

# HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

Fall 2022 | Volume 19, Issue No. 3

# NEWSLETTER



## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony	Page 1
How Copper Concha Brought Me Back to Horses	Page 3
From the Archives: Preserving Is Promoting	Page 4
Anatomy Lessons: Form and Function	Page 5
Registrar's Report	Page 6
2022 HOA High Point Awards	Page 7
Letter from the Editor	Page 9

Photo: Dreamscape

## From the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony

By Vickie Ives, HOA President

Creating, maintaining and promoting significant value needs to be the future of America's First Horse. Prices are high and availability limited. But how many of us have been able to take advantage of the higher market? When the killer market is \$3 a pound, are we going to see more Colonial Spanish Horses (CSH) going that route simply because so many breeders do not have access to good trainers with experience with our rare, historic breed?

It had been a while since I had inspected BLMs,<sup>1</sup> but when an adoption was held

nearby in Center, Texas, my partner Cynthia Ojeda convinced me to look at the horses offered. It so happened that many of the horses at this adoption were from the Pancake Horse Management Area (HMA) in Nevada where the history of the horses was Spanish on some gaited stock of unknown origin. They were mostly fairly typey and some were very much so. And to make them more attractive, the BLM adoption fee was \$125, as usual, but with a huge perk: if the adoptee takes good care of their adopted horse, they would

be eligible for a \$1,000 payment from the BLM after one year. So, they get title to a good horse with some Spanish type, plus a check.

Cynthia was sorely tempted so we searched the offerings until we found a gorgeous two-year-old filly, jet black, ram-nosed, hooked ears and a curious nature that brought her right over to the fence to take a good look at us.

"If you really want to adopt one, this is the filly I would choose, Cyn," I commented.

1 Bureau of Land Management's horses.

"She is sweet and curious and could make a good one." Then Cynthia told me about a dream she'd had about a black filly with hooked ears and admitted that was what had drawn her to this adoption.

"I am going to name her Dreamscape," Cyn said. So that was that. Cyn paid her money and they loaded the filly into the trailer.

My Titus Unlearning was the last BLM adoptee on Karma Farms, and Ty died at age thirty-four after a distinguished career that included an NATRC Junior National Championship; multiple AIHR wins, including several AA Overall National Championships; and perhaps my favorite, when he and I won every speed event at the BLM National Show in Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the State Fair.<sup>2</sup>

I spent many hours in Ty's saddle because he was the kind of horse that gave me everything he had when I asked for it. I have no idea how many trail rides I led on him, how many ribbons he won, how many distance rides he won or placed for me, Gretchen Patterson, my daughter Tori, and



*Photo: Gretchen Patterson riding Titus Unlearning*

my student Mark Robertson. Ty's excellent attitude and unlimited try made me a fan of America's mustangs, and he led me to investigate the "real thing," the Colonial Spanish Horse.

I purchased Choctaw Sun Dance from my beloved friend and mentor, Nanci Falley, owner of Rancho San Francisco, and he completed my departure from Quarter Horses. He became the most decorated CSH in the world in his day and the most celebrated sire of winning CS foals, too.



*Photo: Choctaw Sun Dance*

Today, the real CSH is in trouble with numbers likely under 3,000 head — maybe even under 2,500. The quality of the remaining ones is mostly high, but finding a finished horse is as rare as hen's teeth. Too many breeders do not train. How many great CS horses have we all met that had looks and talent, but lacked finishing under saddle? Thank the Great Spirit for breeders who produce TRAINED horses that can go to work representing our breed.

