

Monarch National Championship and Equine Sports Council:

“Be The Change You Want To See In The World”

- Mahatma Gandhi

by Leeann Mione

It is true that the name “Monarch” was inspired by the beautiful butterfly of the same name - a beautiful inspiration and an apt one since the butterfly has to metamorphose itself in order to survive.

The Monarch National Championship was inspired by the selfless desire of a group of people to effect real change in the show horse industry. They recognized the need for the industry to metamorphose itself in order to grow, adapt and not only survive, but thrive.

The Monarch National Championship isn't the first, or only, good idea someone in the industry has come up with and it won't be the last, but right here, right now, it is an idea whose time has come.

The Monarch National Championship will be held October 1-4, 2020 at the Coliseum of Champions at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, Illinois. The coliseum is considered to be one of the best show facilities in the country.

It represents a concerted effort by co-chairs Donna Pettry-Smith and Carol Matton and board members Todd Graham, Missy Hughes-Smith, Lisa Hillmer, Andrew Slater, Julie Anne Wroble, Tom Thorpe and Lance Hayes as well as legal advisor Patrick Gallagher and board member/executive secretary Kristen Pettry to inject new life into the industry and create opportunities for more horses and more people to excel and be successful in the sport. For the group involved in creating the Monarch National Championship it's personal.

“I had conversations with several people about ideas to help the industry and specifically the people and horses in the ‘middle market’”, said Donna. “People are so desperate for a change. It feels like our back is up against the wall as we lose horse shows, breeders are getting out, fewer young people are entering the professional ranks, fewer professionals are becoming judges and people have so many demands for their loyalty and attention and so many other places to spend their money.

“This is the beginning of a new decade so it felt like the time to do something monumental was now. The idea of a new kind of horse show kept coming up in my conversations with people so Carol and I gathered a group together to make it happen. The time had come to do more than just talk about it.

“Patrick Gallagher gave me inspiration and some of the ideas to create the kind of show we wanted to give to the industry and I, especially, relied on his help and expertise, both as a lawyer and as a member of the show horse industry”, said Donna. “Patrick knows me because we grew up together and showed at some of the same shows as kids.

“I have been having conversations with this group since last year about possible solutions to the problems plaguing horse shows. Everybody brings something different to the table and I think we've capitalized on everybody's strengths to get this off the ground.

“Everybody that has been involved in getting this national championship and Monarch Show Series created has been very calm, level headed and 100 percent on board. The whole group has worked so hard to make this be a one-of-a-kind event.

“There are no ulterior motives here. This show has come about because all of us are trying to do our best for the industry. The show is going to be so special and we're making sure that it appeals to everyone because we don't want to exclude anyone. I'm so excited about it.”

Patrick spoke about his relationship with Donna and his experience in the industry. “It is true that my family and Donna's family would show together in the Midwest when we were growing up,” said Patrick. “My dad had horses but we never went to Louisville but from about May through October we'd be at a show every other weekend on our local circuit.

“The fun of that was the camaraderie we shared with our friends and competitors. It was so fun just to participate. We didn't feel like we were missing anything by not showing at Louisville. In fact, in that well-known photo of Donna's dad Tom Pettry dressed as the Easter Bunny leading her around in the lead line class at the fair, my family dressed up as characters from the Wizard Of Oz.

“Those days are gone so I knew that we needed to get back to encouraging people to participate in horse shows in whatever way they could afford to do it. We needed to create divisions so that horse shows can be more inclusive, less expensive and more fun and we need to get people into the seats as well.”

Kristen Pettry is the Monarch National Championship Horse Show Executive Secretary and stressed the ease with which horse shows can become part of the show series network. “There are no fees and no paperwork involved. Monarch is a non-member organization so there is no proof of membership required at check-in.

“I want our horse show office to be the best experience you've ever had. We are working to simplify the office process to make things easier and less time-consuming.

Carol Matton, owner and trainer of Knollwood Farm in Hartland, Wisconsin, along with her husband Scott, echoed many of the same sentiments regarding her reasons for volunteering her time to serve on the board.

“The upper echelon of our industry is very well taken care of and that's great but the middle market needs a place to show and do well. We also need to help trainers and the small breeding programs. I think in fact that the new Monarch National Championship will fill a need that the industry has had for a while and the entire industry is going to benefit from these new divisions.

