

**2008 Dec. Meeting
Regional Reports**

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Adult Education:

Requests for grant money for activities in 2008- Adult Team Competition
May 17-18 2008 -Chase Meadow Farm

April 26-27, 2008- Houston Dressage Society Spring Classic I & II
Camps and Symposiums or Seminars USDF Grant Requests 2008

- April 19 – 20 2008 **SEDA** Freestyle Seminar Cynthia Collins
- May 29 – June 1 **ODS** Dressage Camp Kierkegaard, Sarah Martin, Louise St. Armour
- May 31 –June 1 **CTDS** Symposium with Jeff Moore
- June 6 - 8 2008 **FWDC** Adult Dressage Camp Meg Flemming
- Dec 7 2008 **DDC** Dressage Festival Lurena Stanley, Lisa Blackmon, Bobbie Paulk

Camps and Symposiums (Adult Education programs) Grant Requests for 2009

- March 21-22, 2009 **BACH** Jane Savoy Seminar - pending

These are the funds from USDF - national account.

Fund year: April 1, 2008 to March 31st 2009

Central Texas Dressage Society	\$ 500.00	\$500.00 paid
SEDA	\$1,000.00	\$227.00 paid
Fort Worth Dressage Club	\$ 500.00	\$500.00 paid
Brazos Association for Classical Horsemanship - 2009 clinic with Jane Savoie	\$ 500.00	\$500.00 pending program

Oklahoma Dressage Association \$ 500.00 \$250.00 paid

With DDC’s recent application for the Dressage Festival on Dec. 7th ...the grants now total \$2250 – so there is 0 remaining of USDF funds, to be used... for the current fund year.

- The EB has approved additional funding for grants submitted through the end of this fiscal year, March 31, 2009.

These are the grants through the Region 9 Education funds: (final approval in Dec.)

June 18 – 21 MsEDA Adult Dressage Camp- Pam Bancker & Paula Stewart

Request \$500 - (Loss of \$131.00)

June 28 – 29 CTDS - Loma Fowler Clinic Requests \$250- (Loss of \$447.00)

Dec. 7 DDC Educational Festival – Request \$1000. (Pending)

Funds awarded to programs in Region 9 from the Violet Hopkins Grant through the Dressage Foundation

ODS- Jeff Moore Symposium Jeff Moore- \$1500.

MsEDA-Adult Camp Pam Bancker & Paula Stewart – \$1400.

FWDC- Adult Camp- Meg Flemming- \$1500.

HDS- Sport Horse Seminar- Hilda Gurney- \$1515.

2009: BACH- Seminar & Clinic- Jane Savoie- \$2000.

The Adult Team Competitions will now be administrated through the new Sport Program Department. The competitions are still ‘housed’ with the council and Kathie will bring forth any questions or issues concerning the competitions, but the administrative responsibility is moving. Respectfully submitted, Evie Tumlin

Awards:

2008 Objectives

1. Continue to work with the council and the USDF Executive Board towards making the Awards Banquet more timely, effective, and streamlined.
2. Review the statistics in various award categories to potentially increase award participation.
3. Set a standard to review and improve new awards.
4. Work with the USDF staff in developing the upgraded award certificates

From a conference call in August we worked on~

1. Establish a Criteria or set of standards to initiate a new award or resurrect an old one
 - The council discussed the need for a set of standards to be developed that can be used when a new award is proposed.
 - It was discussed that the mission of awarding awards is to award excellence – this needs to be kept in mind when developing this set of standards.
 - The council members felt it was important to consider how many people would benefit from a new award and also felt it was important for the award to be meaningful and competitive. Some asked if existing awards have enough competition.
 - Many felt that there needs to be a certain level of participation and that maybe the criteria should include a requirement that statistics need to be provided so that the council can see the level of participation over the past 2-3 years. Some members discussed the difficulty of being able to track this kind of information. Krystina mentioned that the USDF should be able to help with statistics.
 - Many council members felt that a different set of criteria may need to be established for different awards.
2. Equivalencies
 - Council members discussed the need to address equivalencies and the differences between USEF and USDF. Many council members felt that the USDF should set the same equivalencies as USEF.
 - Council members said they would discuss level equivalencies with people in their regions and report back at convention.
 - It was discussed that the FEI Junior Freestyle should be equivalent to Third Level Freestyle for year-end award purposes. This will be brought to the BOG this convention.
 - It was also discussed that the FEI Junior Team and Individual tests be equivalent to Third Level. This will be brought to the BOG this convention.
3. Championship Scores Counting towards Year-end Median Score Calculations
 - Council members discussed the need to continue to evaluate the possibility of championship scores from the Great American/USDF Regional and Breeders championship competitions not counting towards USDF year-end award median score calculations. The council had varying opinions on this topic. Members decided this issue needs to be discussed at convention again this year.

