

2015 ICC CDS Year in Review

Inland Communities Chapter has approximately 60 members and represents the Inland Empire, High Desert, Low Desert areas of Southern California. We sponsor four dressage shows each year – schooling shows March and October; CDS-recognized shows May and June. Our shows are held at Tom and Kathy Pavlich's beautiful Shadow Ridge Equestrian Center in Highland.

Our award banquet for 2015 was held January 16. We offer three Chapter trophies – Rae Lockwood Amateur, Holy Smoke, and Diane Prisco Mink – as well as level awards, High Point Friesian, High Point OTTB, High Point Hanoverian, American Trakehner Association's High Point ribbon, W-T and W-T-C Equitation and more. Many of our "specialty awards" are sponsored by members.

ICC has a hard-working board. Our treasurer is Kathy Pavlich, and our secretary is Lena Persson. The board is unique in that there are several specialized appointed positions that have made a difference in our thriving show calendar.

The Board is the Show Committee, and several board members also compete, which means volunteers are needed. Ruth Corrao-Harris is our Volunteers Coordinator. She contacts and signs up volunteers as needed. They receive lunch and "ICC bucks" – \$10 for working half a day, \$20 for a full day – that can be redeemed for tickets to our awards banquet or raffle tickets. We love our volunteers.

Another special board position is Juniors Coordinator. Sara Mosqueda works with junior members who qualify for the Championships before and during the event. The team name for the past several years has been the "ICC Hotshots," and team members wear matching polo shirts and receive matching saddle pads. Sara coaches them for the written portion of the team competitions. She also handles prizes for the junior year-end award winners and coordinates with the juniors who attend the CDS clinic.

DeeAnne Gunnemann is our Website Liaison. Having all updates and additions submitted to our web maven by one person keeps confusion to a minimum. Our website, www.icccds.org, is a valued resource. Show premiums, show results, photos, updates – new horses, board meeting minutes, etc. – our show calendar, chair's message and more are on the website. We accept advertisements, as well.

We also have a hard-working chapter member who is not on the board but who has taken on a very important task, that of Sponsorships. In order to provide an outstanding showing experience for our competitors – many of whom are very new to dressage – we rely on sponsorships for our shows, classes and year-end awards. Charlotte LeVecque sends letters to current and prospective sponsors. The letter explains our sponsorship levels – from Gold Medal to PSG – with the price structure and benefits for each level. She also designs and oversees printing of a large poster listing sponsors by level is displayed at each ICC show, the awards banquet, and other events.

In addition, our award-winning newsletter Take Contact! is published online and sent to each IC member as a PDF attachment on the chairman's email letter. ICC also has a social page on Facebook. Show premiums and show results as well as updates are downloadable from posts on this page. Editor Dusty Williams also serves as our show manager; his wife, board member Susan Williams, is show coordinator and "intrepid reporter" for Take Contact!

We look forward to a splendid 2016.