Many of you know me from seeing me stand in the middle of the pen judging or doing clinics but I would like to give you some details as to what has led me on this journey. Let me begin by saying I am deeply humbled to be asked to be an Executive Committee candidate.

I was one of the lucky children that was raised in a horse show family. My father was a very successful horse trainer and we showed extensively from the time I was a youth and that passion never left my heart. We showed horses of all breeds and started at the open shows in northern Illinois. One of my dad’s favorite words of wisdom was a good horse is a good horse regardless of color! That has stuck with me throughout my horse training career.

After showing and training many years I felt the desire to give back to the horse industry through judging. I had the utmost respect for the APHA industry and wanted to get more involved with this breed. I attended a few World shows as a spectator and was very impressed with the level of competition and the quality of the horses. I became a life member in 1994 and applied for my judge’s card in 1996 and have been fortunate to have judged major APHA shows throughout the world. I still felt a desire to do more with the APHA and was thrilled when asked if I would run for a director. I feel this association has so much potential and I wanted to be involved! I was appointed to the judge’s committee and was honored to be chairman of the judge’s committee for the last three years. I am also a member of the APHA Professional Horsemen.

I have been heavily involved with my family in the Appaloosa business for many years and am also an AQHA judge and an AQHA professional horseman. I feel that my involvement with these other associations has given me the experience to see the success and failures that have happened throughout the years. The horse industry has changed tremendously, and it is time for all associations to think outside of the box! I have served on several committees for the ApHC but never felt the desire to become involved as a director. I admire the structure and the leadership of the APHA and feel like this association is ready to try new ideas to move forward.

I am an outside the box type of thinker and love the APHA convention where we can brainstorm together. So many great ideas come from listening to our members. There is nothing I like more than talking about horses and the APHA has made me feel like part of their family. I am a good listener and a good communicator. I think my outside involvement with other aspects of the horse industry give me the opportunity to look at issues with fresh eyes and bring in new ideas. It is so refreshing that the leadership of APHA is always open to listening to new ideas!

I am also involved in the NRCHA and NRHA and have seen many opportunities for the APHA to register the paint horses being shown in these arenas. I think with my involvement we could reach out to these owners and trainers and let them know of the opportunities available for them in the APHA. I feel programs could be developed that could benefit APHA and the breeders of these performance horses.

I am the type of person that will go research issues and listen to the memberships before forming opinions. If I don’t know the answer, I know the people to go ask to find the right information. I feel the biggest challenge for the APHA at this moment is keeping our youth involved in showing. I feel the APHA has done a great job with their scholarship program, but I think the youth program is an area we always need to strive to improve.

The other challenge we have in the APHA is keeping value to our breeding programs. Shipped semen changed the entire breeding industry and while it helped sell breedings it made it difficult for breeding farms to get people to come to the ranch. These people would bring their mares and maybe they would see a baby in the field and possibly a potential sale. This doesn’t happen so much anymore. We need to keep a value on our APHA stallions, but we must also realize the value right now is on the APHA quality broodmare. This is an area where we need to think outside the box but also remember the work of the founders of the APHA.

The aspect of the APHA I have been the most passionate about is the judging program. I feel the judges set the standards for our breeders and our trainers. Our Horse IQ program is so well accepted throughout the industry and is such an outstanding educational tool for our judges and exhibitors. Our mandatory testing for our judges has set a standard in the industry and has shown our exhibitors that we are striving for improvement. This was not a popular decision when the judge’s committee Implemented this but has made a great statement to our exhibitors. We implemented the judges’ emeritus awards to honor those judges who have given so much to the APHA. I was honored to do the first APHA testing in Australia for APHA judging applicants. This has led to more APHA shows in Australia and that only promotes memberships, registrations and transfers! Being an APHA judge since 1996 I have seen many changes and foresee more improvements in the future!

The other area I am so excited about is the headquarters move to the Ft. Worth Stockyards. I see so much potential for new memberships and education through this move. I want to take this time to thank all of you involved in this giant step in an exciting direction! I feel we can offer so much education of all levels at the headquarters which will only promote our horses!

Once again, I am truly humbled to even be considered for the Executive Committee. I feel like part of the APHA family and I hope this information has helped you get to know the woman who has stood in the center of the arena so many times! I invite you to attend the 2020 APHA convention at the APHA Headquarters in the Stockyards. I hope you’ll encourage your area’s director to vote for me as a committee member of the EC. I hope you will take the time to sit and have a cup of coffee with me and let me know your concerns! Like I said before, no one likes to talk horses more than me! I look forward to seeing you at Convention and hope to serve you in the future. Feel free to call me to discuss any issues or ideas.