Welcome to the American Horse Council’s 2018 Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum

*Let’s Capitalize On It!*

June 10-13, 2018
Capital Hilton
Washington, DC
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and to our Gold Event Sponsors

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ATTORNEY AT LAW
Equine Law and Equine Regulation

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American Horse Council

2019

Annual Meeting & National Issues Forum

June 9-12, 2019

Washington Marriott Georgetown
Washington, DC

50 years 1969-2019
INDICATIONS
For the intramuscular treatment of non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic joint dysfunction and associated lameness of the carpal and hock joints in horses.

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• REVERSE the processes which result in the loss of cartilage components
• IMPROVE overall joint function and associated lameness

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Welcome to the American Horse Council’s 2018 Annual Meeting & National Issues Forum! We are so glad you were able to join us in here in Washington, DC for the only meeting where every segment of the industry gets together to discuss issues of importance to not only their respective fields, but to the industry as a whole.

The Annual Meeting kicks off Sunday, June 10 with the Unwanted Horse Coalition and Coalition of State Horse Councils Committee Meetings, followed by a Welcome Reception generously sponsored by the Coalition of State Horse Councils. Monday, June 11, will include committee meetings for the AHC’s 5 standing committees: Animal Welfare, Horse Show, Health & Regulatory, Recreation, and Racing. Attendance at a committee meeting is welcome to all until they go into executive session.

Monday will also spotlight the Van Ness Award, which is given to a member of a State Horse Council who has shown leadership and service to the horse community in his or her state. Following all committee meetings, join us for an Opening Reception in the Congressional Room, sponsored by Zoetis.

The theme of National Issues Forum (NIF), sponsored by Luitpold Animal Health, on Tuesday, June 12, is “Let’s Capitalize On It!” and will be packed with information and discussions on a variety of issues. The day will start out with Luis Benitez from the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Office, followed by the “Survey Says” panel and “Building the Youth Pipeline,” and noted author Fran Jurga will discuss Emerging Equestrian Technologies.

After lunch, the afternoon session will start off with Dan Ashe, CEO of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, and an inside look at the new Man ‘O War project from Ann Paulson and Drs. Yuval Neria and Prudence Fisher. Also featured will be a panel on new initiatives in Equine Aftercare as well as a Congressional Panel with representatives from the House Judiciary Committee and the H-2B Coalition. For the second year in a row, at the conclusion of the Issues Forum we will host five Breakout Discussion Sessions.

From 6-8 pm Tuesday, join members of Congress and meeting attendees at the Congressional Reception at the Decatur House, right next to the White House. The 2018 Rolapp Award will also be presented to a member of Congress during the reception.

The AHC will also hold its traditional “Ride-In” on Wednesday, June 12, where meeting attendees visit their representatives up on Capitol Hill. Be sure to keep an eye out for more information on our first ever Fall Ride-In, taking place sometime in September.

Don’t forget to pick up your meeting information and meeting bags upon arrival courtesy of Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred, and Maryland Million, Ltd.
Sunday, June 10

12:00 – 6:00  Registration  
Upper Lobby South

1:00 – 3:00  Industry Executive Meeting (Invitation Only)  
New York  
Speaker: Dan Lautman, DelCor Technology Solutions

3:00 – 5:00  Coalition of State Horse Councils Committee Meeting  
Massachusetts

3:00 – 5:00  Unwanted Horse Coalition  
Statler AB  
Topics to include: Welcome and Year in Review; Member Presentations: A Home for Every Horse, The Jockey Club, United States Trotting Association; Operation Chip and Equine Microchip Lookup Tool; Member’s Session

6:00 – 7:30  Welcome Reception  
South American AB  
sponsored by Coalition of State Horse Councils

Monday, June 11

7:30 – 5:00  Registration  
Upper Lobby South

Committee Meetings

9:00 – 4:00  Coalition of State Horse Councils  
Massachusetts

8:00 – 10:00  Animal Welfare Committee  
Federal AB  
Topics to include: Legislative Update, National Equine Disaster Preparedness Plan

