

Region 6 Report

Director: Noah Rattner, OR

2025 Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention, December 3-6, Lexington, KY

It's unbelievable that we're already headed back to the USDF Annual Convention again – it feels like we were *just* here! It's been another thrilling year for USDF Region 6 and I'm ever proud and honored to serve as your Regional Director.

In 2025, we accomplished a lot together...

We fielded two **full** teams for the 2025 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, Michigan:

FEI Young Rider Team – USEF Young Rider Team Bronze Medalists

Ella Insko & Falcon (OR)

Olivia Martz & Rihanna Ymas (WA) – **USEF YR Individual Bronze Medalists**

Trinity Schatzel & Hercules (ID)

FEI Children Team

Adelyn Burris & Outrageous (WA)

Sophia Eriksson & Ronvair (WA)

Maverick Wright & Maple Lane Kero (OR) – **NAYC CH Individual Bronze Medalists**

This was the inaugural year of the FEI Children Rider division being included in the NAYC. It was great to see the expanded divisions include so many new youth athletes finding joy in our sport. The level of sport was fierce, and the athletes really fought for the medals. We brought home two individual medals, a set of team medals for the YRs and many Top 10 and even Top 5 finishes in each test. Brava/o to our athletes!

With Region 6 fielding some of the “furthest distance traveled” riders, our horses departed the west coast early and got there with plenty of time for rest and recuperation. Our teams did an excellent job prioritizing their horses' welfare with lots of hand-walking, light hacks on non-competition days, and excellent barn care. We were also stabled next to Team Canada and had lot of great camaraderie with friends from British Columbia and Alberta who often compete in Region 6 shows.

The Region 6 delegation was incredibly fortunate to have our own traveling photographer (Ella Chedester Photography) on-site throughout the week to capture phenomenal images and reels of our athletes in action.

It was our 'bronze year' with Region 6 Athletes capturing Team Bronze in the YR Division, and two of our athletes earning Individual Bronze Medals. Sadly, Addy's horse was not accepted into competition following the jog and our very competitive Children Rider Team was therefore ineligible to compete for a team medal. Addy was a good sport about the whole thing and was very supportive of the rest of team. She was in the barn and present ringside helping groom and be there for the team's riders throughout.

On the final day of competition, the inaugural Brook Irving-Martz Memorial Trophy (made by Brook's aunt) was presented by the Irving Family – who joined us in the ring – to the highest scoring Children Rider in this year's competition. Grace Christianson from Indiana aboard her American Warmblood mare claimed the prize with an incredible 78.479%. In the same ceremony, Oliva Martz was also recognized by the NAYC Ground Jury with this year's Style Award which recognizes a rider who demonstrates exceptional style, both while mounted and in their overall demeanor around the competition grounds.



Early in the week, we had a fantastic team building dinner and movie night with all the riders, families, and trainers attending. A big thank you to the Schatzel Family for hosting us in their AirBNB! We're excited to be going back to Traverse City for the next three years – as their host venue status has just been renewed (and will hopefully soon include NAYC Eventing).

Following the NAYC, several of our Youth Athletes and Senior Athletes went on to compete at the Festival of Champions – US Dressage National Championships at HITS Chicago (Lamplight). Congratulations to all our Region 6 Athletes for earning the opportunity to compete at the National Championships and represent our region!

Athlete – Horse – Placing – Division

Kylee McKereghan & Red Riding Hood AN	10 th	(Brentina Cup Nat'l Championship)
Michele Haefer & Djurre út 't Westen	3 rd	(Dev. Prix St. Georges Nat'l Championship)
Nicki Grandia & Don Erré	12 th	(Int. 1 Nat'l Championship)
Trinity Schatzel & Hercules	6 th	(Young Rider Nat'l Championship)
Maverick Wright & Maple Lane Kero	5 th	(Children Nat'l Championship)
Maverick Wright & Windstar Flash	3 rd	(Pony Rider Nat'l Championship)
Maverick Wright & Maple Lane Kero	6 th	(13 & Under Dressage Seat Medal Finals)

Sonnenberg Farm also qualified several horses for the Young Horse National Championships but elected not to compete this year.

