

Reining Horse Foundation

NRHA Pros Are Giving Back

It's an honor for me to share the progress being made through the relationship between the NRHA Professionals Committee and the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF). My fellow professionals and I understand the need to stay involved and contribute to RHF regularly. Our committee is especially excited to join forces in creating ways to continue increasing the funds available to the RHF Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund.

On average, nearly three-fourths of Crisis Fund grants go to NRHA Professionals. Some years, that number is even higher, including in 2019 when it was 100%. In 2020, we added an option to donate to RHF when purchasing or renewing an NRHA Professional membership. This initiative came directly from our committee. Now, pros can automatically donate \$20 directly to RHF's Crisis Fund. Members may opt out, but the nominal fee will make such a difference for this cause as more people get involved. If each NRHA Professional gives in this way, it would generate \$25,000 for RHF in one year—that's a big contribution!

I encourage professionals to get involved in other ways, too, such as volunteering at RHF Boot Camps. In 2019, more than 20 professionals volunteered a day to assist with these clinics, with proceeds benefiting the Crisis Fund.

Another way to support is the Buy-A-Pro Auction, which benefits NRHA, a program of the Foundation. This program allows riders of all ages to purchase two lessons with an NRHA Professional, who donates their time and skill to benefit youth programming.

As a committee, we also want to

promote fun ways to bring our entire reining community together. In 2019, we debuted Reiners Rope at the National Reining Breeders Classic. This attempt saw so much success that we continued the effort at both the NRHA Derby and Best of the West. These events invited reiners to rope a dummy with a partner chosen by random draw, competing tournament-style for bragging rights and prizes. We're looking forward to initiating more fun activities like this in the future!

I know other NRHA Professionals are members of the RHF Reiners Club, which recognizes annual giving, and several took part by supporting the RHF's fundraising gala, Sliders' Night Out presented by Toyon Ranch, during the NRHA Futurity. No matter how you contribute to RHF, I'm proud to see my fellow NRHA Professionals supporting our reining community.

I look forward to staying involved in these and other programs in the coming years and appreciate all of the NRHA Professionals who've found their niche. It takes all of us pitching in financially or by giving our time to keep these great programs going.

To donate, visit reiningfoundation.com or contact director Leslie Baker, (405) 946-7400, ext. 106, rhf@nrha.com. ❖



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