“With all the interesting people on this board who are devoting their time and efforts to this show, it is going to be great. Everybody has a business to run and a million responsibilities so it is generous of them to devote time and effort to making this happen.

She added, “Every time I am involved in a conversation about our industry, the question always comes up ‘How do we get new people into our breed?’ and I think the single-bit division and the national championship are great ways to bring new people in.

“Specifically, I think the single-bit division is going to be very well attended. How beautiful that we will now have a place for those horses and riders to show. We have a huge lesson program at Knollwood and now our fancy lesson horse, or our rider coming up out of academy, is going to have a place to show and be competitive. Hopefully that will bring people back to the show ring. There are so many examples of how these classes are going to help the middle market expand.”

Board member Lance Hayes, owner and trainer of Lance Hayes Stables in Neenah, Wisconsin, had this to say about why he is involved, “This will add another show to the list of shows that my clients are excited about and can't wait to attend.”

“The Monarch National Championship is a very positive addition to the show schedule in my opinion. I think it's going to be very inclusive and I love that about it. The prospect of winning a national title isn't just reserved for my wealthiest owners or most talented horses. Not everyone in my barn can or necessarily wants to go to Louisville or Kansas City, but they are excited that after they qualify by going to four horse shows in the Monarch Show Series, they can go to a national championship and be competitive.

“It reminds me of the county fair days,” he added. “This show is going to be really fun and without all the pressure of Louisville or the Royal and I'm happy to have new classes and divisions for my customers to show in. I am really pleased to be involved in doing something to help the industry.”

Linden Hill Stables owner and trainer Lisa Hillmer had many conversations with Donna Pettry-Smith early in 2019 about her business and the changing landscape of the industry.

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"I'm a middle market business owner," said Hillmer who is also the co-chair of the UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup. "I've been at this for a long time and I grew up in it. I feel like I have adapted every time I've needed to and I've always been able to make my new customers want to stay in the industry but it keeps getting harder and harder to do."

"It used to be that having and showing horses was a social thing and horse show kids grew up and had kids of their own that showed and then their grandchildren showed, but we're running out of generations. Kids now have so many other activities competing for their attention and time and horse shows don't have the same appeal they once had."

"For example" she said, "One of my riders is a little girl who is also involved with swimming. She's on three different swim teams and she gets scholarships and awards for school so it's hard to compete with that. She is very busy and both are a big financial commitment for her parents."

"I also have some older adult customers who are wondering where they fit in. They feel like they would prefer to stay closer to home (near Kansas City, Missouri) and spend less money going to shows but still have the chance to win a prize at a national show."

"Some of my ladies have not mastered riding with a full bridle and up until now there was not a place where they could show against others with similar skills. The national championship will give them something to strive for and work towards and it's going to be new and fun for everybody."

She added, "I've been feeling like I am hanging on by a thread despite all my hard work but I think now we're on to something that is so great. I've already sold two horses that were previously unsellable because now they have a place to show and possibly do really well. This season we are going to two shows that we've never been to and with two new customers. Everybody in my barn is excited about the opportunities to qualify for and show at the new national championship. I've already seen a change to my business and it's such a breath of fresh air."

Tom Thorpe, owner and trainer of Northern Tradition Farm in Minooka, Illinois, echoed many of the same sentiments as Hillmer. "We need to find a better way for the average person to compete at their highest level. When I was a kid, we certainly couldn't afford the top horses that were Louisville quality so we showed elsewhere. That was not a bad thing, it was just the way it was."

At Northern Tradition we have customers at every level and we want them to feel involved and give them the tools they need to be successful. I see the creation of the Monarch National Championship as being responsive and responsible to our industry by making a place for more people and horses to do well and find their niche."

"We probably won't go to any new shows this year since our normal show schedule will include enough Monarch series shows for everyone to get qualified that wants to show in October. I do think that I will end up taking more customers to some of the shows we go to and that's good news for us and for the horse shows."

"We are losing people from the industry because they feel like there is no room for advancement so they lose interest and go do something else. So many of us in this area remember the National Pleasure Show. It was like our version of Louisville. The Monarch National Championship reminds me of that so I'm really excited about it."

Missy Hughes-Smith, trainer at Ever Glades Farm, Inc., in Kansas City, Missouri grew up showing at one and two day shows on the circuit in Maine. "We were able to buy a moderately priced horse and still be competitive. Those shows were a great avenue for people to get into the industry. It's sad that those shows have dwindled - they got me where I am today."

