

First	Last	Desig.	City	State	Status	Governance Exp.	Current Committee Member	Attendance
Katie	Benson	H	Whitehouse station	NJ	Pro	X	Y	100%
Rebecca	Gibson	H	Mohnton	PA	Pro	X	N	NA
Clare	Knapp	H	Lagrangeville	NY	Pro	X	Y	80%
Nina	McMenamin	H	Chester Springs	PA	Pro	X	N	N/A
Tobey	McWilliams	H	Oley	PA	Pro	X	Y	100%
Elizabeth	Perry	H	Ringoes	NJ	Pro	X	Y	100%

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Katie Benson

City & State: Whitehouse Station, NJ

USHJA Number: 131470

Zone: 2

Professional/Amateur Status: Professional Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): Hunter Jumper

How are you currently involved in the sport? Please list your equestrian experience.

I am a trainer, instructor, owner and manager of my own small business, encompassing teaching, training and show coaching from the beginner through advanced, with an emphasis on thorough horsemanship.

I am a horse show manager, and horse show secretary for my own competitions as well as others.

I am a USEF "r" C1 steward, and am working towards my "R" license.

Do you have prior governance experience on a Board, committee, or task force? If so, please list.

Yes, I have served on the Zone 2 Committee for many, many years! And have enjoyed progressing within the governance of our sport to serving a term on the USHJA Board of Directors. I am currently part of the advisory committee for the Outreach Program which I am particularly passionate about, as I have been involved with Outreach since its inception many years ago.

Do you have non-equestrian business experience? If so, please list.

No, I am "all in" with the equestrian business! I do have business experience with philanthropic endeavors of fund raising for several non-profits, and enjoy those projects from start to finish, including the business aspects of their success.

What is the biggest challenge the sport is facing in your opinion?

Sport growth.
Lack of dedication and commitment to the horses as a lifetime passion.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I hope to continue the direction that the Committee has been going with its support and implementation of USHJA programs.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

Horses, horses, horses
And the history of the sport,
And watching everyday horse fanatics become my heroes.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Rebecca Gibson

City & State: Mohnton, PA

USHJA Number: HJ 172549

Zone: 2

Professional/Amateur Status: Professional Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): Hunter Jumper

How are you currently involved in the sport? Please list your equestrian experience.

USEF 'r' Judge - Hunter & Equitation
Rider/Competitor
Assistant trainer / Barn manager

Do you have prior governance experience on a Board, committee, or task force? If so, please list.

Pennsylvania Horse Show Assoc - Board of Directors
USHJA Zone 2 Finals Committee Member

Do you have non-equestrian business experience? If so, please list.

Bachelor's Degree - Business Management, sales & marketing experience
with equestrian related businesses, paralegal experience

What is the biggest challenge the sport is facing in your opinion?

Preserving the tradition of the sport in the ever-changing world we live in today. I would like to see the young riders of today have the same experiences & learn the same lessons as I did as a child.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

As someone who has worn many hats within the industry, I think I can contribute in numerous ways. I have also been establishing connections with equine related businesses that I can tap into for fundraising & sponsorship.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

The horses of course!

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Clare Knapp

City & State: Lagrangeville, NY

USHJA Number: 212928

Zone: 2

Professional/Amateur Status: Professional Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): Hunter Jumper

How are you currently involved in the sport? Please list your equestrian experience.

Yes- work at hunter/jumper facility Crosswinds Equestrian Center

Head Coach Marist College Equestrian Team- IHSA

Head Coach Empire State Equestrian Team- IEA

Do you have prior governance experience on a Board, committee, or task force? If so, please list.

USHJA-zone-2-committee

IHSA Regional President/National Board Member

National PHA Vice President

Dutchess County PHA Vice President

Do you have non-equestrian business experience? If so, please list.

10 years as private school teacher/private secondary school tutor

What is the biggest challenge the sport is facing in your opinion?

