

The fourth 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 – more horses than we have had in previous years! We presented the Veronica Holt Perpetual Trophy for the Grand Prix Open Championships to Chase Hickok and Sagacious HF.

Congratulations to the following combinations that attended this year – we're so proud of everyone. I'm hoping I named everyone, but if I missed you, I'm very sorry. You represented us well and we look forward to even more of our Region 5 folks competing next year.

- Heather Brady and Bella A
- Heather Brady and Don Milenium
- Shannon Dahmer and The King of Rock n' Roll
- Shannon Dahmer and Rubico
- Gaylen Davis and Mojito RH
- Missy Gilliland and Windermere DDB
- Tiffany Goldman and Shakespeare Jet Invader
- Suzie Halle and Tennyson ISF
- Lisa Haisfield and Fabrioso
- Mary Kraft and Passhawn
- Mary Kraft and Unity
- Michelle Mooney and Don Viamo
- Marybeth Perez Soto and Djibbe van 'Den Hoeske Hoeve'

There were several volunteers and officials from Region 5 also – myself, Joan Clay, Rusty Cook, Janet Foy and Sandra Hotz. 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!

The USDF convention takes place at the beginning of December in St. Louis, Missouri and I'm looking forward to seeing our regional representatives and working through the business of the organization. Some big considerations this year will be a dues increase, a new adult educational series/set of educational programs that GMOs can offer, a possible presentation of a western venue for the US Finals and the restructuring of USEF and how it affects USDF. Next year we travel to Lexington, Kentucky and in 2018 we will be in Region 5 in Salt Lake City!!!

Bids will be opening soon for hosting the 2018 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. Don't forget, Juniors and Young Riders can compete in the US Dressage Finals if they qualify out of the Open Division at the Regional Championships.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director