

First	Last	Desig.	City	State	Status	Governance Exp.	Current Committee Member	2023 Attendance
Jenn	Baltrus	Hunter	Tucson	AZ	Amateur	X	N	
Chris	Collman	Hunter	Cave Creek	AZ	Professional	X	Y	78%
Laurie	Grayson	Hunter	Boulder	CO	Professional	X	Y	89%
Jodi	Kennedy	Hunter	Castle Raock	CO	Professional	X	N	
Beth	Nielsen	Hunter	Logmont	CO	Professional	X	Y	78%

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Jennifer Baltrus

City & State: Tucson AZ

USHJA Number: HJ186058

Zone: 8

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 full-time, exclusively equine veterinarian that focuses on sport horses. I breed, raise, train and show my own horses. I manage multiple rated and unrated horse shows in Tucson yearly. I have had and shown horses my entire life. Originally from the east coast I showed heavily in zone 2 as a child before moving to NC for college and vet school. While in college I was active in IHSA and then started a training business to pay my way through vet school. I managed unrated horse shows there as well before moving to Tucson

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

I was president of IHSA in college and then coach upon graduation.
I was active in the Tucson Hunter Jumper Assn since moving to Tucson. I held every major board position including president.
I have also been an active board member for the non-profit Little Hooves Big Hearts since moving to Tucson.

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

Everything I do revolves around horses.

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

Division, but not just between rich and poor. Between people that do this for enjoyment and people that do this for profit. Do horse shows exist so that people can make a business off the buying and selling of horses or do they exist so people can compete and have fun? I don't think we discuss this enough.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I am actively working VERY HARD to keep rated horse shows alive in Southern AZ. I want to help keep USHJA, rated horse shows, etc relevant in smaller communities.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

No matter how good you are on any day it doesn't matter unless your horse is that good too. So it pushes you to develop the horse and the bond with the horse so you can both perform at your best together as a team. Horses are flight animals and they literally walk into fire for us because they trust us. It's an incredible relationship.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Chris Collman

City & State: Cave Creek, AZ

USHJA Number: 214722

Zone: 8

Professional/Amateur Status: ☒ Professional ☐ Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): ☒ Hunter ☐ Jumper

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

For over fifty years, I have been involved in the sport as a rider, trainer, horse owner, licensed official, horse show manager and volunteer.

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

I have served on committees with both the USHJA (Zone 8, Competition Management, Show Standards, Official's Education, Course Designer's, etc) as well as USEF (National Hunter) for over twenty years. I was also the co-founder of the Arizona Hunter Jumper Assn in 1992.

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

I have a degree in Business Admin and spent six years in corporate business before becoming professionally involved in the sport.

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

Sport growth continues to be the single largest challenge.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

To continue serving the members of the zone, look for ways to grow the sport and influence the quality of the shows.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

Horses have an amazing influence on the humans lucky enough to interact with them on any level ... as a beginner all the way up to Olympic competition ... as a rider, trainer, owner or official lucky enough to make a living in this sport.



2023 Committee
Attendance:
89.1

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Louise Grayson

City & State: Boulder Colo 80304

USHJA Number: 47360

Zone: 8

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 - Certified 45 years
"R" judge Steward
Farm owner
Zone 8 committee chair.

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

Zone 8 USHJA - Regular committee member
Zone 8 chair
CHJA committee member and executive member

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

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

Finances and bringing in new people
at an affordable level.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Bringing forth ideas from the local
organizations and their members.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

The Horses.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Jodi Kennedy

City & State: Castle Rock, Colorado

USHJA Number: 269964

Zone: 8

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 a Hunter Jumper trainer with over 40 years experience. I have taught students and Horses from entry level to Grand Prix and Derbies. I was the lead trainer at the Colorado Horse Park for 24 years during Helen Kriebel's Time of ownership. I am also a R steward and currently focus on that aspect of the industry while still giving clinics and some teaching for several barns around the US.

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

Yes I have served on board of directors of several organizations. Colorado Hunter Jumper, along with 2 non profits.

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

Served as treasurer for a breed discipline organization and organized budgets for their events.

