DEBORAH HIMMEL, R.D.H., B.S.

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene

Loyola University of New Orleans, La. 1977

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Registered Dental Hygienist 1977 to present

Registered Dental Hygienist for a Board Certified Pediatric Dental Practice 1978 to 1990. My patients were children up to the age of 18 yrs., and also included both adults and children with special needs (physical and mental) who required dental care. The remainder of my work was performed in general dental practices.

MEMBERSHIPS

Arabian Horse Association 1979 to present

United States Equestrian Federation 1979 to present

Louisiana Arabian Horse Association 1979 to present

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL LEVEL AHA

AHA National Chair, Youth Committee 2009 to present

AHA National Vice Chair, Youth Committee 2007-2009

AHA National Committee Member, Youth, Equitation, Amateur

Current AHA Delegate and past AHA alternate delegate for the La. Arabian Horse Assoc.

As the AHA Youth Committee Chair, I work with Brenna Whitlock, AHA youth and family programs coordinator, Cindy Howey, Vice Chair Youth Committee, the AHYA Executive Officers and AHYA Board of Directors, Regional Youth Coordinators, and Youth Committee members. For the AHYA BOD, I work with Brenna on their meeting agendas, assist them with parliamentary procedure for their meetings, and assist them when they wish to develop and bring a resolution forward to the delegates at AHYA Convention or to the AHA delegates Convention. I am a volunteer for the Youth Nationals show and work with Brenna by coordinating and managing all AHYA activities at YN to include the AHYA BOD meeting, AHYA Convention, ice cream social, dance, fun activities, fundraisers, stick horse decorating and contest, and any activities we sponsor in the Youth Activities office/room. I also assist Brenna with the planning and management of the coaches meeting, the AHYA Hippology Contest, the AHYA National Judging Contest, Awards Breakfast, and center ring awards presentation. I also serve as a moderator and have been known to handle a horse or two for the judging contest. I also help coordinate and conduct the AHYA Silent Auction Fundraiser held during the AHA Convention. I am also a T.A.I.L. (Total Arabian Interactive Learning) tour guide at three National Events which include Youth Nationals, Canadian Nationals, and US Nationals shows. This is about an hour guided tour to introduce the Arabian Horse to visitors at our National events. I begin the tour with a brief history of the Arabian Horse with a stop to the AHA mini museum display. I also have stations set up where the group can see and discuss grooming tools, farrier equipment, etc. depending on the age group of the tour. Then they are treated to a meet and greet with an Arabian Horse and their handler and a barn tour. The last part of the tour is a visit to the stands to watch a class where I am able to explain and answers questions about the class we are watching. I feel people skills is a must, but, the Arabian Horse is what wins their hearts. This is one of my favorite volunteer jobs, too, to be able to interact with new people and share our horses with them.

REGIONAL LEVEL

Region 9 AHA served as Louisiana State Rep 2011-2015

Region 9 substitute Secretary for R9 BOD and Delegate meetings when asked to fill in

Current R9 Youth Coordinator (Can’t remember how long)-Assist the youth with meetings, activities and fundraisers, group texts, etc.

Current R9 Regional Team Tournament Secretary

Past Region 9 Nominating Committee Chair and Committee member

Past Region 9 Youth Stallion Service Auction Committee member

Past Region 9 Show Committee member

Past Region 9 Amateur Committee liaison

2018 and 2019 Co-coordinator and volunteer manager of the Region 9 Patron’s Lounge

2018 Co-coordinator of the R9 Sport Horse Party

2018 and 2019 Region 9 Exhibitor Party Co-coordinator

LOCAL LEVEL

Current Louisiana Arabian Horse Association (LAHA) Treasurer and Membership Chair

Past LAHA President, Vice President, and Secretary

Past Show Manager of the Magnolia Classic Youth Extravaganza Horse Show

Magnolia Classic I and II show in Gonzales, La. – on site Show Manager, assistant to Show Secretary, coordinate ribbons and awards, hospitality, center ring decorations, and barn manager.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Married to Mark Himmel for 40 years. We own and operate Plantation Arabians in Schriever, La. Our daughter, Annalise, and her husband, John, also are involved in the daily operation of the farm. Mark, Annalise, and I successfully show our Arabians and Half Arabians at the local, Regional, and National Levels. I was honored to be the recipient of a 2013 AHA National Level Volunteer Service Award and also honored to be a two-time recipient of the Region 9 AHA Volunteer Service Award.

WHY I WOULD LIKE TO SERVE AS REGION 9 AHA DIRECTOR

I believe that my past and current AHA involvement on the local, Regional, and National Level has prepared me to serve as the Region 9 AHA Director. I have learned to prepare for meetings, organize agendas, develop committees and teach the youth of AHYA how to prepare to be the next stewards of our Arabian Horse. I have learned how to delegate responsibilities and assist those chosen to fulfill their duties. I am willing to listen to new ideas from our members and to discuss these ideas with the Region 9 AHA Board and then present to the Delegates of Region 9 for discussion and then a vote if needed. I believe that communication is very important and that I would like all of Region 9 to continue to feel free to have their voice heard for suggestions.