So, back to Cynthia's Dreamscape filly. In a mere two weeks, she was glad to be caught in the round pen and after two more weeks she was following us, glad to share our company. We paired her with my champagne appaloosa gelding, Like a Hurricane, who had lost an eye to cancer, and it was love after the first

night. 'Scape quickly realized that Ike had no vision on the right side and quickly became his buddy and comrade. They were soon out in the big meadow together with 'Scape guiding Ike on his blind side and Ike protecting her from the pasture bullies. The filly leads, loads, catches in the pasture and loves attention. Cyn looks forward to riding her next year. The BLM has improved the horses they manage, and it shows. Sweet Dreamscape is the easiest BLM to train that I have ever seen. And I have no doubt that when her first year with us is completed, Cynthia will receive a \$1,000 check for adopting her.

The point? As long as we have breeders who do not train their horses, the value of Colonial Spanish Horses will not stabilize. The REAL horses of the Old West are still here, but finding one for sale that is ready to ride is difficult. We need to train, to promote, to get our horses into the public eye to take advantage of the higher prices we are seeing today.

If the BLM is offering good useable horses, some with strong Spanish characteristics, and a check for \$1,000 (if the adopter takes good care of them for a year), how do we compete with them?



*Photo: Like a Hurricane and Dreamscape*

2 North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC); American Indian Horse Registry (AIHR).





## How Copper Concha Brought Me Back to Horses

By Becca Pizmoht – Smithfield, VA

I was done with horses. After working for a warmblood breeder for nine years I wanted nothing to do with horses. I made plans to move away and take a 9-5 office job, but at the eleventh hour my housing fell through and I was left unemployed and about to be homeless.

A friend called to tell me about a job that would be “a perfect fit” and pestered me so much I agreed to an interview. I ended up with a job managing and training 80



Colonial Spanish Horses. The job was my first introduction to these horses and I was captivated. Copper Concha was one of them.

Concha was one of my projects and once started under saddle she and I dabbled in some low level dressage, some trail riding and fox hunting. Concha loved having a job but proved very opinionated about everything! There were horses, people and random things she liked and ones she didn't. While I never had a problem catching her, she delighted in playing keep away with all the kids at the barn. Like any good mare, she required a partnership, not a set of orders.

She was always the horse that had my back. Once when we were out hunting, she fell in a groundhog hole. We were in the middle of a group of horses galloping when we both hit the ground. She curled around me like I was a foal and protected me from being trampled. Once they passed she got up, I got up, we walked it off and hunted for another hour.

I bought Concha in 2017 when her owners divorced. Since then, she has expanded



her resume adding ranch horse, western dressage, western pleasure, show hunter and lesson horse. Whether it's checking fence in the winter or all polished up for opening meet, Copper Concha is always there for me.





### Preserving Is Promoting

By John Fusco, screenwriter of "SPIRIT, Stallion of the Cimarron," Reprinted from March 2002 HOA Newsletter

The epiphany came to me in the round pen. I had been in there for hours with my young foundation stallion, when it hit me: this is not the best way for me to "do my bit" for the Spanish Mustang (or, as my Grandpa Redbow preferred, "Ind'n Pony"). Earlier that morning — try 4:00 a.m. — my mare band busted out a gate when coyotes came calling and then busted IN the gate to the stallion, herding up behind him. So after hours of mending fence, coaxing Spanish mares and keeping up the training of all, I realized that I wasn't where I was supposed to be: sitting at the typewriter, telling stories.

As a writer of movies, I have had the wonderful opportunity to see stories come to life on the big screen and reach millions of people. Not that film is literature (especially Hollywood), but there is no denying the influence movies have on our society. In 1992, my movie



"Thunderheart" brought the story of the modern-day Indian wars to an audience fresh off the safe historical distance of "Dances with Wolves." The movie found its way to Capitol Hill and was used by Native American lobbyists to pass legislation protecting sacred sites. It raised money for the impoverished Pine Ridge Reservation and exposed many to the Third World within our own country. It was only a movie, but it made some things happen; movies — good or bad — are the widest-reaching medium in the world.

So that day in the round pen, I called on my friend Vik and asked her to inherit the then-defunct HOA that I had purchased along with some fine Brislawns horses. Some of us, like Vik, have the talent to work with the horses and to show them at their best while some of us have other ways to promote the breed; but, at the end of the day, we're all conservators.

