

I know a lot of us in Colorado would sure appreciate some moisture soon (at least at this point in mid-February!), and it would be nice if the wind would settle some, but at least the weather is warm and we are getting lots of riding in!

Fundraising efforts are once under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2017 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held July 18-23, 2017 at Hits-On-The-Hudson in Saugerties, New York. It is going to require a tremendous amount of funding to send our teams as most likely we will have to fly the horses in order to avoid 3 days of driving on either side of the competition. If we drive them, this will very much mean we will have to arrive to the competition quite early in order to give them enough rest before they show. We hope we will be able to send a 8 riders with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipes. In addition to the transportation to the show, there are the expenses of hotel, team uniforms, chef expenses, feed, bedding and oh so much more that they need help with. 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 or 970-420-0877 or our Fundraising Chair, Kathy Gillespie at kjpagillespie@msn.com or 303-921-5253. If you are still interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2017, the last intention deadline is May 16th but the less expensive deadline is May 2nd, so be sure to get in your intentions soon.

Regional Championship bids for 2018 have been received and we should know soon where the competition will be held. USDF will announce the locations of the 2018 Regionals in May. I hope everyone is planning on attending the Regionals in 2017 in Parker, Colorado at the Colorado Horse Park. It's a beautiful venue with lots of fun things to do. Many improvements have been made in the last couple of years. It should be a great show hosted by the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society!

If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, please contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Eva Maria Adophi at adolphi@redrock.net and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities. PM Delegate nominations are due in to the USDF office no later than April 15th.

If you have made plans to travel to Omaha at the end of March, enjoy a great World Cup! It should be a great roster of riders and a fantastic competition. Omaha is a fun city with many great restaurants and some fun things to do. Mark your calendars because the World Cup will be back in the United States in 2020 in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director