

# Taking the Reins

**A**s I near the end of my second year as a member of the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) board of directors, I am reflecting on another amazing year of giving from and for the reining community. It is a privilege to serve on the RHF board, and I am thankful to be part of a year that brought a number of firsts to the charitable arm of NRHA.

The RHF distributed the highest total dollars for youth scholarships, with all programs combined offering more than \$60,000 to members of NRHyA. The youth in our sport today compete at such high levels, but that really pales in comparison to their leadership, dedication and commitment outside the arena.

The Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund is perhaps the RHF's most recognized program. I'm very proud that larger benchmark grants are available to trainers and NRHA members worldwide who have major need.

How great it was for the RHF to be showcased again at the great The Run For A Million in Las Vegas. The Raise A Million Auction brought new and exciting bid packages donated by diverse groups across multiple disciplines.

Table underwriting is selling faster than ever for the always fun end-of-year fundraiser Sliders' Night Out presented by Toyon Ranch. I hope you'll join the RHF as we celebrate and honor the NRHA Hall of Fame inductees and Dale Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. What great momentum we have going into next year!

While these are major highlights on their own, I am most excited about the new people being introduced to and educated about our industry. I've seen reiners finding opportunities to share our cause with other horse enthusiasts through pop-up events and small get-togethers. These types of events are perfect opportunities to encourage each other in the sport, enjoy fellowship and share personal stories about how the RHF has impacted lives, as well as how any amount of giving can affect the reining horse community.

This year also saw affiliate shows upping their support to the RHF by offering the opportunity for members to give a small amount to the charity at entry time through the "There is Power in \$10" program. This show-entry donation avenue is a consistent performer and provides an annual baseline of support for the RHF.

It is really special knowing these gifts come from all levels of reiners, who are taking the reins and making a difference supporting our sport and its members!



**Debbie Conway**  
RHF Board Member

To donate, visit [reiningfoundation.com](http://reiningfoundation.com), or contact the RHF at 405-946-7400, ext. 106, or [rhf@nrha.com](mailto:rhf@nrha.com).

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