

DVCTA BOD Meeting December 13, 2022

RE: USDF Annual Convention: December 1, 2 & 3, 2022 – Lexington, KY

Submitted By Lauren Annett

The 2022 USDF Convention was an enthusiastic and positive event that was well received and live after a 2-year hiatus. The Convention addresses Governance, Education and Celebration (Gala). This was the first attempt to not overlap committee and education sessions, without a virtual aspect.

BOG Agenda & Committee Reports (USDF founded in 1973 as Federation of riding clubs or GMOs – GMO and PM representatives attend to conduct business):

Delegate: representative for the year (GMO President, elected PM representatives / region)

Proxy: representative to vote at the BOG per the direction of the club and elected delegate (I was Darcy's Proxy this year)

<https://usdf.org/docs/about/about-usdf/governance/2022%20BOG%20report%20combined.pdf?t=12/13/2022%203:52:19%20PM>

USDF Governance Link:

<https://usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/>

The following are brief notes compiled throughout Council Open Forums (Administrative, Technical, Activities):

Administrative Council Open Forum:

GMO Committee (approximately 107 GMOs in the country)

- GMO Volunteer Incentive Program
- GMO Incentive Program – support to attract & motivate volunteers

Historical

- Old memorial items to be archived, send to Charlotte
- 1996 Hall of Fame – 44 inductees, 9 are horses
- 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award – 17
- 2017 Member of Distinction Award – 7
- Anyone can nominate for these awards

Bylaws

- Nothing significant this year, SVO – grammatical clarification

Membership

- Over 27,000 Members
- PM membership slightly increased
- GM membership slightly decreased
- Not a significant change in membership
- Horse registrations showed a big jump
- Competition participation has recovered dramatically

Nominating Committee

- Discussion about charging for score reports for non-members. Approximately \$5,000 is generated (not profit contributes to the operating cost of the database). Primarily generated by insurance companies and official documentation for financial transactions. The concern is that this impacts individual ability to look up people properly. Considering a subscription-based option to scores.com
- Continuing discussion about what people expect as members

GMO Roundtable

- How to keep GMO hosted competitions affordable
- Affordable Education
- Over 100,000 people are accessing yourdressage.org
- Social media numbers continue to exceed membership numbers
- Approximately 150 education members

Technical Council Open Forum:

LO/ what do we get from USEF

- Transition of education to USDF (started in 2019)
- 2022 USDF has 134 Candidates, 22 have been sent onto testing
- 15 programs run, to this date
- 3 R programs running
- Continually evaluating r waitlist (hoping to address backlog in 2023)
- Para and TD modules significantly reviewed and updated
- Specialized info is more available

Judge Committee/ TD Committee

- Updated online modules and CE (we are still tested via USEF to maintain license)
- Updated glossary in education library
- 1/10 judge roundtable online
- 17 CE programs held last year – does not meet maintenance requirement for licensed officials
- 3 remote programs given by S judges: Taste of L, Freestyle CE, Know the Movements (7 scheduled for 2023)

Freestyle

- Updated and reviewed freestyle education programs and online modules for L and judges programs
- 1/25 zoom meeting
- Continuing to re-evaluate division splits

Competition Management

- Facility contract webinar – available online
- Mentorship program initiative

Instructor/Trainer Development Program

- Reorganizing again in an effort to optimize education potential

Activities Council Open Forum:

Regional Championship Committee

- Approximately 3,000 regional championship riders this year
- The committee is actively reading all competition evaluations and strategizing
- Competitors have high expectations, some are unreasonably high – there is room to optimize maintenance and communication – dressage shows are small compared to QH and H/J shows but we carry a lot of intention
- Evaluating if awards will continue to be mandatory
- Sound systems at facilities were an issue
- Food service is an issue

FEI Youth

- 8/8-13/23 NAYC in Michigan
- Looking to make clinic series more accessible to GMOs

National Youth

- Encourage and generate youth participation in our sport

Awards Committee

- Recognizing excellence, rewarding progressive achievement
- 1974 medals started (1 year after the BOG)
- 2002 MFS recognition started
- Rider medals with distinction started this year (above national average)
- Online award resource guide updated
- Dressage Para Athlete medal program approved this year at Convention!!
- RSSAP still going, form is easier and still annoying

USEF/USDF Open Forum, Trending Topics in Sport & USEF Rule Changes

- Coaching Programs
- Competition Calendar
- Panel Judging
- Ethics via FEI & incorporating on a national level
- Receive a warning card if school before checking in – too many people riding with incomplete paperwork creating liability
- Ongoing clothing and equipment changes
- Bits that lock are not legal as bradoons, reconsidering dropping the bits (cue the excitement from the crowd)

US Dressage Finals Open Forum

- 9th year
- Approximately 470 entries, 456 of us made it down CL
- 77 juniors, 190 AA, 166 Open (training – GP)
- 69 AA, 124 Open/juniors (first – GP)

Region 1 Meeting

- BLM in NJ 10/12-15/2023 (Garden State Classic and CBLM). GMO that brings the most entries will receive prizes and recognition. Sponsorship packets going out soon.
- 10/5-8/2023 GAIGS in Lexington, VA. 2024 applications due 2/6/23
- 9/26 – 10/1 DAD
- 3/2 or 3/9 Spring meeting on Zoom
- 10/19 fall meeting on Zoom