She added, "There have been a lot of useful horses that have been bred but because we don't have much of a middle market so many of them don't have a job. Diversifying our horse shows opens up a lot of avenues for breeders as well as owners and exhibitors."

"Hopefully, adding new classes and divisions at shows and having a national championship to showcase them will create the same excitement and enthusiasm for those divisions which will create a place for more horses and owners to shine."

She continued by saying, "Being on this board makes me feel like I can give back. Opening up our breed and horse shows is going to help everyone."

Julie Anne Wroble, owner and trainer of Country Meadow Farm in Mokena, Illinois with her parents Mike and Dale Arnston, is also looking forward to the opportunities that the new national championship show will bring to their clients.

"I'm a board member because this is something I believe in," said Julie. "This really targets barns and clientele like mine. I think it is going to give my customers something to look forward to and it will give them a goal to work towards and a great payoff at the end. It's going to be a lot of fun. I think the customers who don't want to or can't go to Louisville will appreciate having another option this year."

Skyline Stables assistant trainer Andrew Slater brings a different perspective to the Monarch National Championship board. He's one of the young professionals in the industry who has his entire career ahead of him. "I'm on this board because I care about this industry and its future. I don't want to turn 40 and not have a job."

"I grew up showing and my family has had horses in training with several different barns. I know what it feels like to be a customer and now that I've worked for several years as a professional, I know what it feels like to have to manage customer expectations in regards to their goals and accomplishments."

"I think the greatest threat to our industry right now is that buying a competitive horse can be out of reach for a lot of people. I think we have to keep coming up with ways to better showcase our middle-market horses at mainstream horse shows across the country."

"I am also drawn to the breeding industry and would like to have that be part of my business in the future. I like spending time with the mares and watching them foal out, even in the middle of

Monarch Horse Show Enrollment Information

Enrollment in the Monarch Horse Show Series network is free! Monarch will promote your horse show on their list of network shows. Simply fill out our online form or contact us at info@monarchhorshowseries.com.

Horse Shows that wish to become a member of the Monarch Show Series network must have under 400 horses, be willing to offer as many of the classes from the "recommended class list" as possible and be able to verify competition results.

Monarch Series Recommended Class List:

ASB Five-Gaited Open
ASB Five Gaited Amateur and/or Juvenile
ASB Three-Gaited Open
ASB Three Gaited Amateur and/or Juvenile
ASB Fine Harness Open
ASB Park Open
ASB Park Amateur and/or Juvenile
ASB Park Pleasure Open

ASB Show Pleasure Five-Gaited
ASB Show Pleasure Three-Gaited Adult
ASB Show Pleasure Three-Gaited Juvenile
ASB Show Pleasure Driving

ASB Country Pleasure Five-Gaited
ASB Country Pleasure Three-Gaited Adult
ASB Country Pleasure Three-Gaited Juvenile
ASB Country Pleasure Driving
ASB Country Pleasure Western
ASB Country Pleasure Hunter

Hackney Harness Pony Open
Roadster Pony Open
Hackney Pony Pleasure Driving

Saddle Seat Equitation
Stock Seat Equitation
Hunt Seat Equitation

Showmanship at Halter
ASB Pleasure Walk/Trot
ASB Pleasure Walk/Trot/Canter, Single-Bit**
ASB Pleasure Walk/Trot, Single-Bit**
ASB Pleasure Five-Gaited, Single-Bit **

** Single-Bit definition: Horses are to be shown by amateur or juvenile riders in a snaffle bit with running or German Martingale. Draw reins are also allowed. However, any leverage bit rein is prohibited through the martingale. Pelham or 'Tom Thumb' bit without martingale, shank not to exceed five inches, also allowed. All tack should be of show ring quality. Same horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into another division, with the exception of the Model, Showmanship, Pattern and In-Hand Obstacle classes. "Elite Single-Bit" classes are open to both professionals and amateurs.

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the night. I'd like to be able to pick a foal, start their training and guide their career to make them into something that an amateur can show.

"In fact, I'd like to train horses for my family - I like watching my sister McKenna and my mom Pamela ride and it makes me happy that we share a love of the horses and the industry.

