

The third USDF National Championships in Kentucky was another well attended year and a great competition. It was fantastic to see our Region 5 competitors in attendance – about the same number of horses as last year from our Region. We presented the inaugural Veronica Holt Perpetual Trophy for the Grand Prix Open Championships to Gwen Poulin. It was wonderful to have Sally Hayes, Veronica's daughter, there this first year.

Congratulations to the following combinations that attended this year – we're so proud of everyone. You represented us well and we look forward to even more of our Region 5 folks competing next year.

- Alyssa Barngrover and Dacapiella
- Andria Allen and Don Rubin
- Kim Yacobucci and Dona Rosa
- Catalina Sherwood and Razmitaz
- Theresa Hunt and Carmen
- Cyndi Jackson and Risky Business
- Cyndi Jackson and Romantic Man
- Cyndi Jackson and Rosa Fina
- Kailee Surplus and Santiago SF
- Erin McHenry and Bailando

There were several volunteers and officials from Region 5 also – myself, Joan Clay, Jon Haugen, Janet Foy and Kristi Wysocki. What a great opportunity for camaraderie and education. I look forward to working at the competition next year and as many years as I can after that! One big topic of conversation at the USDF Convention and Board of Governors meetings this year will be the rotation of the National Championships and whether we move it to Thermal, California or leave it in Lexington, Kentucky.

The USDF convention takes place at the beginning of December in Las Vegas, Nevada and I'm looking forward to seeing our regional representatives and working through the business of the organization.

Bids will be opening soon for hosting the 2017 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 20th 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 hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director