The GAIG/Region 6 Championships were once again held at DevonWood Equestrian Centre in Sherwood, Oregon. All five states were represented in this year's competition with over 200 horses and riders making the trek for head-to-head competition in a very healthy year of competition. A handful of our NAYC and National Championships hopefuls also utilized this competition as the first qualifier opportunity to gain scores for the 2026 Championships. Nadine Schwartzman from Eagle, ID won the lion's share of Championship Titles and was recognized by USDF in media coverage from the event.

On Friday night of the Regional Championships, **a Regional Meeting was held** with over 150 riders and their families enjoying a pizza feast and beverages while hearing from the Region 6 Director, NAYC Athletes, US Open Finalist, and several PM Delegates. **A virtual Regional Meeting will be held on Nov. 3 at 7:00pm PDT** and will be hosted on Zoom – links posted to Facebook on the day of the meeting.

Many riders earned scores to qualify them for the US Dressage Finals held in Wilmington, Ohio for the first time this year. An all indoor venue, I hope to see Region 6 combinations make the trip to next year's finals to experience what looks to be a world class event worthy of the journey. Please don't forget that grant money is available to Region 6 Athletes (per horse) to help offset the travel expense of getting to the finals. It is an easy checkbox on the entry form and can earn you \$1500 per horse.

This November 13-17, the west coast will host the inaugural US Equestrian Open of Dressage – a CDI5* level competition at the Desert International Horse Park in Thermal, California. A total of 25 qualifier competitions at the CDI3* level (and higher) have been hosted nationwide throughout the year, and the Top 18 pairs have been invited to the desert to compete for \$200,000 in cash prizes and title of US Equestrian Open Champions. Nadine Schwartzman (Idaho), Geñay Vaughn (California), and Brittney Eastgate (British Columbia) have each earned a start in the Final. We're proud to say that they each earned points that got them there at the Ginny Rattner Memorial Dressage CDI3* held in Sherwood, Oregon in late May 2025.

Coming up this November 22-23, 2025, DevonWood will serve as hosts of the USDF Region 6 FEI Youth Clinic with Sabine Schut-Kery and USDF Youth Outreach Clinics with Quinn Iverson and Jesse Collins. Nearly 50 applications were received for this year's clinic – another record turnout – and 29 athletes were selected (nine for FEI Youth and 20 for USDF Youth Outreach). The clinic is generously supported by The Dressage Foundation and the USEF Emerging Athlete Program. I am thrilled to see this level of engagement from our youth athletes and excited by the prospect of Region 6 fielding three full teams at the NAYC in 2026!

In late October, USEF announced the updated lists of horses and athletes named to their USEF Dressage Pathways Programs. Olivia Martz with Rihanna Ymas and Maverick Wright with Maple Lane Kero were both named to the USEF/USDF Emerging Athlete Program. Congratulations to both of these hard-working athletes!

In the 2025 Competition Year, Region 6 hosted a whopping 66 rated competitions – up 10% from 2024! Spokane Sport Horse Farm celebrated their 30th Anniversary of their dressage shows – congratulations, Christel! And a new show weekend was held in Wenatchee, WA by Leigh Cochran-Brewer. Here's a look at the levels of competition by state:

STATE	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4 OR 5	TOTAL
ALASKA	4	0	0	4
IDAHO	7	6	0	13
MONTANA	4	0	0	4
OREGON	8	4	2	14
WASHINGTON	15	16	0	31
	38	26	2	66

Region 6's Licensed Officials (LO's) have also had another steady year of growth. Across the Dressage & Para Dressage, our Region accounts for a total of 41 licenses. Here's a look at the distribution of licenses by type:

	AK	ID	MT	OR	WA	TOTAL
Dressage 'r'	0	1	0	2	3	6
Dressage 'R'	0	0	0	1	3	4
Dressage 'S'	0	0	0	2	9	11
FEI Dressage Level 3	0	0	0	0	1	1
FEI Dressage Level 4	0	0	0	0	1	1
FEI Para Level 3	0	0	0	0	1	1
FEI Para Level 4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dressage TD 'r'	0	1	0	0	1	2
Dressage TD 'R'	0	1	0	0	0	1
FEI Dressage/Para Steward	0	0	1	0	0	1
FEI Primary Treating Vet	0	0	2	3	2	7
FEI Veterinary Delegate	0	0	0	3	0	3
DSHB 'r'	0	0	0	0	0	0
DSHB 'R'	0	0	0	0	2	2
	0	3	3	11	24	41

We currently have candidates working to complete their applications towards promotion from L to 'r', 'r' to 'R', 'R' to 'S', and DSHB 'r'. The chart above shows red cells when only one state in the region has LO's at that level, yellow when two states have LO's at that level, and green when three or more states have LO's at that level.

