

First	Last	Desig.	City	State	Status	Governance Exp.	Current Committee Member	2023 Attendance
Emma	Blackwood	Hunter	Simi Valley	CA	Professional	X	N	
Kate	Cangiano	Hunter	Agoura Hills	CA	Amateur	X	N	
Jamie	Cheney-Cowley	Hunter	Livermore	CA	Professional	X	N	
Madchen	Giesler	Hunter	Gardnerville	NV	Professional		N	
James	Hagman	Hunter	Moorpark	CA	Professional	X	Y	100%
Sally	Hudson	Hunter	Monterey	CA	Amateur	X	Y	100%

### USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Emma Blackwood

City & State: Simi Valley, CA

USHJA Number: HJ4934074

Zone: 10

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 as a professional hunter/jumper rider and trainer for a private farm in California. I am also the business manager for an A circuit farm in the area and support a handful of local farms with riding and teaching as requested.

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

Yes - I serve on a committee of the U.S. Polo Association (USPA) that supports interscholastic and intercollegiate polo programs across the country. We meet several times per year to address seeding for regional and national championships, host site considerations for these championships, potential rule changes, and many other considerations related to interscholastic and intercollegiate polo programs.

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

Yes - I work as in-house counsel for an electric vehicle startup where I provide business and legal advice on a daily basis. I also run a small design business with my partner.

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

The biggest challenge facing the sport is the cost to enter. As we are all aware, horses are very expensive and it is often challenging for lower income individuals to participate. We must strive to create opportunities for people of all walks of life to share the joy of horses while retaining the utmost respect for the horse and ensuring that their interests are cared for as well.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I am eager to join the General Duties Committee because I believe in the importance of contributing to the growth and success of our Zone and the hunter/jumper sport. I want to take my passion for the sport and help expand programs to provide my zone members additional opportunities to enjoy the sport and challenge themselves. I also want to take my business knowledge developed outside of the equestrian world and parlay that into this role. I understand the significance of attending Zone Committee meetings and conference calls, as they serve as vital platforms for discussion, decision-making, and collaboration. I am prepared to actively participate in these meetings, offering my insights and expertise to contribute to productive discussions and effective decision-making processes.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

I love the joy that this sport brings people. The relationships built in a barn are unlike any other. Relationships that span all ages and types of people. Beyond the relationships between people, the relationship with a horse is unique. Horses have such an incredible ability to understand what people need and have a way of bringing out amazing characteristics in people.

### USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Kate Cangiano

City & State: Agoura Hills, CA

USHJA Number: 5273623

Zone: 10

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 currently compete as an adult amateur in the age hunter and equitation divisions as well as the 3'3" equitation medal classes. My horse has also competed in national hunter derbies this past year.

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

I have served on small boards in the past mostly in the capacity of the finance committee. In 2018, I completed the UCLA Anderson School of Management Corporate Governance Certification to prepare me for board service. In my roles in Internal Audit, I indirectly reported to the audit committee of the corporate board of directors. Additionally, in my corporate controller roles, I meet with board members and support the audit committee. In my current role, I consult and partner with our Equine Hospital executive leadership who manage 28 large equine hospitals across the country.

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

I am currently the North American Controller for one of the largest veterinary and pet care service organizations in the world, operating nearly 1,600 pet, equine, and specialty hospitals. Over the last 20+ years I have served in Accounting, Audit, Reporting and Finance roles in industries such as technology, digital marketing, video game publishing, and now veterinary practice operations.

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

Horse welfare, sport integrity, and diversity and inclusion are my top three areas of concern for our sport. However, recently it seems that the barrier to entry has become a greater challenge for people. With many riding schools in my area closing, the opportunities for a reasonably priced introduction to the sport is closing doors with it. The reputation of it being an "elitist" sport can harm competition in the future without.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I want to support the mission and vision of the USHJA in doing the work necessary to keep our sport viable in a time of change. There are social and economic pressures that can create challenges for our sport. With my business and finance background and my love of horses and this sport, I can bring an expertise to support the execution of the programs supporting the organization. Also, I want to give back to a sport that has given so much to me as an amateur rider who started competing as an adult.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

The connection with a horse is like no other. It is amazing that these animals partner with us. They deserve the highest respect.



### USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Jamie Cheney

City & State: Livermore, CA

USHJA Number: 193868

Zone: 10

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 parent to two young riders who compete in various levels of shows. I also run a three-generation training business in the Bay Area that was started by my mother in 1984. I have previously served on the NorCal board of directors, and I attend the USHJA annual meeting whenever possible. Additionally, I still compete in both the hunter and jumper arenas in zone 10.

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

I have served on the NorCal Hunter Jumper board of directors. I attend the USHJA annual meeting. I have served as a committee chair for TVAR, a California-based animal rescue organization. I have also volunteered for many years in various leadership roles with the Camp Ritchie Young Women camp.

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

I have a Bachelor of Science from the University of Oregon in Human Physiology and Women's Gender Studies. I have experience in project management and accounting.

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

The biggest challenge our sport is facing is the need to appeal to a broader audience. It is an exclusive sport that is not accommodating or accessible to newcomers. This dynamic serves to further the divide between "horse people" and animal welfare activists, and it also limits the growth of the sport. The need for social licensing is growing, and the best way to gain that license is to help more people understand the sport and align social values with how we operate our businesses and organizations.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I am eager to make a meaningful contribution in any way that I can. To begin, I intend to attend zone meetings and actively engage with others. By doing so, I hope to gain insight into how we can enhance participation in our programs and better serve our members.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

My favorite thing about this sport is the lessons I have learned about myself. I believe that at its best equestrian sports teach us all there is to know about compassion, patience, self-reflection, and emotional regulation all while providing physical health benefits.

USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form

Name: Madchen Giesler

City & State: Gardnerville, Nevada

USHJA Number: H/J 296177

Zone: 10

Professional/Amateur Status: ☒ Professional ☐ Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): ☒ Hunter ☐ Jumper

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

- Equestrian professional and facility owner.
- 14 years as a professional
- 29 years riding/showing in the California "A" & "AA" circuit

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

No - first time working on a board, committee but looking forward to it!

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

No

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

- options for developing young horses and riders at a fair price. However still offering quality jumps/venues.
- would love to see more "B" & "C" 3 day shows.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I am looking forward to volunteering my time to help with whatever is needed. I think it's a great opportunity to get my foot in the door and to learn more about the organization. I am open-minded and looking forward to helping however I can.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

Getting to show off the skills we have been working so hard on developing at home with the most kind and incredible animals. Everyday is like waking up in a dream getting to do the thing I love most.

2023 Committee  
Attendance:  
100.1

**USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form**

Name: James Hagman

City & State: Moorpark, CA

USHJA Number: 168968

Zone: 10

Professional/Amateur Status: ☒ Professional ☐ Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): ☒ Hunter ☐ Jumper

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

Owner and head trainer of Elvenstar Farm, a premier Hunter/Eq/Jumper facility located in Moorpark, CA.

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

Currently on the USHJA Equitation Task Force, USHJA Hunter Working Group, and the chair of the USHJA Zone 10 Committee. Past board experience on the PCHA (Pacific Coast Horse Association) and CPHA (CA. Professional Horseman's Association) board of Directors.

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

Multiple Investment properties.

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

The biggest challenge is to focus on maintaining the standard of the American System of riding while the popularity of the lower level jumpers out paces the hunters and equitation.

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

I hope to continue to be involved with the processes currently in place in the subcommittee system of the zone. To help maintain clarity and focus on the specific needs of the membership.

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

Time spent in the barn, home arena and competition arena with the horses and students.



2023 Committee  
Attendance:  
100.1

**USHJA Zone Nominee Biography Form**

Name: Sally Hudson

City & State: Monterey, CA

USHJA Number: HJ21612

Zone: 10

Professional/Amateur Status: ☐ Professional ☒ Amateur

Primary Designation (select one): ☒ Hunter ☐ Jumper

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

Show Manager, Show Secretary, R C1 Steward, R Jumper Judge, FEI 3 Jumping Steward

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

Currently Pacific Coast Horse Show Association - Secretary & NorCal Hunter/Jumper Association - Vice President  
Past Vice Chair of Zone 10  
Zone 10 NAYC Coordinator

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

Family owned retail store for 37 years

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

Social media

How do you hope to contribute on the Zone Committee?

Rule changes  
NAYC updates  
Working with Affiliates

What is your favorite thing about the sport?

The horses