"I think a lot of people don't breed horses because they assume they cannot sell that middle-of-the-road horse. They won't find a market for those nice, but average, horses that can't compete at the elite level but would still make a nice show horse for someone. Maybe having a national championship and the show series can stimulate the market and help get horses bought and sold. Maybe breeders will come back to the industry.

He added, "A lot of riders struggle I think to make the leap from academy to performance because it's so expensive to step up. Some of these single-bit classes will allow exhibitors to be competitive on the national level. That's really exciting for everybody."

Board member Todd Graham, owner and trainer of Royal Winds Farm in Ona, West Virginia is preparing to welcome 33 foals this year along with his wife Kimberly Graham and he welcomes being part of an effort to help make sure those foals eventually find a place to shine, whether at the World's Championship Horse Show or elsewhere.

"This is hugely important for me, not only as a trainer, but as a breeder," he said. "Transfers are down and that's the truest bellwether there is about the future of this industry in my opinion. Not every horse we breed is going to be able to win at Louisville but we have to be able to sell horses. This national championship and show series are going to give some of these average horses, as well as a whole group of owners and exhibitors another place to compete.

"Those of us in the industry know we don't need to worry about selling those very expensive horses. They are easy to see because they separate themselves. It's those horses that are not always competitive at the elite level but are well trained, have nice manners and are suitable for a variety of exhibitors that need our help.

"When I was a kid we watched the World's Championship Horse Show but we didn't show there. We knew we needed to be on a different circuit in order to be competitive and we didn't feel one bit bad about that. It was just a fact.

"I think that's what we've lost. If Louisville is our only criteria to determine the worth of a horse or success of an exhibitor we're in trouble. This is something we really, really need. This show is going to be very cool and is going to help promote our business the way local and county fair horse shows used to do. I think it's going to affect everyone's business and in my opinion, there is nothing that is not positive about it."

Todd went on to say, "The academy riders have their own national championship and Louisville attracts the best of the best vying to earn one of those 200 plus blue or tricolor ribbons. It's time for the group in the middle to have a national championship where they can compete.

He went on to say, "If you look at the hunter/jumper horse shows, they have different levels and circuits to suit a variety of skill levels. The really

good horses go to Wellington, Florida. There is another group of horses that go to Ocala [Florida] and even others that go to Louisiana or Tennessee.

"Those different levels provide places where a lot of people get to be successful on their own circuit and show on a more level playing field. Just because they don't go to Wellington doesn't mean they don't do well.

The Monarch National Championship, as well as some of the Monarch Show Series events, will include a division of classes referred to as "Single-Bit". Kenny Smith isn't on the Monarch board of directors but as a professional trainer, lifetime participant in the industry and husband of Donna Pettry-Smith, the inclusion of the division was something he campaigned for and helped define.

"For the past 30 years I've watched regional horse shows get weaker and weaker," he said. "They have been watered down to the extent that winning a class doesn't mean as much as it used to.

"Donna and I have always wanted to do something like this to help close the gap between the elite level and the less expensive horses. You shouldn't have to be a millionaire to enjoy this sport at an exciting level and that is exactly what we need to do: Put the excitement back in horse shows.

"The series will help expand the market and hopefully help people step up to the next level, and the single-bit classes are also a way to include more horses and exhibitors. 'Where is the downside of that?'

"We're trying to open up the part of the industry that we've lost and this is not a new concept. Several other breeds have shows across the country that appeal to their middle market. The bottom line is this: The Monarch National Championship is only for people who want to come. Period. It's as simple as that."

The "Single-Bit" division is described as the following: Horses are to be shown by amateur or juvenile riders in a snaffle bit with running or German Martingale. Draw reins are also allowed. However, any leverage bit rein is prohibited through the martingale. Pelham or 'Tom Thumb' bit without martingale, shank not to exceed five inches, also allowed. All tack should be of show ring quality. Same horse/rider combinations may not cross enter into another division, with the exception of the Model, Showmanship, Pattern and In-Hand Obstacle classes. "Elite Single-Bit" classes are open to both professionals and amateurs.

As part of the national championship schedule, there are single-bit show pleasure classes for both adults and juveniles in either walk and trot or walk/trot/canter and both the three-gaited show pleasure and five-gaited show pleasure divisions are included.

The inclusion of the single-bit division will offer, perhaps for the first time, those adult riders who aren't steady enough to canter yet or can't quite manage a full bridle, the opportunity to come through the gate with a group of riders in the same situation and try their hand at winning a national championship. How cool is that?

