

The 2005 USEF Annual Meeting

Unbridled Enthusiasm

BY BRIAN SOSBY



Members of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) gathered in the Derby City—Louisville, KY—for the 2005 Annual Meeting, and it proved to be a productive and congenial gathering, according to those who made the trip to take part in a five-day series of meetings, forums and award programs. From approving rule changes to socializing at cocktail receptions, there was absolutely no “down time” as the packed schedule kept attendees busy from dawn to late night.

The general consensus that was heard time and again was this year’s meeting was upbeat, forward-thinking and productive. And no time was wasted in getting to business as Wednesday morning saw the first forums (National and International Rules) get underway. Working groups filled the remains of the day before the Welcome Reception officially got things started.

A Keynote Speech

USEF President David O’Connor delivered an address during the Thursday luncheon, which also served as the setting to hand out the USEF Media Awards. Before the awards were announced, O’Connor summarized the work and progress made in 2004, saying, “I think it’s safe to say we share a certain amount of pride—not only for our accomplishments, but also in the continued development of a new organization. Together, we are writing the Federation’s history.”

Before presenting the Media Awards, he continued, “We should be an organization that is willing to discuss without rancor, argue without animosity and decide without recrimination. There are big issues on the table for 2005.”

After the awards were presented (a complete list appears on page 63), O’Connor returned to addressing serious issues at hand. From looking at the way competitions run to how they are governed, the Federation has taken initial steps in what can only be called “the next stage of development” of national equestrian sport in the U.S.

O’Connor urged that two priorities be remembered in whatever decisions were to be forthcoming: 1) the welfare of

the horse must be made top priority; and 2) the leadership of the sport can not forget that it is in place to do good work for the membership of the Federation.

And the issues that the Federation has to address in 2005 are many. The leadership plans on answering the membership’s cry to have a reduction in paperwork. The idea of entering into agreements with all of the affiliates to create one membership number for all competitors brought applause from the packed luncheon’s audience.

“This is not an insurmountable problem,” urged O’Connor. “There are ways that we can provide this service to our members and at the same time, enhance the relationship between the members, the affiliates and the Federation.”

Education was a major point, specifically, how best to ensure that those who are instructing young riders are themselves fully and adequately trained.

“It is my belief that we are seriously lacking in the educating of our educators,” continued O’Connor. “There are some fantastic teachers out there, but we need to evaluate and channel their knowledge. It is time to lead the movement, through the affiliates, to require certification for instructors.” He noted that he would like to see this system in

place within the next five years—a time period necessary to develop a system that the individual disciplines can agree to. “It will make sure that thought out, well-proven theories of horsemanship are heard by everyone who has the ability to take someone else’s horse-related safety into their own hands.”

It was proposed that possibly the USA Equestrian Trust could help fund this project to help further the education and promotion. It

was added that other countries have similar certification programs and that their experiences can assist U.S. efforts.

Another area that O’Connor said could use attention was international governance, which the International Equestrian Federation (FEL) oversees.

His last point of interest was the broad initiative to review and overhaul the way competitions are approved by the Federation. In July 2004, a presentation was made at the Board of Directors meeting, and instructions were laid forth. During Sunday’s board meeting, the Competition Date Approval Task Force Report was delivered.



Equestrian of the Year

In addition to being named the Equestrian of the Year, Virginia’s Kim Severson was the recipient of the William C. Steinkraus Trophy, awarded to an equestrian competing in the Olympic disciplines of dressage, eventing or show jumping. Severson brought home an Individual Silver medal in eventing at the 2004 Olympics, and was part of the Bronze medal-winning Eventing Team. She also claimed victory at the 2004 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, and placed second at the Foxhall Cup Three-Day.

USEF President David O’Connor said of Severson during the Pegasus Awards, “This is a rider that we will see much more of in the future.” And if her performance in 2004 was any indication, his words are sure to ring true.

In 2002, she won her first Rolex Three-Day Event CCI****, but she was kept from returning to claim her second title for a full year due to a long recovery period from a serious leg injury. She won her first international medal in world championship competition in September 2002, when she helped the U.S. earn the Team Gold medal at the World Equestrian Games in Jerez, Spain. In 1999, she took the title at the USET Three-Star Spring Championship.

In true style, Severson spoke eloquently in accepting the Equestrian of the Year honors and was humble, saying she hoped she was worthy to follow in the footsteps of those who had gone before her. She also paid tribute to those who have helped her in her amazing career thus far, specifically Linda Wachtmeister, owner of her competition partner Winsome Adante.

Left: Silver Stirrup Awards were presented during the 2005 Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY. The five-day meeting was host to a bevy of award programs, luncheons and opportunities to celebrate achievements across the spectrum of equestrian sport in the U.S.

