

The seventh annual 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 – there were 14 riders from our Region – 7 from Arizona and 7 from Colorado. We once again presented the Veronica Holt Perpetual Trophy for the Grand Prix Open Championships to James Koford and Adiah HP, owned by Sherry Koella. This is a wonderful and unique mare who is part Friesian and a red pinto. They are a crowd favorite and always fun to watch.

Congratulations to all who competed, supported competitors, owned horses, trained rider – we're so proud of everyone. You represented us well and we look forward to even more of our Region 5 folks competing next year. Please don't forget there is travel grant money available for the competition!

The USDF convention will take place at the beginning of December in Savannah, Georgia and it will be a very interesting convention. I will write more about it in our January update. Thank you to everyone who is attending, from the convention attendees to our banquet honorees. Next year we travel to Omaha, Nebraska and we will know 2021 shortly.

There are some changes coming up for the 2020 Breeders Championship Series, effective January 1, 2020:

- Series have been condensed and reformatted to total nine individual series within the program. Some of the series names have also changed from previous years. This affects Region 5 with the new map, so please pay attention closely.
- Horses will no longer be required to attend the series final of the series in which they qualify. While horses may still attend one series final competition, it can be the series final competition of choice.
- The qualifying score to compete in an in-hand USDF Breeders Championship Series Final class has been changed to 75%.

US Equestrian is pleased to announce that the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival (GLEF) at Flintfields Horse Park in Traverse City, Mich., has been selected as the host venue for the 2020-2022 Adequan®/FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) for the disciplines of dressage and jumping, pending final approval from the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). Competition is scheduled to run from August 4-9, 2020. This is great news for Region 5 as it brings the competition much closer to home.

Bids will be opening soon for hosting the 2021 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 20th 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, though this is one topic that is also up for consideration at the Convention this year most likely as well!

I hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director