



TO: Stephan Hienzsch, Executive Director, USDF
Executive Board Members, USDF

FROM: Jenny Johnson, Administrative Manager, TDF
John F. Boomer, Past President & CEO, TDF

SUBJECT: 2010 Funding for USDF from The Dressage Foundation

DATE: November 16, 2009

It is with pleasure that we jointly write you this letter to apprise you of the funding support that The Dressage Foundation will be providing to USDF during calendar year 2010. We have organized this memorandum in four parts, as follows:

- I. Funding directly to USDF
- II. Funding to USDF members, GMOs/Chapters
- III. New TDF Programs coming on line in 2010
- IV. TDF Staff and Management Changes

I. Funding Directly to USDF

A. USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinic Series. The Dressage Foundation is pleased to provide \$13,000 for funding these clinics in 2010. This money will come from the “Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund” at the Foundation.

B. USDF/USEF YR Graduate Program. The Dressage Foundation is glad once again to provide \$15,000 in funding support for this fine program in 2010. Lendon Gray arranged this funding from a Foundation Donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

C. Continuing Education for Judges and USDF “L” Program Graduates. The Dressage Foundation is proud and pleased to re-instate this funding up to \$7200 for 2010, permitting USDF to offer one grant in the amount of \$800 in each of nine USDF Regions. Participants have consistently rated these programs at the highest level. In the last few years, some of the clinicians have been Janet Foy, Marilyn Heath, Melissa Creswick, Sandy Howard, and Joan Humphrey.

II. Funding to USDF Members, GMOs/ Chapters

We're going to take the time to itemize the growing abundance of funding support that is available from The Dressage Foundation for USDF members and GMO/Chapters. Details and application procedures are available on our website at www.dressagefoundation.org.

A. The Carol Lavell Gifted Fund offers nine \$900 training scholarships annually to adult amateurs, one in each USDF Region. Applicants must be a member of USDF and a member of a GMO in the region for which they apply.

B. Violet M. Hopkins Fund offers funding to USDF GMOs to conduct educational clinics, camps, and seminars for their member riders. Nineteen GMO's received Hopkins Funds grants in 2009 totaling \$24,750 from Foundation funds.

C. Continuing Education for Instructors Fund. This is a newer Fund established by Maryal Barnett and Family, which provides \$10,000 annually, for \$1000 grants to ten GMOs/Chapters. North West Florida Chapter of DSCTA, Alamo Dressage, and Connecticut DCTA have held clinics so far, to rave reviews about clinicians Vicki Hammers O'Neil, Sophie Clifton, and Sandy Howard. This Fund offers wonderful new programmatic help, and we hope more GMOs will apply to take advantage of this Fund.

D. Dancing Horse Fund, which promotes Freestyle at all levels, has awarded eight GMO grants in 2008-2009.

E. USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award is a \$5,000 annual grant to recognize and honor an outstanding Region 9 Dressage Instructor. Marie Morgan is the first recipient and received a \$5,000 check from The Dressage Foundation in October 2009.

F. Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund was established to give a financial boost to those YRs who need it, in order for them to participate in the USDF FEI Jr/YR Clinic Series. The Fund offers \$800 grants annually, as needed, one in each of USDF's nine regions.

G. Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize is an annual \$25,000 grant to give financial assistance for coaching and training to a talented, committed, qualified rider whose plan is to reach and excel at the elite standards of high performance Dressage. Jan Brons is the first recipient of this Prize in 2009. This Fund balance is sizable and can, as of 2009, provide this \$25,000 annual Prize for the next fifteen years.

H. Anne Barlow Ramsay Grant of \$25,000 with the purpose to showcase talented American-bred horses, ridden by U.S. citizens, by providing money to train and compete in Europe. James Koford (NC) and his Dutch Warmblood, Rhett, were the first recipients of this grant in 2009. This Fund contains the "remainder" money of a Charitable Remainder Trust established by Dr. Ramsay in 1998, and will fund this annual grant for the next five years. Dr. Ramsay, in 2009, established a second Charitable Remainder Unitrust, which will perpetuate this funding far out into future years.

I. Olympic Dream Program was conceived by Olympian Michael Poulin and launched in 2000. This Program provides the funding to send four top Young American Dressage riders with two adult chaperones to Europe for a two-week introduction to European Dressage trainers, riders, facilities and events. Donors fund this Program with approximately \$30,000 each year, which to date, has given thirty-two talented young American Dressage riders this “once-in-a-young-lifetime” experience.

J. Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship is available annually to a Dressage Instructor, especially those in the USDF certified pool, Training through Fourth Level. This \$6,000 award is to help with study abroad to improve teaching and training skills.

III. New Foundation Funds/Programs being prepared for debut in 2010

A. Lessons in Dressage, Fund-Raising and Giving is an exciting new program, conceived by Karin Reid Offield. This Program addresses what young riders will need throughout their careers: continuous horsemanship training and money. The Program will be divided into three modules of twelve lessons each, on horsemanship, fund-raising and giving which will be taught through webinars on secure websites. A focus group of young riders is reacting to the program now, and we hope to move the program from the R & D stage into the equestrian marketplace in 2010.

B. The Sally Swift Memorial Fund is being established in honor and special remembrance of Sally Swift with Donations from her friends and supporters to provide financial support to organizations that present Centered Riding Clinics to their members. Grants in an amount up to \$1000 will be available to organizations that apply and are approved by the joint Centered Riding and The Dressage Foundation’s distinguished Selection Committee. Here’s another great educational clinic idea for USDF GMOs/Chapters!

C. Emerging Dressage Star Program was conceived by Olympians, and now being “sketched out” on the drawing boards, the goal of which will be to search out and nurture our country’s brightest young talent through clinics, training camps, and eventually even funded competitive tours abroad. This exciting and innovative effort is being styled after the existing Emerging Athlete program for young jumper riders developed by the United States Hunter/Jumper Association (USHJA). Stay tuned!

D. Trip Harting Memorial Fund is being established by friends, students and admirers of Trip Harting, a beloved coach and clinician who died on August 21, 2009 in Los Angeles, CA. The Fund’s purpose, once up and running in 2010, will be to provide \$500 Scholarships to a USPC current or graduate B or A, to assist in attending the USDF “L” Education Program, or USDF Instructor Certification Program.

IV. Changing of the Guard

You will find among the attachments to this memorandum, a short piece on the “Changing of the Guard” at The Dressage Foundation. At the end of 2009, John and Lynn Boomer will dismount from their leadership roles at The Dressage Foundation during the last dozen years, as they step into retirement. Jenny Johnson and Melissa Filipi are the new staff of The Dressage Foundation, and have been under-going intensive training during 2009. You will love working with them! Finally, Lendon Gray, President and CEO of The Dressage Foundation since September of 2008, is resigning her position effective December 31, 2009. One of the equestrian world’s busiest ladies, Lendon has become super-busy in recent days, with programs like the “USEF Dressage Youth/Pony Pilot Program” placed onto her already strong shoulders. Lendon spoke with the Foundation Board earlier this Fall to tell the Board that she will continue to be a good friend and booster of The Dressage Foundation, its Mission and its work.