Individual Awards

Grand Prix Show Jumping Course Designer of the Year-

Richard Jeffery

Ellen Scripps Davis Memorial Breeders' Award

Diana Dodge and Herb Kohler

Sportsmanship Award – Walter B. Devereux Trophy-

Howard B. Simpson

Sallie Busch Wheeler Trophy for Distinguished Service to Equestrian Sport

Bill Moroney

Pegasus Medals of Honor

Kathy Kusner, Margaret Price, Alvin Topping and Edna Griswald Lytle

Richard E. McDevitt Award of Merit

Stephen Hawkins and Dr. Gene LaCroix

Junior Equestrian of the Year – Ruth O'Keefe Meredith Memorial Trophy

Meagan Drew

2004 Equestrians of Honor

William C. Steinkraus Trophy

Kim Severson

Becky Grand Hart Trophy

Lynn Seidemann

Bill Robinson Trophy

Gerry Rushton

Emerson Burr Trophy

Stephanie Desiderio

C.J. "June" Cronan Trophy

Rob Byers

Barbara Worth Oakford Trophy

Gordon Potts

Norman K. Dunn Trophy

Gareth Selwood

O'Connor used the analogy of building a house, saying that in 2004 a frame was built. In 2005, work on the interior is commencing and "we desperately need stairs to lead us to the next level." He continued his analogy saying that these stairs would be built slowly from the bottom-up, and that the rule changes being voted on at this year's Annual Meeting were just the first steps of the "staircase"—one that will take courage in constructing. He asked the board and members to join in the process.

USEF Board Meetings

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday saw Board of Director meetings take place at the Seelbach Hotel's Medallion Ballroom, where there were nearly 450 rule change proposals before them. In addition, there were new members seated on the board: Sue Ashe, Robert Costello, Jody Cutler, Ellen DiBella, Arthur Hawkins, Ralph Hill, Tucker Johnson, Chris Kappler, Myron Krause, Tom McCutcheon, Susie Schoellkopf, Louise Serio, Kim Sloan, Tom Struzzi, Kyra Stuart, Chrystine Tauber and George Williams. Those former board members completing their posts were: W. Gary Baker, Don Burt, Bruce Davidson, Gary

Dearth, Robert Dover, Jim Fairclough, Natasha Grigg, Leslie Burr Howard, Laura Kraut, Pete Kyle, Herb Lurie, Beth Miner, Kingman Penniman, Jessica Ranshausen, Alvin Topping, Dennis Valentine and Jeff Wirthman.

Some of these rules went into effect retroactively as the beginning of the 2005 competition year began on December 1, 2004. Others will go into effect at the end of 2005 due to time needed by the affiliate associations to inform their members. The following topics were among those that were heard by the board and enacted upon.

The Competition Date Approval Task Force Report

The Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved all of the rule changes relating to the recommendations of the Competition Date Task Force.

John Long, Chief Executive Officer of the USEF, was very pleased with the Board of Directors action, "This

Junior Equestrian of the Year Meagan Drew dines with USEF Board of Directors member Georgie Green during the Pegasus Dinner.



was a far reaching decision by the Board and sets in motion a new procedure for creating the competition calendar. It's incredibly encouraging for this landmark initiative to happen within the first year of our Federation. On all issues, from the Task Force rule changes to upgrading our safety standards at competitions, there was a cooperative spirit from many committees, which I believe is indicative of the cohesiveness of our organization."



Dr. Mike Tomlinson

John Long, CEO of USEF, entered his second year as top Federation administrator.

As of December 1, 2005, rules relating to mileage between competitions will be more flexible and include input from appropriate affiliates. Affiliate-designated geographic boundaries may help establish the mileage between competitions or it may be on a state or multi-state basis. Mileage between competitions might be established on an annual or quarterly basis, with no state having more than two different mileage options with a single affiliate within a single competition year. Procedures for obtaining waivers will be modified.

Mileage between competitions is to be measured according to GR214.4. The USEF Board of Directors must approve any mileage change at the USEF mid-year meeting, with changes going into effect on December 1 of the next competition year. Any conflicts in dates may lead to a modification of existing license agreements and a Competition Evaluation to determine which of the affected competitions will have their license renewed.

Competitions in good standing

will enter into a three-year License Agreement. The term "Recognized Competition" will be replaced by "Licensed Competition." Competitions will be listed as one of six levels: Level 6—Currently Local/Unrated; Level 5—Currently "C" rated; Level 4—Currently "B" rated; Level 3—Currently "A" rated; Level 2—Currently "AA" rated; Level 1—New. The term "Licensee" will replace the term "Competition Management." USEF software will be customized to reflect these changes.

