

A Great Year!

BY LERIN THOMAS

The 2017 NRHyA officer team had a busy year of traveling and advocating for the Association at many different events held throughout the year. The hard work the team put in this year was appreciated and made an impact on many youth members who are a part of NRHyA, and many who are members of other equine organizations.

In January, the team held their annual youth meeting and summit at the NRHA Winter Meeting, which was held in Fort Worth, Texas where Katie Hollingsworth with The Western Integrity Agency was the featured speaker for the youth reining workshop. The youth learned about each person's strengths and how to put those strengths to use in leadership positions. Then, in April several officers traveled to the AYHC Symposium in Boston to represent NRHyA. The officer team also



DAWN BANSTROM

From left to right: Reagan Stephens, Liz Blaser, Taylor Masson, Kenleigh Wells, Morgan Knerr



DAWN BANSTROM

The 2017 NRHyA Officer Team welcomed youth members to the youth meeting held at the 2017 NRHA Derby

was able to be involved in the annual presentation of NRHA awards and present a few awards to the best of the best in the reining horse industry.

From there, it was full-speed ahead to the 2017 NRHA Derby in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This NRHA event is one that many in our industry look forward to, including seeing old friends, making new ones, and learning some new things along the way.

The officer team was involved in many activities during the event that ranged from scavenger hunts,



BUCKY HARRIS

2017 NRHyA Officer team at the Hall of Fame Banquet. From left to right: Liz Blaser, Reagan Stephens, Morgan Knerr, Kenleigh Wells, Taylor Masson.

craft stations, community service activities, speech contests and of course, competing in their respective classes.

After the Derby, a few of the NRHyA officers headed to Amarillo, Texas to the AQHA Youth Excellence Seminar (YES). This conference was very beneficial for the officer team and was a great opportunity to share more about the reining horse industry and learn more about the different equine industries. The officer team was able to visit the AQHA headquarters and Hall of Fame, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Cadillac Ranch and much more.

One of the most memorable moments from this conference was going to Snack Pac 4 Kids warehouse to pack lunches for children in need in the Amarillo and surrounding areas. These packs go home with children during the weekend who are unable to have a meal. It was rewarding to be able to join together with other youth members in the equine industry to achieve one common goal and help others.

Also during the AQHA YES Conference, NRHyA President Morgan Knerr sat in on a panel of equine associations during a roundtable discussion and talked about the NRHA and what impact it has on its youth members. She did a great job of showing the NRHyA in a positive light and sharing the duties of an NRHyA youth member.

We are proud of this 2017 NRHyA association team and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors! The officers were: President, Morgan Knerr; Vice President, Taylor Masson; Secretary, Kenleigh Wells; Treasurer, Liz Blaser and Historian, Reagan Stephens. ♦