

This is Community

Community. I have thought about it quite a bit lately. I have reflected on how grateful I am to be a part of the reining community. I hope I never take it for granted.

Like many people, in January, my attention was transfixed by the images of the Pacific Palisades and Altadena wildfires that ravaged parts of California. These uncontrollable wildfires consumed thousands of homes and took the lives of people, countless pets and animals in the wild. The fire left indelible before and after images of the carnage. It was a fire that wiped the “community” of Pacific Palisades off the map.

I have visited the Palisades many times in the past to see friends. As I watched news coverage, residents spoke of their profound sadness, not just over losing their homes and their neighbors’ homes, but over the loss of their community — the favorite restaurants to meet others at on Saturday nights; the schools where children gathered to learn and to play sports; the local ice cream and coffee shops; churches and synagogues; doctors’ and dentists’ offices — all gone. To lose your community in a matter of hours is unimaginable to us.

The dictionary defines “community” as 1) people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common and 2) a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals. In my opinion, belonging to a community is a crucial building block for mental wellbeing. It provides us with a sense of belonging, support and identity. This connection thrives

on having common interests, looking out for each other, and sharing life’s excitements as well as disappointments.

The Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) serves to make our own community stronger. The mission statement is simple: We care for and honor our reining community. Every year, donations large and small help fellow reiners in need.

The Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund helps those experiencing personal catastrophe from illness, accident or disaster. NRHyA programs and scholarships provide opportunities for youth leadership development and scholarships. The NRHA Hall of Fame honors the sport’s past.

If you are grateful for our reining community and would like to make a positive impact to keep it flourishing, please consider giving to RHF in ways that are meaningful to you. The options to support this organization are endless. I encourage you to reach out to Leslie Baker, executive director at the RHF, for ways to discuss your involvement.



Janice Laney
RHF board member

To donate, visit reiningfoundation.com, or contact the RHF at 405-946-7400, ext. 106, or rhf@nrha.com.



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