10:00 – 11:30  Recreation, Trails & Land Use Committee  
New York  
Topics to include: House Natural Resources Committee Legislative Outlook; RNR Act; Bikes in the Wilderness; FLAIR Act; National Forest Trails Stewardship Act; Conservation, Private Lands Emerging Issues

11:30 – 12:45  Van Ness Award Luncheon  
Congressional  
sponsored by Populous

1:00 – 3:00  Racing Advisory Committee  
South American AB  
Topics to include: Immigration; Tax Reform; Horseracing Integrity Act; GAME Act of 2017; Sports Betting; Internet Gambling; Winnings Withholding; Racing in Economic Impact Study; Google Ads for ADW; After-care-EAT Funds

1:00 – 3:00  Health & Regulatory Committee  
Federal AB  
Topics to include: USDA-APHIS Update; NEHP & EDCC; Endangered Equine Alliance; Reportable Disease List; 60-90 Day CEM Rule; APHIS Stakeholder Meeting
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<td>3:00 – 5:00</td>
<td>Horse Show Committee</td>
<td>South American AB</td>
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<td><strong>Topics to include:</strong> Immigrations; HPA &amp; PAST Act; ELD/CDL; High Performance Import/Export; Show Entry Survey; Economic Impact Study; Equine Microchip Lookup Tool; Safe Sport; World Equestrian Games</td>
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<td>5:00 – 6:00</td>
<td>National Equine Health Plan Meeting (Invitation Only)</td>
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<td>6:00 – 7:30</td>
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**Tuesday, June 12**

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<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>7:00 – 8:00</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>8:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>National Issues Forum- Morning Session</td>
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<td>8:00 – 8:15</td>
<td>Welcome and Remarks</td>
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<td>Julie Broadway, AHC President</td>
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<td>James L. Gagliano, AHC Chairman</td>
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<td>8:15 – 8:45</td>
<td>Outdoor Recreation and Your State</td>
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<td>Luis Benitez, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Office</td>
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<td>8:45 – 9:30</td>
<td>Survey Says... Data and Trends in the Equine Industry</td>
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<td>Julie Broadway, Moderator, American Horse Council</td>
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<td><strong>Panel Participants:</strong></td>
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<td>Charlotte Hansen, American Veterinary Medical Association</td>
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<td>Jody McDaniel, USDA-NASS</td>
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<td>Tom Zitt, The Innovation Group</td>
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<td>9:30 – 9:45</td>
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<td>9:45 – 10:15</td>
<td>Emerging Equestrian Technologies</td>
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<td>Fran Jurga</td>
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<td>10:15 – 11:00</td>
<td>Building the Youth Pipeline</td>
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<td>Ty Cornelius and Kylie Good, Moderators, American Quarter Horse Youth Association</td>
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<td><strong>Panel Participants:</strong></td>
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<td>Katie Blodgett, PGA First Tee of Greater Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Ivan Levin, Outdoor Nation</td>
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<td>Rachel Piacenza, Recreational Boating &amp; Fishing Foundation</td>
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11:00 – 12:15  Lunch on Your Own

12:30 – 3:00  National Issues Forum- Afternoon Session  Congressional
sponsored by Luitpold Animal Health

12:30 – 1:00  Animal Welfare and Conservation
Dan Ashe, Association of Zoos & Aquariums

1:00 – 2:00  Man ‘O War Project
Ann Poulson, Man ‘O War Project
Dr. Prudence Fisher, Columbia University
Dr. Yuval Neria, Columbia University

2:00 – 2:45  Equine Aftercare Panel
Kathy Alm, Moderator, PATH International
Panel Participants:
Erin Crady, Thoroughbred Charities of America
Kristin Leshney, The Jockey Club/International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR)
Michael Tanner, United States Trotting Association

2:45 – 3:15  Congressional Panel
Laurie Flanagan, H-2B Coalition
Stephanie Gadbois, House Judiciary Committee