2009 Objectives

1. Clarify USDF/USEF equivalences.
2. Continue to work on “standards for new awards” or re-establishment of previously existing awards or awards programs.
3. Continue to research if championship scores should count towards USDF year-end award median score calculations.

1. Criteria for new award programs, awards or re-establishment of previous existing awards or awards programs.
 2. Equivalencies
 3. Championship scores counting or not counting for year-end award median calculations.
- Submitted by Donna Meyer

Competitors:

Since the summer meeting report, I've had three more Competition Evaluations. Two very complementary ones on the Alamo Fall show and one on Lazy E show with complaints regarding footing in the competition arena and real misgivings about the warm up arena. There was also a problem with the announcing during the show.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Kather

FEI Junior/Young Rider:

The FEI Juniors and Young Riders have been raising money for the new competition season. We were lucky enough to raise over \$2500 at the Southwest Dressage Championships this fall. Thank you so much to the Houston Dressage Society for offering the proceeds from the Battle of the Barn Baskets to the FEI Junior/Young Rider funds. Kathy Jones donated a week at a timeshare in Orlando that helped to generate donations, many thanks to her as well.

We have plans underway to raise money for the NAJYRC for 2009. A number of schooling shows at different locations throughout Texas are going to be offered with the proceeds to go to the FEI Junior/Young Rider funds. We are hoping to have another fundraiser as well perhaps at the next Junior/Young Rider clinic sponsored by USDF and the Dressage Foundation.

On October 25-26 an FEI Junior/Young Rider clinic was held with Jan Ebeling. We had 8 FEI Juniors and Young Riders participate and about 30-40 auditors attend. The clinic was very educational and everyone came away with more knowledge and tools to use in their riding.

I'm hoping to be able to have another clinic in the spring of 2009. Many thanks to Melanie Pai, Canaan Ranch and Debbie Shamban for hosting the clinic and the party on Saturday evening.

The new competition year has already started with 3 competitions already being held. In 2009 we will have an additional 10 competitions at which riders can try to qualify. Declarations of Intent must be in the USDF office no later than March 1, 2009. We currently have one rider declared for 2009 for Young Riders and many more I'm sure to follow.

Congratulations to Kassidy Peacock on her selection as the USDF Junior Volunteer of the Year. She worked many hours helping to raise funds for the FEI Juniors and Young Riders. She will be recognized at the USDF convention at the Salute Gala. Kassidy is hoping to be able to compete in the NAJYRC in 2009 on a newly purchased horse.

Also, congratulations to Faith Morris on her appointment to the USDF Youth Executive Board as the representative from Region 9.

We are hoping for great success in 2009 and thank the region and everyone that helps support the FEI Juniors and Young Riders. We couldn't do it without your help.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Darnell

The GMO's are not responding to any email requests. Nor did they report on the IRS compliance status by the USDF.

A proposal going around to raise GMO dues, (actually most of the dues across the board) has been brought up with the council, and from what I can see, has been very poorly received. Most of the commentary is very against it as they feel with the economic problems going around that the first thing that people will drop is their GMO's. This is going to be something that will probably be widely discussed at the convention.

Submitted by Renee Smola, & Bruce Lawrie

IMO:

I have contacted four college equestrian teams that represent both state and private institutions: Baylor College (Waco, TX), Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, LA), Texas A & M (College Station, TX) and Tulane University (New Orleans, LA). All responded to my inquiry and were favorable to the idea of dressage; however, all have "volunteer" coaches and they feel pretty overwhelmed just keeping the team at it's current level. Baylor was very interested and the coach there has a background in dressage, unfortunately, it is not clear how to add dressage competition without anyone to compete with. I will continue to assess the status of dressage at equestrian teams throughout the region. Based on these data, I will prepare a proposal for how Region 9 can best foster and support dressage competition among these schools.

