

First	Last	Desig.	City	State	Status	Governance Exp.	Current Committee Member	2023 Attendance
Sara	Ballinger	Jumper	Marion	OH	Amateur	X	Y	80%
Misty	Pleiness	Jumper	Goodrich	MI	Amateur	X	N	
Elaine	Schott	Jumper	Versailles	KY	Professional	X	Y	90%
Dawn	Stumm	Jumper	Zionsville	IN	Professional	X	N	
George	Thornbury	Jumper	Pleasant Plain	OH	Professional	X	Y	100%



2023 Committee
Attendance:
80.1

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Sara Ballinger

City & State: Marion, Ohio

USHJA Number: 260555

Zone: 5

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 ride and show as an amateur rider. I have a small farm as well. I compete in Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, and the east coast.

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

Yes. I have been on the Zone 5 jumper committee from 2012-2024. I was also on the USHJA amateur committee in 2010.

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

Yes. I currently run my own appraisal business and I am a licensed insurance adjuster and I work for Core Specialty.

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

I believe the sport is pushing out the middle class financially and it is very difficult to bring young horses along in this country because of the expenses. I wish that young horses could show for less so our country could have a better base of horses.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I enjoy offering the scholarships to young people so we can better the riders coming up through the ranks. I would also like to see scholarships for adult riders and adult education classes being offered.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I love the connection riders have with the horses. I truly feel that horses keeps a lot of young people more focused on life than they would be without horses.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Misty Pleiness

City & State: Goodrich, MI

USHJA Number: 4006169

Zone: 5

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 compete in the 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumpers, consistently qualifying for Devon and Indoor finals. I own an app to support service providers in the Horse Industry (HorseLinc). My family owns a horse boarding facility in Michigan. I am also a part time braider. Lots of varied experience in the industry.

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

I am a licensed CPA that is a partner at a global accounting firm, specializing in technology risk consulting. I lead multiple teams conducting audits for Fortune 500 companies and have participated in a multitude of board meetings at that level. I was also president/treasurer/secretary of our county's 4-H Horse Development

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

Please see above. I have worked for a global accounting firm for 15 years, plus 3 years as a finance executive at a Fortune 100 company.

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

We are losing the smaller/start up shows for those that can't afford the money or time for the long circuits. We are losing the younger generation in many communities, and fewer young people are learning how to do basic day to day care of the horse.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I hope to contribute ideas and lead initiatives to broaden horse knowledge and levels of showing. Even though I compete at the highest levels now, my roots started in 4-H with my backyard horse and I wish more people had that opportunity these days.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I love the lifelong friends and connections I have made in this sport. I love horses deep in my bones and want this to be a fun, safe sport for everyone to get to participate in with the animals we love the most.

UNITED STATES

HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION



2023 Committee

Attendance:

90.1

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Elaine Schott

City & State: Versailles Ky

USHJA Number: 15210391

Zone: 5

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 the owner/manager of River Mountain Farm LLC. I currently train beg. riders → Grand Prix riders. I support grass roots - show about 2 wks every mo. at AA shows w/ hunters + jumpers. Owned WB + bring along many young horses. I also have a sales operation.

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

I have been a zone 5 BOD for several yrs. I am currently the zone 5 vice chairman. I have been in the KHJA BOD for 25 yrs + served as President. I am also on the KHM eq Challenge BOD. I was VP of USHJA Youth Comm. + Launched H.Q.C.

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

not really

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

This sport is so expensive that it is cumbersome for a well pd. health care prof. to afford to show more than a few x a yr. we are losing horse men + developing princesses. It is difficult to find youth to develop because it is so expensive.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I love Brown stonning - come up w/ financial aid ideas. I love the education factor + programs that promote horsemanship. I think usHJA has wonderful programs + I enjoy being a liasm to help promote the programs.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

young horses are my most rewarding journey. I love to develop youngsters. I also love to see a smile on my riders face when they walk out of the ring petting + appreciating their horse.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Dawn K. Stumm

City & State: Zionsville, Indiana

USHJA Number: HJ266952

Zone: 5

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 been riding since I was 6 years old. I have been riding Hunters and Jumpers ever since I started and have enjoyed the industry for the past 48 years. I currently am the owner/trainer of Greyhavens Farms LLC and that has been for 28 years. My clients compete in local and rated shows and I have a program designed to fit horse and rider on what they need to become a better rider. My daughter currently is showing in the jumpers with our young horses and is quite successful. Though the Mom(Trainer) and Daughter(rider/student) is awesome you have to show your versatility in doing this and it is quite rewarding. I also am a Judge for unrated shows and so I keep up on the rules and is something I really enjoy.

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

I have been on the Indiana Hunter and Jumper Associations Board for 14/15 years. I am currently the President of IHJA. This is a great opportunity to help our local level shows become stronger and letting the Membership know we are here for them. I was also President of IHJA Zone 7 Region 1 for 2015-2017. When my kids were in grade school I was President of Union Elementary PTO.

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

My family has owned and operated Harris Tire and Automotive for the last 50 years. When my father passed my husband and I took the business over and continue with the help of our son for many years to come. I am also an accountant and author.

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

In my opinion this sport is facing financial, coaching, education on all fronts, and most of all the welfare of the riders and the horses. It is a pretty broad spectrum but the evolution of the sport and athletes, coaches/trainers adapting to a changing social environment and social media.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

My hope is to more a more visible representative of the Committee and get the membership more involved as a whole. Our local level needs to know that we are there for them and that they can come to us. I have heard so many times that they do not know who to contact. I would post at our local shows who of Zone Committee person is with a email and phone #. As an IHJA Board member I go around at our local show and talk to the members on what they like and what we can do better and suggest they become volunteers to help the organization become better. That is what I would like to do being a Zone Committee person. Helping members understand the rules and to ask if they do not and get the answers they need. These are just some things I would like to do and there is so many other things but one step at a time.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I have several favorite things about the sport.
1: The horses
2: The People
3: Continuing education to make the sport even better. Because in this sport it is forever learning.

2023 Committee
Attendance:
100.1

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: George H. Thornbury
City & State: Pleasant Plain, Oh 45162
USHJA Number: 051646
Zone: 5

Professional/Amateur Status: ☒ Professional ☐ Amateur
Primary Designation (select one): ☐ Hunter ☒ Jumper

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

"R" H/HSE/J - Judge (35 yrs)

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

USHJA - 2 TERMS	USHJA TREASURER	CO-CHAIR AFFILIATES Council USHJA
USEF - 2 TERMS	CHAIR - FINANCE Com	CO-CHAIR ZONE 5 (80's)
USHJA - EX. Com		CO-CHAIR ZONE 5 (2000's)
USEF - CHAIR - ADMIN/FINANCE (2 terms)		CHAIR - ZONE 5 (CURRENT)
USEF - CHAIR - NATIONAL Breeds/Discipline		USHJA PLANNING Com (CURRENT)

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

ASSOCIATED HOSTS/MANAGER Food/Beverage Co.	USHJA COMPETITION STANDARDS Com USHJA ZONE Council Com (C)
---	---

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

Membership Growth (on going problem for yrs)

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

My experience

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

FRIENDSHIPS CREATED OVER THE YRS