary rule will disadvantage the membership of the USDF and without rescission the membership will continue to be disadvantaged to the detriment of the USDF and its members. Not everyone was in favor of this motion, but it did pass and the Executive Board will make a recommendation to the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. There was also a GMO dues increase of \$4 per member that the BOG passed and this helped to balance the budget for the upcoming fiscal year and will also allow for the introduction of an exciting new schooling show awards program.

The hotel for the convention was located in the downtown area of Salt Lake City and only a block away from the Temple Square for the Mormon Church. The light display in the Square was beautiful and a nice evening walk destination. There was also a great mall attached to the hotel, so lots of folks went shopping.

A few more key things to come out of the convention this year:

- We will continue the \$200 reimbursement grant for those attending the USDF Convention as USDF Region 5 PM Delegates for the 2019 USDF Convention in Savannah.
- The budget was presented as balanced and it was approved. The finances of USDF are in good shape. Thank you to everyone for passing the GMO dues increase in order to balance that budget.
- Overall USDF membership is doing very well.

Looking forward to serving and working with everyone in the upcoming year and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director