With my movie "SPIRIT: Stallion of the Cimarron" already in the can at Dreamworks and set for a Memorial Day 2002 release, I hope to bring the story of a pure Spanish Mustang to a young and wide audience. Steven Spielberg is so pleased with the film that he is premiering it the same night as the new Star Wars. Don't worry: I think our Kiger boy will give Luke a run for his money.

Nothing if not mustang-obsessive, I decided to keep the push going and

sat down to write the story of Frank T. Hopkins and his little Spanish Mustang who won the 3,000 mile endurance race across the Arabian Desert in 1890. I had wanted to bring this amazing story to the screen for years, but it was while telling the account as a conservator that I realized what an impact it might have. I am excited to report that Walt Disney's "HIDALGO" begins filming in Morocco this coming Spring.

Spanish Mustangs will also be featured in my upcoming Hallmark/ABC mini-series "DREAMKEEPER," a two night dramatic special based on legends from Native America. Original American Indian Horses have been written into nearly all of the legends to be portrayed (The Legend of the Dun Horse, High Horse's Courting, and The Vision Quest being a few examples).

As a member of the HOA publicity board, I hope to connect all three of these high-profile productions with our efforts to promote and preserve America's first horse. As a spokesperson, interviews that I give will be angled toward that goal. It is also my hope that all fellow conservators will be proud enough of the films to say "those are our horses" and will take advantage of any heat the movies generate. Because whether in the round pen, on the trail, or at the typewriter and movie camera, we're all conservators.

Those are our horses. Long may they run.

## Form and Function

By Kelly Caldwell-Anders – Blue Raven Farms, Tyner, NC

Do you groom your horse's mane and tail? So many people who compete groom their horses' manes and tails because not doing so can make a horse appear untidy, and it can detract from what could be an otherwise flawless presentation. That is, at least, the standard response.

Many displaying classes even have grooming requirements, one of which is that a horse's whiskers be trimmed or shaved. It begs the question, why does a horse have whiskers to begin with?

As with many other animals, whiskers on horses are an exceptionally significant sensory instrument. The position of a horse's eyes prevents them from seeing what is directly in front of them or on the ground beneath their snout. Whiskers on the muzzle act as an extra pair of eyes for the horse, allowing him to see what he's grazing on or where the walls of a dark stable are. Horses also have lengthy whiskers around their eyes, which help them avoid colliding with objects they can't otherwise see.

Many horses are quite unhappy about their whiskers being removed. Could the horse's problem be that he's actually a little short-sighted, and losing his whiskers would be like losing your reading glasses? We can diagnose diseases, infections and foreign substances affecting the horse's eye, but we can't tell if the horse has a vision impairment outside of these areas.

The horse's whiskers are an important part of his complex peripheral sensory system, which feeds information to his brain from a large number of sensory receptor nerve cells spread throughout his body, particularly in the skin. The skin is thickest where



the tail and mane grow and varies in thickness from 1mm to 6mm. It also differs by breed, sex and age, from horse to horse. The number of sensory receptors in the skin varies as well, with some locations having hundreds of them while others have thousands.

Tactile sensitivity is particularly acute around the face, especially around the nose, lips and eyes. The maximum density of receptors and a concentration of long, stiff hairs — whiskers — can be found in these places. Nerve endings surround the follicles from which the whiskers grow.

When the horse's whiskers make contact with something, the nerves send a 250 mph electrical signal to the brain, allowing it to figure out what the horse is touching. So, from your horse's perspective, shaving his whiskers to make him seem neat and

tidy is equivalent to putting on heavy gloves and then asking you to identify objects without your sense of sight or touch, or tying your hands behind your back and expecting you to blindly navigate a room without bumping into anything.