By December 1, 2006, the USEF will have built a database that allows for electronic data exchange between competitions and the USEF. This data exchange will support a universal point system for awards and recognition; allow for better data exchange between competitions, the USEF and affiliates; and allow competitions to verify entries and report information, including results, to the USEF.

If feasible, the USEF shall create a USEF Equestrian Facility Information and Service Bureau, which will include online information on equestrian facilities, scheduled events at those facilities, open dates and other information. The facility would pay an annual fee to the USEF for participation, with access free to USEF members.

The Board also discussed the differences between associated competitions and endorsed competitions, the competition structure, the licensing process, the date application/cancellation process, the competition evaluation schedule and considerations, license renewal evaluation results, the application of competition standards, sale or transfer of a license, waivers and more. For the full report, visit www.usef.org/documents/executive/compDateATF12172004-2.pdf.

The Helmet Rule

According to GR318, all riders competing in Hunter, Jumper and Hunt Seat Equitation classes, and Paso Fino classes, both open and breed restricted including Hunter Hack, must wear helmets which meet or exceed ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use and carry the SEI tag when jumping anywhere on competition grounds. The helmet should fit correctly with the harness fastened. In addition, all sub-juniors riding in the Paso Fino division must wear the appropriate headgear while riding anywhere on the show grounds. Riders can be banned from riding if these requirements are not met.

Media Awards

Non-Equestrian Print Media

- Paula Rodenas – "Hunters Gallop Into the 21st Century" (published in *Traveler-Watchman* newspaper)

Broadcast Media Excellence

- "America's Horse: 2004 USEF Open Reining Championships" – American Quarter Horse Association
- Honorable Mention: Carr Hughes Productions – "The 2004 Rolex Three-Day Event Championships"

Internet Media

- EquiSearch.com
- Honorable Mention: TheHorse.com

Equestrian Print Media – Single Article

- Elizabeth B. Herman – "Riding Quicksand" (published in *Equus* magazine)
- Honorable Mention: Stephanie Stephens – "Presto Too Works His Magic" (published in *Paint Horse Journal* magazine)

Photography

- Diana DeRosa – Peter Wylde and Fein Cera: No Guts, No Glory – Meeting the Olympic Challenge
- Honorable Mention: Charles Mann – Nicole Simpson Taking Down An Oxer at the California Show Jumping Trials

Publication of the Year

- *Horse Illustrated*
- Honorable Mention: *Growing Up With Horses (2004 Parents' Handbook and Resource Guide)*

Overall Excellence

- "America's Horse: 2004 USEF Open Reining Championships" – American Quarter Horse Association

President's Award for Overall Excellence

- "Amy Tryon and Poggio" by NBC Nightly News staff: Mike Taibbi, Christiana Arvetis, Steve Capus, M.L. Flynn, Meaghan Marcus and Nicole Sanderson

Convention Sponsors

We would like to thank the following sponsors whose contributions helped make the Annual Meeting a success.

USA Horse Shows Association
 American Saddlebred Horse Association
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 United States Hunter Jumper Association
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Motorized Vehicles

According to GR301, any minor without a valid driver's license from their state of residence is not permitted to operate any motorized vehicle of any kind, including golf carts, motorcycles, scooters or farm utility vehicles, on competition grounds. If the minor has a temporary license, he or she may operate a motorized vehicle in the presence of an adult with a valid driver's license. Any violations will result in sanctions against the parent(s), guardian(s) and/or trainer(s) that are responsible for allowing the offense to happen, which might result in exclusion of any of the parties from the competition grounds and charges being filed against those involved. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are the exception.

Of course there were many other rule changes brought before the Board of Directors—far too many to list. To learn about the status of a specific rule, contact the individual breed or discipline committee member. A full listing of the liaisons can be found on the USEF website at www.usef.org/content/aboutUs/committee/.

Above: Chris Kappler was presented the USEF Foundation's Whitney Stone Cup during the Friday luncheon.
Right: Don Treadway accepts the Lenehan Award for Overall Excellence on behalf of the AQHA at the USEF Media Awards.

And the Winner Is...

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the Annual Meeting are the various award programs that pay tribute to the amazing efforts of athletes, owners and industry members who have made equestrian sport their life's work. This year was no different as there were many opportunities for widespread celebration and limelight.

From the Silver Stirrup Awards honoring the best of the Performance Horse Registry to the Pegasus and the Horse of the Year Awards, trophies and ribbons were in full supply, and the delighted recipients of the various awards were ready to celebrate.

