



AHYA President's Corner

2025, Jatelyn "Bug" Burcham – AHYA President

2025 Convention

AHYA Presentation to General Session

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Good Morning Everyone.

It is truly an honor to stand before you all, one last time, as the President of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. Serving in this role for the past two years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. When I first stepped into this position, I knew I wanted to strengthen the connection between our youth and the larger Arabian horse community. What I didn't realize was just how much I would learn, not only about leadership, but about the power of shared passion, mentorship, and legacy.

Over these four years of serving on the AHYA Board, I've witnessed individuals step forward with incredible heart. They've shown us that the future of our breed isn't something far off in the distance and there's physical evidence that it's alive, growing, and already taking shape before our eyes.

This past year, AHYA continued that momentum in ways that make me more than proud to share. Our Lucky Cows fundraiser raised over \$3,000 to support youth programs which is an effort that combined creativity, teamwork, and a lot of laughter for a great cause. We also saw an increase in Judging Contest participation, which shows just how eager our youth are to learn, to grow, and to master every aspect of horsemanship.

Perhaps one of our most exciting milestones this year was welcoming 469 new youth members into AHYA. Each of those members represents a story, like a young rider discovering the beauty, grace, and partnership of the Arabian horse for the very first time. Many of them joined through lesson barns or by word of mouth, which speaks volumes about how welcoming and inspiring this community truly is. And that's because of you, the trainers, parents, breeders, and mentors who open doors, give lessons, and offer encouragement. You are the bridge that connects curiosity to commitment.

Our educational initiative, AHAcademy, has also continued to expand its reach, offering youth engaging and accessible ways to learn about our breed's deep history, unique characteristics, and diverse disciplines. It's one of the programs I'm most proud to see flourish, because informed youth become confident youth, and confident youth become lifelong advocates for the Arabian horse.

When I look at what we've accomplished, what stands out to me isn't just the numbers, but it's the spirit behind them. AHYA members are resilient, creative, and deeply passionate. They're learning from the examples set by everyone in this room, examples of professionalism, sportsmanship, and an unwavering love for this breed.

To all the AHA membership: thank you for believing in us. Your investment in youth doesn't just shape riders and competitors, it shapes leaders, communicators, and future professionals of this industry. Every time you mentor, donate, or simply take the time to share your story, you help build the foundation for the next generation.

And that next generation is ready. They're not waiting for the future, they're creating it. They're stepping into leadership roles, forming connections across regions, and finding new ways to share the Arabian horse with the world.

As I look around this room, I see more than a community, I see a legacy in motion. The bond between youth and our adult members is what makes this breed's story one of endurance, elegance, and heart.

The Arabian horse has always been one to represent beauty, intelligence, and strength. Let's continue to nurture that, to grow that, and to inspire it in every young person who dares to dream of holding the reins.

Thank you for your continued support, your belief in our mission, and your trust in the future we're building together. The Arabian horse world is bright and it's only getting brighter.

Thank you.