The two rows showing green and two showing yellow are categories that we should be proud of: our national level judge licenses are well-distributed across three states which helps smaller shows hire locally and keep costs down. We also have a healthy amount of Veterinary Delegates and PTVs which allows FEI Organizers to reduce overhead and travel expense.

Region 6 has a total of **seven** active GMOs (up one from 2024):

- **Alaska Dressage Association** in Anchorage, AK
 - Current President: Rosa Meehan
- **Bozeman Dressage Society** in Bozeman, MT
 - Current President: Courtney Anderson
- **Equestrians' Institute** in Mercer Island, WA
 - Current President: Michelle Martin
- **Idaho Dressage & Eventing Association** in Twin Falls, ID
 - Current President: Tami Aufderheide
- **Lower Puget Sound Dressage Club** in Port Orchard, WA
 - **2026** President: Jessy Olson
- **Matanuska Dressage Society** in Palmer, AK (*will be dissolved at end of 2025*)
 - Current President: Lauren Eaton
- **Oregon Dressage Society** in Creswell, OR
 - **2026** President: Emily Park

Our GMOs have had a busy year of hosting clinics, camps, virtual shows, and other educational opportunities.

Equine biosecurity and equine welfare continue to be the biggest forces impacting our sport. Beginning on December 1, 2025, the USEF Microchipping rule goes into effect:

“To this end, the US Equestrian Board of Directors approved a new microchipping rule during the 2023 Mid-Year Board meeting. Beginning December 1, 2025, under GR 1101.10, all horses competing in USEF-licensed or -endorsed competitions must be microchipped with a 15-digit ISO compliant 11784/11785 chip.”

This is already an industry standard for horses competing internationally, but for some, this will be a new hurdle to overcome. Please do your part in preparing for the competition season ahead and ensure that your horse is indeed microchipped and that the data is saved in your horse's USEF horse data. To upload your horse's new (or existing) microchip data, please use <https://members.usef.org/horses/microchip>. I would only add that the time for open-commenting and complaining about this has passed. This is now an official rule. As fires and other natural disasters continue to impact our communities, microchipped horses (and other animals) only help us to facilitate the return of our beloved animals and identification, when necessary.

Equine welfare continues to be a hot topic and will have another forum at the USDF Convention. A horse Welfare Workshop will be held on Wednesday afternoon at Convention. All USEF Judges and TDs are invited (and encouraged) to attend this closed session. These conversations are ongoing as we continue to define what equine welfare means in context of our sport today and helping build and reinforce the safeguards to ensure its' survival for the next generation. I anticipate that the USEF/USDF Open Forum on Thursday with *Trending Topics* will include additional discussion on this.

Region 6 maintains a robust financial position with bank balances of \$48,098.83. The newly created *Brook's Fund* (created in honor of Brook Irving-Martz) has a balance of \$18,035. A huge 'thank you' to every single donor who has contributed. Our goal is to build this fund up to \$50,000 which will allow us to transition the administration of the fund and grant distribution to The Dressage Foundation. All donations are tax deductible and an option is available on the USDF Region 6 finance page to contribute.

The General Fund is minimally changed year-over-year apart from website costs, credit card processing fees, and the Region 6 PM Delegate Convention reimbursements for 2024 USDF Convention. The Jr/YR fund has the third largest balance with \$12,823.04 which will be reduced after reimbursements have been made for the 2025 NAYC Chef d'Equipe expenses.

	<u>Sep 30, 25</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Brook's Fund	18,035.00
General Account	16,180.79
Grant	1,060.00
Jr/Young Rider Account	12,823.04
Total Checking/Savings	<u>48,098.83</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>48,098.83</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>48,098.83</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	46,181.81
Net Income	1,917.02
Total Equity	<u>48,098.83</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>48,098.83</u>

As always, I'm eager to support our region and our community of dressage enthusiasts. If I can be of assistance to any of our members or GMOs, please get in touch.

Wishing you all the best in the new year!

Respectfully submitted,



Noah G. Rattner
USDF Region 6 Director