During the Friday Recognition Luncheon in honor of Athletes and Owners, the United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation presented the coveted Whitney Stone Memorial Cup to one of the world's most successful international show jumpers, Chris Kappler, for the year 2004. At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, Kappler, aboard Royal Kaliber, was the only show jumping rider to win two medals—an Individual Bronze and a Team Silver.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Whitney Stone Memorial Cup, and I wish to sincerely thank the United

States Equestrian Team Foundation," said Kappler. "To be included among the people previously singled out for their contributions to equestrian sport, people I greatly admire for their own achievements, is humbling." Kappler was obviously moved during his heartfelt and humble acceptance speech. In September of last year, his longtime competitive mount, Royal Kaliber, was humanely euthanized in the Netherlands after undergoing colic surgery.

Kappler was not the only international star in attendance. Many of the United States' elite athletes made the trip to Louisville to take part in an afternoon of honors and awards. Olympic eventers Kim Severson (Bronze Team medalist and Individual Silver medalist), Darren Chiacchia (Bronze Team medalist) and John Williams (Bronze Team medalist), were saluted. From the Athens Dressage Team, six-time Olympian Robert Dover (Bronze Team medalist) was in attendance. Kappler (Individual Bronze medalist and Team Silver medalist) represented the Olympic show jumpers.

Later in the evening, during the Pegasus Awards Dinner, equestrians from every discipline and across the country joined in a night of salutes. "The prestigious awards presented tonight have a long and valued tradition," said O'Connor. "It is the time we come together lift our voices in praise of what this sport is truly about—sportsmanship, honor and our unending love of our horses and our sport."

O'Connor wasted no time in bringing award recipients to the stage.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Lowell Boomer



Courtesy John Boomer

Awarded to the horseman or woman whose "life experience and accomplishments exemplify uncommon devotion to the sport of competition with horses and whose equestrian career and horsemanship have continually elevated the sport's excellence," there are few people who can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the 2004 recipient—Lowell Boomer.

An active horseman for his entire life, Lowell has spent the majority of his years in the selfless promotion of equestrian sport—specifically dressage. It was with his characteristic sense of humor and determination to see fledgling groups pool their resources and energies that he started what was to become the United

States Dressage Federation (USDF) in 1973. He served as president of the USDF, as well as The Dressage Foundation. His equestrian interests were not limited to dressage, as he enjoyed training and competing open jumpers and hunters to boot.

Lowell founded the Nebraska Dressage Foundation and has taught hundreds of young riders with his deft skills and unending enthusiasm. He was named as one of "The 50 Most Influential Horsemen of the 20th Century" by *The Chronicle of the Horse* at the turn of the millennium.

Lowell joins a distinguished list of past recipients including Frank D. Chapot, John H. Fritz, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Jack Le Goff, and husband and wife teams Kenneth and Sallie Wheeler and Ned and Nina Bonnie.

Among the night's many honorees were Richard Jeffery (Grand Prix Show Jumping Course Designer of the Year Award); Diana Dodge of Virginia, and Herb Kohler of Wisconsin (Ellen Scripps Davis Memorial Breeder's Award); Howard Simpson of Illinois (Walter B. Devereux Trophy and Sportsmanship Award); Bill Moroney of Virginia (Sallie Busch Wheeler Trophy for Distinguished Service to Equestrian Sport); Kathy Kusner of California, Edna Griswald Lytle of Maryland, Margaret Price of Pennsylvania and Alvin Topping of Virginia (Pegasus Medals of Honor), and posthumous honors for horsemen Stephen Hawkins and Dr. Eugene LaCroix.

The pinnacle award for young equestrians—the Junior Equestrian of the Year Award—was bestowed upon Morgan enthusiast and multi-discipline equestrian Meagan Drew of Colorado. Drew earned her first Gold medal over

fences at an Oklahoma City horse show, and three years later, she repeated her Gold-medal performance, this time in the dressage ring. Her next disciplines to tackle were saddle seat and Western, and she admittedly surprised herself when she took home the Western Seat World Championship in 2004.

Seven equestrians were in the running for the most coveted award presented by the Federation—the Equestrian of the Year Award. With the suspense having been built, the Equestrian of the Year Award was presented to Kim Severson.

Severson was humble in accepting the honors, and said she hoped she was worthy to follow in the footsteps of those who had gone before her.

The Lifetime Achievement Award winner was 93-year-old Lowell Boomer, of Lincoln, NE. One of the founding fathers of the United States Dressage Federation, Boomer spent an

entire career sharing his love of horses with people across the country. "The Lifetime Achievement Award is certainly an honor," said Boomer, in a video message to the crowd. O'Connor and three-time Olympic Silver medalist Jim Wofford presented the sterling silver hat to Boomer in Lincoln in early January. The video presentation was shown at the Pegasus Dinner for all to enjoy. "It feels very natural," said Boomer, striking a grin as he donned the heavy hat. "I don't know what I did to deserve it, but I'll sure accept it!"