Fortunately, in recognition of science and good horsemanship, trimming a horse's whiskers is now banned from many competitions. The Fédération Equestre Internationale has made sensory hair clipping around the snout and eyes illegal, following long-standing bans in various European countries due to horse welfare concerns.

Andrew McLean, Ph.D., BSc, Dip Ed, is the CEO of Equitation Science International and an equine behavioral science expert at Melbourne University Equine Hospital in Australia. He is a former top-level eventer

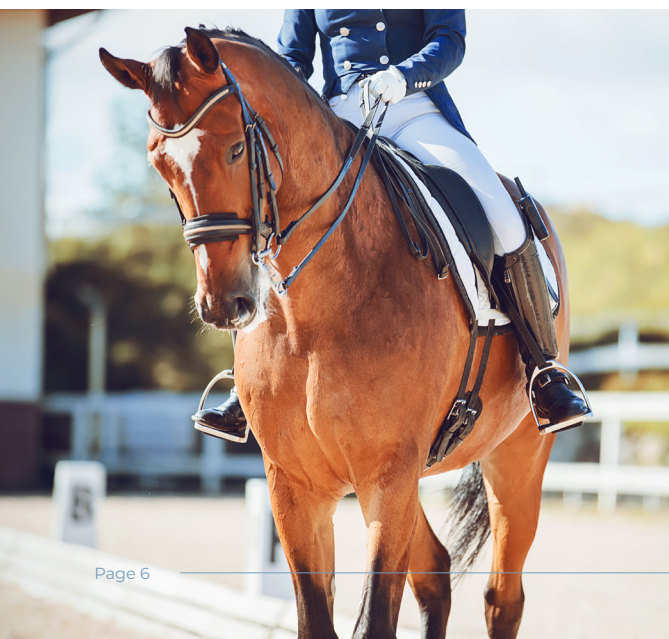


with experience working with race horses and elephant welfare. He's looked into the importance of equine vibrissae, but says their function hasn't been investigated as thoroughly as it has been in other species like rats or manatees, while hearing and vision have received far greater attention in studies of equine sensory capacities.

"Each [whisker] is lodged in its own blood capsule with lots of nerves," said McLean. "The idea of the blood capsule is that even the smallest movement of the whisker itself is perceived by sensory receptors and goes straight to the brain. They're considered to be high sensitivity—in other words, low-threshold receptors—because it only takes the tiniest movement to trigger the information release." Equine whiskers, unlike human beards, are entrenched far deeper in the skin and help horses sense their environment.

In other words, whiskers are important! Keep them on; your horse will appreciate it! Sacrificing form for fashion has never been a good precedent or reasonable stewardship of these magnificent animals. When we domesticate them, we become fully responsible for making sure they have the best life possible... and that includes letting them keep their whiskers.

Much like mane pulling, clipping is for the humans more than the horses (medical situations aside). Personally I stopped pulling mane when I realized my horses hated it and learned to feather cut instead. Conventional wisdom says they have no feeling and it doesn't hurt, but it's no coincidence that horses find it unpleasant. Listen to your horse, they know better than trends.



## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

*By Gretchen Patterson – Nacogdoches, TX*

**Registrations for 2022 are above average with 64 horses recorded to date. The numbering stands at 2,377.**

HOA encourages breeders to keep good records of their foals and offer a buyer a completed application when a sale occurs. **Breeders are asked to complete a Stallion Report that will be due by December 31, 2022.**

The Colonial Spanish Horse is an antique breed now in the 21st century. Every Mustanger must realize the importance of recording the names and bloodlines of each horse for future generations. When selling a registered horse, please fill out a transfer form to go with the registration certificate. (Stallion Report forms may be requested either in print or online format.)

To make registration easier, HOA allows payment by PayPal, which is available through the website at: <http://www.horseoftheamericas.com>.

The online application can be emailed along with the registration photos. Please submit pictures in one of three formats: regular photographs; digital scans on photographic paper or via email. I would like to stress that digital pictures must be printed on glossy paper. I cannot use pictures that are printed on regular copy paper.

