

For your consideration, Candidate Monty Holmes, Territory 5, Zone A.



Dear ApHC Members,

I am asking for your support of my candidacy for the position of ApHC director representing Territory V, Zone A. As you may know, I was appointed to fill the first year of this three-year term until a special election could be held to seat a director for the full term. I had planned to run in the past, but decided not to since the previous director was running for reelection. I felt that continuity was important and did not want to create any division in the zone.

As a way of introduction, I have been a member of the ApHC since 1992. As an active member of the Arkansas Appaloosa Horse Club, I have served on its board for many years. I also had the privilege of serving as its president for five years. My family's attraction to the ApHC was the Youth and Non Pro programs. We raised two daughters in the ApHC Youth program and my wife, Suzi, has enjoyed success showing as a Non Pro in regional shows, as well as at the National and World Show. Now that our children are grown, we raise a few foals and show, just waiting for our two grandsons to get big enough to ride with us.

Having served on the ApHC board this past year, I have been very enlightened to most of the issues facing the ApHC and its members across the country. As the economy affects each of us, so it does the many facets of our industry. Whether we show, breed, race, trail ride, rodeo or whatever, we find that we have to do more with less and closer to home. This is also true at the regional club level and with the ApHC.

Finding the balance between preserving member services and maintaining financial solvency is the challenge that is before us at this time. The decisions that are made by the board have a profound effect on so many in the Appaloosa community. Therefore, it is necessary that we deliberate carefully when considering any changes in the programs and rules that affect us all. We must concentrate on those things that will improve our breed, the marketability of our horses and the pleasure of owning them. We must provide and maintain a level and affordable playing field that will allow the membership to participate in the disciplines of their choice. We must all work together to improve the image of the Appaloosa Horse Club so that we can retain current members and attract new ones.

Some of the issues that are of interest to me are:

- Find ways to help the regional clubs maintain and grow membership and participation.
- Retain membership and introduce new people to the ApHC through the Youth and Non Pro programs, as well as the many specialty associations available.
- Promoting the Appaloosa horse through venues outside the ApHC show ring such as ACAAP, NRHA, NCHA, AHSA, NBRA, AERC, NHSRA, etc.
- Improving the Appaloosa Journal by making it truly speak to and for the membership while being our greatest ambassador to the rest of the equine world.
- Assist in guiding the ApHC staff to better understand the membership's needs.

As your director, if elected to continue to serve, I pledge to you that I will make myself available to you. I will listen to your concerns. I will present your suggestions and ideas to the board and its committees for consideration. We may not always agree totally on every issue, but I will put my own desires aside to represent the position of the majority of the members of the territory. The greatest compliment that I ever received from a fellow ApHC member was from a lady in the Arkansas club. She and her family have been involved with the ApHC since back in the 1950's. Her comment to me was: "I may not have always agreed with you on everything; but, I never doubted that you have the best interest of the club at heart". I thank her for her kind words, and I will thank you for your vote in this election for director for Territory V, Zone A.

Monty L. Holmes

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