

## June 2014 Region 5 Message

I hope everyone had a great spring. Colorado has had very interesting weather this spring, with lots of needed moisture, but it means that our horses are not always getting the work they need to get and the wind is definitely getting a bit old.

The USDF Executive Board Spring Meeting took place in the middle of April and we had a productive couple of days in Lexington, Kentucky. We met during the week for the first time since I've on the board and it worked quite nicely. We tried a new restaurant for our annual dinner, the Holly Hill Inn, and I highly recommend it if you're in the Lexington/Georgetown area.

We had a very ambitious schedule but we actually made it through it completely, which I must say is pretty unusual. George Williams and Stephan Hienzsch opened the meeting with a status update on the organization since we had last gathered at the USDF convention in December, 2013. We looked at the membership numbers for 2013 versus 2014 for the beginning of the membership terms and the numbers have stabilized. Membership is staying steady and this is great news. It also looks like membership is starting a gradual increase for most categories but Group Memberships. We can in under budget again for our fiscal year ending March 31, and that is also great news. Congratulations to our staff and treasurer, Steve Schubert, for helping us accomplish this feat the last several years. We looked at the preliminary budget for next year and it looks pretty good and will most likely be presented in its current state with minor adjusts at the Board of Governors meeting in December. We are rolling along on the National Championships again for 2014. We had wonderful feedback for 2013 and we are expecting a greater level of attendance this coming year so we've taken steps to expand some aspects of the show. We are also working to balance the budget and increase sponsorships, which has already been well started by our USDF staff and the competition management.

There were many things that were discussed throughout the week that go into the running of the organization. E-Trak is really developing into a phenomenal tool and the introduction of podcasts has been another great educational tool. We had a presentation on the HART program, which rewards our members for their time in the saddle, and spent some time looking at the new 2016 USDF tests that will be introduced in December. USDF is working to add a new Adult Amateur section to the USDF website and an AA division will be at this year at the National Championships for the Freestyle classes. USDF is also becoming more involved in the USEF rule change proposal process per the new structure at USEF and more time will be spent by committees at the USDF Convention addressing proposed rule changes.

Several wonderful educational programs were given approval for the USDF Convention in December. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us December 3-6, 2014! It will be a nice mix of business meetings and educational sessions. More details will come as soon as they are finalized. We once again talked about the convention format and this year the discussion was the placement of the USDF and USEF Technical Delegate clinics. If you have an opinion on what you'd like to see, please let me know and I'll pass on your feedback.

The Executive Board awarded the 2015 USDF/Great American Region 5 Championships to the Arizona Dressage Association and they will be held October 9-11, 2015 at West World in Scottsdale, Arizona.

We have 9 declared Junior/Young Rider combinations for the 2014 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Joan Clay, our Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at [jnclay@comcast.net](mailto:jnclay@comcast.net) or 970-420-0877.

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director