If you send pictures via email, try to reduce the size to 800 kb–1 Mb. Photographs should be formatted and saved as a .jpg, .png or .tiff. Picture files saved as a .gif extension have been compressed and do not reproduce well.

All photos should be taken in open space, preferably in the morning or early afternoon. Pictures with lots of shadows do not scan well, and the horse's true color is difficult to reproduce. Trees or other busy landscape should be out of the background whenever possible. I require pictures of both sides as well as a front, a rear and a good facial. If a horse has unusual white patterns on the head, a close-up photo is also needed.

For more information or assistance, please contact Gretchen Patterson at 502 N. Steen Drive, Nacogdoches, TX, 75965, by email at [glpatterson62@gmail.com](mailto:glpatterson62@gmail.com), or by telephone at 903-407-3260. You can also leave me a message on the HOA Facebook page.



### BREEDERS:

**Don't forget to submit your Stallion Report Forms before the end of the year!**

# 2022 HOA HIGH POINT AWARDS

The HOA has revised its High Point Riding and Performance Award system this year to reflect the need for an easier way to record points and tabulate them at year's end.

The award period runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year. Forms for 2022 are due by February 28, 2023. All awards will be announced and distributed in April 2023.

We now have eleven categories:

1) Carol Stone Ambassador; 2) Competitive Trail Riding; 3) Pleasure Trail Riding 4) Driving—Competitive and Pleasure; 5) Endurance Racing; 6) English Performance; 7) Western Performance 8) Farm and Ranch Work; 9) Rodeo Events; 10) Speed Events 11) Miles and Hours (individuals);

Forms for each of these categories are posted on the HOA website.

Points are recorded during a horse's lifetime and will count towards the following cumulative awards: Sundance (300 points); Legends (500); and Corazon de Caballos (1,000).

The Youth Buckaroo Award winners (50 points) will receive small, handcrafted wooden plaques. Reserve High Point winners will receive the larger, handcrafted wooden plaques, which are also perpetual with new engraved plates for subsequent years. Champion High Point winners will receive a customized

4 ½ x 3 ½ " trophy buckle crafted by Molly's Custom Silver.

## CAROL STONE AMBASSADOR AWARD

Awarded to the HOA MEMBER who accumulates the most points in the Carol Stone Ambassador category. This is an annual award given in loving memory of Carol Stone, a long time friend and lover of Colonial Spanish Horses and their owners.

Points are awarded for:

- Promotion to the Public (local) – 5 points/day (schools, library, youth groups, parades, etc.)
- Promotion to the Public (national) – 10 points/day (expos, fairs, festivals, local or national)
- News Article (local) – 10 points
- News Article (national) – 15 points
- Media Advertising Promoting HOA – 1 point (ads, flyers, brochures for exposure)
- Each photo in an article – 1 point

## ANNUAL AWARDS

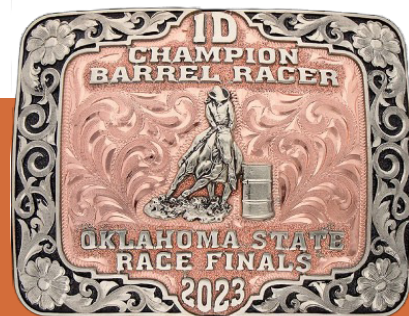
Awarded each year for most points accumulated by an HOA-registered HORSE.

- COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDING HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned during Competitive Trail Rides.
- PLEASURE TRAIL RIDING HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned during Pleasure Trail Rides.

