

For those of you up North, I hope you are staying warm, and for those of you down South, do you have room for me and my ponies to move in for a couple of months? We have had those very warm and wonderful days, but we've had more than enough of those sub zero temperatures also and I'm ready for Spring!

Fundraising efforts are under way for the USDF Region 5 Juniors and Young Riders as they try to qualify and travel to the 2011 FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championships. The Championships will be held July 28-31 at the Kentucky Horse Park. It is a large undertaking to take our group of 8 riders to Kentucky with their horses, grooms and Chef d'Equipe and they need all the support we can give them. If you would like to contribute or help with their fundraising efforts, please contact Kathleen Donnelly, our new Region 5 Jr/YR FEI coordinator at kathleendonnelly20@hotmail.com or 970-310-8729. If you are still interested in participating in the FEI Junior and Young Rider program for 2011, the last intention deadline is April 1st, so be sure to get in your intentions.

The USDF website has been updated with the minutes from the 2010 Board of Governors meeting, the updated USDF By-Laws, the BOG approved 2011-2012 budget and several other very important documents. The link to these important documents is <http://www.usdf.org/about/about-usdf/governance/index.asp>. If you have any questions about these items, please feel free to contact me or any of the USDF staff members for more information. If you are interested in being a delegate to the Board of Governors meeting, there is still time to contact our Nominating Council representative and have your name added to the ballot for Participating Delegate. Please contact Kay Lorenzen at kaylorenzen@cox.net and let her know your interest and she can provide you with more details on the potential responsibilities.

As the competition season hits its bigger stride, please be sure to read up on the new helmet rules and several other rule changes that have taken place over the winter. There have been some clarifications to the USEF Levels chart also that will be very pertinent to the Young Horse and NAJYRC qualifying competitions. Please be educated competitors, volunteers, spectators, trainers and coaches. It makes the show experience so much more pleasant for all involved!

One final note, we're always looking for unique educational seminars, presentations or opportunities. I'd like to put together a list of different ideas that we can share between our GMOs and our members. If you have an idea or an event that worked really well, please send me some information and we'll include it in our next Regional update. Please feel free to contact by email or phone – slush@drgw.net or 719-683-8435.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director