Submitted by Paula Gregory

Instructor / Trainer:

Regional: 2008 had promises of Instructors Certification Courses from three different GMO's but when it got down to making plans, all three pulled out. So we had no USDF Instructor Certification Courses.

2008 did have three, which I know of, Instructor "type" Clinics, they are, Sophie Clifton Instructor Course, The Naked Truth of Riding and a Lungeing Clinic at Canaan Ranch. There may have been others.

This brings us to the changes we have offered for 2008.

We have sent a questionnaire out asking:

1. Who wants to go through the Certification Course?
2. Who wants more Instructor Workshops
3. What clubs want to host or farms?

We have offered to everyone we could reach the information that if they will let us know what functions they are hosting, we will get the word out, keep a calendar of what clinics are going on so that we do not have them competing for participants and we will even recognize them as a Regional Function if they will let Bess Reineman RD see the format up to six months ahead of time so that she can help get the Clinic as much attention as possible if she feels it would benefit the Regions Instructors.

As of right now, Austin's GMO, CTDS, has offered to host a Certified Instructor Course and they have 12 people who have said they would want to be a participant. We have the months, but so far not the exact date or facility, both need to be solidified before a faculty member can be contacted.

National: USDF has decided to not come up with a new program for Instructors for now because of the funds it would take.

There has been a downfall of Certification Courses all over the nation.

Some changes in fees will be discussed at the BOG meeting. I feel the changes are not out of line for what the persons paying the fees gets.

Assessment from I/T Coordinator:

I have had persons e-mail and ask who are the Certified Instructors in the area. To my surprise we have only 6, with only one being certified to 4th level.

Three persons have their Associates “An Associate Instructor has successfully completed the USDF Instructor Certification Workshop series in Lungeing, Teaching and Riding but have not yet been tested for certification.” So if you call Kathy Robertson at USDF and ask for a Certified Instructor in your region, your name will not be given.

I know we have good up and coming Instructors in our region; they just need to have workshops so that they feel confident when getting in front of their peers and faculty. I know most of the Certified to 2nd level Instructors have competed successfully into FEI and so have some of the Associate Instructors. We need to get those folks Certified to the levels they ride at successfully. This is also a matter of having FEI level workshops so that they feel confident in front of their peers and faculty.

The goal of 2008 is to have more education on how to teach more effectively and with classical techniques that you would feel confident showing in front of anyone. We need to get the point across, that even if you do not take a testing, by going to the workshops you will become a better instructor and you will reap the benefits from your client’s progress.

I am going to ask the Associate, 2nd level and 4th level Instructors what I can do to get them to continue up the ladder in their certification. If it is a matter of money, maybe we can have their club sponsor them or they can give a free clinic for the club or if it is a matter of education on how to teach better, maybe we can have a workshop at my farm with low fees. We have to start keeping up with the education first, without the knowledge; our instructors cannot be prepared to take the testing.

Respectfully submitted, Vera Muckleroy

Judges:

In order to encourage more L Grads to attend Continuing Education, seminars, symposia, clinics and other educational events meeting specific requirements were identified and a calendar of qualifying educational events were sent to L Grads and Judges in Region 9.

On June 14-15, 2008, Region 9 with Houston Dressage Society held a Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads Program, Upgrading Your Judging Eye, Part II with Joan Humphrey an “S” Judge and L Faculty Member. Nine “L” Graduate Participants and seven Auditors attended. The evaluations rated the program and instructor as “Excellent.”

HDS received a grant from the Dressage Foundation to help with expenses and the program broke even. Because the CE program did not utilize all the Dressage Foundation funding available, there were additional funds available for additional programs in Region 9. An email was sent to identify GMOs interested in hosting a Continuing Education for Judges and L Grads Program.

Updated information for L Grad and Judge listing in the Region 9 Omnibus was requested. L Grads who attended additional Continuing Education in the past three years were identified and designated, along with those who graduated with distinction. Forty-three of sixty listed L Grads (over two-thirds) of Region 9 L Grads have attended additional education in the last three years.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Kulifay

Marketing / Membership:

With communication at the forefront, and “going green” an important step, we are planning a regional group list for implementation in 2009. I already maintain a “Lone Star” group list, where regional news is posted. Marketing -supplying dressage related articles to non-dressage publications.

Submitted by Laurie Virkstis

Nominations:

The winner of a 5-year participating membership in the drawing from all that mailed in their ballots for P.M. delegate was Cindy Franchek from Houston.

