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A Message from the Regional Director

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Happy Holidays! It's December and the USDF Convention in Houston has come and gone. It was a busy week full of governance, education events galore, and line dancing...yessir, indeed! Thank you to everyone who joined us in Houston and congratulations to those of you who received performance recognition at the Salute Gala!

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and continued good health and happiness in the new year! Onwards to 2025!!

News Items

Thank you to our PM & GMO Delegates!

I'd like to start our December eNews by thanking each of our PM & GMO Delegates who came to Houston to represent the Pacific Northwest dressage community. PM Delegates included Tabitha Hopp (WA), Jessy Olson (WA), Jo Renn (WA), Peter Rothschild (WA), Renae Talton (MT), and Michael Taylor (ID). Our GMOs were represented by Rosa Meehan (Alaska Dressage Association), Kathryn Lewis (Equestrians' Institute), Michael Taylor (Idaho Dressage & Eventing Association), Ann-Christine Erikson (Lower Puget Sound Dressage Club), and Emily Park & Karen Piper (Oregon Dressage Society).

At both Board of Governors Meetings, we had 100% of our PM & GMOs represented and were all present for check-in (which is always a miracle!).

?Thank you to everyone for their active participation and representing our community so incredibly well.

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Region 6 Volunteer of the Year

Rosa Meehan (AK) - was in attendance at Convention (along with ADA VP, Hilary Starzynski) and was recognized as the USDF Region 6 Volunteer of the Year. Thank you, Rosa, for all of your efforts to keep dressage thriving in the great state of Alaska.

At the BoG's GMO Basket Drawings, Alaska Dressage Association was also recognized for Best GMO Basket (GMOs < 75 members). Thanks for putting together great swag for the GMO Baskets - a lucky winner took all the loot home!

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Welcome to USDF's Newest GMO: Matanuska Dressage Society (Alaska)

Alaska's dressage scene is growing with the formation of the recently established Matanuska Dressage Society. President Lauren Eaton will lead the new organization based in Palmer where they look forward to hosting two new licensed dressage shows in May and September.

You can find more details about the new GMO on their website: <http://www.matanuskadressage.org> and the USDF GMO page that shows all the current [GMO Detail](#).

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Para Dressage Joins the Party!

It was a historic moment at the USDF Board of Governors where the first item on the docket was the vote "for USDF to become the official Para Dressage affiliate to the United States Equestrian Federation and fulfill associated roles and duties as such". The unanimous vote to integrate Para Dressage into USDF was quite profound and marks a milestone for US Para Equestrians who continue to bring home Paralympic medals, accolades, and global recognition.

At the USDF Salute Gala, US Paralympians from Paris 2024 were celebrated and Dr. Kate Shoemaker (ID) spoke on behalf of the team. It's absolutely fantastic for Para Dressage to come into the fold with USDF and really puts them on the right path to grow the sport within the framework of our organization. USEF Discipline Manager for Para Dressage, Laureen Johnson was also in attendance.

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Regional Director & USDF Elections at the BoG

On Day 2 of the Board of Governors at the [2024 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention](#), the election was held for [USDF Region 6](#) Regional Director (RD).

The candidates nominated were [Noah Rattner](#) (OR) & [Michael L Taylor](#) (ID). The votes were 51 for the nominee from Oregon and 41 votes for the nominee from Idaho. Noah Rattner has been re-elected and will serve a second term as Region 6 Director.

USDF Treasurer, Lorraine Musselman (NC) has been nominated from the floor and was re-elected. USDF President, [Kevin Reinig](#) (CA) has been elected. Regions 2-4-8 were re-elected by acclamation. Special election was held for Region 7 for the position vacated by [Carol Tice](#). [Regina Antonielli](#) (CA) was elected.

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USDF Region 6 Youth Clinic Success!

In early November, [DevonWood](#) served as hosts of the USDF FEI Youth Clinic & USDF Youth Outreach Clinic. 24 youth athletes participated in a marathon weekend of dual clinics with US Olympian and FEI Youth Clinician, Sabine Schut-Kery (CA) and Outreach Clinicians Jesse Collins (CA) & Benjamin Pfabe (CA).

