

## **KHJA Board of Directors Nominee Bios**

### **President**

**Leslie Governo**-Leslie has been a KHJA member and on the KHJA Board since the mid 1970s. She and her husband, George, own Valley View Farm in Crestwood, Ky. They have been training and showing for 35 years.

**Elaine Schott**-The owner of River Mountain Farm since 1980, Elaine has trained many horses and riders to success at both the local as well as the national level. She has been a member of the KHJA Board for 12 years and is also on the Rules Committee. She has served as Vice Chairman of the USHJA Youth Committee for six years, USHJA Zone Board of Directors for eight years and is also on the Advisory Board for the Lexington Catholic Equine Academy, which was started this year. Elaine has spoken at several conferences, was a National Horsemanship Examiner for both the Emerging Athlete Program finals and the Emerson Burr Equitation test; she was also the co-organizer for the KHJA Judges Clinic. She is running for President because she believes that KHJA has tremendous potential for growth in the areas of education and horsemanship. She would like to see the members benefit with more clinics, seminars and opportunities, and feels we have great resources in the KHJA Board that are not being tapped or motivated. Elaine would like to see more involvement from the Board, as well as the membership in exploring new and exciting venues, such as more volunteering from our youth, more participation in the scholarship applications process, more fundraising for the scholarship, more participation in the USHJA affiliates program, and more involvement with the Thoroughbred Incentive Program.

### **Vice President**

**Diana Conlon**-Diana is the rider and trainer at Isadore Farm in Lexington. Her horses and students show at the local and rated levels in Kentucky and surrounding areas. She has been involved with KHJA for over 15 years and enjoys listening to KHJA members, as well as discussing ideas on rule changes/modifications. Diana thinks KHJA has many ways to improve in order to benefit its membership and she would love to be involved as a leader.

**Marianne Murphy**-Marianne's horse Wizard of Oz was KHJA Junior Hunter Champion in 1966, and she is fortunate to still be showing today. Marianne has been a member since 1965, when the associate was founded, and has been a member every year since. Having been involved with the management of the Robert Murphy Stable Horse show, she has been able to better understand the "issues" from the owner/exhibitor and the manager's points of view. "I have enjoyed serving as a member of the KHJA Board of Directors and as Vice President over the years. I have served on the rules, scholarship and by-laws committees. I have watched the KHJA and the horse show industry grow, and I would like to be involved in the Association's future development."

### **Board of Directors**

**Dr. Kim Arnett**-Kim is a graduate of Indiana University School of Optometry and has been residing in Union, Ky., for 15 years. She has served as President, Secretary and Treasurer for her children's elementary and middle school PTA for many years. Kim owns and operates her practice, Arnett Vision Care, in Florence, Ky., and her daughter Kaitlin has been riding for seven years. "The vast majority of the Board members are horse professionals, so it has been a pleasure to give a parent prospective on matters before the KHJA board. I have just completed serving a two-year term and look forward to representing northern Kentucky for another term and helping plan next year's banquet".

**Joyce Brinsfield**-Joyce has been a KHJA member since 1989, and she turned professional in 1993. Originally from Cumberland, Mass., she graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Agriculture, with a major in agriculture communications and a minor in agricultural economics. She was a member of the UK Equestrian Team, has been very involved with 4-H and previously coached the equestrian team at Midway College. Joyce has won numerous awards in KHJA, including the Sportsmanship Award and KHJA Medal Leading Trainer. She is the owner of Ballyhigh Show Stable and frequently judges local horse shows. She has experienced the horse business through the years as an employee, groom, rider, trainer, owner, parent, judge, coach, braider, writer, course designer, show manager and in-gate person. She was once KHJA President and has also served on the Board, so she is very familiar with the organization.

**Bruce Brown**-Bruce is a lifetime horse-show exhibitor, judge and manager. He has been KHJA Board member since the early 1980s and has three daughters who actively show hunters. He would like to help maintain the local governing body for hunter/jumpers.

