

USDF Region 1 Fall Meeting

November 15, 2009 Best Western Leesburg, VA

GMO's Represented: PVDA, VADA, ESDCTA, CDCTA, French Creek, LVDA, WPDA, OVCTA, IEO

Meeting begun 9:05

We regret the passing of Col. Clarence Edmonds. He will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to Jeremy Beale on his centurion ride at PSG at last week's VADA/Nova show.

2009 BLM: Terry Masters reports 10/9-11. Qualified 351 and there were 244 Championship rides. Efforts to develop sponsorship worked well for the first year. There was about \$6200 from BLM dues to give as awards. Gift certificates came from Smart Pak for the FEI division. Prizes were very nice. L program testing and R education for dressage and eventing were also included in the weekend. Sponsorship for BLMs needs an organization to work on it. Website needs to be more visible with more information (maybe a spot to promote sponsors) and GMO websites need to link to the BLM website.

2009 Regional Championships: 7 rings over 4 days. 1200 rides scheduled and about 1100 competed. Almost every championship ride was held indoors. Many out of region riders came. Award ceremonies were safe and effective for celebration. Sheli will write up a procedure for 'how to hold an award ceremony'.

2009 Youth Team: Normal competition in size. Did not overflow stalls. Did pretty well on sponsorship. Next year's dates July 24 and 25th and will be 20th anniversary of the youth team competition. Terry Masters wanted to know if the competition could be held during the week rather than a weekend. Discussion involved volunteers, and parents taking off work. Alison would appreciate any suggestions that anyone has for improvements and Friday evening activities.

Dressage at Devon: Thank you to Dianne Boyd for her hard work as assistant manager of DAD 2009. Breed entries were down this year, but quality was excellent. There were 28 young horses who qualified on Tuesday for the nights USDFBC East Coast Series Championship causing us to have to turn the lights on, pay overtime to judges and run 2.5 hours longer than scheduled. Performance division was full with fewer entries in the Grand Prix due to scratches. Only 10 in the GP Freestyle. Twelve hours of rain caused some sloppy footing. Spectator attendance was normal. Dates for 2010 are Sept. 28 to Oct. 3. 2010 is the thirty-fifth anniversary of Dressage at Devon and the minimum qualifying scores will be eliminated. Competitors must still send scores and classes will be filled with the highest scores at closing. The Devon Horse Show Foundation has agreed to put new footing on the show grounds before their May show. Dressage at Devon is actively looking for more volunteers and committee members. Please contact any of the contacts listed on the DAD website www.dressageatdevon.org.

NAJC/NAYRC 2009: Region 1 had a successful show in 2009 with our Juniors winning 3rd in team competition. Nicole DelGiorno won individual and freestyle gold. The venue was excellent in KY. Three shows running simultaneously and it still worked. It was great for the kids to see the national headquarters.

2010 NAJC/NAYRC: Will again be at KY Horse Park the last weekend in July. Anne Moss will be the chef d'equipe for Region 1 in 2010. Thank you, Anne.

Region 1 Omnibus: Still \$15. Cover is selected. There is a region one Facebook page thanks to Kristen Brown.

Region 1 awards: Got nominations for all awards except contribution to dressage by a Jr. Voting will be pretty soon. Kristin will send email to GMO presidents and contacts for voting. Narratives will be on the Region 1 website.

L Programs: Region 1 had a lot of programs. PVDA had a huge program with two testings. There was another program that just had testing at BLMs. USEF Licensing programs for r, R, and S are being held now and testings will follow.

Instructor Certification: None currently going in Region 1. Jan is looking for a place that can handle the number of horses required. There needs to be enough stabling and rings to handle the demo horses. This could be held successfully at places that have lesson horses. USDF is planning on changing the rules for running certification. Alison encouraged Jan to keep working toward some sessions.

BLM Show, Rules and issues: One horse, one rider rule needs to be part of the BLMs rules for 2010. The meeting attendees all supported this rule change. Until after the championship class, only the Championship rider can ride the horse. Shows holding BLM qualifying classes should add a note in their prize list stating that in order to qualify for the BLMs the rider must be a current GMO member. The 2010 show is Oct 21 to 24 at Virginia Horse Park run by VADA.

Adult Team 2009/2010: Better participation this year. Saturday is a heavy day. For 2010 the classes should be spread out better between the two days. ESDCTA is trying to make something work for 2010 but is having trouble scheduling. Could it be done during the week, or along with the Garden State Classic? Could we run it in conjunction with Region 8? The dates are Oct 15, 16, 17. We will discuss this further at the convention. Commonwealth Aug 6th and 7th would be another thought with VADA running it, but that is not the preferred option for VADA. Alison will discuss a multi-region show with Executive Board at Convention.

Region 1 website and e-news: E-news has close to 700 people. Alison needs more items to include in the e-news. Please send text only to her for inclusion in the Region 1 e-news.

