

Candidate's Biographies

Hope Phelon (incumbent): Director at Large Candidate

I first heard about Shagya Arabians when **Oman* was on the cover of Practical Horseman magazine. I had been thinking of breeding my mare, *Lilly*. The article described what I thought would be a perfect match, especially the temperament. *Shannon* by **Shandor*, turned out to be everything I hoped for and then some. I'm also privileged to have his half sister *Shagya Inchantress AF*. I'm not exactly sure when I first became a lifetime member of NASS but they are both 24 years old now. I have not been as active as I was when we were showing (lower level dressage and eventing). However, I have followed the up's and downs, the drama and traumas, associated with group dynamics over the years. What we all have in common is the love and admiration for our exceptional breed of horse. I have been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in rural community mental health throughout Wyoming for a little over 30 years. I'm getting close to retirement and hope to have more time to give to NASS. I've never 'ran' for anything but if I had a 'platform' it would be something like pro unity, inclusion and the prime directive being the growth of an organization dedicated to our special breed of horse.

Sebastian De Vivo: Director at Large Candidate

Sebastian De Vivo owns and operates Lightfoot Sporthorses LLC, dba Annorien Sporthorses, a Shagya-Arabian breeding program based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The program's foundation stallion is **Olivero*, a German-bred Shagya-Arabian imported by Shannon McCracken; the program's newer stallion, Bugatti Eclat SH, is currently in his first proven crop and in preparation for his 2026 inspection. The program's goal is to breed Shagya-Arabians following the Frielinghaus standard, with an emphasis on rideability, hardiness, and a trainable temperament suited to amateur riders. His work draws on close study of Shagya-Arabian pedigree architecture, with the aim of consolidating key stallion concentrations like Gazal VII, Bajar, Shandor, and Starwalker.

Hallie Goetz: Director at Large Candidate

My name is Hallie Goetz, and I am interested in joining the Board of Directors. I have been an active Member and Shagya-Arabian enthusiast for 20-plus years. I own, breed and ride Shagya-Arabians. I love this breed. I previously volunteered for the registry in a variety of roles, including Regional Director, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. It was during those years that I would often travel to Europe to learn more about the breed and network, eventually becoming an official ISG Judge. I took a much-needed break for the past few years, but I am ready to get back at it! Now more than ever we need to work together to promote, preserve and maintain the Shagya-Arabian.

Gabrielle Gordon: Director at Large Candidate

My name is Gabrielle Gordon, and I am standing for one of the two Member at Large positions for the 2026 NASS Board of Directors. I have been a NASS member for almost 10 years and served on the NASS board several years ago. I have had Cleveland Bay pure and sport horses for almost three decades with one being a Shagya partbred, Griffin. I am the past Board Secretary and board member of The Livestock Conservancy and currently the President of the Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America. I have been the Cleveland Bay performance awards chair for many years, and my goal is to spread awareness of the versatility of all Shagya- Arabians and sport horses in several disciplines. Working together with lots of communications and transparency I believe we can raise the profile of the breed we love.