

I hope everyone is having a great Holiday season! We had another wonderful week at the USDF Convention in Cambridge, Massachusetts! Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were quite a few considering the distance and the worry of weather. It's always a great chance for networking, catching up with old friends and participating in the governance of our great sport. Our 2 regional meetings went very well and a lot of great information was exchanged. The weather was much better then expected, only a bit of rain for a couple of days! The protest marches on Thursday were a little disruptive to the Welcome Party but it was still a fantastic week. I enjoyed watching the scull crews each morning on the river outside my hotel room window and taking nice walks in the evenings.

Some key things to come out of the convention this year:

- We will continue the \$200 reimbursement grant for those attending the USDF Convention as USDF Region 5 PM Delegates for the 2015 USDF Convention in Las Vegas.
- The Sport Horse committee is starting a new Materiale Championship that will be run in conjunction with the Sport Horse Championships and they added Willy Arts as faculty to the USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development program.
- USDF National Championships were very well received and more rave reviews this year. We were up approximately 100 horses over 2013. Bids are being reviewed for a new facility for 2016-2018.
- The final date to hold a regional championship for 2016 was strongly considered due to travel concerns for USDF staff, possible earlier date for the Finals and several other factors. The date will be October 16th, which will minimize the effect on most of the Regional Championships.
- Starting with the 2016 competition year, competitors will be able to ride in multiple Regional Championships Qualifying rides per day at the same level.
- There were a lot of great explanations on the new tests from USEF and USDF. Quite a few changes to the USDF Freestyle tests for this coming test cycle.

Region 5 also had a couple of full tables at the USDF Awards Banquet. Congratulations to everyone on their medals, their Horse of the Year standings and their All Breed Awards. We had a lot of awards winners this year! And perhaps due to the smaller room this year, it was one of the fastest evenings also ☺



In 2015 we will be in Las Vegas! Book your room early as there are several other major events that weekend, including the NFR and the AAEP convention. 2016 will bring us to St Louis and we'll be staying near the Arch.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director