

Affiliate Advisory Board:

Region 1

[Ed McNelis](#)

AK, ID, OR, WA

Region 2

[Debbi Stockstill](#)

MT, NE, ND, SD, WY

Region 3

[Bill Horton- chair](#)

IL, IA, MN, MO, WI

Region 4

[Bennie Sargent](#)

IN, KY, MI, OH, WV

Region 5

[Larry Jaynes](#)

DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA

Region 6

[Emily King](#)

CT, ME, MA, NH, VT

Region 7

[Marty Simper](#)

AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT

Region 8

[Dawn Forest](#)

CO, KS, NM, OK, TX

Region 9

[Sally Blackwell](#)

AL, AR, LA, MS, TN

Region 10

[Gale Little](#)

FL, GA, NC, SC

Region 11

[Victor Wolf](#)

International

Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion!
Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Message to Affiliates from Bill Horton, Affiliate Advisory Board Chair



Well, summer seems to have arrived and I am sure your affiliate's 2023 season is in full swing with shows, races, and events such as clinics and trail rides.

Hello, my name is Bill Horton, AQHA Director Emeritus from Iowa and the new chairman of the AQHA Affiliate Advisory Board. I'd like to take this opportunity to connect you with this board.

The AQHA Affiliate Advisory Board is made up from a group of highly dedicated individuals from each AQHA region who serve in an advisory role to AQHA and AQHA Affiliates on affiliate programs and policies. We are your connection between your state/province and Amarillo.

The general mission for the affiliate advisory board is to bring a number of knowledgeable, conscientious individuals into a defined area of the Association's activity; to continually examine and make sound recommendations to the governing body of the Association; to better achieve the Association's goals and objectives for the betterment of the AQHA Affiliate program and members of the Association.

So, what does that mean for you? Each member of the Affiliate Advisory Board is tasked with communicating with the affiliate leaders in their region regarding your events and activities or issues of concern. We need your help to help us help YOU.

The advisory board meets once a month via conference calls. We share information between the regions and work to enhance the development of the Affiliate/AQHA partnership. As a group, we review affiliate participation in AQHA programs and are working on some new opportunities for affiliates and their membership.

One of our major undertakings the last two years was to bring the AIM Rally to the AQHA Convention. Both years the event proved to be a huge success and we are looking forward to having a presence during the new education platform during the 2024 AQHA Convention in Las Vegas. I hope that all our affiliate leaders will make plans to attend next year - South Point plays a great host to us with an affordable convention, and if you have not attended one before, I personally invite you to come next year.

Have a great ride,

Bill



“Organizations that do not celebrate the past have no future”

By Ed McNelis

First let me set the records straight with a confession. I am hooked on the people and horses of the AQHA and all that goes with them. Further I am hooked on the Hall of Fame program both at the Affiliate level and at AQHA. I was present at the opening and dedication of the Hall of Fame and Museum. It was a huge high point in my life and when I finished the tour and reading about the people and horses I wept with emotion and pride.

I have helped build Affiliate Hall of Fame programs, engaged in the selection of worthy candidates, and helped with the induction ceremonies and celebrations. It is a very fulfilling process and is very engaging for all members. It is a remarkable activity that is a huge positive force for our Industry, our organizations and individuals and their families. This is the stuff movies and books are about.

It took ten years for me to get a very deserving candidate into the AQHA Hall of Fame. He was born in 1886 thus was gone before I started the process. It took research, travel, meetings, interviews, time, and energy. I wrote articles, met people, and did heavy lifting. I was rewarded at every turn. The ultimate reward was being with thirty proud grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great- great- grandchildren as well as many wonderful members, and staff during the event and ceremony at the AQHA Hall of Fame in Amarillo.

Affiliate Hall of Fame programs can be a huge part of your organizations very foundation and is a wonderful way to celebrate those who walk among us and did great work. It makes such a difference in everyone's life to be part of this program and celebrate deserving individuals.

I liken this to the great statement: **“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit” – an ancient Greek proverb.**

Remember your MVP Nominations will be due no later than October 1, 2023.

If you need anything please email me at [Shelly Spears - sspears@aqha.org](mailto:sspears@aqha.org) or call me at (806) 378-4712.

**HELP YOUR
AFFILIATE WIN A
JOHN DEERE
GATOR.**



**AND SHARE
SAVINGS
ON AQHA MEMBERSHIPS.**

Make sure to join us on the Town Hall Q & A on Thursday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m., central time.

CALL IN INFORMATION: 1+ 213-379-5229, 907997157#