Once again, Region 9 was 2nd in the percentage of ballots returned for the election of P.M delegates. The P.M. delegates representing us will be:

Jan Colley
Joan Darnell
Paul Kathen
Marilyn Kulifay
Kathryn Kyle
Sarah Jane Martin
Evie Tumlin

The newly elected Region 9 Youth Executive Board member is Faith Morris. Region 9 was 2nd in percentage voting in this as well.

After much hard work, we have 100% of the GMO represented by a delegate they are:

ADA – Kathryn Kyle
ADS – Sherry Guess
BACH – Sarah Jane Martin
CTDS – Susan Howard
DDC – Jennie Bohart
FWDC – Jennie Bohart
HDS – Kathleen Jones
LEDA – Sarah Parsons
MsEDA – Elizabeth Rice
ODS – Sherry Guess
SEDA – Nicole Landreneau
Tri-State – Bruce Lawrie

A special thank you to Gillian Gourley and Jeanette Snow for once again volunteering to be the Region 9 Canvassing committee.

The nominations council had no conference call or items of major importance to hand this past year.

Respectfully submitted Kathryn Kyle Region 9 nominations council

Bench Fund:

At present we have raised \$8194. We have another \$1807. Pledged. We have given to USDF, \$4000. and \$1343. of the \$8194. We need to raise additional \$2999., above the amt. pledged.

2009 Omnibus:

Omnibus printing for 200 books...cost around \$1,400. Mailing cost around \$200. Printer will have it finished the 1st week of Dec. With Tess & Liz mailing it out around Dec. 9th – 10th. Omnibus will be posted on the website by Nov 30th.

As far as getting it out from the printer sooner, due to extending the deadline for submissions, we submitted the Omnibus at least a month later than we had indicated. The extension for submissions of articles plus change orders from advertisers (new show dates, judges, email addresses) resulted in a 2 week delay in the printing of the Omnibus. Liz did call and ask for a sooner printing, but did not want to pay a rush charge.

2008 Southwest Dressage Championships:

November 2008

“Dressage -- It’s a Piece of Cake!” was the theme for the 2008 Southwest Dressage Championships and HDS Autumn Classic hosted by Houston Dressage Society and held on October 31 – November 2, 2008 at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. The weather was beautiful -- in the mid-70’s and clear, and the show had a lovely championship atmosphere. Approximately 240 horse/rider pairs competed.

The Friday night meeting had about 25 people in attendance to vote on whether the SWDC qualification for horse and open rider would transfer with the horse if it were sold. The proposal was defeated. By unanimous vote, Ed Lavalley was re-elected as Chairman of SWDC.

The Saturday night dinner was fun for all, with cake centerpieces decorated by HDS members with a creative flair. The program was “My Fair Rider” where a dressage rider teaches a Western rider how to compete and win at dressage. The program featured a Musical Freestyle, Pas de Deux, Pas de Trois and Western trick riding on a three-year-old Mustang.

Twenty-one entries were considered in the stall-decorating contest.

Fund raising included: (1) a silent auction that raised \$1000 to be divided among the GMOs that sent volunteers to the show (and contributed an item to the silent auction) and (2) Canaan Ranch matching individual donations, a raffle and a “Battle of the Barn Baskets” that raised over \$2500 for the Region 9 FEI Youth.

One hundred twenty (120) volunteers from 6 GMOs worked over 800 hours to make this championship a success!

Numerous awards were given and everyone enjoyed the Awards ceremonies with three options to participate: (1) without horse, dressed in riding attire, (2) lead horse (either rider or owner) or (3) on horseback.

The competitors, volunteers, judges, officials and show management all had wonderful comments and look forward to coming back!

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Kulifay

HDS Recognized Show Chair and SWDC Rules and Bylaws Chair

Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award:

The final touches are being put in place for the award to be open for applications, and donations Jan of 2009. With the intention, of a possible award being given at the championship show in Katy, Tx... in Nov. 2009.

A competitor asked if "In hand schooling of horses were allowed?"...There is no rule saying that In hand schooling of horses at a National Recognized competition is not allowed.

Competition Managers should take note that there is a proposed rule change by the Safety Committee, Proposed Effective Date 12.1.09 GR1211.6 Safety Coordinator a. All Licensed Competitions MUST appoint a Safety Coordinator. The Entire proposed rule change can be found at the USEF website for viewing. Or on page 23 General rules in the USEF proposed rule change booklet that was sent out by USEF.

