Dear SDQHA Members and AQHA Members,

The South Dakota Quarter Horse Association would like to congratulate AQHA National Director Dean Johnson on his elevation to AQHA Director At Large! Dean's elevation to AQHA Director At Large leaves South Dakota with a vacancy to be filled at the 2027 AQHA National Convention.

Qualified individuals interested in representing South Dakota on AQHA's Board of Directors should complete the linked application (AQHA Director Application) and submit it to Kristen Gonsoir at kristen@gonsoirquarterhorses.com by December 1, 2026.

Please include a picture and a short biography to be used to introduce yourself to the membership on SDQHA social media and its website. During the January 9, 2027, SDQHA annual meeting, the membership shall vote for its recommendation from the SDQHA qualified candidates to fill this position. You will be asked to introduce yourself at the annual meeting and give a short biography. To vote in the National Director election at the SDQHA annual meeting, SDQHA members must have paid their 2026 membership prior to September 30, 2026. There is no absentee balloting. Each family membership allows for up to two present family members to vote. Business and individual membership have one vote for the individual or representative present.

The SDQHA recommended individual is then responsible to submit their properly completed application to Shelly Spears at sspears@aqha.org on or before February 1, 2027. AQHA will provide properly completed applications to the Nominations & Credentials Committee for their review and consideration during the 2027 AQHA Convention in Las Vegas.

The AQHA Nominations and Credentials Committee says that becoming an AQHA National Director is more than a title, but a passion committed to preserving the legacy of the American Quarter Horse. The committee asks that applicants be:

- A member in good standing for **three (3)** consecutive years
- Willing to ensure that the welfare of the American Quarter Horse is paramount and that every American Quarter Horse shall at all times be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion
- Participating in AQHA or AQHYA programs or events
- Willing to attend The AQHA Convention each year at your own expense
- Willing to actively participate on the standing committee to which you are appointed each year at The AQHA Convention and periodically throughout the year
- Willing to be active in the American Quarter Horse industry through attendance and/or participation at events in your area of interest

• Able within **two years** of appointment to the AQHA Board, at your own expense, attend a New Director's Orientation to visit AQHA's headquarters and the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame
• Willing to complete and return annual Director's report form
• Willing to complete and return Annual IRS Form 990 Reporting Questionnaire

SDQHA looks forward to hearing from potential candidates. Anyone with questions please reach out to a current AQHA National Director or a member of the national director selection committee- Kristen Gonsoir, Jodie Svennes, Sheila Prins, or SDQHA President Bob Carr.

Sincerely,



Kristen Gonsoir
National Director Selection Committee Chair