**Katrina Fanning**-Katrina has experience in dressage, eventing and hunter/jumpers, as well as approximately 19 years of horse experience. She started dressage at age seven, hunter/jumpers at age 13, and eventing at as 16. She takes weekly lessons from Maggy McGlasson and Craig Shegog in order to continue learning new approaches and techniques. She is a Hospice Nurse in

addition to managing a barn in northern Kentucky. She remains a trainer because of her passion for teaching horsemanship to young riders. She truly understands the importance of riding. Katrina would help KHJA grow as an organization because she is a proponent of KHJA and encourages all of her riders to actively participate in the organization.

Tara Gnau-Has ridden at Valley View Farm and shown at KHJA- and USEF-sanctioned shows for over 20 years. She has also been a judge for local shows for the past eight years. Horses are a large part of her life and always will be, having ridden for over 25 years at some level. Due to a recent addition to her family, her involvement with horse shows has changed, but she continues to ride a few times a week and enjoys attending horse shows. KHJA has been such a large part of her life through the horse shows and the community that it provides. It is an honor for her to be able to sit on the Board and share ideas on ways to make it better. She has served on the board for over six years and has been very instrumental in the development of the KHJA scholarship and the restructuring of the KHJA by-laws, which has been very fulfilling.

Sarah Meier-Sarah has been involved with KHJA for 12 years. Sarah showed as a junior in the Medals as well as the Junior Hunters and Junior Jumpers. After moving to Lexington from Milwaukee, she worked for trainers such as Frank Conway, Dennis Murphy and Michael Matz, and at one point even galloped horses at the racetrack. In 2002, Sarah opened Punctestown Stable, where she enjoys showing and taking her students to horse shows. Sarah would like to be on the Board so she can be a part of the Association that governs the shows that she attends. She feels that she would do a good job of representing the needs of most of the riding community and would like to be involved in establishing/changing the rules and planning special events.

Melissa Murphy-Melissa has been involved with horses all her life and began competing at age 4. Melissa founded Murphy Manor, LLC in 2010 and currently has 20+ horses and many adventures ahead. As a fourth generation horse trainer, she's very excited about the future. She has previously helped organize the judges clinics held by KHJA, was the 2011 KHJA Medal Leading Trainer and is currently qualified for Indoors/National on "Picasso" in the Regular Conformation. "I love being involved and contributing to any situations geared to making our organization better, from talking about the rules, to discussing juniors' involvement (scholarship), to any situations needing decision making. Love being a part of it. I also want to contribute to our area's horse industry and strive to make it work better."

Katy Ross-Katy has been a KHJA member for the past two years and has shown in the Intermediate Adults and Jumpers. She competed in the IHSA while in college and AQHA while in high school. Katy is an attorney who specializes in equine law and says that while she isn't currently showing much, she attends lots of KHJA shows. She feels it would be beneficial to have someone on the board who has legal experience.

Erin Silvestri-Erin has been riding for 24 years and a competing member of KHJA since 2007 in hunters, jumpers, and equitation. Prior to moving to KY, she competed in Michigan in the MHJA in high school and was a member of the Michigan Equestrian Team for one year. Currently Erin works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but hopes to one day have a horse related job. She would like to see the Medal program grow to the size it was in Michigan, with multiple divisions that had 30+ qualifiers for each division. Erin is not able to compete as often as she would like due to finances and being a member of the board would help her stay involved with the sport.

David Warner-Has been a professional horseman for 28 years. He's trained, coached and competed in USEF- and AQHA-sanctioned horse shows. Most recently, one of his students was the overall winner of the 2012 KHJA Medal, which led him to be named Leading Trainer. As a junior rider and young professional, he was involved in the Syracuse PHA in New York. In 1995, he moved to Michigan, where he was involved and supported the HJAM, MHJA and LEHS horse shows. In the winter of 2010, he moved his operation, Huntsmark, to Kentucky, which led him to join KHJA. In running for a position on the KHJA Board, he feels he can give back to the Association. With all KHJA membership goals in mind, David feels that his professionalism and time spent on the board would be an asset to the Association.