Sport continues to become more cost prohibitive to many and harder to cultivate the next generation

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

In my career I work daily with competitors of all levels, from our school program and local shows to A circuit/indoors quality clients and horses, and I hope my diversity and versatility can add a different element to the group. We also host many types of competitions at our farm so I am familiar with some different groups

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

To go to work every day and work with horses- it is a gift for which I am grateful. The opportunity to teach and mentor students, and watch their development/growth

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Nina McMEnamin

City & State: Chester Springs, PA

USHJA Number: HJ5096975

Zone: 2

Professional/Amateur Status: Professional Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): Hunter Jumper

How are you currently involved in the sport? Please list your equestrian experience.

Currently I am coaching students at a hunter/jumper show barn and attend horse shows in Zone 2.

Do you have prior governance experience on a Board, committee, or task force? If so, please list.

2017-2021 Secretary, Pennsylvania Horse Shows Association
2021-current President, Pennsylvania Horse Shows Association

Do you have non-equestrian business experience? If so, please list.

I am an Indirect Tax Analyst for IKEA North America.

What is the biggest challenge the sport is facing in your opinion?

I feel the biggest challenge is diversity. I think it's important to foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed, respected and valued. I love the Outreach Program for this reason.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I aim to contribute by leveraging my analytical skills, providing thoughtful insights and collaborating effectively with fellow committee members.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I love horse shows but I prefer to be the one in the background helping and not the one in the ring. This sport has been a part of my life since I was very young and I've met so many wonderful people and mentors through it.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Tobey McWilliams

City & State: Oley, Pa

USHJA Number: 243358

Zone: 2

Professional/Amateur Status: Professional Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): Hunter Jumper

How are you currently involved in the sport? Please list your equestrian experience.

I own and operate Valley Mist Farm in Oley, Pa. VMF is open to all levels of equestrian interests and competitive levels. While there are a number of children and adults competing at rated and local shows, we also train beginners in basic horsemanship and equine care. I have had clients qualify for USHJA Zone II Hunter Finals, and National finals.

Do you have prior governance experience on a Board, committee, or task force? If so, please list.

---The Zone 2 Committee.
---Co chair of the Zone 2 HOTY Championship Sub committee.
---The HWG
---The Conduct Review Committee and past member of the BOD

Do you have non-equestrian business experience? If so, please list.

No, Mainly I have owned my own business for 40+ years.

What is the biggest challenge the sport is facing in your opinion?

It is important to help keep this sport accesible to the grass roots. This is our pipeline to the sport..sport growth.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I will continue helping in what ever manner is needed. My understanding of governace, commitement, and availibility is important and will continue as I have done in the past. Zone 2 HOTY Championships are very important for the Zones, and should be well run, and an event everyone looks forward to.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I love to see riders connect with the horse, improve, and find joy in thier animal.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Elizabeth Perry

City & State: Ringoes, NJ 08551

USHJA Number: 224484

Zone: 2

Professional/Amateur Status: Professional Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): Hunter Jumper

How are you currently involved in the sport? Please list your equestrian experience.

Yes
Owner/ Operator Pear Tree Show Stable
Equine Rehabilitation Specialist/ Underwater Treadmill
'R' Hunter/ Equitation/ Hunter Breeding
Professional Rider
Coach

Do you have prior governance experience on a Board, committee, or task force? If so, please list.

Zone 2 Committee Member/ Current
Child/Adult Task Force/ Current
Hunter Team Challenge Liason/ Thermal, CA 2023

Do you have non-equestrian business experience? If so, please list.

No

What is the biggest challenge the sport is facing in your opinion?

Growing Membership And Sport Growth

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Balanced Judgement/Decision Making/ Visionary With Matters Pertaining To Zone 2 and Sport Growth.
Division Specs, Zone Finals, Jumper Teams, Hunter Team etc

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

It Is Inclusive...Something For Everyone To Be Involved And Learn