

## June 2017 Region 5 Message

Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their horses and ponies. They are truly a blessing in most of our lives and even a quick snuggle or scratch helps bring us happiness and peace.

The USDF Executive Board Spring Meeting took place near the end of April at the USDF offices in Lexington, Kentucky and we had a productive day. This year once again I was able to enjoy a wonderful walk in the Horse Park with Margaret Freeman in the morning before the meetings started and we explored the Rolex cross country course and the museum grounds and it made it a little easier to work through the meetings. We also visited the USEF offices and walked their hallways looking at the pictures of Horseman of the Year thru the years and it's amazing the talent that has graced our horse sports.

We had a very ambitious schedule but we actually made it through it completely for the fourth year in a row – granted, we did do a few items on a conference call a few days before we met in Kentucky. George Williams and Stephan Hienzsch opened the meeting with a status update on the organization since we had last gathered in person at the USDF convention in December, 2016. We discussed many different programs, our strategic plan, the overall budget and approved the Regional Championship locations for 2018. I'm excited to go back to Arizona for Region 5 in 2018. It's great to have the competition rotate throughout our large region! We are sadly saying goodbye to the USDF Dover Medal program for adult amateurs at 2<sup>nd</sup> level but there is a replacement program in the works.

Several wonderful educational programs were given approval for the USDF Convention in December. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us November 29-December 2, 2017 in downtown Lexington, Kentucky. It will be a nice mix of business meetings and educational sessions. In 2018 we will travel to Region 5 and Salt Lake City, Utah!

We have 8 declared Junior/Young Rider combinations for the 2017 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. At this point, sadly I think not many will be making the journey to New York due to the large expense of travelling there, but if we can raise some funds to help them, it might change some minds! Please consider helping these wonderful and hard-working athletes go to what is commonly considered the "Junior Olympics" for dressage.

Till next month!  
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director