3:15 – 3:30  Break

3:30 – 5:00  Breakout Discussion Sessions
1. Disaster Preparedness & Response
2. Safe Sport
3. Immigration & Visa Challenges
4. Import/Export
5. Data & Trends- Next Steps

6:00 – 8:00  Congressional Reception
Decatur House, White House Historical Association
1610 H Street NW

Wednesday, June 13

9:00 – 5:00  Capitol Hill Visits/Congressional Ride-In
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Speaker Biographies

Industry Executive Meeting

Dan Lautman, DelCor Technology Solutions

As the Senior Consultant, Technology Management for DelCor, Dan Lautman has been working in the nonprofit and association sectors for more than 17 years, with more than a dozen years’ experience in the information technology field. A Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) and a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), Mr. Lautman works for DelCor Technology Solutions, where he provides IT consulting services to associations and non-profits in the realms of technology management, cybersecurity, network architecture, and cloud computing.

National Issues Forum

Luis Benitez, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

In June 2015 Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado tapped accomplished Eagle County mountaineer, guide and adventurer Luis Benitez as the state’s first director of the newly created Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office. Benitez, who has climbed Mt. Everest six times and serves on the Town of Eagle’s Board of Trustees, in addition to consulting on leadership development, will serve as an advocate for the state’s bustling outdoor industry, which includes not only the country’s most trafficked ski resorts, but a growing swell of small businesses.

Benitez’s credentials cover nearly every aspect of the outdoor world. He’s a widely respected mountain guide, having scaled the highest points on each continent a total of 32 times. The first time he summited Everest in 2001, he guided blind mountaineer Erik Weihenmayer.

He has served as the Rocky Mountain regional director of Outward Bound Professional and designed leadership development programs for Vail Resorts in Eagle County as the resort operator’s head of talent management. As a trustee in Eagle, he has advocated for the growth of the town’s singletrack network and helped plan a proposed whitewater playpark in a town park on the Eagle River.
Charlotte Hansen, American Veterinary Medical Association

Charlotte Hansen is an economist with the American Veterinary Medical Association specializing in equine economics and geographic information system mapping. Hansen performs statistical analysis, economic modeling, and creates reports. She also assists in the creation of survey instruments, and works on various geographic information system projects for the veterinary profession. Upon joining the veterinary economics division in 2016, Hansen obtained her master’s degree at the University of Kentucky in Agricultural Economics where her study focused on the willingness of horse owners to pay, to prevent secondary bacterial infections at the onset of equine influenza. Prior to obtaining her master’s degree Hansen received her B.A. in Geography from Virginia Tech and worked as a military contractor for five years performing analytics, mapping, database management, and military GIS standardization both in the D.C. area and Savannah, Georgia. Hansen has also published papers regarding Thoroughbred weanling auction prices and Thoroughbred sire stud fees.

Jody McDaniel, USDA- NASS

McDaniel is the Chief - Environmental, Economics and Demographics Branch at USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. He leads staff with the responsibility for producing primary federal data on topics as wide ranging as grain crushing, local food marketing, cash rents, and chemical usage, as well as related topics published in the every-five-year Census of Agriculture.
Tom Zitt, PhD, The Innovation Group

Since joining The Innovation Group in 1997, Tom has excelled at market analytics and high-level strategic planning, earning with his reports a reputation for accuracy and reliability unsurpassed in the gaming industry. He is currently Executive Vice President.

Tom is based in New Orleans but directs training, modeling, and quality control for all of the company’s offices. The depth of his analysis provides tribes, developers, and government bodies with the confidence that their decisions are being made on sound economic foundations, and the methodological soundness and comprehensiveness of his expert witness reports have been critical in his clients’ success in a number of legal proceedings.

Working with a number of Native American tribes, Tom has led master planning efforts for both tribal and commercial development. He has conducted numerous highest and best use and economic diversification assessments to establish feasible development opportunities. In addition to his project management skills, Tom is also well versed in green building practices, including LEED, and has written about the financial viability of sustainable casinos for publications such as Casino Design.

