

# St Lewis - Region Six Convention Meeting:

Attendees:

Kari McClain  
Peter Rothschild  
Michael Taylor  
Jessica Rattner  
Jo Renn  
Corinne Stonier  
Carolyn Bunch  
Jessica Wisdom  
Rick Edwards  
Alex Brooks  
Mari St. Amand  
Emma Dye  
Mike Oskinski  
Lorraine Heath  
Anna Lucy  
Trenna Atkins  
Patty Russel

We are allowed to help make our own version of the logo.

6:45 Dinner @Calicos. 11.

Jo and Michael: Michael testing for TD, Alex and Jo are interested in going to go through it.

Awards banquet: 10.

USDF has a new sponsor: HotelStorm

Change of region form for regional championships is available online.

Do SafeSport (2 1/2h) Do this if you're an official, show management, L or Instructor Trainer. Safesport.com/org. Use USEF membership NOT USDF membership.

## **Finals:**

Freestyle: "Down the line" refers to their standing at the regional championship.

Region 5/6/7/9 were supposed to find a suitable location. Kevin Reining/Corinne Stonier/Sheri Guest/Heather Wilson all put forward Rancho Murietta. Selection team has to review. Suggestion to go see it during huge H/J show next October. This won't be voted on until 2017.

It has to rotate per the vote/law. If we rotate, stuff has to be shipped, people have to be housed, etc. Those going are not always the top of the field. Discussion about raising interest in dressage. Rotation may lose participation or change location.

What is the role of a PM delegate: what's best for the region and what's best for the organization as a whole?

## **Who is going to what meeting:**

Membership: Corinne/Jessica -> Suggest Audrey

Nominating Committee: Alex Brooks

Reg Champs: Michael

Discussion of upping it from 2 to 3 scores to qualify. Discussion about open and closing gates.

Judges Roundtable: Trena/Kari

Rule Change: Corinne/Carolyn/Patty

Youth Programs: Jessica/Peter

Freestyle: Anna Lucy

Please read all the guidelines. People are losing points where they didn't read the rules. Caution on music being too loud.

GMO: Corinne/Jo

Sporthorse: Jessica/Patty/Kari

Youth Breeders seminar being held at DG Bar in 2017. Date TBD. Been very well received. Youth up to 28 allowed to attend. Not just for handlers.

Adult Program: Rick

IF the budget passes: Adult education will be changing. Used to be every other year. New fees increase will allow them to provide \$3000 grant per region broken out into \$1000 grants to be used for adult events throughout the year. It's for mounted and unmounted events. You have to apply for it. Structured like the Vi Hopkins grant.

TD: Kari/Alex/Mike/Jo

Open Judges Committee: Mike/Kari/Trenna

FEI Jr/Yr Committee: Jessica -> Ask how regional designation is specified. See notes

Competition: Mari

Discussion about having two scores at the highest test of the level and one from one of the lower tests of the level. Award ceremony protocol being tightened up.

L Program: Jessica/Patty

Bylaws: Peter

There was some discussion on the authority of the BOG and the Exec Board regarding adopting dues and fees. The Bylaws are NOT clear on this point but nothing is going to be proposed at this meeting.

Historical Recognition: AnnaLucy/Alex

Awards: Jo

There will now be year ends awards for freestyle and AA's will be separate from Pros. You'll need a 63%. The numbers of AA's riding freestyles warrants it. Awards should be competitor driven.

Instructor Trainer: Jessica R

USEF CDI: Trenna/Mike/ Mari

Travel fund: Jen

National level grants coming available. Done by radius. We'll be in D which will give the biggest grants at around \$1500 per person. Concern over competing forces and necessary limitation creating inadvertent barriers. Bulk of the money this year came from Northwest Dressage. Last year's money had a specific earmark for competitors at Nationals. Mission statement of the fund was to create money of invite only national level championships. It's a reimbursement only so you have to submit receipts. This works better because it's not taxable.

**Steve (Budget):** Regional accounts are audited at a different level. Moving money from the membership level would kick the audit to another level.

3000 go back to the region to do a ride review ride. Carolyn will enlighten us.

Review a bunch of programs to see what's stale and what's not.

Peter raised the question of a scheduled dues increase: both annual increase and incremental increases discussed.

Part of the raises reflect the fact that you can't replace staff at their current salaries.

The reviewed the budget down to the ribbons level.

Membership committee:

Surveys sent: 24k sent out, 2500 responded. Many new members responded. Committee response: needs better promotion of the events. Better support for popular programs. Competition division/Education division. Difficult to be all for everyone. What is the goal of the surveys: to show the value to current members. Responses we primarily on how to get people to join. Missed our target. Objectives were to develop a communicative strategy to help promote the value of the membership. We have not done this yet. Ideas: not a program, but communicating results. Gathering more feedback (competition results survey).

Majority of convention is on the website. Not many people know there are educational events on the website.

More USDF events closer to home for more reasonable fees. Grants for GMOs would be possible if dues go through so more things could be offered "closer to home".

Perception problems about who does what.

Facebook Membership Facebook page?

PM dues increasing but GM membership not increasing.

Youth Dressage Clinics: Funding for three. Held in conjunction with the AYR clinic. Youth riders required to watch the first day. Different clinician for the youth riders. Looking to grow it using certified instructors. The biggest problem is having a facility that can accommodate both. Donations can be made tax deductible through USDF. Application would be the same. Videos may be required again. High school pin program thriving. Can be gotten through volunteer. New USDF website with Youth page is great. Discussion about revising judges' guidelines and so that competitors and their parents a better understanding on how the class will run. Kathy says they'll look at the judges material and work with the committee to improve this information and make sure it's more readily available to competition management and judges

AYR Committee

NAJYRC moving to Saugerties because of the jumpers. July 18-23<sup>rd</sup>. Qualifying ends June 19<sup>th</sup>. Region Six has 12 shows. Bill Moroney (CEO USEF) was present. It's time to ask questions: Does it need to be an FEI event or does it just need to run just like an FEI event. George feels this is necessary. What is the purpose of NAJYRC for dressage?

Annalise: loved the progression of NAJYRC and then moving to festival of champions.

Discussion on making it a Junior Olympic Events

Discussion about how many high performance folks came from NAJYRC

Discussion on press packet for kids who go to NAJYRC

USOC -> can we take advantage of human opportunities offered for athletes.

New brand campaign coming from USEF. Defining human/horse bond. Gender equal competition. 8-? age range.

What comes after NAJYRC? What's the carrot so it doesn't seem like it's such a dead end.

What is this going to do for my athlete?

We have to promote facilities.

Jessica: Ask how region is figured out. Where parents pay taxes?

Has to be outside and has to be in the summer. Have to retain the ability to have regions as countries.

Otherwise is that it becomes a nations cup?

Surveyed participants over the last few year. Do you actually watch other disciplines?

Competitors is in a region where their parent pays taxes. If they're emancipated, it where you pay taxes.

## **Region Six Meeting Day 2**

Same people present, less Alex Brooks, plus Gaye McCabe, and Laura

You can now do two qualifying tests per day but only one will count. Test of Choice for any level. R6 folks believe this rule has been reviewed. Show manager suggested putting it at the end of the day and possibly letting people do day of additions. This may work for smaller shows but maybe not for larger shows.

Peter: Discussion of a dues increase. Regular increases or 5 year increments? Peter suggested a motion that would give the executive board permission to allow increases up to a certain amount. Jessica raised the question of solving the double dipping problem; Registering online would solve the problem of double dipping but doing something like that it would create 15k+ and an accountant to do that on the national level.

Carolyn: Tell your scribes that what's said in the judges box is confidential.