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

Probably finances. It is increasingly expensive and I have concerns on how to continue to grow the grass routes group without shows to accomodate their needs.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I feel I have a good understanding of all sides of the table. from owner to trainer to official. I am good at problem solving and compromise, which is essential in an industry that has so many options in all issues.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

It was being good at teaching. I love watcing light bulbs go off in riders and horses. When they understand and it works. Now it is definitely being a steward. Helping people understand I am there to help and support them. Too many see us as police. I love to solve the issues that come up big or small.

2023 Committee
Attendance:
78.1

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Beth Nielsen

City & State: Longmont, Colorado

USHJA Number: 27839

Zone: 8

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 involved in the sport by judging-quite a bit, at least 20 days per year for the last 40 years. I have judged primarily A Rated horse shows all over the country. Proud to say that I have never had a bad comment from the exhibitors, or was ever suspended or fined. Have always had a "clean" record, and remained true to my honest ideals. I was not a "privileged" rider, given the nicest horses to ride, and have done my share of mucking grooming, fence building, tractor driving and trailer driving, etc. and made many a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Have owned a horse since I was 10. I have judged Sport Horse National Finals (2x), NCAA Finals, Zone 8 Medal Finals, in addition to many "A" Premier Hunter horse shows across the country and Canada and 1 in France, to mention a few. Including: KY, Traders Point, Desert Circuit, Upperville, Bloomfield Hills, Palm Beach, Gulfport, Billmore, Ledges, Lampight, etc. I was named "best Hunter Rider" at several prestigious horse shows. Always loved the Jumpers too. Trained Beginner to Grand Prix riders. I qualified many horses and riders for the year end finals and we won many National and Regional Year End Championships, with my own North Coast Farm. Besides running my own business, billing, taxes, etc., I rode and trained and managed about 30 horses on the A circuit in the 80's and 90's. I also teach, and never stopped. I was successful many times as a rider and trainer throughout the Midwest, also Devon, and at the east coast finals, "indoors" and qualified many horses and riders for the Equitation finals. Trained Lauren Bass since her age 11, who won the Medal and Mactay Finals in the late 90's, and 2 riders who were Regional Medal Champions in Zone 5. I was lucky enough to ride in England and Ireland with top trainers in my teen years. I was literally at the barn or at a large horse show every day from my ages of 5 to 55. I have dedicated my life to horses-learning about, breeding, training, competing and caring for them. My horses were always well cared for, fit and shiny and I enjoyed studying every aspect of their care. Early on, I competed in Pony Club rallies, dressage, and 3 day eventing until age 22 when I committed to full time hunter jumper riding and training. I have a B.S. degree in Equestrian Studies and Psychology from Lake Erie College. I owned and managed my own breeding and training facilities in Ohio for 30 years. I lived and worked in the horse business in CA, and CO after Ohio. I trained a young rider, Halley Mosk in the Denver area and participated in most of the CHJA local and rated shows, and know most of the local trainers. I have had the opportunity to clinic with, learn from, and often worked closely with many of the Olympic level trainers and teachers, such as Bert de Nemethy, George Morris, Anne Kursinski, Katie Prudent, Bernie Traurig, Rodney Jenkins, Margie Goldstein, and Liz and Mike McGuinn, to name a few. I no longer ride-due to arthritis, but continue to teach, judge and train and just want to give back to an industry taught me so much, and to the animals I love, and the people who love them.

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

I have been on a Zone Committee every year for the past 40: Zone 5, 10 and now 8.
I was on the Hunter Breeding Committee, for many years, and attended most of the AHSA, then USEF/USHJA annual meetings before covid. And will again next year.
I served as President, V.P., Secretary and Treasurer of the Ohio Professional Horsemen's Association, over a 20 year period.

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

I managed a U.S. Congressional campaign for 4 years. I have worked as a banker, had a pet sitting business, and worked at my kids schools, but mostly in many different jobs in the horse industry.
I was a single mother of 2 wonderful kids, who are now 27 and 31.

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

the lack of entries and interest at the horse shows, and making this sport affordable.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Lend my experience from many other Zones, many horse shows and judging, and participating in the Zone activities as much as possible.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

The horses. Teaching interested students-of all ages.