

Hope everyone is having a great start to the New Year! I received the news right before the holiday season that I could put my wonderful upper level horse back to a little trot work after almost a year of successive injuries. I can't tell you how amazing that first trot down the road was, although many of you probably already know! I have missed my therapy sessions on the back of my horse over the last few months. No matter how bad of a day I've had or how many things are on my mind, once I join my dancing partner in the arena or down the road, my day is always great. He has provided me comfort from the ground, as have his barn mates, but the conversations we have when I'm in the saddle are so special. What a remarkable animal we are partnered with and what a wonderful sport we participate in.

2012 brings a new structure to the USDF Executive Board that should strengthen our organization. We have introduced three new board members that are At Large Directors. These At Large Directors represent each of the three councils that contain the working committees of the organization. The committees themselves nominate the potential candidates, thus helping to chose folks who will communicate well their goals to the board and provide a stronger line of communication from the board back to the committees. The initial folks elected to these positions bring a wealth of knowledge to the board and we are excited to have them. Welcome to Lisa Gorretta, Kevin Bradbury and Carolyn VandenBerg.

Auditor registration is now open for the FarmVet/USDF Region 5 Adult Clinic Series with Lilo Fore. The clinic will be hosted by the Utah Dressage Society at the Golden Spike Event Center in Ogden, Utah April 21-22. The reviews we're received from other Regions on this clinic have been excellent. If you can, put it on your calendar and don't miss this great educational weekend.

Till next month!
Heather Petersen

Region 5 Director