

SOUTHERN EVENTING AND DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION 2021 GMO REPORT
REGION 9 SUMMER MEETING
Submitted by Nicole Miller, SEDA President

The good news is: we survived 2020.

2020 was SEDA's 45th Anniversary and we had lots of plans to celebrate. Unfortunately, we weren't able to do that due to COVID considerations. We are tentatively planning to have our anniversary celebration Halloween weekend at our Le Bon Temps licensed dressage show. We shall see what happens.

We currently have 146 paid members. This is an increase of nearly 30 from last year. Why the increase? We have some new people due to one of our venues offering a lot of shows and regular attendees are taking advantage of joining SEDA for additional awards and points.

In January, we had a Schooling Dressage Championships in conjunction with a schooling dressage show. There was good participation in spite of fewer shows to qualify in 2020. We also handed out our year end awards at the show because it was a central place for people to come get them. We all missed a gathering for that purpose, but we just look forward to the next one. Fingers crossed, we'll be able to do our banquet in January.

Our spring Fleur de Leap show (schooling horse trials, combined test, and dressage show) was a huge success. To encourage involvement, we offered participants the opportunity to sponsor an award. For \$25 they would be able to name their award and its requirements (ie, lowest dressage score, best score by a certain breed, etc); SEDA would get a ribbon specific to the award and a prize of some sort. The response was extraordinary: we had over 40 awards to offer participants! There was a lot of excitement around the event because of this, and we'll look at doing it again for our next schooling show.

We were supposed to have our Junior Classic (juniors only) show in late May, but there were not enough juniors interested in participating. We will revisit this show again in 2022.

We undertook a fundraising initiative to raise money to redo the water complex on our cross country course. The response has been very good, and we are close to covering the entire \$20,000 cost of the process. We developed a program with levels for sponsorship and perks to go along with those levels. We intend to create an all-weather plaque to display near the water complex to recognize our sponsors, and will do some presentations at our Awards Banquet to additionally recognize their contributions. The hope is we will have something new to offer for the recognized Fleur de Leap Horse Trials we have scheduled for October.

Our 2020 recognized horse trials and dressage shows were marginally successful. We continue to re-evaluate if it makes sense for us to continue to offer these shows. Due to the expense of offering licensed competitions, we barely break even and it's always stressful if we're going to have enough entries to warrant holding the competitions at all. The schooling shows do well, which helps pad our bank account enough to offer decent prizes and awards.

We are hoping to have a couple of clinics in the months ahead, but that is still in development. It's difficult for us to fill clinics, even offered at a reasonable rate. People aren't typically interested in auditing, either, so it's rather frustrating to try to offer educational opportunities. Members are pretty much not interested in ZOOM education, either. We aren't sure how to approach this, so we keep trying different things.

This is an election year for SEDA. Our election will take place in November. Most of the current Board is amenable to continuing in their positions. Unfortunately, I will not be seeking

reelection for President. I will continue to assist our Board in whatever capacity I can, but I won't be managing the club. This could be a problem as everyone I've spoken with thus far has given me a hard 'no' regarding stepping into the role.