Awards Ceremony

AHA Convention 2020
Master of Ceremony – Craig Christensen
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Equine Athlete

Arabian Horse Association
Staff Recognition

- Stan Morey
- Joleen White
- Brad Short
- Leslie Lockard
- Courtney (Gibson) McLees
- DJ Fleming
- Jenelle Fleming
- Debbie Fuentes
- Kelly Huston
- Victoria Collins
- Kelsey Berglund
- Brenna Johnson
- Katie Feighner
- Liz Bilotta
- Marlene Kriegbaum
- Mary Vargas
- Cristina Miranda
Thank you for your generous and continued support of the Youth Programs!
Executive Officers
Cynthia Richardson – Immediate Past President
Jan Decker – Secretary
Dave Corning – Treasurer
Terry Andreasen – Vice President At Large
Deborah Johnson – Vice President
Nancy Harvey – President
Outgoing Directors
Chris Bickford – Region 4
Steve Hugus – Region 6
Mark Goff – Region 8
John Rannenberg – Region 12
Lurline Combs – Region 16
Lisa Blackstone – Vice President At Large
Terry Andreasen – Vice President At Large
Incoming Directors
Julie Hedden – Region 4
Nancy Rhode – Region 6
John Simmons – Region 8
Cheryl Lane-Caron – Region 16
Earl E. Hurlbutt
Presidents Award
Youth of the Year Award
Regional Volunteer Awards
Debbie is currently serving as Vice Director for Region One. She provides outstanding efforts on behalf of the AHA Youth, club clinics and breed promotion. She spearheaded the “Day of the Arabian Horse” in 2019 held at Cal Poly University which was a huge success. She is our Youth Chair and helps develop our Youth Directors – Kathy Callahan-Smith, Region 1 Director
Ann provides outstanding effort in breed promotion and service to Region 1. As Treasurer, she works tirelessly for the Region. I depend on her expertise and amazing efforts to make our Region 1 Championship Show better every year – Kathy Callahan-Smith, Region 1 Director
Region 2 – Annette Wells

Annette is our current Region 2 Treasurer and has maintained this position since 1988. She prepares our budgets and completes our taxes in a timely manner. Annette is part of our Sport Horse Staff and does all of the scheduling of Dressage rides at the Region 2 Championship show. She is a long time Delegate and has attended all conventions that I am aware of with the exception of one – Joyce Schroeder, Region 2 Director
The entire Vanmeter family, consisting of Morgan, Jeremiah, Alex, Tyler and Jacob, has supported the region at local shows by volunteering and showing for many years. Their hard work has helped the breed in many ways. One example of their dedication to the breed is that when they heard of Arabian horses that had been abused in Oregon, they traveled to that state and adopted one of the abused horses. With patience and skill, the horse they acquired was rehabilitated and became apart of the family – Cheryl Hansen, Region 3 Director
Brian’s favorite discipline in which to participate is the Working Western division. In 2020 he supported the Region 3 Working Western division by securing many sponsorships to add to the Region Awards which consisted of Silver Buckles for Champion and Reserve Champion. It was because of his dedication and tireless hard work that these buckles were presented – Cheryl Hansen, Region 3 Director
Barb has served the Region for many years as the Treasurer, making sure that the Region’s finances are always in great order. She has also served on the Regional Show Commission – Chris Bickford, Region 4 Director
Dawn has overseen the Regional Judges Selection Committee for many years. In addition, she has also served on the Regional Show Commission for several years – Chris Bickford, Region 4 Director
Barbara (and her sister) started the Emerald Empire Club this year as they saw a need for a grass roots club in their area. Barbara also produced an online virtual horse show series. She has promoted the horse by helping local children with horse show judging – Carrie Olson, Region 5 Director
Laurie helped start the Emerald Empire Club along with her sister. She is active in breed awareness and promotion in Region 5. Laurie (and sister) recently introduced a local soccer team to their lovely Half-Arabian horses. Their efforts have been truly outstanding.

– Carrie Olson, Region 5 Director
Cheri is a huge help at the Region 6 Championship Show. She served as the undersigned co-manager for the Regional show. Besides her normal expected tasks, she found numerous last minute volunteers for our show – being blessed with twice as many horses and entries in a crazy Covid year – **Steve Hugus, Region 6 Director**
Nancy is instrumental in Region 6 as she currently serves as the Club President for the Montana AHA, she is the Region 6 Ring Steward and is the Region 6 Vice Director. She is our incoming Director and we look forward to her leadership – Steve Hugus, Region 6 Director
Chris is committed to serving the Arabian Horse community at many levels: as a horse owner, trainer and judge. He is active in Region 7, having served as a Regional Director and currently as the Vice Director. He is on the Region 7 Show Commission and holds the position as Chairman for the Judges Selection Committee. In addition he is on numerous AHA Committees / Commissions – Marilou Balloun, Region 7 Director
John has been a very active participant in Region 7 and the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona where he is a Board Member, AHA delegate and is active in club activities. He is an invaluable participant on the Region 7 Show Commission, and on the Finance and Bylaws Committees. During the Regional Show, he will step into any position we ask him to fill. I know I can depend on the advice John gives and he is valued at all areas of involvement.

