

# Happy May, NRHyA Members!

**WITH LERIN THOMAS,  
NRHA YOUTH PROGRAMS ADVISOR**

Can you believe it is already May? This year is flying by! School will be ending soon for summer break and the 2018 NRHA Derby will be here before we know it! To all the 2018 graduating high school seniors: congratulations! This is such an exciting time in your lives and NRHyA is proud to have members as wonderful and talented as you!

I am so excited to talk to you all about all things Derby! We have many exciting things planned for this year's Derby and many opportunities for youth members, delegates and officers to get involved. The atmosphere of the NRHA Derby is much different from the Futurity and it is a time where I encourage you all to make new friends and try something out of your comfort zone. The NRHA Derby has many opportunities to get involved in activities and projects that can count towards your Varsity Reining Club (VRC) points in order for you to earn awesome prizes! I am going to touch on a few things that have deadlines coming up. I encourage all of you to apply and register for these activities!

First of all, the CINCH NRHyA Speaking Contest will be held on Wednesday, June 27 at 4 p.m. in the Platinum Zone. The entries for the Speaking Contest are due in the office by June 1, 2018 at 5 p.m. CST. There are three categories: Prepared Public Speaking, Community Service Presentation and Delivering A: General.

The next activity is the NRHyA Art & Photo Contest. All entries for this are also due in the NRHA office by June 1, 2018 at 5 p.m. CST. There are also three categories for this contest: photography, artwork and graphic artwork. The age divisions are 13 & Under and 14-18.

Our last contest is the NRHA Collegiate Catch Ride. If you are an active NRHyA member currently enrolled in college and want the opportunity to ride some of the best equine athletes in the sport of reining, apply to be on the NRHA catch ride team! The deadline to apply for this team is Friday, May 18, 2018 and contestants will be notified no later than Friday, June 8. This application, along with the CINCH NRHyA Speaking Contest and the NRHA Art & Photo Contest, can all be found at nrhya.com on the home page.

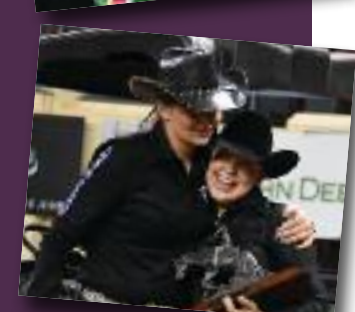
At the NRHA Derby we will also hold our youth meeting on Thursday, June 28 at 3 p.m. in the Platinum Zone to inform youth members about NRHA events and what to expect for the rest of the year. We will also hold a delegate retreat for our NRHyA delegates to get to know each other and the national officers, as well as an officer preparation workshop for delegates interested in running for a 2019 officer position.

We are excited to host a very special community service project at this year's NRHA Derby. We will be hosting inner-city kids and putting on a "Hay Day Horse Day" clinic for them to learn about our equine athletes and the sport of reining. This is going to be a great opportunity for all youth members and I encourage all of you to get involved. It is going to be a lot of fun and who knows, you may learn something new as well!

The 2018 NRHyA national officer team is going to be doing "social media takeovers" on all of our NRHyA social media platforms, as well as NRHA Corporate Partner Anderson Bean Boot Company social media. Follow us on Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram. You could even be featured on our social media!

For those of you involved in VRC and will be at the Derby, you have the opportunity to reserve a stall at the Derby using VRC points! If you have earned 800 points by May 18, you can request a Derby stall that is paid for by your points. This is a great incentive to make a difference in your community and earn some prizes for your hard work. I hope to see you all very, very soon!

## Snapshots from the 2017 NRHA Derby



PHOTOS BY DAWN BAXSTROM