- DRIVING (COMPETITIVE AND PLEASURE) HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned while being driven on the trail during pleasure or organized drives.
- ENDURANCE RACING HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned during Endurance Races.
- ENGLISH PERFORMANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned during Horse Shows in all English disciplines, including jumping, dressage, hunt seat, pleasure, training, trails, etc.
- WESTERN PERFORMANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned during Horse Shows for all Western disciplines, including reining, cutting, training, trails, etc.
- FARM AND RANCH WORK HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned for work on a Farm or Ranch.
- RODEO EVENTS HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned in competitive Rodeo Events, including steer wrestling, roping, cutting, team penning, goat tying, etc.
- SPEED EVENTS HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most points earned in timed, competitive Speed Events.
- MILES AND HOURS HORSE OF THE YEAR: Most miles and hours ridden in non-competitive group rides.

## THANK YOU TO OUR BUCKLE SPONSORS!

If you are interested in purchasing a Trophy Buckle Sponsorship to be used for future awards, they are available for \$75 each (plus an extra \$25 if you'd like your name/farm or ranch name engraved on the back of the buckle), Contact Gretchen Patterson to purchase.



Example of the New Champion Trophy Buckles

## SUNDANCE AWARDS

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES who have accumulated 300 points in any of the accepted categories.

## LEGENDS AWARDS

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES for accumulating 500 points in any of the following individual categories:

- Show (Show and Sport)
- Distance (Competitive/Endurance)
- Pleasure Trail (Ride and Drive)
- Time (Speed Events)
- Farm and Ranch Work (Competitive/On the Farm)

## CORAZÓN DE CABALLOS

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES for accumulating 1,000 points in any of the accepted categories.

## BUCKAROO AWARD

Awarded to HOA MEMBERS who are 18 years of age or younger for accumulating 50 points in any of the accepted categories. Points may be earned on different horses, but horse(s) must be HOA-registered.

---

For more information, email Gretchen Patterson at [glpatterson62@gmail.com](mailto:glpatterson62@gmail.com).

## HOLD YOUR HORSES!

We will be adding a new award category for 2023:

Working Equitation Horse of the Year

## ADVERTISEMENT

### Ever seen a Colonial Spanish Horse on the cover of a poetry collection?

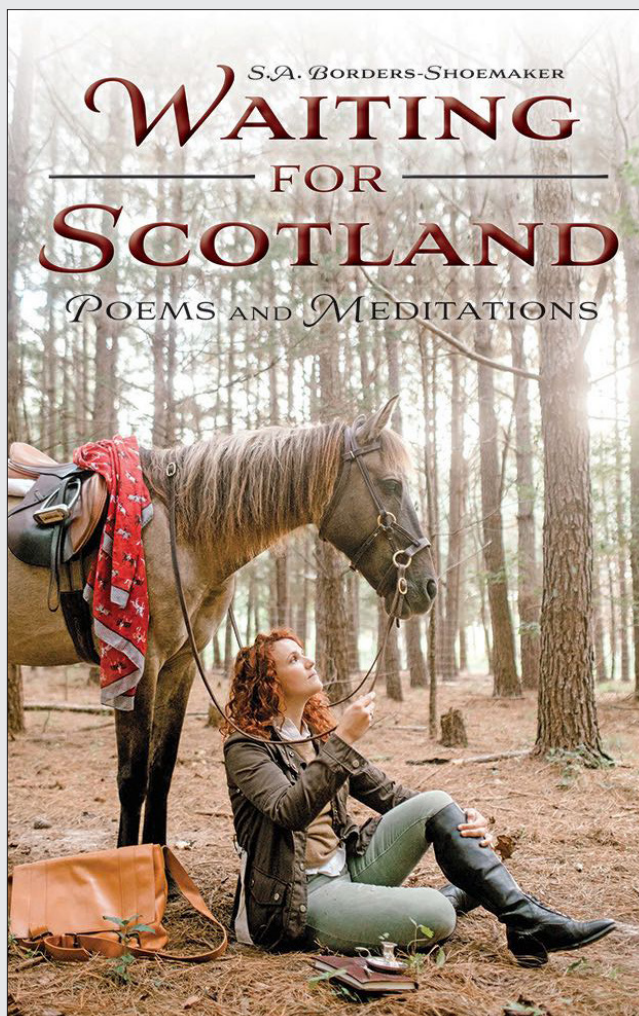
### You have now!