Marilou Balloun, Region 7 Director
Cindy serves in various positions in Region 8. She has been the Youth Director for the past eight years, a show volunteer for the Region 8 Championship for the past twelve years and is the Chair of the Region 8 Scholarship Committee for the past two years. Cindy has been the AHA Youth Vice Chair for the past twenty years — Mark Goff, Region 8 Director
Velma has served on the Region 9 Board as Secretary for four years and as the Oklahoma State Representative for two years. She has held various club level positions. She has been such an asset to our Region and is an invaluable member of the Region 9 Board. She has served several years as the Working Western Coordinator for the Region 9 Championship Show and has done an outstanding job for us — Pat Barton, Region 9 Director
Margo has served in many capacities in our breed – Amateur, Trainer, Judge, Show Manager (local and Regional), Club Officer, Region 9 Board Member, Region 9 Director, Region 9 Show Committee Member, Youth Foundation (Region 9 and AHA), and has been on several committees for Region 9 and AHA, too many to name all of them! She is a hard worker, honest, loyal, helpful to all and loves and respects the Arabian horse – Pat Barton, Region 9 Director
Sandy is the strongest proponent for Working Western classes in our Region. She has made significant contributions to make these classes happen in our area. Thank you for all you do for Region 10 – Mary Smith, Region 10 Director
Forrest has made significant contributions to the revamping of the Region 10 Scholarship program. We greatly appreciate his hard work and effort. Thank you for all you do for Region 10 — Mary Smith, Region 10 Director
Bonnie is always willing to lend a helping hand. Over the past year she has really stepped up on the Regional and National level. Bonnie took on many roles this year at the Regional Championship show that contributed to the success under such challenging circumstances. For these reasons we are so grateful for Bonnie — Ryan Chambers, Region 11 Director
Chelsea has been a vital part of the Region 11 delegates for many years and has played a major role in the success of the Region 11 Sport Horse Championship show. This year she accepted the responsibility of the Region’s social media and has done an excellent job of keeping our members informed and up to date. We can’t thank Chelsea enough for her commitment to Region 11 – Ryan Chambers, Region 11 Director
Mike has been an integral part of the success of the AHA of Florida Club and the Region 12 Spotlight Program’s success. His desire to promote the breed on all levels is unmatched. He believes in “giving back” and demonstrates this by giving hours upon hours of volunteer time. He tirelessly raises financial support for our Halter Jackpot at our annual show.– Laurie Salmi, Region 12 In-coming Director
Tom is a long-time member and has devoted many years volunteering and promoting the Arabian horse. His extensive legal background has helped the club and the Region on many issues over the years. We have called upon him to clarify and/or update bylaws and protocols. Tom’s expertise, devotion and tireless work protecting and supporting our organizations ultimately allowed Region 13 to go forward confidently with this year’s Regional Championship. We are forever grateful – Ann Knoop, Region 13 Director
Rebecca is a long time and very active member of AHA, holding several positions within the region and AHA. When Cathy Gage passed away unexpectedly, Rebecca stepped up and filled the Vice Director position when I was moved in the Directorship. She immediately became a mentor and advocate for me (Ann). Rebecca is a wonderful person with a wealth of knowledge, a true lover of the Arabian horse and a great friend of the Region – Ann Knoop, Region 13 Director
Angela has volunteered at the Region 14 Championship Show in the Awards room for over twenty years. She comes in early to help with the set up of the center rings and photo decorations. Angela handles the center ring decorations by herself. She also started the “Amateur Give Away Program”, awarding gifts to individuals who do not win in the ring – Dave Daugherty, Region 14 Vice-Director
Liz always goes above and beyond with her time and dedication on the tasks she does on behalf of Region 15. She has served as the Regional Secretary for the past three years and also acts as our social media and technology coordinator. Liz has volunteered at the Region 15 Championship Show for the past six years and learned many of the different positions. She is one of the first to arrive and the last to leave the show and is a valued member of our team — Kim Dickenson, Region 15 Director
Julie goes above and beyond in her dedication to Region 15. She always is the first to volunteer for a committee or to help with an activity. Julie has been a volunteer for the past six years at the Region 15 Championship Show. She comes in early for set up and stays late to tear down. She is a valued member of our team – Kim Dickenson, Region 15 Director
Cindy uses her many graphic talents to put forth pamphlets, posters and notices to promote the Arabian horse, her club and our Region. She does an outstanding job for the Region and our industry — Lurline Combs, Region 16 Director
Darlene has been a faithful volunteer for Region 17 for many years. For the last several years she has served as the Show Commission Chair and has also been the Club President of Parklands AHA. The Show Commission Chair puts in a large amount of work to put on a good show. The Region 17 Championship rotates between the west coast and Alberta which further complicates the work involved. Two weeks prior to this year’s scheduled show, 2 commissioners resigned and Darlene picked up the slack at the last moment – Rob Calnan, Region 17 Director
Sandra exemplifies all that it means to be a volunteer. As the pandemic unfolded, she stepped up to the plate to volunteer to gather a committee of members to work with her to follow the guidelines required to hold a regional show. Weekly teleconferences, hours of meetings, delegation of duties and site visits were part of her role. Sandra has made a binder of all the information she obtained for future shows. Her work created a successful and safe show which can be a model for others –
Rob Calnan, Region 17 Director
Allan has been a tremendous support during this 2020 year of the pandemic. As President of the AHA of Eastern Canada and my Region 18 Vice-Director, he has offered sound advise on the way forward through some very difficult decisions – Janet Henderson, Region 18 Director
Josh has been very supportive throughout this year of never ending change because of the pandemic. He helped me with our planned (and unfortunately cancelled) clinics. He was optimistic for our 2020 Regional Show until our forced cancellation. Most importantly, he was the local marketing champion. Josh kept all of us excited about our Arabian horses – Janet Henderson, Region 18 Director
National Volunteer Award Nominees
Jill Barton

