

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season! We had a fun week at the USDF Convention in Savannah, Georgia at the 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 a great group 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 - First Person Experience Article – GMO with 500 or more members – 1<sup>st</sup> place – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society, *The Centaur*, March 2019: *Classical Dressage: From Dallying a Rope on my Saddle Horn to Breeches and Tall Boots* by Sgt. Joe Cummings
- Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year – USDF Region 5 – MaryJo Hoepner, Colorado Springs, Colorado – Rocky Mountain Dressage Society

The USDF Convention is always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. The major issue that came before the BOG was tabled, that was a change in the education membership. The largest part of it that was in contention was the name of the rebranded membership. It will be relooked at and come back next year. The BOG did approve a motion to look at separating Jr/YR to 15 and under and 16-21 divisions. That will now go forward for consideration by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. There was also a motion to have USEF look at adding at 55 and over AA division. So that will be considered in the future as well.

The budget for our fiscal year April 1, 2020-March 30, 2021 passed with no issues. Regions 1,3,5,7,9 directors were re-elected as was the secretary, Margaret Freeman. Kevin Reinig from California won the VP election.

For Region 5, our finances are steady. The NAYC kids need to do some fundraising if they would like to use the funds in their account to go to NAYC for 2020. The PM delegate grant of \$200 per delegate was re-approved for 2020 PM delegates. RMDS donated \$1000 of the profits from the USDF Region 5 Championships held in 2019 to the Region 5 Education account, in addition to their yearly donation of \$1000 to the FEI Jr/YR account.

New rules that went into effect December 1st include the drop for FEI freestyle qualifications back to 60% in order to be eligible to ride one. Also, qualifications were introduced for US riders to enter US CDIs and these will most likely go into effect in 2021. There are a few other rule changes for 2020, but nothing hugely major. There are quite a few new or changed FEI tests for 2020 as well.

The hotel for the convention was located along the Savannah River, just across the river from the main part of historic downtown Savannah. There was a wonderful free ferry that ran frequently back and forth across the river so it allowed for convention attendees to take in dinner and site seeing at their convenience. It was a wonderful place to walk and explore and see an important part of US history.

To all of our wonderful Region 5 committee members, your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and we really won't be the great organization we are without you! Many thanks to everyone for your support of myself as Regional Director and thank you as well for re-electing me. I look forward to serving you for the next 3 years and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director