After years of teaching, promoting and devoting time to his love of dressage, there's no question Boomer deserved recognition. Boomer's son, John, accepted the award on his behalf, and said that his father very much wanted to join the festivities in person.

Saturday night's Horse of the Year Awards saw an overflowing ballroom of equestrians from across the spectrum of USEF breeds and disciplines. Photos from the Horse of the Year Awards, including the annual photo gallery of national, zone, region and district champions, along with Silver Stirrups Award winners, will appear in the March issue of **EQUESTRIAN** magazine.

On to Next Year...

Plans are already underway for the 2006 USEF Annual Meeting which will be hosted by "the Big Easy"—New Orleans, LA. Certain to be a rousing host city, USEF Travel & Events Manager Krista Greathouse is looking forward for what is in store for next year's attendees.

"I am very excited about the 2006 USEF Annual Meeting," said Greathouse. "We will continue our old traditions, and add some new ones, in addition to hosting all of the social events in an amazing setting at the New Orleans Marriott, just steps from the beautiful, old French Quarter."

Mark your calendars now to reserve time at the beginning of 2006 to be in New Orleans advises Greathouse. "There will be lots to do and see, so come early or stay late."

For more information about the happenings at this year's Annual Meeting, go to www.usef.org/content/pr/. ■

Brian Sosby, Editor of EQUESTRIAN, has served on the staff of the magazine in various editor positions for the past five years, in addition to being Media Coordinator for the USEF Annual Meeting. He can be reached at bsosby@usef.org.

Equestrians of Honor

To reflect more thoroughly the breadth of equestrian competition across all the breeds and disciplines, the Equestrians of Honor awards were added to the 2001 Pegasus Awards. These seven awards—all qualifiers for the coveted Equestrian of the Year honors—are awarded each year prior to the voting of the Equestrian of the Year.

This year, **Kim Severson** (winner of the William C. Steinkraus Trophy) was named as the Equestrian of the Year. The remaining 2004 Equestrians of Honor were:



Joe Kusumoto

Lynn Seidemann Becky Grand Hart Trophy

Awarded to an equestrian competing in international driving, endurance, Paralympics, reining or vaulting competi-

tions, Texan Lynn Seidemann was a member of the U.S. Paralympic Team in 2004, and won an Individual Silver medal for her performance in dressage. She also came in first place in the Cedar Trace with Friends I and Cedar Trace with Friends II IPEC Championship tests. Seidemann is now in the company of past recipients of the Beck Grand Hart Trophy, Cia Reis, Bryant Pace and Fred Merriam.



Courtesy Gerry Rushton

Gerry Rushton Bill Robinson Trophy

The Bill Robinson Trophy is presented to the equestrian competing with horses or ponies across all the breeds in

harness or for driving performance in non-international competitions. Californian Gerry Rushton was the champion of Pleasure Driving Three-Year-Olds and came in first in the Morgan Pleasure Driving Four-Year-Olds, both at the Morgan Medallion Classic. He also competed in the Morgan Grand National, where he took first in Morgan Pleasure Driving Mare, first in Morgan Pleasure Driving Three-Year-Old Mare and first in Morgan Pleasure Driving Four-Year-Old Mare. Rushton's predecessors in receiving the Robinson Trophy include Richard Ames, Mary Gaylord McClean and Darrell Kolkman.



Courtesy Stephanie Desiderio

Stephanie Desiderio Emerson Burr Trophy

In honor of the late Emerson Burr, the Federation presents an award for outstanding annual

achievement in the hunter divisions in any breed over fences. Stephanie Desiderio, of Chester, NJ won this year's award. Desiderio was champion of the Half/Anglo Arabian Specialty and champion of the Half/Anglo Arabian Hunter-Jumper at the 2004 Arabian and Half-Arabian Sport Horse Nationals. She claimed the reserve championship in Arabian Hunter-Jumper at the Region XV Championships, and was champion in Half/Anglo Arabian Hunter-Jumper. In addition, Desiderio was champion in both the Arabian Hunter-Jumper and Half/Anglo Arabian Hunter-Jumper divisions at the 2004 Eastern Arabian. She joins former winners Scott Stewart, Daniel Robertshaw and Peter Pletcher as a fellow recipient of the Emerson Burr Trophy.



Howard Schatzberg

Rob Byers C.J. Cronan Trophy

The C.J. "June" Cronan Trophy is presented to the year's top rider of any horse or pony breed shown under saddle in the pleasure divisions.