Jill’s dedication to AHA and AHA of Eastern Canada spans 50 years. She has served AHA as a judge, steward, member of numerous committees which include the Judges & Stewards Selection Committee. She has worked Canadian Nationals for decades and the Sport Horse National Show Commission – Janet Henderson, Region 18 Director
Rae Ann has introduced countless people to the Arabian horse. Her sharing of knowledge with youth through being a horse judging team coach has resulted in regional and national awards and experiences for Southwest Michigan youth. Her dedication is much appreciated — Mary Smith, Region 10 Director
Amy Pike

Amy has tirelessly worked for our club, Region 4 and the Arabian horse. She has reinvigorated our club’s high point program which has re-engaged members and supporters. What makes her especially deserving of the National Award is her tireless effort during Oregon’s historic wildfires. Following safe evacuation, she worked tirelessly to get supplies donated, transported and distributed to groups that took in evacuated horses. Amy is a hero to all horse people, but even more to her Arabian Horse family – Linda Louise Waagen, Arabian and Half-Arabian Club of Oregon President.
Donna has always represented the breed well with professionalism, enthusiasm, good sportsmanship and commitment. When she suffered a debilitating eye injury which prevented her from working and training, the AHDF stepped in to help. When Donna recovered, she wanted to give back to those that were there for her. She worked with AHDF on a fundraiser to support their on-going efforts. Donna gives back even in a difficult economy. She is an amazing ambassador thinking of ways to introduce new people to the breed – Julie Scudder Feldman, Golden Gate AHA
Penny has served as a Past Region 2 Director and is our go to person for anything. She supports us in several areas in Region 2 such as Audit and Bylaws, Youth Programs, Youth Scholarship Program and has been the Region 2 Show Manager for several years. Penny was a major player, working to produce and move the regional show from Santa Barbara to another facility during the COVID-19 shut down. The most impressive part is that she accomplished this in a three-week period – Joyce Schroeder, Region 2 Director
Annette Wells

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National Volunteer Award Winners
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• Jill Barton
• Amy Pike
• Penny Wardlaw
• Annette Wells
Club Excellence Awards
Georgia Arabian Horse Association
Club Project Award

Georgia Arabian Horse Association

Arabian Horse Creative Contest

DEADLINE MAY 31, 2020

In Honor of Arabian Horse Month
#ArabianHorseMonth #MeetAnArabianHorse
Member Recruitment & Retention

Georgia Arabian Horse Association
Club of the Year

Georgia Arabian Horse Association

GET INVOLVED!
#GeorgiaArabianHorse

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...WHEN PEOPLE WITH THE SAME PASSION GET TOGETHER TO LEARN, THE LEARNING EXPLODES. THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN REPLACE LEARNING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE WHO SHARE OUR VALUES IN ANIMAL TRAINING. A PASSION SHARED IS A PASSION DEEPENED.
Kay Laurence

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- Member Features
- GAHA Gives Back Program
- Wine, Women, Whinnies (social & educational events)
- Youth Activities
- Volunteer Opportunities & Year End Volunteer Award
- Monthly Board, Officer & Volunteer Calls/Meetings
- Networking & Community
- Promoting the Arabian Horse Locally

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