

2024 Board of Director Candidates

Linda Barnes



Hi- My name is Linda Barnes and I am excited to be considered for a position with the MQHA board. By way of my professional history, I have worked in the insurance industry for 37 years. I retired as Vice President of Insurance Services/ Customer Service for a national Insurance company in January of 2023. I oversaw a national customer base with over 200 servicing agents across the country. As it pertains to my personal experience, I have served at the local level with the school system in roles such as class sponsor (13 years), school board trustee and President for 6 years. I also served as a 4H leader for several years. With my recent retirement, I decided it was a good time to give back to the association that has provided our family with years of great memories and good times! I have been part of Michigan Quarter horse for approximately 13 years as the parent of youth and now amateur members. I have assisted with the youth for several years and have enjoyed interacting with the members of the association. Thank you for your consideration.

Jessi Boulter

Although I am new to MQHA my daughter, Jorja, began showing the circuit in the Small Fry division in July at the NMQHA show and we are now "all in". After one show, for us, there was no going back to anything else. We have loved participating in the MQHA circuit and I strongly believe in getting involved with things you feel passionately about. I have been involved in showing horses for the entirety of my life, however my daughter has taken us far beyond what I had ever accomplished as a competitor. As previously stated, she began showing MQHA shows in July of this year going on to showing at the Lisa Terry Memorial Horse Show, the Harvest Classic and even at the QH Congress placing as high as 11th in the Small Fry Equitation. I'm so proud of all of her accomplishments and would love to be part of an organization that allows her to continue to compete against the top showmen in the great State of Michigan and beyond. Professionally I have held positions in marketing and management, currently managing the top two storage facilities in my area of Northern Michigan with more than 500 units between the two. I also have experience as a board and committee member currently holding positions such as the President of our Gaylord Youth Football Program and a member of the Grant Committee of the Otsego Community Foundation. I am honored to be considered for a board position with the MQHA and appreciate the organization welcoming both my daughter and I with such open arms.



Chris Dalton



Hello my name is Chris Dalton and thank you for entertaining my nomination for the MQHA board. I have been an MQHA member for 10 years now and I am also a current AQHA committee member. My wife Tessa and I currently train out of a barn in Whitehall. There are many factors I'd like to help with, especially the quality of our shows which I believe have come along the last couple years, that's something I'd like to continue. I think I can bring forward another trainer's perspective, as well as an ability to listen and take other exhibitors' concerns. I'd like to see MQHA keep getting better and would love to be a part of that. Thank you for your time.

2024 Board of Director Candidates

Kelly Dykstra-Nichols

Hello, my name is Kelly Dykstra-Nichols and I am interested in being on the MQHA board. My family and I reside in West Michigan where we have a small horse farm. I grew up showing horses at local open shows and moved up the MQHA circuit showing as both a youth and amateur. When my girls decided that they wanted to show horses themselves I opted to give up my amateur status. That decision has allowed me to train horses and riders from the 4H to breed levels as well as getting my Michigan 4H and POA judges cards. Thank you for your time and if voted in, I look forward to working with the other board members.



Austin Gooding

I am a trainer at Bauer and Gooding Show Horses in Fennville, Michigan. We show quarter horses in the all around events nationwide. I have served on the board now for 5 years and have really enjoyed my time, I hope I am able to continue serving for you all!

Danielle Lindsay

My name is Danielle Lindsay. I served on the MQHA Board of Directors for three years and took a two year break. I have worked on many committees including the Harbor Classic, and the Harvest Classic, but I was most involved with the Youth committee as one of three youth advisors. My husband and daughter are also very involved with MQHA. My daughter Rilynn Lindsay served on the youth board for 7 years but had to give it up due to college, although she is still continuing to compete in youth events. My husband Ryan Lindsay is at all our shows throughout the year doing farrier work. I would absolutely love nothing more than to be back on the MQHA Board of Directors. I will always do my best to support our great Association and work hard to get people voices heard. Please consider me for a spot in 2024!



2024 Board of Director Candidates

Ray Warner



Raymond Warner began showing AQHA/MQHA in 1986, at a time when reining was just developing as a discipline. As an active member of the then MQHA Amateur Association, he won the Amateur Reining year end, eventually moving on to showing ABRA with his daughter Haley. Serving as President of the Buckskin Horse Association of Michigan (BHAM) in the early 2000s, Ray was active in the development of the Buckskin Congress during that time. Eventually Ray gave up his amateur card and began showing halter horses for Bev McCollum, earning several ABRA World Championships before returning to MQHA in 2019. As a believer in giving back and supporting the mission of an association, Ray feels he can contribute a new perspective to the board after his years of experience with other groups.

Katherine West

My name is Katherine West and I am currently a junior at Michigan State University, working to earn my bachelor's degree in Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Medicine as a member of the MSU Honors College. I serve on the Executive Board of the MSU Pre-Veterinary Medical Association and as Co-Captain of the MSU Stock Seat Equestrian Team. I also work for the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities, where I help convert course documents into accessible formats for students who are visually impaired. MQHA has played a major role in my life for more than the last decade. I was heavily involved in the Michigan Quarter Horse Youth Association, serving on the MQHYA Board from 2014-2021, prior to transitioning to an Amateur membership in 2022. During my time on the MQHYA board, I served as Youth President in 2019 and 2020 after holding the role of Youth Secretary for three years (2016-2018). In addition to my tenure on the MQHYA Board, I was a member of the Michigan NYATT and Youth World Show teams multiple years and served on the NYATT/World Show Committee. In 2022, I represented MQHA as the MQHA Queen and competed in the All-American Quarter Horse Congress Queen competition. I currently compete in the Amateur Western All-Around events with my mare Made for More and in Halter with my aged gelding Dont Mind Mee. I am grateful for the opportunities and rewarding relationships my involvement in MQHA has provided. If elected to the MQHA Board of Directors, I would strive to represent the association and assist in all aspects of MQHA. I think it is important for the Board members to work cohesively together to serve the organization. I would be committed to listening to the membership and their needs. A strong Youth Association is important to the success of the Association. Active participation in various MQHA activities can foster development of many valuable life skills for youth members. As a Board member, I would like to mentor members of the MQHYA and foster an environment of inclusion. I would be honored to serve on the MQHA Board and would do everything I can to help members have an enjoyable experience being involved in MQHA.

