

First	Last	Desig.	City	State	Status	Governance Exp.	Current Committee Member	Attendance
James	Benedetto	J	Kings Park	NY	Pro	X	Y	100%
Lauren	Hefferon	J	Flanders	NJ	AM	X	Y	100%
Stacey	Isles	J	Greenfield	NY	AM	X	N	N/A
Kerry	Kocher	J	Centre Hall	PA	Pro	X	N	N/A
Annette	Longenecker	J	Annville	PA	Pro	X	N	N/A
Andrew H	Philbrick	J	Princeton	NJ	Pro	X	Y	100%

**USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form**

Name: James Benedetto

City & State: Northport, NY

USHJA Number: 020677

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 have ridden on Nations Cup teams and internationally for the US. Competed in many grand prix in the US and Spuce Meadows. Have served as Chef de Equipe for the Zone 2 jumper championships since the beginning of the program. Currently ridding and training at FEI levels.

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

Currently a member of the Zone 2 committe. Currently a member of the NAYC/PDS task force. Currently a member of EJR task force.

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

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

Affordability of the sport. The limited opportunities for young riders to break into the top of the sport.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

To continue to promote Zone 2 programs. To continue to guide young riders in Zone 2 to rise through the jumper pathway.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

To develop young horses and riders to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.

**USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form**

Name: Lauren B. Hefferon

City & State: Flanders, New Jersey

USHJA Number: 5412063

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 currently a competitive amateur show jumper amongst the Zone 2 Circuit, competing predominantly in the 1.10m Jumpers but dabbling in other divisions as well. I currently own and operate my personal equine-based marketing business, The Marketing Mare, working for several businesses both equine and non-equine based. I have great experience with the industry, have been an equine camp counselor, etc.

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

I do not currently have prior governance experience.

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

I have non-equestrian based experience working as a marketing manager for a variety of businesses, as well as a receptionist, retail employee, beverage cart assistant at a golf course, and a newsletter author for a company.

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

I find one of the largest challenges the sport is currently facing would be unfair sportsmanship. In an industry that is difficult to navigate, I feel there are many professionals and others taking unethical and unfair routes at competitions, often schooling. I feel we must remind ourselves to put our horses well-being first.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I hope to become an active member upon the Zone Committee. I find many individuals and athletes are quick to complain, but never to participate. After attending some of the meetings with Mary Babick, I have found great interest in working to better our industry, gain governance experience, and as a young female rider, to do my best to support young riders and give them an industry they are proud to grow in.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

My favorite thing about the sport would be the positive atmosphere and environment that is created by the influential riders, trainers, and professionals in the industry who hope to pass it on. I wish to create more of this as time continues on.

**USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form**

Name: Stacey Isles

City & State: Greenfield, NY

USHJA Number: 4665695

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 have competed in the Amateur Jumpers since 2003. I have owned and managed a small boutique, high-end boarding facility since 2018. I started riding lessons at 7 yrs old in 1988, showed Appaloosas from 1991-2003, and switched to jumpers when I moved for graduate school. I have owned horses since 1993. I also occasionally work for Adele Einhorn at the Saratoga Horse Shows.

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

I was on the Capital District Hunter Jumper Council board (upstate NY) from 2014 - 2019. I created and maintained the CDHJC website, posting show calendars and points updates. I was the head of the banquet planning committee for 2015-2019. I also worked for NYS government (Criminal Justice research) 2003-2013.

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

I owned and managed my pet sitting business from 2013-2018 (I sold the business when we moved to our new farm, as most of my clients were too far away).

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

Keeping the sport affordable in an ever-changing economy. Increasing access to smaller schooling shows and outreach programs (everyone has to start somewhere!). Zone rules/program aligning with national rules (for example, differing zone rules for "low" adult jumpers and the team jumper championship)

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Providing an amateur point of view on rules and programs while also understanding the business side of the sport. Promoting the zone/USHJA/USEF in my area.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I honestly just love having horses in my life. I do this for enjoyment and the happiness of my horses. Showing/competitions are just an added bonus to really test how training is going. It's a great feeling to have a solid round at a show!

### USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Kerry Kocher

City & State: Centre Hall, Pa.

USHJA Number: 18781

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.

My Family has been involved with the industry for over 50 years. I have trained/coached horses/students to many qualifying events and awards. I have a "R" hunter/jumper Judges, "R" hunter/jumper Course design and FEI level 2 course design cards. I officiate all over North America and have had the privilege to judge and course design a few finals. I still teach at my farm helping my daughter Kelsey and teach at the Grier School in between travels. I no longer ride due to some leg issues. I also manage The State College series and Syracuse PHA spring show.

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

I have served on the zone 2 committee for 4 years 2018-2021. I have been either president or vice president of our local horse organization (cphc).

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

I worked for North American Vanlines while I went to college. LOL othewise nope.

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

Expense. I feel there needs to be a way to keep the smaller shows alive and a way for individuals to compete at lesser expense while still having achievable goals. Whether it being going to a year end final or year end awards. The corporate show world has put pressure on the smaller shows to keep up with the joneses which has made the smaller show very costly.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Being that I have done all aspects of what this sport has to offer, I feel that I can bring ideas from the exhibitor's, trainers/coaches, officials, and competition management viewpoints to the forefront.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

Love of the horse, I wouldn't have stayed in the sport/business this long. I love seeing the accomplishments people/horses have made that I had something to do with in the past. Nothing better then when you make a impact on someone (in a good way) that they take with them for the rest of their lives

### USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Annette Longenecker

City & State: Annville, PA

USHJA Number: 103301

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 currently hold a R in jumpers (over 20 years) and recently received my Level 2 FEI license. In addition to judging, I can also be found in the show office at many events, including some of the largest in zone 2. I am the owner of Ryegate Show Services, Inc, which handles many h/j organizations and licenses scoring software to horse shows.

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

I have been a member of the USHJA Jr Hunter Task Force for many years. I am also currently on the USHJA Secretary Committee. Previously, I have been on the Zone 2 Hunter Championship show committee and the Affiliate Organization Council. I have held multiple board positions with Local Equestrian Organizations over the years.

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

I have a degree in Elementary Education and taught for 6 years before joining the family Business, Ryegate Show Services, Inc.

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

Finding a balance between supporting the elite athletes and the grassroots. If we forget about the local/regional exhibitors and shows, we will have no one to be elite athletes in the future.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I hope to help facilitate a better understanding of what the local/regional exhibitor needs (better shows, lower prices) with the requirements of horse shows at the various levels. Zone 2 is unique with the number of local/regional shows and we need to make sure they are heard and represented.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

The ability for many different people to come together for the good of the horse.

**USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form**

Name: Andrew H. Philbrick

City & State: Princeton, NJ

USHJA Number: 113154

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.

Trainer, Owner, Show Organiser, L.O. Jumper R CD, r Hunter CD, Chef d'Equipe World Equestrian Games, Represented USET as a Rider in International Competition and Nations Cup. Competed as a Rider: USA Olympic Team Trials. Coached at 5 FEI World cup Finals w 3 different USET Riders

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

USHJA BOD, USHJA Committees: Planning, Governance, Conduct, Show Management, Task Force: EJR, Zone 2 Vice Chair, Zone Council  
USEF: Jumper Comm. Show Management

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

Real Estate Professional

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

Sustainable Horse Shows and facilities especially at the base of the sport.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Guide difficult discussion topics du to my experience.  
Guide members that are new to goverance.  
Fiscal responsibility in regards to the zone budget.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

Horses!