



Eastern Region
ASHLEIGH WOOD
Waltham, MA
(incumbent)

1. Morgan horses have been a cherished part of my life for over thirty years, beginning with my very first horse. Growing up in a family that always had Morgans, I've experienced the breed in many meaningful ways: as companions, trail riding partners, and trusted friends in the show ring. I have enjoyed connecting with fellow Morgan enthusiasts, capturing memorable moments as a show correspondent and photographer for *The Morgan Horse* magazine, and serving as a Director for the Eastern Region on the AMHA Board for the past three years. It has been a privilege to be part of this wonderful community.

2. Serving on the Board is an important act of stewardship for our beloved breed. As a small community, each of us plays a vital role in preserving and promoting Morgans. The Morgan horse and its community have enriched my life in countless ways, and I am committed to giving back to ensure that future generations can enjoy this incredible breed.

3. Outside of horses, I work in biotech as a drug development program leader - a fancy title for what is essentially circus ringmaster! Bringing one drug from discovery through approval takes over ten years, investment in the scale of billions of dollars, and the leadership of a cross-functional team - each member bringing a specialized, unique, and essential perspective to the program - to get it done. I specialize in forming that team, translating the "big ideas" to an actionable plan, managing execution of that plan, and ensuring each member has their voice heard and viewpoint represented in strategic decisions. I see my professional work as quite parallel to that required of the Board; your Board has been busy these last three years securing our financial future and laying out a strategic plan to grow the breed, and I am excited for the opportunity to continue that work another three years!

4. It is crucial that Board members genuinely represent the diverse interests of our membership. I am dedicated to fostering collaboration, transparency, and

equal opportunity. My goal is to ensure that all members feel represented and that their perspectives are valued as we move forward.

5 A key priority is to ensure that AMHA remains financially secure so we can effectively pursue our mission. I also believe in strengthening partnerships with other breeds and equine organizations to advocate for our interests. We should seize every opportunity to showcase our breed, particularly within the broader equine industry. I am passionate about engaging our general membership in meaningful ways, whether through committee involvement, volunteering at events, or sharing their love for Morgans across various disciplines. Together, we can embrace the diverse interests of our community and work collaboratively to celebrate our breed.



Eastern Region
MICHAEL FOY
Kingston, NH

1. I grew up in the same small town as my wife, Sara. After graduating from UNH I started working for my family-owned insurance agency and over the last 40 plus years I have helped the business grow to multiple locations and 100 employees. After a recent merger, we now represent the largest unit of World Insurance.

My Morgan involvement began when I started dating Sara in high school and watched her show her Morgan gelding. When our two daughters were toddlers there was an epic pony ride event. Soon after Kate and Lauren began riding lessons at CPM Stables where we all fell in love with Morgans and learned to be quite capable horsemen. Along the way I showed our Morgans in Park Harness, Pleasure Driving and Roadster to Bike.

We transitioned to Cater Stables in 2012. Sara and the girls have had great success under Kristen and David's guidance. The offspring of our one-mare breeding program have been developed beautifully by David.

2. I am thankful that Morgans and the programs offered by AMHA have had a lasting impact on our whole family. I am thrilled I have the opportunity to give back to both

the breed and the Association by being a board member, and to help the Association to continue to have a positive influence on many more families.

3. I have served on several not-for-profit boards as well as in leadership roles. I feel this experience would enable me to help AMHA refine the strategic governing process balanced with fiscal responsibility.

4. I am data driven when making decisions. AMHA needs to gather more information about each member through the application process to give us a better understanding of what our members require from the Association. With that knowledge, we can be strategic in the allocation of our resources.

5. AMHA needs to be strong, vibrant, and forward thinking to continue to support and grow the Morgan family. Initiatives such as stallion service auctions and sweepstakes for multiple age groups are crucial to those devoted to breeding. Youth programs are essential to build informed, accomplished and passionate horsemen for the next generation of trainers, instructors and enthusiasts of the Morgan Horse. Data gathering, in order to better understand our membership, will aid in identifying other specific demographics that should be a focus such as: members devoted to Sport horse disciplines, the Amish community, women over 40 just beginning their Morgan ownership, horse show exhibitors or combinations of all of these.