Tom received his master’s degree in American Studies from the University of Wyoming and his doctorate from Bowling Green State University.

Fran Jurga

Fran Jurga’s ears are up...but her feet are on the ground. She is aware of the world around her, and loves the challenge of tracking down and interpreting the latest news and research about horse care, equestrian sport, wildlife, and the marine world.

Fran holds a Bachelor’s degree in publishing and journalism from Simmons College and has been featured, published and quoted in major publications and programming including The New York Times, The BBC, NBC Sports, ESPN, The Boston Globe, Smithsonian Magazine, The Today Show, Money Magazine, and Children’s Television Workshop (PBS). Her articles have appeared in most equestrian sport and equine care publications and she is the author of three books, ranging from travel and food culture to the care of horses’ feet. Fran has created award-winning event coverage blogs and websites, documenting equestrian sports at two Olympic Games, the World Equestrian Games, director Steven Spielberg’s “War Horse” film, and the historic US tour of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna.
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Ty Cornelius, American Quarter Horse Youth Asso-

Ty Cornelius of Mt. Pleasant, Arkansas will be a college sophomore at Arkansas State University this fall, majoring in business, and has served as the 2017-18 AQHYA president. Ty has previously been the AQHYA second vice president and president of the Arkansas Quarter Horse Association. Ty is a third-generation American Quarter Horse enthusiast and has worked to increase youth membership and share the experiences AQHYA can offer with new members. One of Ty's favorite memories on the AQHYA leadership team has been the opportunity to advocate for the industry on Capitol Hill the past three years.

Kylie Good, American Quarter Horse Youth Asso-

Kylie Good of East Berlin, Pennsylvania will be attending York College in Pennsylvania to major in Supply Chain Operations Management and minor in finance. Kylie is currently serving as the AQHYA first vice president. Kylie has enjoyed strengthening the AQHYA Public Policy Committee this year through the use of educational webinars and a newsletter. She has also enjoyed working to engage youth and adult leaders in her region through another successful conference and promoting AQHYA and the many opportunities for AQHYA members.

Katie Blodgett, PGA First Tee of Greater Washington, DC

Katie Blodgett is the Director of Programming for The First Tee of Greater Washington, DC. She oversees all delivery channels (Life Skills Experience Classes, National School Program, and outreach). She has been with The First Tee of Greater Washington, DC for 5 years. Katie received her Master of Education in Counseling Psychology from Springfield College. She has been playing golf for most of her life. Being a part of The First Tee has given her the opportunity to combine her passion for golf and youth development.

The First Tee provides life skill and golf instruction to young people of all backgrounds through various delivery channels. For
Ivan Levin, Outdoor Nation

Ivan Levin joined the Outdoor Foundation in February 2011 and is the Deputy Director, overseeing all of the Foundation’s grant making, engagement and activation programs, research and many strategic partnerships. He is a frequent speaker on how to engage young adults in outdoor activities and connect them to green spaces and public lands. Ivan is also an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA with the School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism and is an alumnus of the Salzburg Global Seminar’s session on Parks for the Planet. Ivan holds a BS in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism with a concentration in outdoor recreation from the Radford University and a Masters in Recreation Resource Management from Frostburg State University.

Rachel Piacenza, Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation

Rachel Piacenza is the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation’s (RBFF) Director of Marketing, leading the foundation’s national consumer and state marketing brand strategies. She has 10 years’ experience working with state fish and wildlife agencies in a marketing capacity. In her current role, Rachel oversees and directs all consumer marketing planning, execution and evaluation for RBFF’s Take Me Fishing™ and Vamos a Pescar™ brands.

Prior to joining RBFF, Rachel worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Bureau of Fisheries Management. As marketing manager for WDNR, she developed statewide recruitment, retention and reactivation programs, as well as youth aquatic education programs.