There have been a number of accidents/injuries at Dressage Competitions over the past several years as in other competitions. Technical Delegates should be ever diligent working with comp. mgt. and Medical personal in reviewing of the Accident Preparedness Plan before the Competition begins. The addition of a Safety Coordinator will allow continuity of the contingency plan.

Regarding Bits...Not all Myler Bits are legal! We found one at the SWDC championships with a roller (all rollers are illegal). The Myler bits with a coupling are considered legal. Competitors/Trainers need to either call a Technical Delegate or TD Coordinator or USEF directly when purchasing equipment that tack shops say is legal but, has no USEF verification.

This is why is it so very important to list the TD's and their contact information in the Prize List and encourage competitors to call for questions regarding rules before they compete and risk being disappointed by elimination. It takes many years of study and field experience to gain knowledge and application of the rules. We wear many hats protecting the interest of the Horses, Competition Management, Judges, Competitors, as well as our own; the list is long and the hat very tall.

Mission:

1. Provide updated Technical Delegate information within Region 9
2. To Provide Resource Information to Technical Delegate, Competition Management, Competitors and Judges when requested.
3. To assist Council Chair and Regional Coordinators in collective efforts in obtaining it's Objectives.

2008 Objectives:

1. Assistance in the revision the TD Check List. Done
2. Assistance in the Update of the TD Co-op List. Done
3. Support the Council in increasing awareness and use of the USDF Competition Handbook and broadcast its availability to all technical delegates.
4. Continue communication with coordinators and the technical delegates in their region regarding rule changes.
5. Continue to monitor all rule changes and keep TDs alerted via e-mails Promote awareness of the now available Licensed Officials Portal at the USEF web site.
6. Develop a concerted voice of Technical Delegates for continued professional growth.

Progress to Date:

- Completion of the TD Co-op List
- Continue to monitor end of year rule change.
- Review of the resources in the Licensed Officials Portal USEF

Communications:

Establish a communication link on the Region 9 Website for anyone needing Rule clarification to the TD Coordinator.

Also, request that competition management include in their prize list the name and rating of the TD that they hire for their competition, including phone number or email. It is essential that competitors have access to rule information when necessary before they arrive at the competition. Submitted by: Sandra F Marx R TD CM

Regional Service Pin /Award:

Committee Chair: Sandy Marx Committee Members: Kat Kyle, Mandy Meyers, Vera Muckleroy, Evie Tumlin, Mary Wetzel, Bess Reineman

Mission Statement: Purpose, Service, Incentive and Recognition. The purpose of the Regional Service Award is to give recognition for continued Great service and stand as an example for others to become involved.

Goals: 1. Establish Criterion, 2. Create Pin Design, 3. Develop a Budget, 4. Implementation 5. Date and Location of Awards Presentation.

Minutes from December 07: Bess Reineman initiated a discussion to provide a Regional Service Award, perhaps with a 15, 20, 25 years of service designation.

Things mentioned in the discussion included

1. Suggestion for the formation of a committee to determine whether people really served that long.
2. Should it be given to retired or active members.
3. Would there be nominations.
4. Should awards have a monetary cap for each level.
5. This award would publicly acknowledge those who have served the region.
6. The service would not need to be consecutive service.
7. Should there be a plaque or framed certificate.
8. Would current and past recipients be listed on the Website and in the Omnibus
9. Should meeting attendance be a requirement
10. Could there be pins for everyone and then special designation?

Mary Wetzel moved to set up a year's in service pin for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of serving in USDF Region 9 Evie Tumlin seconded the motion and it passed. Bruce moved that a committee be formed to decide on how to implement the pin system. Mandy seconded the motion and it passed. The committee appointed was Bess, Mary, Amanda, Evie and Kat.

At the Summer Meeting 08, Sandy Marx volunteered to Chair the committee. Vera Muckleroy volunteered to be a committee member. Members communicated by email.

Work to date:

Viewed several websites that offer Service Award pins and will assist in the dye/design layout. No prices have been quoted at this point. This is determined by cost of design and quantity.

