

What a wonderful modern day world we live in! I hope many of you took advantage of the USEF Network and were able to watch the World Dressage Masters in Florida at the end of January. It was fun to be able to watch horses from all over the United States and Europe live in our homes at no charge! The network did get overloaded periodically and I know some had a hard time getting on to the broadcast but it was worth it once the coverage began. A great learning opportunity and I can't wait for more dressage shows to be added to the schedule.

Fundraising efforts are under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2012 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held July 17-22, 2012 at the Kentucky Horse Park – one week earlier this year due to the Olympics. It is a very large undertaking to take our group of 8 riders to Kentucky with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipe and they need all the support we can give them. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our new Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at jnclay@comcast.net or 970-420-0877. If you are still interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2012, the last intention deadline is April 1st, so be sure to get in your intentions.

The USDF website has been updated with the minutes from the 2011 Board of Governors meeting, the updated USDF By-Laws, the BOG approved 2012-2013 budget and several other very important documents. The link to these important documents is <http://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/index.asp>. If you have any questions about these items, please feel free to contact me or any of the USDF staff members for more information. If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, there is still time to contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Kay Lorenzen at kaylorenzen@cox.net and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. USDF is also seeking nominations for USDF President and USDF Secretary.

And a final note, another step into technology for USDF...USDF Members now receive a FREE Gold Membership to PerfectWorldDressage.com! Register with the code USDF/PW2012.

PerfectWorldDressage.com is an interactive website which allows riders to upload videos of dressage tests and have them judged by licensed, experienced USEF Dressage judges. No show clothes required! Film yourself at home, upload the video for judges to view, and get ready to advance your skills, abilities, and love of dressage. USDF member benefit: USDF members can simply enter the promo code USDF/PW2012 on the Perfect World Dressage website to receive a FREE Perfect World Dressage Gold Membership! Gold Membership also allows members to post videos and pictures to their profile page, post a blog, and post unlimited classified and horse ads. Gold Members can also participate in the USDF/Perfect World – Dressage Challenge, which gives USDF recognition for Introductory through Second Level through PerfectWorldDressage.com. Members can improve their core dressage skills and at the same time, be recognized for their achievements without ever leaving their home or local barn.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director