

# Committee Corner

Nick Valentine

*2 Minutes*

## **Expanding Sights to Expand Purses**

The Professionals Committee is excited to publish this column in your *NRHA Reiner*.

I am NRHA Professional Nick Valentine, chair of the Professionals Committee, NRHA judge and proud NRHA member for more than 20 years. I operate Valentine Reining Horses, a family-run business, with my wife, Alison, and three kids — Dorothy, Nora and Rhett — from beautiful Liberty Ranch in Pilot Point, Texas. This is my second year as chair of the Professionals Committee, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved with changes to strengthen and grow our industry.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Professionals Committee, our purpose is: "To create and implement activities that will best serve the reining horse, promote integrity within the industry and cultivate a passionate membership that allows for continued growth. To develop a higher standard for NRHA Professionals and their business conduct, we work to create unity among professionals, and oversee and enhance the NRHA Professional Program."

Let's talk changes!

In 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal to increase the MS Diamonds TX Level 4 Open winner's paycheck to \$350,000. According to NRHA, that makes the NRHA Open Futurity Championship the highest-paying aged event title in the Western performance horse world.

The increase, which was funded by private investors, was made possible by the Futurity Challenge Task Force, a group of reining supporters who made it their mission to find ways to increase payouts for NRHA events. Thank you so much to everyone involved in making this happen! There are so many people who work tirelessly behind the scenes so NRHA can grow and we can enjoy the sport we love. We are now looking forward to increasing payouts in the lower levels of the Open Futurity, as well as the Non Pro Futurity.

Now let's talk 2022!

We can make this goal possible through donors in the following two categories: either \$10,000 to \$20,000 or \$1,000 to \$5,000 annually. Donors will receive various valuable benefits, depending on the level of their contribution. Please join our NRHA Professionals in spreading the word about these new donor opportunities, and reach out to NRHA's Christa Morris-Stone with your donor contacts.

If you are an NRHA Professional, make sure you are in the know by joining the NRHA Professionals Facebook page. To gain access, sign into Facebook, search for NRHA Professionals,

and the private group will pop up to join. Also be sure to opt in for the text group via the link on the Facebook page, as this is an additional way to stay informed.

You should also take a moment to update your trainer profile on ReinerSuite by signing into your online account. At the bottom of your membership page, click the "Trainer Profile" tab, and then you can update your information.

Lastly, don't forget to keep utilizing the *NRHA Pro Trainer* at [nrha.com/protrainer](https://nrha.com/protrainer) to stay connected and learn about valuable tips to manage your business as an NRHA Professional.

So, get involved and stay involved! I am excited for the future and growing all levels of our aged events!



***Nick Valentine***

Professionals Committee Chair

To contact Nick Valentine about this column, email [nickvrh@yahoo.com](mailto:nickvrh@yahoo.com).

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