Central Region
CATHY
BLACKBURN
Oklahoma City, OK

1. I became involved with the Morgan horse after my daughter attended summer camp and asked to start taking horseback riding lessons upon her return. I grew up in Oklahoma City and am lucky to get to call the site of the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show® home. I am the President and CEO of Community Pathways Unlimited, Inc. an outpatient community mental health agency in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I am a graduate of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (formerly the University of Southwestern Louisiana) and was a member of the Ragin Cajun softball team garnering Division I

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All-American honors in my senior season. Additionally, I am a graduate of the University of Oklahoma where I received a MS in Communication Sciences and Disorders. I currently own 8 Morgan horses and 4 Reining/Quarter horses. I have one daughter who has been showing on the Morgan circuit for 17 years. Finally, I am a founding board member of Nexus Equine and am dedicated to fostering connections and reducing the number of vulnerable animals through education and adoption initiatives.

2. Serving on the AMHA board is important to me as it offers the opportunity to serve and support the Morgan horse industry and its existing programs while also offering the ability to effect positive change through building continuity. It also offers me the opportunity to create value for the AMHA members.

3. I hope to bring a unique set of leadership, organizational, and management skills as well as strategic resources to the AMHA. I plan to be authentic and intentional in my service as the AMHA's success is critical.

4. My service on the board will benefit the AMHA and its members best via my ability to think outside the box and to foster collaborations with diverse groups that are in turn mutually beneficial for all parties.

5. I hope to support AMHA's mission to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the breed while ensuring legal compliance and promoting growth and development within the AMHA.



Western Region
SHARON BOYCE
BENDER

Santa Clara, CA
(incumbent)

1. I grew up in Northern California just outside of San Jose. I started riding at summer camp when I was 10 years old (hunters). At the end of that summer, I came home and quickly got my first horse which was actually a Saddlebred. But we soon found the Morgan breed and fell in LOVE! It wasn't long until we had a Morgan of our own!

My parents were great supporters, ensuring I was able to ride multiple times per week despite the barn being up to an hour away. I was also able to take lessons with some of the best instructors

throughout the country and show at competitions on the West Coast and the Morgan Grand National annually.

I went to Stephens College in Missouri and focused on Business but was involved in the equestrian team throughout my time as a Suzie. I brought my gelding, Park Place Vandemere, and started my promotion of the Morgan Horse. We always had at least one Morgan (but usually more) until I got married at about 25 years old.

Not long after marriage, I had children. When the time was right, they began to ride. My daughter Ava took to it well and her twin brother, James, was not a huge fan. Like me, Ava had her first horse at 10 years old and began to show. I was on the sidelines watching her do her thing. But she quickly wanted me to start riding and driving again. So, the string of horses grew. Ava soon won her first WC title before me. I think you get my point on where this went. Late in 2020, I began attending board meetings and was enjoying my time. Early in 2021, I decided to run for the Western Region Director position. On April 21st, I tragically lost Ava and contemplated not even going on with the horses without her. But her spirit lives on! I look forward to dedicating my time to the Morgan breed in

her honor.

I was elected to the AMHA board and am completing my first term as a Western Region Director.

2. I feel that serving on the AMHA board is important because I believe that service to your community is important. The Morgan community may not be where my home is, but the people are family and where my heart is.

3. A skill I think I can share with the board is my outgoing personality and ability to speak with anyone. I currently serve as the Vice President and am actively involved in committees including: Bylaws, Awards, Convention, Customer Relations, Marketing & Corporate Sponsorship, Fundraising, and Mobile App Development.

4. My service on the board will benefit the members because I believe in transparency. I also feel like I will listen to the members and do my best to support the members' needs and wants.

5. I think the way to accomplish the AMHA's mission is to not change history.....fix the bad and repeat the good. Continue to educate the world about this beautiful breed. Further, support our breeders, support all horse types and register all in the Full Circle Program.



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MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

The 2024 AMHA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS are available now! \$8 (\$16.96 with US shipping/tax). And, don't forget about our new 2025 AMHA WALL CALENDAR! It will make a great addition to your office or a perfect Christmas gift for the Morgan horse lover in your life! \$15 (\$29.68 with US shipping/tax). Both items are available on the AMHA website www.morganhorse.com or by calling the office at (802) 985-4944 extension 1.