The open breed division at the Monarch National Championship will also create opportunities to showcase horses and riders with classes offered in a variety of divisions including trail, western, hunter,

pleasure under saddle and driving classes, equitation and stock seat equitation, model, showmanship and obstacle in-hand. The walk and trot riders on their pleasure horses or equitation horses will also have open breed classes available.

The open breed divisions do not have the four-show qualification requirement for the October show so their open breed championships will not award national titles.

The Monarch National Championship will be governed by the Equine Sports Council which is a non-profit, non-member organization for horse show governance to provide rules, standards and guidelines for horse shows that are not governed by USEF.

The ESC was created in 2019 by Jackie Hale, co-owner of James Hale Stables in Columbiana, Alabama, and Shane Darnell, longtime exhibitor from Taylor River Farm in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, because the show horse industry has been asking for an alternative to affiliation with USEF/USEF Lite for years. When it became clear that no one else was going to do it, they took on the mammoth task. Tamara Tucker joined them soon after and is secretary and general counsel.

"We all met through social media", said Shane. "In the course of our conversations, Jackie and I finally decided that we needed to create this alternative governance organization ourselves so we started putting a group together. We knew from the beginning we needed to target Saddlebred and Morgan barns and help them grow their business so 50 percent of our revenue is going to go back into lesson programs.

"Taylor River has a huge lesson program with 190 public lessons per week. Lessons are vitally important to our business and to the industry so we have to grow this industry and bring people, especially young people, back to it. We need those barn rats; those kids that love to spend every available moment at the barn and at horse shows."

Tammy Tucker grew up showing with her family on the local hunter circuit every weekend. "I am passionate about grassroots shows," she said. When I showed growing up, my dad drove the trailer, we packed picnic food and spent all day at the shows with my mom coaching her clients and me.

"I am so excited about Equine Sports Council bringing structure and knowledge to middle market and grass roots shows. It is an opportunity for those new to the industry to compete and learn in a constructive environment and for those who are experienced exhibitors to pass on their wisdom while having confidence that these shows will be run well.

"As a lawyer, I am proud that we have developed rules to protect our horses and exhibitors, and a fair system to hear complaints if there are any. We are looking forward to a great first year."

The trio is joined by the advisory board members: Lori Nelson, Paris, Kentucky; Donna Pettry-Smith, Mokena, Illinois; Scott Matton, Hartland, Wisconsin; Chanda Boylen, Keswick, Virginia and Erica Budd, Port Tobacco, Maryland. Board member Mark Staehnke, Palm Springs, California, will serve as the Morgan Industry Consultant and Scott Bennett, DVM, Simpsonville, Kentucky, is the Drugs & Medication Consultant.

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Equine Sports Council is a governance organization created to support, promote and protect horse shows and horse show exhibitors. The new organization now gives horse shows in 2020 four options regarding governance: USEF, USEF Lite, Equine Sports Council or Open (no governance). The organization has pledged to donate 50 percent of profits raised to help lesson programs around the country. Twenty-five percent of fees collected comes straight off the top and will go back to each horse show as a marketing grant. Part of the profits will also be used to give back to the industry; 15 percent will go towards marketing the horse industry and 10 percent will help support equine welfare.

Horse shows would consider an organization like ESC if they are not governed by USEF because while what happens inside the ring (class specifications, judging standards and the way a class is run) doesn't change regardless of which governing body is used by the show, what happens outside the ring and how to handle it can become open for debate if there are not rules to follow. Equine Sports Council was created to offer rules and support to grass roots shows.

In the interest of helping and supporting horse shows, Equine Sports Council provides several things for network shows: Written rules to enforce, a dispute resolution process, independent third party hearing officers, assistance collecting debts, marketing grants, a registry of equine officials (everyone from breed certified judges to organists, office staff, ringmasters, photographers, farriers, videographers, announcers, etc.) and an insurance policy for horse show officials (judges, ringmasters and stewards) provided by NASO (National Association Sports Officials) available to purchase for \$90 each.

For 2020, every judge at shows in the Equine Sports Council network will receive a complimentary one year policy from NASO. The policy includes \$6 Million Per Incident, \$14 Million Per Aggregate, \$100,000 Errors and Omission Per Pinning Dispute, \$15,500 Personal Physical Assault Against Officials, Libel [written] and Slander [spoken] Protections and NASO Legal Counseling.