Rachel earned a BBA in Marketing and General Business from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater in 2006. During her time away from the office, Rachel is an avid angler and enjoys staying active and coaching youth sports.
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Dan Ashe, Association of Zoos & Aquariums

Dan is the President and Chief Executive Officer of our organization of 232 aquariums, zoos and science centers and more than 6,000 individual members. With his team of staff members and over 400 committee member volunteers, Dan is charged with advancing AZA’s vision, mission and strategic priorities.

A lifelong animal conservationist, Dan joined AZA in January 2017 after serving as the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for nearly six years, successfully leading the agency, and its thousands of employees, during a period of great challenges. Following a 13-year career as a professional staff member of the former Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in the U.S. House of Representatives, Dan held positions of increasing responsibility at the Service. They include Assistant Director for External Affairs, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, Science Advisor to the Director and Deputy Director.

Dan earned a bachelor degree in Biological Science from Florida State University, and graduate degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, where he studied under a fellowship from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation.

Ann Poulson, Man ‘O War Project

Mrs. Poulson is a lifelong horsewoman, who together with her husband, owns and operates Hare Forest Farm (a thoroughbred breeding and racing farm in Orange, VA). Mrs. Poulson graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. and J.D. and practiced law in Washington, DC with Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells). She is a former President of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and former Chairman of the Virginia Racing Commission. She has served on numerous non-profit boards and currently serves on several equestrian industry boards, including the NTRA Horse PAC and Equestricon, and is Chairman of the Washington International Horse Show. Mrs. Poulson serves as Strategic Advisor to Columbia University Irving Medical Center on the Man O’ War Project – an important research study on the effectiveness of equine-assisted therapy for veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
**Dr. Prudence Fisher, Columbia University**

Dr. Fisher is Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatric Social Work (in Psychiatry) at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Research Scientist at New York State Psychiatric Institute (Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry). Dr. Fisher’s main research focus has been on mental health assessment measures for youth and she has been instrumental in the development of many widely used diagnostic tools, including numerous versions of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC), the most widely used diagnostic interview for youth, the Children’s Global Assessment Scale (CGAS), the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), among others. She regularly collaborates with investigators at Columbia and many other institutions and consults with federal and state agencies. She is a scientific advisory board member at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and on the Editorial Board for Archives of Suicide Research. Dr. Fisher has authored more than 70 articles and book chapters, primarily focused on diagnostic assessment, PTSD and suicide. She is Principal Investigator, with Yuval Neria, Ph.D., on the Man O’ War research project. For this, they developed and manualized a well specified method for providing equine-assisted therapy to veterans with PTSD (EAT-PTSD) – the first of its kind – which they are now testing in a clinical trial.

**Dr. Yuval Neria, Columbia University**

Yuval Neria is Professor of Medical Psychology at Columbia University, Departments of Psychiatry and Epidemiology, and Director of Trauma and PTSD at the New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI). Neria’s body of work was deeply influenced by his war experiences. He was injured in the Yom Kippur 1973 War and at the age of 22 was awarded the Medal of Valor, the highest decoration for combat bravery in Israel.

Dr. Neria joined Columbia University Medical Center in 2002, and since then has led and collaborated on numerous epidemiological, clinical, and neuroimaging studies in trauma and PTSD. He has conducted large-scale studies among prisoners of war, war veterans, and victims of terrorism and disasters, and led large scale research and training programs in New York City after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

In the last seven years, Neria’s lab is focused on translational studies aiming to identify behavioral and neural markers for trauma related psychopathology, and develop innovative treatments for civilians and military personnel with PTSD. By using multimodal Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and a number of novel paradigms focusing on fear circuitry, his lab was able to identify brain and behavioral markers of trauma and PTSD, and to probe highly needed biomarkers of clinical improvement in response to PTSD treatments. He has authored more than 180 articles and book chapters, and edited four textbooks focusing on the mental health consequences of exposure to trauma.
**Kathy Alm, PATH International**