Suggestions:

1. The majority of the committee felt it would be good to add a 5 years service award category to the already established 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 year service categories. A vote is need to accept the 5 year service award into the category
2. The awards to be presented at the Region 9 Championships. A vote is needed to accept the awards to be presented at the Region 9 Championships. In addition, it is recommended that a certificate suitable for framing also be presented. Vote needed. Those unable to attend the Region Championships
3. would receive their pin and certificate (provided certificate is accepted) by mail. Vote needed.

4. Implementation, it is recommended that those who have service in any of the categories submit a letter stating the areas they have worked in. Kat indicated that there is a history of who served and in what capacity to validate the information. Vote needed to accept this method of implementation.

The committee still has a lot of very detailed work to sort through. It is hoped that by the Summer meeting we can answer all of the above questions. That we can have the budget worked out and ready to purchase pins and certificates to be awarded at the 2009 Region 9 Championships.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandy Marx

Website:

Carol retired from helping with the website, because of work, and family obligations.

Bruce is doing a very good job updating the website as needed.

The domain name and web host has been paid.

Nicole Landreneau has volunteered to design a new website. It will be up and running in Jan. 2009.

Youth:

The Region 9 web page for the Youth Council is on the Region 9 site. The web address is <http://www.usdfregion9.org/> the page is current for this year and will need updates after the USDF Convention this Fall. The USDF needs our enthusiasm and energy to grow the Youth.. Many of our new programs are recommended outlines to give parents a free rein.

Youth Age: (the USEF Dressage age rule for Juniors and Young Riders is used) USEF DR 119 3. Individuals are eligible as Juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18. Individuals are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach 16 until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 22.

The above Juniors and Young Riders are considered Youth. Youth who ride in Nationally Recognized competition may also be interested in information on the FEI Jr/YRider page as well as the Youth page. If you Show: Each competitor is responsible for keeping up to date with all rules and regulations of the organizations in which they compete. Also, read the rules of each competition.

USDF and USEF Awards for Youth

USDF offers many awards, including year-end awards just for riders under 21. Other awards include Horse of the Year, USDF Musical Freestyle Awards, and of course, the All-Breeds Awards. There are also awards that you can work toward even if you can only compete once or twice a year. See the USDF Directory for complete information and requirements for each USDF award. Many of these awards are earned through the USDF Recognized Shows in Region 9 that lead to the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Dressage Championships. This competition gives you the chance to see how you compare to other (Youth) juniors and young riders in your region. Although this competition is not limited to Youth only, the Great American Insurance Group/USDF Regional Championships offer a special division just for Jr/YRs from Training Level to Intermediate I. Complete championship qualifying information is available at www.usdf.org.

See the Region 9 Omnibus & Calendar on the Region 9 web site, & your local GMO newsletters for the regional shows that are available,& visit: <http://www.usdfregion9.org/youth.asp>

USDF Creativity & Art Contest

USDF conducts this contest on an annual basis with an average of 100 very competitive entries. This contest is designed to highlight the creativity and beauty behind the sport of dressage and allows youth to express their interest in the sport outside of the competition arena. Competition winners will have their work published in the *USDF Connection* magazine, USDF Calendar, and displayed at the USDF annual convention. Contest rules and entry forms are available at www.usdf.org

USDF Youth Shining Star Award

USDF is pleased to offer the USDF Shining Star Award recognizing outstanding sportsmanship amongst USDF Youth Members. Anyone may nominate a USDF Youth Member for this award with the use of this nomination form. This award is also offered at USDF Regional Youth Team Competitions. All award recipients will receive a USDF Shining Star lapel pin and will also be recognized in the USDF Connection magazine and at the USDF annual convention.

USDF High School Dressage Club Pin Program

This program is meant to provide helpful information for organizing high school dressage clubs/teams in your area. Due to the varied requirements from state to state, or even within states, you will need to contact your local school district to determine where best to start in order to get approval for receiving a high school activity letter in dressage. These guidelines are set up with the approach that the club may be sponsored by, or affiliated with a local USDF Group Member Organization (GMO). USDF members who meet their clubs standards for achievement in equestrian sport will receive a recognition pin from USDF.

Individual Parents are the key to establishing a program for your youth (anyone of Junior High or High School age) rider. A High School must cooperate and you can work with in an existing club or make one at that High School. Working through a USDF GMO, 4H, US Pony Club or a local horse club is helpful.