There are many additional features offered by Equine Sports Council but to be clear: Equine Sports Council is a governance organization. It does not qualify anyone for anything. No points are counted or results reported to anyone.

Saddlebred horse shows in 2020 are almost certainly all going to be ASHA Star Shows so that they can qualify for the World's Championship Horse Show. Morgan shows will almost certainly all be

AMHA Star Shows to qualify for Morgan Grand National and World Championship Horse Show and many shows, regardless of breed, will choose to be included in the Monarch Show Series to qualify for Springfield in October.

Those affiliations have absolutely nothing to do with governance of a horse show. If the trend continues this year, approximately 78 percent of those ASHA Star shows will not be USEF rated. Why does it matter? It matters because ASHA is not a governing body. Equine Sports Council was created specifically to address the issue of governance for non-USEF shows.

Governance of a horse show is not the same thing as being affiliated with a breed organization or show series in order to show at Louisville, Morgan Grand National or the Monarch National Championship. In fact, there will more than likely be several shows this year that stay open, choosing not to be governed by USEF/Lite or Equine Sports Council. Some shows will decide that it has worked for them in the past and they won't feel the need to make a change.

That's fine for them. None of this is a requirement unless you want to qualify for the chance to win a world or national title. But what if, for example, your show is an open, ASHA Star Show and there is an incidence of someone treating an animal badly to the point that management is asked by other attendees to dismiss that person from the grounds before the final day of the show. A violation like that falls under "Outside the Ring" and the USEF Saddlebred Breed Rules are not applicable; they cover what happens inside the ring.

Without written general rules regarding animal welfare, the show really cannot dismiss that person because they have no written rule to allow it and the show doesn't have an organization to back them up if that person demanded all their fees be returned or decided to sue the show for lost income. Written rules are a necessary precaution against the "What If's".

And what about someone from the Safe Sport banned list showing up at a horse show? Equine Sports Council is not a National Governing Body so cannot enforce the banned list, but there is nothing in their printed rules that says a show 'must' allow a banned member to attend. Since ASHA is a USEF affiliate, the ASHA Star Shows will be required to enforce the United States Center for Safe Sport banned and suspended list which means for those star shows that are governed by Equine Sports Council the banned/suspended list is a non-issue.

What about drug rules? Scott Bennett, D.V.M served as a consultant on the Equine Sports Council Drug and Medication policy that will be implemented in 2021. This first year needs to be treated as a "proof of concept" year so that the organization can do some testing of the drug panel and be fully vetted in administering the rules and regulations before random drug testing begins next year.

The good news is that the ESC printed rule book is 113 pages compared to the 1,217 pages for USEF. That was a conscious choice by Jackie, Shane and Tamara. The rules are clear, concise and easy to understand.

Those are just a few real life examples of why a show might choose to be governed by Equine Sports Council versus being open (non-governed). Another reason might be that in the words of Jackie Hale, "We don't want to govern you beyond the three days you are at a horse show. Equine Sports Council doesn't require membership, monthly fees, or rules to live by after the horse show is over. We also have rules that don't have the same complexity as USEF rules because our rules don't have to cover the Olympic disciplines."

Once a show chooses an option for governance they will then decide whether they want to be an ASHA Star Show, a member of the Monarch Show Series and/or an AMHA Star Show. Both the ASHA Star and AMHA Star shows collect a \$50 fee from the horse show and both organizations offer some sort of grant program for each horse show with the monies received. The Monarch Show Series is free for horse shows to sign up and it is not a membership organization.

Horse shows therefore have every reason to affiliate with all three of those options if they are multi-breed shows because that gives every show just that many more ways to attract exhibitors. Governance is designed to help horse shows grow and thrive.

We have entered a new decade and it's time to decide what this decade holds for the show horse industry we all love so much. What a wonderful gift to be able to say that now we have more choices than ever.

For more information about the Monarch National Championship, visit: www.monarch-showseries.com. For more information about Equine Sports Council, visit: equinesportscouncil.org and for information about ASHA Star Shows and AMHA Star Shows visit: saddlebred.com and morganhorse.com respectively.



Donna Pettry-Smith



Carol Matton



Jackie Hale



Shane Darnell
photo by Kim Oplotnik for Morgan Horse



Tamara Tucker