

Foundation's Message is Spreading

RHF PRESIDENT MARK A. BLAKE



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This is my first column since November 2017, so I'll start by complimenting the NRHA on an awesome Futurity show. Congratulations to all who competed, and a special tip of the hat to the champions!

As you all know, we recently held our inaugural Sliders' Night Out event, and we could not be more satisfied with the evening's success. We honored our sport's legacy through Vaughn Zimmerman's NRHA Hall of Fame induction and paid tribute to our Dale Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Lyle Lovett. The goal of Sliders' Night Out is to celebrate our past and share with our membership a better understanding of the RHF mission of caring for the reining community and honoring the sport's legacy. I truly believe the message is spreading, and we have plans to make this an annual event!

Thanks to a very hands-on and involved Board of Directors, we realized a marked increase across all giving levels in 2017. Furthermore, I am pleased to report we had a significant increase in donations by people renewing their NRHA membership or joining the association for the first time. There is significant growth in the Reiners Club, the RHF annual giving program. We're seeing more affiliate participant contributions through special classes at local and regional shows, and we've experienced an increase in donations through private functions.

This surge in activity and donations has allowed for an increase in our grants per Crisis Fund application—from \$500 per case only two years ago, to a maximum of \$5,000 in 2018! We are gratified to be adding an endowed scholarship through a generous contribution received in memory of Dale Harvey. It was added to by others, demonstrating the power of community.

On behalf of the Reining Horse Foundation Board of Directors, I congratulate everyone on another successful year, and thank you all for making it possible to help our fellow reiners in very meaningful ways. Good luck in the new year, and I look forward to seeing you at the second annual Sliders' Night Out in November 2018!

Mark A. Blake

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