Kentuckian Rob Byers was the grand champion in the Five-Gaited Open at the Lexington Junior League Horse Show. He was the reserve champion in Five-Gaited Open and Champion of the Park Horse Open at the Kentucky Fall Classic. At the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show, Byers won the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship, the Five-Gaited Gelding World's Championship, and was reserve world's champion in the Park Horse Mare Championship. He also competed in the UPHA American Royal, claiming the National Champion in the Five-Gaited Open. Byers joins Joel Kiesner, Robin Ratliff and Dena Lopez as a recipient of the C.J. "June" Cronan Trophy.



Courtesy AHA

Gordon Potts Barbara Worth Oakford Trophy

The Barbara Worth Oakford Trophy is awarded annually to the equestrian showing in a non-reining

Western discipline. In 2004, one person stood out—Texan Gordon Potts. Potts was the reserve champion in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Western Pleasure Open at the 2004 Region VII Arabian Championship. He also took reserve champion in the Arabian Western Pleasure Open at the 2004 Region I Arabian Championship. In addition, he was named Region IX champion in the Arabian Western Pleasure and champion in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Western Pleasure Junior Horse divisions, both at the 2004 Region IX Championship. At the 2004 U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian National Championship, he was named champion in the Arabian Western Pleasure Open, and reserve champion in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Western Pleasure Junior Horse. Potts joins past honorees Bob Hart, Jr., Eitan Beth-Halachmy and Bill Porcher.



USEF Archive

Gareth Selwood Norman K. Dunn Trophy

It's not difficult to see why this year's winner of the Norman K. Dunn Trophy for those competing in-hand or at halter goes to

Wisconsin's Gareth Selwood. Selwood competed in the International Andalusian/Lusitano Horse Association Nationals, where he took home vast array of awards, including the U.S. National Champion Futurity Purebred Gelding, U.S. National JR Champion Spanish/Portuguese Colt, U.S. National Champion Half Andalusian Stock Type, plus a lengthy list of reserve championship titles far too long to list. In addition, 25 Top Fives were won in halter by Selwood-trained horses. Other honors for 2004 include the 2004 High Point Purebred Halter Horse for IALHA and the 2004 High Point Half-bred Halter Horse for IALHA. Selwood proudly is added to the Dunn Trophy's recipient list including Oliver Brown and Kenneth Wheeler.

Spectrum of Meetings

Ad Hoc Federation Representatives Committee

The Federation representatives previously assigned to competitions reported on their experiences. The general consensus was that they had positive experiences and that the competitions they were assigned to were of a high quality. Note: The competitions were chosen randomly using a computer program. One manager reported that one of the competitions he was managing had been visited by a representative and that it was a positive experience. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to have a representative present at assigned competitions for more than one day. The goal is to assign representatives to approximately 50 competitions in 2005.

Andalusian/Lusitano Committee

The committee discussed their proposed rule changes and the general rule changes. The committee also made recommendations to the IALHA Rules Committee on some of the rules that they had proposed to the USEF Board.

Arabian Committee

The committee discussed the general rule change proposals, as well as the ones referred to their committee. The committee went over the 2005 Arabian Guidelines, which will go to print following the USEF Annual Meeting.

Competition Date Approval Task Force Open Forum

Over 80 members attended the Open Forum and listened to an introduction from John Long, USEF CEO, who explained the importance of changing the current system of assigning dates. Howard Pike, Task Force member, reviewed each Task Force proposal, which explained the intent and application. The task force noted all comments and suggestions and agreed to consider those as they moved forward.

Competition Management Committee

The committee discussed the Date Approval Task Force's rule change proposals, in addition to all other rule change proposals.

Continuing Education Committee

The 2004 clinics were discussed, and the 2005 schedule was reviewed. Initial planning of the 2006 calendar was discussed, as well as increased involvement with affiliate organizations and educational programs.

Dressage Committee

Topics included the evolving format of qualifications for the World Cup Finals via the U.S. Grand Prix Freestyle Championship/U.S. League Final. Also, members discussed the impact of new FEI rules on American CDIs. The

committee agenda included discussion of licensed officials items and review and revision of rule change proposals. The High Performance Dressage Committee investigated options for the 2005 High Performance Grand Prix and I-1 Championships, began developing selection procedures for the 2006 World Equestrian Games and reviewed applications for High Performance-qualifying competitions.

Eventing Committee

The committee reviewed the National Championship Program for 2006 and created two new championships, a CCI* for 19-21-year-olds and a CCI** for 22-24-year-olds. The committee also reviewed a presentation by Brian and Penny Ross regarding the NAYRC running a CH** -Y, CH* -J, and a CCI* for Juniors and Young Riders. The committee approved the concept, and it must now be forwarded to the appropriate USEF committees and the FEI for approval. Additional business included approval of spring officials and rule changes.

