

WOW! The first USDF National Championships in Kentucky was amazing. It was great to see our Region 5 competitors in attendance – congrats to Mimi Junick, Stephanie Busley, Heather Baker-Cole, Heather Irbinskas, and Anne Cooley! You represented us well and we look forward to even more of our Region 5 folks competing next year. There were several volunteers and officials from Region 5 also – myself, Simone Windeler, Sarah Martin, Janet Foy and Sandra Hotz. What a great opportunity for camaraderie and education. I've already signed up to volunteer next year and I can't wait. To scribe for world class judges for 4 days on the amazing new scribing system was an unforgettable experience.

The USDF convention takes place at the beginning of December in Kentucky and I'm looking forward to seeing our regional representatives and working through the business of the organization. Some of the big topics will be a review of the first USDF National Championships. There are also several new programs on offer for the coming year that will be introduced at the convention, so tune in after the convention for lots more information!

Bids will be opening soon for hosting the 2015 Great American USDF Region 5 Championships. I'd love to hear from any interested parties as soon as possible so I can get you a list of the information we're going to need for those bids. All Regional Championships will continue to be held by October 20<sup>th</sup> since the Champions and Reserve Champions of the Adult Amateur and Open divisions will feed into the Nationals Championships through the nomination process. There are also wild card spots for those who obtain high enough scores in the Championship classes. I really hope that things will work out for the Arizona Dressage group and that they will stay in our rotation! The region is definitely best served if we can keep the Regional Championships rotating since we are such a large and diverse (weather-wise) area.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director