

Henry Arena Discussion with Kimberley Belford

Date: 25 May 2025

Background

On or around the 18th of May Kimberley Belford unfriended me and I politely sent a message to her stating I was sorry she felt the need to unfriend us despite us having been riding with Maple Hill and Runnin' Broke exclusively since the 2024 VCA Barrel Season.

On May 25th 2025, I arrived at Henry arena in Martinsburg WV with my 15-year-old daughter, Emily Richards. Emily was entered to run in IBRA Open event, on her horse ENB Flo Jo, rolling her time to youth and running on her horse Wild Blue Twilight in the Youth IBRA event.

At the start of the Open, Kimberly Belford, who is self-proclaimed "best friends with Alison [DeHaven]" walked past me in the bleachers and I said "Hi Kim" and she returned the salutation.

Later I congratulated her on her run while I was talking to Hailey Shoemaker and Erica Lillie and Isaiah. After Isaiah, Hailey and Erica left the area, I was standing next to my daughter speaking to her while she was mounted on her horse, Twilight, about to run her youth run. Kimberly Belford came over to the panels and began speaking to me. She stated that she had not responded to my private message on Facebook intentionally, I replied "I hadn't even noticed, but no worries." She then elevated her voice and began with an aggressive tone that "she doesn't know how well I know the Lusks but they are not good people and that the problem is I was associating with them." She repeated the same phrase that Brandi Nicholson parroted that "Jennifer Lusk is the common denominator whenever there are any issues within the VCA." I tried to interject and state that I don't know the Lusks and have only met them a handful of times" She then cut me off and aggressively said "BEQUIET AND LET ME SPEAK." She became extremely accusatory and said that the problem was I sent the letter to the board and "betrayed" the DeHaven's. I said "I said nothing in that letter that was not the 100% absolute truth" She stated that she 'read it with her own two eyes the day I sent it out to the board.' She then stated that my letter wasn't factual because I had said that Allyson Reid was in the booth when she was in fact outside the window on her horse and that she (Kimberly) was also mounted on her horse outside the window and that she saw Savanna's face and that it was "pure attitude and disrespectful" and that she heard every single word that was said. I said the letter she was referring to was the first letter I had sent out which was immediately retracted and followed by the corrected version. I also told her I was standing directly behind Savanna as her Guardian that day and that not only did, I hear every word, but that there was a video/audio recording capturing it as well. She then said, "I didn't see you behind her or know you were

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there.” I said there is also video of me running behind Savanna to the booth and asked if she saw the video of the actual incident, she did not.

She repeatedly stated that I betrayed the DeHaven’s by writing the letter. I said I spoke to Sherry on the phone while the incident was occurring and that Sherry asked me to provide an incident statement. She said “BUT YOU DIDN’T HAVE TO!”. I said “what, I didn’t have to tell the truth?” She confirmed and said no, you didn’t have to send the letter. I said you clearly don’t know who I am or the type of person I am. She then said that “Alison had helped you last year.” I paid for Alison to board my horse and keep him exercised last year when I had to go to Texas when my mother was in the hospital for 2 weeks that does not beholden me to secrecy when there is clearly a campaign or agenda against another innocent party.

She then stated that I should have spoken to Alison and should never have written that letter, and that my daughter was posting on Facebook and that my husband had also posted on the Runnin’ broke page. I said I tried to speak to Alison but was blocked the day after the incident, and that my husband posted and had stated that ‘we would have been attending but we had been wrongfully trespassed so we were unable to run with our “friends”’ in response to a Runnin’ Broke post that said “Come out and watch the barrel race”, I said I had told him to take the post down which he did. My daughter had only posted “so true” on a meme that was posted about ‘unhappy people start drama’ and then she posted under another picture “hey my bestie”. Kimberly was stating she should be more respectful. I don’t require my children to be overly respectful to individuals who so openly and wrongfully disrespect her or our family, that is conditioning a child to accept abuse.

Later in the conversation I said “I did nothing wrong and would not be apologizing” and she said with a smirk...”You did, you brought a LUSK”

Closing

I am requesting information on the policy of the VCA Board when it comes to investigations. Why was my statement and my daughter’s statement provided to individuals who are not part of the investigation or even board members? In normal practice with most associations those statements should not have even been shared with the parties outside of the board or that were part of the incident or complaint, even if they were board members. I am very concerned about these processes because the VCA Bylaws are legally binding and if there are violations it does open up the association to legal action and legal risk. There seems to be a high level of nepotism on the board which can lead to “group

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think” and “bias” which can be problematic, especially if there was legal action taken by any party.

If the distribution to non-board members of what should have been privileged statements is acceptable, I would like my statement to be shared with all VCA members, because this behind the scenes sharing of some but not all information is causing many problems. And there have been retributions made against my daughter in order to harm me. This isn't alright.

I have started helping draft some new Bylaws because the current ones are a mess and seem to be piecemeal and as stated are a risk to the association.

If you could give me a call to discuss this a.s.a.p. I know you are busy and that this is not your full time job, but I appreciate all you do.

Sincerely,

Christie A. Ansley Richards