

Loping Into a New Year



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RHF PRESIDENT MARK A. BLAKE

The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Futurity is a spectacular event every year, but I found it even more special with the emphasis on celebrating the association's 50th anniversary in 2016. The Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) is incredibly proud to be associated with the NRHA. Participating in many special activities during the Futurity allows RHF to fulfill its mission of caring for the reining community and honoring the sport's legacy.

From hosting the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the show grounds to visiting with current and potential donors, our Board members were busy throughout the event. NRHA is donating proceeds from the invitational freestyle on November 30 to RHF. The foundation and NRHA cohosted a Presidents' Breakfast at the NRHA Hall of Fame on December 2 to honor a half-century of leaders.

I extend a special thank you to donors Andreas Maschke, Silver Spurs Equine and Michael Miola for their contribution of a 50th anniversary saddle auctioned to benefit RHF. Also, we appreciate sculptor C.R. Morrison and William Bradley for generously arranging for the auction of a special 50th anniversary bronze paired with a beautiful buckle from NRHA Corporate Partner Montana Silversmiths. This small live auction raised \$29,000 for RHF programs. An anonymous donor made a very generous contribution to benefit the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund.

Thank you to all the Reiners Club donors and others who stepped up with annual giving commitments in the first year of this new program. We hope you feel good about the difference you are making in the world of Reining.

Now, we're on a fast lope into 2017. I invite you to attend the NRHA Winter Meeting in Fort Worth, where the RHF will hold a Board meeting and host the annual Hall of Fame Banquet. In addition, we invite all equine enthusiasts—whether active NRHA members or not—to a special reception at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Thursday, February 9. Advance reservations are encouraged and can be made online.

It's an exciting time of growth for the Reining Horse Foundation. We hope you'll join us on the ride!

Mark A. Blake

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