Kathy Alm began her service as Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International (PATH Intl.) in August 2014. For the previous 15 years she served as Executive Director of Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville, WA. She grew the previously grass roots organization from a $280,000 annual operating budget to a professional $2.1 million organization. Kathy’s board service includes PATH Intl’s board from 2005 – 2013, including the office of board president, Founder/Board member of the Director of Disabilities Organization, Board Member of the Alliance of Eastside Agencies as well as Founder/Board member of Theatre Puget Sound. She holds a BA from Pacific Lutheran University. Her dedication to the field of Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies spans over 19 years with a passion that was ignited the moment she walked through the door at her first therapeutic riding center.

**Erin Crady, Thoroughbred Charities of America**

Erin Crady is the executive director of Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA), a non-profit organization that provides grants to approved charitable organizations working to provide Thoroughbred rehabilitation, retraining, rehoming and retirement; backstretch and farm worker employee programs; equine research; and equine-assisted therapy programs. Since 1990, TCA has distributed over $22 million in grants to more than 200 charities.

Crady entered the Thoroughbred industry in 2006 as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA). In 2008, TCA became the charitable arm of TOBA, and in 2009, Crady began effectively splitting her time between the two organizations. In January 2014, Crady resigned her TOBA duties and moved into a full-time role with TCA. She is responsible for all fundraising and the facilitation of grant-making activities within the organization.

Prior to her work with TOBA and TCA Crady worked as an account executive and media buyer for Group 5 Advertising in Gainesville, Florida. She also previously worked as an account executive for an online gaming company in New York, New York. She is a graduate of St. Lawrence University and also has a Master of Arts in Media Communications.
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Kristin Leshney, The Jockey Club/International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR)

Kristin serves as Senior Counsel for The Jockey Club. In this role, she works with other members of The Jockey Club’s legal team as well as each of The Jockey Club’s for-profit subsidiary companies and not-for-profit organizations on a wide variety of contracts and legal issues. Kristin is also involved with The Jockey Club’s industry initiatives related to the welfare and safety of the racehorse and aftercare, including the Equine Injury Database, the Thoroughbred Incentive Program and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

Kristin graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Political Science and Sociology and from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and is involved with numerous industry committees including the Unwanted Horse Coalition, the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit and the Racing Officials Accreditation Program.

Michael Tanner, United States Trotting Association

Mike Tanner is the executive vice president/chief executive officer of the USTA. Tanner is the ninth EVP in the organization’s history.

Tanner came to the Association following a stint as the director of racing operations at Harrah’s Chester Casino & Racetrack (October 2005-December 2008). Previously, Tanner held a variety of positions in Thoroughbred racing at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla., from 1993-2005, including director of marketing, media and simulcasting; assistant to the president; and director of communications. He performed special assignments at various Magna Entertainment Corp. holdings, did additional work for the Breeders’ Cup from 2001-2003, and was a member of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Technology Group’s communications task force in 2002. He began his management career in 1992 at Ladbroke Detroit Race Course.

Tanner sits on a variety of industry-related boards of directors, including that of the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program. Since his start at the USTA, he has been honored with the Lewis Barasch Breakthrough Award (2008), the John Hervey Award for outstanding harness racing column (2012), and the Harness Horsemen International’s “Dominic Frinzi Person of The Year” (2015).

Tanner graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1988. He completed graduate work in clinical psychology at Bowling Green State University from 1989-1991, and subsequently obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from The Ohio State University. He and his wife, Gail, reside in Blacklick, Ohio.
Stephanie Gadbois, House Judiciary Committee

Stephanie Gadbois is a Senior Counsel for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. Stephanie advises Chairman Bob Goodlatte on agricultural guestworker issues and oversees the Committee’s appropriations and budget-related activities.

Prior to this role, Stephanie served for five years at the House Appropriations Committee, where she managed aspects of the Departments of Agriculture and Department of Justice’s spending accounts. Prior to her work at the House Appropriations Committee, Stephanie served the House Agriculture Committee for seven years under Chairmen Larry Combest and Bob Goodlatte.

