

Meet your 2025 KWHAs Treasurer Norleen Knoll

Norleen Knoll has served as the KWHAs Treasurer for 30 years. She is the longest serving officer in recorded history of the association. In the 1960's a group of kids who loved riding horses were introduced to KWHAs, so they started the Ellis Saddle Club. This club was run by the kids for many years. The parents helped put on KWHAs shows but Norleen said that they also had a drill team that participated in many fairs and parades. She states that several members of her family have rode in KWHAs to include her husband John, sons Joe and Mike her parents Ralph and Margaret Mickelson, her brother and his daughters Norman, Lynn, and Lisa and her sister Cindy and her kids Zachary and Sara. Belonging to KWHAs has been a family thing for many years. Now the Ellis Saddle Club remains part of KWHAs with Norleen keeping the dues paid, but she belongs currently to the Walker Wranglers Saddle Club they are



big supporter of KWHAs. Norleen is not only the Treasurer for the association, but she also has been a judge for many years.

Although Norleen no longer rides she attends about 12 shows a year to show her continued support not only Walker Wranglers but for KWHAs.

When Norleen rode in shows her favorite event was Horsemanship. This was an event that was judged more on her ability and skill rather than how fast her horse could run. She also liked to dress up to ride. During shows now when she is watching the events her favorite event is Rescue Race. It is fun to see how the kids have gone from using stirrups to being able to swing up, and then the skill of doing a pony mount without going over the other side. Of course, when they do swing to far that always gives you a good chuckle.

Norleen became a Board member in the 1990's with the intent to help the association grow. She wanted to be more involved and find ways to bring more members to the association. Her goal currently is to help the association be an inclusive family friendly horse activity association. That as an association we can have more than just competitions but to bring trail rides and other activities that bring enjoyment and relaxation with our equine friends to the association in the off season.

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The biggest challenge she had was when she first became the treasurer and realized that the association was in some financial trouble she states, but over the years we have overcome this and are now financially secure. She would like to continue help guide the association financially so that they can make good financial decisions and continue to raise funds to provide nice awards. The best part about serving on the KWAH Board now is that she can continue to help them thrive and become more involved in various activities.



As the treasure she most enjoys the finance committee, being able to offer good choices for fundraisers and advise as to which fund raisers make money for the association and how they work. Some of Norleen's favorite fundraisers over the years have been Quarter-mania (held on the odd years), Heads or Tails, and Kiss the A**. She would like to come up with an idea of how to create a poker run on horseback as a future fundraiser.

Norleen states that if you are considering running for a board position, make sure that you have the time to donate to the association. Be actively involved, don't just attend a couple of meetings, do your best to be at all meetings. Be a participant in the committees you might be assigned to and be active in offering assistance on those committees where needed. Being part of the board is challenging and rewarding. Working with different board members every year and the personalities that come with it can be challenging but when everyone commits and does their part it is rewarding to see how well things can run.

Lifelong friendships is what keeps Norleen active in the association she states. She loves to see her friends and being able to watch their extended families participate in the association. Because there are so many generations of families who have been involved this helps keep the association growing. She states that we need to continue a path of family-based fun on horseback and to promote true horseman values. We need to make all new members feel welcome at any event not just at the horse shows. Adding new activities in our off season to be more inclusive will also help bring in more membership.



Norleen says when she talks about KWAH it is heartfelt as she has been in the association for almost 60 years now, and she tells people that it is a family association that is based on horseman values and sportsmanship. There are events for all ages, young and slightly aged, and everyone is welcome who wants to participate.

Until Next Time,
Renee Nichols
KWAH Historian