The weekend kicked off with a holiday gathering at Gallops Saddlery at their store in Wilsonville, OR. Thank you to Patty, Dianne, SueAnn, and Anna for organizing and hosting the festive weekend send-off. A big thank you to Ella Chedester Photography (Ella & Austin) and Equine Video Productions (Tory Kelly) for being on-hand all weekend along to capture footage and images of our youth in action.

It is currently planned that DevonWood will serve as hosts of the 2025 USDF FEI Youth Clinic & USDF Outreach Clinics in a '2.0' version of the 2024 clinic. The proposed clinic dates are November 22-23, 2025. Please save the date! USDF has given the approval for as many as 24 slots to be available for a clone of this year's event. Note that the clinic dates shifted in order to prevent a date conflict with the new date for the US Dressage Finals.

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Inaugural US Open of Dressage - dates announced!

US Equestrian (USEF) is pleased to announce the host locations and dates for the 2025 [US Equestrian Open of Dressage](#) Qualifier Events. The US Equestrian Open of Dressage will consist of 23 qualifying events around the country leading into the series final, to be hosted at Desert International Horse Park in Thermal, Calif., November 13-16, crowning the inaugural US Equestrian Open of Dressage champion. All FEI registered athletes (U.S. and foreign) and horses are invited to participate in the Series and the Final.

The dressage series will reward athletes with \$200,000 in prize money, which will be distributed at the US Equestrian Open of Dressage Final in 2025. An additional \$50,000 series incentive will also be awarded for high-point scorers.

USDF Region 6's **Ginny Rattner Memorial Dressage CDI3*** presented by *Jani-King International, Inc.*, will serve as one of the qualifying competitions for the US Open of Dressage!

You can find ALL of the details about the event on the [US Open page](#).

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Happy 80th Birthday to Lilo Fore

On Dec. 12, Region 6 friends and family gathered in Santa Rosa, CA to celebrate Lilo Fore's 80th birthday. Lilo, a retired FEI 5* Judge, member of the Judge's Supervisory Panel (JSP), USEF 'S' Judge, and prolific dressage sporthorse breeder (and judge), is truly the backbone of US Dressage. Lilo has touched so many people's lives as a judge, clinician, and very good friend. Wishing her all the best as she begins the next decade!

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US Dressage Finals - new date, new venue!

The [US Dressage Finals](#) Organizing Committee recently announced the new date and venue for 2025 & 2026. The Finals will take place at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) venue in Wilmington, Ohio on October 30-November 2, 2025. The new Finals venue has been fully rented to USDF (no other shows taking place concurrently) and will allow for us to have use of all indoor (heated) stabling and competition arenas. While it's not the anticipated move West that we're all hoping for, this change was based on feedback from participants. Region 5-6-7 Regional Directors continue to meet annually at the USDF Convention to review possible venues for the Finals to move West (based on a 2015 BOG tabled motion).

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Thank you, Mr. Williams!

As the year comes to an end, I'd like to say a big thank you to George Williams who has nearly completed his 2nd term as USDF President. George has helped us weather economic downturn, COVID, and turbulent times within the equestrian community. He also helped navigate us through the Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games - including the best US Dressage Team medal outcome in history.

On January 1, George will officially hand the USDF reins over to Kevin Reing (CA) who has been serving as Vice President throughout George's 2nd term. He is an incredible mentor to so many people and represents us so incredibly well on the global stage. I'm grateful to him for his support on so many different issues and honored to call him a friend. Thank you, Mr. Williams, for your dedication to our sport and governance through the years.

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Remembering Patty Russell

Our sympathies go out to the family and friends on the loss of long time [USDF Region 6](#) member, [Patty Russell](#) of Olympia, WA. Patty was a successful competitor on many self-made mounts, as well as a sought after instructor, trainer, and USDF L Graduate. She ran the successful boarding & training barn, Canter Lane, where she also bred several sport horses.

?Patty also served as a PM delegate for our Region and touched many equestrian lives. May her memory be a blessing to those who knew her. Godspeed, dear friend.

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Equestrians' Institute turns 50!

At the Board of Governors, Equestrians' Institute (EI) was celebrated for their 50th year as a recognized USDF GMO. Thank you to EI for everything they do for equestrian sport in Washington.