

## Farewell.....

Another show season has come to a close. The successes and learning experiences of 2017 have already been noted, and plans for the upcoming year are already beginning to shape the planning and developmental phases for the upcoming show season.

The Intermountain Reining Horse Association is an organization that is built upon passion, hard work, determination, and a strong grassroots history that have been developed for decades and generations. A lot has changed in the past ten years, the past twenty years, and since the beginning of the Intermountain Reining Horse Association. There are still many early and original members to this day that seek the growth of the IRHA, they help and support its members, and most of all they bring history to invigorate the present and better the future. We also have many newer members that have had much to do with the current success of our organization they have brought new ideas and energy that have been of benefit to the club. The thing that all of these people, old and new, have in common is they are looking out for the betterment and best interest of the club as a whole. The secret to any club, organization, group, or association; is the people running it, contributing to it, involved in it, all have to have one common denominator for success to happen or to continue to happen. That is they must look out for the organization as a whole, and do what is in the Best Interest of the All the members.

I remember being six years old attending a Noel Skinner Clinics that he use to give on week nights (Later finding out that he would donate money to the IRHA as their startup money). These clinics were inspiring and encouraged growth. We all wanted more knowledge, better horses; we wanted to learn to ride and slide, to spin, run controlled fast circles; we wanted to be a part of the greatest equine sport there was. When I was eight I entered a Queen Contest put on by the Utah Quarter Horse Association. I entered only because they had a reining pattern for horsemanship. Two years later I won the Utah Quarter Horse Association Queen contest which gave me an experience that shaped me into who I am today; it was my job to attend the reining portion of the Utah Quarter Horse Association Fall Futurity. It was an experience that gave direction to who I am today. The competition had all the top reiners from the Western United States; and this was when I met my husband Jim who rode a memorable bay mare. It was two and a half days of great reining and I was for sure that is what I wanted to do when I grew up. I continued with the rodeo queen competitions (mainly for the horsemanship portion). In High School Rodeo I set a goal to make it to nationals and my Junior year my goal was achieved. I was crowned the Utah High School Rodeo Association Queen and the National High School Rodeo Association first runner-up on a barrel horse that me and my mom picked out because it had a Great slide stop and was deadly leaded (.....all of the qualities you look for in a barrel horse (lol)). At this time I felt my dreams were finally starting to take shape to what I envisioned. As time went on I built my way up to buying a reining horse, it was for rodeo queen competitions to start out with, but I always wanted to build it into much more.

After high school rodeo I decided to become a part of the sport I aspired to since I was six. I felt like I had finally had enough experience to step-up to the next level. At that time I rode as many horses as I could buying some of my own and riding some of Jim Montgomery's. I would ride as much as I could so I could learn, so I could get better, so I could find great horses, so I could rein..... It was a goal, an honor, and the next level in horsemanship.

I have been currently been a member of the Intermountain Reining Horse Association for the past seventeen years and have served as an officer for the past twelve. On top of that I was the chairman of the AQHA Region Seven for five years. Through my experiences on the board, as past secretary, past vice president, and

president I realize that leadership is essential in setting a tone of unity and improvement, but you must be surrounded by a good board, good show staff, a supportive family and club members that want to see each other succeed. We are in a competitive sport but there are some basic rules that make and will keep this industry and association a success; Working Together so things work for everybody, and business creates business. I was lucky enough, as my time serving the Intermountain Reining Horse Association as your president; to be surrounded by a supportive board, a good show staff, and a very supportive husband and family. Everyone in my life, from my husband and family (close and extended), to our barn help, to our customers has been effected and impacted by the leadership positions I have been in the past twelve years and the past three have been the most consuming. All of this time is donated and is not a paid position, it is just something I am passionate about. The opportunity I have had to learn from all of you over the years, and to get to know many of you better; has been a true blessing and experience that cannot be replaced. I am enriched by the association, its members, the challenges, and the successes; but, most of all serving in something I feel passionate about.....The Sport of Reining.

Now it is time for the next era of leadership to take place. We have moved 17 miles northwest of St. George to Veyo, UT. and are currently running our business at Canyon Creek Ranch. It is a wonderful move enriched with many new experiences and people.

The club is always seeking those that can selflessly give their time and support, and continue the success of the Intermountain Reining Horse Association. If the club is strong and well rooted with positive support and a strong group that works together in unison for the goals of the group; it will continue to be one of the greatest and largest NRHA Affiliates in the Western United States. We have donated countless hours, and now it is our time to focus on our future goals and endeavors in the show and training arena; in our new area. We wish the future leadership of the IRHA luck. We'll see you all down the road at the show.

Happy Trails,

Tiffany Montgomery

IRHA President