A report from the USDF National Convention

The Annual USDF Convention was held in Las Vegas, NV during the first week in December. The purpose of the Convention is to legislate changes to the laws that govern the USDF and to implement and propose new educational programs. The Board of Governors meeting is where all new laws and decisions are discussed and voted on. This is a truly democratic process. All GMOS like the CFD have a representative that casts the # of votes allotted for that organization dependent on how many members are in the club. This year the exciting debate was about changing the National Dressage Finals to a West Coast venue as was planned. There were problems with finding a venue that could accommodate the finals. The selection committee presented a venue that had problems. It was decided to have the 2016 Dressage National finals one more time at the Kentucky Horse Park while further searching for an alternative western venue.

Along with the Board of Governors meeting there are USDF Regional Meetings that report to the BOG the concerns of the members of the Regions. There were also quite a few Educational Lectures delivered by Veterinarians that were in Las Vegas for the Annual AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners) Convention. Subjects like keeping your sport horse healthy, acupuncture, keeping your horses back healthy, how effective is Adequan and other subjects.

The Salute Gala and the Awards Banquet cap off the week with banquets that recognized our past, present and future dressage riders of note. We come from a long line of riders who spent their lives improving our understanding of the ridden horse. We also celebrated those of us who achieved their personal goals.

Time was also spent networking and touring the sights of Vegas Strip. I especially enjoyed the Venetian with its canal and gondolas and the arched, vaulted ceiling the mimicked a sunny, blue sky.

Next year the Annual convention will be in St. Louis!

Will you meet us in St. Louis?