I'd like to share with you my upcoming poetry collection, which features my HOA-registered Colonial Spanish Horse Rosa on the cover and throughout the book.

*Waiting for Scotland* by S.A. Borders-Shoemaker is available for preorder at [Bookshop.org](http://Bookshop.org) and can be found by following the provided QR code. Your support through a preorder or spreading the word would mean the world to me.

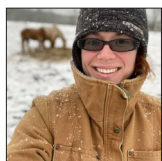


Thanks in advance for your kindness.





# Letter from the Editor



**Courtney Fox**  
Newsletter Editor

The leaves have fallen and snow has officially made its first appearance of the season across many parts of the country, which means our feed bills are up once again.

Combined with skyrocketing fuel costs and a consumer inflation rate of 7.7% for the 12 months ended October 31, 2022, I know that many of us are struggling to make ends meet while continuing to care for our horses.

Despite all of this, the Colonial Spanish Horse still needs our help! As you move through the holidays, remember that promoting the breed doesn't necessarily have to come in the form of direct financial support. Please stay on the lookout for free or inexpensive opportunities to get the word out about how great these horses are.

Consider taking your horses to holiday parades to show them off. Consider taking holiday pictures of your horses and including a note about the breed in your holiday cards. Consider asking for donations to the HOA in the place of gift cards or the latest kitchen gadget that will inevitably get lost in a junk drawer.

It's never a bad season to promote the Colonial Spanish Horse!

Questions? Ideas for future newsletter articles? I would love to hear from you.

I can be reached by email at [courtneyhudsonfox@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyhudsonfox@gmail.com).

# Executive Committee

## PRESIDENT

: **Vickie Ives**  
Marshall, TX  
[karmafarms@yahoo.com](mailto:karmafarms@yahoo.com)

## VICE PRESIDENT

: **Annette Garcia**  
Belen, NM  
[annettegarcia1977@yahoo.com](mailto:annettegarcia1977@yahoo.com)

## SECRETARY

: **Andrea Mulnix**  
Roundup, MT  
[andrea.sue.mulnix@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.sue.mulnix@gmail.com)

## TREASURER

: **Tomlyn Grey**  
Marshall, TX  
[thetomlette@gmail.com](mailto:thetomlette@gmail.com)

## REGISTRAR

: **Gretchen Patterson**  
Nacogdoches, TX  
[glpatterson62@gmail.com](mailto:glpatterson62@gmail.com)

## MEDIA DIRECTOR

: **Kelly Caldwell-Anders**  
Tyner, NC  
[oneponyshow42@gmail.com](mailto:oneponyshow42@gmail.com)

## YOUTH DIRECTOR

: **Adam Edwards**  
Hulett, WY  
[pahaponies@gmail.com](mailto:pahaponies@gmail.com)

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

: **Courtney Fox**  
Norfolk, VA  
[courtneyhudsonfox@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyhudsonfox@gmail.com)

## WEBSITE CONSULTANT

: **David Justin**  
Marshall, TX  
[djustin@tekis.com](mailto:djustin@tekis.com)

## SPECIAL CONSULTANTS

: **The Livestock Conservancy**  
**Dr. Phil Sponenberg**

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

: **Kendra Chavez**  
Mountainair, NM  
[kendrachavez50@gmail.com](mailto:kendrachavez50@gmail.com)

: **Becca Pizmoht**  
Rapidan, VA  
[beccapizmoht@icloud.com](mailto:beccapizmoht@icloud.com)

: **Mickey Pliakos**  
Morristown, AZ  
[mickeyhauber@gmail.com](mailto:mickeyhauber@gmail.com)