Spring Meeting, Selection of 2011 Championship sites: The adult amateur clinic with Charlotte Bredahl will be May 8th and 9th at Riveredge. Could we have a small spring meeting in May rather than March. We need to decide the 2011 championship sites before May. Can we do a virtual meeting (either email vote or teleconference) to choose the site? Will discuss logistics further.

Jann (Hassler Dressage) will be helpful in administration of this event, but Region 1 will be responsible for making it happen. OVCTA has volunteered to help with this but we need as much help as possible.

Treasurer Report: as of Oct. 31, 2009 FEI Jr./YR \$8992.23, Education \$2213.20, General \$4087.05, Youth \$3084.64 for a total of \$18, 377.12

Youth Executive Board: Preparing for silent auction at convention for scholarship of one or two youths to go to convention. Found a free teleconferencing system. Trying to promote youth members and make membership aware of who they are. Youth membership information will be added to the official Region 1 Facebook page to get them to sign up for the e-newsletter. YEB has proposed a project to write to Dressage Today and USDF Connection asking to not feature riders in articles without approved headgear.

Regional Coordinator Reports:

Youth council – The USDF candidate for USEF sportsmanship, will be Taylor Noonan . They are trying to develop youth clinic program. Youth membership has declined over the last 3 years. Why? Are the numbers increasing on the GMO side?

GMO Council: GMO handbook is being revised with a new set of dates.

Awards: There were some general membership that wanted changes to the Awards program for their own purposes.

Advanced YR: clinic information status for 2010? Funding is still uncertain.

USDF Report: USDF is on Facebook and Twitter. USDF is reducing the USDF connections to 10 for 2010. FEI level trainer conference in Florida in January.

USDF Convention: Salute gala and award banquet will be combined. Fees have been reduced across the board for the convention. Jan Brink is doing the symposium. Lecture is on Saturday evening rather than Friday.

6 elections this year (two EB and 4 Regional Coordinators) Nominees are: President-George Williams, Treasurer - Robert Higgins and Steve Schubert. If George is elected president, on Jan 1, 2010 he will resign as VP and he will recommend to the EB for their approval, the person to serve as VP for 2010. This might actually happen at Convention. Regions 2, 4, 6, and 8 will have elections for regional director.

Committee formed by the board of Governors to look at the dues structure. They came up with a lot of recommendations. One of the recommendations was for a new membership type. Education membership would give all of the benefits except competition at \$35/year for adults and less for juniors. Report of this committee is on the USDF website. Also a dues increase was suggested. Dues for PM to \$75/yr starting Dec 1 2010. GM dues to \$20/year. Budget \$237K deficit but can be balanced with the dues increase or continue to flatten salaries and not replace people who leave.

Governance Committee- EB approved the new council and committee structure at a November conference call. There will be fewer committees. If you need a project done, there will be a working group to get the job done.

There will be two councils, the Administration council (5 committees) and Programs Council (5 committees). The Councils will send members to the Executive Board (assuming BOG approves and Bylaws change is enacted).

GMO reports

PVDA has won website of the year. Recognizes Sam Barish and thank him for everything he's done for USDF. There are 34 schooling shows. Tea is for Training has brought more volunteers to PVDA for the last two years. Spring into showing is next year's program (how to take your show schedule and mix it with your volunteering). There are 5 licensed shows. \$85K raised for breast cancer research by the Ride for Life. Several new board members coming in Dec.

VADA did the adult teams and regional championships. Has 8 chapters around the state.

CDCTA runs show in early May at Morven Park. They run a smaller show in August at Foxcroft. The Foxcroft show may bring freestyles as early evening classes. Lauren Sprieser (Marshall,VA) has a nice facility that CDCTA uses for some functions. Virginia has new state fairgrounds that potentially could be used for Region 1 functions.

IEO planning schooling shows. Still isn't ready to tackle a licensed show. Will add prix caprilli at their schooling shows. Juniors want to go to Lendon's show and the team competitions. Membership is coming up a little bit.

ESDCTA had 775 members for 2009 129 shows in omnibus. USDF university session in November on collective marks. 60 peoples signed up for that.

OVCTA – schooling shows and the 'Big Fall Show'. Planning educational sessions and schooling shows for 2010. Thinking about a trailering seminar with the state police helping out. Membership is looking for less costly things to do.

WPDA – 12 to 14 schooling shows. Two recognized shows-a one day show and a two day show are held. Held a young horse in hand clinic with Michael Bragdel was well attended. They were invited to the Carnegie museum to present dressage.

LVDA- has 79 members. Trying to increase membership and get existing members more involved. Put out call to members to fill tasks. Encourage volunteering at schooling shows by giving meal tickets. Volunteers get \$5 voucher for 1 to 4 hours or \$10 for anything above 4 hours. Instructor swaps between facilities. Initiating a 'DQ trail class' for next year's shows and Eventing TOC. 5 schooling shows and 1 licenced shows in 2010.

French Creek – Newsletter started this year. Dressage camp just before July 4. George Williams Clinic was well attended. 15 shows counted for year end awards not including combined training.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Kaminski