

2017 SEDA GMO Report for Region 9

So far for 2017, SEDA has hosted several schooling dressage and combined test/horse trials, and one recognized dressage show, Le Bon Temps. Our recognized horse trials, Fleur de Leap, will happen in October.

In January, we had our annual awards luncheon which was great fun. The theme was a luau and everyone was encouraged to dress for the event. There was a hula and Elvis-themed karaoke contest, along with a basket raffle. The baskets were put together by members from their barns or training groups and there was a lot of excitement around the raffle.

We hosted a Will Faudree clinic for our Event riders and a Ride-A-Test clinic with Helen George, r, from Virginia for our Dressage and Western Dressage riders. Both were decently attended. Speaking of Western Dressage – we have encouraged our local schooling show managers to offer these classes and are seeing several tests at every show.

As always, the same people volunteer at shows. With this in mind, we decided to offer a clinic we called Volunteering 101. While it wasn't well attended, we feel it was a great educational opportunity for our members and fun, too. We had videos explaining the jobs needed at shows and experienced volunteers that added their two cents in and answered questions. This clinic was partially sponsored by the Louisiana Equine Council.

Our membership is at approximately 126 as of this writing. Despite efforts to reach out to the local horse community, we don't have many new members, and will be losing several active young riders who are going off to college. It is a continual struggle to engage membership to take on new roles or just get involved beyond show attendance.

Submitted by Leslie Morris.