

December 2010 Region 5 Message

I would like to thank everyone in Region 5, as I depart as your Regional Director after nine years. What an experience and an exciting time for USDF! The move to Lexington and Capital Campaign to pay for our National Educational Center resulted in a rent/mortgage free home in the center of United States horse country and the site of 2010 World Equestrian Games.

While I was Regional Director I had to opportunity to visit and meet members in all of our states, extending from the Canadian and Mexican borders. Since our region is so large, I made it a priority to balance our regional championships and educational opportunities between our northern and southern tier. Historically, we have had the championships in these states: 1996-NM, 1997-WY, 1998-AZ, 1999-CO, 2000-CO, 2001-NM, 2002-AZ, 2003-CO, 2004-AZ, 2005-CO, 2006-NM, 2007-CO, 2008-AZ, 2009-NM, 2010-CO, 2011-AZ. With a sixteen or more hour drive from the population centers of Denver, CO and Phoenix, AZ, this is the only fair solution. Again, with the Adult Clinics, we had Walter Zettl in AZ, Jane Savoie in CO, Betsy Steiner in NM and Charlotte Bredahl in AZ. Region 5 hosted the USDF Convention in Denver with the Kyra Kyrkland Symposium in 2008.

What is it like to be a Regional Director? Day long meetings at the convention and Spring Executive Board meeting, discussing the move to Lexington, balancing the budget, restructuring to improve and streamline governance, along with conference calls and countless emails and phone calls. Our governance is all-volunteer: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Directors, as well as the Participating Member and GMO delegates. We have a unique, grassroots organization and I am glad that I had the opportunity to participate. It is amazing and exciting, along with tension and compromise in the Board of Governance meetings. Love those roll call votes!

The most rewarding benefit has been meeting all people along the way, both in our region and getting to know those outside of our region.

Happy Holidays! I would like to thank everyone in the region for the time and energy you have donated to our sport on top of the demands of your own busy personal life.

Hug your horse! Our horses are such fragile, forgiving, and generous animals. They put up with our efforts and when we do it right, they give us their best!

Happy Riding!
Theresa Hunt
Region 5 Director