**Region 1 Representative Bios**

*Bios are generated directly from the nominee’s region representative form.*

*The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the GVHS.*

*Any facts included have not been verified.*

**Levi D Hawkins-Himmelrick**

GVHS Member for 10 years

Owns 2 GVHS registered horses

*I have been very involved with showing of the Gypsy Vanner breed since 2014. I have seen a lot of venue changes that are validated around a specific area while leaving out other areas that do have horses that show. With region one involving Florida, it makes it hard for those in the northern region to attend. In the past few years, most of the shows for region 1 have been centralized in Florida. As the region 1 representative, I would like to see other states also hold a show. In all my years showing Vanners, I have never seen a show in Alabama. There are multiple facilities that can accommodate such a venue.*

*I would like to be the voice for those of us who love to show but do not want to make a 12 hour trip to Florida. I would to everyones voices and handle this professionally.*

*Currently, I am part of a new saddle club that was just approved in Alabama this year. I am the Vice President of the L&S Saddle Club. My job is the show bill that has to be approved by Alabama Open Horse Show Association in Montgomery. I also schedule the show dates for the year, which is not an easy task. I have to around other associations and trail clinics in the area to ensure there is not overlap. So I work with multiple associations to make sure this happens correctly.*

**Joyce M. Christian**

GVHS Member for 20 years

Owns 4 GVHS registered horses

*I have served the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society from its earliest beginnings. The first event I attended as a member of this organization and on behalf of this organization was the New Jersey State Fair in 2003. From that time forward my horses and I have proudly represented the GVHS at a multitude of events and venues. I served as a member of the GVHS Board of Directors from 2008-2015. I am the creator and Founding Editor of the Vanner Magazine.*

*At present I am the author of the only two published books that tell the story of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society and the horses it was formed to recognize, preserve, and promote. My second book is becoming widely accepted in history reference for the Gypsy Vanner Horse breed.*

*An educator by profession, it is under this experience I have chosen to serve this incredible horse. I have written for a variety of publications over the years to include Equine Journal, as well as multiple newspapers across the USA, and have been quoted in Horse Illustrated. I am frequently asked by GVHS members to write breed demo scripts for them when they take their horses to events.*

*While I have been outwardly expressive in my concern over some directions the GVHS has taken, I have genuine hope that its mission and original purpose for a standardized breed remains possible. As the Region 1 Representative I would bring my longtime dedication to both the organization and the breed I love and with that two decades of knowledge and commitment to seeing the dream I lived out.*