

I hope everyone is having a great Holiday season! We had a great week at the USDF Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Many thanks to those of you who joined us and there were a lot of you. We had one of the highest attendances for Region 5 for the meetings and the awards dinner ever! 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 cooler for Las Vegas, but comfortable in the evenings with a light coat. I have to admit I definitely took advantage of the destination and did the most tourist activities at this convention then I've done in years. I enjoyed the roller coaster, wine cellars, the NASCAR parade, the Ferris wheel High Roller, the fountains at Bellagio, shopping and dinner at many great restaurants of the strip in the local part of Las Vegas. We had our own person cab driver the whole week and he was fantastic about taking us to some fun and unique spots. The hotel was pretty nice and I even spent a few dollars in the slot machines and at the Texas Hold'em table.

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 2016 USDF Convention in St Louis.
- The budget was presented as balanced and was approved. The finances of USDF are looking very good and we are doing well as an organization
- PM membership is up. GMO member is down a little but overall USDF membership is doing very well.
- USDF National Championships continue to be very well received and more rave reviews this year. We were at approximately the same number of entries for 2015 as we were for 2014. Bids are soon going to be open for the management of the 2017-2019 Finals
- The USDF Board of Governors voted to keep the Finals in Kentucky for the time being and not move West until such time Region 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 can come forward to the BOG with an adequate venue that meets the needs of the show in terms of weather, footing, stabling and several other factors.

The awards banquet was very fun again this year. 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!





Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director