FEI Affiliates Working Group

The current group was joined by Kyra Stuart, who is the newly elected President of the U.S. Eventing Association. The group reviewed final changes to the budget prior to its presentation to the board for approval. David O'Connor joined the meeting as the group discussed the proposed changes regarding competition licensing, which clarified several points.

FEI Competitions Committee

The FEI Competitions Committee met to address an agenda that included updates on the international developments in all seven FEI disciplines. Growth is happening in all seven disciplines with more FEI competitions being organized. The CRI-A Lexington was approved and will go forward to the FEI. The CSIO Saugerties, NY, was discussed and approved to go forward as a CSI*** if the FEI does not approve it as a CSIO. The committee determined that each discipline technical committee must develop criteria for approval of FEI events and those criteria must be made available to the FEI Competitions Committee prior to their approval of FEI events for 2006. The timeline for approval of 2006/2007 FEI applications was distributed.

Friesian Committee

The Friesian Committee met to discuss the Friesian Rule changes that had been proposed. The committee put together a subcommittee to go over some of the issues that have been raised concerning the part-bred Friesians.

Hackney/Harness Committee

Members met to finalize discussion on the current rule change proposals. Committee

actions were noted, and the committee began discussion on upcoming projects, which included working with the AHHS to establish breed standards in the USEF Rule Book. Triple point ballot results were reported, and the committee tentatively set the next meeting date for early July.

Hearing Committee

The committee reviewed the number of case/alleged rule violation numbers issued in 2004, the number of items heard during hearings and teleconferences in 2004, the attendance from those meetings, the tentative schedule of hearings for 2005 and rule change proposals that would have an affect on the hearing process. USEF President David O'Connor spoke with the committee about future plans.

International Rule Forum

Rule changes for each FEI discipline were reviewed. A review of changes to the FEI Rules was presented, noting that there are new rules for endurance, driving and vaulting effective January 1, 2005. New General Regulations are also effective January 1, 2005. Recent changes to the FEI dressage, eventing and jumping rules were distributed. There was an explanation of the extraordinary rule changes that were submitted at the December Executive Committee meeting that bring Federation rules in line with changes to the FEI General Regulations, and that remove the requirement for non-U.S. citizens to be issued a Foreign Riders License. This change became effective January 1, 2005. Another was explained that will be in place for 2005, which requires FEI-level riders in eventing to pay a nominal fee for the horse and rider registrations required by the FEI. The Federation has absorbed this expense imposed by the FEI for the first two years of the program, but will now pass the cost on. There was a report on the calendar of FEI competitions and FEI courses for officials to be held in the U.S. in 2005. The USEF has submitted a request to the FEI to host the FEI Children's Jumping Final in November 2005 in California. In addition, the U.S. has submitted a bid on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to host the 2010 World Equestrian Games at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. Looking to the future, the 2006 World Equestrian Games will be held in Aachen, Germany. 2008 will bring the Olympic Games to Beijing, China, and there will be additional issues and expenses due to quarantine restrictions and the fact that the U.S. equestrian team will be competing in a part of the world where it does not normally compete. There are ongoing discussions between the FEI and the organizers to possibly hold the equestrian competition in Hong Kong.

Licensed Officials Committee

The committee reviewed rule change proposals, and those members present conducted the usual business of evaluating more than 100 applicant files for various licenses.

Morgan Committee

The committee went over the Morgan division rule change proposals as well as the general rule change proposals. The committee had a discussion about the proposed change to Article 2903.1 and approved the change.

National Affiliates Working Group

The group spent the majority of the meeting working out the details for the new Youth Recognition program. This program is designed to recognize every junior who wins a championship at all the different national championships. The group updated their new members on the current youth recognition program. A task force was created to work with each breed and discipline to determine how to best implement this program for the 2005 competition year. Discussion was also held regarding possible programs that could be offered to current USEF members and promote overall equine involvement at all levels.

National Hunter Committee

The committee reviewed the election results for the five Hunter Task Forces, which include Open Hunter, Pony Hunter, Junior Hunter, Hunter Breeding and Equitation. The results for these elections will be published on the USEF website as soon as the Task Forces make their appointments and elect a chairman. Finally, the committee went over the timeline which lists the responsibilities and requirements that they need to fulfill for 2005.

National Jumper Committee

David Saperstein spoke to the committee about his plans to promote and enhance the 2005 FEI Children's Jumping Final. The committee approved several new CSI competitions for 2005. The 2005-2008 committee took roll and voted on their next chairman. David Distler and Larry Langer will be the co-chairmen for the new National Jumper Committee.