During her tenure at the House Agriculture Committee, Stephanie worked on mandatory price reporting, country of origin labeling, disaster assistance, nutrition, animal welfare, and many other issues, including – of course – reform of the H-2A agricultural guestworker program.

Stephanie is a native of Sandusky, Ohio. She received B.A. in English from Kent State University and a J.D. from the University of Toledo, College of Law.

Laurie Flanagan, H-2B Coalition

Laurie-Ann Flanagan is Executive Vice President at DCLRS with over 17 years of experience in the federal legislative and regulatory process. She is a trusted advisor and strategist at DCLRS with expertise in a variety of issues including energy, labor and immigration, pesticides and fertilizers, small business, and water policy. In addition to lobbying government officials, Laurie assists clients with strategic government relations planning. She advises clients on upcoming regulatory and legislative initiatives that could impact their businesses and helps them understand the steps needed to ensure successful advocacy efforts.

Prior to DCLRS, Laurie worked for Stateside Associates, Inc., a state government consulting firm. She previously worked for Senator John Seymour (R-CA) researching environmental and energy legislation and served as legislative aide for New York Assemblyman Robert Gaffney (R). She has also worked for several national and local political campaigns. Laurie is active in Women in Government Relations (WGR) and served on the organization’s board for six years, including as treasurer from 2010-2012.

Laurie earned her masters of business administration from The George Washington University in 2001. She graduated from the Catholic University of America magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa with both bachelors and masters degrees in international politics in 1994.
Kathleen Smith is the Director of Intake & Program Services for the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Prior to the Center, Smith spent five years with the University of Oklahoma’s Institutional Equity and Title IX Office where she oversaw the investigation of sexual misconduct, gender discrimination and sexual harassment complaints. In this role, Smith supervised a team of investigators, while also investigating, preparing reports and issuing findings in complex and high-profile cases. She created and presented Title IX and active bystander training programs to educate faculty, staff and student groups across campus. In addition, Smith taught as an adjunct instructor within the University of Oklahoma Price College of Business from 2007 to 2015.

Prior to joining the University of Oklahoma, Smith trained and supervised volunteers with the Cleveland County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, serving abused and neglected children. Smith also served 11 years as appellate defense counsel for the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System. From 2001 to 2005, Smith, on behalf of the DNA Forensic Testing Program, evaluated and investigated innocence claims of several hundred convicted sex offenders seeking exoneration through DNA testing. From 2005 to 2012, Smith composed appellate briefs and conducted evidentiary hearings in capital and non-capital homicide cases. Smith, who received her Juris Doctor with distinction from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, has also practiced law privately.

Smith received her bachelor’s degree in liberal arts and sciences from the University of Central Oklahoma. She is a member of the Bar of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States.
As the saying goes, there is strength in numbers, and members of the American Horse Council (AHC) are critical to ensuring that our industry has a voice on Capitol Hill.

Join us for our special fall Fly-In in September to visit your members of Congress and have your voice be heard.

Contact AHC Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Bryan Brendle, for more information and for assistance in scheduling appointments.

Let’s Put More HORSEpower In Congress!
Economic Impact of the Horse Industry
IN THE UNITED STATES

Total Value Added to the US Economy: $122 billion

Total Employment Impact: 1,744,747 Jobs

Direct Contribution to GDP: $50 billion

Direct Employment Impact: 988,394 Jobs

7.2 million horses in the United States

#1 767,100 horses
#2 534,500 horses
#3 387,100 horses

In total, 30.5% of households—or 38 million—contain horse enthusiasts.

80.9 million acres of land in the United States used for horse-related purposes.

Horse Ownership, Equine Institutions & Profit Making Organizations, and Tourism Spending by Participants and Spectators combine for a $215 billion economic impact

1,370,000 Number of U.S. residents volunteering their time for horse-related activities.
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