The web page is: <http://www.usdf.org/education/other-programs/high-school/index.asp>

Participating schools : <http://www.usdf.org/education/other-programs/high-school/participating-schools.asp>

USDF Youth Convention Scholarship

This scholarship has been established through funds raised at the USDF Youth Executive Board Silent Auction held during the USDF Annual Convention. The goals of this scholarship program are to provide financial assistance to young dressage enthusiasts wanting to attend the USDF annual convention and to increase youth attendance at the convention. Scholarship applications are available at www.usdf.org

USDF Youth Education Grant Funding

Each region is allowed a total of \$750 in grant money for financial assistance to help USDF Regions and GMOs provide educational opportunities for youth involved in the sport of dressage. These grants may be used to fund Youth Camps, Youth Clinics, or any GMO educational programming geared towards youth. Grant applications go to www.usdf.org

USDF 2009 Youth Regional Team Competitions... Two in Region 9

South is May 9th, 2009 DDS Spring Show Los Colinas Equestrian Center, Irvine, TX.

North is June 13th and 14th, Green Country Chapter of ODS, Claremore Expo, Claremore, OK

You may enter both.

Experience the thrill of competition that is beginner-friendly. This competition is held in all nine USDF Regions. Anyone age 21 and under can compete, from Introductory Level to Grand Prix. The Competitions feature fun and excitement, a competition environment, educational talks and clinics, parties and much more!

To ride in this competition you must be ready to have great time! These competitions may be held as either a USDF/USEF Licensed Competition, or may be held as a schooling show. Riders may either enter as a team, or be placed on a scramble team. Teams are three or four members ...never two. This is a great way to encourage 4-H Club and Pony Club involvement. Some regions have experienced such growth in their team competition that they now have regional qualifying requirements youth must meet to compete. Region 9 does not have qualifying requirements, however our competitions are run in conjunction with USDF/USEF shows so some non membership fees are necessary for entry if you do not belong to USDF and USEF. Fees for membership of Youth are so low that I recommend joining the USDF and USEF on your entry forms and enter both competitions. The number of competitors in this nation wide program can range anywhere from 10 to 700. USDF provides special rider neck medals for first through sixth place and champion and reserve champions rosettes free of charge to each organizing committee. Complete information and organizer guidelines are available at www.usdf.org

USEF Dressage Seat Equitation Medal Program

While equitation classes are popular in other disciplines, they are a relatively new concept for dressage. The purpose of this program is to promote and reward excellence in equitation including correct seat, position, and use of aids in the sport of dressage. In this competition, judges look at the quality of riding as opposed to the quality of the horse.

Riders' qualify for the Dressage Seat Medal Finals throughout the year and the top riders in the country are selected to compete. A unique aspect to this program is that riders can compete on borrowed horses. This encourages great participation at the finals from all over the country. Contact the United States Equestrian Federation for current qualifying rules and information. www.usef.org

United States Equestrian Federation Youth Sportsman's Charter Award

This program is designed to develop leaders in the equine industry from all breeds and disciplines. Candidates for this award must be juniors who are current members of both the USEF and their recognized national affiliate organization (USDF). USDF seeks nominees who demonstrate an ongoing commitment and dedication to the mission of USEF and USDF through the promotion of the horse, who serve as a role model for their peers, and who exhibit characteristics that exemplify positive sportsmanship principles. The USDF national nominee shall be recognized with receipt of a certificate of honor, lapel pin, and exclusively designed hat from USEF, as well as a six-day, expenses paid career opportunity workshop at the USEF national headquarters in Lexington, KY. The national nominee will be submitted as a candidate to USEF for consideration as the overall Youth Sportsman's Charter Award winner, who will be nominated for the USEF Junior Equestrian of the Year Award. The overall winner will also be presented with a trophy, a \$1,000 scholarship to be paid to the educational program of their choice, and a lifetime membership to USEF, valued at \$2,500. Information is available at: www.usdf.org. **Our Region 9 Representative to USDF for 2009 is Courtney Kolodziej, a dressage working student from Victory Farm, Flower Mound, TX.**

Youth Executive Board

Faith Morris, is our Youth Executive Board Rep. from Region 9.

Her job description is outlined at the convention each year. The constant directive is to be an example to our Youth and to carry any concerns they may have to me and to the Youth Board for consideration.

Claire Darnell is our Region 9 Youth Executive Board Director and is also the USDF Youth representative to the USEF Youth Council.

Submitted by Mary Wetzel chsmidowfrm@aol.com