National Show Horse Committee

The members discussed the general rule change proposals, as well as the rule change proposals referred to their committee. Under new business, the committee went over adding judges to the NSH list of judges.

National Western Committee

The committee discussed their proposed rule changes and the general rule changes. The committee discussed ways to promote the open Western division and the new medal program.

ParaEquestrian Committee

With the start of a new quadrennium, Para Equestrian is now a full discipline under the FEI and USEF. The HP Committee made good progress towards re-establishing the Advanced

Rider List formerly maintained by National Disability Sports Alliance, and approved a 2005 budget, which includes an international competition tour, as well as early discussion on the four-year strategic plan. The ParaEquestrian Technical Committee laid out the plan and priorities for establishing ParaEquestrian sport opportunities in our country and development of the rule book. Guidelines developed by USDF to include riders with a disability into the NAYRC program were approved. Through a bylaw amendment passed by the Board of Directors, the old Disabled Sports Committee has been renamed and will serve as the Adaptive Sport Committee. Its function is to assist competitors with a disability who wish to compete in any of the organization's recognized divisions.

Roadster Committee

The Roadster Committee met to discuss and approve the current rule change proposals and committee actions were noted. 2005 triple point shows were finalized, and the committee discussed new business.

Rules Reorganization Committee

Members of this Ad Hoc Committee discussed the progress to date (i.e. the 2005 Rule Book.) They developed a list of tasks for 2006, which includes identifying terms that need written definitions and also where some general rules can be combined and some need to be divide or recombined in a different order.

Saddlebred Committee

The Saddlebred Committee finalized discussion on the current rule change proposals. Committee actions were noted, and the committee began discussion on upcoming projects. Triple point ballot results were reported. It was announced that the first open rule change forum would be held on February 18 in conjunction with the American Saddlebred Horse Association's annual meeting and convention.

Saddle Seat Equitation Committee

Members met to finalize discussion on the current rule change proposals and withdrew the current rule change proposals that added breed specific medal finals. It was determined that it would be better to research the specific breed needs before presenting new medal final proposals. The committee expressed interest in adding members that could better represent the Arabian, Morgan, Friesian and Andalusian disciplines.

Safety Committee

Chairman Andrew Ellis recapped the past year's committee work and explained the new committee structure. He then went over agenda items for the Safety Seminar. The committee considered the possibility of requiring medical personnel and/or a steward to be on the competition grounds approximately half an hour before and after the competition. The concept of a standard release form was also discussed for exhibitors who have been involved in an

accident but want to continue to show. Concussion guidelines were circulated for review and a discussion took place regarding the proposed rule change to require exhibitors (both senior and junior) in Hunter, Jumper and Hunt Seat Equitation classes to wear ASTM/SEI approved headgear while jumping on the show grounds. The committee discussed a request from the Ethics Committee to develop a code of ethics. The committee reviewed and acted upon rule change proposals and agreed to look into problems with schooling areas and propose rules to rectify these problems.

Vaulting High Performance Committee

The VHPC approved the Education Subcommittee's recommendation to select the top seven ranked individuals for the February training camp in Petaluma, CA, in addition to the six vaulters who were selected for the season. The VHPC discussed the 2005 grant criteria presented by Adrienne Stang and Linda Bibbler who will update the document with the VHPC's recommendations and re-present it to the VHPC for approval. The VHPC appointed a Vaulting High Performance Plan Task Force, which will draft the 2005-2008 Vaulting High Performance Plan.

Equine Drugs and Medications Committee and the Veterinary Committee

Both chaired by Dr. Kent Allen, each committee spent time fine-tuning rule change proposals to address the issue of veterinary responsibility and accountability. These proposals were discussed with members at several open forums. As a result, rules were adopted that provide for veterinarians whose actions of prescribing, dispensing or administering a forbidden substance to a horse while on competition grounds cause a violation of the Equine Drugs and Medications Rule to be penalized for violating the rules. This makes veterinarians who engage in such unethical conduct, in addition to the trainer, a responsible party under the rules.

Youth Sports Committee

The committee met to prioritize their goals for the next quadrennium. They are: (1) To encourage the development of children's juniors and young riders competitions; (2) Coordinate efforts to interface youth programs throughout breed/disciplines within the USEF; (3) Oversight and guidance of the development of the North American youth competitions and programs in the U.S., including site selection and review of qualifying criteria; (4) Coordinate the development of Junior Olympic programs and competitions; and (5) Encourage U.S. youth participation in international competitions.

Welsh/Connemara Committee

The Welsh/Connemara Committee discussed the general rule change proposals and the type of ethics statement they would like to adopt.